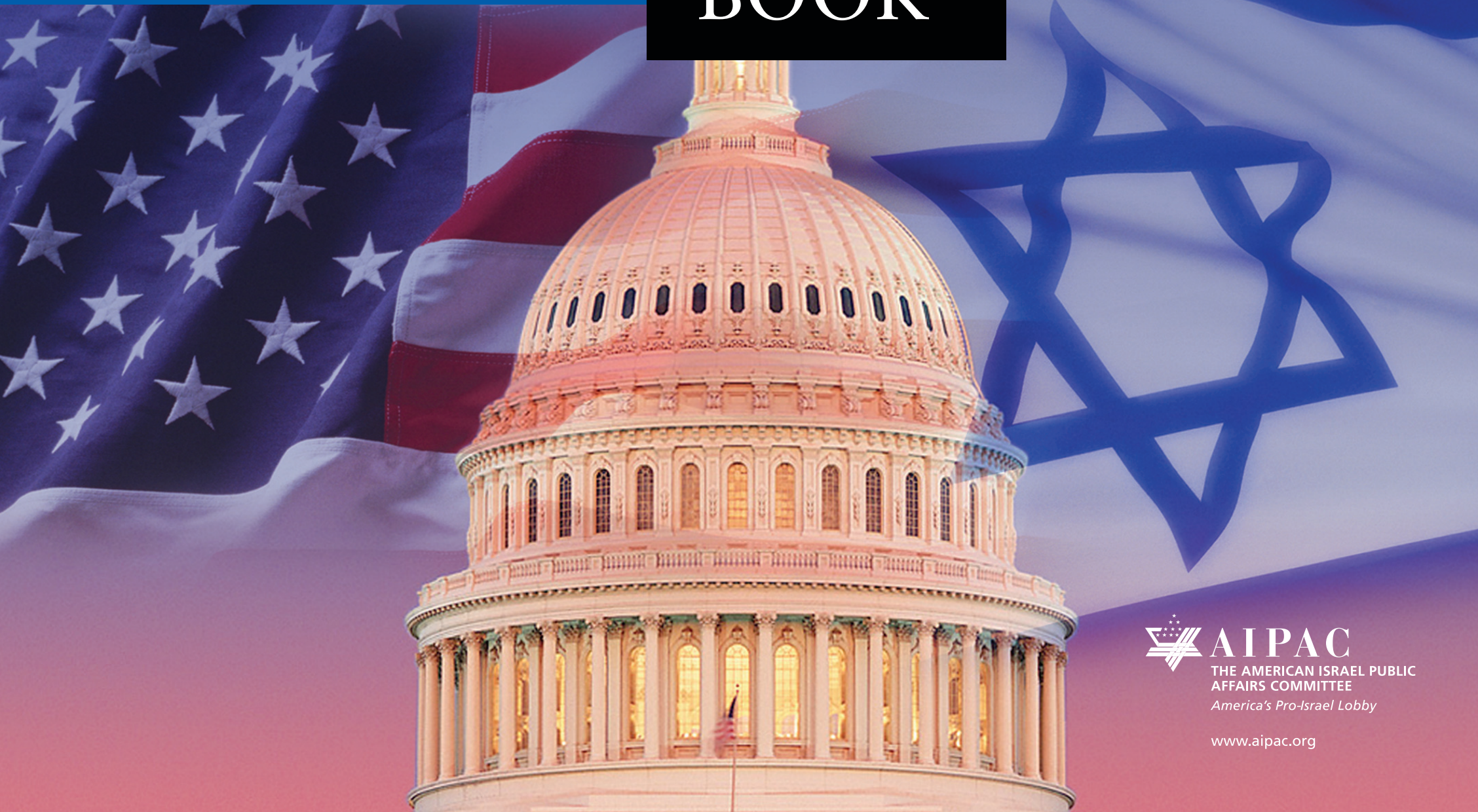


AIPAC

2007–2008

# BRIEFING BOOK

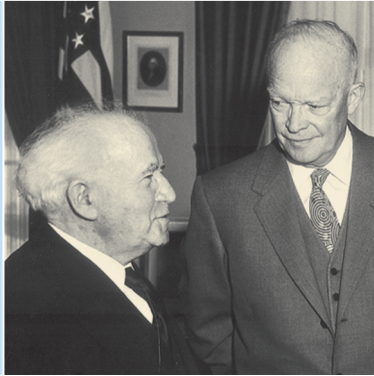


 **AIPAC**  
THE AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC  
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
*America's Pro-Israel Lobby*

[www.aipac.org](http://www.aipac.org)



Starting a tradition of summits between the top American and Israeli leaders, Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion visited the White House and President Dwight Eisenhower.



President Gerald Ford defended Israel from verbal Arab attacks after the hostage rescue operation at Entebbe, which was ordered by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.



The U.S.-Israel strategic relationship was strengthened by President Ronald Reagan, pictured here with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres.



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, shown here with President Bill Clinton, was one of six Israeli leaders who have addressed joint meetings of Congress.



With President Jimmy Carter at his side, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin concluded an historic peace treaty with Egypt.



President George W. Bush strongly backed Israel's right to self defense when the government of Prime Minister Ehud Olmert responded militarily to attacks by the terrorist group Hizballah.



President Richard Nixon, shown with Prime Minister Golda Meir, provided Israel with arms vital to its survival during the Yom Kippur War.

# Introduction

The United States and Israel share a unique bond, the same values and a common commitment to democracy and freedom. Israel is America's only true ally in the Middle East, one of the world's most volatile and important regions. The close strategic, economic and diplomatic ties between the United States and Israel have proven critical to promoting U.S. interests and combating the common enemies threatening the security of both nations. AIPAC's goal is to ensure that the U.S.–Israel relationship continues and grows stronger.

For more than 50 years, AIPAC's staff and its 100,000-plus citizen activists across the country have worked to provide candidates and our elected officials with the information and tools they need concerning American policy in the Middle East.

This Briefing Book, which has been designed specifically as a resource for policymakers and their staffs, examines key aspects of the U.S.–Israel relationship and some of the most important challenges affecting U.S. Middle East policy.

We hope that you will find this book useful, and we look forward to working closely with you in the days ahead. AIPAC's staff is always available to serve as a resource, so please feel free to contact us at any time. In addition, please visit our web site at [www.aipac.org](http://www.aipac.org) for the latest news and analysis of the key issues.

Working together, we can ensure that the U.S.–Israel relationship remains strong and vibrant.

2	Why Israel?
4	The U.S.–Israel Relationship
6	The U.S.–Israel Strategic Partnership
8	U.S. Aid to Israel
10	Israel's Search for Peace
12	Israel's Right to Self-Defense
14	Iran's Pursuit of Nuclear Weapons
16	Jerusalem
18	Israel in Maps



# Why Israel?

“Israel will endure and flourish. ...It can neither be broken by adversity nor demoralized by success. It carries the shield of democracy and it honors the sword of freedom.”

—President John F. Kennedy



Israel has restored life to land that was a desert less than a century ago, developing thriving and modern cities such as Tel Aviv.

The Jewish people's connection to the Land of Israel is among history's oldest facts, enshrined in the first pages of the Bible.

In the centuries that followed God's Biblical vow to make Abraham's descendants a “great nation” in the Promised Land, Jews built a thriving civilization. Centered on the city of Jerusalem, the land of Israel became the realm of David and Solomon, the concern of prophets such as Isaiah and Jeremiah and the setting for the ministry of Jesus.

The Land of Israel has been an independent political entity only under Jewish sovereignty, first under the Biblical kingdoms and now as the modern state of Israel.

While foreign armies have conquered the territory, they have never managed to break the link between the Jewish people and the land or to completely dislodge Jews from the area. Jews have maintained a continuous presence in the Land of Israel for more than 3,000 years.

## An Idea to Build a New Nation in an Ancient Land

After being dispersed around the world following the destruction of the Second Temple by the Romans in 70 C.E., Jews

were the subject of discriminatory laws, regular violence and even expulsion from most countries where they lived.

Yet, the memory of Israel and the desire to return to the ancient Jewish homeland remained a central part of the Jewish faith.

This religious yearning to return to their land became a political imperative in the 19th century, when the virulence of European anti-Semitism manifested itself in the form of persecution and massacres. Many Jews came to believe that they would only escape discrimination and murder in a state of their own.

The most outspoken proponent of this belief, known as Zionism, was Theodor Herzl, a prominent Austrian journalist. In the late 1890s, Herzl helped rally religious and secular Jews to the idea that a viable Jewish state could be re-established in the historic Land of Israel.

The Zionists sought international backing for their quest to form a new political entity in the land of their ancestors—a sparsely populated desert wasteland described in the 1860s by writer Mark Twain as “a desolate country...given over wholly to weeds—a silent mournful expanse.” In a major



The Holocaust demonstrated the need for the State of Israel and prompted hundreds of thousands of European Jews to immigrate to their historic homeland.

political victory for the Zionists, the British issued the Balfour Declaration in 1917, pledging to facilitate the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people in the ancient Land of Israel. In 1922, the League of Nations recognized the “historical connection of the Jewish people with Palestine” and the “grounds for reconstituting their national home in that country.”

## Holocaust Increases Urgency for Establishing a Jewish State

Two decades later, the genocidal murder of Europe's Jews would clearly demonstrate to the world the vital need for a Jewish refuge. Trapped without

anywhere to turn, six million Jews—a stunning 35 percent of the world’s Jewish population—were systematically murdered in Nazi death camps during the Holocaust.

In 1947, the United Nations voted to partition the historic Land of Israel into two states—one Arab and one Jewish. Even though more than half the area allocated for the Jewish nation was desert, the Jewish community in Palestine immediately accepted the compromise. The



Israel accepted—but the Arabs rejected—a 1947 U.N. plan that would have divided the British Mandate of Palestine into two states: one Arab and one Jewish.

Arabs rejected the plan, and five Arab armies invaded Israel, beginning a campaign to eliminate the Jewish state that persists in some circles to this day.

### A New Nation Survives—and Thrives

Since its establishment in 1948, Israel has been forced to wage a struggle for survival, facing hostile neighbors with numerically superior armed forces while also contending with the constant threat of terrorism against its civilians.

In 1967, a defensive war against its Arab adversaries left Israel in control of territory including Gaza and the West Bank as well as the ancient capital of Jerusalem. The united city is Israel’s capital, and Israel has opened the city to all—protecting and guaranteeing access to Christian, Muslim and Jewish holy sites.

Israel’s enemies have not confined their fight for its destruction to the battlefield. Arab nations have attempted to economically isolate Israel with a decades-long boycott, and they routinely initiate efforts at the U.N. to single out Israel for diplomatic ostracism.

While combating these challenges, Israel has also faced the

task of forging a unified nation from an incredibly diverse range of immigrant groups. Since its founding, the tiny state has absorbed millions of immigrants from more than 100 countries, including Jews from the former Soviet Union, Ethiopia and those forced to flee from Arab countries.

The achievements of Israel are even more remarkable considering that the country possesses few natural resources—two-thirds of its land mass is arid desert. Israel has developed agricultural techniques that earned it admiration for “making the desert bloom.” Today, Israel is home to world-class universities and is a global giant when it comes to high-tech and medical innovations. Life-saving medical techniques and products used every day around the world—from computer processors to cell phones to instant messenger to generic drugs—have all been developed in Israel.

### A National Ethos: Repairing the World

For Israel, it is not enough to serve as a safe haven for world Jewry. Equipped with first-hand knowledge of the challenges that resource-poor countries face, Israel has always strived to



Israel has shared its agricultural expertise and innovative techniques throughout the world, including in impoverished African nations.

fulfill the Jewish command to “repair the world.”

Before it had even established embassies in many world capitals, Israel sent experts abroad to teach Third World nations such skills as how to upgrade medical facilities, improve schools and coax crops from arid land. Today, Israel has one of the most extensive foreign assistance programs in the world for a nation of its size.

Less than a century removed from being only a dream in the hearts and minds of millions of Jews, Israel has emerged as a thriving democracy and global leader, committed to fulfilling its Biblical mandate of being a light unto the nations.

## Key Points

- Since the establishment of a Jewish state more than 3,000 years ago, Jews have maintained a continuous presence in the Land of Israel and Jerusalem.
- Since Biblical times, neither the Palestinians nor any other group aside from the Jewish people has ever formed an independent political entity in the Land of Israel.
- The persecution of Jews throughout the world, culminating with the Holocaust, made establishing a Jewish homeland a necessity.
- The modern state of Israel has survived and thrived despite attempts to destroy it by Arab armies and Palestinian terrorists.
- Just 60 years after being established with the backing of the international community, Israel has become one of the world’s most advanced nations, providing the world with innovations in the fields of technology, medicine and agriculture.



# The U.S.–Israel Relationship

“Israel has no more loyal friend than the United States. We couldn’t have done it without her.”

—Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin



President Harry Truman, who recognized Israel minutes after its establishment, received Torah scrolls from Chaim Weizmann, the Jewish state’s first president.

As allies and models of democracy, America and Israel share common values—but as the attacks of Sept. 11 demonstrated, they also face common enemies. Both nations’ citizens have been targeted by Islamic terrorists, and both are threatened by radical regimes and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

In an age of global terrorism, U.S.-Israel cooperation in the fields of defense and homeland security has proven to be of paramount and ever-increasing importance. With each passing year, the natural and lasting strategic alliance between the two nations grows deeper, and more avenues for cooperation emerge as the strategic allies work together to confront these serious and shared threats.

## **The United States Has Helped Guarantee Israel’s Right to Exist**

Since President Harry Truman provided Israel with critical international legitimacy by recognizing the state a mere 11 minutes after its establishment, American presidents and lawmakers from both parties have continued to stand by America’s closest ally in the Middle East.

Having helped ensure Israel’s birth, the United States has in

ensuing decades proven essential to its survival.

American military aid has helped Israel attain a qualitative edge over the Arab adversaries that have tried repeatedly through wars to destroy the Jewish state. U.S. support has also proven a strong deterrent to conflict, because Arab states contemplating attacks on Israel know they will face a U.S. ally defending itself with cutting-edge weapons systems.

In addition to providing this vital assistance, U.S. leaders have explicitly stated their commitment to Israel’s security against existential threats, vowing to help defend the Jewish state should it come under attack. “Israel is a solid ally of the United States,” President Bush has stated. “We will rise to Israel’s defense if need be.”

## **America and Israel Share Key Values**

The strength of the U.S.–Israel relationship is rooted in the allies’ shared values and common histories.

Both nations were founded by refugees seeking political and religious freedom. Both were forced to fight for independence against foreign powers. Both have absorbed waves of immi-

grants seeking political freedom and economic well-being. And both have evolved into democracies that respect the rule of law, the will of voters and the rights of minorities.

The ties between the two nations are deep, existing at every level of government and society. Dozens of American states have concluded agreements with Israel to promote cooperation in trade, tourism, research and other areas. American and Israeli academics have long worked together on joint research projects, and numerous universities have exchange programs with counterparts in Israel. Facing the common threat of international terrorism, law enforcement officials from the United States and Israel are working together to devise new homeland security techniques.

## **Israelis and Americans Stand by One Another**

Polls have found that more than two-thirds of Americans hold a favorable view of Israel, and Americans across a wide range of demographic groups strongly identify with the Jewish state. Support for a strong Israel is not limited by partisan allegiance—for the past half-century both major

parties' platforms have featured strong planks affirming the value of the U.S.–Israel relationship, and both Republican and Democratic presidents and lawmakers have worked to strengthen the bond between the two allies.

Polls have also shown that overall support abroad for the United States is highest within Israel, where nearly 80 percent of Israelis view the U.S. favorably. In a symbolic measure of solidarity with the United States following the attacks of Sept. 11, Israel renamed a major Jerusalem thoroughfare “New York Street,” and teeming crowds

of Israelis bestowed a heroes’ welcome upon New York’s mayor and delegations of first responders who visited. In the years since, from sharing security and counterterrorism expertise to dispatching humanitarian relief teams following Hurricane Katrina, Israel has always been there for the United States, offering everything the small nation can muster in support of its friend.

### **America and Israel Work Together Against Mutual Threats**

Cooperation between the two nations has proven to be the

best way to advance a major goal shared by the United States and Israel—peace in the Middle East. By working closely with Israel as a partner rather than applying pressure, the United States has enabled Israel to take risks for peace and achieve peace agreements with some of its neighbors.

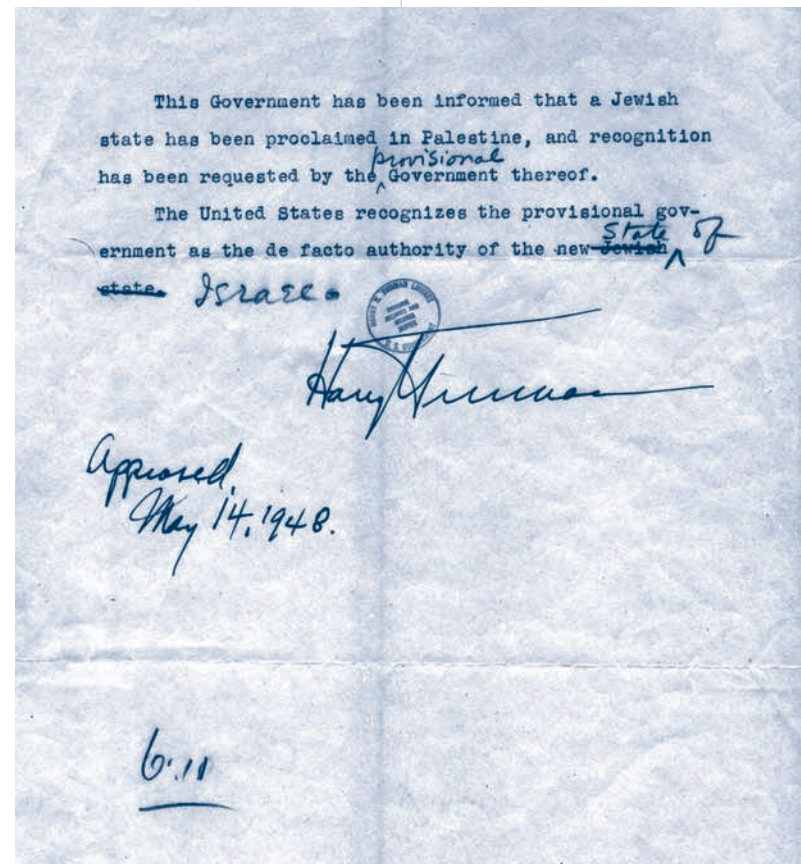
With the continued support and friendship of the United States, Israel will keep working to achieve all the goals it shares with its closest ally—defeating terrorism, defending against radical Islamism, safeguarding its citizens and tirelessly pursuing peace.



In solidarity with the U.S. following the attacks of Sept. 11, Israel renamed a major Jerusalem thoroughfare New York Street. (below) President Harry Truman provided Israel with critical legitimacy by recognizing the state a mere 11 minutes after its establishment.



Ehud Olmert’s first international trip as prime minister was to the White House, where he and President George W. Bush reaffirmed the U.S.–Israel relationship’s strength.



## **Key Points**

- The U.S.–Israel relationship is a deep and natural alliance between two democracies that share core values.
- U.S.–Israel cooperation enables the strategic allies to face common threats including terrorism, Islamic radicalism and weapons proliferation.
- Since Israel’s establishment, the United States has played an indispensable role in ensuring the Jewish state’s survival.
- Strong support for Israel continues to be championed by both the Democratic and Republican parties.
- The overwhelming majority of U.S. and Israeli citizens solidly back the relationship between the two countries.
- By working in partnership with Israel, the United States has enabled Israel to take risks for peace and achieve peace agreements with some of its neighbors.



# The U.S.–Israel Strategic Partnership

“It is vital that the United States and Israel continue to work closely to combat the common enemies and threats that face both nations.”

—Sen. Jon Kyl (R-AZ)



Army Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, left, chief of the U.S. National Guard Bureau, meets with an Israeli soldier after observing counterterrorism training exercises in Israel.

For decades, the United States and Israel have shared a deep strategic relationship aimed at confronting the common threats to both nations. During the Cold War, the United States and Israel formed a bulwark against the spread of Communism. Today, in the post-9/11 world, the United States and Israel are working more closely together than ever before to defeat the common threats of Islamic radicalism and terrorism.

## Training Together for Common Challenges

The close strategic relationship between the United States and Israel originated with the allies sharing key intelligence with one another around the time of the 1967 Six-Day War. This partnership was later broadened and formalized when President Ronald Reagan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir announced the establishment of the Joint Political Military Group to coordinate planning against threats faced by both nations in the Middle East. Later in the decade, Israel was formally designated as a major non-NATO ally of the United States.

Today, the United States prepositions military equipment such as ammunition and armor

in Israel, and the two allies engage in joint military exercises involving American and Israeli land, sea and air forces. Twice annually, U.S. Marines conduct desert warfare training with their Israel Defense Forces (IDF) counterparts, and American soldiers and security officials have received Israeli instruction on urban combat techniques. U.S. pilots hold mock dogfights with the Israeli Air Force and have tested aerial combat tactics and practiced refueling.

Research-and-development collaboration between the United States and Israel has produced innovative technologies and security techniques that are now protecting American and Israeli lives.

## Jointly Producing Military Innovations

The close partnership between the United States and Israel has yielded leading military technologies such as the Arrow, a missile defense system that is currently deployed in Israel. Jointly developed by the two allies, the Arrow is among the world's most sophisticated missile shields. It is the only operational system that has consistently proven that one missile can shoot down another at high altitudes and speeds.

Strategic cooperation has also made important Israeli military innovations available to the United States, which is currently putting these systems to use in the Middle East. The American military routinely deploys Israeli-developed unmanned aerial vehicles, which have logged thousands of hours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

U.S. planes in both countries have been equipped with Litening, an Israeli-origin system with infrared sensors that identify ground targets and enable pilots to fly at night and in bad weather. The Litening targeting pod made it possible for American fighter pilots to deliver the munitions that eliminated al-Qaeda's leader in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

Israeli-developed reactive armor tiles, which explode outward upon impact, have been used to protect American armored personnel carriers, so far saving more than 800 U.S. servicemen from potential death or injury in Iraq. America and Israel have also cooperated on ways to reduce the threat posed by improvised explosive devices, which have been responsible for the majority of American casualties in Iraq.



## ISRAELI TECHNOLOGIES AND TECHNIQUES HAVE SAVED AMERICAN LIVES IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN



### Bradley Reactive Armor Tiles

Roughly 800 U.S. soldiers have been saved by the Israeli-developed armor plating that explodes outward, diffusing the impact of incoming fire.



### Litening Pod

Israeli-developed and American-produced, this sophisticated system has revolutionized the targeting and navigation capabilities of American aircraft.



### The Emergency Bandage

Used widely in Iraq, this state-of-the-art Israeli bandage enables medics to dress a wound while simultaneously stemming bleeding.



### Hunter UAV

The Israeli-developed drone has been used daily by U.S. commanders in Iraq and Afghanistan to gather critical intelligence.



### Urban Combat Training

U.S. troops operating in the Middle East have benefitted from Israeli urban combat training techniques.

## Fighting Terrorism and Defending the Homeland

Since 9/11, the United States and Israel have intensified their homeland security cooperation. Israel shares priceless information about terrorist organizations with the United States and is one of five countries participating in the U.S. Counterterrorism Technical Support Working Group, whose experts collaborate to develop technologies and equipment aimed at thwarting terrorism and safeguarding citizens.

American law enforcement agencies are increasingly studying Israel's battle against terrorism to glean lessons for U.S. efforts to protect its citizens.

Israel frequently hosts delegations of American police chiefs, sheriffs and emergency responders. These U.S. lawmen have returned to infuse their departments' training with lessons on how Israeli security forces prevent terrorist attacks such as suicide bombings.

## Sustaining and Expanding U.S.–Israel Cooperation

In 2007, the United States and Israel signed a Memorandum of Understanding that formalized cooperation on homeland security. Meanwhile, Congress is working on legislation that

would set up an office in the Department of Homeland Security devoted to fostering cooperation with American allies such as Israel.

Recognizing Israel's unique role as a strategic asset and the common threats both nations face, policymakers from universities and state governments to the military and the Department of Homeland Security should identify ways to harness the expertise that Israel can provide to the United States and promote the synergy generated by the two allies.

Such cooperation will ensure that the United States and Israel, working together, are prepared to combat and defend against those who seek to harm both nations.

**“Israel created a model for security that the United States can learn a great deal from to protect our citizens.”**

**—House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Bennie Thompson (D-MS)**

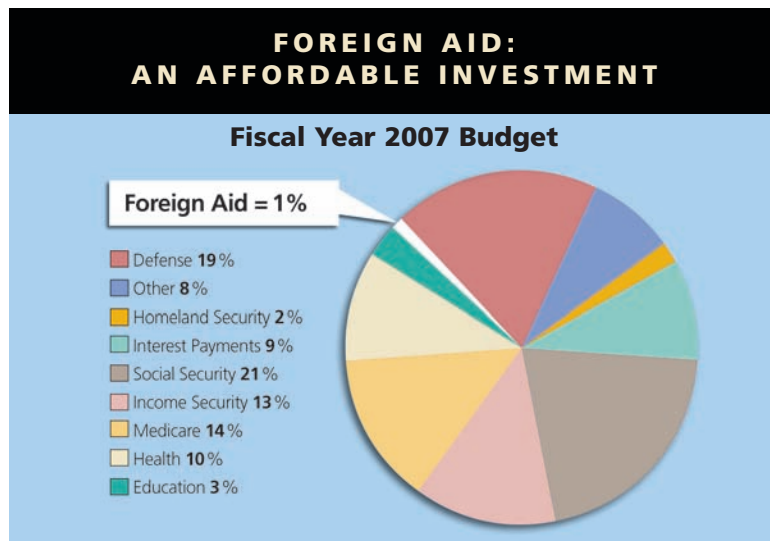
## Key Points

- In the post-9/11 world, the United States and Israel are working more closely than ever to defeat the common threats of Islamic radicalism and terrorism.
- U.S.–Israel collaboration produces cutting-edge military systems to protect the citizens of both nations.
- The Arrow, a ballistic missile defense system, was jointly developed by the United States and Israel and is the centerpiece of strategic cooperation between the allies.
- Israel serves as an American ally in the Middle East and enables the U.S. to pre-position vital military equipment that can be used by both nations in a time of crisis.
- The American and Israeli armed forces routinely take part in joint training exercises and military and counterterrorism planning.
- Forced to become the world's foremost expert on fighting terrorism because of ongoing attacks on its citizens, Israel has shared its homeland-security expertise with the United States.

# U.S. Aid to Israel

“I have always fought for the vital economic and military assistance that Israel needs—not only because it is in Israel’s interest, but because it is in America’s interest.”

—Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)



For decades, presidents and lawmakers from both parties have strongly backed foreign aid and recognized its vital role in promoting U.S. foreign policy goals abroad. This is especially true in the Middle East, where aid to Israel serves to bolster a reliable U.S. ally in a volatile and critically important region.

For this reason, military and economic aid to Israel has long remained a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy and a cost-effective way of serving America’s national-security interests in the Middle East. Foreign aid is an investment that the United States can afford to make. At just one percent of the federal budget, America’s total foreign aid expenditures provide the United States with the tools to pursue an active and engaged foreign policy.

## Aid to Israel Strengthens America and Reinforces U.S. Policy

Foreign aid to Israel is the most tangible indicator of ongoing U.S. support for the Jewish state and is a key factor in helping Israel remain strong and vibrant. Strengthening America’s ally through foreign aid also serves as one of the driving forces in shaping a region—dominated by unstable, non-democratic regimes—that

remains of vital strategic importance to the United States.

American assistance enables Israel to confront serious threats to its security such as terrorism, weapons proliferation and economic and political instability. Israel, in turn, shares with the United States its expertise and technology, contributing to our efforts to combat common enemies and protect our troops and homeland. Israel also helps counter the proliferation of dangerous weapons that threaten both nations.

## Foreign Aid Increases the Prospects for Middle East Peace

Moving forward, U.S. aid will consist entirely of military assistance that helps the Jewish state maintain its qualitative military edge over potential adversaries. This advantage is the key to the survival and deterrent capabilities of Israel, whose defense budget is dwarfed by the combined military spending of the Arab states and Iran.

By signaling the United States’ unshakeable support for Israel, American assistance helps increase prospects for peace by deterring Arab states from attacking Israel. Convinced that conflict with Israel was doomed to failure, two Arab states

(Egypt and Jordan) concluded peace treaties with Israel. Foreign aid also gives Israel the confidence it needs to take risks for peace.

## Aid to Israel Benefits the United States

Aid to Israel also has direct strategic benefits for the United States.

Israel stands shoulder to shoulder with America in fighting terrorism and countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It has also helped the U.S. military by sharing invaluable intelligence and contributing important defense technologies that have played key roles in saving the lives of American soldiers, most recently in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The United States also prepositions hundreds of millions of dollars worth of military equipment, including spare parts, trucks, ammunition and armor in Israel. This equipment can be used by U.S. or Israeli forces in times of crisis.

Additionally, more than 75 percent of American military aid to Israel is spent by the Jewish state within the United States, helping create jobs across the country, boosting American exports and opening overseas markets to U.S. businesses.



## SOLID INVESTMENT:

### How Aid Benefits Israel and the United States



#### Defense Expertise

Joint U.S.–Israeli strategic cooperation helps develop new technologies for protecting Americans and Israelis.



#### Signal of Support

Assistance shows Israel's adversaries that American commitment to the Jewish state is unwavering.



#### Qualitative Edge

American aid helps Israel maintain military superiority and counter the great disparity in defense spending by Arab states and Iran.



#### Industry Boost

The bulk of U.S. military aid is spent by Israel on procuring American defense products.

### The Foreign Aid Bill Contains Key Policy Provisions

The foreign aid bill goes far beyond simply providing monetary assistance to the Middle East's only Western-style democracy. The aid packages that Congress approves for Israel have also traditionally included a number of important provisions that impact or reinforce U.S. Middle East policy. Lawmakers have used the aid bills as vehicles to press the Palestinian Authority to live up to its obligation to crack down on terrorism, impose oversight mechanisms on Palestinian aid to ensure that it is spent properly and call for an end to the Arab League's boycott of Israel.

By earmarking the aid to Israel each year, Congress ensures that the funds requested by the president are provided to America's closest ally. The fiscal year 2007 foreign aid bill contained \$21.3 billion, including Israel's aid package, which consisted of \$2.34 billion in military aid, \$120 million in economic assistance and \$40 million to assist Israel in absorbing refugees.

The American assistance package can be obtained by Israel within 30 days of the foreign aid bill's enactment, a provision extended only to Israel that enables it to

make maximum use of the assistance. Israel is also permitted to spend a percentage of its aid on military technologies it develops domestically.

By approving the foreign aid bill annually, and earmarking the critical funds for Israel, Congress reaffirms the strength and vitality of the U.S.–Israel relationship, boosts the American economy and helps to fulfill our nation's foreign policy objectives in the Middle East.

“Aid to Israel is vital to the security interests of the United States. It ensures that one of America's closest allies has the tools it needs to survive in one of the world's toughest neighborhoods.”

—Senate Republican Leader  
Mitch McConnell (R-KY)

## Key Points

- Foreign aid is a cost-effective means to project U.S. leadership and protect American interests around the globe.
- The sum of all U.S. foreign aid programs makes up just 1% of the overall federal budget.
- Foreign aid to Israel is the most tangible indicator of ongoing U.S. support for the Jewish state, providing crucial military and economic support to the United States' most reliable ally in the Middle East.
- Foreign aid to Israel promotes peace in the Middle East by helping convince Arab states that there is no alternative to peace negotiations with Israel.
- Earmarking aid to Israel ensures that funds are provided to America's closest ally.
- The foreign aid bill also serves as an important vehicle for provisions that help maintain American support for the Jewish state and reinforce U.S. policy in the Middle East.

# Israel's Search for Peace

“Israel and the United States have a unique friendship based on our mutual commitment to democracy, freedom and peace.”

—House Republican Leader John Boehner (R-OH)

Attacked by five Arab armies at its birth, Israel has strived to achieve peace and normalize relations with hostile neighbors surrounding it while at the same time seeking defensible borders to ensure its own survival.

This quest has been arduous and remains incomplete, as only three of the Arab League's 22 members have recognized Israel and established diplomatic relations with the Jewish state. Most Arab states continue to pursue an economic boycott of Israel, and some of its neighbors support terrorist groups committed to Israel's destruction. Despite this hostility, Israel has continued to seek genuine peace with the other nations of the Middle East.

## Israel Has Sought Peace With All of Its Neighbors

Israel's willingness to trade parts of its historic homeland for peace has so far led to peace treaties with two of its neighbors—Egypt and Jordan. Likewise, Israel has proven willing to make bold, painful concessions in order to find a way to live side-by-side with the Palestinians.

In 1993, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed the Oslo Accords, which led to giving the Palestinians control of more than 1,000 square miles of territory in Gaza and the West Bank in exchange for commitments to combat terrorism and recognize Israel's right to exist.

Following Rabin's assassination in 1995, four successive Israeli prime ministers offered territory to the Palestinians in the hopes of attaining peace. These efforts included Prime Minister Ehud Barak's attempt to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict once and for all during a 2000 summit hosted by then-President Bill Clinton at Camp David and in subsequent negotiations. Those at the center of the discussions reported that Barak's offer to Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat would have enabled the Palestinians to establish their own state on 95–97 percent of the West Bank and all of Gaza and welcome the return of Palestinian refugees to the Palestinian state.

## BOLD STEPS: ISRAEL'S DECADES-LONG SEARCH FOR PEACE



**1948**

Declaring independence, David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, says Israel would “extend the hand of peace” to all its neighbors.



**1967**

Days after defending itself in the Six-Day War, Israel offers to return captured territories to Arab states in return for peace treaties.



**1978**

Israel cedes large portions of territory to Egypt in return for a peace agreement.



**1993**

Israel grants the Palestinians unprecedented autonomy in exchange for Palestinian agreement to recognize Israel and end terrorism.



**1994**

Israel cedes territory to Jordan as part of a peace treaty signed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and King Hussein.



**2000**

Following talks at Camp David, Yasir Arafat rejects Israel's far-reaching peace offer and the Palestinians launch sustained terrorist attacks that continue to this day.



**2005**

With U.S. support, Israel withdraws from Gaza and parts of the West Bank, giving up territory for the first time outside the context of a signed peace treaty.



**2006**

In a major speech, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert backs the creation of a Palestinian state if the Palestinians recognize Israel and end terrorism.



## KEY EXCERPTS FROM THE HAMAS CHARTER

"Allah is its [Hamas'] goal, the Prophet its model, the Quran its constitution, Jihad its path and death for the cause of Allah its most sublime belief."

"Israel, by virtue of its being Jewish and of having a Jewish population, defies Islam and the Muslims."

"There is no solution to the Palestinian problem except by Jihad. The initiatives, proposals and international conferences are but a waste of time, an exercise in futility."

However, Arafat rejected this unprecedented proposal, and the Palestinians launched a sustained campaign of terrorism that has so far killed more than 1,100 Israelis and wounded more than 8,100 others in attacks targeting civilians in hotels, shopping malls and restaurants.

### Progress in the Absence of a Palestinian Peace Partner

In the absence of a Palestinian partner, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon decided that Israel had to ensure the security of its citizens and could not afford to wait for the Palestinians to elect leaders committed to peace. Under Sharon's leadership, Israel in 2005 completely withdrew from the Gaza Strip and from an area more than twice as large in the northern West Bank.

Ahead of this bold step for peace, President Bush sent a

seminal letter to Sharon on April 14, 2004, praising disengagement and supporting Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state with a Jewish majority and defensible borders.

The letter made clear that Palestinian refugees should return to a future Palestinian state—not overrun Israel and eliminate its character as a Jewish homeland. The United States thereby weighed in against attempts to destroy Israel demographically by implementing the so-called "right of return" or creating a bi-national state rather than two separate countries for two peoples.

Reiterating U.S. commitments to ensuring Israel's security, the policy letter also recognized the importance of Israel's strategic depth—the distance between its borders with hostile neighbors

and key cities and infrastructure. It also stated that realities on the ground precluded Israeli withdrawals from major Jewish population centers in the West Bank adjacent to Israel.

Tragically, no Palestinian leader has met obligations to accept Israel and end terrorism. Arafat encouraged violence against Israel. His successor, Mahmoud Abbas, has spoken against violence but has so far failed to dismantle terrorist groups. Making matters more complex, the Iranian-backed terrorist group Hamas took control of the Gaza Strip by force in June 2007. Despite the ever-changing developments in Palestinian areas, Israel has continued to look for ways to support and work with a credible Palestinian peace partner.

### America's Role in Advancing Israeli Peace Efforts

Israel's pursuit of peace with its neighbors and its willingness to undertake serious risks to achieve this goal are made possible by the strong support of the United States.

The United States has also helped prevent other nations and outside bodies such as the U.N. from imposing unfair and unworkable peace settlements on Israel and has insisted that Arab

nations conduct negotiations directly with the Jewish state.

In addition to providing vital assistance, the United States has backed Israel's refusal to deal with Palestinian leaders linked to terrorism and supported the unilateral steps Israel has been forced to take. The United States has also consistently pressed the Palestinians to live up to their obligations under peace agreements to end terrorism and dismantle the terrorist infrastructure.

Designed to ensure the security of Israel's own citizens, such principles are indispensable to the viability of the Jewish state's ongoing efforts to forge genuine peace with all of its neighbors.

**"Until and unless  
Hamas renounces  
violence and terror,  
and renounces its  
position calling for  
the destruction  
of Israel, I don't  
believe the United  
States should  
recognize them."**

**—Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY)**

## Key Points

- Throughout its history, Israel has demonstrated its desire to live side-by-side with all of its neighbors in genuine peace while also maintaining defensible borders to ensure its own survival.
- Israel has repeatedly traded parts of its historic land for peace agreements.
- The United States is committed to a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the return of Palestinian refugees to a future Palestinian state—not Israel.
- The Palestinian leadership has been unwilling to fulfill its obligations under internationally backed agreements to fight terrorism and undertake much-needed political, economic and security reforms.
- The United States has supported steps taken by Israel in order to secure its citizens in the absence of a Palestinian peace partner.
- By working with Israel and standing against third-party attempts to impose peace treaties on it, the United States has enhanced the prospects for true peace between the Jewish state and its neighbors.

# Israel's Right to Self-Defense

“The State of Israel, like any other sovereign nation, retains the inherent right to defend itself and no one—no one—should expect her or the Israeli people to negotiate with or capitulate to terrorist organizations whose cause is her destruction.”

—House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD)



Despite its success at stopping terrorist attacks, Israel has moved its security fence several times to ease the barrier's impact on the daily lives of Palestinians.

More than any other nation, Israel faces a strategic military and terrorist threat that is both constant and comprehensive.

Palestinian terrorists have carried out more than 25,000 attacks since September 2000, claiming the lives of more than 1,100 Israelis and forcing Israel to employ security guards to police the entrances of shops and restaurants. On the walls of Israeli high schools are plaques that commemorate students killed in suicide bombings carried out by Hamas and other groups.

Israel also faces serious threats beyond its borders. The terrorist network Hizballah sits in southern Lebanon just across Israel's northern border with a force of jihadists armed with more than 10,000 rockets, some of which are capable of striking Israel's major population centers. In the summer of 2006, Hizballah used some of its arsenal, firing more than 4,000 rockets and mortars into northern Israel, killing dozens of innocent civilians, injuring thousands more and forcing more than one million Israelis to flee the northern part of the country or remain in bomb shelters for a month.

## Israel Balances Security With Democracy

Facing enemies so ruthless that they hide bombs in ambulances, dispatch women and children to carry out terror attacks and show no compunction about targeting Israeli homes, businesses and schools with bombs and rockets, Israel has worked to protect its citizens while upholding the values that make the Jewish state a Western-style democracy.

Israel was analyzing and refining its security measures long before other nations had even begun confronting the threat of modern terrorism.

As a result, its governmental institutions have been pioneers in integrating homeland security with respect for basic freedoms. The Knesset is one of the only parliaments in the world to have formulated guidelines to govern the administrative detention of terrorist suspects, and the Israeli Supreme Court has outlawed torture.

## Israel's Military is Guided by Moral Constraints

Israel's dedication to preserving itself as a humane democracy is evident even in the institution that has the most to lose from lowering its guard to threats in

order to protect civilian lives and liberties.

When defensive action is required, Israel's armed forces operate under guidelines that have prompted some to call it “the most moral military in the world.”

Even though airstrikes offer commanders the chance to hit enemy targets while protecting troops from close-quarters combat, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) has routinely rejected that option when it risked killing civilians. Frequently, Israeli troops have been called upon for more dangerous urban ground combat missions in terrorist strongholds from Lebanon to the West Bank and Gaza.

While terrorist enemies faced by the IDF hide amid civilians to avoid Israeli reprisals and exploit accidental casualties for propaganda purposes, Israel's soldiers are guided by rigorous rules that restrict even the times when they may shoot in self-defense.

Additionally, the IDF has often given up the element of surprise when targeting towns used as cover by terrorist groups, warning residents ahead of time through leaflets, radio broadcasts and phone calls to leave the areas for the duration of the operations.



## Israel's Security Fence is Effective and Ethical

Israel's anti-terrorist security fence, which runs along the West Bank frontier, offers a case study in how the Jewish state is utilizing other, non-military means to fight terrorism.

Composed of chain-link fencing, sophisticated electronic sensors and security cameras for 95 percent of its length, the security fence has been an indispensable component of Israel's efforts to ensure the safety of its citizens. Before there was a fence, Palestinian terrorists were able to simply walk short distances from Palestinian territory into Israeli population centers and detonate suicide bombs. While still only partially completed, the barrier has already proven stunningly effective, reducing the number of Palestinian suicide bombings by more than 90 percent.

In one case, two would-be suicide bombers set off from Jenin in the northern West Bank toward a high school in a nearby Israeli town. The presence of the fence forced them to make a detour, providing enough time for Israeli security forces to capture them and prevent the planned attack.

## Israel Has Reduced the Fence's Impact on Palestinians

While demonstrating Israel's determination to protect its citizens, the fence also showcases its willingness to calibrate its battle against terrorism to accommodate innocent Palestinians. The fence's very existence diminishes the need for Israeli security forces to patrol Palestinian towns, reducing security-related disruptions of Palestinian life, and dramatically minimizing the need for Israel to maintain security checkpoints and roadblocks.

Only five percent of Israel's security barrier is composed of concrete barricades. These have been erected in areas with a history of Palestinian sniping or in densely populated urban areas where constructing the entire fence system would dramatically impact Palestinians' personal property. At great expense, Israel has so far installed more than 80 gates in the fence for farmers, students and other Palestinians who have to move between both sides of the barrier.

Israel has even shifted the fence's route in compliance with an Israeli Supreme Court ruling aimed at easing its impact on the lives of Palestinians. Israeli

Chief Justice Aharon Barak said that the alterations to the fence, while risky, were required by his nation's fundamental values. "We are aware that in the short term, this judgment will not make the state's struggle against those rising up against it any easier," Barak wrote. "This is the destiny of a democracy: she does not see all means as acceptable, and the ways of her enemies are not always open before her. A democracy must sometimes fight with one arm tied behind her back."

## America Has Backed Israel's Right to Self-Defense

Through congressional resolutions and presidential statements, the American government has repeatedly recognized the legitimacy of Israel's defense of its citizens.

Both the House of Representatives and the Senate passed resolutions articulating that message during the deadliest months of the Palestinians' campaign of violence against Israel. U.S. policymakers have also recognized that Israel's obligation to protect itself has sometimes required action against terrorist organizations harbored beyond its borders in order to deter future attacks.

For instance, Israel was forced to undertake military operations in Lebanon in July 2006 following a major cross-border attack by Hizballah, which had operated with impunity along Lebanon's border with Israel. In response, President Bush strongly endorsed "Israel's right to defend herself," and both chambers of Congress overwhelmingly passed resolutions backing Israel's defensive operations.

Israel's far-reaching efforts to protect its people from terrorism while upholding its commitment to human rights should continue to serve as an inspiration to other nations, including the United States, who can draw on Israel's experience of fighting terrorism without sacrificing core Western values.

**Even before its completion, Israel's security fence has led to a more than 90 percent reduction in Palestinian suicide bombings.**

## Key Points

- More than any other nation, Israel has gone to great lengths to determine how to fight terrorism while preserving its commitment to democracy and civil liberties.
- Democratic checks and balances such as Israel's Supreme Court and parliament play active roles in developing Israel's counterterrorism policies.
- Israel's military operates under strict rules of engagement designed to minimize civilian casualties.
- Even before its completion, Israel's security fence has reduced Palestinian suicide bombings by more than 90 percent.
- Israel continues to minimize the impact of its security fence on the Palestinians.
- The United States has consistently backed Israel's right to defend itself and protect its citizens.

# Iran's Pursuit of Nuclear Weapons

“It is clear that Iran’s reckless pursuit of nuclear weapons, coupled with its support for terrorism, threatens the Middle East and beyond.”

—Sen. John McCain (R-AZ)



Iran has ballistic missiles that could carry nuclear warheads 1,500 miles, threatening U.S. troops, Israel, other U.S. allies and vital energy resources.

In 2002, Iran’s decades-long clandestine pursuit of atomic weapons was revealed when an exile group exposed key nuclear facilities. Today, Tehran is defying the international community by enriching uranium, which could serve as the core of a nuclear weapon.

As the leading state sponsor of terrorism, a nuclear-armed Iran would pose unacceptable threats to the United States and its allies. The world can still persuade Iran to give up this effort by imposing a range of economic and diplomatic sanctions. However, time is running out.

## Iran is Nearing Nuclear Arms Capability

Having mastered most steps of the nuclear “fuel cycle,” Iran is now conducting advanced atomic work and fast approaching the “point of no return”—when Tehran will have achieved the technical know-how to produce nuclear weapons indigenously.

In 2006, Iran announced that it had successfully enriched uranium. It is now moving ahead with plans to assemble more than 50,000 centrifuges for industrial-scale enrichment, ultimately enabling Iran to produce up to 50 nuclear warheads per year.

Inspectors for the International Atomic Energy Agency have uncovered evidence that Iran has carried out a number of nuclear activities with no known civilian energy purposes. Iran has experimented with polonium, an element whose primary use is to intensify nuclear explosions. Iran also is pursuing equipment that could be used to mold the core of a nuclear warhead and already possesses plans for such a weapon.

## A Nuclear Iran Would Threaten America and Its Allies

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has publicly called for “a world without the United States and Zionism.” Clearly, the prospect of a nuclear Iran is fraught with peril for America.

First, Iran would be able to deliver nuclear warheads using its growing arsenal of ballistic missiles. The most advanced Iranian missile is already capable of reaching American troops in the Middle East, hitting parts of Europe, attacking Middle Eastern oil and gas refineries and threatening U.S. allies such as Israel, which Ahmadinejad has said should be “wiped off the map.” Iran also may be developing an intercontinental

ballistic missile (ICBM) capable of striking the United States and Western Europe.

Second, possessing nuclear weapons could embolden Iran to carry out its radical foreign policy agenda. Iran could increase its interference with American efforts to rebuild Iraq, where Iranian-backed terrorists are targeting U.S. troops. It could also increase its support for terrorist groups such as the Lebanon-based Hizballah, which has killed more Americans than any terrorist organization except al-Qaeda.

Third, Iran’s acquisition of nuclear weapons would likely touch off a regional nuclear arms race among other Mideast nations and toll the death knell for the global non-proliferation regime. Indeed, several countries in the region, including Egypt, Morocco, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, have signaled that they are exploring nuclear programs of their own.

## Strong Economic and Diplomatic Sanctions Can Still Stop Iran

Iran’s nuclear program would be even more advanced today were it not for critical legislation enacted by Congress that slowed its progress. In addition to elevating Iran’s nuclear



## RADICAL RHETORIC



### Statements by Iran's Leaders

**"God willing...we shall soon experience a world without the United States and Zionism."**

—President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, September 15, 2005

**"Israel must be wiped off the map."**

—Ahmadinejad, October 25, 2005

**"Some European countries insist on saying Hitler killed millions of innocent Jews in furnaces... we don't accept this claim."**

—Ahmadinejad, December 8, 2005

**"The Zionist regime is on the slope of disappearance... the continued crimes of the Zionist regime will only accelerate the downfall of this fake regime."**

—Ahmadinejad, December 2, 2006

**"The Zionist regime is a symbol of hedonism and the manifestation of the ugly soul of some usurper powers that support it."**

—Ahmadinejad, March 1, 2007

**"The employment of even one atomic bomb inside Israel will wipe it off the face of the earth, but [such a bomb] would only do damage to the Islamic World."**

—Former President Hashemi Rafsanjani, December 14, 2001

program to the top of the international community's agenda, Congress and the administration have helped cut off the flow of money and weapons-related materials into Iran. Legislation passed by Congress has authorized sanctions against foreign companies and entities investing in Iran's energy sector or aiding its ballistic missile and nuclear programs.

These steps have helped. But today, Iran's determination to achieve nuclear capabilities puts the international community at a critical juncture. As President Bush and senior Democratic and Republican leaders have declared, the United States cannot afford to take any option off the table in trying to end Iran's atomic ambitions.

### Iran Must Fulfill Its Commitments and Give Up Its Nuclear-Weapons Quest

The U.N. Security Council has passed multiple resolutions demanding that Iran stop enriching uranium and provide unfettered access to U.N. arms inspectors in order to ensure that Iran is not pursuing nuclear arms under the cover of a civil nuclear energy program. Before providing Iran with incentives and rewards, the international community must continue to insist that Iran

fulfills these conditions and must enforce U.N. sanctions. The United States and its allies also should push for further economic and diplomatic penalties if Iran continues to defy Security Council demands.

Meanwhile, Congress is considering legislation tightening sanctions on Iran and increasing support for democratic forces within the country. State-level campaigns to divest public pension funds from companies investing in Iran's petroleum and natural gas sector are another means for cutting off funds Iran could use for atomic work. Strong steps today may enable the world to avoid disaster tomorrow.

**The United States and its allies should push for further economic and diplomatic penalties if Iran continues to defy Security Council demands.**

## Key Points

- Iran secretly pursued nuclear weapons for nearly two decades in violation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and has defied U.N. Security Council resolutions demanding a freeze in its enrichment of uranium.
- Iran has already mastered most steps required to develop nuclear weapons and is rapidly approaching the point at which it will be able to assemble them without outside help.
- Iran possesses ballistic missiles capable of delivering a nuclear warhead to Israel and parts of Europe and is trying to develop a longer-range intercontinental ballistic missile that could hit the United States.
- U.S. policymakers from both parties have asserted that a nuclear-armed Iran would pose unacceptable threats to the United States and its allies and interests in the Middle East.
- Just as bills passed by Congress have slowed Iran's quest for an atomic bomb, a range of strong sanctions imposed by the international community can still stop Iran before it is too late.

# Jerusalem



Divided under Jordanian control from 1948-1967, Jerusalem today is the seat of Israel's democratic institutions and the historical and spiritual capital of the Jewish people.

Jerusalem today is the undivided capital of the state of Israel. For more than three millennia the city has played a central role in the lives of Jews throughout the world. There are more than 800 mentions of Jerusalem in the Hebrew Bible, and literally thousands of references to the city throughout more than 2,000 years of rabbinic literature.

## Jerusalem's Central Role in Jewish Tradition

According to tradition, the Jewish connection to Jerusalem predates even the city's formal establishment as Israel's capital in 1,000 B.C.E.

One of Jerusalem's hills was the setting for the famous Biblical story in which the patriarch Abraham prepares to sacrifice his son Isaac.

Hundreds of years later, after King David had made Jerusalem Israel's capital, David's son Solomon built the First Jewish Temple on that same summit, known as the Temple Mount. The Temple Mount became the focal point of ancient Judaism, drawing rabbis and religious pilgrims from throughout Israel.

Jerusalem remained the holiest city of the Jewish people even after 70 C.E., when the rebuilt Second Temple was destroyed by Israel's Roman conquerors. Jews maintained a continuous presence there for the next two millennia, while generations of their dispersed co-religionists prayed three times a day for the rebuilding of Jerusalem. The hope was expressed in a famous verse from the Psalms: "If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning."

## Jerusalem as the Capital of Israel

Following its war of independence in 1948, the centuries-old Jewish dream of reclaiming Jerusalem was partially realized, when the western half of the city was made the capital of a re-established Israel.

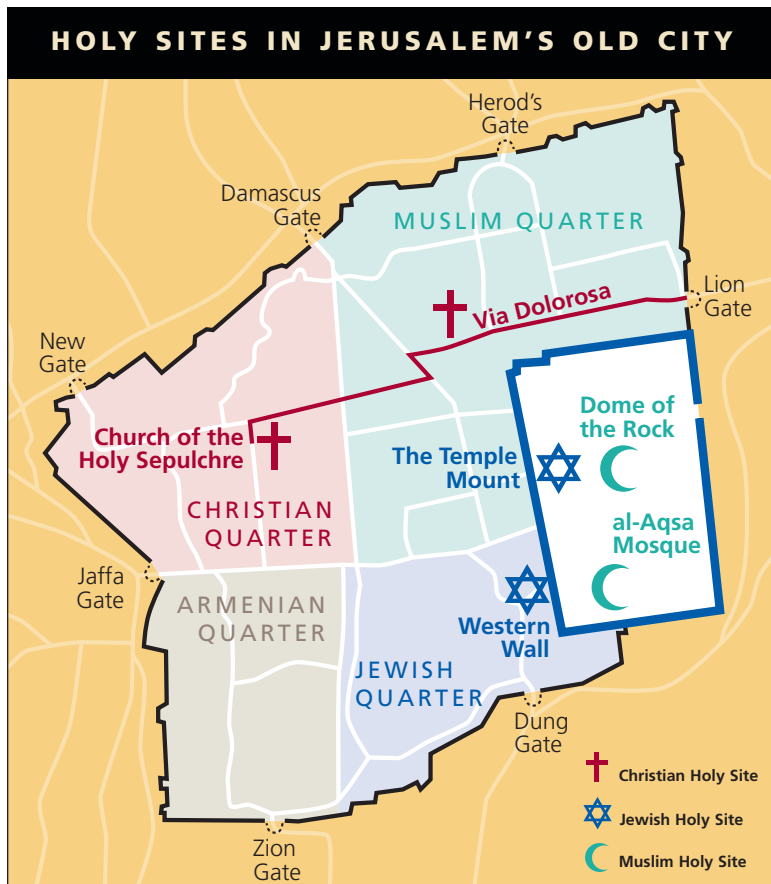
Jews had formed a majority of Jerusalem's population since the 1860s, and the founders of Israel had wanted to make the entire city the reborn nation's capital. However, it was divided after the Jordanian army succeeded in occupying eastern Jerusalem—the area of the city containing Jewish holy sites such as the Western Wall, a surviving remnant of the Second Temple.

Jerusalem's division represented a grievous time for the Jewish people and the city itself. Arab armies shelled and laid siege to Jerusalem during their 1948 war against Israel. After the conflict ended, a barrier cut through the city's center along the armistice line. Thousands of Jews, some of whose families had been living there for centuries, were expelled from eastern Jerusalem. Arab soldiers even desecrated the graves of Jews buried on the Mount of Olives.

The city was finally reunited during the Six-Day War of 1967, when Israel won a stunning victory over several Arab nations that again forced the Jewish state to fight for its survival.

Israel immediately abolished Arab restrictions on access to the city, allowing all Jews, Christians and Muslims to worship at their holy places. Israel even granted Islamic religious authorities jurisdiction over Judaism's holiest site, recognizing that Muslims had built two places of worship—the Dome of the Rock and the al-Aqsa mosque—on the Temple Mount centuries after the Roman Empire destroyed the Jewish Temple.





Israel protects and guarantees access to Christian, Muslim and Jewish holy sites located inside the ancient walls of Jerusalem's Old City.

Under Israeli rule, east Jerusalem sees hundreds of Muslims gather on the Temple Mount daily. Nearby, Jews enjoy total access to the Western Wall, and Christians are allowed to visit sites such as the Garden of Gethsemane and the Via Dolorosa without restriction.

Israel has also undertaken to develop Jerusalem responsibly, with an eye toward its expanding population and security. Hills surrounding Jerusalem—once the homes of Arab canons pointed toward the city's heart—now feature houses and apartment complexes. None of the developments violate agree-

ments Israel has signed with the Palestinians, which stipulate that any changes in Jerusalem's present status should be reserved for discussion until the final round of peace talks.

### Jerusalem Recognized as Israel's Capital

There is an overwhelming consensus among Israelis, Jews around the world and millions of Christians that Jerusalem must remain the capital of Israel forever.

A 1980 Israeli law states that Jerusalem is the state's "eternal, undivided" capital, and that sentiment has been reaffirmed by Israeli governments on both the left and right of the political spectrum.

Congress has also weighed in on behalf of that position. A series of resolutions has stated that Jerusalem "must remain an undivided city in which the rights of every ethnic and religious group are protected."

In 1995, Congress passed the Jerusalem Embassy Relocation Act, which stated that Jerusalem should be recognized as Israel's capital and required the United States to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem no later than May 31, 1999.

However, Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush have used waivers granted by the legislation to delay relocating the U.S. embassy. As a result, Israel remains the only country in the world in which the United States neither recognizes the nation's designated capital nor locates its embassy there.

Members of Congress will continue to play a key role in pressing the administration to follow through on the legislation and move America's embassy to Israel's capital.

Congress has  
passed legislation  
recognizing  
Jerusalem as  
Israel's undivided  
capital and  
calling for a U.S.  
Embassy to be  
established there.

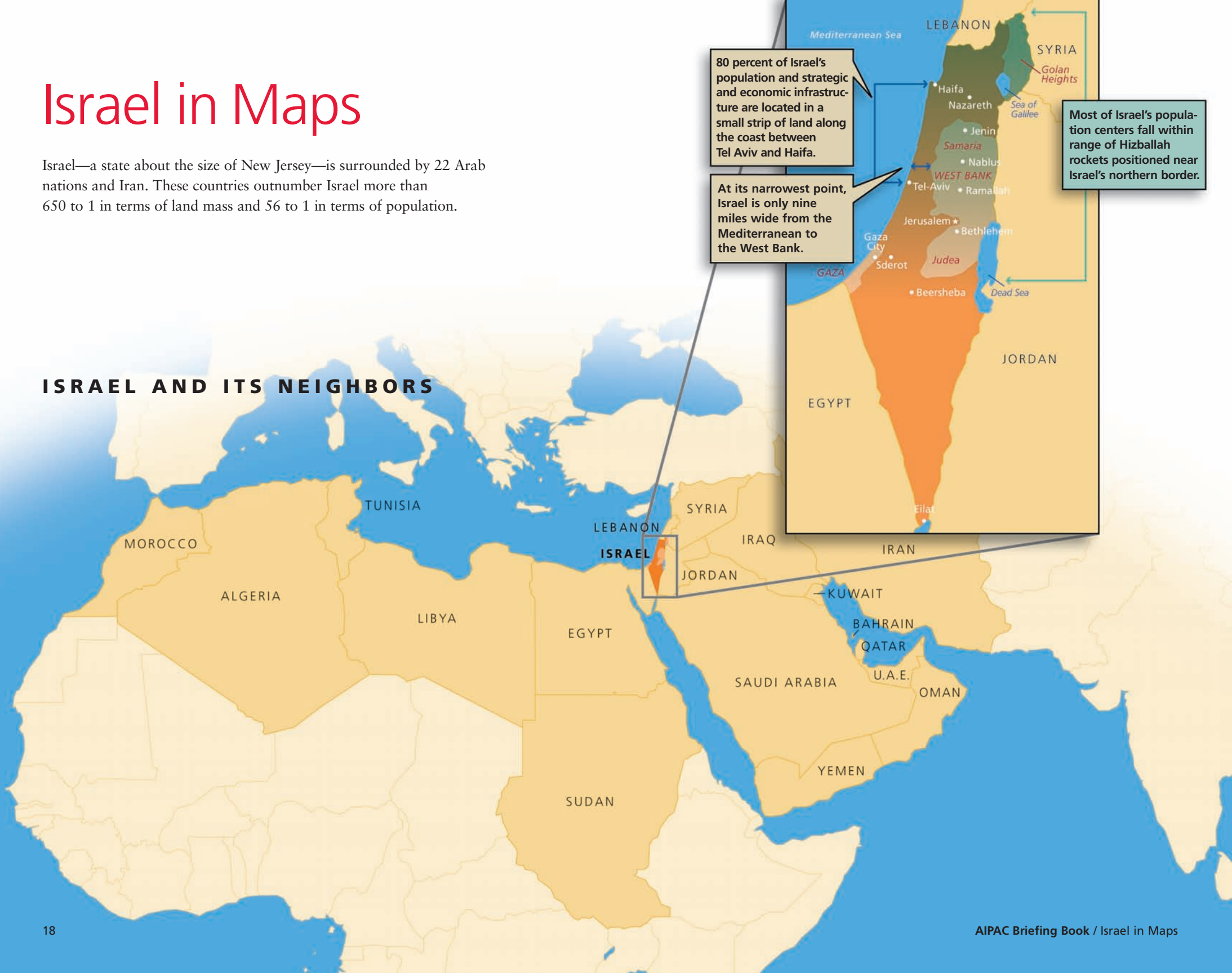
## Key Points

- Jerusalem is the undivided capital of the State of Israel.
- For more than three millennia, Jews have maintained a continuous presence in Jerusalem and the city has played a central role in the lives of Jews throughout the world.
- Jerusalem is home to the Temple Mount and the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest sites.
- In contrast to the Jordanian government that controlled eastern Jerusalem from 1948 to 1967, Israel guarantees access to holy sites for worshippers and tourists of all nationalities and religions.
- Israel has developed Jerusalem responsibly, developing new neighborhoods on strategic hilltops that were once used to shell the city.
- Israelis of all political persuasions and Jews and Christians worldwide believe Jerusalem should remain the capital of Israel under any peace deal reached with the Palestinians.
- Congress has passed numerous resolutions recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital, and a 1995 law requires the United States to move its embassy to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv.

# Israel in Maps

Israel—a state about the size of New Jersey—is surrounded by 22 Arab nations and Iran. These countries outnumber Israel more than 650 to 1 in terms of land mass and 56 to 1 in terms of population.

## ISRAEL AND ITS NEIGHBORS





## The History of Israel's Borders

Jews have maintained a continuous presence in the Land of Israel for more than three millennia. Israel's boundaries in modern times have been determined by the wars it had to fight and the territory it ceded to former adversaries in its search for peace.

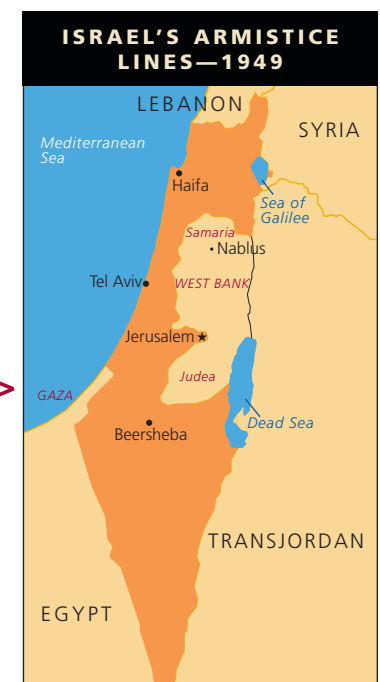
The Kingdom of Israel, during the reigns of Kings David and Solomon, was composed of a vast territory with Jerusalem as its capital.



The U.N. proposed dividing the British Mandate of Palestine into Jewish and Arab states. Israel accepted the plan. The Arabs rejected it and attacked Israel.



The modern state of Israel established its initial armistice lines after surviving invasions by five Arab armies during its War of Independence in 1948.



After successfully defending itself in the Six-Day War, Israel controlled territory that tripled its size. It traded most of that land for a peace treaty with Egypt.



As part of the 1979 peace treaty with Egypt, Israel yielded the entire Sinai Peninsula in return for an historic peace treaty sponsored by the United States.



Israel's current frontiers reflect its historic 2005 disengagement from Gaza, the first time Israel ceded territory outside the context of a peace agreement.



*These maps are for illustrative purposes only and does not imply any view regarding future agreements between Israel and its neighbors.*

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin visited President George H.W. Bush at his family home in Maine shortly after taking office in 1992.

President Harry Truman, who recognized Israel minutes after its establishment, received Torah scrolls from Chaim Weizmann, the Jewish state's first president.



After conferring with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, President George H.W. Bush deployed Patriot missile batteries to defend Israel from Iraqi attacks during the first Gulf War.



With President Bill Clinton's backing, Prime Minister Ehud Barak made an unprecedented bid for peace with the Palestinians.



President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon forged a close relationship as U.S. support helped Israel withstand a massive wave of Palestinian violence.



At the urging of then-Foreign Minister Golda Meir, John F. Kennedy became the first president to provide arms to Israel.



President Lyndon Johnson, who nearly doubled U.S. aid to Israel, enjoyed a close relationship with Yitzhak Rabin, then Israel's U.S. ambassador.



AIPAC — “The most important  
organization affecting America’s  
relationship with Israel.”

—The New York Times

## About AIPAC

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee is the only American organization whose principal mission is to lobby the U.S. government about legislation that strengthens the relationship between the United States and Israel.

Every day, the professional staff and members of AIPAC are hard at work helping to educate members of Congress, candidates for public office, policy makers, media professionals, and student leaders on college campuses about the importance of the U.S.–Israel friendship. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the organization has 10 regional offices focused on bringing our message to legislators throughout the country.

Today, AIPAC is broadening and deepening the U.S.–Israel bond by working to secure vital aid for Israel to help ensure Israel remains strong and secure. AIPAC is working to promote strategic cooperation between the two nations, to develop sound U.S. anti-terrorist policies, and to stop rogue nations such as Iran from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

AIPAC is registered as a domestic lobby and supported financially by private donations. The organization receives no financial assistance from Israel, from any national organization or any foreign group. AIPAC is not a political action committee. It does not rate, endorse, or contribute to candidates.



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