

# An Evolution For The Future

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MVZ248

# Peace and Future of Israeli Foreign Policy

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Public opinion

GOI and PMO

Divided Palestinian loyalties

The chaotic Middle East

# Israel and the US

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Since 2010 asset and liability

post-2020?

# Liability

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- Political costs to the U.S. internationally of having to spend our political capital this way are huge.
- Protecting ally (Israel) from continual and increased international indignation about Israel's behavior
  - grave damage to U.S. global and regional standing.
- Severely impaired U.S. ties with the world's 1.6 billion Muslims not only in the Middle East.
- But it has also cost us much of our followership in international organizations.
  - U.N.

# Liability specifics

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- The **conflict foments anti-American sentiment, due to a perception of U.S. favoritism for Israel.**
- Arab anger over the Palestinian question **limits the strength and depth of U.S. partnerships** with governments and peoples in the AOR and weakens the legitimacy of moderate regimes in the Arab world.
- Meanwhile, al-Qaeda and other militant groups **exploit that anger** to mobilize support.
- The conflict also gives Iran influence in the Arab world through its clients, Lebanese Hizballah and Hamas.
  - Gen. Petraeus (2010)



Asset or Liability?

# Asset

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- Shared values and moral responsibility remain unshakable foundations of U.S.-Israel relations,"
  - Robert D. Blackwill and Walter B. Slocombe *Israel: A Strategic Asset for the United States*.
- "But the relationship stands equally on an underappreciated third leg: common national interests and collaborative action to advance those interests."

# Asset

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- It is to America's advantage to have in Israel an economy that is so closely associated with the USA.
  - innovator in the information and technology field,
  - high-tech medicine, and in
  - green technologies like the electric car.
- The Obama administration made the economic health and well-being of the United States the pillar of its National Security Strategy.
  - Clinton administration, James D. Boy's *Clinton Grand Strategy*



# Asset

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- The peace process has been a vehicle for American influence throughout the broad Middle Eastern region.
- An excuse for Arab declarations of friendship with the United States,
  - regardless if Americans remain devoted to Israel.
  - Helped eliminate what might be a zero-sum game

# Asset

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- A long list of military-related advantages.
- Israel—through its intelligence, its technology, and the lessons learned from its own experience in counterterrorism and asymmetric warfare
- Israel's unique counterproliferation efforts—destroying nuclear reactors in Iraq (1981) and Syria (2007) Israel's contribution to Western security is greater.
- Bottom line: do a cost-benefit analysis of the U.S. relationship with Israel over the past thirty-plus years and the U.S. relationship with its Arab friends in the Gulf.
  - To secure its interests in the Arab-Israeli arena, the United States has spent about \$100 billion in military and economic assistance to Israel, plus another \$30 billion to Egypt and relatively small amount to other Arab nations.
  - On a state-to-state basis, investment in Israel has paid off in terms of regional stability. pre-2011.

# Foreign Policy Review and

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## New friends

- Israel as a strong and stable factor capable of replacing to some degree the American anchor that is steadily dissipating.
- Israel stands at the forefront of the battle of the democratic and modern world against the forces of radical Islam.

## Old enemies

Iran