

An Evolution For The Future: Israel 2015

MVZ247 Week 12

Peace and Future of Israeli Foreign Policy

Public opinion

GOI and PMO

Strong Israeli economy and technology industry

Divided Palestinian loyalties

The chaotic Middle East

Israel and the US

Since 2010 asset and liability

post-2020?

Liability

- 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

- 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

- 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

- It is to America's advantage to have in Israel an economy that is so closely associated with the USA. Israel is:
 - 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

- 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

Israeli economy and its 'health' is a pillar of continued support for Likud and Netanyahu.

It supports the National Security Strategy of Israel as well.

Asset

- 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

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