

POLITICS AND SOCIETY IN ISRAEL

IRE215

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Session 8



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On The Agenda for Today

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■ Israel and the US

- Why are they such close allies?
- American Foreign policy towards the ME

■ Israel and the EU

- The Barcelona Process
- The Union for the Mediterranean
- The European Neighbourhood Policy

Israel and the US

Why are Israel and the US close allies?



American foreign policy (supportive of Israel) is meant to promote American strategic interests

Israel and the US

Why are Israel and the US close allies?

- Israel contributed and advanced American interests in the Middle East and beyond =>
 - **Regional policemen** (+ strategic location)
 - **Battlefield testing** for American arms
 - Acted as a **proxy** in transferring American arms to unpopular agents
 - **Intelligence** gathering and covert operations
 - **Cooperation in military-industrial research, development, training**
 - **Counter-proliferation efforts**

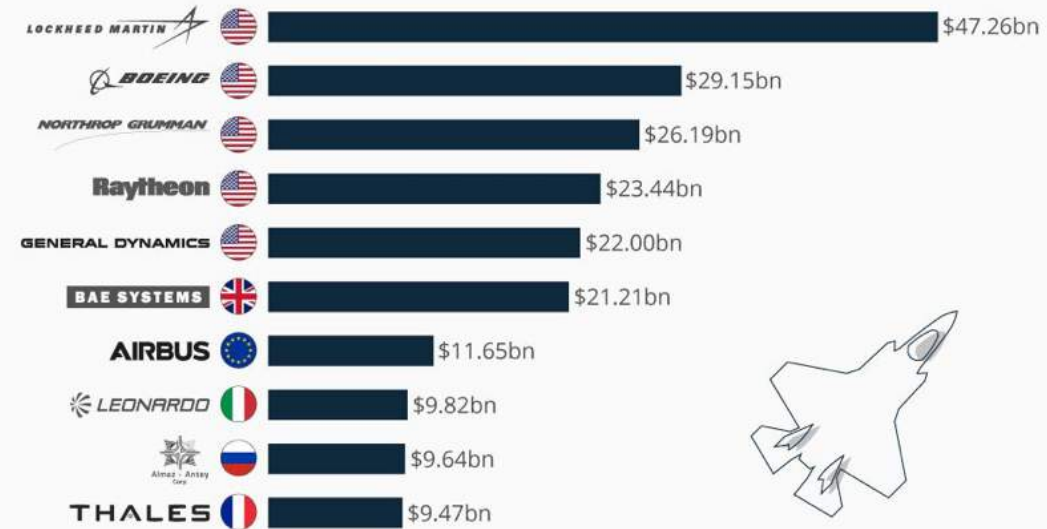
Israel and the US

Why are Israel and the US close allies?

- Contributing Factors:
 - Sentimental attachment to Israel
 - Share similar values
 - Sanctuary to an oppressed minority
 - The support of the American Christian Right
 - The Jewish lobby: Political and business ties
 - The support of the American Arms Industry

The World's Largest Arms-Producing Companies

Sales of the top arms-producing and military services companies in 2018*



@StatistaCharts

* Excluding China due to a lack of comparable and sufficiently accurate data

Source: Sipri

Forbes statista

Israel and the US

- **US- Israel Relationship** => Part of the American foreign policy towards the Middle East

American ME Foreign Policy

US foreign policy towards the region was centered on:

1. **Superpower rivalry** (vs. the USSR)
 2. Establishing special relationships with **key countries** in the area (such as Iran until 1979, Israel- especially after 1967)
- **Truman Administration (1945–1952)**
 - American, British Soviet soldiers in Iran during WW2
 - Soviets withdrew after the war
 - US-Iranian friendship
 - US accepted UN Palestine partition plan, recognized Israel



American ME Foreign Policy

- **Eisenhower Administration (1953–1960)**
 - 1956: The **Suez crisis**- US didn't join the hostilities- ended it
 - 1957: The **Eisenhower Doctrine**
 - Part of US policy of **containing Soviet influence** in the ME + **securing American interests**
 - 1958: **American** troops in **Beirut** in mission to protect the Christian-led government

Eisenhower Doctrine (1957):
Any country threatened with undue **pressure** from the USSR could receive **aid** from the US



American ME Foreign Policy

- **Kennedy Administration (1961–1963)**

- Increased **economic aid** to the region
- Reduce US-Soviet polarization



- **Johnson Administration (1963–1968)**

- Not focused on the ME
- 1967: The **Six-Day War**- the soviet union threatened to attack Israel, American Six fleet was on alert, US pressures Israel to end the war



American ME Foreign Policy

- **Nixon-Ford Administration (1969–1976)**
 - 1973: **Yom Kippur War**- The US faced a **major confrontation** with the Soviets over the ME for the second time in six years, ended with two **disengagement agreements** negotiated by **Kissinger (1974-1975)**
 - **Arab oil embargo** on the US => **Recession**
- **Carter Administration (1977-1981)**
 - 1978 **Camp David** accords, 79 Israel Egypt **peace treaty**
 - 1978 **Iranian Islamic Revolution**, **hostage crisis** in Tehran



American ME Foreign Policy

- **Reagan Administration (1981–1989)**
 - 1982: **Lebanon War, Reagan** demanded a **ceasefire**
 - 1983: Bombings of US embassy + barracks in Beirut- **American withdrawal**
 - **Hezbollah** took **American hostages** in Lebanon
 - 1986: **Iran-Contra** **Affair**
 - **Supported Israel's expansion of Jewish settlements** in the West Bank + **Hussain** in the **Iran-Iraq War**

American ME Foreign Policy

Pre-Cold War, US ME Foreign Policy was Meant to:

1. **Eliminate competitors** in the region + **assure US indisputable supremacy**
2. Form a massive **regional alliance** directed **against the Soviet Union**
 - The US was willing to use hard power- **military means**, to pursue these goals, but also used **diplomacy**:
 - US' role during the **Suez Crisis** of 1956 – 57
 - 1978 – 79 **Camp David Accords**: Israel/Egypt

American ME Foreign Policy

Post Cold-War era =>

- US policy towards the ME was centered around the idea of “**Hegemonic re-building**” in the region
- **H.W Bush Administration (1989–1993)**
 - **1990: Iraqi invasion of Kuwait => Operation Desert Shield => Operation Desert Storm**
 - **Largely uninvolved in the First Palestinian intifada**
 - **1991 => Bush initiated the ME Peace Conference => Gaza-Jericho/ Cairo Agreement of 1994**

American ME Foreign Policy

- **Clinton Administration (1993–2001)**
 - **1993: Oslo Accords**
 - **1994: Israel/Jordan peace treaty**
 - **2000: Collapse of the Camp David summit**



American ME Foreign Policy

Post September 11=>

1. The US would lead the world in the **battle against terrorism + aggressive regimes** seeking weapons of mass destruction
 2. Commitment to **peace through diplomacy**
- **G W Bush Administration (2001-2008)**
 - **2001: Post 9/11 attack of Afghanistan**
 - **2002: The 'Axis of Evil' speech**
 - **2003: 'War on Terror's' expansion to Iraq**
 - **2006: Iraqi civil war, Hamas in the Gaza Strip, Hezbollah gaining power**

American ME Foreign Policy

- **Obama Administration (2009-2017)**
 - **2009: The Cairo speech**
 - **The US is too involved in the ME => Drawdown of US troops in Iraq, Afghanistan**
 - **The Arab Spring; civil wars in Syria, Libya, Yemen**



Israel and the US

The 'Era of Trump' =>

- **Friendliest** president to ever
- Trump's **close relationship** with PM Netanyahu
 - Key point in Netanyahu's recent campaigns (3)
- **Recognizing Israel's sovereignty** over the **Golan Heights**
- **Moving** the American **embassy** to **Jerusalem** (May 2018)
- Trump's decision to **abandon the Iran nuclear deal** + impose sanctions
- Trump's **Peace plan** (Jan 2020)



Israel and the US

The Era of Trump =>

- Usually: unwavering support on both sides, not perfect though
 - Trump's turn to **diplomacy with Iran**
 - Trump's decision to **pull US troops out of north-eastern Syria**
- No indication that the US will reduce its solid support for Israel's security, yet, Trump is unpredictable, and so,
- The Future of the relationship is unclear

Israel and the EU

- **Bilateral Association Agreement (EU/Israel)** negotiated in the early 1990

The Barcelona Process/Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (1995) =>

- Launched by the **Ministers of Foreign Affairs** of the then, **15 EU members** and **14 Mediterranean partners** at the **Barcelona Euro-Mediterranean Conference**
- Framework of **bilateral and regional relations: the Union for the Mediterranean**
- Parties: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestinian Territories, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey

Israel and the EU

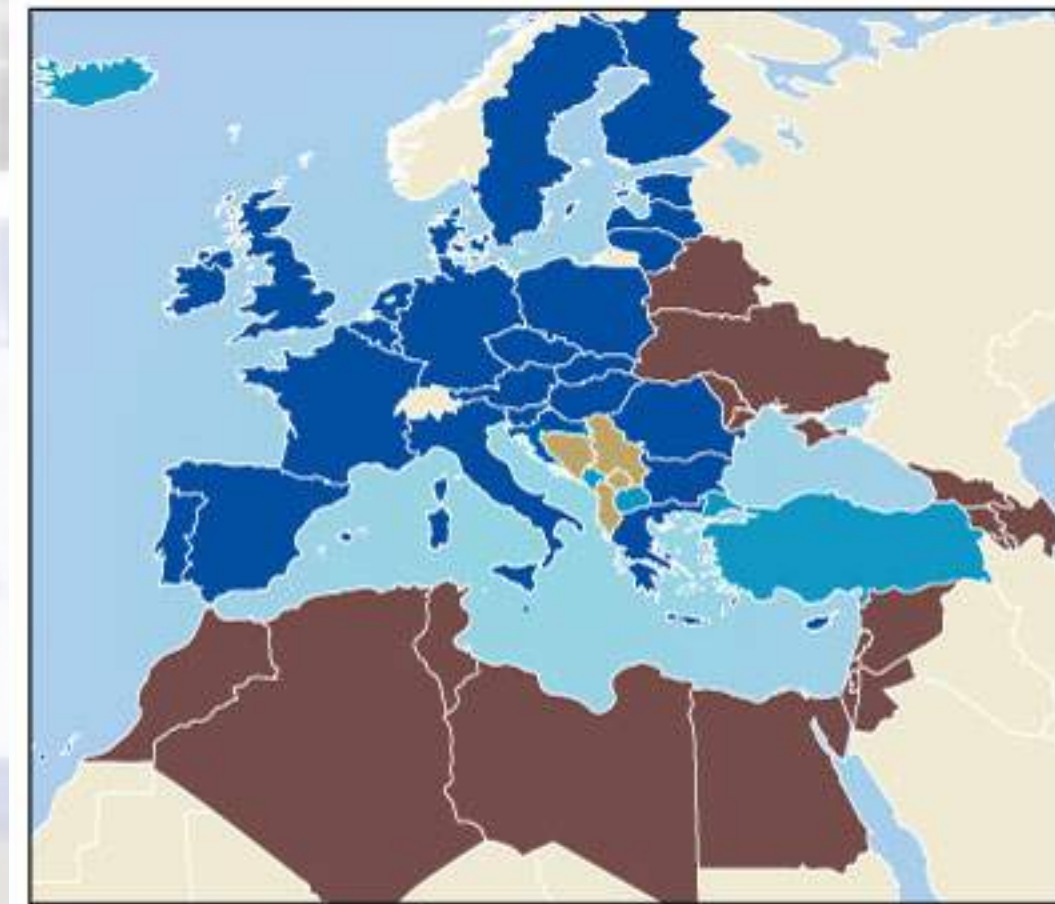
The Barcelona Process/Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (1995) =>

- Innovative **alliance**, based on **joint ownership, dialogue** and **co-operation**
- Seeking to create a Mediterranean region of peace, security and prosperity
- The partnership was organised into three **main dimensions** (remain today):
 - **Political and Security**
 - **Economic and Financial Partnership**
 - **Social, Cultural and Human Partnership**

Israel and the EU

The European Neighborhood Policy =>

- 2004
- Developed to promote **prosperity**, **stability** and **security** within the **EU's neighbours**
- Avoid new dividing lines between the enlarged EU and its neighbours
- For 2014-2020, the ENP has a budget of €15.4 billion



■ EU States ■ Candidate countries
■ Potential candidate countries ■ ENP countries

Next Session...

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- Israel and the EU
- Israel and the Jewish Diaspora
- Immigration to Israel

Thank You For Your Attention!

Questions???