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It's no secret that antisemitism is getting worse across the United States. But to stop anti-Jewish hate, we have to understand how it actually operates today.

Right now, modern antisemitism rarely presents itself as open prejudice against Jewish people. Instead, it overwhelmingly shows up as unfair, relentless attacks against Israel. When commentators use extreme double standards to target one nation, it directly fuels real-world antisemitism against families and communities right here at home.

If you want an easy, straightforward way to explain this connection to people in your life, here is a quick conversation guide:

A COMMON MISCONCEPTION: People think intense anti-Israel rhetoric is just about news headlines and has nothing to do with rising antisemitism in America.

THE REAL TRUTH: Rising antisemitism in America is actively driving this anti-Israel bias. When people hold one nation to rules they never apply to anyone else, that's not

honest news — it's antisemitism in disguise. Real fairness means standing against anti-Jewish bias wherever it shows up.

Why taking a minute to speak out matters:

The news is full of loud voices trying to spread division. But when you talk to a coworker, neighbor, or family member face-to-face, they actually listen. Showing people how modern antisemitism spreads is one of the best ways to stop hate before it grows.

If you'd like to join the fight against antisemitism today:

Take a look at the short video below, and feel free to forward this email to anyone in your circle who wants to take a stand against prejudice.



Thank you for standing up for truth and fighting antisemitism.

Learn more at <https://www.alliesforpeace.com/>

We'd be sad to see you go, but if you want to stop receiving our emails, click [HERE](#)

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(/blog)

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The Christian Israel the World Is Rarely Shown

Published: August 16, 2026 | Last Updated: August 16, 2026

There is a version of Israel that rarely makes international headlines.

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It is the Israel where Christians worship openly in the places where Christianity was born. Where Christian citizens serve as diplomats, doctors, judges, academics and military officers. Where Christian communities (https://culturavia.org/humanity-in-israel-the-facts/) operate schools, churches and institutions, and where Christian Arabs are among the country's most highly educated citizens.

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His argument is not that Christians in Israel experience no problems, discrimination or tensions. Israel is an imperfect society like every other. His point is more fundamental: Christianity is not being extinguished by Israel. Christian citizens possess freedoms and opportunities that deserve far greater attention, particularly when compared with the persecution and disappearance of ancient Christian communities elsewhere in the Middle East.

That story matters not merely because it presents Israel in a more accurate light.



It demonstrates that a Jewish state and a flourishing Christian presence are not contradictions.

They can reinforce one another.



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Table of Contents

- 1. Key Takeaways
- 2. A Christian Representing the Jewish State
- 3. Christianity Is Alive in Israel
- 4. Religious Freedom Makes the Difference
- 5. Look at What Happened Elsewhere
- 6. The Demographic Story Matters
- 7. Christian Educational Success Is Extraordinary
- 8. Israel Is Not Perfect
- 9. Arab, Christian and Israeli
- 10. Christians Should Hear Christian Israelis
- 11. A Shared Future
- 12. Conclusion
- 12.1. Footnotes

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Key Takeaways

- Israel is home to roughly 1 million Christians, of whom are Arab Christians.
 - Christians in Israel possess full citizenship and freedom to worship, establish churches and religious institutions, participate in elections and pursue public careers.
 - Ambassador George Deek is himself an Arab Christian Israeli who has risen to become one of Israel's most prominent diplomats.
 - Christian communities remain deeply rooted in Nazareth, Jerusalem, Haifa, Jaffa and other parts of Israel.
 - Arab Christian educational achievement in Israel is particularly strong.
 - This reality contrasts dramatically with the persecution and demographic collapse experienced by Christian communities in several other parts of the Middle East.
 - Israel's experience demonstrates that protecting Christian life in the region requires religious freedom, security and institutions committed to pluralism (<https://culturavia.org/strength-in-diversity-how-the-united-states-and-israel-are-leading-the-way>).
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(/about)
- News**
(/blog)
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A Christian Representing the Jewish State

George Deek's biography is difficult to reconcile with simplistic descriptions of Israel.

He is Arab.

He is Christian.

He is Israeli.

And he represents Israel.

These identities do not need to cancel one another.

Deek was born in Jaffa into a Christian Arab family whose history reflects the enormous upheavals experienced by both Arabs and Jews during Israel's creation. His grandparents fled during the 1948 war before making the consequential decision to return.

Their descendants became Israeli citizens.

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His story does not prove that every Christian Arab experiences Israel in the same way.

It proves something equally important: Israeli identity is considerably more diverse than the image frequently presented abroad.

Christianity Is Alive in Israel

Christianity is not a foreign presence in Israel.

This is where Christianity began.

Nazareth remains home to Israel's largest Arab Christian community and the Basilica of the Annunciation.

Jerusalem contains the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (<https://culturavia.org/iranian-missile-targets-jerusalem-holy-sites-and-hits-church-of-the-holy-sepulchre/>) and many of Christianity's most sacred places.

Haifa has flourishing Christian communities and institutions.



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Jaffa contains churches and Christian families whose histories stretch back generations.

Christian pilgrims arrive from across the world to walk through the places described in the New Testament.

Israel facilitates access to those sites while Christian denominations administer their churches and institutions.

Faith & Heritage

The Christian presence is therefore not simply archaeological.
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It is living.

Arts & Culture

Religious Freedom Makes the Difference
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The important question is why Christianity has been able to maintain this presence.

Education

One answer is religious freedom.

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Christians in Israel can build and operate churches, run schools and charities, celebrate religious festivals and educate their children within their traditions.

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Christian clergy minister openly. (/philanthropy-and-community)

Church bells ring.

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Christmas (<https://culturavia.org/christmas-the-judeo-christian-tradition-and-the-duty-to-defend-western-civilization/>) is celebrated publicly in Christian communities.

Pilgrims travel to holy sites.

News

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Christians participate in Israeli elections and can challenge the government politically.

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These freedoms should sound completely ordinary.
(<https://culturavia.org/get-involved/>)
In much of the Middle East, they are not.

Look at What Happened Elsewhere

The regional comparison is uncomfortable but essential.

Christian communities across parts of the Middle East have suffered catastrophic decline.

Iraq was once home to a large and ancient Christian population. War, terrorism and particularly the rise of ISIS devastated many of those communities.

ISIS drove Christians from Mosul and the Nineveh Plains, destroyed churches and monasteries and forced families whose roots stretched back toward the beginnings of Christianity to flee.

Syria's Christians have endured war, displacement and Islamist extremism.

Egypt's Coptic Christians have repeatedly suffered terrorist attacks.

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Christian communities elsewhere have faced varying combinations of discrimination, insecurity and political instability.

This is one of the great largely overlooked tragedies of the modern Middle East.

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Some of Christianity's oldest communities have been disappearing from the lands where their faith first developed.

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Against that regional background, Israel's Christian population deserves considerably more attention.

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Information" link.
The Demographic Story Matters

Numbers are important because persecution eventually becomes visible demographically.

When communities believe they have no future, they leave.

That has happened repeatedly to Middle Eastern Christians.

Israel presents a notably different picture.

Its Christian population has not disappeared. Christian families continue living in communities across the country, operating schools, entering universities and participating in professional life.

There are genuine demographic challenges, including emigration and relatively low birth rates, and Christian leaders (https://culturavia.org/faith-heritage) and efforts to strengthen relationships and confront modern-propaganda have raised concerns about incidents of harassment and other problems.

Those concerns should be addressed seriously.

But they do not support the sweeping claim that Israel is systematically attempting to remove Christianity.

The broader demographic and institutional reality points in a very different direction.

Christian Educational Success Is Extraordinary

One of the least discussed aspects of Christian life in Israel is educational achievement.

Arab Christian schools have developed formidable reputations, while Christian students consistently demonstrate high levels of academic success.

Christians enter medicine, technology, law, academia and other professions.

This matters because genuine minority integration cannot be measured merely by whether people are permitted to survive.

The more meaningful question is whether they can succeed.

A Christian community producing doctors, academics, engineers and professionals is not simply being tolerated.

It is participating in the country.

George Deek himself embodies that possibility.

Israel Is Not Perfect

Defending Israel's record should not require pretending every Christian has an ideal experience.

There have been incidents of Christians being harassed or spat upon by extremists.

Church leaders have raised concerns about property disputes, vandalism and behavior by radical individuals.

Such incidents are unacceptable.

Israel should confront them decisively, precisely because religious freedom is one of the country's strengths.

But the existence of extremists does not define an entire society.

The relevant question is how the state treats Christian citizens and institutions and whether Christians possess legal mechanisms to defend their rights.

A society committed to pluralism is not one in which prejudice never occurs.

It is one in which prejudice does not determine citizenship.

Arab, Christian and Israeli

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Perhaps Deek's story is most powerful because it challenges the demand that people choose between identities.

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Christian or Muslim.

Majority or minority.

Real societies are more complicated.

An Arab Christian can regard Arabic as his cultural language, Christianity as his faith and Israel as his country.

That does not mean every Arab Christian makes the same choice or possesses the same political opinions.

They plainly do not.

It means Israeli citizenship allows room for identities that do not fit neatly into the categories outsiders often impose upon the region.

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Christians Show Their Christian Israelis

There is another important dimension to Deek's argument.

Western discussions about Middle Eastern Christians frequently give enormous prominence to activists speaking against Israel while paying much less attention to Christians who live their experiences differently.

Christian Israelis should be allowed to speak for themselves.

That includes critics of Israeli policy.

It should also include Christians who identify proudly as Israeli, serve their country, defend its existence and believe the Jewish state provides them with opportunities and freedoms worth protecting.

Pluralism means listening to both.

Otherwise, Western audiences risk replacing the voices of Middle Eastern Christians with the political narrative they expect those Christians to hold.

A Shared Future

Israel's Christian community also demonstrates something important about the future of the Middle East.

The region does not have to choose between strong religious identities and coexistence.

Jews do not need Christianity to disappear for Jewish sovereignty to survive.

Christians do not need Jewish sovereignty to disappear for Christianity to flourish.

Muslims, Christians, Jews, Druze and others can maintain distinct identities while sharing citizenship and public institutions.

That model remains imperfect and incomplete.

But in a region where religious minorities have experienced extraordinary persecution, its existence matters.

Conclusion

George Deek represents a side of Israel the international debate rarely sees.

An Arab Christian diplomat representing the world's only Jewish state.

His story is powerful precisely because it complicates the categories through which Israel is so frequently judged.

Christians in Israel are not museum exhibits preserved beside ancient holy places.

They are citizens.

They worship.

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None of this means problems should be ignored. Every act of harassment against Christians should be condemned and confronted, and Israel should continue working to ensure that every religious community enjoys genuine equality and security.

But those problems should not erase the much larger reality.

Across parts of the Middle East, ancient Christian populations have been driven from their homes, terrorized or reduced dramatically.

In Israel, Christian communities remain active participants in national life.

That is not accidental.

It is the product of a system in which the Jewish state and people have not only maintained another ancient faith the freedom to maintain its own.

The story of Christians in Israel therefore deserves to be told not because Israel is perfect.

It deserves to be told because in a region where Christianity has too often been endangered, Israel demonstrates that Christian life can be protected, practiced openly and given the space to succeed.

George Deek is living evidence of that possibility.



CULTURAVIA (<https://culturavia.org>)

Faith & Heritage
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Footnotes

1. <https://jewishvirtuallibrary.org/latest-population-statistics-for-israel> (<https://jewishvirtuallibrary.org/latest-population-statistics-for-israel>) ↑
2. <https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/ambassador-george-deek-christian-israel-you-not-being-shown> (<https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/ambassador-george-deek-christian-israel-you-not-being-shown>) ↑
3. <https://www.hudson.org/religious-freedom/are-christians-disappearing-middle-east-lela-gilbert> (<https://www.hudson.org/religious-freedom/are-christians-disappearing-middle-east-lela-gilbert>) ↑

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About the Author (<https://culturavia.org/get-involved/>)

Mark Ginsberg

Mark Ginsberg is a journalist, digital strategist and commentator covering technology, artificial intelligence and the forces shaping today's media and information landscape. Drawing on more than two decades of experience in digital marketing, along with a background in Jewish and Middle Eastern history and advocacy, he brings historical context and practical insight to his reporting and analysis.

Related Articles

The Christian Israel the World Is Rarely Shown

Christians in Israel worship freely, build careers and participate in public life, challenging common narratives about Christianity in the Jewish state.

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Jews and Christians Are Stronger Together

Millions of American Christians support Israel, strengthening a Jewish-Christian bond in shared faith, history, democratic values and common interests.  [\(https://culturavia.org/jews-and-christians-are-stronger-together/\)](https://culturavia.org/jews-and-christians-are-stronger-together/)

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IRAN'S EXECUTION MACHINE REVEALS WHAT THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC REALLY IS

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Published: August 16, 2026 | Last Updated: August 16, 2026
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Iran's rulers have spent decades presenting themselves to the outside world as the representatives of a powerful revolutionary state confronting Israel, America and the West.

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But one of the clearest indications of what the Islamic Republic truly fears can be found much closer to home.

Its own people.



Iran has executed at least 916 people since the beginning of 2026, according to the U.S.-based [Abolmohammadian Human Rights](https://justorium.org) (https://justorium.org/the-theater-of-the-absurd-iran-was-just-elected-to-a-un-human-rights-committee/), in Iran. The organization believes the real number could be considerably higher because Iranian authorities (https://justorium.org) do not disclose many executions. At the same time, more than 100 people reportedly face national-security charges that could result in death sentences, many connected to the anti-government protests that have shaken the country.

The numbers are horrifying in themselves. But they also reveal something important about the nature of the regime confronting the United States and the wider West.

The Islamic Republic does not simply threaten its enemies abroad. It maintains power through fear at home. Executions, rushed trials, repression of journalists and brutal treatment of protesters are not peripheral aspects of the system. They help sustain it.

Understanding Iran therefore requires distinguishing between the Iranian people and the regime ruling them.

Table of Contents



1. Key Takeaways
2. Almost a Thousand Executions
3. Execution as an Instrument of Government
4. The Trials Raise Serious Questions
5. The Regime Is Also Targeting Information
6. The Iranian People Are Not the Islamic Republic
7. A Regime That Fears Its Own Population
8. The West Should Stand With Iranians
9. The Regime's Greatest Vulnerability
10. Conclusion

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clicking on the "Do Not Sell or Share My Personal Information" link.

Key Takeaways

- At least 916 people have reportedly been executed^[1] in Iran since the beginning of 2026, including 15 during the first part of August alone.

- The Abdorrahman Boroumand Center believes the actual number may be significantly higher because many executions^[2] are not publicly disclosed.
- The UN human rights chief,  <https://justorium.org/irans-war-against-the-west-is-no-longer-in-the-shadows/> had executed at least 500 people on national security-related charges since March 19, including 27 in cases linked to protests.
- More than 100 others reportedly face charges that could result in execution, <https://justorium.org/support-network/>
- UN experts have raised concerns^[3] about closed proceedings, alleged mistreatment and the use of televised confessions.
- The executions appear designed not only to punish individuals but to intimidate a wider population that has repeatedly demonstrated its opposition to the regime (<https://justorium.org/why-the-necessity-to-confront-a-malevolent-iranian-regime-is-a-war-for-all/>).
- The repression (<https://justorium.org/irans-power-shift-to-the-irgc-a-more-dangerous-global-threat/>) reinforces an essential distinction between Iran and the Islamic Republic: the Iranian population should not be treated as synonymous with the government ruling it.

Almost a Thousand Executions

The scale is staggering.

At least 916 people executed in little more than seven months means Iran has been putting people to death at an extraordinary rate.

Behind every statistic is an individual.

Twenty-year-old Arvin Kheirkhah was executed at Shahroud prison on August 1, after being sentenced to death over his involvement in protests in January. His family reportedly gathered outside the prison in an attempt to prevent the execution. He had been convicted of charges including *mojaheden*, or "waging war against God."

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Other young protesters have suffered similar fates.

Amirhossein Safari and Abolfazl Sepahi were publicly hanged in Isfahan's Alikhani Square in late July. They were among 12 young men sentenced to death in a case connected to January's protests.

Two other defendants in the same case, Golmohammad Mohammadi and Erfan Esfandiari, were executed July 19.

These are not historical accounts from the early years of the Islamic Revolution.



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They are happening now (<https://justorium.org>)

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Execution as an Instrument of Government

SUPPORT NETWORK
([HTTPS://JUSTORIUM.ORG/SUPPORT-NETWORK/](https://justorium.org/support-network/))

The purpose appears to extend beyond punishment.

The Abdorrahman Boroumand Center argues that executions and death sentences are being used to intimidate the population and deter further demonstrations.

That interpretation makes sense when the executions are viewed against the wider political environment.

Iran has experienced repeated waves of popular unrest. Women have openly challenged compulsory religious restrictions. Young people have demanded greater freedom. Protesters have confronted security forces. Iranians have repeatedly demonstrated that beneath the outward stability of the Islamic Republic lies profound dissatisfaction.

The regime's response has frequently been coercion.

Arrests.

Internet shutdowns.

Imprisonment.

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They send a message not merely to the person being executed but to millions watching what happens to those who challenge the state.

The Trials Raise Serious Questions



The manner in which some defendants have been sentenced has generated serious international concern
(<https://justorium.org>)

UN human rights experts criticized proceedings involving the Isfahan defendants, noting that 12 people were reportedly sentenced to death during one hearing in a closed courtroom without sufficient clarity concerning each individual's responsibility.

The experts also raised allegations of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance and mistreatment.

Some defendants were reportedly in their late teens or early twenties.

These concerns matter because the death penalty is irreversible.

Where defendants face execution after proceedings lacking basic safeguards, the justice system risks becoming another mechanism through which political authority eliminates or terrorizes opponents.

The Regime Is Also Targeting Information

The repression does not stop with protesters.

Iran International separately reports growing pressure against journalists following the latest demonstrations, including arrests, lengthy prison sentences and restrictions on independent reporting.

Photojournalist Yalda Moayeri said she had been sentenced in absentia

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15 years in prison. Other journalists have remained detained for months, while the authorities imposed a near-total internet shutdown as protests intensified in January. This website or its third-party tools process personal data. You can opt out of the sale of your personal information by clicking on the "Do Not Sell or Share My Personal Information" link in the footer of this page. © 2026 Justorium

That connection between executions and censorship is important.

A government using extraordinary violence against its population has an obvious interest in preventing the world, and its own citizens, from seeing what is happening.



The Iranian People Are Not the Islamic Republic

(<https://justorium.org>)

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This is perhaps the most important lesson for the outside world.
([HTTPS://JUSTORIUM.ORG/SUPPORT-NETWORK/](https://justorium.org/support-network/))

Iran is an ancient civilization with an extraordinarily rich culture and a population containing many different political, religious and social viewpoints.

The Islamic Republic is a political system established in 1979.

They are not synonymous.

Millions of Iranians have demonstrated through repeated protests that they want lives very different from those prescribed by the country's rulers.

Many want greater personal freedom.

Women have resisted compulsory restrictions imposed upon them.

Young Iranians consume Western culture, use social media, follow global entertainment and seek connections with the outside world despite censorship.

Others want more fundamental political change.

When the regime executes protesters, therefore, it is not defending Iran from a foreign enemy.

We value your privacy It is defending itself from Iranians.

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This also provides important context for understanding Tehran's behavior abroad.

The Islamic Republic frequently attempts to portray confrontation with foreign enemies as central to Iranian national identity.

But external confrontation can also serve an internal political function.

America can be blamed.

Israel can be blamed.

Foreign conspiracies can be blamed
(<https://justorium.org>)

Opponents can be accused of serving outside powers.

Political dissent can then be transformed into a national-security issue rather than treated as legitimate disagreement.

That becomes particularly dangerous when charges such as "waging war against God" or national-security offenses can result in execution.

The enemy abroad helps justify repression at home.

The West Should Stand With Iranians

Western policy toward Iran understandably concentrates on nuclear weapons, ballistic missiles, terrorism and regional security.

Those issues are vital.

But human rights should not disappear from the discussion.

The United States and other democratic governments should continue highlighting executions, demanding due process for prisoners and supporting the ability of Iranians to communicate freely with the outside world.

That does not require military intervention or attempts to dictate Iran's political future.

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Iran's future ultimately belongs to Iranians. This website or its third-party tools process personal data. You can opt out of the sale of your personal information by clicking on the "Do Not Sell or Share My Personal Information" link. It simply means refusing to accept the Islamic Republic's claim that criticism of its treatment of its own population constitutes interference in Iranian sovereignty.

Executing young protesters is not an internal cultural difference that democratic countries should politely ignore.

It is a human-rights issue.

The Regime's Greatest Vulnerability



Military strength can create the impression of stability.

Iran possesses ballistic missiles, drones, security forces and extensive state institutions.

(<https://justorium.org>)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026

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But governments confident in their popularity generally do not need to execute protesters to frighten millions of other citizens into silence.



The extraordinary number of executions suggests something very different.

The Islamic Republic understands that coercion remains essential to its survival.

That should fundamentally change how the regime is perceived.

Its brutality demonstrates strength in one sense.

But it also exposes weakness.

A government truly secure in the support of its people would not need the gallows to maintain their obedience.

Conclusion

At least 916 executions in little more than seven months should shock the international community.

But the numbers should also teach it something.

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The Islamic Republic's struggle is not simply with America, Israel or foreign adversaries.

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Young protesters are being sentenced to death. UN experts are raising concerns about closed proceedings and alleged mistreatment. Journalists face imprisonment. Information is restricted. Families gather desperately outside prisons hoping executions can somehow be stopped.

This is the system behind the missiles, nuclear ambitions and revolutionary rhetoric that dominates international discussions about Iran.



The distinction therefore matters enormously.

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The Iranian people are not the enemy. (<https://justorium.org>)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026

Many are themselves victims of the same regime that threatens its neighbors and challenges the West.

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(<https://justorium.org/support-network/>)

Indeed, the sheer scale of repression suggests Tehran understands something the outside world sometimes forgets: the Islamic Republic's greatest long-term threat may not come from Washington or anywhere else abroad.

It may come from millions of Iranians who no longer want to live under it.

Footnotes

1. <https://www.iranintl.com/en/202608122187>
(<https://www.iranintl.com/en/202608122187>). ¹
2. <https://allyvia.org/blog/irans-return-to-public-executions-signals-ongoing-human-rights-abuses/> (<https://allyvia.org/blog/irans-return-to-public-executions-signals-ongoing-human-rights-abuses/>). ¹
3. <https://abcnews.com/International/iran-executes-protesters-public-regime-expands-postwar-repression/story?id=135416756>
(<https://abcnews.com/International/iran-executes-protesters-public-regime-expands-postwar-repression/story?id=135416756>).

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Israel's Unyielding Pursuit of Peace: Concessions and Diplomacy Explained

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Nearly 60,000 square kilometers of Sinai returned to Egypt after Israel signed a peace treaty in 1979 – a reminder that Israel's pursuit of peace has involved concrete territorial and political concessions, not only diplomatic language.

Yet the historical record is more complex than a simple claim that negotiations either succeeded or failed. Israel's agreements with Egypt and Jordan produced recognized borders, security arrangements and lasting diplomatic relations. The Oslo process and later talks with Palestinian leaders involved major risks, but terrorism, political division, unresolved final-status questions and the absence of a final agreement reshaped Israeli public confidence. The 2005 Gaza disengagement added another security lesson, while the 2007–08 Annapolis process showed that diplomacy – and Palestinian rejectionism – continued after the Second Intifada.

By examining these episodes alongside the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative and the 2020 Abraham Accords, you will see how Israel's strategy developed from *land for peace* toward normalization, cooperation and mutual interests. The evidence also clarifies what is verified, what remains contested, and why a credible partner capable of enforcing commitments remains central to durable peace and coexistence.

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Introduction to Israel's Peace Initiatives

Israel's peace initiatives are often framed within conflict, yet a comprehensive examination shows strategic engagement through territorial concessions, security arrangements, and recognition of national interests. Israel has repeatedly negotiated land, borders, settlement and normalization while confronting serious security threats.



The 1979 peace treaty with Egypt remains pivotal: Israel returned nearly all of the Sinai Peninsula in exchange for recognized peace and security, producing a relationship that has endured for decades. Its treaty with Jordan likewise resolved border and water-sharing issues and normalized relations. These outcomes, discussed further in our analysis of proven peace partnerships (<https://paxpoint.org/partners-for-peace/>), suggest that constructive negotiations are possible when a genuine partner is prepared to engage. Subsequent talks with Palestinian representatives addressed similarly complex questions but did not achieve a final agreement.

These efforts highlight the importance of facts and context amid disagreement and suffering. This article assesses major initiatives, proposals, responses, and continuing disputes, distinguishing documented actions from political interpretations.

The Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty: A Landmark Agreement

From Camp David to a Signed Treaty

The Camp David Accords, reached in September 1978, created the framework for peace between Egypt and Israel. U.S. President Jimmy Carter hosted Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, whose negotiations outlined principles later carried into the treaty signed on March 26, 1979. Our overview of the Camp David Accords (<https://paxpoint.org/camp-david-accords/>) examines that diplomatic process in greater detail.

The agreement involved a significant territorial concession paired with diplomatic recognition. Israel agreed to withdraw from the Sinai Peninsula, captured in 1967, returning it to Egyptian sovereignty. In turn, Egypt formally recognized Israel, committed to peaceful relations, and accepted security arrangements designed to reduce the risk of renewed conflict.

What the Agreement Changed

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The treaty established normal diplomatic, economic, and cultural relations between the two countries. It limited military deployments in parts of Sinai and created monitoring provisions. Israel completed its withdrawal in 1982, dismantling military installations and returning the territory to Egyptian control.

Camp David also included a framework concerning Palestinian self-government in the West Bank and Gaza. Although that framework did not resolve the wider Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the bilateral treaty illustrated that negotiation, recognition, and territorial compromise could

foster lasting state-to-state peace.

(<https://paxpoint.org>) This outcome remains crucial for understanding peace diplomacy: agreements require recognition of Israel as the national homeland for the Jewish people, difficult concessions, clear security provisions, and mechanisms supporting implementation over time. Examining the text and timeline helps distinguish documented outcomes from political claims, fostering a deeper understanding of historical agreements.

Details of the Camp David Accords

Overview of the September 1978 Agreements

The Camp David Accords, signed on September 17, 1978, culminated in 13 days of negotiations facilitated by U.S. President Jimmy Carter. Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin reached two key agreements: one concerning a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, and another addressing Palestinian self-governance in the West Bank and Gaza. Carter's role reflects the significance of international diplomacy, as discussed in our overview of international mediation (<https://paxpoint.org/international-mediation/>).

Although the accords did not resolve the ongoing conflict or finalize a settlement for Palestinians, they set a diplomatic course, including a transitional period of up to five years for negotiating the future status of the territories. Understanding this distinction is crucial when evaluating their outcomes amid lingering uncertainties.

Formalization of the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty in 1979

On March 26, 1979, Egypt and Israel formalized their peace treaty in Washington, D.C. This agreement mandated Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula, established Egyptian recognition of Israel, and initiated normalized diplomatic relations. It included security arrangements to limit military presence in designated areas and to safeguard navigation through crucial waterways.

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Israel completed its withdrawal from Sinai by 1982. This process entailed significant political and security decisions, demonstrating a readiness to accept risks for the sake of peace. The accords illustrate how sustained negotiations and third-party mediation can contribute to conflict reduction, even when broader disputes remain unresolved.

Jordan-Israel Peace Treaty: A Strategic Framework



(<https://paxpoint.org>)

Signed on October 26, 1994, the Jordan-Israel peace treaty formalized decades of discreet contacts, particularly regarding water and security cooperation. U.S.-facilitated negotiations transformed these practical channels into official relations between the neighboring states, reflecting their shared interest in border cooperation and regional stability.

Rather than merely declaring an end to hostilities, the treaty established embassies, recognized an agreed international boundary, and created arrangements for water allocation, trade, and natural-resource cooperation. These provisions illustrate how negotiations can address daily necessities while also tackling broader political concerns. Our overview of regional peace-building (<https://paxpoint.org/regional-peace-building/>) further contextualizes this relationship within Jordan's wider stabilizing role.

Cooperation as a Peace Mechanism

Central to the treaty is security cooperation. Both parties committed to preventing threats and hostile activities emanating from their territories, establishing direct communication channels. Today, intelligence sharing, border coordination, and joint water projects continue to provide practical value, even as public sentiment in Jordan remains anti-Israel and sensitive.

- **Negotiation:** Address disputed questions through direct talks and established procedures.
- **Mutual Benefit:** Connect peace with water, trade, tourism, and regional stability.
- **Practical Implementation:** Support commitments through institutions and continuous coordination.

While the treaty does not resolve all regional disputes and its implementation faces political pressure, its significance lies in providing a documented model for sustaining peace and coexistence through arrangements that benefit both sides. Examining these details allows for a distinction between an agreement's stated principles and the ongoing efforts necessary to uphold them effectively.

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The Significance of the Israeli-Palestinian Oslo Process



A Diplomatic Shift

The Oslo Accords marked a major change in Israel's diplomatic approach to the Palestinian issue. The 1993 Declaration of Principles created a framework for limited Palestinian self-government in Gaza and Jericho, while establishing mutual recognition between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). The five-year interim period was intended to lead to negotiations on borders, settlements, refugees, and Jerusalem, as outlined in our overview of the Oslo Accords (<https://paxpoint.org/oslo-accords/>).

The 1995 Oslo II agreement expanded interim Palestinian administrative authority to other Palestinian cities and clarified areas of security and civil responsibility in the West Bank. The process established direct political contact and made negotiations a central tool for pursuing a peaceful resolution.

The Risks Israel Undertook

Israel's leaders accepted significant uncertainty. The government entered talks with an organization that had used armed struggle and agreed to transfer responsibilities before core disputes were settled. These decisions introduced security concerns, domestic political costs, and the possibility that interim arrangements might not yield a final agreement.

Supporters viewed the process as a practical opportunity for cooperation and stability for civilians. Critics raised concerns regarding whether security arrangements were adequate and questioned the fulfillment of Palestinian commitments, including opposition to terrorism. Both perspectives reflect the complex concerns that shaped public debate around the process.

What the Process Shows

The Oslo experience demonstrates why peace efforts require a complete cessation of terrorism, an end to incitement, education reform, clear commitments, verification, and sustained leadership. It also illustrates that dialogue can create opportunities, while leaving serious risks unresolved. Evaluating the agreements, their implementation, and firsthand accounts helps distinguish documented facts from later interpretations, shedding light on what we know and what remains uncertain.

Today, many Israelis view the Oslo process as a mistake since it largely relied on the belief that the Palestinians genuinely want to live peacefully alongside Israel. Much evidence points to the opposite. Many Palestinians support Hamas, according to Palestinian polling, and many want to replace Israel with a Palestinian state.

Failed Negotiations and Terrorism's Impact

How insecurity changes public expectations

Peace negotiations rely not only on formal agreements but also on public trust that commitments will be honored and safety will improve. Continued attacks and threats diminish confidence, even among supporters of a negotiated solution.

This pattern has shaped Israeli perceptions since the Oslo era. The 1990s process sought mutual recognition, phased implementation, and a final agreement, but Palestinian violence, incitement, and terrorism, as well as political upheaval and unmet expectations eroded trust on both sides. Israelis saw persistent attacks as evidence that concessions did not improve security, while Palestinians viewed restrictions and stalled talks as signs that statehood was receding. Our history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (<https://paxpoint.org/the-israeli-palestinian-conflict-history-claims-and-current-issues/>) explores this broader context. Accordingly, many Israelis now treat security as a prerequisite for peace, assessing proposals by their likely effect on families and communities.

What the current dispute illustrates

A recent dispute over a peace agreement shows how quickly trust can evaporate. UN Watch's account of Hillel Neuer's remarks (<https://unwatch.org/hillel-neuer-hamas-breaks-peace-deal-while-icc-targets-israel/>) states that Hamas failed to release 13 deceased hostages 13 days after the agreement and did not disarm as stipulated.

For Israeli stakeholders, breaches intensify fears that concessions create greater vulnerability rather than sustained calm. Evidence that Hamas has used hostages as bargaining chips or committed violence against opposing Palestinians deepen this anxiety.

Why evidence matters for peace efforts

The practical lesson is clear: negotiations need defined benchmarks, rigorous monitoring, and consequences for violations. Testing whether each party has met its commitments turns broad assumptions into actionable findings, linking the possibility of peace to accountability.

The 2000 Camp David Summit: Analyzing Outcomes



The July 2000 Camp David Summit brought Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, and U.S. President Bill Clinton together for intensive negotiations. The Palestinians again rejected a generous agreement and it is important to understand the complexity of the meeting and the substantial territorial offer that was under discussion. It is important to note that the Palestinians could have had a state in 1948, in 2000, 2001, and yet again in 2008. The Palestinian leadership rejected all three opportunities for a Palestinian state.

What the negotiations addressed

The talks focused on borders, security, Jerusalem, refugees, settlements, and the political relationship between both parties. Israeli proposals envisioned a Palestinian state across most of the West Bank and Gaza, with East Jerusalem linked to its capital and accompanying security arrangements. Palestinian representatives sought a viable, contiguous state, significant sovereignty in East Jerusalem, and acknowledgment of refugee rights. Our broader discussion of Israel's past peace proposals (<https://paxpoint.org/israel-has-never-offered-peace/>) places the Camp David offer in context alongside later initiatives, challenging the assertion that Israel never offered significant terms.

The proposals' precise content remains contested. Rather than a singular, universally accepted written offer, the process involved evolving maps, verbal suggestions, and working documents. Later accounts therefore vary over territorial definitions, authority at Jerusalem's holy sites, security provisions, and the scope of a potential refugee resolution. Even descriptions of a state encompassing nearly all of the West Bank and Gaza must be considered in light of the details and conditions that remained unresolved.

Why the summit did not succeed

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Several critical factors influenced the outcome.

- **Compressed timetable:** Decades of conflict were addressed within a limited timeframe.
- **Political distrust:** Both sides were skeptical of the other's commitment to fulfilling complex agreements.
- **Core disagreements:** Issues regarding borders, Jerusalem, refugees, security, and recognition remained unsettled.

- **Public pressure:** Leaders faced constituents who were protective of national rights and cautious about concessions. 

Ultimately, neither side found the framework satisfactory. The summit concluded without an agreement, and violence escalated soon afterward during the Second Intifada, sharply narrowing opportunities for future compromise. This sequence explains why some accounts emphasize Arafat's rejection, while others stress that the proposals still did not meet Palestinian requirements.

What we know and what we do not know yet

We know the summit narrowed some gaps while revealing major disagreements. **What remains uncertain** is whether more time, clearer written terms, or stronger political backing could have led to a different outcome. Responsible analysis therefore requires comparing firsthand accounts and documentary records, distinguishing proposals from commitments, and avoiding blame assigned to one decision or leader.

The Second Intifada: A Catalyst for Change

Security perceptions changed

The Second Intifada, launched by Arafat upon his return from Camp David in 2000 and continuing through the mid-2000s, fundamentally reshaped Israeli perspectives on the risks associated with peace negotiations. This tumultuous period, marked by violence such as bombings and military actions, linked personal security with diplomatic decisions.

This backdrop altered public debate in Israel as citizens weighed territorial compromise against the potential for renewed violence. Questions emerged about whether agreements could prevent attacks, how security arrangements would be implemented, and who would control areas near Israeli population centers. As our guide to understanding Israel and Palestine (<https://paxpoint.org/a-comprehensive-guide-to-understanding-israel-and-palestine/>) emphasizes, evaluating this period demands attention to events immediately before and after it, avoiding the isolation of conflict triggers.

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Effects on future negotiations

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The Palestinian violence and terrorism and subsequent Israeli responses resonated through subsequent negotiations. Leaders confronted a public less willing to accept assurances without concrete implementation mechanisms, phased steps, and accountability for violations. Trust diminished on both sides: Palestinian communities experienced increasing

restrictions and military actions, while Israelis grew more skeptical as terrorism persisted. These dynamics limited the political space for compromise and bolstered factions critical of the peace process. (<https://paxpoint.org>)

However, the Second Intifada did not render diplomacy futile. It highlighted that peace efforts require more than signed agreements; accountable institutions, effective communication, and evidence that cooperation enhances daily life are essential. Responsibly assessing this era involves consulting varied sources, verifying dates and documented events, and distinguishing proposals' actual requirements from political narratives.

Israel's Gaza Disengagement: Lessons Learned

What happened

In August and September 2005, Israel unilaterally removed its settlements and military installations from the Gaza Strip and withdrew its forces, aiming to reduce friction and enhance security. The disengagement from Gaza was also seen as a chance for the Palestinians to prove they wanted a state. Critics argued that withdrawal without a diplomatic framework and security guarantees could jeopardize lasting stability. After the horrific events of October 7, 2023, it is possible to understand their argument.

Following disengagement, Egypt worked to secure its border, yet movement and security disputes persisted. With the majority of Palestinians in Gaza supporting them, Hamas won Palestinian legislative elections in January 2006 and took control from the Palestinian Authority in June 2007. Terrorists escalated indiscriminate rocket fire at civilian population centers in Israel, prompting Israeli operations and movement restrictions. As discussed in our analysis of Israel's Gaza policy debate (<https://paxpoint.org/does-israel-seek-permanent-control-over-gaza-unpacking-the-debate/>), these developments, as well as the events of October 7, have also shifted Israeli thinking toward completely dismantling Hamas's military and governing capacity rather than relying solely on containment, while intensifying concerns about civilian protection and humanitarian process.

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A crucial lesson is that territorial withdrawal neither resolves terrorism, political claims, nor assures security. It must be assessed alongside governance, border control, weapons regulation, and a credible diplomatic track. Unilateral actions may be interpreted differently by different audiences, making clear communication and reciprocal commitments essential.

When evaluating disengagement claims, clarify the timeframe and outcomes involved.

Separate documented events from causal arguments and consider Israeli, Palestinian, and independent perspectives. (<https://paxpoint.org>)

Continuing Diplomatic Efforts: The Annapolis Process

The Annapolis process commenced with a U.S.-hosted conference in November 2007, where Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, and regional representatives gathered. The goal was to revive direct negotiations for a two-state agreement while reaffirming earlier Road Map commitments and Israel's broader record of pursuing negotiated peace with neighboring states.

This initiative did not yield a breakthrough or a finalized peace deal. Instead, it created a framework for discussions, supported by U.S. diplomacy, that continued into 2008. Negotiators addressed final-status issues, including borders, security, Jerusalem, settlements, and Palestinian refugees.

In 2008, Olmert presented Abbas with comprehensive settlement proposals, according to later public accounts, but the sides did not formalize an agreement. Abbas rejected Olmert's generous offer and did not make a counteroffer.

The process unfolded amid major regional and internal shifts, particularly continued Palestinian terrorism, the Gaza-West Bank divide, and uncertainty over Israel's leadership. As discussed in our analysis of Israel's continuing role in international peace efforts (<https://paxpoint.org/israel-and-the-pursuit-of-peace-netanyahus-role-on-president-trumps-board-of-peace/>), later diplomatic participation reflected interest in contributing beyond bilateral negotiations. By late 2008, Annapolis had stalled, but its record of proposals and unresolved questions remained significant.

When assessing this period, it is important to distinguish among a diplomatic framework, reported proposals, and agreed outcomes.

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Palestinian Leadership and Its Complexities

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Information" link. Palestinian politics currently lacks a unified authority. The Palestinian Authority administers limited areas of the West Bank, while Hamas has governed Gaza since 2007, except for the period following Israel's military campaign after October 7, 2023.

This division reflects more than just institutional differences; it encompasses competing agendas, separate security structures, regional alliances, and unresolved legitimacy questions. Unlike Israel, which has established recognized state institutions and international diplomatic relations, a Palestinian state remains a national project that is still unresolved, primarily focused on the West Bank and Gaza. Our comparison of Israel and Palestine (<https://paxpoint.org/whats-the-difference-between-israel-and-palestine/>) provides more detail about this distinction. Given the diverse political identities within Palestinian communities, it is essential to recognize that no single organization is representative of all Palestinians.

Why Negotiations Become Harder

For any agreement to be enduring, leaders must genuinely represent their constituencies, make binding commitments, and see those commitments implemented. Fragmentation complicates every stage of this process. A negotiator might reach consensus with one faction but may lack the necessary influence to secure acceptance from others.

This split impacts civilian protection, humanitarian coordination, security arrangements, and essential services, all of which require substantial institutional collaboration, not just a signed agreement. Mistrust among Palestinian factions hampers peace efforts – this mistrust, combined with the existing mistrust between Palestinians and Israel, adds further complexity.

Understanding the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative

The 2002 Arab Peace Initiative (API) was adopted by the Arab League at its Beirut summit, evolving from a proposal by Saudi Arabia. It sought a regional diplomatic framework rather than a bilateral treaty, amidst a history of failed peace efforts and rejected territorial compromises.

What the Initiative Proposed

Its core offer was significant: Arab states would establish normal relations with Israel only upon its withdrawal from territories occupied in 1967, including the Golan Heights, while also recognizing an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital. The initiative called for a just resolution to the Palestinian refugee issue, aligned with relevant UN resolutions and agreed upon by all involved parties.

Information" link.

Supporters viewed the proposal as a unified Arab commitment to peace, recognition, and coexistence. As discussed in our history of Arab rejectionism and peace offers (<https://paxpoint.org/the-1947-un-partition-plan-and-the-record-of-arab-rejectionism/>), earlier Israeli proposals in 2000, 2001, and 2008 included Palestinian statehood, territorial

concessions, and security cooperation but the Palestinians ultimately rejected them. The Arab League reaffirmed the API in 2007; however, its implementation still required negotiations. 

Why Israel Raised Reservations

Israel's concerns focused on sequencing and security assurances. Leaders questioned whether normalization would occur only after complete withdrawal, rather than being paired with phased confidence-building measures. They expressed apprehensions regarding defensible borders, security protocols, the status of Jerusalem, and the refugee clause, particularly concerning how agreements could still permit claims that might be seen as threatening to Israel's security or demographic interests.

Understanding this discourse necessitates distinguishing the initiative's diplomatic intent from the unresolved questions regarding its execution. While the proposal serves as a reference point for assessing how regional peace plans approach recognition, security, Palestinian self-determination, and refugee rights, it is crucial to differentiate firm commitments from negotiable provisions. This nuanced understanding keeps the discussion rooted in context and factual realities.

Abraham Accords: Redefining Regional Diplomacy

A Broader Diplomatic Framework

The Abraham Accords, formalized in 2020, established diplomatic relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. Morocco later restored and strengthened official ties with Israel, while Sudan signed a normalization declaration but has faced internal instability that limits its implementation.

Together, these developments opened channels for trade, tourism, technology, education, and direct government contact. Morocco illustrates how normalization can extend beyond symbolism: ties with Israel have expanded into commerce, tourism, and sustained security dialogue through formal cooperation. Our analysis of Israel-Morocco security cooperation (https://paxpoint.org/israel-and-morocco-deepen-a-security-partnership-built-on-stability-and-trust/) examines how that relationship is being built through institutional trust and coordination.

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What the Accords Change



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This does not diminish the importance of the Palestinian track. Instead, it broadens Israel's peace strategy by connecting bilateral normalization with wider regional relationships.

Supporters see opportunities to reduce isolation, coordinate on shared concerns, and create conditions for future dialogue. Critics question whether economic and security ties can lead to meaningful progress on Palestinian rights and civilian protection.

Reading the Evidence

- Look for documented agreements and sustained diplomatic exchanges.
- Distinguish announced partnerships from implemented projects.
- Assess whether cooperation enhances safety, opportunity, and civilian well-being.

The accords serve as a diplomatic framework, not a guarantee. Their long-term value depends on implementation, accountability, and whether practical cooperation fosters peace, coexistence, and understanding over division.

Evaluating the Strategic Shift to Normalization

From Territorial Exchange to Practical Ties

Earlier peace efforts often centered on "land for peace", treating territorial concessions as the main route to ending conflict. Israel's agreements with Egypt and Jordan illustrate a more layered model. The 1979 Egypt treaty included Israel's withdrawal from Sinai, while also establishing diplomatic relations, security arrangements, and ongoing cooperation. The Jordan treaty followed in 1994 with provisions covering security, economics, culture, and shared practical concerns, as documented by the Israeli government's overview of regional relations (<https://www.gov.il/en/pages/israel-among-the-nations-middle-east-and-north-africa>). This diplomatic approach highlights the broader role of peace and diplomacy terms (<https://paxpoint.org/glossary-peace-terms/>) in framing a long-term regional strategy.

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This distinction is crucial because normalization is not intended to resolve every political dispute. It recognizes that the Palestinian question is not the core of the conflict and should not prevent relations with other regional countries. It also provides a framework for managing relations while fostering ongoing contact. Embassies, ministerial meetings, trade, and security coordination can preserve channels during periods of tension. The cooling of Israel-Egypt relations after 2000 and Jordan's temporary ambassadorial recall indicate that normalization can be tested but not entirely undermined.

What the Newer Model Implies



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The Abraham Accords extend this approach beyond immediate neighbors. Bahrain's first ambassador to Israel presented credentials in 2021, while discussions also emphasized trade, technology, and religious cooperation, according to a government account of the diplomatic ceremony (<https://www.gov.il/en/pages/president-herzog-receives-credentials-of-new-ambassadors-to-israel-14-septemebr-2021>). These ties can support stability by creating shared interests but do not eliminate the need for further political dialogue or credible peace efforts.

Thus, the strategic shift can best be understood as an expansion of tools: from negotiated borders alone to sustained cooperation, risk management, and bridge-building.

Israel's Painful Concessions for Peace

Territory, settlements, and security positions

Peace negotiations have required Israel to make challenging territorial and political choices. As noted in the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs' 2009 account of the peace process (https://www.gov.il/en/pages/faq_peace_process_with_palestinians_dec_2009), Israel has relinquished extensive areas, uprooted settlements, and withdrawn military forces, dismantling bases in the process. These actions were intended as pragmatic steps toward Palestinian self-governance, while leaving unresolved concerns about future security.

Concessions alongside security concerns

The same account describes Israel as having made significant proposals and accepted major compromises during negotiations. Yet Israeli leaders have also feared that territories vacated for peace could become launch points for attacks, as suicide bombings and rocket fire have demonstrated. Related analysis of security risks involving the Palestinian Authority (<https://paxpoint.org/another-october-7th-in-the-making-the-growing-military-capabilities-of-the-palestinian-authority/>) emphasizes that durable agreements need practical safeguards capable of reducing danger even when political conditions deteriorate.

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This history explains why Israeli governments connect territorial concessions with enforceable security arrangements. The 2009 position, for example, required any future Palestinian state to be effectively demilitarized, with international guarantees – particularly from the United States – to support compliance. The broader lesson is that sustainable peace must address political aspirations and long-term security together: concessions should improve civilian safety rather than create new avenues for violence.

What the record shows, and what it does not



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Israel's withdrawals and settlement evacuations are documented elements of its declared peace efforts. Continued Palestinian rejectionism and terrorism, as well as widespread support for Hamas, signals to Israelis that Palestinians do not want peace.

Recognizing the Need for a Partner in Peace

Peace agreements require more than just signatures; they depend on a negotiating partner who possesses authority, public support, and the capacity to honor commitments. For Israel, identifying such a partner is central to its security and diplomacy, and it is not a rejection of dialogue or coexistence.

Israel's treaties with Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994 endure because recognized governments engaged directly, established obligations, and created channels for managing disputes. These agreements do not erase all disagreements but demonstrate how accountable institutions and communication can prevent renewed conflict. Israel's broader diplomatic record, including the Camp David Accords, the Oslo Process, and the Abraham Accords, reflects an ongoing effort to pursue coexistence through security and mutual interests, as outlined in our overview of Israel's peace proposals (<https://paxpoint.org/israel-peace-proposals/>).

What a Credible Partner Must Provide

A viable partner must effectively represent constituents and implement decisions beyond the negotiating table. This entails controlling armed forces, preventing attacks, honoring commitments, and addressing violations through agreed-upon mechanisms. Public legitimacy is crucial; without it, even carefully drafted commitments can collapse under political pressure.

Applying this standard necessitates consistency without waiting for ideal conditions or ignoring Palestinian voices. Diplomacy should be coupled with verification, confidence-building measures, and realistic timelines. Assessing promises and identifying those who can deliver them remains essential for progress.

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Lasting peace requires a credible channel between capable parties. Building such a channel demands patience, evidence, and tangible outcomes. These foundational elements can strengthen trust, support coexistence, and transform diplomatic proposals into durable agreements grounded in recognition, security, and responsibility.

Documented Record of Israeli Peace Efforts

(<https://paxpoint.org>)

Israel's pursuit of peace involves a documented series of diplomatic attempts, agreements, and confidence-building measures. This record includes formal treaties, mutual recognition, regional partnerships, and negotiations that address security concerns alongside political aspirations. As outlined in our overview of Israel's peace efforts (<https://paxpoint.org/home/peace-efforts/>), this history also features grassroots initiatives and reflects the enduring view that security and coexistence should progress together.

Formal Agreements and Mutual Recognition

Several significant milestones have reshaped Israel's regional relationships. The 1979 Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty, which followed the Camp David Accords, established formal peace between the two nations. In 1994, a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan addressed borders, security, water, and diplomatic relations.

The 1993 Oslo Accords signified mutual recognition between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, creating a framework for limited Palestinian self-government. While violence, political opposition, and unresolved final-status issues have later weakened the process, these agreements serve as an important example of negotiated diplomacy, rather than military action alone.

Regional Normalization and Practical Cooperation

In 2020, the Abraham Accords formalized diplomatic relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. Subsequent agreements expanded normalization efforts to Morocco, while Sudan announced steps toward normalization. These developments opened channels for travel, commerce, technology, and direct government communication, even as wider disputes remain unresolved.

- **Diplomatic Treaties:** formal commitments supported by government institutions.
- **Negotiation Frameworks:** processes addressing borders, governance, security, and recognition, or its third-party tools process personal data. You can opt out of the sale of your personal information by clicking on the "Do Not Sell or Share My Personal Information" link.
- **Regional Cooperation:** practical ties fostering regular contact and shared interests.

Why the Record Matters

These efforts reflect strategic concerns such as civilian safety, preventing armed conflict, protecting borders, and maintaining reliable crisis channels. They do not eliminate disagreement or imply that every initiative succeeded. A careful review questions what was

signed, which commitments were implemented, and what remains unresolved. This approach promotes understanding over division and grounds peace discussions in evidence, context, and the potential for coexistence.

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Showcasing Israel's Pursuit of Peace & Coexistence

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Can Israel and Palestine Coexist?

A Roadmap to Peace

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Can Israel and Palestine coexist when decades of violence have made trust so difficult? The answer depends on whether peace means more than a temporary ceasefire. *Israel and Palestine can coexist*, but only through an agreement that protects Israel's security while creating legitimate, accountable Palestinian self-government.

This analysis begins by defining genuine peace: mutual recognition, an end to terrorism, settled borders, enforceable security obligations, and acceptance that the conflict is over. It then examines the Egypt-Israel and Israel-Jordan treaties, along with the Oslo process, to identify why formal agreements can succeed – and why interim promises, political extremism, and weak enforcement can fail.

You'll also see what Israeli security requires in practice, what Palestinian statehood would need to deliver, and why Palestinian civilians must be distinguished from Hamas (https://paxpoint.org/hamas-agreed-to-disarm-but-now-wants-to-hold-their-weapons-to-plan-another-future-massacre/) and other armed organizations. The discussion addresses a negotiated two-state (https://paxpoint.org/israel-peace-proposals/) framework, Jerusalem, refugees, settlements, regional cooperation, and the realistic role of the United States.

Finally, it presents a phased roadmap based on verification, reciprocal commitments, institutional reform, and implementation – and considers whether the evidence supports hope

for coexistence (https://paxpoint.org/what-israels-want/).

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Defining Genuine Peace in the Israeli-Palestinian Context



More Than an End to Fighting

Peace is more than a cessation of violence or a treaty halting hostilities. While these measures can protect lives in the short term, authentic peace also requires systemic arrangements addressing security, rights, governance, and everyday interactions over time. A ceasefire can create opportunities for diplomacy; however, it does not resolve the underlying conflict. As our analysis of lasting peace in Gaza (<https://paxpoint.org/can-lasting-peace-in-gaza-be-achieved-an-in-depth-analysis/>) indicates, the restoration of crossings, sustained engagement, and collaborative partnerships enhance the credibility of commitments.

Mutual Recognition and Security

A comprehensive resolution necessitates that both Israelis and Palestinians are acknowledged as communities with valid national, historical, and human interests. It must prioritize **civilian protection** (<https://paxpoint.org/civilian-protection-efforts/>) and reliable security. Safety should not be exclusive to one group. Practical commitments, accountable institutions, end-use monitoring, and safeguards against misuse are crucial for building trust. Moreover, restrictions should be evaluated carefully to ensure security measures do not devolve into collective punishment.

How to Assess Claims About Peace

When evaluating a proposed agreement or peace initiative, consider what it genuinely alters in practice. Does it minimize risks for civilians? Does it establish avenues for resolving disputes non-violently? Does it promote freedom, dignity, and accountable governance for both parties? Are there mechanisms in place to verify compliance and adequately respond when commitments are breached?

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These inquiries help differentiate between temporary ceasefires and enduring **coexistence**. Evidence, firsthand narratives, and well-defined terms are essential. Understanding peace this way anchors the discussion in tangible realities rather than slogans, fostering a stronger foundation for analyzing humanitarian initiatives and seeking voices for peace.

Lessons from Past Peace Agreements



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Past agreements illustrate that achieving peace involves more than goodwill. It requires sustained negotiation, mutual recognition, practical commitments, and mechanisms to manage disputes as they arise.

Egypt-Israel: Negotiation Backed by Clear Commitments

The Egypt-Israel peace treaty (<https://paxpoint.org/camp-david-accords/>), signed in 1979 following the Camp David process, established diplomatic relations and defined the terms for Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula. As detailed in our overview of the Camp David Accords (<https://paxpoint.org/camp-david-accords/>), Israel completed this withdrawal by 1982, dismantling settlements and military bases while Egypt regained its sovereign territory.

Egypt's recognition of Israel was a pivotal aspect of the agreement, which also addressed borders, security arrangements, and normalization (<https://paxpoint.org/regional-peace-building/>) efforts. Although the treaty did not eliminate all disagreements, it established a framework that reduced the risk of direct conflict and facilitated ongoing diplomacy. Its durability underscores the importance of specific, monitored commitments instead of broad promises.

Jordan-Israel: Expanding Peace into Practical Cooperation

The Jordan-Israel peace treaty, signed in 1994, brought mutual recognition and clearly defined the international boundary between the two nations. It also addressed security, water allocation, diplomatic relations, and cooperation in various areas, including trade and tourism.

These agreements affect both daily life and governmental policies. Agreements can foster channels for officials, communities, and businesses to manage shared concerns without devolving into armed conflict.

What These Examples Teach

- **Recognition Matters:** Acknowledging the other party's rights and existence forms a foundation for meaningful dialogue.
- **Details Matter:** Clearly defined terms regarding borders, security, water allocation, and communication channels are essential.

- **Implementation Matters:** Lasting peace is contingent upon institutions that monitor commitments and address potential violations. 

(<https://paxpoint.org>) While these treaties do not provide a straightforward model for every conflict, they offer compelling evidence that negotiation, civilian protection, and practical cooperation can transform declared peace into a continuous process of coexistence.

Reflections on the Oslo Process

The Oslo Process illustrates how peace efforts can create meaningful openings while leaving serious vulnerabilities unresolved. Although the agreements did not fully settle the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, they established mutual recognition and a framework for interim cooperation.

What the agreements attempted

In 1993, the Declaration of Principles initiated a phased process toward Palestinian self-government, commencing in Gaza and Jericho, while Oslo II (1995) extended autonomy to other Palestinian cities. The five-year interim period aimed to lead to permanent-status negotiations on borders, Jerusalem, refugees, and settlements; our overview of the Oslo Accords (<https://paxpoint.org/oslo-accords/>) offers additional context on those provisions.

These steps demonstrated that direct dialogue could produce practical changes, such as security coordination and new administrative arrangements. Nevertheless, core questions were deferred, allowing mistrust to grow. Factors like Palestinian terror attacks, settlement expansion, political divisions, and evolving security conditions further undermined confidence in the process.

Lessons for peacebuilding

Enforceable commitments are crucial. Agreements require clear timelines, independent monitoring, defined consequences for violations, and mechanisms for resolving disputes. In the absence of these safeguards, delays or breaches can lead each side to perceive the process as a failure.

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Another lesson pertains to **extremism and violence**. Attacks, incitement, and rejectionist politics diminish public support for compromise and empower those who assert that

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coexistence is impossible. Civilian protection and unwavering opposition to violence are vital to maintaining space for negotiation.

What we know / What we don't know yet



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We know that the Oslo framework produced cooperation but did not result in a final peace agreement. It is challenging to pinpoint a single decisive cause of failure, as factors such as leadership, security, settlements, internal divisions, and public trust evolved over time.

Future initiatives can learn from this history by combining dialogue with verification, accountability, and practical benefits for civilians. It is essential to ask what is promised, who monitors implementation, and how disagreements will be resolved – these inquiries can transform hope into a more durable peace process (<https://paxpoint.org/oslo-accords/>).

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The Importance of Israeli Security

What security means in practice

Israeli security involves more than military strength. It includes protecting civilians from armed attacks, preventing weapons transfers, defending borders, preparing for threats from multiple directions, and responding when agreements are violated. It also requires international cooperation and safeguards that allow daily life, trade, and essential services to continue.

These concerns reflect Israel's experience with attacks and the presence of hostile armed groups in the region. AIPAC's discussion of Israeli security (<https://www.aipac.org/resources>) identifies Iran and affiliated groups as ongoing threats, while emphasizing the importance of United States-Israel defense cooperation. This advocacy helps explain why security provisions remain central to policy debates. Relatedly, our discussion of Israel's enduring regional peace objectives (<https://paxpoint.org/beyond-the-war-israel-still-seeks-enduring-regional-peace-as-the-end-goal/>) notes that security remains an immediate priority, complementing the broader goal of cooperation and normalization.

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Why it matters to peace agreements

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A peace agreement must go beyond articulating political goals; it needs practical arrangements for verification, border management, emergency communication, disarmament (<https://paxpoint.org/a-historic-diplomatic-moment-israel-and-lebanon-hold-direct-talks-in->

washington/) where applicable, and civilian protection. Without credible mechanisms, there is a fear that an agreement could undermine their ability to respond to danger or leave communities vulnerable. 

AIPAC argues that addressing Israeli security concerns is essential for the success of regional peace agreements (<https://www.aipac.org/>). Regardless of whether readers share this assessment or approach it critically, the fundamental question persists: how can an agreement foster safety that all parties can trust?

Security and humanitarian responsibility

Security measures should be integrated with civilian protection. Any substantial framework must address humanitarian aid (<https://paxpoint.org/aid-palestinian-civilians/>), medical access, infrastructure, and the safety of non-combatants. It should also differentiate between armed organizations that seek to undermine normalization and civilians impacted by conflict, while pursuing cooperation that can benefit the region economically, technologically, and strategically.

Examining these details elevates the conversation beyond slogans. Peace relies on political commitment alongside enforceable safeguards, transparent monitoring, and practical cooperation that builds confidence over time.

What Palestinian Statehood Would Entail

Institutions and Public Responsibility

Palestinian statehood involves more than recognition or changes to diplomatic status. As our guide to understanding Israel and Palestine (<https://paxpoint.org/a-comprehensive-guide-to-understanding-israel-and-palestine/>) explains, statehood generally implies defined borders, established institutions, and international recognition. A viable state would require accountable bodies that provide essential services, uphold the rule of law, manage public finances, and represent residents through credible political processes.

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These responsibilities include protecting individual rights, supporting an independent judiciary, and maintaining transparent systems for education, health care, infrastructure, and economic regulation. Effective governance also necessitates a clear division of authority between national and local institutions, with peaceful methods for resolving political disputes. Palestinian identity is multifaceted and not solely a reaction to Israel, thereby recognizing national aspirations alongside Israeli security concerns supports a more nuanced analysis.

Security and Civilian Protection



(<https://paxpoint.org>)

Security arrangements would be central to a durable agreement. A Palestinian government would be expected to prevent attacks from territory it controls, enforce its laws consistently, and cooperate through agreed mechanisms to reduce risks for both Palestinians and Israelis.

At the same time, security must prioritize **civilian protection** and respect for human rights. Questions surrounding borders, movement, armed groups, monitoring, and the status of settlements require negotiated arrangements rather than assumptions. These matters significantly impact daily life, limiting political autonomy, economic access, and public trust.

International Obligations and Coexistence

Sovereignty also entails international responsibilities. A Palestinian state would need to meet obligations under accepted agreements, establish diplomatic relationships, and contribute to regional cooperation. Its institutions must make practical decisions regarding trade, water, energy, refugees, and shared infrastructure.

There is no single formula for statehood, as the precise model will depend on negotiations and implementation. Independence and responsibility develop in tandem. Examining governance, security, and **peace and coexistence** aids readers in assessing proposals by questioning what protections they offer, who is accountable, and how commitments will be verified.

Distinguishing Between Palestinian Civilians and Armed Groups

A clear discussion of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict should distinguish Palestinian civilians from armed groups. At the same time, it is important to note that a majority of Palestinian civilians voted Hamas into power in 2006. Palestinian civilians were also documented invading Israel on October 7 (<https://paxpoint.org/stories-of-resilience/>), 2023. Individuals in Gaza, the West Bank, and elsewhere hold varied views, experiences, and political affiliations. They should not be held accountable for actions they did not commit, but they should be held accountable if they are engaged in incitement to hatred and violence.

Why This Distinction Matters

Armed groups are organized actors with leadership, weapons, and stated or reported objectives. Their decisions must be assessed separately from the needs of families, patients, children, journalists, aid workers, and other civilians. This distinction supports civilian

protection and prevents broad claims that erase individual responsibility. It also acknowledges that territory or political institutions must not become platforms for attacks on Israeli civilians, while Palestinians seek independence and an end to control over land envisioned as their future state. Our overview of the difference between Israel and Palestine (<https://paxpoint.org/whats-the-difference-between-israel-and-palestine/>) examines these competing security and self-determination concerns.

This perspective also makes room for necessary discussion of Palestinian governance. Credible and competent leadership can represent civilians, improve public services, and create conditions for negotiation. Calling for accountable institutions is not attributing blame to an entire population; it is part of building security and trust.

Questions to Ask When Evaluating Claims

- Does the source identify the specific actor involved?
- Does it separate verified facts from interpretation?
- Does it explain how civilians may be affected?

These questions encourage understanding over division and provide a stronger basis for evaluating humanitarian initiatives, firsthand accounts, and credible proposals for durable peace.

Understanding the Two-State Solution Framework

A two-state solution refers to a diplomatic framework that empowers Israel and a prospective Palestinian state to achieve national self-determination, establish legitimate institutions, and ensure the safety of their populations. It aims to address both national aspirations while fostering conditions for peace, security, and coexistence.

This framework does not dictate a singular map or negotiating formula. Instead, it highlights key issues for direct negotiations, with backing from international partners and clear

commitments to implementation. Our overview of the Roadmap for Peace

(<https://paxpoint.org/roadmap-for-peace/>) illustrates how phased plans can align political progress with immediate responsibilities: Israel is tasked with dismantling unauthorized outposts, while Palestinian leaders must end incitement to terror, curb violence, reform education, reform security services, and build accountable institutions prior to advancing negotiations.

What a Practical Agreement Must Address



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A viable agreement must address Palestinian education reform, Palestinian demilitarization, and terrorism and incitement, define borders and territories, establish security arrangements, and outline how the states will collaborate on movement, trade, water, and other shared resources. Additionally, it must tackle issues surrounding Jerusalem, Israeli settlements beyond agreed borders, the status of Palestinian refugees, mutual recognition, and protections for civilians.

These questions are interconnected. Decisions about borders influence security, accessibility, infrastructure, and the overall viability of both states. Thus, any proposal requires careful sequencing, independent verification as needed, and established mechanisms for resolving disputes to ensure civilian safety.

Addressing Key Permanent-Status Issues

Borders and security

A durable peace requires clear, mutually recognized borders. Negotiators must examine security needs, settlement locations, access routes, and the practical effects on communities on both sides. Maps alone are insufficient; any agreement should explain how border crossings, movement, trade, and civilian protection will function in daily life.

Security arrangements need precise limits and reliable oversight. The Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty (<https://paxpoint.org/camp-david-accords/>) demonstrates this importance: the demilitarization of the Sinai is a central provision, while disagreements over military activity and the Philadelphi Corridor illustrate how unclear understandings can quickly escalate tension. An analysis by the Misgav Institute, authored by Dr. David Wurmser (<https://www.misgavins.org/en/wurmser-are-egypt-and-israel-stumbling-toward-war/>), presents one perspective on these concerns; however, the broader record indicates that Israel returned nearly all of Sinai and achieved durable peace with Egypt, and its treaty with Jordan successfully resolved border and water issues. Our overview of proven peace models

(<https://paxpoint.org/partners-for-peace/>) examines how such agreements underscore the value of credible negotiating partners.

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Jerusalem and shared access

Jerusalem embodies religious, national, and personal significance for both Israelis and Palestinians. Discussions should therefore encompass sovereignty, municipal services, holy sites, and access without oversimplifying the city's complexities. Practical arrangements,

including protected worship and accountable administration, can help negotiators concentrate on how residents and visitors will live with dignity and security. 

Refugees and a realistic path forward

The refugee issue encompasses history, identity, compensation, family records, and return expectations. Progress relies on acknowledging Palestinian refugees' experiences while also recognizing the massive displacement, expulsion, and insecurity faced by Jewish communities from Arab and Muslim countries. Potential measures may include compensation, resettlement choices, family reunification, and international support, all subject to negotiation.

What remains essential is clarity. Each proposal should identify responsibility, verification, and responses to disputed commitments. Posing these questions does not dismiss either community's claims; instead, it lays a stronger foundation for coexistence and lasting peace.

Regional Peace and Its Role in Israeli-Palestinian Relations

Improved relations between Israel and Arab states (<https://paxpoint.org/regional-peace-building/>) could create channels for dialogue, practical cooperation, and civilian protection. Diplomatic ties may foster collaboration in trade, travel, water, energy, and security agreements, offering regional governments opportunities to promote restraint and maintain visibility in peace efforts. Historical agreements provide pertinent context: the U.S.-mediated Egypt-Israel peace in 1979 ended their formal state of war, and the 1994 Israel-Jordan treaty established diplomatic relations and practical cooperation. Our overview of international peace efforts in the Middle East (<https://paxpoint.org/how-the-international-community-shapes-middle-east-peace-efforts/>) examines these historical examples, alongside more recent normalization initiatives.

However, **We value your privacy** alone will not resolve Israeli-Palestinian issues. They may create conditions favorable for sustained negotiations and visible cooperation, but a durable process also necessitates territorial diplomacy, civilian protection, security, and clarity regarding the Palestinian acceptance of Israel's existence as the national homeland for the Jewish people. Arab states with established relations with Israel can communicate concerns directly, support Palestinian economic or humanitarian initiatives, and encourage steps that reduce tension. Progress hinges on credible commitments, inclusive diplomacy, and a balanced approach to the rights and security of both peoples.

What we know / What we don't know yet



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What we know: Regional dynamics significantly influence the political environment surrounding the conflict. The Palestinian Media Watch archive (<https://palwatch.org/>) highlights concerns regarding antisemitism, the glorification of violence, and widespread opposition to coexistence within Palestinian Authority narratives. These claims warrant careful examination against primary documents and independent reporting, underscoring the importance of education, media, and political messaging in shaping peace prospects.

What we don't know yet: Current data does not clearly indicate which Arab-state initiatives have effectively enhanced Israeli-Palestinian negotiations or establish definitive causation. It is essential to seek evidence, differentiate between diplomatic gestures and measurable cooperation, and monitor sustained dialogue, humanitarian access, and violence reduction. The impact of regional peace is most significant when it fosters understanding rather than division and delivers concrete benefits for civilians.

The Role of the United States in the Peace Process

Facilitation, not substitution

The United States can help create conditions for a durable peace agreement, but it cannot replace Israeli or Palestinian decision-making. Its most constructive role is to facilitate direct communication, clarify commitments, and support negotiations shaped by those who will live with the outcome.

Respect for sovereignty is essential. U.S. diplomacy should recognize each party's security concerns, political realities, and their right to determine their future. As discussed in our analysis of Israel's role in broader peace initiatives (<https://paxpoint.org/israel-and-the-pursuit-of-peace-netanyahus-role-on-president-trumps-board-of-peace/>), Israeli participation

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can provide practical experience in conflict management, border negotiations, and regional diplomacy while reinforcing cooperation with Washington. Although public pressure may sometimes be necessary, private diplomacy, careful listening, and consistent standards create a space for compromise.

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Practical steps for balanced support

The United States can support both parties through several concrete steps:

- Establish reliable crisis communication channels to prevent local incidents from escalating (https://paxpoint.org)
- Support humanitarian aid, civilian protection, and medical services through transparent, monitored programs.
- Encourage confidence-building measures, such as economic cooperation, family reunification, and coordination on shared infrastructure.
- Offer technical assistance for security arrangements and governance without dictating every final decision.
- Measure progress against clear commitments and communicate evidence when claims about compliance or violations arise.

Why consistency matters

Peace efforts lose credibility when standards change from one crisis to another. A steady approach can reinforce accountability while maintaining the possibility for diplomacy, acknowledging unresolved issues, and avoiding the portrayal of negotiations as simple or immediate.

For readers, the practical question is whether a proposed U.S. action protects civilians, supports meaningful dialogue, and respects both parties' agency. This framework encourages understanding over division and keeps attention focused on steps that can make peace more achievable.

Israeli Contributions to a Peace Settlement

A durable settlement requires decisions by both parties. For Israel, a realistic contribution would involve sustained negotiations that effectively address the security concerns shaping public trust. This could include monitored security arrangements, clear implementation phases, and reciprocal commitments aimed at protecting civilians on all sides.

Security assistance can mitigate immediate risks without substituting for diplomacy. The current U.S.-Israel memorandum of understanding provides \$3.3 billion annually in security assistance and \$500 million for missile defense from fiscal years 2019 through 2028, according to AIPAC's overview of the 2016 MOU (<https://www.aipac.org/memos/10-year-mou>). As discussed in our analysis of the conflict's legal and political disputes

(<https://paxpoint.org/the-israeli-palestinian-conflict-history-claims-and-current-issues/>), outside support remains contentious, particularly when security infrastructure may be perceived as a lasting boundary rather than a temporary measure. 

Practical Steps at the Negotiating Table

Israeli contributions could encompass specific proposals, transparent trade-offs, and mechanisms for civilian protection, humanitarian access, and dispute resolution. While these steps may not resolve core disagreements, they can enhance the credibility of dialogue and provide the other side with measurable commitments to assess.

- Publish clear objectives and decision-making timelines.
- Support independent monitoring of agreed obligations.
- Expand verified cooperation in health, water, and economic services.

While none of these steps eliminates the necessity for reciprocal Palestinian commitments or resolves contested questions about borders, law, and security, they do replace broad assurances with evidence, accountability, and gradual trust-building.

What Palestinians Must Bring to the Table

A successful peace process requires commitments from both sides. Palestinian political leaders and institutions must make clear and sustained choices that prioritize civilian safety, reject violence, and foster practical coexistence. This expectation applies to decision-makers and organized groups, avoiding collective blame directed toward Palestinian civilians.

Renouncing Violence and Protecting Civilians

First, Palestinian leaders must unequivocally renounce all attacks on civilians and oppose armed groups that resort to violence as a political tool. They must reform the education system so that children are not being incited to violence against Israel. Disarming Hamas is essential; as our analysis of disarmament and peace requirements

(<https://paxpoint.org/disarming-hamas-and-hezbollah-the-security-requirement-at-the-center-of-the-ump-peace-plan/>) outlines, maintaining independent military power can transform ceasefires and aid into temporary pauses before renewed violence. This commitment should inform public statements, security choices, educational programs, and accountability measures. Durable agreements require partners who can prevent attacks and investigate abuses.

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Building Credible Institutions



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Palestinian governance must also promote lawful institutions, transparent administration, and a representative political process. Citizens need safe channels for dialogue, voting, organizing, and seeking justice without fear of intimidation. Robust institutions enhance the credibility of agreements, reduce the influence of armed factions, and facilitate humanitarian aid reaching those in need.

Recognizing a Shared Future

Palestinian leaders should acknowledge the legitimacy and security of Israeli civilians while advocating for Palestinian rights through negotiation. Recognition does not eliminate disagreement; rather, it establishes a foundation for managing conflicts without dehumanization or violence. It also paves the way for practical collaboration on issues such as water rights, healthcare, trade, education, and mobility.

Finally, fostering peace requires leaders to elevate voices advocating for peace rather than suppressing them. Cooperation among families, municipalities, businesses, and civil society can illustrate what coexistence looks like in everyday experiences. While these responsibilities may not resolve every dispute, they create the necessary conduct and institutions for meaningful discussions – and for fostering understanding over division.

Trust and Verification in Peace Agreements

Peace agreements often begin with a critical inquiry: how can parties trust commitments after enduring violence or protracted division? Trust develops when promises convert into observable actions. This is why verification holds significant importance. Independent monitors, clear reporting procedures, and pre-agreed consequences are vital for transforming assurances into measurable commitments.

What verification does

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A verification system enables each side to evaluate whether commitments are fulfilled without relying on hearsay or political rhetoric. It may include inspections, satellite imagery, public records, communication channels, or third-party observations, contingent on the specifics of the agreement.

This methodology should define who conducts the checks, what evidence gets collected, how disputes are reviewed, and when findings are disclosed. As shown in our analysis of investigations into civilian harm claims (<https://paxpoint.org/examining-the-claims-do-israeli->

forces-target-palestinian-civilians/), credible assessments often necessitate layered fact-finding, corroborated witness testimonies, communication records, and policy shifts – not simply an initial declaration. Clear rules can mitigate competing narratives and provide communities with a common framework.

Trust is built through follow-through

Verification does not substitute for political will or human connections; rather, it reinforces them by making progress visible and addressing concerns before they escalate into crises. Small, confirmed actions, such as opening a crossing, restoring a service, preventing violence, or ensuring civilian access, can illustrate the practical benefits of cooperation.

Trust also hinges on fairness. Monitoring should implement standards uniformly, recognize uncertainty, and safeguard sensitive information when disclosure could jeopardize individuals. Critics may question the independence, speed, or transparency of findings; therefore, these findings should translate into clearer rules, enhanced training, and fortified civilian protections.

What to look for

- Specific commitments accompanied by clear timelines
- Independent or mutually agreed-upon monitoring
- Public clarifications of confirmed and disputed facts
- Channels for rectifying violations without escalation

When assessing a peace agreement, consider who verifies progress and what evidence is accessible. *Understanding over division* commences with accountability that all parties can scrutinize.

Phased Pathway to Peace

A structured pathway can help negotiators progress from immediate risk reduction toward durable peace. This approach does not eliminate difficult questions or guarantee agreement. Instead, it establishes clear steps, measurable responsibilities, and opportunities to pause, verify, and adjust as conditions evolve.

Five phases: from security to final status

The sequence below places civilian protection, evidence, and trust-building at the heart of the process:

1. **Security:** Reduce immediate violence.

2. **Stabilization and practical coordination:** Establish communication channels, address urgent infrastructure and medical needs, and coordinate movement and public safety. <https://paxpoint.org>
These arrangements can help lower daily tensions while broader discussions continue.
3. **Confidence-building measures:** Take reciprocal, documented actions that demonstrate restraint and respect for existing commitments. Public reporting, clear timelines, and consequences for violations can facilitate assessment of cooperation.
4. **Interim political arrangements:** Negotiate temporary governance, economic, security, and administrative frameworks. Representatives should include affected communities and clarify how decisions will be reviewed, challenged, and revised.
5. **Final-status agreements:** Address core political questions through direct negotiations, giving careful consideration to borders, security, governance, rights, Jerusalem, refugees, and recognition. The final package should include implementation plans, guarantees, and procedures for dispute resolution.

Progress should be evaluated by concrete behavior, not merely statements. It is important to inquire about changes on the ground, who verifies these changes, and whether civilians experience greater safety and dignity.

Counterarguments to the Feasibility of Coexistence

Critics of coexistence often point to terrorism, incitement, repeated violence, unresolved claims, and deep public mistrust. They contend that agreements may temporarily pause conflict without addressing the underlying fears and grievances. Additionally, some believe that leaders advocating for compromise might face political repercussions from constituents who view cooperation as a form of surrender.

These concerns warrant careful consideration. Coexistence does not equate to instant trust, complete agreement, or the elimination of future disputes. Rather, it is a practical process where communities establish arrangements aimed at minimizing harm, safeguarding civilian lives, and facilitating cooperation despite differing historical narratives.

Historical Evidence Offers a Different Lesson

Europe's postwar relationship between France and Germany illustrates how former adversaries can cultivate durable cooperation. Reconciliation followed significant destruction, yet it progressed through political agreements, economic ties, educational initiatives, and institutions that fostered routine peaceful problem-solving.

Northern Ireland serves as another relevant example. The 1998 Good Friday Agreement did not eliminate competing identities or resolve every disagreement. Instead, it created political mechanisms, power-sharing arrangements, and a recognition of diverse aspirations. The ongoing challenges encountered do not render the effort futile; they highlight the necessity of maintaining and accountable peace.

Egypt and Israel also showcase that formal peace can persist despite public disagreements and regional tensions. While the relationship has not resolved every Middle Eastern issue, diplomatic channels and security arrangements have played a crucial role in averting a return to the conflicts that preceded the 1979 treaty.

What the Evidence Suggests

A more accurate conclusion is not that coexistence is effortless. Rather, it is that conditions can evolve when individuals endorse peaceful coexistence, reliable communication, fair participation, and credible enforcement measures. Consider what specific safeguards a proposal entails, who benefits from it, and how breaches will be resolved. This evidence-informed approach allows for careful consideration while acknowledging that peace and coexistence have historical foundations.

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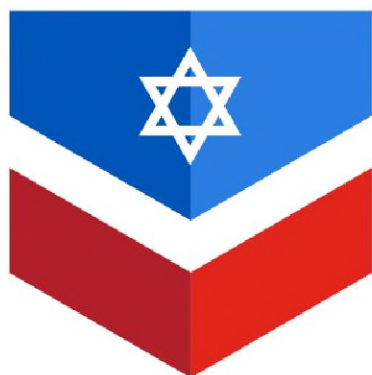
Showcasing Israel's Pursuit of Peace & Coexistence

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Supporting Israel's Defense Needs: Why It Matters for America

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What happens when a country cannot stop those who attack its people? For Israel, the question is immediate: a small, densely populated state with limited strategic depth must protect civilians and critical infrastructure against threats ranging from rockets to long-range missiles. Israel's right to self-defense is therefore not an abstract principle – it is a practical security requirement and a central concern of the U.S.–Israel alliance.

This analysis explains how geography and decades of conflict shaped Israel's defense doctrine, including lessons from the 1948 and 1973 wars and the security breach of October 7, 2023. It examines why layered systems such as Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow are necessary



how Iran and Hezbollah create distinct strategic and immediate threats. It also clarifies the role of deterrence, missile-defense cooperation, intelligence sharing, defense technology, and Israel's qualitative military edge.

Readers will see why American support advances shared security and innovation while recognizing that support for Israel's self-defense does not require agreement with every government policy. The discussion concludes with the broader role of national resilience and the case for sustained U.S. support.

Self-defense as a Fundamental Right

Self-defense is a fundamental duty of every sovereign state. Governments must protect citizens, territory, and autonomy from threats. For Israel, this imperative is amplified by multifaceted security challenges, requiring timely responses to attacks while safeguarding civilian life.

Security Requires the Ability to Respond

International law, including Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, recognizes a state's right to self-defense against armed aggression. Israel commonly presents operations against groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah through this lens: stopping attacks and protecting civilians. As discussed in our analysis of U.S. military aid and human rights (<https://allyvia.org/u-s-military-aid-and-human-rights-exploring-the-palestinian-debate/>), that rationale remains tied to the laws of armed conflict rather than revenge or collective punishment. Necessity, proportionality, civilian protection, and accountability govern how self-defense is exercised.

Endorsing this principle does not suggest unconditional support for every governmental act or passive acceptance of conflict. It distinguishes a state's right to protect its citizens from the manner in which that right is carried out. Careful deliberation fosters informed public discourse and prevents standards from hindering democracies in responding effectively to violence while maintaining lawful conduct.

The U.S.–Israel Alliance Enhances Shared Security

The U.S.–Israel alliance reflects security cooperation grounded in preparedness, intelligence sharing, and defense of human life. Linked defense strategies and emergency-response initiatives address mutual risks and strengthen Israel's ability to protect its population. For Americans, the lesson is clear: resilient partnerships enhance national security, regional stability, and shared democratic values.

Geographical Vulnerabilities of Israel

Israel's geography fundamentally shapes its security needs. As a relatively small country situated on the eastern Mediterranean, it features a narrow coastal plain, a central mountain ridge, and the Negev desert to the south. Much of its population, transportation network, and critical infrastructure are concentrated in a limited area, making any disruption significantly more consequential than it might be in a larger nation such as the United States.

Physical Geography Increases Exposure

Israel occupies a strategic position amid several regional security challenges. Its borders are in close proximity to neighboring states and territories, while major cities and economic centers lie within a compact space. This limited strategic depth leaves less room to absorb attacks, relocate key facilities, or protect communities through distance alone. As explored in our analysis of Israel's strategic value to the United States (<https://allyvia.org/blog/the-unsinkable-aircraft-carrier-why-israel-has-become-americas-most-important-strategic-ally/>), this geography can also provide intelligence, operational, and defensive advantages for American planning.

- **Short distances** reduce reaction time during security emergencies.
- **Concentrated infrastructure** amplifies the effects of disruptions to transportation, energy, or communications.
- **Border proximity** necessitates reliable intelligence, preparedness, and coordination with trusted partners.

The comparison with the United States clarifies this issue. America's size establishes geographic distance between many population centers and potential threats; Israel does not have that buffer. Its partnership with the United States therefore serves mutual interests through intelligence sharing, missile defense, cyber capabilities, operational experience, emergency readiness, and civilian protection.

Geography does not determine every security outcome; however, it creates conditions that decision-makers must consistently address. Understanding this context highlights why the U.S.–Israel alliance is vital for security, resilience, and shared democratic values.

Israel's Security Doctrine Developed Through Conflict

Israel's security doctrine grows from defending a small country through repeated wars and terrorism. That history emphasizes readiness, intelligence, deterrence, and rapid responses when threats emerge from multiple directions. Missile defense systems help protect civilians while

allowing measured responses, and precision intelligence can reduce the risk of wider escalation, as discussed in our analysis of Israel's role in the Iran conflict (<https://allyvia.org/blog/israels-role-in-the-iran-conflict-shows-why-it-remains-an-indispensable-u-s-ally/>).

Early Wars Established a Readiness-Based Approach

The 1948 War of Independence shaped Israel's first priorities: protecting communities, building a capable defense force, and maintaining access between population centers. Frequently cited estimates place Israeli deaths at roughly 6,300, including civilians and military personnel. Because records and definitions differ, casualty figures should be treated as estimates rather than exact totals.

The 1967 Six-Day War reinforced preparedness and rapid decision-making. Israel's military losses are commonly estimated at about 776 personnel. The conflict also left unresolved regional disputes, ensuring security planning remained a central national responsibility.

The Yom Kippur War Strengthened Intelligence and Deterrence

In 1973, the Yom Kippur War exposed the danger of strategic surprise. Israel lost approximately 2,600 to 2,700 soldiers, depending on the source and counting method. The experience encouraged closer intelligence review, stronger reserve mobilization, and greater attention to deterrence and early warning.

These lessons continue to influence the U.S.–Israel alliance. Defense and intelligence cooperation, including study of Israel's missile defense and precision capabilities, addresses shared concerns while supporting American security and innovation. Israel's doctrine remains historically grounded but adaptable, helping both countries prepare for changing risks while protecting human life and democratic values.

Lessons from October 7, 2023: A Case Study

The events of October 7, 2023, starkly illustrate how a security failure can swiftly escalate into a national crisis. According to an Israeli government legal briefing, the coordinated attacks resulted in the deaths of over 1,400 individuals, injuries to more than 5,500, and the abduction of at least 247 hostages, including infants and Holocaust survivors. This briefing characterizes the assaults as serious violations of international law and highlights the ongoing threats Israel faces from Hamas, Hezbollah, and Iranian-backed factions. Our account of Hamas's ceasefire breaches and hostage crisis (<https://allyvia.org/blog/hamas-breaches-ceasefire-in-gaza-attacks-idf-troops-and-fails-to->

return-hostages-bodies/) further demonstrates how renewed attacks and the failure to return victims' remains have deepened mistrust and weakened hopes for stability. Israel's legal briefing on the October 7 attacks^[1] provides important context.

Future defense planning requires layered protection

This event underscores that defense planning cannot rely on a singular warning system or response strategy. Future defensive strategies must prioritize:

- **Strengthened early warning and intelligence capabilities:** testing assumptions and delivering credible information to decision-makers.
- **Enhanced border security and community readiness:** coordinating security services, local authorities, emergency responders, and civilians.
- **Hostage and civilian protection measures:** establishing lawful procedures that safeguard the safety and dignity of vulnerable individuals.
- **Legal accountability mechanisms:** providing legal training, operational guidance, and oversight during military actions.

These lessons carry significant implications for the U.S.–Israel alliance. Intelligence cooperation (<https://allyvia.org/blog/u-s-israel-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence-and-critical-technologies/>), emergency readiness, and technology sharing can enhance American security while protecting civilians. The central conclusion is clear: durable partnerships require vigilance, rapid response, public resilience, and respect for international law, preserving security alongside human dignity and shared democratic values.

The Importance of Layered Defense Systems

A country must defend itself; therefore, layered defense is essential. This framework combines prevention, detection, protection, response, and recovery, ensuring that weaknesses in one layer do not determine the outcome. It forms a critical aspect of the U.S.–Israel alliance and its focus on civilian protection.

Multiple Layers Address Different Threats

Israel faces threats from missiles, drones, cyberattacks, and terrorism. The Iron Dome remains a vital layer, intercepting threats before impact through a significant U.S.–Israel innovation partnership supported by American funding and Israeli real-world experience. These defenses work alongside early-warning networks, shelters, medical preparedness, and public guidance. Intelligence sharing has also provided early notice of regional threats and disrupted terrorist plots, while secure communications and diplomacy help reduce conflict risks. Our overview of U.S.–Israel security cooperation (<https://allyvia.org/security-and-defense/>) further explores these contributions.

- Detection and early warnings enable timely responses.

- Interception strategies limit harm from identified threats.
- Emergency initiatives and resilient services support recovery.
- Intelligence and diplomacy help avert escalating crises.

Prepared Communities Strengthen Security

Layered defense extends beyond military tactics to emphasize public education, reliable emergency information, medical readiness, and interagency cooperation. Israeli security technologies now also support American airports, borders, and critical infrastructure. For Americans, this partnership enhances security while upholding democracy and human dignity. Understanding these layers empowers citizens to assess defense policies with context rather than assume one system can manage every risk.

Iran's Strategic Threat to Israel

Iran's military capabilities (<https://allyvia.org/blog/iran-is-still-locked-and-loaded-and-at-war-with-america/>) shape Israel's defense posture because they combine long-range missile development, nuclear ambitions, and support for armed groups that oppose Israel. Together, these factors create security challenges extending beyond one border or battlefield. An analysis of Iran's military posture and its implications for Israel^[2] describes these developments as a central concern for regional security.

Nuclear ambitions are especially significant. Giving a regime that seeks Israel's destruction nuclear capability would alter global security calculations, while even the possibility pressures Israeli planning, international diplomacy, and deterrence efforts. Our analysis of Iran's expanding missile threat beyond Israel (<https://allyvia.org/blog/iran-thinks-it-defeated-america-and-israel-that-delusion-is-making-the-world-far-more-dangerous/>) also explains why Tehran's long-range arsenal increasingly concerns parts of Europe and the wider international community.

Missiles and Regional Partnerships Increase Pressure

Iran's missile advances present a direct threat because they may extend the range and speed of a potential attack. Iran's relationships with Palestinian factions and other armed groups add a broader challenge, requiring Israel to monitor several arenas. These conditions help explain heightened readiness and investment in layered defense.

- **For Israel:** the partnership supports preparedness against evolving threats.
- **For the United States:** security cooperation can contribute to regional stability and civilian protection.
- **For citizens:** understanding the threat clarifies why the U.S.–Israel alliance emphasizes intelligence, defense technology, and diplomacy.

The practical takeaway is clear: Iran's actions influence Israeli defense decisions, while cooperation with the United States addresses shared security concerns without losing sight of freedom and peace.

Hezbollah: The Immediate Missile Threat

Hezbollah's arsenal presents an immediate security concern due to its forces operating close to Israel. This proximity reduces warning times and places civilian communities within range. Ynetnews analysis^[3] describes the arsenal's location as a direct threat, arguing that periodic containment has not alleviated the underlying risk.

Available materials do not provide a verified estimate of Hezbollah's total missile stockpile. However, they document the scale of attacks since October 7, 2023: a UN Watch report^[4] states that Hezbollah launched more than 8,000 rockets and other explosives into Israel during the conflict.

For Americans evaluating the security partnership, several distinctions are critical:

- **Launches are not stockpiles.** The number fired cannot establish how many weapons remain available.
- **Capability has several dimensions.** Range, accuracy, payload, mobility, and command structures all influence risk levels.
- **Civilian impact is measurable.** Rocket fire has contributed to displacement and prevented many Israeli residents from returning home.

Missile exports to proxies in Lebanon, Yemen, Iraq, and Syria also endanger shipping, U.S. partners, and deployed forces, creating risks that extend beyond Israel. As our analysis of U.S.–Israel security cooperation (<https://allyvia.org/blog/united-for-security-how-u-s-israel-cooperation-shaped-the-operation-against-iran/>) explains, coordinated intelligence, defense collaboration, and readiness help contain threats before they escalate. Claims about military actions in Syria and Lebanon do not quantify Hezbollah's capabilities, as Claim 23's summary^[5] makes clear. Careful analysis should differentiate between allegations and documented security data.

Deterrence: The Role of Military Strength

Deterrence means discouraging an attack by communicating its likely costs while maintaining the capability to defend citizens if prevention fails. This strategy seeks to avoid conflict. A credible defensive posture can reduce miscalculations and foster diplomacy when adversaries understand that aggression will meet a strong response.

Strength Supports Stability

History illustrates effective deterrence. During the Cold War, the United States and Soviet Union built capabilities that made direct conflict extremely hazardous. This balance did not eliminate tensions but prevented direct superpower confrontation and kept diplomatic channels open. The Cuban Missile Crisis underscored the importance of communication, restraint, and anticipating consequences.

However, military strength does not guarantee peace. Deterrence can falter when leaders misread intentions, as the 1973 Yom Kippur War and October 7 demonstrated. Later, the Egypt-Israel peace process showed how security arrangements, diplomacy, and political agreements can mutually reinforce one another.

The U.S.–Israel Alliance Strengthens Deterrence

The U.S.–Israel alliance enhances deterrence through defense collaboration, intelligence sharing, missile defense, joint research, and interoperable systems that protect civilians. These elements enable leaders to manage crises more effectively. Our analysis of U.S.–Israel defense cooperation (<https://allyvia.org/the-u-s-israel-alliance-a-necessary-examination-of-military-aid/>) outlines how visible joint development adds diplomatic weight by signaling that attacks could carry broader consequences. These efforts contribute to a wider vision: freedom and peace pursued through preparedness and responsible governance.

For Americans, the practical takeaway is clear: an effective security partnership combines credible defense with communication, restraint, and respect for human dignity.

The Strategic Importance of American Support

American support for Israel's defense (<https://allyvia.org/blog/no-americans-have-not-fought-israels-wars-clearing-up-a-persistent-claim-about-u-s-troops-and-the-iraq-war/>) needs extends beyond bilateral concerns. It helps sustain a capable security ally in a region where volatility can affect American citizens, allies, trade, and diplomatic interests. The U.S.–Israel alliance also enables both nations to share lessons, enhance readiness, and address common challenges. As discussed in our analysis of Israel as a model ally (<https://allyvia.org/blog/israel-as-a-model-ally-from-longstanding-partnership-to-outstanding-cooperation-in-operation-epic-fury/>), this longstanding cooperation strengthens deterrence, enhances intelligence sharing, and facilitates practical defense coordination while reinforcing regional stability.

Security Cooperation Protects American Interests

Defense cooperation fortifies deterrence and helps limit threats spreading across the region. It supports coordination among the United States, Israel, and other allies to protect civilians, manage emergencies, and address counterterrorism concerns. These benefits highlight the necessity for oversight, demonstrating that security assistance should serve clear objectives, promote responsible use, and uphold respect for human dignity.

- **Readiness:** Shared training and compatible systems improve coordination between American and Israeli personnel during joint missions.
- **Innovation:** Collaborative defense work advances technologies and methods that protect American service members and their communities.
- **Regional stability:** A stronger security partnership supports diplomacy by equipping allies to confront threats with adequate preparation.

Support Creates a Reciprocal Partnership

American support reflects reciprocity. The United States provides resources, expertise, and strategic alignment, while Israel contributes operational experience, research, and insight into regional security dynamics. For citizens assessing this partnership, the practical question is whether it protects American interests while advancing shared security and democratic values. Its significance lies in connecting defense cooperation with accountability and enduring peace.

Technological Partnership: Advancements through Cooperation

The U.S.–Israel alliance supports vital defense-technology cooperation, strengthening security in both nations. Shared research, efficient testing, and joint production help each country respond to evolving threats while reinforcing their strategic partnership.

Missile-defense initiatives clearly demonstrate these benefits. The Iron Dome, developed in Israel with substantial U.S. assistance, established a model for cooperative production. Through David's Sling, both nations addressed medium-range threats, while the Arrow program, especially Arrow 3, reflects sustained efforts to detect and intercept ballistic missiles. As discussed in our overview of the wider U.S.–Israel partnership (<https://allyvia.org/blog/america-and-israel-a-strategic-partnership-that-delivers-for-both-nations/>), experience from these programs can also support civilian applications in communications, aerospace, emergency response, and infrastructure protection.

- **American security advantages:** Joint exercises and operational experience give U.S. planners valuable testing results and practical insights.
- **Israeli security enhancements:** U.S. funding and technical expertise strengthen the development of defensive systems.
- **Economic growth:** Cooperative production supports skilled jobs, specialized suppliers, and scientific partnerships in both countries.
- **Improved coordination:** Integrated systems and synchronized planning improve responses to regional emergencies and crises.

These programs show that technologies are not created or used uniformly. Instead, allies can combine expertise, preserve oversight, and generate benefits beyond defense. For Americans, the partnership's central value lies in its contribution to security, innovation, and industrial capability through sustained cooperation rather than isolated projects or promises.

Israel's Role in Protecting American Interests

Security through shared information

Israel's security affects more than its own borders. The 2022 Joint Declaration on the U.S.–Israel Strategic Partnership^[6] describes Israel's security as essential to U.S. interests and an anchor of regional stability. Cooperation helps both countries identify threats, assess risks, and protect people before dangers spread.

Intelligence sharing is one part of this partnership, improving situational awareness and helping prevent attacks in volatile areas. As outlined in our analysis of the U.S.–Israel alliance (<https://allyvia.org/blog/why-israel-remains-americas-closest-ally-despite-those-who-seek-to-divide-them/>), military cooperation also advances defensive technology and offers lessons from Israel's counterterrorism and urban-warfare experience that can inform American operations.

Counterterrorism protects lives

The U.S.–Israel counterterrorism partnership responds to a shared concern: attacks by violent organizations can cross borders and threaten regional stability. An interview with international law expert Natasha Hausdorff, published by UN Watch^[7], discusses Iran's support for groups (<https://allyvia.org/blog/irans-parliament-is-legislating-for-the-murder-of-american-and-israeli-leaders/>) including Hamas and Hezbollah, placing Israeli responses within the region's wider security realities.

- Shared threat assessments can improve preparedness.
- Security cooperation can help protect American personnel and regional partners.
- Defensive technology can support civilian protection and reduce the impact of attacks.

For Americans, the practical takeaway is straightforward – a secure Israel can contribute to stability, protect shared interests, and support broader efforts toward freedom and peace.

Missile Defense as a Beacon of Cooperation

Missile defense represents more than military hardware; it demonstrates the U.S.–Israel alliance's commitment to security and daily life preservation. Israel's Iron Dome detects and intercepts short-range rockets before they reach populated areas, significantly reducing risks to civilians.

Iron Dome functions as a crucial component of a broader security partnership. Its sensors, interceptors, and warning systems facilitate rapid decision-making, allowing residents time to seek shelter. While the system cannot address every threat, layered defense, emergency planning, and public preparedness remain vital. As noted in our overview of the U.S.–Israel relationship's growing reciprocity (<https://allyvia.org/blog/from-aid-to-alliance-why-the-u-s-israel-relationship-is-moving-towards-reciprocity/>), American collaboration on Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow has generated knowledge pertinent to future threats faced by both nations.

American support has fortified Iron Dome through funding, technical cooperation, and joint development. This assistance embodies shared interests in civilian protection and regional stability, linking U.S. research, defense manufacturing, and Israeli expertise. The related cooperation in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, medical innovation, agriculture, and water management illustrates the far-reaching benefits of these partnerships beyond missile defense.

- Protecting civilians during rocket attacks
- Providing communities with timely warnings to seek shelter
- Establishing practical collaborations between American and Israeli experts

The conclusion is clear: missile defense not only saves lives but also exemplifies visible cooperation. While Iron Dome does not substitute for diplomacy or broader security efforts, it highlights how the alliance promotes human dignity, safety, freedom, and peace.

Qualitative Military Edge: A Critical Requirement

A qualitative military edge (QME) represents Israel's ability to maintain advanced defense capabilities that deter threats and protect its citizens as security dynamics evolve. It encompasses more than weaponry, integrating intelligence, rigorous training, high readiness, cyber defense, and reliable partnerships.

This principle matters to Americans because a capable security partner supports regional stability and shared counterterrorism objectives. Israel's location and history have necessitated superior technology to deter larger hostile forces, thereby preventing conflicts before they escalate. As explained in our overview of why America sustains Israel's QME (<https://allyvia.org/blog/why-america-ensures-israels-qualitative-military-edge-and-why-it-must-continue/>), preserving this advantage also protects U.S. influence, counters adversaries such as Iran, and strengthens both

nations' defenses. The U.S.–Israel alliance advances these goals through defense cooperation (<https://allyvia.org/blog/americas-security-partnership-with-israel-remains-a-strategic-investment/>), research, information sharing, and access to systems that protect civilians and military personnel.

Technology Supports Security and Readiness

Maintaining this edge requires evaluating emerging risks, adapting to new tactics, protecting critical infrastructure, and making prudent decisions during crises. U.S. support emphasizes lawful practices, civilian protection, and operational accountability while fostering innovations with benefits that extend beyond immediate conflict zones.

- **Deterrence:** Credible capabilities discourage aggressors and reduce risks to communities.
- **Protection:** Defensive technologies help identify and respond rapidly to imminent threats.
- **Interoperability:** Shared systems and training improve coordination among trusted partners.
- **American Benefit:** Joint research advances emergency response, cybersecurity, and public safety.

Ultimately, QME is not static but continuous. Recognizing its importance helps citizens understand how the U.S.–Israel partnership fortifies Israel's defense while advancing American security, technology, strategic influence, and shared democratic principles.

The Comprehensive Nature of National Security

National security extends beyond military might; it requires communities to function during crises, recover from disruptions, and protect citizens who depend on essential services. For Israel, this holistic defense includes battlefield capabilities alongside civilian resilience and reliable public systems.

Civilian Resilience Supports National Defense

Resilient civilian infrastructure helps a nation withstand threats without succumbing to chaos. Key components include:

- Hospitals and emergency services that remain operational under duress
- Utilities, transportation, and communications systems that sustain community needs
- Cybersecurity measures that safeguard public systems and critical data
- Emergency planning that equips families, schools, and businesses to respond effectively

These initiatives complement military readiness by reducing vulnerability and aiding recovery. The partnership also strengthens readiness through joint planning, equipment maintenance, training, and operational coordination, while interoperability enables both allies to respond smoothly during

crises. Our analysis of U.S. support for Israel (<https://allyvia.org/the-economic-and-security-benefits-of-u-s-support-for-israel/>) explains how these practices can inform American approaches to civilian protection and counterterrorism without exposing sensitive operations.

The Alliance Supports a Broader Security Picture

The U.S.–Israel alliance reflects this expansive perspective. Collaboration in defense, technology, disaster preparedness, and cyber protection enhances safety and resilience for both nations. It also demonstrates shared resolve, strengthening deterrence by showing that threats will receive a coordinated response. Security therefore means not only preventing attacks, but preserving human dignity, essential services, and the foundations of freedom and peace.

Understanding this broader perspective helps Americans appreciate the partnership beyond tactical defense policies, connecting national strategy with communities' daily needs.

Clarifying Support for Self-Defense vs. Policy Decisions

Support for Israel's right to self-defense should not be confused with endorsing every policy decision made by its government. This distinction is critical for informed dialogue about the U.S.–Israel alliance and its implications.

According to AIPAC, Israel is a self-reliant ally whose security cooperation aligns with American interests. U.S. assistance is not blank-check support; it operates through legal frameworks, oversight, and continuing policy discussions. Our overview of how the U.S.–Israel alliance shapes peace efforts (<https://allyvia.org/how-the-u-s-israel-alliance-shapes-peace-efforts/>) explains how that cooperation can strengthen deterrence, improve coordination, and reduce the risk of wider conflict while remaining open to scrutiny.

A Balanced Civic Position Supports Security and Accountability

This distinction is practical and vital. Americans can support Israel's right to protect its citizens from terrorism while calling for lawful conduct and effective oversight that preserve human dignity. These views need not conflict.

- **Support self-defense:** Affirm every nation's obligation to protect its populace from armed threats.
- **Evaluate policies:** Assess governmental actions by their objectives, methods, impacts, and respect for democratic principles.

- **Encourage peace:** Advocate measures that minimize harm, safeguard civilians, and foster a secure future.

In discussions about this partnership, specificity is essential. The United States can affirm Israel's security, examine policy choices honestly, and ask whether cooperation advances stability, protects lives, and serves shared democratic values. This approach strengthens civic engagement while keeping attention on security, prosperity, freedom, and peace.

Content is provided for informational purposes and reflects the platform's mission to inform, inspire, and connect around the U.S.–Israel relationship.

The Argument Against Provocation by Military Strength

Military strength is often portrayed as a cause of conflict. Critics argue that expanding capabilities may provoke fear in adversaries. While this concern warrants consideration, reducing defensive capacity does not necessarily enhance safety. The principal issue is whether strength is used to provoke aggression or establish deterrence.

Deterrence makes hostile actions less likely to succeed. A robust security alliance signals that an attack would meet organized resistance, while diplomacy preserves avenues for de-escalation. Conversely, visible weakness, unclear commitments, or ambiguity about a response can embolden adversaries to test boundaries. As discussed in our analysis of U.S.–Israel military cooperation (<https://allyvia.org/blog/no-americans-have-not-fought-israels-wars-clearing-up-a-persistent-claim-about-u-s-troops-and-the-iraq-war/>), intelligence sharing, tested capabilities, and interoperability can improve preparedness, reduce uncertainty, and help commanders make faster, better-informed decisions.

The U.S.–Israel partnership exemplifies defense rather than a precursor to conflict. Collaboration in intelligence, missile defense, training, security cooperation, and crisis response safeguards civilians while strengthening readiness. These efforts can reduce the likelihood that threats escalate into broader confrontations and give decision-makers balanced responses alongside diplomatic options.

As citizens assess discussions surrounding provocation, consider the following inquiries:

- Does the policy ensure civilian safety while creating options for de-escalation?
- Is deterrence the stated goal, or is it framed merely as punitive action?
- Are military assets maintained alongside diplomatic engagement, oversight, and established protocols?

Such questions distinguish responsible defense from impulsive rhetoric. Disciplined, accountable strength can foster peace, while weakness may invite miscalculation. A consistent alliance, supported by timely intelligence and joint problem-solving, aims to prevent such outcomes while

preserving space for diplomacy.

Future Challenges: The Need for Continued U.S. Support

The lasting strength of the U.S.–Israel alliance hinges on continuous cooperation, strategic diplomacy, and public backing. American support fortifies Israel's security and enhances U.S. influence in negotiations affecting regional stability and civilian safety. As outlined in our overview of the U.S.–Israel security partnership (<https://allyvia.org/blog/americas-security-partnership-with-israel-remains-a-strategic-investment/>), joint missile defense, cybersecurity, intelligence sharing, and military exercises provide practical benefits to both countries.

Security Cooperation and Diplomatic Engagement

Recent discussions around Hamas disarmament, Israeli troop withdrawals, and Gaza's governance highlight the urgency of these matters. Israel regards those implicated in the October 7 attacks as ongoing security threats, emphasizing that proposed solutions necessitate thorough implementation and verification. Such complexities require active U.S. involvement.

- **Security cooperation** addresses threats, strengthens deterrence, and safeguards civilian life.
- **Diplomatic engagement** fosters commitments, oversight, and pathways to sustainable peace.
- **Humanitarian attention** prioritizes civilian needs in policy decisions.

Support Must Reflect Shared American Values

American support gains strength when aligned with democratic values, human dignity, and responsible governance. The Institute for National Security Studies reports that public backing is waning, particularly among younger demographics; communication alone will not restore confidence. Therefore, policy decisions and clear accountability are essential.

U.S. aid should transcend military assistance, bolstering Israel's security while promoting lawful conduct, humanitarian access, and credible long-term strategies. Balanced engagement helps prevent the alliance from becoming politically divided or detached from public sentiment.

Ultimately, a stable partnership amplifies U.S. influence and supports Israel in defending its populace, paving the way toward broader peace and freedom. Maintaining it is an investment in shared values, security, and prosperity.

Footnotes

1. <https://www.gov.il/en/pages/hamas-israel-conflict2023-key-legal-aspects>
(<https://www.gov.il/en/pages/hamas-israel-conflict2023-key-legal-aspects>) ↑
 2. <https://palwatch.org/all/96> (<https://palwatch.org/all/96>) ↑
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(<https://www.ynetnews.com/opinions-analysis/article/ryhgwz00uge>) ↑
 4. <https://unwatch.org/report-un-silent-on-israeli-idps/> (<https://unwatch.org/report-un-silent-on-israeli-idps/>) ↑
 5. <https://unwatch.org/item-7/claim/claim-23-israel-engages-in-military-aggression-against-syria-and-lebanon/> (<https://unwatch.org/item-7/claim/claim-23-israel-engages-in-military-aggression-against-syria-and-lebanon/>) ↑
 6. <https://www.gov.il/en/pages/israel-us-sign-joint-declaration-on-strategic-partnership-14-jul-2022>
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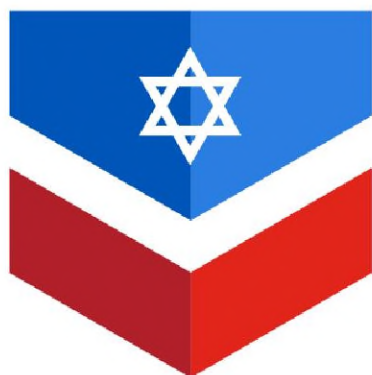
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What U.S. Aid to Israel Funds and Why It Matters

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Nearly \$174 billion in U.S. assistance to Israel has supported far more than a single military purchase. U.S. aid to Israel is primarily a structured security partnership – not an unrestricted transfer for Israel's general budget. Its main channels include Foreign Military Financing, missile-defense programs, emergency assistance, and joint research into technologies that protect civilians and strengthen defense readiness.

This overview explains how the current \$38 billion FY2019–FY2028 framework divides between FMF and missile defense, how FMF supports approved U.S.-origin equipment and services, and why Israel's small geography makes advanced aircraft, precision systems, intelligence, and layered defenses especially important. It examines Iron Dome, David's Sling, Arrow, and Iron



Beam (<https://allyvia.org/blog/iron-beam-israeli-laser-defense-that-can-help-save-american-lives/>), along with assistance for counter-tunnel and counter-drone capabilities after October 7 (<https://allyvia.org/blog/two-years-after-october-7-palestinian-poll-shows-rising-support-for-hamas-and-endorsement-of-violence/>), 2023.

The discussion also follows where the funding goes economically, how U.S.-Israeli research benefits both countries, and why strategic need – not civilian financial dependence – drives continued assistance. Case studies involving Iron Dome, the April 2024 Iranian attack, emergency replenishment, and Iron Beam show how the U.S.-Israel alliance connects American defense production with Israeli security and regional deterrence.

Overview of U.S. Aid to Israel

U.S. aid to Israel (<https://allyvia.org/blog/the-truth-about-u-s-aid-to-israel-and-what-critics-keep-leaving-out/>) comprises programs approved by Congress under U.S. law, each with defined purposes, conditions, and oversight. The predominant form is security assistance, enabling Israel to acquire approved U.S. defense equipment, sustain operational systems, and participate in missile defense and technology programs. The 2016 memorandum of understanding provides \$38 billion in security assistance from 2019 through 2028, the largest bilateral military aid package in U.S. history, as explained in our overview of U.S. military assistance and the Israeli-Palestinian debate (<https://allyvia.org/u-s-military-aid-and-human-rights-exploring-the-palestinian-debate/>). During crises, Congress may also authorize emergency or humanitarian support.

These forms remain distinct from Israel's national budget and private donations, with rules governing eligible uses, reporting, procurement, and deadlines. Understanding those distinctions helps citizens assess claims about the U.S.-Israel alliance. Ask what kind of aid is involved, which laws or appropriations apply, and what purposes and oversight govern it. This framework supports informed discussion of how the partnership advances American security, regional stability, innovation, and shared democratic values.

Types of U.S. Assistance to Israel

U.S. assistance to Israel encompasses several distinct forms of support, each designed to serve a specific purpose within the U.S.-Israel alliance. This support is primarily structured through congressional authorization, appropriations, agreements, and oversight. As detailed in our overview of how the alliance shapes peace efforts (<https://allyvia.org/how-the-u-s-israel-alliance-shapes-peace-efforts/>), this long-term partnership aims to deter aggression, minimize the risk of broader conflict, and ensure the safety of civilians.

Security Assistance Advances Defense Readiness

Foreign Military Financing enables Israel to acquire approved defense articles, services, and training, enhancing its defense readiness. This assistance fosters connections between Israel and U.S. equipment, standards, suppliers, and collaborative training. It is specifically structured for security purposes, not as unrestricted government funding.

- **Defense procurement:** Financing supports the acquisition and maintenance of eligible U.S. defense systems.
- **Training and sustainment:** Assistance aids personnel in maintaining equipment, enhancing interoperability, and developing operational readiness.
- **Congressional oversight:** Funding follows U.S. laws, multi-year agreements, annual assessments, and established program regulations for utilization and tracking.

Missile Defense Cooperation Protects Civilians

Joint missile defense initiatives facilitate the development, testing, and production of systems designed to detect and intercept incoming threats. These efforts are crucial for safeguarding civilian communities while yielding practical advantages for American research, manufacturing, and defense strategy.

Security Cooperation Enhances Knowledge and Capabilities

The partnership also includes intelligence sharing, counterterrorism efforts, military planning, and technological cooperation. While specifics regarding sensitive operations are not suitable for public discourse, the overarching aim is to bolster preparedness against shared threats.

Comprehending these categories distinctly positions defense assistance apart from diplomatic, scientific, or humanitarian cooperation. Together, they illustrate how the alliance fosters security, innovation, and shared democratic values while ensuring accountability to public institutions.

Understanding Foreign Military Financing (FMF)

Foreign Military Financing (FMF) is a U.S. government program that helps eligible partners acquire defense equipment and services. Rather than unrestricted cash transfers, FMF operates within established security-assistance rules, ensuring effective use of resources.

For Israel, FMF serves as a central channel of U.S. defense support. The 2016 U.S.–Israel Memorandum of Understanding allocated \$38 billion in security assistance for 2019–2028, primarily through FMF, focusing on U.S.-made equipment. As discussed in our examination of

U.S.–Israel military aid (<https://allyvia.org/the-u-s-israel-alliance-a-necessary-examination-of-military-aid/>), this framework also bolsters American production lines, defense suppliers, and the broader industrial base.

How FMF Works

FMF connects congressional appropriations with Israel's defense needs, allowing eligible funds for procurement, maintenance, training, and related services under U.S. law, program rules, and congressional oversight.

- **Procurement:** Funding supports defined defense purchases, not unrestricted spending.
- **Accountability:** U.S. agencies and Congress oversee appropriations and their utilization.
- **Partnership:** Shared equipment and training enhance coordination between U.S. and Israeli forces.

These rules align assistance with concrete security objectives, reflect U.S. policy, protect taxpayer interests, and strengthen the broader U.S.–Israel alliance.

Why FMF Matters for Americans

FMF strengthens Israel's capability to address threats while reinforcing U.S. defense connections. It promotes readiness, technological cooperation, and supports domestic manufacturing. Advocates also view military aid as essential for deterrence against Iran and Iran-backed groups.

Evaluating FMF involves critical questions: What did Congress appropriate? Which purchases qualify? What safeguards are in place? Addressing these questions distinguishes documented policy from common misconceptions and clarifies how assistance advances security, industrial capacity, and shared democratic values.

Military Purchases Funded by U.S. Aid

U.S. security assistance helps Israel purchase approved American defense articles and services through programs such as FMF. This support strengthens the U.S.–Israel alliance, linking public funding, military capability, and American industry.

Equipment Supports Shared Security Goals

Examples include aircraft, precision munitions, communications equipment, and maintenance services. Israel's U.S.-funded purchases include its F-35 program; the delivery of its 350th aircraft illustrates how decades of defense-industrial cooperation and the 2016 memorandum of understanding have deepened operational compatibility between the allies. Our analysis of Israel's 350th F-35 delivery (<https://allyvia.org/blog/israels-350th-f-35-wing-delivery-shows-how-the-us->

and-israel-defend-each-other/) explains how that partnership supports regional security. Assistance has also fostered missile defense cooperation, including the Iron Dome through separate appropriations and joint initiatives.

- **Aircraft and Upgrades:** U.S.-made aircraft and related training enhance Israel's ability to monitor its airspace and respond to threats.
- **Precision Systems:** Guided weapons and targeting equipment improve accuracy and reduce unintended harm.
- **Support and Maintenance:** Long-term service agreements sustain reliable equipment and develop specialized technical skills.

Purchases Support American Workers and Suppliers

FMF is primarily structured for purchases from U.S. defense companies, enabling aid to support jobs in manufacturing, engineering, software, logistics, and maintenance across multiple states. This relationship provides American suppliers with steady customers for systems developed through U.S. research and industrial capacity.

While not every dollar directly returns to the U.S. economy and program rules vary, the purchasing process connects security and prosperity. This collaboration supports Israel's defense while linking American workers and businesses to shared security needs.

Geography: Israel's Security Challenges

Israel's geography plays a critical role (<https://allyvia.org/blog/the-unsinkable-aircraft-carrier-why-israel-has-become-americas-most-important-strategic-ally/>) in its security strategy. The nation is compact, with urban centers, vital infrastructure, and transportation routes closely packed. This proximity reduces reaction time during crises, making civilian protection a primary defense focus.

The country's borders span diverse environments: a Mediterranean coastline, densely populated cities, arid southern areas, and northern regions adjacent to Lebanon and Syria (<https://allyvia.org/blog/blog-syrias-new-partnership-with-palestinian-islamic-jihad-reveals-the-true-face-of-the-al-sharaa-government/>). Each landscape requires distinct strategies, from securing ports and airspace to monitoring borders and maintaining readiness across varied terrain.

Geography Shapes Security Planning

Israel's limited geographic depth profoundly influences risk assessment. With little capacity to absorb disruptions before they affect communities or essential services, national security emphasizes early warning, layered defenses, resilient infrastructure, and adaptable responses. As

discussed in our analysis of Israel's role in the Iran conflict (<https://allyvia.org/blog/israels-role-in-the-iran-conflict-shows-why-it-remains-an-indispensable-u-s-ally/>), missile defense and precise intelligence help protect civilians while supporting measured decisions and limiting escalation.

- **Early warning** systems enable authorities to detect threats before they reach populated areas.
- **Defensive mechanisms and protected infrastructure** help maintain continuity and civilian safety during crises.
- **U.S.–Israel collaboration** strengthens intelligence sharing, technological development, and overall preparedness.

Understanding Israel's geographic challenges clarifies the significance of the U.S.–Israel alliance in effective security cooperation and why defense discussions must distinguish broad strategy from sensitive specifics. The central message is clear: a small, interconnected nation must navigate threats from multiple directions while safeguarding its people, preserving freedom, and supporting regional stability.

Significance of Missile Defense Systems in U.S. Aid

Missile defense is a central part of the U.S.–Israel security partnership (<https://allyvia.org/blog/israel-as-a-model-ally-from-longstanding-partnership-to-outstanding-cooperation-in-operation-epic-fury/>) and reflects Israel's broader role as a capable, closely aligned regional partner. Through funding, technical cooperation, and joint development, the United States helps Israel maintain systems designed to detect and intercept incoming rockets and missiles. These capabilities are defensive: they protect civilians, reduce harm, and give decision-makers more time during a crisis.

Layered protection supports security

U.S. assistance supports the architecture around these systems, including research, procurement, replenishment, and collaboration between defense professionals. Iron Dome, developed with substantial American funding and technical assistance, is designed to intercept short-range rockets and has stopped thousands launched by terrorist groups. The Arrow system, developed through U.S.–Israel cooperation, addresses longer-range ballistic missile threats through a separate layer of protection.

This support does not mean that the United States controls Israel's decisions or operates every system. Rather, it reflects a security partnership in which both countries contribute expertise and resources. U.S. assistance can fund production, replenish interceptors, and sustain cooperation as threats and technology change. For broader context, our overview of Israel as a longstanding

American ally (<https://allyvia.org/blog/israel-as-a-model-ally-from-longstanding-partnership-to-outstanding-cooperation-in-operation-epic-fury/>) explains how defense cooperation connects to shared strategic interests in the region.

Defense cooperation protects civilian life

Together, these efforts connect military cooperation to everyday civilian concerns:

- Protecting population centers by adding defensive options against incoming threats.
- Supporting joint engineering and testing, which strengthen knowledge on both sides.
- Helping Israel sustain readiness while the United States gains insight into missile defense challenges relevant to allied security.

Limits and practical meaning remain clear

Missile defense does not make conflict harmless, and no system guarantees that every threat will be stopped. Its significance is measured: it can reduce casualties and property damage while supporting broader efforts toward security and peace. For Americans, the partnership reflects shared responsibility, close coordination, and investment in technologies with defensive applications.

In-Depth Analysis of Iron Dome

Iron Dome Exemplifies Partnership for Security

Iron Dome is a mobile air defense system designed to detect and intercept specific short-range rockets and imminent threats. It integrates radar, command systems, and interceptor missiles, assessing launches to determine necessary responses, including the likelihood of impact on populated areas.

This system illustrates the U.S.–Israel alliance, with American funding backing Israeli development, procurement, and manufacturing. As detailed in our overview of U.S.–Israel security cooperation (<https://allyvia.org/security-and-defense/>), Iron Dome evolved from real-world threat experiences, becoming a leading example of joint innovation that neutralizes dangers before they strike. Ongoing production and technical coordination merge American resources with Israeli operational needs.

U.S. Support Strengthens Security

U.S. funding empowers Israel to protect civilians and maintain defensive capabilities while also reinforcing a crucial American ally. This partnership fosters skilled manufacturing, propels air and missile defense research, and promotes intelligence cooperation that provides early warning of mutual threats.

- **Security:** Shared capabilities safeguard lives, enhance readiness, and contribute to regional stability.
- **Innovation:** Collaboration transforms engineering challenges and battlefield experiences into effective defensive tools.
- **Prosperity:** Joint production and research initiatives generate jobs and deepen industrial expertise in both nations.

Iron Dome Has Defined Limitations

Iron Dome is not a comprehensive solution for all threats; it is specifically designed to reduce risks from certain attacks. Acknowledging these limitations supports informed public understanding, ensuring technology harmonizes with diplomacy, civil defense, and holistic security planning.

As a case study, Iron Dome illustrates how sustained cooperation can provide practical protection for civilians. It embodies a mutual commitment to security, human dignity, and the quest for peace, highlighting how American support and Israeli expertise yield advantages that transcend a single defense system.

The Concept of Qualitative Military Edge (QME)

Qualitative Military Edge (<https://allyvia.org/blog/why-america-ensures-israels-qualitative-military-edge-and-why-it-must-continue/>) (**QME**) is a foundational U.S. policy principle aimed at enhancing Israel's ability to deter and defend against credible regional threats. It emphasizes qualitative advantages – such as advanced technology, rigorous training, superior intelligence, and effective defense systems – over mere numerical comparisons of personnel or equipment.

What QME Means

QME does not suggest that Israel is invulnerable or guaranteed victory in every engagement. Instead, it reflects U.S. policy designed to ensure Israel retains capabilities that are more advanced, precise, and adaptable than those available to potential regional adversaries. As detailed in our analysis of why America maintains Israel's military edge (<https://allyvia.org/blog/why-america-ensures-israels-qualitative-military-edge-and-why-it-must-continue/>), this advantage serves to deter conflict while supporting a reliable partner in advancing shared strategic and moral interests.

- **Deterrence:** A credible defensive capability discourages aggression and reduces risks to civilians.
- **Protection:** Sophisticated systems safeguard communities, military personnel, and essential infrastructure.

- **Readiness:** Continuous training, careful planning, and advanced technology facilitate rapid responses to evolving threats.

How U.S. Assistance Supports QME

U.S. assistance sustains QME through security cooperation, defense financing, joint research, training, and modern defensive technologies. These efforts enhance Israel's capabilities, counter threats such as Iran, strengthen both nations' defenses, and reinforce the broader U.S.–Israel alliance through close coordination and shared objectives.

For Americans, the rationale is clear: QME fosters regional stability, protects human lives, upholds U.S. influence, and nurtures a security partnership grounded in mutual accountability and shared democratic values.

Emerging Threats: Drones and Missiles

Threats Are Becoming More Accessible

The security landscape surrounding Israel is evolving with the proliferation of drones and missiles. Launched from considerable distances, these relatively inexpensive systems can be adapted to target military bases, energy infrastructure, transportation networks, or civilian areas. Their increase underscores the need for robust early warning systems, layered air defenses, and swift coordination when threats emerge.

A recent incident illustrates the broader challenge. On August 7, 2026, Houthi forces launched ballistic missiles and drones targeting Saudi Arabia, resulting in casualties among government troops and civilians, as detailed in The Times of Israel's report^[1]. Such attacks demonstrate how unmanned aircraft and missiles can generate cross-border risks and endanger civilian populations.

Cooperation Supports Preparedness

The U.S.–Israel alliance enhances Israel's ability to address these threats through collaborative defense initiatives, technical expertise, and a shared commitment to protecting civilians. Israeli advances have produced layered systems, including Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow. Additionally, cooperation in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and medical innovation provides valuable insights for addressing future challenges. Our overview of the evolving U.S.–Israel relationship (<https://allyvia.org/blog/from-aid-to-alliance-why-the-u-s-israel-relationship-is-moving-towards-reciprocity/>) examines how these capabilities benefit allies both within and beyond the region.

- Collaborative defense initiatives improve threat response.
- Advanced technology reduces vulnerabilities.
- Shared values enhance resilience in the face of challenges.

Furthermore, regional collaborations emphasize economic stability. The Makkah agreement among Saudi Arabia, Turkey (<https://allyvia.org/blog/why-selling-f-35-fighter-jets-to-turkey-would-be-a-strategic-mistake-for-the-united-states/>), and Pakistan includes mutual-defense provisions.

However, analysis from Ynetnews^[2] indicates it lacks an integrated command structure and unified air defense capabilities. The practical lesson is clear: while written agreements are significant, genuine security relies on interoperable systems, reliable communication, and ongoing readiness.

For the United States, strengthening Israel's defense redounds to a broader partnership built on deterrence, innovation, and shared values, assisting allies in mitigating harm as threats evolve.

Effects of the October 7, 2023, Attack on U.S. Aid

The October 7, 2023, attack reshaped how policymakers evaluate urgent security requirements and accountability in foreign assistance. Following the incident, U.S. support for Israel (<https://allyvia.org/blog/no-americans-have-not-fought-israels-wars-clearing-up-a-persistent-claim-about-u-s-troops-and-the-iraq-war/>) involved immediate adjustments in military assistance, as detailed in an analysis of evolving U.S.–Israel relations^[3]. This event also encouraged discussion of a longer-term shift from traditional aid toward joint investment and mutual cooperation; our analysis of a U.S.–Israel partnership model (<https://allyvia.org/blog/from-aid-to-partnership-why-a-new-u-s-israel-relationship-can-strengthen-an-already-ironclad-alliance/>) explores how that approach could enhance relations beyond the current framework.

Military Assistance Adapts to Changing Risks

This crisis emphasized the U.S.–Israel alliance as a critical security partnership, raising vital considerations regarding responsive assistance, regional stability, and civilian protection. Key considerations for American policymakers now include:

- Addressing immediate defense needs and evolving threat landscapes.
- Evaluating how aid underpins security, deterrence, and counterterrorism goals.
- Balancing military support with diplomacy, humanitarian interests, and long-term peace initiatives.

Oversight Remains Essential in Responsible Aid Policy

The discussion also scrutinizes whether international organizations can effectively sustain neutral humanitarian operations in conflict zones, amid claims – like those reported in a UN Watch report^[4] – that UNRWA (<https://allyvia.org/blog/how-unrwa-has-perpetuated-conflict-and-inequality-since-its-creation/>) personnel were implicated in Hamas activities. Allegations include claims that at least

12 employees participated in the attack, and that a tunnel was found beneath its Gaza headquarters. Proposed safeguards include blocking funds from reaching Hamas, reviewing Gaza-related salaries, and limiting support for bodies such as the UN Commission of Inquiry unless meaningful reforms occur.

The essential takeaway is that U.S. aid decisions must combine agility with oversight. Monitoring assistance, demanding institutional accountability, and considering cooperative investment models can safeguard American interests, strengthen the security partnership, and preserve credible humanitarian standards.

Counter-Tunnel and Counter-Drone Initiatives

Counter-tunnel and counter-drone tools address threats that are difficult to detect and mitigate. According to AIPAC's overview of the U.S.–Israel alliance^[5], U.S. assistance supports advanced technologies in these areas, enhancing Israel's capacity to safeguard its people and vital infrastructures.

Tunnels conceal movement, supplies, or attacks underground, while drones can be utilized for surveillance or can carry explosive payloads. These systems necessitate specialized sensors, innovative detection methods, and prompt responses. As outlined in our analysis of the U.S.–Israel security partnership (<https://allyvia.org/blog/americas-security-partnership-with-israel-remains-a-strategic-investment/>), American resources align with Israel's rapid innovation and operational expertise, resulting in tools and lessons applicable beyond the Middle East, including in Europe and the Indo-Pacific region.

Why These Tools Matter

The importance of this cooperation surpasses individual technologies or geographical locations. Collaborative research and hands-on experience enhance military modernization for both nations, while advancements in Israeli defense can equip American forces with superior tools and strategies.

- **Protecting communities:** Early detection of hidden or airborne threats diminishes risks to civilians.
- **Supporting military readiness:** Tested systems inform defensive strategies and equipment enhancements.
- **Strengthening cooperation:** Joint efforts foster practical knowledge within the broader security partnership.

These initiatives do not eliminate risks; their success hinges on responsible deployment, systematic oversight, and ongoing evaluation. They exemplify how the U.S.–Israel alliance bolsters security through strategic cooperation, collaborative problem-solving, and innovations that possess broader implications.

Joint U.S.-Israeli Research and Development

Joint U.S.-Israeli research and development exemplifies the depth of the **U.S.–Israel alliance**, demonstrating that it transcends financial support. This collaboration brings together scientists, engineers, military experts, academic institutions, and private enterprises to address shared security challenges, test innovations, and develop technologies that protect populations. As discussed in our overview of deepening U.S.-Israel defense cooperation (<https://allyvia.org/blog/us-and-israel-deepen-defense-cooperation-a-quiet-force-strengthening-global-security/>), sustained coordination also aids both countries in identifying threats earlier, exchanging intelligence, and responding with greater policy unity.

Shared Research Produces Practical Security Benefits

Efforts target mutual concerns, including missile defense, border security, emergency response, and cybersecurity. Each participant contributes distinct expertise and technical capabilities, while shared learning helps researchers refine solutions before deployment.

- **Rapid problem-solving:** Teams exchange insights and efficiently develop countermeasures against common threats.
- **Enhanced protection:** Joint defense research creates tools that secure civilians, military personnel, and essential infrastructure.
- **American economic benefits:** Initiatives support skilled employment, supplier chains, and technological advances in the United States.
- **Responsible innovation:** Experts prioritize safety, reliability, and societal impact throughout development processes.

Partnership Turns Ideas Into Shared Capability

Funding initiates projects, but collaboration gives them practical significance. U.S. and Israeli teams exchange technical knowledge, conduct assessments, and refine designs around operational needs, ensuring research serves public safety rather than remaining theoretical.

Ultimately, collaborative defense research strengthens security while connecting universities, workforces, and communities across both nations. It reflects shared values, trust, human dignity, freedom, and peace, while supporting regional stability and contributing to the safety of American and Israeli civilians amid persistent threats.

Economic Impact of U.S. Aid on Defense Manufacturing

Security assistance supports American production

U.S. aid to Israel plays a critical role in supporting the American economy. This security assistance not only invests directly in U.S. defense articles and services but also bolsters demand for American manufacturers and suppliers.

These purchases create jobs across a broad network, encompassing engineers, skilled machinists, software developers, logistics providers, maintenance crews, and specialized suppliers. As highlighted in our overview of the economic and security benefits of U.S. support for Israel (<https://allyvia.org/the-economic-and-security-benefits-of-u-s-support-for-israel/>), assistance, training, and advanced systems contribute to defense research, workforce development, and production capacity crucial for U.S. readiness.

- **American workers:** Defense contracts support employment in research, manufacturing, maintenance, and transportation.
- **U.S. producers:** Predictable orders enable companies to plan facilities, train employees, and maintain specialized capabilities.
- **Shared readiness:** Compatible equipment and training enhance coordination between the United States and Israel.

Clear context improves public understanding

It is essential to recognize that not every aid dollar returns to the United States, nor do economic benefits alone justify the partnership. Spending rules, procurement decisions, and timelines significantly influence results. Nevertheless, security assistance can effectively address Israel's defensive needs while reinforcing American industrial capacity and common security objectives.

Citizens evaluating these programs should review budget documents, contracting information, and measurable outcomes. They should also inquire about the threats being countered, how civilians are protected, and whether the partnership enhances U.S. security at home. This evidence-based approach ensures that discussions remain focused on security, prosperity, and responsible stewardship of public funds.

Clarifying What U.S. Aid Does Not Cover

Understanding what U.S. aid does not cover helps Americans evaluate claims about the U.S.–Israel alliance. Most U.S. security assistance is structured for defense, supporting approved equipment, training, maintenance, and related capabilities under U.S. laws and agreements. It is

not a general payment for Israel's civilian budget. For broader context, see our fact-based guide to U.S. aid for Israel (<https://allyvia.org/truth/>), which explains annual and emergency funding, security benefits, and policy perspectives.

Security Assistance Is Not Civilian Budget Support

Security assistance does not directly pay for ordinary municipal services such as schools, public transportation, or routine health care. Nor is it unrestricted funding that Israel can spend for any purpose. Congress establishes funding rules, and assistance remains subject to oversight and legal requirements.

This distinction does not diminish the importance of civilian needs. The United States and Israel may cooperate through separate humanitarian, scientific, educational, or economic programs; however, those efforts should not be confused with military aid. Each has its own purpose, funding source, and accountability standards.

Readers Can Check the Purpose of Assistance

- Review the program's stated purpose and authorized use.
- Distinguish defense assistance from humanitarian or civilian cooperation.
- Consult congressional records and official agency explanations when assessing claims.

This framework maintains a factual discussion, helping readers understand how security aid, diplomacy, and peace efforts relate without misrepresenting assistance's scope.

Israel's Continued Need for U.S. Assistance

Even with a robust economy, Israel's need for a capable security partnership persists. Despite funding domestic priorities, it faces threats from state and non-state actors, including missile attacks and pressure along multiple borders. The central issue is therefore **security capacity**, not economic survival.

Recent reports indicate that U.S. assistance primarily addresses defense needs. This support also shapes Israel's options during wider confrontations, particularly with Iran, as American policy influences operational planning. Analysis of Israel's security position^[6] highlights the practical challenges of countering emerging threats while preserving strategic alignment with Washington.

For the United States, sustained assistance facilitates:

- **Readiness:** enabling Israel to maintain capabilities that protect its population.
- **Coordination:** improving communication between allies during regional crises.
- **Deterrence:** signaling serious consequences for threats against a U.S. ally.
- **Shared security objectives:** protecting civilians and reducing the risk of wider conflict.

This partnership reflects a long-standing commitment beyond emergency response. It also serves American interests: Israeli action against nearby hostile forces can reduce pressure on U.S. forces, while joint defense innovation helps both countries address drones, cyberattacks, and missile systems. Because much assistance is spent on American-made equipment, the relationship also supports domestic industry and more than 20,000 U.S. jobs, as discussed in our case for supporting Israel as an American national-interest priority (<https://allyvia.org/blog/why-america-must-stand-firm-with-israel-supporting-israel-is-putting-america-first/>). During the October 18, 2023 meeting with President Biden, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (<https://allyvia.org/blog/trump-and-netanyahu-show-unity-at-florida-meeting/>) described the assistance as having an unprecedented scope. The Israeli government's account of that meeting^[7] provides important context. Thus, prosperity does not eliminate Israel's need for collective security support.

Strategic Benefits of U.S.-Israel Relations

Security Cooperation Supports American Safety

The U.S.–Israel alliance represents a two-way security partnership. Intelligence sharing improves both nations' ability to identify risks, understand evolving threats, and protect citizens. This cooperation supports informed decisions while emphasizing responsible oversight and sound judgment.

As discussed in our overview of the alliance's national security benefits (<https://allyvia.org/blog/why-israel-remains-america's-closest-ally-despite-those-who-seek-to-divide-them/>), Israeli experience in counterterrorism and urban warfare can offer practical lessons for American operations, while intelligence cooperation (<https://allyvia.org/blog/u-s-israel-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence-and-critical-technologies/>) strengthens situational awareness in volatile regions. The partnership also supports regional stability as both countries address shared challenges across the changing Middle East.

Shared Technology Benefits Communities

Cooperation between the United States and Israel advances military and civilian capabilities. Joint research, defense innovation, and practical applications can improve public safety, communications, public health, and everyday life.

- **For American workers:** Collaborative research and commercial initiatives can expand high-skilled employment and strengthen ties among universities, businesses, and public institutions.
- **For communities:** Technological collaboration provides solutions to urgent needs, including emergency response and critical-infrastructure protection.

- **For both nations:** Shared expertise makes it easier to test ideas, apply lessons, and refine responses to complex security problems.

Strategic Partnership Requires Humility

Although the relationship offers substantial benefits, it requires continuing evaluation. Strong alliances endure when partners communicate openly, question assumptions, and remain accountable.

For Americans, the central takeaway is clear: the U.S.–Israel alliance strengthens security, advances innovation, and supports regional stability while reflecting shared democratic values and responsible partnership.

Case Studies Demonstrating U.S.-Israel Aid Effectiveness

Iron Dome Shows Practical Civilian Protection

The Iron Dome air defense system demonstrates how U.S. assistance can support a shared security goal: protecting civilians. Israel developed and operates the system, while U.S. funding and technical cooperation have supported its production and improvement. During rocket fire, Iron Dome helps identify and intercept incoming threats, reducing risks to populated areas. Related cooperation has also encouraged innovations with potential civilian uses, including emergency response and infrastructure protection, as outlined in our analysis of the broader U.S.–Israel strategic partnership (<https://allyvia.org/blog/america-and-israel-a-strategic-partnership-that-delivers-for-both-nations/>).

Arrow Reflects Long-Term Defense Cooperation

The Arrow missile defense program offers another example. Developed through U.S.–Israel cooperation (<https://allyvia.org/blog/from-aid-to-partnership-why-a-new-u-s-israel-relationship-can-strengthen-an-already-ironclad-alliance/>) to address longer-range missile threats, it shows why sustained assistance matters: complex systems require years of research, testing, training, and maintenance. Its value extends beyond one conflict, contributing to Israel's defensive readiness while giving U.S. planners insight into missile defense challenges. Alongside Iron Dome and David's Sling, the program demonstrates how joint defense projects can generate capabilities useful to both countries.

Joint Exercises Strengthen Readiness

Military exercises and planning provide a third case study. These activities help personnel practice coordination, improve communication, and identify gaps before a crisis. They also reinforce the U.S.–Israel security partnership without requiring the United States to deploy forces into every situation.

These examples do not suggest that assistance removes every threat or resolves regional disputes. They show a measured point: targeted support can contribute to civilian protection, defense readiness, innovation, and American security interests. Readers evaluating aid should look for clear objectives, oversight, and evidence of practical results. That approach keeps the discussion grounded in security, shared values, and responsible stewardship.

Footnotes

1. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/houthi-attack-on-saudi-arabia-wounds-11-civilians-as-kingdom-warns-of-wider-threat/> (<https://www.timesofisrael.com/houthi-attack-on-saudi-arabia-wounds-11-civilians-as-kingdom-warns-of-wider-threat/>) ↑
 2. <https://www.ynetnews.com/opinions-analysis/article/rjmp11isifl> (<https://www.ynetnews.com/opinions-analysis/article/rjmp11isifl>) ↑
 3. <https://palwatch.org/all/83> (<https://palwatch.org/all/83>) ↑
 4. <https://unwatch.org/evidence-of-unrwa-aid-to-hamas-on-and-after-october-7th/> (<https://unwatch.org/evidence-of-unrwa-aid-to-hamas-on-and-after-october-7th/>) ↑
 5. <https://www.aipac.org/memos/israel-ally-america> (<https://www.aipac.org/memos/israel-ally-america>) ↑
 6. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/r1e9m9elfg> (<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/r1e9m9elfg>) ↑
 7. <https://www.gov.il/en/pages/pm-netanyahu-statement-18-oct-2023> (<https://www.gov.il/en/pages/pm-netanyahu-statement-18-oct-2023>) ↑
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(https://paxpoint.org)

Israel Does Not Want Southern Lebanon: It Wants Peace and a Border That Is Safe

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For decades, the Israel-Lebanon border has followed a destructive pattern.

Hezbollah (<https://paxpoint.org/hezbollahs-unit-121-the-shadow-force-behind-political-violence-in-lebanon/>) builds military infrastructure in southern Lebanon (<https://paxpoint.org/why-peace-between-lebanon-and-israel-and-disarming-hezbollah-is-in-americas-interests/>). Israel faces rockets, missiles, tunnels and cross-border attacks. Israel responds militarily. International agreements promise to restore Lebanese (<https://paxpoint.org/a-historic-diplomatic-moment-israel-and-lebanon-hold-direct-talks-in-washington/>) sovereignty and remove armed groups from the border. Israel withdraws. Hezbollah eventually returns and rebuilds.

The emerging U.S.-brokered framework between Israel and Lebanon offers an opportunity to finally break that cycle.

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The significance of the process is not simply that Israel has begun withdrawing from areas of southern Lebanon. It demonstrates something more fundamental about Israel's intentions. This website or its third-party tools process personal data. You can opt out of the sale of your personal information by

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It wants the territory on the other side of its border to stop being used to attack Israelis.

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(<https://paxpoint.org>) Under the emerging arrangement, Israel is prepared to progressively withdraw as the Lebanese Armed Forces move into areas previously dominated by Hezbollah, dismantle non-state military infrastructure and demonstrate that the Lebanese government can exercise genuine sovereignty. A first pilot has already shown how the model could work: following an Israeli withdrawal from Zawtar al-Gharbiyeh on July 20, Lebanese forces entered the area and subsequently discovered a Hezbollah weapons cache.

The principle is straightforward.

Security produces withdrawal.

And if the process succeeds, something considerably more ambitious could eventually become possible: not merely another temporary ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon, but movement toward peaceful relations.

Table of Contents



1. Key Takeaways
2. Israel Has Been Here Before
3. The New Model Is Security First, Withdrawal Second
4. Lebanese Sovereignty Is in Israel's Interest
5. Hezbollah Is the Obstacle
6. Lebanon Needs Help
7. Iran Cannot Be Allowed to Rebuild What Lebanon Dismantles
8. The United States Is Indispensable
9. The Goal Should Ultimately Be Peace
10. Conclusion
- 10.1. Footnotes

We value your privacy **Key Takeaways**

This website or its third-party tools process personal data. You can opt out of the sale of your personal information by clicking on the "Do Not Sell or Share My Personal Information" link.

- Israel and Lebanon are implementing a U.S.-brokered framework (<https://paxpoint.org/a-historic-turning-point-the-israel-lebanon-agreement-could-transform-the-middle-east/>) intended to strengthen Lebanese sovereignty, disarm Hezbollah and enable Israeli withdrawal.
- Israel has already withdrawn (<https://paxpoint.org/israel-is-showing-that-security-not-territory-was-always-the-goal/>) from



- (<https://paxpoint.org>)
- an initial pilot zone, allowing the Lebanese Armed Forces to assume responsibility there.
 - The Lebanese military subsequently discovered Hezbollah weapons, providing an early indication that the model can work.
 - Israel's position is that further withdrawals^[1] should follow verified Lebanese action to dismantle Hezbollah's military infrastructure.
 - Hezbollah continues attempting to rebuild (<https://paxpoint.org/beneath-the-villages-hezbollahs-tunnel-network-shows-why-peace-requires-demilitarization/>) capabilities and smuggle weapons, demonstrating why Israel is demanding security guarantees rather than simply withdrawing unconditionally.
 - The objective^[2] is ultimately to replace Israeli military action with effective Lebanese state control.
 - If Lebanon can establish sovereignty over its own territory and prevent Hezbollah^[3] from rebuilding, the justification for an Israeli security presence progressively disappears.
 - The longer-term opportunity is to move beyond ceasefires toward peaceful (<https://paxpoint.org/beyond-the-war-israel-still-seeks-enduring-regional-peace-as-the-end-goal/>) relations between the two countries.

Israel Has Been Here Before

Israeli caution cannot be understood without remembering what happened previously.

Israel withdrew completely from southern Lebanon in 2000.

After the 2006 war, UN Security Council Resolution 1701 established a framework intended to prevent Hezbollah from maintaining armed forces and weapons in southern Lebanon.

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Yet Hezbollah ultimately built an enormous military infrastructure there. Rockets and missiles accumulated.

Weapons were embedded in civilian areas.

Military positions appeared close to Israeli communities.

Iran supplied financing, weapons and expertise.

The international system failed to prevent it.



(<https://paxpoint.org>) Then, following October 7 (<https://paxpoint.org/stories-of-resilience/>), Hezbollah opened another front against Israel.

For Israelis living near Lebanon, this history fundamentally changes the meaning of the word "withdrawal."

The issue is not whether Israel wants to leave.

It is whether withdrawal will simply recreate the conditions for the next war.

The New Model Is Security First, Withdrawal Second

The emerging framework attempts to solve precisely that problem.

Instead of Israel simply leaving and hoping Hezbollah does not return, responsibility is being transferred progressively to the Lebanese state.

The pilot-zone concept is particularly important.

Israel withdraws.

The Lebanese Armed Forces enter.

They establish state authority.

Non-state military infrastructure is dismantled.

The situation is verified.

Then the process can move forward.

We value your privacy On July 20, the IDF withdrew from Zawtar al-Gharbiyeh and Lebanese forces entered. The subsequent discovery of a Hezbollah weapons cache demonstrated both the scale of the problem and the potential of the solution.

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If Lebanon performs successfully, Israel has less reason to remain.

That is exactly how a security withdrawal should work.



Lebanese Sovereignty Is in Israel's Interest

(<https://paxpoint.org>)

This produces a seemingly counterintuitive reality.

A genuinely sovereign Lebanon is good for Israel.

Israel does not benefit from having a weak neighboring state unable to control its territory.

The principal beneficiary of Lebanese weakness has been Hezbollah.

For years, the organization effectively maintained its own military force, foreign relationships and strategic objectives while operating inside a nominally sovereign country.

Iran consequently acquired an armed force on Israel's northern border without having to deploy the Iranian military there directly.

A Lebanese government capable of controlling its borders, monopolizing armed force and preventing Iranian weapons from reaching Hezbollah would fundamentally change that equation.

Israeli and Lebanese interests therefore overlap more than the history of conflict might suggest.

Both countries ultimately benefit from one government and one army controlling Lebanon.

Hezbollah Is the Obstacle

The greatest impediment is not an unresolved territorial ambition between Israel and Lebanon.

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It is Hezbollah's determination to retain an independent military capability. This website and third-party tools process personal data. You can opt out of the sale of your personal information by clicking on the "Do Not Sell or Share My Personal Information" link.

The group continues attempting to rebuild in southern Lebanon and smuggle weapons through Syria. Although attacks have declined substantially since the June 26 agreement, Hezbollah has not disappeared as a military organization.

That explains Israel's insistence upon verification.



An Israeli withdrawal followed six months later by Hezbollah fighters returning with missiles would not constitute peace.
(<https://paxpoint.org>)

It would constitute preparation for another war.

The Lebanese government therefore faces the difficult task of proving that areas transferred to its control will remain under its control.

That requires political will as much as military capability.

Lebanon Needs Help

There is also an important recognition that the Lebanese Armed Forces cannot accomplish this alone without assistance.

Lebanon has endured extraordinary economic and political turmoil.

Its military requires better intelligence capabilities, engineering equipment, logistics, policing capacity and basic resources if it is expected to dismantle Hezbollah infrastructure and secure large areas of the country.

This is where the United States and other international partners can play a constructive role.

Western and Arab support should strengthen the Lebanese state rather than create another international structure that substitutes for it.

The objective should not be indefinite foreign peacekeeping.

It should be making Lebanon capable of keeping its own peace.

Iran Cannot Be Allowed to Rebuild What Lebanon Dismantles

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Hezbollah's military power did not emerge independently.

Iran built and sustained it.



(<https://paxpoint.org>) Weapons, financing, military expertise and political support enabled Hezbollah to develop capabilities far beyond those of an ordinary political movement.

Any successful settlement must therefore prevent Iran from simply reconstructing Hezbollah after Lebanese forces dismantle its infrastructure.

That means stopping weapons smuggling, restricting illicit financing and ensuring reconstruction funds rebuild Lebanese communities rather than Hezbollah's military network.

Otherwise, the cycle begins again.

The United States Is Indispensable

Washington's role is particularly important.

Israel needs confidence that Lebanese commitments will actually be implemented.

Lebanon needs assistance strengthening its military and reassurance that Israeli withdrawals will follow successful implementation.

Both sides need a mediator capable of maintaining momentum when inevitable incidents occur.

The United States is uniquely positioned to provide that leadership.

The emerging arrangement also represents something Washington has repeatedly sought across the Middle East: replacing permanent conflict with structures that create incentives for regional actors to assume responsibility for their own security.

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Success would strengthen Lebanon, weaken Iran and Hezbollah, secure northern Israel and reduce the likelihood that American forces will eventually be drawn into another major Middle Eastern war.

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The Goal Should Ultimately Be Peace

(<https://paxpoint.org>)

Perhaps the most encouraging aspect of the current process is that its potential does not end at the border.

The immediate objective is security.

Hezbollah must be disarmed.

Lebanese sovereignty must be restored.

Israel must be able to withdraw without exposing its northern communities to another October 7-style threat.

But once those conditions exist, the conversation can change.

Israel and Lebanon have no inherent reason to remain permanent enemies.

There is enormous potential in trade, tourism, energy, infrastructure and regional economic integration.

The Washington Institute analysis explicitly identifies the longer-term objective as expanding diplomacy beyond immediate security arrangements and eventually moving toward peaceful bilateral relations.

That possibility should not be dismissed as unrealistic.

The Middle East has repeatedly demonstrated that relationships once considered impossible can change.

Conclusion

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The emerging process in Lebanon reveals something important about Israel's broader security doctrine. This website or its third-party tools process personal data. You can opt out of the sale of your personal information by clicking on the "Do Not Sell or Share My Personal Information" link.

Israel does not need to control southern Lebanon. It needs southern Lebanon not to be controlled by Hezbollah.

Those are fundamentally different objectives.



(https://paxpoint.org) If the Lebanese Armed Forces can enter areas vacated by Israel, dismantle Hezbollah's weapons, prevent its return and establish genuine state authority, Israel has every strategic reason to continue withdrawing.

The first pilot zone provides a glimpse of how that future could work.

Israel leaves.

Lebanon enters.

Hezbollah is removed.

Civilians return.

Sovereignty replaces militia control.

Security replaces permanent military presence.

The process will be difficult. Hezbollah remains armed, Iran retains influence, the Lebanese state remains fragile and decades of mistrust cannot disappear in a few months.

But the direction matters.

For years, Israel has been accused of seeking territory when much of what it has actually sought on its borders is security.

Lebanon now has an opportunity to demonstrate the difference.

If Beirut can ensure that southern Lebanon will never again become a launchpad for attacks on Israeli communities, Israel's security presence can progressively become unnecessary.

And if that happens, the ultimate destination should not simply be another ceasefire.

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It should be a secure Israeli border, a sovereign Lebanon free from Hezbollah's private army, and eventually something Israelis and Lebanese have been denied for far too long: Peace.

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Footnotes



(<https://paxpoint.org>)

1. <https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/israel-and-lebanons-hesitant-steps-long-road-peace>
(<https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/israel-and-lebanons-hesitant-steps-long-road-peace>) ↑
2. https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/app/uploads/2026/06/E_105_26.pdf
(https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/app/uploads/2026/06/E_105_26.pdf) ↑
3. <https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/defense/artc-dm-katz-warns-if-lebanon-cannot-stop-hezbollah-we-will-take-the-territory-ourselves>
(<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/defense/artc-dm-katz-warns-if-lebanon-cannot-stop-hezbollah-we-will-take-the-territory-ourselves>) ↑

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