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SECURITY & DEFENSE · Mark Ginsberg · 15 min read

America Does Not Support Israel Out of Charity. It Supports Israel Because the Alliance Makes America Stronger.

> *The US-Israel alliance is not charity. Israel returns intelligence, defense innovation and technology that strengthen American security and industry.*

The American-Israeli relationship is entering a period of political uncertainty, but the debate surrounding its future often begins with a fundamentally mistaken assumption: that Israel is primarily the beneficiary of American generosity, rather than a strategic partner that contributes directly to American national security, technological superiority, economic competitiveness and influence in the Middle East.

That distinction matters more than ever following the November 2026 midterm elections. Political changes in Washington have revived questions about the future of American support for Israel, particularly as some voices within the Democratic Party challenge longstanding assumptions about the relationship and others question the financial commitments involved. Yet an alliance that has endured decades of wars, regional upheaval, diplomatic disagreements and changing administrations cannot be properly evaluated through the narrow lens of a single election.

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Israel receives significant American support, and nobody should pretend otherwise. But America also receives something exceptionally valuable in return: a militarily capable, technologically advanced, democratic partner operating in one of the world's most strategically important and unstable regions. Unlike many American allies, Israel possesses both the willingness and the capability to confront shared threats directly, while contributing intelligence, defense innovation and operational experience that strengthen American security far beyond the Middle East.

The relationship is not an act of charity. It is an investment in American power, and understanding that reality is essential if the alliance is to remain strong across political parties and generations.

Key Takeaways

- The US-Israel alliance is a mutually beneficial[1] strategic partnership, not a one-way transfer of American assistance.
- Israel contributes intelligence, military experience, cybersecurity expertise, advanced technology and defense innovation that directly benefit[2] the United States.
- American military assistance also supports[3] American defense manufacturers, jobs and industrial capabilities.
- Israel confronts threats from Iran and its regional proxies that also endanger American forces, allies and interests.
- Israel's technological strengths in artificial intelligence, medicine, water, agriculture and cybersecurity create economic and security benefits for Americans.
- The relationship (https://allyvia.org/aid-and-reciprocity/america-and-israel-a-strategic-partnership-that-delivers-for-both-nations/)must remain bipartisan, even as political attitudes toward Israel change in parts of the American electorate.
- Evangelical Christian support remains an important component of the alliance, alongside Jewish Americans and Americans motivated by shared strategic and democratic interests.
- A gradual reduction in Israel's dependence on American military assistance need not weaken the partnership (https://allyvia.org/the-alliance/why-american-leaders-call-israel-a-model-ally-the-strategic-partnership-that-delivers-for-the-united-states/)if accompanied by deeper cooperation and industrial integration.

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- The future of the alliance should be measured by what the two countries accomplish (https://allyvia.org/the-alliance/americas-most-reliable-ally-how-israel-has-stood-with-the-united-states-through-every-generation-of-conflict/)together, not simply by the amount of assistance Washington provides.

The Mistake of Measuring the Alliance Only in Dollars

American discussions about Israel frequently begin with the approximately $3.8 billion in annual military assistance provided under the ten-year memorandum of understanding covering fiscal years 2019 through 2028. Critics understandably ask why American taxpayers should continue financing the defense of a country with a sophisticated economy, a formidable military and a highly developed technology sector, particularly when the United States faces significant domestic financial pressures.

That is a legitimate question, but it is incomplete because it treats military assistance as though it were simply a transfer of American wealth to a foreign government. Much of that assistance is used to purchase American defense equipment and services, supporting American manufacturers, skilled workers, production facilities and technological development. The arrangement strengthens Israel's military capabilities while sustaining elements of America's own defense-industrial base, although it would be misleading to claim that every dollar automatically returns to the American economy or that the assistance has no opportunity cost.

The more important consideration is strategic. The United States maintains military alliances because capable partners make American power more effective and reduce the burden of confronting threats alone. Israel's contribution cannot be measured solely through the value of the weapons it purchases, any more than America's relationships with Japan, South Korea or NATO allies can be reduced to an annual accounting exercise. Israel brings capabilities, intelligence, geographical advantages and operational experience that would be extraordinarily expensive, and in some cases impossible, for Washington to reproduce independently.

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Israel Is an American Strategic Asset, Not a Strategic Liability

The importance of Israel becomes particularly clear when examining the threats confronting the United States in the Middle East. Iran's regional ambitions threaten American military personnel, Gulf allies, international shipping routes and the wider security architecture upon which American influence depends. Hezbollah, the Houthis and Iranian-backed militias in Iraq have demonstrated repeatedly that their activities extend far beyond their confrontation with Israel, while Tehran's missile capabilities and support for armed organizations represent challenges that Washington cannot simply ignore.

Israel has spent decades developing capabilities to confront precisely these threats, often through military operations that provide American planners with valuable information about adversary weapons, air defenses, tactics and operational vulnerabilities. Intelligence cooperation helps both countries identify emerging dangers, while Israel's experience with missile defense, drones, electronic warfare and complex urban operations contributes to a broader understanding of modern conflict. This does not mean that every Israeli military action automatically advances American interests, or that the two governments will always agree about regional strategy. It means that Washington benefits from having a capable ally with the resources and determination to confront threats that also endanger the United States.

The alternative would not necessarily be a Middle East in which America could disengage peacefully and redirect every dollar toward domestic priorities. A region dominated by Iran and its armed partners would create substantial risks for American forces, energy markets, commercial shipping and regional partners, potentially requiring greater American military commitments rather than fewer. Israel cannot solve all these problems, but its strength contributes to a regional balance that serves American interests.

Israel's Technological Contribution Extends Far Beyond the Battlefield

The strategic value of Israel is also increasingly technological. Israeli companies and research institutions have developed important capabilities in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, semiconductors, medical technology, agricultural innovation, water

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management and advanced manufacturing. Many of these technologies are integrated into American companies, infrastructure and commercial products, often without consumers knowing where the underlying innovation originated.

Cybersecurity offers an especially clear example because the digital systems supporting American hospitals, financial institutions, businesses and government agencies face constant threats from criminal organizations and hostile states. Israeli cybersecurity companies have become important participants in protecting those systems, while Israeli expertise in intelligence analysis, network defense and threat detection contributes to a broader technological ecosystem shared with the United States.

The same relationship exists in defense technology, where cooperation on systems such as Iron Dome (https://allyvia.org/aid-and-reciprocity/us-and-israel-deepen-defense-cooperation-a-quiet-force-strengthening-global-security/), David's Sling and Arrow has produced experience and capabilities relevant to American missile-defense planning. These projects are not simply examples of Washington financing Israeli technology; they demonstrate how joint development, testing and production can generate benefits for both countries. As autonomous systems, artificial intelligence and advanced missile threats become increasingly central to national security, this technological cooperation could become even more important than traditional financial assistance.

The End of Military Aid Could Mark a New Beginning

President Donald Trump's announcement on November 3 that the United States would end approximately $4 billion in annual military assistance to Israel by the end of 2026 has introduced a potentially historic change into the relationship. Trump (https://allyvia.org/aid-and-reciprocity/trump-and-netanyahu-show-unity-at-florida-meeting/) said the decision had been agreed with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (https://allyvia.org/iran/from-aid-to-partnership-pm-netanyahus-vision-for-a-new-us-israel-relationship/) and argued that Israel had become sufficiently prosperous and capable to finance more of its own defense requirements. However, the announcement left significant questions unanswered because the existing ten-year memorandum of understanding provides for $3.8 billion annually through September 2028, subject to congressional appropriations, and no detailed mechanism for terminating those arrangements early has been publicly established.

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The uncertainty surrounding implementation should not obscure the larger opportunity. Israel has become a substantially wealthier and more technologically advanced country than it was when American assistance first became a central pillar of its defense planning. There is a reasonable argument that the relationship should gradually evolve from one built partly around financial assistance toward one emphasizing joint research, industrial production, intelligence integration, defense procurement and shared technological development.

Such a transition would need careful management because Israel still faces unusually high defense expenditures, significant replenishment requirements following years of war and a continuing need for access to American aircraft, munitions and other advanced systems. Ending assistance abruptly without a credible replacement framework could create unnecessary risks for both countries, particularly if it disrupted existing production arrangements or long-term military planning.

Nevertheless, reducing Israel's dependence on American grants need not represent abandonment. If accompanied by deeper cooperation and a more equal industrial relationship, it could strengthen the alliance politically while preserving its strategic advantages. The objective should be a mature partnership in which Israel assumes greater financial responsibility for its own defense while the two countries continue investing together in capabilities that serve their shared interests.

American Support for Israel Must Be Broader Than One Political Party

Perhaps the greatest long-term challenge facing the alliance is not military or technological but political. For decades, support for Israel enjoyed substantial bipartisan backing, even when Republican and Democratic administrations disagreed with particular Israeli governments. That consensus has weakened, especially among younger Americans and progressive voters, while some Republicans (https://allyvia.org/counterterrorism/why-america-must-stand-firm-with-israel-supporting-israel-is-putting-america-first/) have also become more skeptical of foreign commitments and military assistance.

Israel's supporters should not dismiss these developments or assume that the political arrangements of previous generations will automatically continue. American attitudes are changing, and the experience of the Gaza war has influenced how many Americans

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view Israel, particularly among those who encounter the conflict primarily through social media. The answer cannot simply be to insist that criticism of Israeli policy is illegitimate or that historical support guarantees future support.

Instead, the case for Israel must be presented in terms that speak directly to American interests. Americans should understand how intelligence cooperation protects their country, how joint defense development strengthens their military, how Israeli technology contributes to their economy and how regional cooperation helps reduce threats to American allies and international commerce. These arguments can reach people who do not share the same religious convictions or historical attachments to Israel but nevertheless recognize the value of a reliable strategic partner.

This is especially important because an alliance dependent upon the political fortunes of one president or one party will inevitably become vulnerable. Israel needs strong relationships with Republicans and Democrats, conservatives and moderates, religious Americans and secular Americans. It must be capable of explaining its value to Americans who may disagree strongly with the Israeli government on particular issues but still understand why the United States benefits from a strong and secure Israel.

Christian Support Remains an Important Foundation

Any serious examination of the American-Israeli relationship must also recognize the extraordinary role played by evangelical Christians and other Christian supporters of Israel. For millions of Americans, support for the Jewish state is rooted not only in strategic calculations but also in religious convictions, historical understanding and a deep connection to the biblical significance of the land and people of Israel. That support has helped sustain the relationship across generations, often extending far beyond Washington into churches, local communities, educational institutions and charitable organizations. Christian supporters have visited Israel, built personal relationships with Israelis, supported humanitarian initiatives and mobilized public opinion at moments when Israel faced international isolation or severe security threats.

These relationships are important precisely because foreign alliances ultimately depend upon public understanding as well as government agreements. Military cooperation can be negotiated between defense ministries, but lasting political support requires citizens

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who believe the relationship is worthwhile. Christian Zionists have contributed enormously to the foundation, alongside Jewish Americans and many others who support Israel for historical, democratic, strategic or personal reasons.

However, the alliance cannot rely exclusively upon religious constituencies, however committed they remain. Its future also requires engagement with younger Americans, universities, business leaders, technology professionals, minority communities and those who may not possess an instinctive connection to Israel. The strategic and economic case must be strong enough to stand independently of religious identification, even while the moral and historical bonds remain an important source of support.

The Abraham Accords Demonstrate What American-Israeli Cooperation Can Achieve

The Abraham Accords (https://allyvia.org/counterterrorism/why-israels-integration-into-centcom-reshaped-regional-security/) provide one of the clearest examples of how American support for Israel can advance broader American objectives. The agreements helped establish or normalize relations between Israel and several Arab countries, creating opportunities for economic cooperation, security coordination, investment and regional integration that would have been difficult to imagine only a generation earlier.

The importance of these agreements extends beyond their immediate diplomatic achievements. They challenged the assumption that the entire Middle East had to remain hostage to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and demonstrated that Arab governments could pursue relationships with Israel based upon their own national interests. Shared concerns about Iran, opportunities for technological cooperation and the benefits of trade created incentives for countries to look beyond decades of confrontation.

For Washington, such arrangements offer the possibility of a regional order in which capable partners cooperate more closely with one another, potentially reducing the need for direct American intervention. Israel's intelligence and technological strengths complement the economic resources and geographical advantages of Gulf states (https://allyvia.org/iran/irans-desperate-call-for-allies-demonstrates-its-isolation/), while American diplomatic leadership helps bring these capabilities together.

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The war since October 7 (https://allyvia.org/defending-western-values/two-years-after-october-7-palestinian-poll-shows-rising-support-for-hamas-and-endorsement-of-violence/) has complicated this vision, but it has not eliminated the underlying strategic logic. The countries of the region still face common threats, and the economic opportunities created by cooperation remain substantial. A strong Israel integrated into a wider network of American partners can contribute more to regional stability than an isolated and weakened Israel.

Israel Must Also Take Responsibility for Protecting the Alliance

Recognizing Israel's strategic value does not mean that Israel can take American support for granted. Alliances are sustained through mutual interests, but they also require political judgment, consultation and sensitivity to the domestic pressures facing each partner. Israeli governments must understand that American public opinion matters, that congressional support cannot be assumed indefinitely and that decisions made in Jerusalem can have consequences for the relationship in Washington. Israel should defend its security interests firmly while recognizing the importance of explaining its policies clearly and engaging seriously with American concerns.

This does not require Israel to surrender its independent decision-making or accept policies that it believes would endanger its citizens. A genuine alliance must allow disagreement, particularly when the countries involved face different immediate security realities. Israel's geographical proximity to Iran's regional proxies and the memory of October 7 create security considerations that cannot always be appreciated fully from Washington.

But the ability to disagree constructively is one of the defining characteristics of a mature partnership. Israel should neither behave as though American assistance gives Washington unlimited authority over Israeli security decisions nor assume that its strategic importance excuses every diplomatic miscalculation. Both countries benefit when their cooperation is built upon respect, consultation and a realistic understanding of their respective interests.

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The Next Generation of the Alliance Should Be Built Around What Comes Next

The future of the American-Israeli relationship should be measured less by the financial arrangements inherited from previous decades and more by the opportunities available in the decades ahead. Artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, quantum computing, advanced medicine, cybersecurity, missile defense and next-generation energy technologies are becoming central to economic competitiveness and national security. Israel possesses important advantages in several of these fields, while the United States brings enormous research capabilities, industrial capacity, capital markets and global reach. Combining those strengths can create benefits substantially greater than either country could achieve independently.

The challenge is to institutionalize this cooperation so that it survives changes of government and political disagreements. Joint research programs, industrial partnerships, university collaboration, shared technology development and deeper intelligence relationships can create durable connections that extend well beyond traditional diplomacy. Such a strategy would also help answer Americans who question the continuing value of the relationship. Rather than defending the alliance solely by referring to historical commitments, its supporters could point to concrete achievements that improve American security, strengthen American industry and create opportunities for American workers and businesses.

Conclusion: A Partnership That Must Evolve, Not Weaken

The November 2026 midterm elections and President Trump's announcement concerning military assistance have created an important moment of reassessment for the American-Israeli relationship. They have also exposed the inadequacy of an argument that measures the alliance primarily through the amount of money Washington provides Jerusalem.

Israel has become a major technological and military power, capable of contributing directly to American national interests in ways that extend far beyond the Middle East. Its intelligence capabilities, defense expertise, technological innovation and willingness to

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confront shared threats make it an unusually valuable partner. At the same time, American diplomatic support, military cooperation, technological resources and global influence remain enormously important to Israel's security and prosperity.

The relationship should therefore evolve toward greater Israeli financial independence without sacrificing the strategic cooperation that benefits both countries. That requires careful planning, continued bipartisan engagement, stronger technological and industrial integration, and a renewed effort to explain the alliance to Americans who did not grow up with the same assumptions as previous generations. America does not need to support every Israeli government decision to recognize Israel's strategic importance, just as Israel does not need to agree with every American administration to value the relationship. The alliance is strongest when it is based upon shared interests rather than unconditional agreement, and when both countries understand that their cooperation makes them more capable of confronting the challenges ahead.

The central question should no longer be how much America gives Israel, but what America gains from having Israel as a close ally and what both countries can achieve together. The United States has invested in Israel for decades, but Israel has also become an investment in America's own security, prosperity and technological future. The next chapter of the alliance should recognize that the relationship has matured beyond assistance into a partnership between two countries whose strengths increasingly reinforce one another.

Footnotes & Scientific Citations

[1] https://www.ynetnews.com/opinions-analysis/article/r1yolck6ze (https://www.ynetnews.com/opinions-analysis/article/r1yolck6ze)

↩ Back to reference 1

[2] https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/the-u-s-israel-alliance-is-mutually-beneficial/ (https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/the-u-s-israel-alliance-is-mutually-beneficial/)

↩ Back to reference 2

[3] https://jppi.org.il/he/the-essential-guide-to-the-u-s-israel-partnership/s/7/ (https://jppi.org.il/he/the-essential-guide-to-the-u-s-israel-partnership/s/7/)

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Another Israeli Breakthrough That Could Save Millions of Lives: A Tiny Sensor That Could Transform Blood Pressure Monitoring

Mark Ginsberg · November 2026 · 18 min read

KEY STRATEGIC TAKEAWAYS

Israeli researchers at the Technion have developed a miniature sensor that could eventually enable continuous blood pressure monitoring without an inflatable cuff.

The technology combines silicon photonics, light-generated ultrasound and computational modeling to estimate blood pressure from changes in arterial diameter.

The sensor captures arterial signals at 100 measurements per second, allowing researchers to reconstruct detailed characteristics of the blood pressure waveform.

A single miniature detector replaces the complex sensor arrangements required by some earlier approaches, potentially making the technology easier to integrate into wearable devices.

The system is relatively tolerant of changes in sensor position and angle, an important feature for practical everyday monitoring.

Initial laboratory testing involved two volunteers and 120 brief recordings over three months, showing encouraging agreement with a reference blood pressure monitor.

The technology could eventually be incorporated into smartwatches and medical patches, providing more convenient monitoring for people with hypertension and other cardiovascular conditions.

Further development, individual calibration and larger clinical trials remain necessary before the system can be used reliably in routine healthcare.

The innovation could contribute to earlier detection and better management of cardiovascular problems, particularly by revealing changes that occasional measurements may miss.

The achievement reinforces Israel's position as an important center of medical and technological innovation, with research that could benefit patients internationally.

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> *"A Technion miniature sensor uses light, ultrasound, and modeling to track blood pressure, pointing toward continuous cuff-free wearable monitoring."*

One of the world's most common and dangerous medical conditions may be approaching a technological turning point, thanks to another remarkable innovation emerging from Israel. Researchers at the Technion–Israel Institute of Technology have developed a miniature sensor capable of tracking the physical changes in an artery that reveal blood pressure, potentially paving the way for continuous monitoring without the uncomfortable inflatable cuffs that have been a standard feature of medical examinations for generations. By combining advanced optical technology, ultrasound and sophisticated computational modeling, the Israeli scientists (https://innovascope.org/israeli-science-how-breakthrough-research-from-jerusalem-is-improving-lives-worldwide/) have demonstrated a new approach that could eventually be incorporated into smartwatches, medical patches and other wearable devices, allowing people to monitor one of the most important indicators of cardiovascular health throughout their daily lives.

The development addresses a medical challenge affecting more than a billion people worldwide. High blood pressure, also known as hypertension, is a major risk factor for heart attacks, strokes, heart failure and kidney disease, yet it frequently develops without obvious symptoms. Millions of people live with dangerously elevated blood pressure without knowing it, while others receive treatment based upon occasional measurements that may not fully reflect what happens to their cardiovascular system throughout the day. Conventional blood pressure monitors provide valuable information, but their reliance upon inflatable cuffs means that measurements are generally taken at particular moments rather than continuously. The Israeli innovation (https://innovascope.org/israels-innovation-security-leadership-an-established-reality/) offers a possible solution to this limitation by allowing the body's own arterial movements to provide the information needed to estimate blood pressure.

The research, led by Professor Amir Rosenthal and Professor Daniel Lange of the Technion's Andrew and Erna Viterbi Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering, together with doctoral student Gil Gelbert and fellow researchers, represents an important advance in the miniaturization of medical sensing technology. Their system uses a tiny silicon-photonics detector and a technique known as optoacoustics, in which short pulses of light generate ultrasound waves within an artery. These signals allow the sensor to measure the artery's diameter and the extremely small changes that occur with every heartbeat. By combining these measurements with models of arterial behavior, the system can reconstruct the blood pressure waveform and estimate pressure over time, potentially providing a much richer picture of cardiovascular health than an occasional reading taken during a medical appointment. The findings were published in the peer-reviewed scientific journal Nature Communications.

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The technology remains at an early research stage and further development and extensive clinical validation will be required before it can replace conventional blood pressure monitoring. Nevertheless, its significance is considerable because it addresses several of the practical obstacles that have prevented continuous, cuffless monitoring from becoming a routine part of healthcare. It also illustrates the extraordinary contribution that Israeli researchers continue to make to global medicine, developing technologies whose potential benefits extend far beyond Israel's borders and could ultimately improve the lives of patients in countries across the world.

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A Silent Global Health Threat

High blood pressure is one of the most widespread health challenges facing modern medicine because it can damage the cardiovascular system over many years without producing symptoms that would prompt a person to seek medical attention. The condition increases the risk of strokes, heart attacks, heart failure and other serious complications, making early diagnosis and effective management essential components of preventive healthcare. Yet the process of measuring blood pressure has remained surprisingly dependent upon a relatively familiar technology: an inflatable cuff that temporarily compresses an artery and produces a reading representing the pressure at a particular moment. Although this method is well established and remains central to medical practice, it cannot independently provide a complete picture of how blood pressure changes throughout the day and night.

Blood pressure is not a fixed measurement. It fluctuates in response to physical activity, emotional stress, sleep, medication, illness and numerous other physiological factors. A reading taken in a doctor's office may differ significantly from measurements obtained at home, and some patients experience elevated readings in clinical environments while others have hypertension that is not apparent during a routine appointment. Doctors can use ambulatory blood pressure monitors to obtain measurements over longer periods, but these devices generally rely upon a cuff that inflates repeatedly, potentially interfering with sleep and everyday activities. The possibility of obtaining continuous measurements through a small wearable sensor could therefore represent a meaningful improvement, giving clinicians access to more detailed information about cardiovascular function while reducing the inconvenience associated with traditional monitoring.

How Israeli Scientists Are Rethinking Blood Pressure Measurement

The Technion research team approached the challenge by focusing upon the relationship between blood pressure and the physical behavior of arteries. Every heartbeat sends a pressure wave through the circulatory system, causing arteries to expand and contract by extremely small amounts. These movements contain information about the pressure inside the vessels, but measuring them accurately with a compact, wearable device has proved technically difficult. Earlier approaches have often required multiple sensing elements, precise positioning or complicated hardware arrangements that limit their practicality outside controlled research environments. The Israeli researchers sought to overcome these obstacles by developing a sensing method capable of extracting useful arterial information from a single miniature detector.

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Their system uses optoacoustic technology, which combines the properties of light and sound. Short pulses of light are directed into tissue, where their absorption generates tiny ultrasound waves within the blood. A highly sensitive silicon-photonics acoustic detector then captures the resulting signals, allowing researchers to determine the diameter of the artery and measure its subtle movements with each heartbeat. The detector, known as SPADE, provides information that can be used to reconstruct the arterial pressure waveform, while computational models translate the physical measurements into estimates of blood pressure. The ability to measure the artery's absolute diameter is particularly important

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because it addresses a limitation of approaches that measure only relative changes in vessel size. This combination of optical sensing and physiological modeling provides a promising foundation for continuous monitoring without requiring the repeated compression of an artery by an inflatable cuff.

One Tiny Sensor Could Replace Complicated Equipment

One of the most promising aspects of the Israeli development is its simplicity at the sensing point. Many experimental systems designed to monitor blood pressure without a cuff have relied upon multiple detectors or carefully aligned components, creating difficulties when attempting to translate laboratory technology into devices that people can comfortably wear throughout the day. The Technion system uses a single miniature detector that is relatively tolerant of changes in its position and angle. This characteristic is particularly valuable because wearable devices inevitably move as people walk, work, exercise and carry out normal activities. A sensor that requires perfect alignment would be difficult to use consistently outside a laboratory, whereas a more tolerant design offers greater potential for practical application.

The researchers demonstrated that the system could capture arterial waveform characteristics at a rate of 100 measurements per second, providing detailed information about the rapid changes occurring during each cardiac cycle. Such measurements could eventually allow clinicians to examine patterns that are difficult to identify through occasional cuff readings, including changes associated with activity, rest and the body's response to medication. However, the current prototype is not yet a fully independent smartwatch-sized device. The sensing component is miniature, but the research setup remains connected to tabletop equipment, and the experiments were conducted while participants remained still. The achievement is therefore an important technological proof of concept rather than a finished consumer product, with further engineering needed to make the complete system portable and reliable during everyday movement.

From Occasional Readings to Continuous Cardiovascular Understanding

The potential importance of continuous blood pressure monitoring extends beyond making an existing medical procedure more convenient. Conventional monitoring typically produces a series of individual readings that doctors use to assess whether a patient has hypertension and whether treatment is working. These readings are valuable, but they may not capture temporary fluctuations or longer-term patterns that could provide additional insight into cardiovascular health. A wearable system capable of recording blood pressure continuously could eventually help physicians understand how a patient's circulation responds to sleep, physical exertion, stress and medication, potentially supporting more personalized approaches to diagnosis and treatment.

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For people already living with hypertension, such technology could offer opportunities to identify patterns that are not apparent through occasional measurements. A physician might eventually be able to examine how blood pressure changes after medication is taken, whether it remains elevated during particular periods of the day or whether unusual fluctuations warrant further investigation. For patients with other cardiovascular conditions, continuous measurements could contribute to a more detailed understanding of the relationship between blood pressure and symptoms. These potential applications remain subject to

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clinical validation, and it has not yet been demonstrated that the Technion system improves patient outcomes. Nevertheless, the ability to obtain more frequent and convenient measurements could provide a valuable foundation for future research into prevention, monitoring and treatment.

The Importance of Detecting Problems Before They Become Emergencies

Preventive medicine depends upon identifying health risks early enough to intervene before they develop into serious illness. Hypertension is a particularly important example because it can remain undetected for years while gradually damaging blood vessels, the heart, kidneys and other organs. Many patients discover they have high blood pressure only after routine screening, while others receive a diagnosis following a medical complication that might have been prevented through earlier intervention. Making monitoring easier and more accessible could encourage more consistent measurement and help clinicians identify patients who require further assessment.

A future wearable device capable of tracking blood pressure without interrupting daily activities could potentially change how patients interact with cardiovascular healthcare. Instead of relying entirely upon scheduled appointments or remembering to use a home monitor, individuals might eventually be able to collect information automatically over extended periods. Such information could support conversations with healthcare professionals and help identify changes requiring medical attention. The technology would still need to demonstrate sufficient accuracy, reliability and clinical usefulness, particularly across different ages, body types and health conditions. It would also need appropriate safeguards to ensure that users understand the limitations of automated readings and do not make treatment decisions without medical guidance. If these challenges can be addressed, the potential contribution to preventive healthcare could be substantial.

Artificial Intelligence and the Next Generation of Medical Devices

The Israeli innovation also illustrates how advanced sensing technologies and computational modeling are increasingly being combined to solve longstanding medical problems. The physical measurements obtained from an artery are not themselves identical to the blood pressure readings familiar to patients and doctors. They must be interpreted through models that account for the relationship between arterial diameter, vessel behavior and pressure. By combining miniature optical sensors with sophisticated analysis, researchers can extract clinically relevant information from signals that would previously have been difficult to measure or interpret. This convergence of photonics, ultrasound, electronics and computational modeling is helping create new possibilities for medical devices that are smaller, more informative and potentially less intrusive than their predecessors.

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The Technion's approach is particularly interesting because it seeks to obtain direct physical information about arterial behavior rather than relying exclusively upon indirect correlations between a pulse signal and blood pressure. This could eventually help address limitations affecting some existing cuffless monitoring methods, although the new system still requires individual calibration and further validation. The broader

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significance is that advances in multiple scientific fields can reinforce one another, allowing researchers to develop solutions that would not have been practical using any single technology. Israel's research institutions have become important participants in this multidisciplinary environment, bringing together engineers, computer scientists, medical researchers and entrepreneurs to develop technologies with applications far beyond their original laboratories.

Israeli Innovation With Global Applications

One of the defining characteristics of Israeli medical innovation is that technologies developed within a relatively small country frequently address challenges affecting enormous populations worldwide. Israel's universities, hospitals, research institutes and technology companies have contributed to developments in medical imaging, diagnostic equipment, digital health, rehabilitation, emergency medicine and minimally invasive procedures. These advances often emerge from collaboration between scientific disciplines and from an entrepreneurial culture that encourages researchers to translate laboratory discoveries into practical applications. The Technion's blood pressure sensor reflects this tradition, combining expertise in electrical engineering, optics, acoustic sensing and computational modeling to address a medical need shared by patients across the world.

The potential international relevance is particularly significant because hypertension is not confined to wealthy countries with advanced healthcare systems. It affects populations across different income levels and geographic regions, while access to regular screening and treatment varies considerably. If continuous blood pressure monitoring eventually becomes possible through affordable wearable devices, the technology could help expand access to cardiovascular information in settings where repeated clinical measurements are inconvenient or difficult to obtain. Such applications would require careful attention to cost, device availability, calibration, clinical oversight and the needs of different healthcare systems. Nevertheless, the underlying research demonstrates how innovation developed in Israel could ultimately contribute to addressing a major global health challenge.

The Technion's Role in Advancing Global Science

The Technion–Israel Institute of Technology has established an international reputation for scientific and engineering research, producing advances across fields including medicine, materials science, computer technology, aerospace and electronics. Its researchers operate at the intersection of academic investigation and practical technological development, frequently collaborating with industry and other institutions to explore how new discoveries can be applied to real-world problems. The blood pressure sensor project illustrates the importance of this environment because it required expertise spanning several technical disciplines, from the design of miniature optical detectors to the modeling of complex physiological processes.

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The research team included Gil Gelbert, Ron Moisseev, Yoav Hazan, Tamar Harary, Daniel Lange and Amir Rosenthal, with support from organizations including the Israel Innovation Authority, the United Israel Appeal and the Ollendorff Minerva Center for Vision and Image Sciences. Their work demonstrates the importance of sustained investment in scientific research, particularly in areas where the immediate commercial outcome may be uncertain but the potential long-term benefits are considerable. The initial

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results have provided evidence that the sensing approach is technically feasible, creating a foundation upon which further engineering and clinical studies can build. The next stages will determine whether the technology can move from controlled experiments towards a practical device suitable for widespread medical use.

A Breakthrough With Important Challenges Still Ahead

The encouraging results should be understood within the context of the research's early stage. The Technion team conducted proof-of-concept testing involving two volunteers and 120 brief recordings collected over three months, comparing measurements with a reference finger-cuff blood pressure monitor. The system demonstrated promising agreement and showed that the sensor could detect arterial signals despite changes in its positioning. These findings support the feasibility of the underlying technology, but they do not establish that the system is ready for clinical deployment or that it will perform reliably across large and diverse populations. The prototype remains connected to laboratory equipment, and its performance during unrestricted daily activities has not yet been established.

Further development will therefore need to address several challenges, including miniaturizing the complete hardware, improving portability, evaluating performance during movement and testing the system across people with different physiological characteristics. Larger clinical studies will also be necessary to determine whether the blood pressure estimates meet the accuracy standards required for medical decision-making. The need for individual calibration remains an important consideration, particularly if the ultimate goal is a device that can operate conveniently over long periods. These challenges are substantial, but they are also typical of the process through which promising scientific discoveries are transformed into reliable medical technologies. The significance of the current achievement lies in demonstrating a technically innovative approach that could help overcome longstanding obstacles to cuffless monitoring.

Israel's Contribution to a Healthier World

The development of the miniature blood pressure sensor is another example of how Israeli scientific research can contribute to improving lives far beyond the country's borders. While much international attention focuses upon Israel's security challenges and political controversies, its universities, hospitals and technology companies continue to pursue advances addressing some of humanity's most pressing medical needs. Cardiovascular disease remains a leading cause of death worldwide, and hypertension is one of its most important modifiable risk factors. A technology that eventually makes blood pressure monitoring more convenient, frequent and accessible could therefore have implications for preventive medicine on a global scale.

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The value of such research lies not only in the eventual commercial success of a device, but also in the knowledge it contributes to the scientific community. By demonstrating that miniature silicon-photonics sensing can capture detailed arterial information through optoacoustic signals, the Technion researchers have opened possibilities for further investigation into wearable cardiovascular monitoring. Other researchers may build upon these findings, develop complementary technologies or identify additional medical applications for the sensing approach. Scientific progress often occurs through such cumulative

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advances, in which a successful laboratory demonstration creates opportunities that extend beyond the original project. Israel's contribution to this process reinforces the importance of international scientific collaboration and the ability of relatively small research communities to influence global technological development.

Conclusion: A Tiny Israeli Sensor With Enormous Potential

The Technion's miniature blood pressure sensor represents an important step towards a future in which cardiovascular monitoring becomes less intrusive, more continuous and potentially more informative. By combining light-generated ultrasound, highly sensitive silicon-photonics detection and sophisticated computational modeling, Israeli researchers have demonstrated a method for tracking arterial movements and estimating blood pressure without the repeated inflation of a conventional cuff. The technology remains experimental, and substantial engineering and clinical work will be required before it can become part of everyday healthcare. Nevertheless, its potential is clear: a small wearable device could eventually provide information about blood pressure throughout the day, helping clinicians and patients understand cardiovascular health in ways that occasional measurements cannot fully achieve.

The broader significance extends beyond the device itself. Hypertension affects an enormous global population, frequently remains undiagnosed and contributes to serious medical complications that place substantial burdens upon individuals, families and healthcare systems. Technologies that improve the convenience and availability of monitoring could become valuable tools in addressing this challenge, particularly when combined with appropriate medical supervision and effective treatment. The Israeli research provides a promising foundation for such advances, demonstrating how innovation in engineering and physical science can contribute to the future of preventive medicine.

For Israel, the achievement is another reminder of the country's remarkable capacity to produce scientific and technological advances with international relevance. Despite its size and the persistent security challenges it faces, Israel continues to support research institutions and innovators whose work addresses problems affecting people across continents. The Technion's scientists are not developing a technology intended exclusively for Israeli patients, but exploring a solution that could eventually benefit anyone at risk of hypertension or cardiovascular disease, regardless of nationality, religion or background.

A sensor small enough to become part of a wearable device may one day help transform how the world monitors blood pressure. The research is still in its early stages, but its promise reflects something already well established: Israeli innovation continues to make important contributions to global medicine and the effort to improve human health. From a laboratory in Haifa to the possibility of more accessible cardiovascular monitoring around the world, this is another example of Israeli science working towards a future in which technology helps protect lives, prevent disease and make better healthcare available to more people.

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1. https://thejewishedition.com/news/israel/2026/11/07/no-pressure-tiny-wearable-sensor-measures-blood-pressure-without-a-cuff/ (https://thejewishedition.com/news/israel/2026/11/07/no-pressure-tiny-wearable-sensor-measures-blood-pressure-without-a-cuff/) ↑
2. https://www.ynetnews.com/health_science/article/h1if8nfafx (https://www.ynetnews.com/health_science/article/h1if8nfafx) ↑
3. https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-026-77580-3 (https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-026-77580-3) ↑

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SECURITY & DEFENSE · Mark Ginsberg · 23 min read

America Didn't Just Give Israel Billions. Israel Gave America Something Money Cannot Buy

> *U.S. aid to Israel is well known, but Israel returns battlefield-tested defenses, intelligence, innovation, and strategic value that money cannot buy.*

For decades, the relationship between the United States and Israel has been described through a misleadingly one-sided financial narrative. America provides billions of dollars in military assistance, Israel receives the money, and American taxpayers are left with the impression that they are subsidizing the defense of a distant country. This simplistic portrayal has become so deeply embedded in political discussion that the extraordinary benefits flowing in the opposite direction are frequently overlooked. Yet Israel has provided the United States with something far more valuable than a conventional foreign aid recipient could ever offer: a technologically advanced military partner, battlefield-tested defense systems, critical intelligence, access to an extraordinary innovation ecosystem and a reliable democratic ally operating at the intersection of some of America's most serious national security challenges.

The debate has taken on renewed significance following President Donald Trump's November 2026 announcement that the United States intends to end its approximately $4 billion annual military assistance package to Israel. For some observers, the announcement appeared to threaten one of the foundations of the US-Israel

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relationship, while others welcomed the prospect of reducing American foreign expenditure. However, the development also presents an opportunity to reconsider the way the partnership has been understood for generations. The central question should no longer be confined to how much money Washington transfers to Jerusalem, but should include what the United States receives in return, how much American industry benefits from the arrangement and what the relationship would look like if Israel's strategic, technological and intelligence contributions were valued as explicitly as the assistance it receives.

The reality is that Israel is not a conventional aid-dependent state. It possesses one of the world's most sophisticated defense industries, an internationally competitive technology sector, extensive intelligence capabilities and armed forces that have accumulated operational experience against threats of direct relevance to American security. Israeli innovations contribute to American military systems, Israeli intelligence helps identify regional threats, and Israeli companies collaborate with American manufacturers on technologies that protect soldiers, civilians and critical infrastructure. Moreover, a substantial proportion of American military assistance has historically been tied to purchases from US defense manufacturers, meaning that the funding also supports American factories, skilled employment, industrial capacity and technological development.

This does not mean American assistance has been insignificant or that Israel could replace it without considerable financial and procurement challenges. The United States has made substantial commitments to Israel's security, and the relationship has been strengthened by generations of bipartisan political support. But acknowledging those contributions should not require overlooking Israel's own. The partnership has never been simply a transaction in which one country gives and the other receives. It has been a relationship in which both countries contribute different but highly valuable assets, often in ways that cannot be captured by comparing the annual aid figure with a conventional financial return.

The most important fact about American assistance to Israel is not the amount Washington has spent, but the extraordinary military, technological, intelligence and economic partnership that the two countries have built. Israel has not merely benefited from American investment. It has helped make that investment valuable to America itself.

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Key Takeaways

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- The United States has historically provided approximately $3.8 billion annually in security assistance to Israel, under the ten-year memorandum[1] of understanding covering fiscal years 2019–2028.
- Much of this assistance has been used to purchase[2] American defense equipment, supporting US manufacturers, employment and industrial production.
- Israel provides[3] the United States with valuable operational intelligence, military experience and technological expertise, strengthening American national security capabilities.
- Israeli experience with the F-35 has contributed operational insights and technological developments relevant to the wider aircraft program.
- Iron Dome, David's Sling and Arrow demonstrate the value of American-Israeli defense cooperation, combining research, development, manufacturing and operational experience.
- Israeli defense technologies help American forces address threats (https://allyvia.org/the-alliance/americas-most-reliable-ally-how-israel-has-stood-with-the-united-states-through-every-generation-of-conflict/)involving missiles, drones, cyberattacks and modern battlefield conditions.
- The US-Israel relationship (https://allyvia.org/the-alliance/why-american-leaders-call-israel-a-model-ally-the-strategic-partnership-that-delivers-for-the-united-states/)extends beyond military assistance, encompassing scientific research, cybersecurity, medicine, advanced manufacturing and commercial investment.
- Ending conventional military assistance would create real challenges, but could also encourage a transition towards expanded commercial partnerships and greater Israeli defense-industrial independence.
- Israel's contributions (https://allyvia.org/security-and-defense/americas-most-undervalued-strategic-asset-why-israel-is-an-indispensable-ally/)cannot be measured solely in dollars, because intelligence, operational experience and technologies that improve military effectiveness have strategic value.
- The future of the alliance should be understood as a partnership between capable nations, rather than a permanent relationship between a donor and a recipient.

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The Misleading Narrative of American Generosity

The annual American military assistance package has become one of the most frequently cited figures in discussions of US-Israel relations. Under the 2016 memorandum of understanding, Washington committed to providing Israel with $38 billion in security assistance over ten years, including $33 billion in Foreign Military Financing and $5 billion for missile defense cooperation, subject to congressional appropriations. Averaged over the agreement's duration, this amounts to approximately $3.8 billion annually, although additional emergency assistance has also been authorized during periods of conflict. The figure is substantial, and American taxpayers are entitled to understand how it is spent and what objectives it serves. Nevertheless, focusing exclusively upon the transfer of funds creates an incomplete impression of a relationship that also involves extensive industrial, technological and strategic cooperation.

Unlike unrestricted financial assistance, much of the American security package has historically been directed towards the purchase of American-produced military equipment. This has meant that significant portions of the money have supported companies such as Lockheed Martin (https://allyvia.org/judeo-christian-heritage/israels-350th-f-35-wing-delivery-shows-how-the-us-and-israel-defend-each-other/), Boeing and other defense contractors, along with their extensive networks of suppliers, engineers, technicians and manufacturing facilities. Israel receives sophisticated weapons and equipment, while the United States benefits from production orders, industrial activity and the maintenance of advanced defense capabilities. Although the precise domestic economic return cannot be assumed to equal the amount appropriated, the arrangement is fundamentally different from a simple cash transfer that disappears into another country's treasury. It is part of a wider defense-industrial relationship that supports American capabilities as well as Israeli security.

The F-35: How Israeli Experience Benefits American Technology

The F-35 program provides one of the clearest illustrations of the technological value Israel contributes to the United States. Israel was the first country outside the United States to operate the F-35 in combat, and its air force has accumulated extensive

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experience integrating the aircraft into demanding operational environments. The Israeli F-35I, known as the Adir, incorporates adaptations intended to meet Israel's specific operational requirements, including elements of electronic warfare, communications and mission systems. Through its operational experience, Israel has developed insights into the aircraft's performance, maintenance requirements, mission planning and integration with other military capabilities, creating opportunities for lessons that can inform the broader program.

In February 2026, Israel's ambassador to the United States, Yechiel Leiter, publicly described a conversation in which Lockheed Martin's chief executive reportedly acknowledged that Israeli operational information and technological developments were worth billions of dollars to the company. That valuation has not been independently established through a publicly available accounting, and the precise commercial benefits remain difficult to quantify. Nevertheless, the underlying principle is important: the value of a sophisticated military platform does not end when it is delivered to the purchasing country. Real-world operational experience can generate information that improves performance, identifies vulnerabilities and informs future development, benefiting manufacturers and other users of the system. Israel's role as an experienced operator of American equipment therefore creates a potential return that extends beyond the original purchase.

Israel's Missile Defense Experience Protects American Interests

Few areas demonstrate the depth of American-Israeli cooperation more clearly than missile defense. Israel has developed a multilayered defensive architecture designed to counter threats ranging from short-range rockets to ballistic missiles, with systems including Iron Dome, David's Sling and Arrow. These capabilities have emerged through different combinations of Israeli research, American funding, industrial cooperation and joint development. Iron Dome, originally developed by Israel, has received substantial American support and has involved cooperation between Israeli and American manufacturers. David's Sling was developed through collaboration between Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and Raytheon (https://allyvia.org/security-and-defense/davids-sling-test-success-shows-us-israel-defense-partnership-at-work/), while the Arrow program has involved extensive cooperation between Israel Aerospace Industries and Boeing.

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The importance of these systems extends beyond the protection of Israeli cities. The United States faces growing challenges involving ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, drones and other precision weapons (https://allyvia.org/aid-and-reciprocity/us-and-israel-deepen-defense-cooperation-a-quiet-force-strengthening-global-security/), particularly as adversaries develop increasingly sophisticated means of threatening military bases, naval vessels and critical infrastructure. Israel's experience operating missile defense systems under sustained attack provides valuable information about interception performance, system integration, ammunition requirements and the challenges of defending civilian populations against repeated strikes. American military planners and defense manufacturers can benefit from such experience as they develop and refine their own capabilities. The partnership therefore contributes to a broader technological and operational knowledge base relevant to the protection of American forces and allies.

Intelligence That Cannot Simply Be Purchased

One of Israel's most valuable contributions to American national security is its intelligence capability, developed through decades of confronting terrorism, hostile state actors, weapons proliferation and regional military threats. Israel's geographic position, linguistic expertise, intelligence networks and technical capabilities provide insights into developments across the Middle East that are directly relevant to American interests. Cooperation between the two countries has included information concerning terrorist organizations, Iranian military activities, weapons programs and emerging security threats. While the most sensitive details remain classified, the strategic importance of intelligence sharing has long been recognized as a central component of the relationship.

The value of intelligence cannot be measured solely through conventional financial calculations because its consequences may involve attacks prevented, threats identified earlier or military decisions made with greater confidence. A timely warning about a planned attack, an emerging weapons capability or the movement of hostile forces can have consequences far exceeding the cost of obtaining the information. This is particularly important in the Middle East, where American personnel, military installations, diplomatic facilities and regional partners have faced threats from Iran and Iranian-backed armed organizations. Israel's ability to collect and analyze information in this environment provides the United States with an additional source of knowledge that would be difficult and expensive to replicate independently.

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Israel's Battlefield Experience Strengthens American Military Readiness

Israel's armed forces have accumulated extensive operational experience in missile defense, counterterrorism, urban warfare, intelligence integration, unmanned systems and the use of advanced military technologies under combat conditions. These experiences are relevant to American military planning because many of the threats confronting Israel resemble challenges faced by US forces and their partners. The proliferation of inexpensive drones, the use of tunnels and fortified positions, electronic warfare, cyber threats and the integration of missiles with other forms of attack have become important features of modern conflict. Israel's efforts to develop practical responses to these challenges can provide lessons for American military institutions and defense manufacturers seeking to improve their own preparedness.

This does not mean every Israeli operational practice is directly transferable to the United States or that battlefield experience automatically establishes the effectiveness of a particular system. Military environments differ, and lessons must be evaluated according to the circumstances in which they were obtained. Nevertheless, Israel's combination of advanced technology and frequent operational exposure creates opportunities for testing, adaptation and refinement that are difficult to reproduce through peacetime exercises alone. The ability to identify weaknesses under real-world conditions and develop improvements rapidly is valuable to both countries, particularly when military technologies are evolving at extraordinary speed. This practical experience forms an important part of Israel's contribution to the partnership, even though it rarely appears in public discussions of the annual assistance package.

American Workers and Businesses Have Benefited From the Relationship

The economic benefits of American military assistance to Israel deserve far greater recognition because the arrangement has historically supported American industrial production rather than functioning as an unrestricted transfer of wealth abroad. Foreign Military Financing has generally been used to purchase American defense articles and services, providing orders for manufacturers and supporting extensive supply chains across the United States. Although earlier agreements permitted Israel to spend a portion of its assistance within its domestic defense industry, that provision has been progressively phased out under the current memorandum of understanding. The result

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is a system in which American financial support for Israeli defense also generates demand for American military equipment, helping sustain production capacity and specialized employment in an industry essential to US national security.

The broader economic relationship extends far beyond military procurement. American technology companies have established major research and development operations in Israel, while Israeli companies have invested in the United States, established American subsidiaries and collaborated with US businesses in sectors including cybersecurity, software, medical technology, semiconductors and advanced manufacturing. These relationships contribute to innovation, employment and commercial activity in both countries. Israel's technology sector has developed particular expertise in fields that are increasingly important to American economic competitiveness, including artificial intelligence, digital security, autonomous systems and advanced computing. The resulting commercial connections demonstrate why the value of the US-Israel relationship cannot be adequately assessed by examining government transfers alone.

Israel's Cybersecurity Expertise Helps Protect America

Cybersecurity is another area in which Israel's technological capabilities contribute to American economic and national security interests. Israel has developed a globally significant cybersecurity industry, supported by a combination of academic research, military technological experience, private investment and entrepreneurship. Israeli cybersecurity companies provide products and services used by American businesses, financial institutions, healthcare providers and other organizations seeking to protect their systems against increasingly sophisticated digital threats. American technology companies have also acquired Israeli cybersecurity businesses, invested in Israeli research operations and established partnerships that combine expertise from both countries.

These commercial relationships are particularly important because cyber threats do not respect national borders. Attacks against financial systems, hospitals, energy infrastructure and government networks can have consequences extending across entire economies, while hostile states and criminal organizations continually develop new techniques for exploiting technological vulnerabilities. Israeli expertise contributes to the wider ecosystem of defensive tools, threat detection and security research available to American organizations. The value of these contributions cannot be reduced

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to a single annual figure, but their relevance is clear: Israel participates in the development of technologies that help protect American institutions, businesses and citizens against threats that are becoming increasingly central to national security.

American Lives Benefit From Israeli Medical Innovation

The benefits of Israeli innovation are not limited to military and security applications. Israeli researchers, physicians and technology companies have contributed to medical devices, diagnostic technologies, pharmaceutical research, emergency medicine and healthcare systems used internationally, including in the United States. Israeli-developed technologies have played roles in fields such as minimally invasive procedures, medical imaging, rehabilitation, digital health and the treatment of serious diseases. These advances frequently emerge through partnerships involving American universities, hospitals, investors and companies, creating a shared environment in which scientific knowledge and commercial innovation move between the two countries.

The significance of this cooperation is that it demonstrates how the relationship contributes to American well-being in ways that are rarely included in debates over foreign assistance. A medical technology that improves diagnosis, a cybersecurity system that protects a hospital or a scientific breakthrough that supports the development of a new treatment can produce benefits for American citizens entirely separate from military cooperation. These achievements do not mean every Israeli innovation should be credited to American assistance, nor do they establish a direct financial return on security funding. They do, however, demonstrate the breadth of the partnership and the extent to which Israel's technological and scientific capabilities contribute to sectors of direct importance to the American economy and public.

A Strategic Ally That Defends Itself

One of Israel's defining characteristics as an American security partner is its determination to maintain the military capabilities necessary to defend itself. Unlike relationships in which American forces are permanently stationed to provide the primary defense of another country, Israel has developed substantial independent military capabilities and has repeatedly undertaken major operations using its own armed forces. American assistance, intelligence cooperation and diplomatic support have been important, but Israel's military is principally responsible for protecting Israeli territory and confronting the threats directed against its population. This capacity for

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independent action is strategically significant because it allows the United States to maintain a close security partnership without assuming the same direct military responsibilities associated with some other alliances.

Israel's willingness to invest heavily in its own defense also distinguishes the relationship from the idea of a passive recipient dependent entirely upon American protection. Israel devotes a substantial share of its national resources to security, maintains advanced military industries and has developed technologies tailored to threats that other countries are only beginning to confront. Its defense capabilities contribute to regional deterrence and provide opportunities for cooperation against organizations and governments that threaten American interests. The relationship is not without costs or disagreements, and Israeli military decisions can create diplomatic challenges for Washington. Nevertheless, Israel's ability to defend itself while sharing intelligence, technology and operational experience makes it a particularly capable partner within America's wider international security network.

The Real Value of the Partnership Has Never Been Fully Calculated

One of the most important questions surrounding American military assistance is whether anyone has produced a comprehensive assessment of the value Israel provides in return. The annual funding figure is readily available, but the economic and strategic benefits of the relationship are far more difficult to quantify. How much is improved intelligence worth when it helps identify a terrorist threat? What is the financial value of operational information that contributes to the refinement of a sophisticated aircraft? How should policymakers measure the benefits of jointly developed missile defense systems, cybersecurity cooperation or research partnerships that produce innovations used by American companies? These questions do not have simple answers, but the absence of an easily calculated figure should not lead to the assumption that the benefits are insignificant.

A proper assessment would need to distinguish between direct financial returns, industrial benefits, military capabilities and broader strategic advantages. It would also need to account for the costs and obligations associated with the relationship, including American appropriations, diplomatic commitments and the resources devoted to cooperation. Such an exercise would not necessarily produce a single figure demonstrating that one country gains more than the other, because many of the most important benefits are not readily expressed in monetary terms. Nevertheless, it would

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provide a more complete basis for public discussion than the repeated presentation of Israel as simply receiving billions of dollars from American taxpayers. The relationship deserves to be understood as a complex exchange of valuable capabilities rather than reduced to the most visible line in the federal budget.

Ending Military Assistance Could Open a New Chapter

President Trump's November 2026 announcement concerning the future of American military assistance creates an opportunity to reconsider the structure of the partnership. If the United States moves away from the traditional grant-based model, Israel would face substantial financial and procurement challenges, particularly because advanced American military systems are expensive and defense planning depends upon long-term commitments. Replacing assistance would require additional Israeli expenditure, alternative financing arrangements, changes in procurement priorities or new commercial agreements. The transition would therefore need to be carefully managed to avoid disrupting essential defense capabilities or undermining cooperation that benefits both countries.

At the same time, a more commercially oriented relationship could create opportunities for Israel to expand its domestic defense industry, develop additional export markets and negotiate agreements that more explicitly recognize the value of its technological and intelligence contributions. Rather than being defined primarily through an annual assistance package, the partnership could increasingly emphasize joint development, reciprocal procurement, industrial investment, research agreements and commercial collaboration. Such an approach would not eliminate the strategic importance of American support or the need for close government-to-government cooperation, but it could provide a framework in which Israel's role as a contributor to American capabilities receives greater recognition. The outcome would depend upon the details of any future arrangements, but the possibility deserves serious consideration rather than automatic alarm.

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Greater Israeli Independence Could Strengthen the Alliance

A transition towards greater Israeli defense-industrial independence could benefit both countries if it is implemented in a manner that preserves essential security cooperation. Israel has already demonstrated its capacity to develop advanced technologies in areas including missile defense, unmanned systems, electronic warfare and intelligence. Greater flexibility to invest in domestic production and research could help Israeli companies expand their capabilities, reduce vulnerabilities associated with dependence upon external suppliers and contribute additional technologies to the international defense market. For the United States, cooperation with a more economically and technologically independent Israel could create new opportunities for joint ventures, industrial partnerships and access to specialized expertise.

The relationship would still require careful management because American and Israeli defense industries are both partners and, in some markets, competitors. Commercial agreements would need to address intellectual property, export controls, security requirements and the protection of sensitive technologies. The United States would also need to determine how future arrangements support its own defense-industrial priorities, while Israel would need to ensure that greater independence does not come at the expense of access to critical American systems. These are substantial challenges, but they are the normal considerations associated with a mature strategic partnership between technologically advanced countries. They do not undermine the case for recognizing Israel as a capable contributor rather than defining it principally through the assistance it receives.

The Relationship Is Far Bigger Than Any American Administration

The US-Israel partnership has developed over decades through cooperation involving successive Republican and Democratic administrations, members of Congress, military institutions, intelligence agencies, universities and private businesses. Political leaders have differed over the appropriate level of assistance, the conduct of regional diplomacy and the policies of particular Israeli governments, but the underlying relationship has continued to produce substantial areas of cooperation. Its durability reflects shared strategic interests, longstanding institutional connections and the practical benefits that both countries derive from working together. The value of the

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partnership should therefore not be understood solely through the decisions of any individual government or the political circumstances surrounding a particular funding agreement.

This broader perspective is especially important when discussions of Israel become entangled with domestic American political divisions. Americans are entitled to debate foreign assistance and demand accountability for public expenditure, just as Israelis are entitled to consider whether existing arrangements provide the independence and flexibility their country requires. Such debates can be constructive when they are grounded in an accurate understanding of the relationship. They become misleading when they ignore the contributions flowing from Israel to the United States or assume that the entire partnership can be measured through a single annual appropriation. The strategic, technological and economic connections between the two countries are far more extensive than the assistance framework through which they have often been publicly described.

A Partnership Built on Mutual Value, Not Dependency

The most compelling argument for a new understanding of US-Israel relations is that both countries possess capabilities that the other values. America provides Israel with access to advanced military platforms, substantial industrial capacity, diplomatic support and a global strategic partnership. Israel contributes intelligence, technological innovation, operational experience, specialized defense systems and commercial expertise developed in an environment of persistent security challenges. These contributions are different in character, but both are important. Treating the relationship as though only one side provides meaningful value obscures the practical reasons that cooperation has endured and expanded across generations.

Israel's achievements are particularly significant given its relatively small population and the security pressures it has faced throughout its history. The country has developed advanced universities, globally competitive technology companies, sophisticated military industries and an innovation ecosystem that attracts investment and collaboration from some of the world's largest businesses. Its contribution to American capabilities reflects these achievements rather than simply the assistance it has received. The United States has helped Israel develop and maintain important military

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advantages, but Israel has also transformed its own expertise into technologies, information and experience that benefit American institutions. Recognizing this reality is essential to understanding the relationship as a partnership between capable nations.

Conclusion: America Has Invested in Israel, but Israel Has Invested in America Too

The debate over the future of American military assistance should finally encourage a more complete understanding of what the United States and Israel have built together. For decades, public discussion has emphasized the billions of dollars Washington provides to Jerusalem while paying far less attention to the benefits that flow in the opposite direction. American defense manufacturers have benefited from Israeli procurement, American military capabilities have been informed by Israeli operational experience, and American institutions have gained from cooperation involving intelligence, missile defense, cybersecurity, medical technology and scientific research. These contributions do not erase the cost of assistance or eliminate the need for accountability, but they demonstrate that the relationship has never been simply a matter of one country subsidizing another.

The prospect of ending the traditional military assistance framework presents genuine challenges, particularly for Israel's defense budget and long-term procurement planning. Nevertheless, it also creates an opportunity to consider whether future cooperation should be structured around a broader recognition of mutual economic and strategic value. Greater Israeli industrial independence, expanded commercial agreements and continued technological cooperation could provide a foundation for a relationship that is less dependent upon the political debate surrounding annual aid appropriations. Such a transition would require careful planning, but it need not represent a weakening of the alliance if both countries remain committed to preserving the capabilities and institutions that make their cooperation valuable.

The most important lesson is that Israel should not be understood primarily as a beneficiary of American generosity. It is a technologically sophisticated, militarily capable and economically productive country that contributes important resources to the security and prosperity of the United States. Its intelligence capabilities, defense innovations, scientific achievements and commercial partnerships represent forms of value that cannot be captured by the annual assistance figure alone. The American

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public deserves to understand those contributions, just as Israeli citizens deserve recognition of the considerable resources and expertise their country brings to the partnership.

America has provided Israel with billions of dollars in military assistance, but Israel has provided America with intelligence, innovation, operational experience and technologies whose full strategic value has never been publicly calculated. The relationship has always involved contributions in both directions, even when the public discussion has focused almost exclusively upon the money flowing from Washington to Jerusalem.

The future of the alliance should therefore be built upon a more complete appreciation of what both nations contribute. Rather than measuring Israel's importance through the amount of assistance it receives, policymakers should assess the capabilities it provides, the industries it supports and the security challenges that American-Israeli cooperation helps address. This would allow the relationship to be discussed in terms of shared interests and measurable contributions, while preserving the historical friendship and strategic cooperation that have made it so enduring.

Israel is not merely a country America has helped defend. It is a country that has helped America become better equipped to defend itself. The annual assistance package may change, but the intelligence, technology, innovation and strategic cooperation that Israel contributes to American security will remain valuable. The strongest foundation for the next generation of US-Israel relations is not dependency, but a partnership in which both countries recognize the extraordinary value they provide to one another.

Footnotes & Scientific Citations

[1] https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2016/09/14/fact-sheet-memorandum-understanding-reached-israel (https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2016/09/14/fact-sheet-memorandum-understanding-reached-israel)

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Israel Is Financially Investing in the Future of Children's Medicine, and the World Could Benefit

An Israeli $50 million venture fund at Schneider Children's is investing in pediatric technologies designed for children, not adapted from adult medicine.

M Mark Ginsberg

November 09, 2026 · 20 min read · Cite Article

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KEY POLICY TAKEAWAYS

Schneider Children's Medical Center and Clalit Health Services are supporting a venture-capital initiative dedicated specifically to pediatric healthcare innovation.

The fund is targeting approximately $50 million, has secured around $20 million in its initial closing and has already invested in three companies.

Children's healthcare remains relatively underserved by life-sciences investors, despite the distinct medical needs of pediatric patients.

Many medications and technologies used to treat children were originally developed for adults rather than designed specifically for younger patients.

The initiative aims to connect entrepreneurs directly with doctors, clinical facilities and healthcare data to accelerate the development of effective technologies.

Artificial intelligence and advanced medical analytics could help identify diseases and risk factors earlier, potentially preventing serious health problems later in life.

Israel's integrated healthcare system, medical expertise and technological ecosystem provide important advantages for developing and evaluating new healthcare solutions.

Investment in children's health can produce benefits extending across entire lifetimes, improving quality of life while potentially reducing future healthcare costs.

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The initiative illustrates how Israeli medical innovation can contribute to global health, regardless of political disagreements with Israel.

The broader ambition is to move from treating disease after symptoms appear toward identifying and addressing medical risks much earlier in life.

For decades, Israel has demonstrated that a small country with limited natural resources can become a global leader in medical innovation. Israeli scientists, doctors and entrepreneurs have helped develop technologies that improve the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease, contributing to advances that benefit patients far beyond the country's borders. Yet one of the most important areas of medicine has remained comparatively underserved by the global investment community: the health of children.

That may now be beginning to change, with Israel once again positioning itself at the forefront of an emerging medical field. Schneider Children's Medical Center in Petah Tikva, one of Israel's leading pediatric hospitals, is helping establish a venture-capital fund dedicated specifically to children's healthcare. The initiative, Schneider Children's VC, is targeting approximately $50 million in investment, has already secured around $20 million in its initial fundraising round and has begun investing in companies developing new medical technologies for children.

The significance of this initiative extends well beyond the creation of another Israeli investment fund. It represents a different approach to medical innovation, one that recognizes children not simply as smaller versions of adults but as patients with distinct biological, developmental and medical needs. By combining clinical expertise, advanced technology, artificial intelligence, medical data and private investment, Israel has an opportunity to help transform pediatric medicine and establish a model that could eventually benefit children around the world.

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At a time when Israel is frequently discussed internationally almost exclusively through the prism of conflict, initiatives such as this provide an important reminder of another dimension of the Jewish state. While Israel must devote enormous resources to protecting its own children from terrorism, rockets and war, its scientists and doctors continue developing technologies intended to protect the health and improve the lives of children everywhere.

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Children Deserve Medicine Designed for Children

One of the less appreciated problems in modern healthcare is that much of medicine has historically been developed around adults. Pharmaceutical companies, medical-device manufacturers and technology developers frequently prioritize conditions affecting large adult populations because those markets offer clearer commercial opportunities and, in many cases, simpler regulatory pathways. Pediatric medicine consequently faces a persistent challenge: treatments and technologies are sometimes adapted from adult applications rather than developed specifically around the physiology and developmental needs of children.

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This distinction is far more important than it may initially appear. Children are not simply adults who weigh less. Their bodies are growing, their organs are developing, their immune systems respond differently, and their physical and neurological needs change dramatically between infancy, childhood and adolescence. A treatment appropriate for a 50-year-old patient cannot automatically be assumed to work in the same way for a five-year-old child, even when the dosage is adjusted. Medical devices must account for differences in anatomy and development, while diagnostic systems need to recognize conditions that may present differently in younger patients.

These challenges become particularly significant in rare genetic disorders, pediatric cancers, congenital conditions, neurological diseases and developmental disorders. In many cases, the number of affected children is relatively small, making the potential commercial market less attractive to investors despite the enormous consequences for patients and their families. The result is a mismatch between medical need and investment, with some of the most vulnerable patients receiving less attention from the innovation economy than their circumstances deserve.

Israel's new pediatric investment initiative is designed to address precisely this problem. Rather than waiting for technologies developed for adults to become available for adaptation, it seeks to encourage companies to design solutions for children from the beginning. This approach, described as pediatric-focused technology development, could help change how entrepreneurs, researchers and investors think about children's medicine.

A Hospital That Understands the Problems Can Help Create the Solutions

One of the most promising features of the initiative is the relationship between the investment fund and the healthcare institutions supporting it. Schneider Children's Medical Center is part of Clalit Health Services, Israel's largest health maintenance organization, providing access to a substantial clinical environment and extensive experience in treating pediatric patients. The fund operates as a separate investment entity, but its relationship with Schneider and Clalit creates opportunities for entrepreneurs to work closely with medical professionals who understand the practical challenges that new technologies must overcome.

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This matters because one of the greatest obstacles in medical innovation is the distance between the people developing technologies and the doctors expected to use them. Engineers may create technically impressive products that fail to address the most pressing clinical needs, while physicians may identify recurring problems without possessing the resources or technological expertise necessary to develop solutions. Bringing these groups together earlier can improve the likelihood that an innovation will become a useful medical product rather than remain an interesting laboratory experiment.

The fund's investment model reflects this philosophy. Since beginning operations in February, it has reportedly evaluated approximately 170 companies and selected three for investment, with individual investments ranging from $500,000 to $3 million. The objective is not merely to provide capital but to help companies evaluate their technologies in clinical environments, refine their products, improve their business models and move toward commercialization.

Such integration can be particularly valuable in pediatrics, where clinical testing, regulatory approval and adoption often present additional complexities. Access to experienced pediatric specialists can help developers identify problems earlier, while appropriate clinical evaluation can provide stronger evidence that a product is safe and effective for its intended patients. The resulting relationship benefits both sides: entrepreneurs gain medical expertise, and healthcare institutions gain opportunities to influence technologies that may eventually improve patient care.

Artificial Intelligence Could Change When Diseases Are Discovered

The initiative's interest in artificial intelligence and medical data is especially significant because one of the greatest opportunities in healthcare is not simply treating disease more effectively but identifying it earlier. Modern medicine has traditionally been organized around a reactive model in which patients develop symptoms, seek medical attention, undergo diagnostic testing and then receive treatment. Although screening and preventive medicine have existed for decades, advances in computing, genetics and data analysis are creating opportunities to identify certain risks before symptoms become apparent.

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Artificial intelligence could play an increasingly important role in this transition. Algorithms can examine large quantities of medical information, potentially identifying patterns that would be difficult for individual physicians to recognize. When properly developed and clinically validated, such systems may help identify children at increased risk of particular conditions, support earlier diagnosis or assist doctors in determining which patients require additional investigation.

The potential benefits are substantial because childhood is a particularly important period for medical intervention. Some conditions become progressively more difficult to treat as patients grow older, while others can produce lifelong complications if they are not identified early enough. Detecting a developmental disorder, genetic condition or emerging chronic illness at an earlier stage may allow doctors to intervene when treatment can have a greater impact.

However, the promise of artificial intelligence should not be confused with established clinical effectiveness. Medical algorithms require rigorous validation, protection of patient privacy and careful monitoring for errors or bias, particularly when they are used with children. The objective should not be to replace pediatricians with automated systems but to provide medical professionals with better information and more effective tools for making decisions. Israel's combination of clinical expertise and advanced technology creates an opportunity to develop these systems responsibly while ensuring that medical judgment remains central to patient care.

Israel's Healthcare System Provides an Unusual Advantage

Israel possesses several characteristics that make it particularly well suited to this kind of medical innovation. Its healthcare system combines universal coverage with large health maintenance organizations, sophisticated digital medical records, major research hospitals and an established technology sector. These institutions have accumulated considerable experience in managing healthcare information and developing collaborations between clinicians, researchers and technology companies.

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The country's relatively small geographical size can also make cooperation easier. Researchers, hospital administrators, technology entrepreneurs, investors and government officials frequently operate within closely connected professional networks, allowing ideas to move between institutions

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more rapidly than might be possible in much larger countries. This does not eliminate the regulatory, ethical or financial challenges associated with medical innovation, but it can create an environment in which collaboration becomes easier to organize.

Israel's strengths in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, computer vision and data analytics are also increasingly relevant to healthcare. Technologies originally developed for communications, defense or industrial applications can sometimes be adapted to medical problems, while Israel's universities and hospitals provide expertise in biology, genetics, medicine and biomedical engineering. The convergence of these disciplines is creating opportunities for new diagnostic systems, medical devices, remote monitoring technologies and personalized treatments.

The Schneider initiative brings these capabilities together around a particularly important objective. Instead of treating pediatric healthcare as a secondary application of technologies developed elsewhere, it seeks to make children's medicine a primary field of innovation in its own right. If successful, this approach could encourage additional investment and create a larger ecosystem of companies focused on medical challenges that have historically received insufficient commercial attention.

The Economic Case for Investing in Children's Health

Although the humanitarian value of improving children's medicine is obvious, there is also a compelling economic argument. Diseases that begin in childhood can create medical, educational and social costs extending across decades. A condition that remains undiagnosed or inadequately treated may affect a child's development, limit educational opportunities, reduce future employment prospects and require expensive medical intervention throughout adulthood. Conversely, an effective diagnosis or treatment during childhood may improve health and independence for many years.

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This makes pediatric innovation different from many other investment categories because the potential benefits can accumulate over an exceptionally long period. A technology that improves the treatment of a 70-year-old patient may produce significant medical benefits, but a technology that prevents a serious chronic condition in a seven-year-old could potentially influence another 70 years

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of life. Those benefits are not guaranteed, and the economics of each intervention must be evaluated individually, but the principle provides a powerful justification for increasing investment in childhood medicine.

The commercial opportunity is also more substantial than traditional investment patterns might suggest. Pediatric conditions collectively affect millions of children worldwide, and healthcare systems everywhere face pressure to improve outcomes while controlling costs. Technologies that can identify diseases earlier, improve treatment effectiveness or reduce the need for repeated hospitalization may therefore attract interest from hospitals, insurers, governments and healthcare providers internationally.

The Schneider initiative recognizes that commercial success and medical value do not have to be competing objectives. Indeed, the most sustainable innovations are often those that solve a genuine medical problem while creating a viable business capable of bringing the solution to patients around the world.

Personal Experience Can Become a Source of Innovation

Behind the investment initiative is also a deeply personal motivation. Ronen Gadot, the fund's managing partner, has spoken about his experience as the father of a child with a rare genetic disease and how that experience helped shape his determination to advance pediatric innovation. His professional background includes work in medical investment and innovation, but his family's experience provided a direct understanding of the challenges facing parents whose children suffer from conditions for which effective treatments may be limited or unavailable.

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That combination of personal experience and professional expertise is particularly characteristic of Israel's innovation ecosystem. Many successful Israeli technologies have emerged because an entrepreneur encountered a problem personally, recognized that existing solutions were inadequate and decided to develop something better. In healthcare, where the distance between technological ambition and human need can sometimes become substantial, this connection is especially valuable.

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Parents of children with serious medical conditions often become extraordinarily knowledgeable about the diseases affecting their families. They understand the limitations of existing treatments, the difficulties of navigating healthcare systems and the emotional consequences of medical uncertainty. When that experience is combined with clinical research, investment capital and technological expertise, it can help direct innovation toward problems that might otherwise receive insufficient attention.

The wider lesson is that innovation should not be driven exclusively by the size of an existing market. Some of the most important medical breakthroughs begin with relatively small groups of patients whose needs have been overlooked. Israel's ability to combine entrepreneurial ambition with a determination to solve difficult problems could make it an important contributor to precisely these areas of medicine.

Israeli Medical Innovation Is Already Helping Children Around the World

Israel's commitment to pediatric medicine is not a new development. Israeli hospitals, research institutions and humanitarian organizations have spent decades treating children from many countries, including places with which Israel has difficult or nonexistent diplomatic relationships. Their work reflects a medical culture in which the identity, nationality or religion of a child should not determine whether that child deserves treatment.

One of the most recognizable examples is Save a Child's Heart, the Israeli humanitarian organization based at Wolfson Medical Center that has treated thousands of children suffering from congenital and acquired heart disease. Its medical teams have provided life-saving care to children from Africa, Asia, the Middle East and elsewhere, while also training medical professionals from developing countries so that more children can receive treatment closer to home. Schneider Children's Medical Center has similarly developed an international reputation for specialized pediatric care, research and complex medical treatments. The hospital's work in fields including oncology, genetics, transplantation and rare diseases demonstrates the importance of combining clinical experience with advanced scientific research.

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The new investment initiative builds upon that existing foundation by attempting to transform medical knowledge into technologies that can be used beyond the walls of a particular hospital. A successful diagnostic system, medical device or treatment developed through an Israeli institution could eventually be adopted by healthcare providers in countries whose populations may know very little about Israel's medical achievements. This is one of the most important characteristics of medical innovation: once an effective technology becomes available, its value is not limited by the nationality of the people who developed it.

Medical Cooperation Can Build Bridges That Politics Cannot

The international significance of Israeli medical innovation extends beyond healthcare itself. Medicine is one of the few fields in which cooperation can sometimes continue even when political relationships are deeply strained. A physician treating a sick child is primarily concerned with the patient's condition, while a researcher developing a treatment for a rare genetic disorder is seeking knowledge that may benefit patients across national boundaries.

This does not mean that medical cooperation can resolve political conflicts or that scientific achievements should exempt any country from legitimate criticism. It does mean that efforts to isolate Israeli medical institutions can have consequences extending far beyond Israel. Research collaborations, clinical trials, shared data and international medical training programs often produce benefits that cannot easily be confined to one population.

Academic and medical boycotts are particularly problematic when they seek to exclude researchers because of their institutional or national affiliations rather than the quality or ethics of their work. If an Israeli hospital develops a technology capable of identifying a serious childhood disease earlier, the appropriate question for the international medical community should be whether the technology is safe, effective and clinically useful. A child in London, Paris, Nairobi or Dubai should not be denied access to a beneficial medical innovation because its developers work in Petah Tikva. Nor should an Israeli child be denied the benefits of research conducted elsewhere because of political disagreements between governments. Scientific cooperation does not require political agreement. It requires a recognition that certain human needs transcend politics, and few needs are more universal than protecting the health of children.

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A Country Fighting for Its Children's Safety Is Investing in the World's Children

There is something particularly significant about the timing of this initiative. Israel has spent more than three years confronting the consequences of the October 7 massacre and the wars that followed. Israeli children have experienced bereavement, displacement, rocket attacks, disrupted education and prolonged uncertainty, while families throughout the country have faced the psychological and economic pressures of repeated military mobilization.

The war has also placed substantial demands upon Israel's healthcare system, requiring hospitals and medical professionals to treat wounded soldiers and civilians, provide rehabilitation services and respond to growing mental-health needs. These pressures have been accompanied by major economic costs, making long-term investment decisions more difficult for both public institutions and private investors. Yet Israel's medical and technological institutions continue looking beyond the immediate emergency. Rather than concentrating exclusively upon the consequences of the present conflict, they are investing in technologies intended to improve health decades into the future.

This is an important expression of national resilience. Resilience is not simply the ability to withstand attacks or maintain military capabilities during wartime. It is also the ability to continue educating children, conducting research, developing businesses, attracting investment and building institutions that serve future generations.

The fact that an Israeli children's hospital can pursue a major investment initiative during such a difficult period illustrates that Israel's national ambitions extend far beyond survival. The country is determined not only to protect its own future but also to continue contributing to the wider world.

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The Next Medical Revolution May Begin Before Symptoms Appear

Perhaps the most ambitious aspect of the pediatric initiative is its emphasis on moving beyond conventional preventive medicine toward a more proactive approach. Rather than waiting until a disease becomes apparent, researchers hope to identify patterns and risk factors that could allow doctors to intervene earlier, sometimes before symptoms develop.

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This represents a potentially important change in how healthcare systems operate. Modern medicine has become extraordinarily sophisticated at treating many diseases, but treatment often begins only after damage has occurred. If medical technologies can identify certain risks earlier, healthcare providers may be able to prevent complications, personalize treatment or monitor vulnerable patients more effectively.

The implications for children are especially significant because early medical interventions can influence development and health throughout life. A condition identified during infancy may be managed differently from one discovered during adolescence, while effective monitoring of children with genetic predispositions could potentially improve long-term outcomes.

There are important limits to this approach. Not every disease can be predicted, not every identified risk will lead to illness, and unnecessary testing or treatment can itself cause harm. The responsible development of proactive medicine therefore requires strong clinical evidence, appropriate regulation and careful consideration of the psychological and ethical consequences of predicting future health risks.

Nevertheless, the potential is considerable. If Israel can help develop reliable technologies that allow physicians to identify serious medical problems earlier, the benefits could extend far beyond individual patients to families, healthcare systems and entire societies.

Israel's Greatest Contribution May Be the Lives It Helps Improve

Israel is frequently evaluated internationally according to its military capabilities, diplomatic relationships and the conflicts in which it is involved. These are important aspects of the country's reality, but they provide an incomplete understanding of what Israel is and what it contributes. The Jewish state is also a society of scientists, physicians, researchers, engineers, entrepreneurs and educators who spend their professional lives attempting to solve problems that affect people everywhere. Their achievements are not always dramatic enough to dominate international headlines, but they can have consequences extending across generations.

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A technology that allows a child with a rare genetic disorder to receive effective treatment, a diagnostic system that identifies a dangerous disease before symptoms become severe, or a medical device designed specifically for a developing child's needs may not change the political map of the Middle East. It can, however, transform the life of a family and potentially influence medical care for thousands or millions of others. The new pediatric investment initiative is still at an early stage, and its eventual success will depend upon the quality of the technologies it supports, the strength of the clinical evidence behind them and the ability of its companies to bring effective products to market. The establishment of a fund is not itself a medical breakthrough, and ambitious financial targets should not be confused with achieved results.

But its underlying vision is important. Israel is identifying a field in which global medical needs have not received sufficient investment and bringing together the institutions, expertise and capital necessary to address that gap. That is a familiar Israeli approach, and one that has repeatedly produced innovations benefiting people far beyond the country's borders.

Conclusion: Investing in Children Means Investing in Humanity's Future

The establishment of a dedicated pediatric innovation fund at Schneider Children's Medical Center represents more than another development in Israel's successful technology sector. It reflects a recognition that children's healthcare deserves a fundamentally different approach, one that prioritizes their distinct medical needs and invests in technologies capable of improving health throughout an entire lifetime. By connecting medical professionals with entrepreneurs, investors, artificial intelligence specialists and researchers, Israel is attempting to accelerate innovation in an area where commercial incentives have not always matched medical necessity. The potential benefits include earlier diagnosis, more effective treatments, improved management of rare diseases and new technologies developed specifically for children rather than adapted from adult medicine.

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The initiative also illustrates something important about Israel's place in the world. At a time when international attention remains overwhelmingly focused upon war and political conflict, Israeli doctors and scientists continue pursuing objectives that transcend national boundaries. Their work

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is directed toward improving human health, reducing suffering and creating technologies that may eventually benefit children regardless of where they were born.

Israel's contribution to global medicine should not be measured solely by the number of companies it creates or the financial returns generated by its technology sector. The more meaningful measure is the number of lives improved, diseases treated, disabilities prevented and families given opportunities that would otherwise not have existed.

A child receiving an earlier diagnosis in Europe, a life-saving treatment in Africa or a more effective medical intervention in Asia may never know that Israeli research helped make that care possible. The child's parents may never visit Israel, and their country may not even maintain friendly diplomatic relations with the Jewish state. None of that diminishes the value of the achievement. Indeed, it makes the achievement more important.

Israel's greatest medical innovations will not be measured only by the technologies they produce, but by the children who grow up healthier because those technologies exist. In investing in children's medicine today, Israel is helping create a healthier world for generations that have not yet been born.

Footnotes

1. https://www.calcalistech.com/ctechnews/article/b5b14bvpn (https://www.calcalistech.com/ctechnews/article/b5b14bvpn) ↑
2. https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/6-3-million-raised-for-israels-first-investment-fund-for-childrens-health/ (https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/6-3-million-raised-for-israels-first-investment-fund-for-childrens-health/) ↑
3. https://dealroom.co/news/169622-israels-schneider-hospital-launches-pediatric-vc-fund-with-20m-first-clo/ (https://dealroom.co/news/169622-israels-schneider-hospital-launches-pediatric-vc-fund-with-20m-first-clo/) ↑

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- Trade & Investment (12) (/trade-and-investment/trade-investment-core/)
- Bilateral Trade Growth (4) (/trade-and-investment/bilateral-trade-growth/)
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mark Ginsberg

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COMMAND CENTER / SOCIALS

PUBLISHED SOCIALS REPORT

Israel

COVERAGE STARTS	COVERAGE ENDS	PUBLISHED POSTS
Nov 9, 2026, 9:00 AM EST	Nov 10, 2026, 9:00 AM EST	14

POST 01

20261104_Israel_Static_Agamon Hula at sunrise

PLATFORM	ACCOUNT / HANDLE	PUBLISHED
TikTok	Culturavia	Nov 9, 2026, 4:50 PM EST

RECORD CONTEXT

Culturavia / General / Short Video

PUBLISHED POST

The early birds picked a good spot Ø=ÜÍAgamon Hula, Israel

LIVE POST

https://www.tiktok.com/@culturaviaorg/video/7706292628563709191?utm_campaign=tt4d_open_api&utm_source=7036369194396418050

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Video / 17.2 MB

POST 02

20261104_Israel_Static_Agamon Hula at sunrise

PLATFORM	ACCOUNT / HANDLE	PUBLISHED
Instagram	**Culturavia**	**Nov 9, 2026, 4:50 PM EST**

RECORD CONTEXT

Culturavia / General / Short Video

PUBLISHED POST

The early birds picked a good spot Ø=ÜÍAgamon Hula, Israel

LIVE POST

https://www.instagram.com/reel/DfiVrFBiOwc/

POSTED MEDIA

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Video / 17.2 MB

POST 03

20261104_Israel_Static_Agamon Hula at sunrise

PLATFORM	ACCOUNT / HANDLE	PUBLISHED
Facebook	**Culturavia**	**Nov 9, 2026, 4:50 PM EST**

RECORD CONTEXT

Culturavia / General / Short Video

PUBLISHED POST

The early birds picked a good spot Ø=ÜÍAgamon Hula, Israel

LIVE POST

https://www.facebook.com/reel/2580865872424299/

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Video / 17.2 MB

POST 04

20261102_Israel_Static_Recognize the roots

PLATFORM	ACCOUNT / HANDLE	PUBLISHED
TikTok	Justorium, ST4T	Nov 9, 2026, 4:23 PM EST

RECORD CONTEXT

Justorium, ST4T / General / Image Post

PUBLISHED POST

Jewish roots run deeper than modern borders

Img source: Chatgpt

LIVE POSTS

https://www.tiktok.com/@justoriumorg/video/7706290471013829906?utm_campaign=tt4d_open_api&utm_source=7036369194396418050

https://www.tiktok.com/@standtogether4truth/photo/7706291833332092173?is_from_webapp=1&sender_device=pc&web_id=7681747904079824414

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20261102_Israel_Static_Recognize the roots_v1.jpg

Image / 3.7 MB

POST 05

20261102_Israel_Static_Recognize the roots

PLATFORM	ACCOUNT / HANDLE	PUBLISHED
Facebook	**Justorium**	**Nov 9, 2026, 4:23 PM EST**

RECORD CONTEXT

Justorium, ST4T / General / Image Post

PUBLISHED POST

Jewish roots run deeper than modern borders

Img source: Chatgpt

LIVE POST

https://www.facebook.com/122124699333464502/posts/122131488093464502

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POST 06

20261102_Israel_Static_Recognize the roots

PLATFORM	ACCOUNT / HANDLE	PUBLISHED
Instagram	**Justorium**	**Nov 9, 2026, 4:23 PM EST**

RECORD CONTEXT

Justorium, ST4T / General / Image Post

PUBLISHED POST

Jewish roots run deeper than modern borders

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LIVE POST

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POST 07

20261102_Israel_Static_Recognize the roots

PLATFORM	ACCOUNT / HANDLE	PUBLISHED
Stand Together for Truth website	**STFT**	**Nov 9, 2026, 4:23 PM EST**

RECORD CONTEXT

Justorium, ST4T / General / Image Post

PUBLISHED POST

Jewish roots run deeper than modern borders

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LIVE POST

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POST 08

20261105_Israel_Static_Check before you share

PLATFORM	ACCOUNT / HANDLE	PUBLISHED
Facebook	**Allyvia**	**Nov 9, 2026, 2:57 PM EST**

RECORD CONTEXT

Allyvia, ST4T / General / Image Post

PUBLISHED POST

Don't let missing context become shared hate

Img source: Chatgpt

LIVE POST

https://www.facebook.com/122096323335315021/posts/122129299257315021

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POST 09

20261105_Israel_Static_Check before you share

PLATFORM	ACCOUNT / HANDLE	PUBLISHED
Instagram	**Allyvia**	**Nov 9, 2026, 2:57 PM EST**

RECORD CONTEXT

Allyvia, ST4T / General / Image Post

PUBLISHED POST

Don't let missing context become shared hate

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LIVE POST

https://www.instagram.com/p/DfiIxICI1R6/

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POST 10

20261105_Israel_Static_Check before you share

PLATFORM	ACCOUNT / HANDLE	PUBLISHED
Stand Together for Truth website	**ST4T**	**Nov 9, 2026, 2:57 PM EST**

RECORD CONTEXT

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POST 11

20261105_Israel_Static_Check before you share

PLATFORM	ACCOUNT / HANDLE	PUBLISHED
TikTok	**Allyvia, ST4T**	**Nov 9, 2026, 2:57 PM EST**

RECORD CONTEXT

Allyvia, ST4T / General / Image Post

PUBLISHED POST

Don't let missing context become shared hate

Img source: Chatgpt

LIVE POSTS

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POST 12

20261105_Israel_Static_This isn't Rome

PLATFORM	ACCOUNT / HANDLE	PUBLISHED
Facebook	**Culturavia**	**Nov 9, 2026, 2:53 PM EST**

RECORD CONTEXT

Culturavia / General / Image Post

PUBLISHED POST

Ø=ÜÍBeit She'an

Source: Israel National and Parks Authority

LIVE POST

https://www.facebook.com/122102135631301255/posts/122123276997301255

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20261105_Israel_Static_This isn't Rome_v1.jpg

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POST 13

20261105_Israel_Static_This isn't Rome

PLATFORM	ACCOUNT / HANDLE	PUBLISHED
Instagram	**Culturavia**	**Nov 9, 2026, 2:53 PM EST**

RECORD CONTEXT

Culturavia / General / Image Post

PUBLISHED POST

Ø=ÜÍBeit She'an

Source: Israel National and Parks Authority

LIVE POST

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POST 14

20261105_Israel_Static_This isn't Rome

PLATFORM	ACCOUNT / HANDLE	PUBLISHED
TikTok	Culturavia	Nov 9, 2026, 2:53 PM EST

RECORD CONTEXT

Culturavia / General / Image Post

PUBLISHED POST

Ø=ÜÍBeit She'an

Source: Israel National and Parks Authority

LIVE POST

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Innovation Impact (https://innovascope.org/innovation-impact-on-america/) · 27 min read

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INNOVATION IMPACT

Israel Is Building Tomorrow: 20 Breakthroughs That Show How the Jewish State Is Changing the World

Mark Ginsberg · November 2026 · 27 min read

KEY STRATEGIC TAKEAWAYS

Twenty Israeli breakthroughs highlighted in 2026 span medicine, defense, artificial intelligence, quantum computing, clean energy, food production, space technology and sustainability.

Israeli cancer research is advancing through multiple approaches, including electric-field therapy, localized alpha radiation and AI-designed antibodies.

NovoCure's Tumor Treating Fields technology has received regulatory approvals for several cancer indications, demonstrating how an Israeli scientific idea can become an internationally used treatment.

MeMed has developed a rapid blood test designed to help distinguish bacterial from viral infections, potentially supporting better treatment decisions and antibiotic stewardship.

Innovalve is developing a minimally invasive mitral valve replacement technology, seeking to reduce the need for open-heart procedures in suitable patients.

AstroRad, developed by Israel's StemRad with international partners, is designed to protect astronauts from harmful space radiation, supporting the ambitions of future deep-space missions.

H2Pro is developing a new approach to producing green hydrogen, while Aleph Farms is advancing cultivated meat technology.

Qedma is developing software to reduce the effects of errors in quantum computing, addressing a major obstacle to practical quantum applications.

Israeli defense innovation includes advanced missile interception and navigation technologies, with potential relevance to the security of Israel and its allies.

These achievements demonstrate how Israeli research moves between universities, hospitals, industry and commercial applications, generating benefits that extend far beyond the Jewish state.

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> *"Cancer therapies, space radiation shields, green hydrogen and quantum software are among 20 Israeli breakthroughs in 2026 reshaping science and medicine."*

At a time when Israel is so often discussed through the narrow lens of conflict, diplomacy and international controversy, another extraordinary story is unfolding in its laboratories, hospitals, universities and technology companies. Across a country smaller than many American states, Israeli scientists, engineers, physicians and entrepreneurs are developing technologies that could transform cancer treatment, protect astronauts travelling to distant planets, make clean energy more affordable, revolutionize food production and strengthen the defenses of democratic nations. These advances are not simply impressive achievements for a small country facing enormous security challenges. They represent contributions to humanity, addressing problems that affect millions of people across continents, religions and nationalities, including many who may never realize that the technology improving their lives originated in Israel.

Twenty notable Israeli breakthroughs highlighted in 2026 demonstrate the extraordinary breadth of this innovation. They range from technologies already being used in medical treatment and defense to experimental developments that may require years of further research before reaching widespread commercial application. Some are designed to confront diseases that have resisted conventional treatments, while others address the environmental pressures of climate change, the technological limitations of quantum computing or the dangers facing astronauts beyond Earth's protective magnetic field. Together, they reveal a country whose scientific ambitions extend far beyond its geographical boundaries and whose researchers continue to tackle some of the most difficult challenges facing the modern world.

The significance of these achievements becomes even greater when viewed against Israel's circumstances. Few advanced economies operate under such persistent security pressures, and few have been required to devote such a substantial share of their national resources to defense. Since the October 7, 2023, massacre and the wars that followed, Israeli society has experienced extraordinary disruption, with reservists called away from businesses and laboratories, families facing prolonged uncertainty and research institutions adapting to the demands of national emergency. Yet Israeli innovation has continued, reflecting a deeply established culture of scientific excellence, technological entrepreneurship and practical problem-solving.

This remarkable productivity challenges the tendency to define Israel primarily through its conflicts. The Jewish state is not merely defending its own population against threats; it is also developing solutions that could help people and improve lives across the world. Its scientists are working to make cancer treatment more precise, its engineers are developing technologies that could support cleaner energy and safer transportation, and its entrepreneurs are exploring new ways to produce food, protect digital infrastructure and expand humanity's capabilities in space. These contributions are not incidental to Israel's national identity. They reflect the country's longstanding investment in education, research, innovation and the belief that knowledge can be transformed into practical improvements in human life.

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The story of Israel in 2026 is therefore not only one of resilience in the face of adversity, but of a country continuing to make an extraordinary contribution to global progress. From saving lives to protecting the planet and advancing the frontiers of science, Israeli innovation is helping shape the future that people everywhere will inherit.

Israel's Scientific Achievements Defy Its Size and Circumstances

Israel's transformation into a globally significant center of technological innovation is one of the most remarkable developments in the country's modern history. Established in 1948 amid war, economic hardship and the enormous challenge of absorbing successive waves of immigration, the Jewish state began with limited natural resources and a relatively small industrial base. Over the following decades, it invested in universities, scientific institutions, agricultural research and technological education, gradually developing the expertise that would underpin its emergence as a major center of innovation. The country's achievements have been driven not only by government policy but also by a culture of entrepreneurship, the exchange of knowledge between academia and industry, and the ability of researchers to identify practical applications for scientific discoveries.

The breadth of the developments emerging from Israel in 2026 demonstrates how deeply this innovation ecosystem has matured. The country is no longer associated primarily with a narrow range of technological specialties, but with advanced research across medicine, energy, computing, defense, agriculture and space. Its companies and research institutions collaborate with international partners, attract foreign investment and contribute to technologies used across global markets. Some developments have already demonstrated commercial or clinical value, while others remain at an experimental stage. What connects them is a willingness to challenge established assumptions and pursue solutions to problems that have proved difficult for much larger countries and institutions.

A New Generation of Israeli Cancer Treatments

Among the most consequential Israeli developments are advances in cancer treatment, an area in which new technologies can have profound implications for patients and families worldwide. One particularly important example is the work of Professor Yoram Palti, whose research into the effects of electric fields on dividing cells helped create the technology now developed by NovoCure. The company's Tumor Treating Fields approach uses low-intensity alternating electric fields to interfere with processes involved in cancer cell division, offering a treatment method fundamentally different from conventional surgery, chemotherapy or radiation therapy. The technology has progressed from an unconventional scientific concept to regulatory-approved treatment for particular cancers, with its clinical applications continuing to expand.

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The significance of this achievement lies in the development of an entirely different approach to attacking cancer cells. Rather than relying exclusively upon drugs or ionizing radiation, the technology seeks to disrupt the physical processes that enable malignant cells to multiply. Its effectiveness varies according to the cancer being treated and the clinical evidence available, and it is not a universal cure. Nevertheless, the ability to translate a discovery in cellular physics into a treatment used by patients internationally

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demonstrates the potential of interdisciplinary research. It also illustrates how Israeli scientific ideas can move from academic laboratories into clinical practice, creating technologies that become part of the global medical landscape.

Precision Radiation That Targets Tumors From Within

Another important Israeli development involves Alpha DaRT, a technology designed to deliver highly localized alpha radiation directly into solid tumors. Conventional radiation treatment has long played a central role in oncology, but one of its challenges is delivering sufficient radiation to cancerous tissue while limiting damage to surrounding healthy cells. Alpha DaRT seeks to address this problem through the placement of small radioactive sources within a tumor, where the decay process generates alpha-emitting atoms that spread over short distances and damage nearby malignant cells. Because alpha particles have a very limited range in tissue, the approach offers the possibility of concentrating radiation effects within a defined treatment area.

The technology is being investigated for its potential to treat particular solid tumors, with clinical development and regulatory assessment determining where it may eventually be used. Its importance lies in the pursuit of more targeted cancer treatment, a major objective of modern oncology. If therapies can deliver destructive effects more precisely to malignant tissue while preserving healthy structures, patients may benefit from improved treatment options and reduced complications in appropriate clinical settings. The development reflects a broader Israeli contribution to precision medicine, in which engineering, physics and biomedical research are combined to create therapies designed around the specific characteristics of disease.

Artificial Intelligence Is Helping Design the Next Cancer Medicines

Israeli biotechnology is also advancing through the application of artificial intelligence to the design of new medicines. Biolojic Design has developed a computational approach to engineering antibodies, using AI to create biological molecules intended to interact with disease-related targets in carefully controlled ways. Its cancer drug candidate Imneskibart is designed to influence immune responses through a sophisticated antibody structure and has progressed into clinical development. The technology illustrates how computational tools can be used not merely to analyze existing medical data but to design new biological treatments with properties that would be difficult to achieve through conventional discovery methods alone.

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The potential implications extend beyond a single drug. Traditional pharmaceutical development is often lengthy, expensive and dependent on testing large numbers of candidate molecules before identifying those suitable for further development. AI-assisted molecular design offers opportunities to explore complex biological structures more systematically and create candidates tailored to particular therapeutic objectives. Such approaches remain subject to the same demanding requirements for safety, efficacy and clinical validation as other medicines, and promising laboratory results do not guarantee

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successful treatment. Nevertheless, Israeli companies working at the intersection of biotechnology and artificial intelligence are contributing to a field that could reshape how future medicines are discovered and developed.

A Fifteen-Minute Test That Could Improve Treatment Decisions

Not every important medical breakthrough requires an entirely new form of treatment. Sometimes the greatest benefit comes from helping physicians make better decisions with the tools already available. Israeli company MeMed has developed a blood test intended to distinguish between bacterial and viral infections by analyzing the body's immune response. The test can provide results in approximately fifteen minutes using the MeMed Key platform, offering clinicians additional information when determining whether a patient is likely to benefit from antibiotic treatment. This distinction is particularly important because antibiotics are effective against bacterial infections but not viral illnesses, and their unnecessary use contributes to the growing global problem of antimicrobial resistance.

The technology addresses a challenge encountered daily in hospitals and medical clinics around the world. Patients frequently present with symptoms that can be caused by either bacterial or viral infections, while conventional diagnostic methods may require time or fail to provide an immediate answer. A rapid test that improves the ability to distinguish between these causes could help physicians make more informed treatment decisions, reduce unnecessary antibiotic prescriptions in appropriate settings and support better patient care. The test must still be interpreted alongside clinical findings and other relevant information, but its development demonstrates how Israeli innovation can improve healthcare not only through dramatic new therapies but also through practical diagnostic tools that support everyday medical decisions.

Replacing a Damaged Heart Valve Without Opening the Chest

Cardiovascular medicine is another field in which Israeli researchers are pursuing less invasive approaches to treatment. Innovalve, a company whose technology originated at Sheba Medical Center, has developed a transcatheter system intended to replace a damaged mitral valve without requiring conventional open-heart surgery. The mitral valve regulates blood flow between chambers of the heart, and serious dysfunction can produce breathlessness, fatigue and other complications. For patients who are elderly, medically fragile or otherwise at elevated surgical risk, conventional procedures may present substantial challenges, creating a need for alternative approaches capable of restoring valve function with less invasive intervention.

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Innovalve's technology is being evaluated in patients as part of its clinical development, and its acquisition by Edwards Lifesciences demonstrates commercial interest in the potential of the approach. The device is not yet a universally available replacement for established surgical procedures, and its ultimate role will depend upon clinical evidence, regulatory decisions and patient suitability. Nevertheless, the development reflects an important direction in modern cardiovascular medicine: the effort to replace complex surgical interventions with catheter-based technologies that may reduce procedural burdens and expand treatment options. It also demonstrates how ideas emerging from Israeli hospitals can attract international partners and become part of broader efforts to improve medical care.

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Israeli Technology Could Help Protect Astronauts on the Moon and Mars

One of the most extraordinary examples of Israeli innovation comes from a field that appears far removed from the country's everyday challenges: the protection of astronauts travelling into deep space. Beyond Earth's protective magnetic field, astronauts face exposure to harmful radiation that can increase the risk of serious health problems during extended missions. This challenge becomes particularly important as international space agencies pursue ambitious plans for renewed lunar exploration and eventual human missions to Mars. Israeli company StemRad has developed AstroRad, a specialized protective vest designed to reduce radiation exposure to vulnerable parts of the body, offering a potential additional layer of protection for astronauts undertaking long-duration missions.

The technology has been evaluated through international space research, including experiments associated with NASA's Artemis program. Its design focuses protection on particularly sensitive organs rather than attempting to shield the entire body with heavy material, an important consideration because spacecraft payload weight is tightly constrained. Testing has produced encouraging findings concerning radiation reduction, although the level of protection varies according to the type of exposure, body region and measurement conditions. The broader significance is remarkable: a company in Israel is contributing to the effort to make human exploration beyond Earth safer. As humanity looks towards the Moon and eventually Mars, Israeli technology could become part of the equipment that helps protect the people undertaking those journeys.

Green Hydrogen and the Future of Clean Energy

The global transition towards cleaner energy presents enormous technological challenges, particularly in industries that are difficult to electrify directly. Hydrogen has attracted considerable interest as a potential energy carrier for sectors including heavy industry, chemical production and some forms of transportation, but producing hydrogen without significant greenhouse gas emissions remains expensive. Israeli company H2Pro is developing an alternative approach to water electrolysis, the process through which electricity is used to separate water into hydrogen and oxygen. Its technology, originating from Technion research, separates the hydrogen and oxygen production stages in a way intended to improve efficiency and reduce certain equipment costs.

The company's ambition is to make green hydrogen more economically competitive, potentially helping industries reduce their dependence upon fossil fuels. H2Pro has attracted substantial investment and has been working to scale its technology beyond laboratory demonstrations, including plans for larger hydrogen projects in Europe. However, commercial viability at industrial scale remains a central challenge, and the ultimate cost and efficiency advantages will depend upon successful deployment. The significance of the Israeli development is that it addresses a fundamental obstacle to cleaner industrial energy rather than simply offering an incremental improvement to an existing product. If successful, technologies of this kind could contribute to a more diversified global energy system and support efforts to reduce emissions in sectors where alternative solutions remain difficult.

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Growing Meat Without Raising Entire Animals

Another Israeli breakthrough is emerging in the future of food production. Aleph Farms has developed technology to produce cultivated beef from animal cells, seeking to create meat without the need to raise and slaughter an entire animal for each product. The approach involves growing cells under controlled conditions and developing structures that resemble conventional meat, drawing upon expertise in tissue engineering and biotechnology. The company has received regulatory approval in Singapore for its cultivated beef, an important milestone in the development of a food technology that remains at an early stage of commercial adoption.

The potential benefits are significant, although they remain dependent upon the ability to produce cultivated meat economically, sustainably and at scale. Conventional livestock production requires substantial resources, including land, water and feed, while contributing to greenhouse gas emissions. Cultivated meat offers a possible alternative that could eventually complement traditional agriculture, particularly as global demand for protein continues to grow. The environmental advantages will depend upon production methods, energy sources and industrial efficiency, and consumer acceptance will also be important. Nevertheless, Israel's role in this emerging industry demonstrates its capacity to apply advanced biological research to practical challenges involving food security, sustainability and the future of global agriculture.

Quantum Computing: Solving One of Technology's Greatest Challenges

Quantum computing has the potential to transform certain forms of scientific calculation, materials research and complex problem-solving, but its development is constrained by the extraordinary sensitivity of quantum systems to errors. Unlike conventional computers, which use bits representing zeros and ones, quantum computers use quantum states that can be disrupted by environmental interference and imperfections in hardware. These errors make it difficult to perform reliable calculations, particularly as systems become more complex. Israeli company Qedma, founded by researchers associated with the Technion and Hebrew University, is developing software designed to reduce the effects of quantum errors and improve the reliability of computations.

The company's work, including collaboration with IBM, reflects the importance of software innovation in a field often associated primarily with advanced hardware. Even highly sophisticated quantum processors cannot deliver useful results if errors overwhelm the information they produce. Methods that suppress, mitigate or correct these errors could therefore play a critical role in making quantum computing more practical. Qedma's technology represents an attempt to address one of the central barriers separating experimental quantum devices from systems capable of delivering consistent computational advantages. Although the field remains at an early stage and widespread commercial applications are still developing, Israeli researchers are contributing to the scientific foundations of a technology that could become increasingly important over the coming decades.

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Protecting Civilians With Advanced Israeli Defense Technology

Israel's defense industry remains one of the country's most internationally recognized centers of technological innovation, and developments in 2026 demonstrate its continued importance. The Iron Beam laser-based air defense system represents a significant effort to address the growing threat posed by rockets, mortars and unmanned aerial vehicles. Unlike conventional missile interceptors, directed-energy systems use concentrated laser energy to engage certain targets, potentially offering a lower cost per engagement once the system has been deployed. This could become especially important as hostile organizations and states increasingly use inexpensive drones and rockets to overwhelm defensive systems that rely upon comparatively costly interceptors.

Iron Beam is intended to complement rather than replace Israel's existing multilayered missile defense architecture, which includes Iron Dome, David's Sling and Arrow. Laser systems face limitations involving atmospheric conditions, target characteristics, line of sight and the availability of sufficient energy, meaning that conventional interceptors will remain necessary for many threats. Nevertheless, the development reflects Israel's determination to create more efficient ways of protecting civilian populations from repeated attacks. It also has potential relevance for other countries confronting similar threats, including American forces and allies seeking more sustainable defenses against inexpensive unmanned systems. The importance of the technology lies not simply in its sophistication but in its objective: making the protection of lives and critical infrastructure more effective against evolving threats.

Navigation and Military Systems That Can Operate Without GPS

Modern military and civilian systems have become heavily dependent upon satellite navigation, making them vulnerable to interference, jamming and spoofing. These threats are particularly serious in environments where hostile forces deliberately disrupt GPS signals to interfere with aircraft, drones, vehicles and precision systems. Israeli defense companies have developed technologies intended to maintain navigation and operational capabilities when satellite signals are unavailable or unreliable. Such systems may combine inertial navigation, computer vision, environmental mapping and other sensors to estimate position and movement independently of conventional GPS signals.

The relevance extends well beyond Israel's immediate security environment. Satellite navigation underpins important parts of modern transportation, logistics, emergency response and military operations, and disruptions can have serious consequences for safety and reliability. Technologies that reduce dependence upon a single source of positioning information could therefore become increasingly valuable as electronic warfare capabilities spread. Israeli expertise in operating within contested electromagnetic environments has helped drive research into resilient navigation, creating opportunities for applications in both defense and civilian industries. As the world becomes more technologically interconnected, the ability to maintain essential systems during deliberate interference may become a defining feature of future security and infrastructure planning.

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Cleaning Oil Spills With Advanced Israeli Materials

Environmental protection is another field benefiting from Israeli scientific research. Researchers at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev have developed a cellulose-based aerogel capable of absorbing large quantities of oil relative to its own weight. The material has been reported to absorb approximately 100 times its weight in oil under experimental conditions, making it a promising candidate for responding to certain forms of environmental contamination. Its structure can trap oil and fuel while potentially supporting microorganisms capable of breaking down pollutants, combining physical absorption with the possibility of biological remediation.

Oil spills can cause extensive damage to marine and terrestrial ecosystems, threatening wildlife, contaminating water and creating expensive cleanup challenges. Materials that efficiently capture oil while reducing secondary environmental harm could therefore provide valuable tools for environmental response. The Israeli aerogel remains a research development, and its practical effectiveness will depend upon factors including production cost, durability, recovery methods and performance in real-world conditions. Nevertheless, the project demonstrates how advanced materials science can be directed towards problems of immediate environmental importance. It also reflects the growing role of Israeli universities in developing technologies that address sustainability challenges affecting countries far beyond the Middle East.

Israel's Innovation Ecosystem Turns Scientific Ideas Into Practical Solutions

The diversity of these breakthroughs reveals an important characteristic of Israel's innovation economy: the unusually close relationships between universities, hospitals, technology companies, defense institutions and private investors. Scientific research does not remain confined to academic publications, while entrepreneurs frequently draw upon knowledge developed in fields that initially appear unrelated to commercial applications. A discovery in physics can become a cancer treatment, expertise in tissue engineering can contribute to new food technologies, and advances in optical sensing can produce medical devices. This movement of ideas between disciplines helps explain why a relatively small country has been able to establish a significant presence in so many technologically demanding sectors.

Israel's research universities, including the Technion, Hebrew University, Tel Aviv University, the Weizmann Institute of Science and Ben-Gurion University, play central roles in this ecosystem. Medical centers such as Sheba provide opportunities to identify clinical needs and develop technologies in collaboration with researchers and industry. The country's defense sector has also generated expertise in electronics, communications, sensors and advanced computing, some of which has contributed to civilian technological development. Combined with venture capital, international investment and an entrepreneurial culture, these institutions have created an environment in which scientific discoveries can progress towards practical applications. The results are visible not only in the number of Israeli technology companies but in the international significance of the problems they are attempting to solve.

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Innovation in the Face of War and International Pressure

The achievements of 2026 are particularly notable because they have emerged during an extraordinarily difficult period for Israeli society. The October 7 massacre and the subsequent conflicts placed immense demands upon the country's population, economy and institutions. Many scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs and medical professionals were called into reserve military service, while businesses faced uncertainty, disrupted schedules and the emotional consequences of prolonged national emergency. Universities and research organizations were required to adapt to circumstances that would have severely challenged even much larger countries. Yet the continuation of significant scientific and technological development demonstrates the depth of Israel's research capabilities and the determination of its institutions to maintain progress despite these pressures.

This resilience should not be mistaken for an absence of economic or social costs. Prolonged conflict has affected investment decisions, workforce availability, public expenditure and the daily lives of Israeli citizens. Some research projects and companies have experienced disruptions, and the long-term consequences of the security situation remain important considerations. Nevertheless, the ability to continue producing internationally relevant innovations under such circumstances reflects the strength of the country's scientific foundations. It also demonstrates that Israel's contribution to global progress is not dependent upon ideal conditions. Its researchers and entrepreneurs continue to pursue solutions to major human challenges even while their own society faces substantial difficulties.

Why the World Benefits From Israeli Innovation

The international significance of these breakthroughs becomes clear when considering the problems they address. Cancer does not distinguish between nationalities, and treatments developed through Israeli research may benefit patients in hospitals across the world. Cardiovascular disease affects families on every continent, making less invasive medical procedures valuable regardless of political borders. The need for cleaner energy, sustainable food production and environmental protection is shared by countries with vastly different political systems and economic circumstances. Quantum computing, cybersecurity and resilient navigation technologies may eventually contribute to industries and infrastructure far removed from the laboratories in which they originated.

This reality highlights an important dimension of Israel's international relationships. Scientific collaboration and commercial innovation create connections that extend beyond diplomatic disagreements, allowing researchers, physicians and businesses to work together on challenges of common concern. Israeli companies collaborate with American and European institutions, while Israeli technologies are incorporated into products and services used in international markets. The resulting benefits are not confined to Israel's allies or to countries that share its political positions. They emerge wherever scientific knowledge is translated into useful technology, demonstrating how a nation's contribution to humanity can extend far beyond its geographical and political boundaries.

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The Human Stories Behind the Technology

Behind every major technological achievement are researchers, physicians and entrepreneurs who have spent years confronting uncertainty, failed experiments and technical obstacles. A cancer treatment may begin with an observation that challenges conventional scientific assumptions, while a new medical device may emerge from a physician's frustration with the limitations of existing procedures. Energy technologies often require years of laboratory development before their commercial potential can be assessed, and advanced computing systems may depend upon breakthroughs in mathematics and engineering that are difficult to appreciate outside specialist communities. The achievements visible in 2026 are therefore not isolated moments of inspiration but the results of sustained effort, institutional support and a willingness to pursue difficult problems without any guarantee of success.

This human dimension is central to understanding Israel's innovation culture. The country's researchers frequently operate within small teams that bring together different disciplines, while entrepreneurs must navigate the demanding transition from scientific discovery to commercial viability. Many technologies require extensive testing, regulatory approval and international partnerships before they can reach the people who may ultimately benefit from them. The fact that Israeli institutions continue to support such work demonstrates a commitment to long-term scientific development rather than simply the pursuit of immediate commercial success. It is this combination of creativity, persistence and practical ambition that has helped transform Israel into a globally important center of technological research.

The Next Decade of Israeli Innovation

The breakthroughs emerging in 2026 offer a glimpse of technological developments that may become increasingly important during the next decade. Artificial intelligence is beginning to influence how medicines are designed, quantum computing is moving towards more practical applications, and advances in biotechnology are creating new possibilities for food production and medical treatment. Clean energy technologies are being developed to address difficult industrial challenges, while space exploration is generating demand for protective systems capable of supporting human activity beyond Earth. Israel's participation in these fields places its researchers and companies within some of the most important scientific conversations shaping the future.

The transition from promising research to widespread application will not be automatic. Technologies must demonstrate reliability, safety, affordability and practical value, while companies must overcome regulatory, financial and engineering challenges. Some innovations will achieve major commercial success, others will contribute important scientific knowledge without becoming widely adopted, and some may ultimately prove less effective than their early results suggest. Nevertheless, the breadth of Israel's research activity provides a strong foundation for continued progress. Its universities, hospitals, investors and entrepreneurs are engaged in fields that will remain important for decades, ensuring that Israeli innovation is likely to remain relevant to the global search for better medical treatments, cleaner energy, more secure infrastructure and new technological capabilities.

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Conclusion: A Small Nation Making an Extraordinary Contribution to Humanity

The twenty Israeli breakthroughs highlighted in 2026 demonstrate something remarkable about the Jewish state: despite its small size, persistent security challenges and the enormous demands placed upon its society, Israel continues to contribute scientific and technological advances that address some of humanity's most important problems. From cancer therapies and rapid infection diagnostics to advanced heart valves, space radiation protection, quantum computing, clean hydrogen, cultivated meat and environmental technologies, Israeli researchers are working across an extraordinary range of disciplines. Some of these developments are already influencing medical treatment and industry, while others remain promising projects whose full potential will be determined through further research and development.

The achievements reflect decades of investment in education, science and technological entrepreneurship, together with a culture that encourages researchers to question conventional assumptions and seek practical solutions. They also demonstrate the value of international cooperation, because many Israeli innovations reach their greatest potential through partnerships with institutions, companies and investors abroad. The resulting technologies can benefit people regardless of nationality, religion or political belief, reinforcing the idea that scientific progress is one of the most important contributions a country can make to the wider world.

At a time when Israel is frequently portrayed internationally through conflict and controversy, these breakthroughs provide a broader understanding of the country's identity and global significance. Israel is not defined solely by the threats it faces or the wars it has been forced to fight. It is also a nation of scientists, physicians, engineers and entrepreneurs whose work is helping develop new treatments for serious diseases, improve the sustainability of essential industries and expand the boundaries of human knowledge. These achievements deserve recognition not because they erase political disagreements or security challenges, but because they represent genuine contributions to human progress.

The same country that invests extraordinary resources in protecting its citizens is also investing in technologies that could protect millions of people around the world. Its scientists are developing new ways to fight cancer, its engineers are helping make future space missions safer, and its entrepreneurs are exploring solutions to the challenges of food security, clean energy and advanced computing. The importance of Israeli innovation is ultimately measured not simply by the number of companies created, patents registered or investments attracted, but by the real-world problems that these technologies may help solve. A treatment that improves a cancer patient's prospects, a diagnostic test that supports more appropriate medical care or an environmental technology that helps restore damaged ecosystems represents a contribution whose value extends far beyond national borders.

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Israel's greatest technological achievement is not any single invention. It is the creation of a society capable of repeatedly turning scientific knowledge into solutions for some of the world's most difficult challenges. In laboratories, hospitals, universities and technology companies across the Jewish state, the future is already being developed. And as these Israeli innovations move from research into practical application, their benefits may be felt by millions of people who will never visit Israel, but whose lives may nevertheless be improved by what its scientists and entrepreneurs have created.

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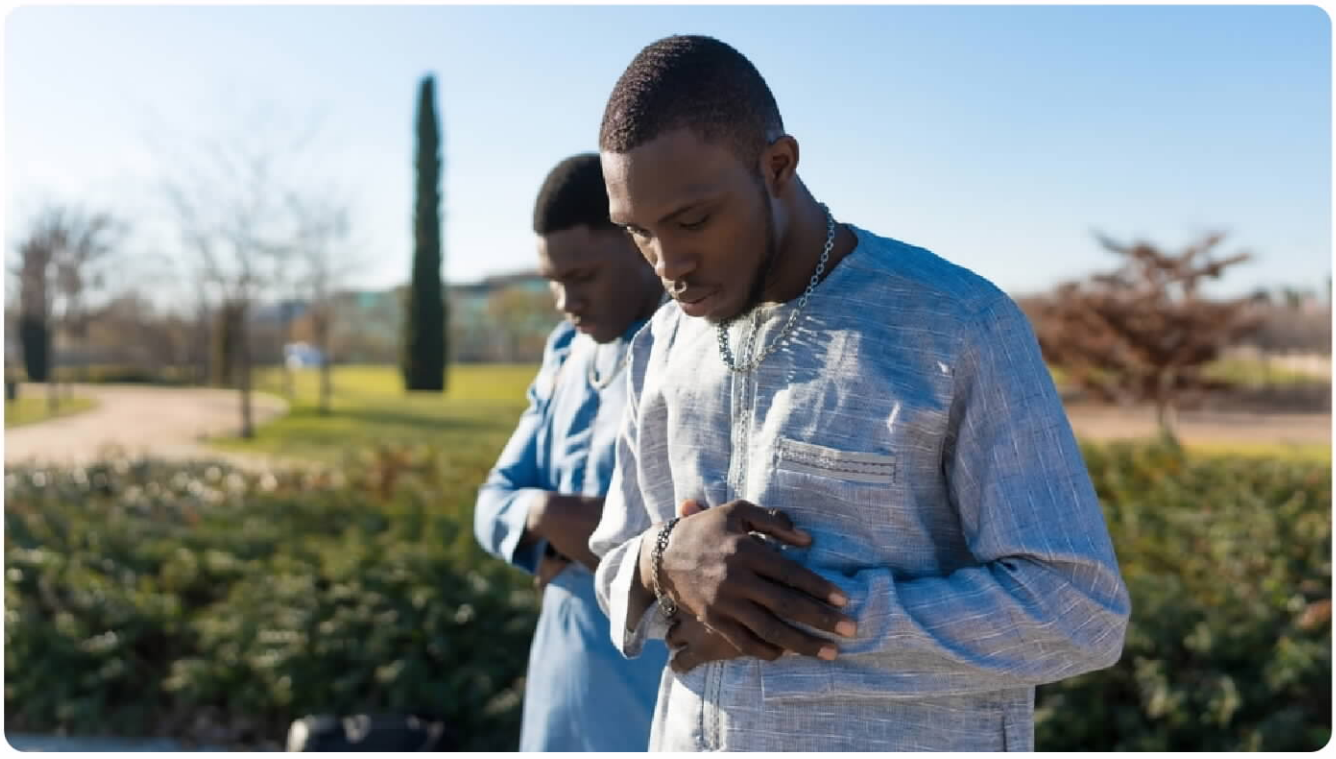
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The Muslim Brotherhood's Long March Through Western Institutions: Why Europe and America Must Confront the Threat of Islamist Entryism

> France, Germany, and the U.S. confront Muslim Brotherhood entryism: a strategy to gain influence in democratic institutions without open confrontation.



EXECUTIVE KEY FINDINGS & INVESTIGATIVE TAKEAWAYS

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1 The Muslim Brotherhood is a transnational Islamist movement founded in 1928, with branches and affiliated networks that have pursued different political strategies.

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2 Entryism describes efforts to acquire influence within established institutions, potentially allowing ideological movements to shape decisions without openly declaring their ultimate objectives.

3 France's 2025 government investigation identified a long-term risk of Brotherhood-linked influence through associations, educational institutions, religious organizations and local political relationships.

4 A French parliamentary inquiry in 2026 warned of a genuine risk of Islamist entryism during elections, while emphasizing that most local elected officials were attentive to the threat.

5 Germany's federal government identified the German Muslim Community as a central Brotherhood-linked organization, describing a strategy of presenting itself as a moderate representative of Muslim interests while pursuing political influence.

6 Germany stated in May 2026 that it had no evidence of targeted Brotherhood infiltration of parties represented in the Bundestag, an important distinction between a documented influence strategy and proven penetration of political parties.

7 The United States designated the Lebanese and Sudanese Brotherhood branches as Foreign Terrorist Organizations in 2026, while imposing terrorism-related sanctions on Egyptian and Jordanian branches.

8 Researchers have raised concerns about historical Brotherhood-linked networks in American civil society, but allegations concerning particular elected officials or civil servants require independent proof.

9 Israel can become a focus of Islamist political mobilization, although criticism of Israeli policy or support for Palestinian rights does not establish Brotherhood affiliation.

10 Western governments need transparent funding rules, effective intelligence cooperation and rigorous conflict-of-interest procedures, while protecting religious freedom and legitimate political participation.

For decades, Western governments have largely understood the threat of Islamist extremism through the lens of terrorism, violent radicalization and attacks against civilian populations. Security services have concentrated on identifying terrorist cells, disrupting financing networks, preventing attacks and monitoring individuals who openly advocate violence. Yet a different challenge has increasingly attracted the attention of European intelligence agencies, parliamentary investigators and policymakers: the attempt by Islamist movements to acquire influence within democratic societies through political participation, community organizations, educational institutions and relationships with government authorities. This phenomenon, commonly described as entryism, does not necessarily involve violence or openly revolutionary activity. Its danger, where it can be demonstrated, lies in the

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possibility that organizations committed to replacing liberal democratic principles with an ideologically defined religious order may use the freedoms and institutions of democracy to advance objectives fundamentally at odds with those institutions.

At the center of this concern is the Muslim Brotherhood, a movement founded in Egypt in 1928 that developed into an international network of political, religious and social organizations. The Brotherhood has never operated as a completely uniform organization, and its branches have followed different paths, ranging from electoral participation and community activism to associations with armed movements. Nevertheless, its historical ambition to organize political and social life according to its interpretation of Islam has raised persistent questions about the compatibility of some Brotherhood-inspired projects with constitutional democracy, religious pluralism and individual freedoms. Hamas emerged from the Palestinian Brotherhood tradition, while several other Brotherhood branches have been accused of supporting terrorist organizations. In January and March 2026, the United States formally designated specific Brotherhood branches as terrorist organizations or sanctioned terrorist entities, marking a significant development in Washington's treatment of the movement.

The issue has become especially urgent in Europe, where France and Germany have publicly identified political Islamism and Brotherhood-linked influence operations as matters of national security concern. French authorities have investigated the use of religious institutions, schools, associations and municipal relationships to build influence within society, while German domestic intelligence has warned about organizations seeking political and social influence through apparently moderate public engagement. In both countries, the central concern is not ordinary Muslim participation in democratic life, which is a fundamental right, but organized attempts to use community representation and access to public institutions to advance an ideological agenda that conflicts with constitutional principles.

The United States is now confronting its own version of this debate. American authorities have taken action against particular Brotherhood branches abroad, while researchers and policymakers are examining the movement's historical networks and potential methods of influence within American civic institutions. Yet there is an essential distinction between documented foreign organizational activity and allegations that American politicians, civil servants or Muslim community organizations are secretly controlled by the Brotherhood. The former can be investigated through financial records, organizational structures and intelligence evidence; the latter must never be assumed merely because an individual is Muslim, politically active, critical of Israel or associated with a conservative religious organization. Failing to maintain that distinction would undermine the very democratic freedoms that Western societies are seeking to protect.

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The challenge facing Europe and America is to recognize that an ideological movement does not necessarily need to win an election, carry out a terrorist attack or openly reject democracy to seek long-term political influence. But confronting that threat effectively requires evidence, transparency and constitutional safeguards, not suspicion directed at entire religious communities.

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Key Takeaways

- The Muslim Brotherhood[1] is a transnational Islamist movement founded in 1928, with branches and affiliated networks that have pursued different political strategies.
- Entryism describes efforts to acquire influence[2] within established institutions, potentially allowing ideological movements to shape decisions without openly declaring their ultimate objectives.
- France's 2025 government investigation[3] identified a long-term risk of Brotherhood-linked influence through associations, educational institutions, religious organizations and local political relationships.
- A French parliamentary inquiry in 2026 warned of a genuine risk of Islamist entryism during elections, while emphasizing that most local elected officials were attentive to the threat.

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- Germany's federal government identified the German Muslim Community as a central Brotherhood-linked organization, describing a strategy of presenting itself as a moderate representative of Muslim interests while pursuing political influence.
- Germany stated in May 2026 that it had no evidence of targeted Brotherhood infiltration of parties represented in the Bundestag, an important distinction between a documented influence strategy and proven penetration of political parties.
- The United States designated[4] the Lebanese (https://cognitura.org/hamas-gaza/october-7-was-not-supposed-to-end-at-the-gaza-border-it-was-an-attempted-genocide-and-the-destruction-of-israel/) and Sudanese Brotherhood branches as Foreign Terrorist Organizations in 2026, while imposing terrorism-related sanctions on Egyptian and Jordanian branches.
- Researchers have raised concerns about historical Brotherhood-linked networks (https://cognitura.org/foreign-influence/the-muslim-brotherhood-told-the-west-what-it-wanted-to-do-perhaps-we-should-listen/)in American civil society, but allegations concerning particular elected officials or civil servants require independent proof.
- Israel can become a focus of Islamist political mobilization, although criticism of Israeli policy or support for Palestinian rights does not establish Brotherhood affiliation.
- Western governments need transparent funding rules, effective intelligence cooperation and rigorous conflict-of-interest procedures, while protecting (https://cognitura.org/foreign-influence/the-brotherhood-in-the-backyard-the-islamist-movement-the-west-refuses-to-confront/)religious freedom and legitimate political participation.

Understanding Entryism: Influence Without an Open Confrontation

The concept of entryism is particularly important because it describes a method of political influence that differs from the direct confrontation traditionally associated with extremist movements. Rather than attempting to overthrow existing institutions, organizations pursuing entryist strategies may seek to become influential within them, developing relationships with elected officials, participating in consultations, building charitable and educational networks, and presenting themselves as representatives of communities whose interests governments are eager to understand. These activities are not inherently improper. They are ordinary features of democratic participation when undertaken transparently and within constitutional boundaries. The concern arises when organizational affiliations,

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funding sources or ideological objectives are deliberately concealed, particularly where a movement seeks to use public institutions to promote restrictions upon freedoms that those institutions exist to protect.

The Muslim Brotherhood's historical development helps explain why European authorities have become interested in this distinction. Its founder, Hassan al-Banna, emphasized the transformation of society through religious education, social organization and political engagement, creating a movement whose ambitions extended beyond conventional religious practice. Subsequent Brotherhood thinkers and branches developed differing approaches, including gradual institutional influence, electoral politics and, in some contexts, support for revolutionary or violent activity. This history does not establish that every contemporary organization influenced by Brotherhood thought follows a secret coordinated plan. It does, however, provide a basis for examining whether particular organizations seek political authority through methods that conceal their relationship with a wider ideological movement or misrepresent their commitment to constitutional democracy.

France: A Government Investigation Reveals the Scale of the Concern

France has become one of the clearest examples of a European government treating Islamist entryism as a distinct political and institutional challenge. In May 2025, the French Interior Ministry published the findings of a government-commissioned investigation into the Muslim Brotherhood and political Islamism. The investigation examined the role of associations, schools, mosques and other organizations in creating networks of influence within French society, warning that Brotherhood-linked structures could seek to shape community life and establish relationships with public authorities over extended periods. The report identified Musulmans de France as a principal organization associated with the Brotherhood's current in France, an identification that the organization disputes. It also acknowledged important limitations, including the absence of recent evidence that the organization was actively attempting to establish an Islamic state or impose Sharia law throughout France.

The significance of the French findings lies in the institutional mechanisms they examined. A network does not need to control a national political party to acquire influence over local decisions concerning education, religious facilities, public funding or community representation. Municipal authorities regularly work with civic and religious organizations, and those relationships can create opportunities for organizations to present themselves as indispensable intermediaries between government and local populations. French investigators have warned that this process can become problematic when groups use claims of community representation to advance separatist agendas or discourage integration into

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common civic institutions. The risk is not that Muslims organize politically, which is entirely legitimate, but that particular ideological organizations may claim a monopoly over Muslim representation while promoting social arrangements inconsistent with France's constitutional principles.

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France's Municipal Politics: Where Institutional Influence Can Begin

The French debate became more concrete in 2026 when a parliamentary inquiry examined relationships between political representatives and organizations accused of supporting terrorism or promoting Islamist ideology. The inquiry warned that local elected officials can face particular difficulties distinguishing legitimate community requests from strategies involving ideological influence or separatism. It also noted that the overwhelming majority of local officials remained attentive to these concerns and cooperated satisfactorily with state authorities, while identifying a genuine risk of entryism during future electoral contests. This distinction matters because it demonstrates that French concerns are not based simply upon the existence of Muslim organizations or Muslim politicians, but upon the possibility that particular networks may seek to exploit weaknesses in local political oversight.

The vulnerability of municipal politics is understandable. Local governments often operate with limited resources, rely upon relationships with community organizations and make decisions that directly affect schools, social services, public facilities and religious institutions. An organization that successfully presents itself as the principal representative of a large community may acquire influence disproportionate to its actual membership or public support. If its leadership is transparent and its objectives are consistent with democratic law, that influence can be legitimate. If it conceals ideological commitments, pressures officials to grant exclusive recognition or uses public funding to advance discriminatory practices, it becomes a matter of public concern. France's experience therefore offers a broader lesson: institutional resilience depends upon verifying who organizations represent, how they are financed and whether their activities comply with the constitutional obligations attached to public authority.

Germany: Intelligence Services Identify a Long-Term Political Strategy

Germany's assessment of the Muslim Brotherhood is particularly significant because its domestic intelligence system explicitly monitors organizations considered hostile to the country's free democratic constitutional order. In May 2026, the federal government responded to a parliamentary inquiry

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concerning the possible infiltration of political parties by Islamist organizations. Its response identified the German Muslim Community, known as the Deutsche Muslimische Gemeinschaft, as the central and most important organization associated with Brotherhood supporters in Germany. According to the government, the organization seeks to appear before politicians, authorities and civil society as a representative of moderate, open-minded Islam while pursuing a strategy of political and social influence rooted in Brotherhood ideology. The government further described the Brotherhood's objective as the establishment of a political and social system based upon its interpretation of the Quran and Sunnah, which German authorities consider incompatible with the country's constitutional democratic order.

(https://cognitura.org/)

Equally important is what the German government did not claim. In the same parliamentary response, it stated that it had no current evidence of a targeted infiltration of parties represented in the Bundestag by members or supporters of Islamist organizations. That qualification is essential because it separates a documented ideological strategy from proof that the strategy has successfully penetrated particular political institutions. Germany's intelligence assessment supports concern about organized attempts to acquire political and social influence, but it does not justify accusing specific elected officials or civil servants of Brotherhood membership without evidence. This distinction strengthens rather than weakens the case for vigilance, because effective counter-extremism policy must be based upon demonstrable organizational conduct rather than assumptions about religion or political identity.

Germany's Warning: The Threat Is Not Always Violent

The German debate intensified in June 2026 following reports that Sinan Selen, president of the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution, had warned parliamentarians about attempts by Islamist organizations to acquire influence within political institutions. According to accounts of a closed-door briefing, Selen identified the Muslim Brotherhood as a particular concern because of its strategic patience and long-term approach. The warning reflected an important distinction within Germany's security framework: an organization does not necessarily need to advocate immediate violence to pursue objectives considered hostile to the democratic constitutional order. A movement seeking to replace constitutional principles through sustained institutional influence may pose a different kind of challenge from a terrorist cell, requiring different investigative tools and responses.

Germany's approach is especially relevant because the country has extensive experience confronting movements that seek to exploit democratic freedoms while undermining the institutions protecting those freedoms. Its constitutional system was designed with the historical lessons of the twentieth century firmly in mind, including the danger that antidemocratic movements can acquire legitimacy

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through ordinary political mechanisms. The challenge is to apply that principle consistently without treating religious conservatism, peaceful political advocacy or minority community organization as inherently extremist. The Muslim Brotherhood's ideological objectives, where documented, can legitimately attract intelligence scrutiny, but the threshold for alleging infiltration of government institutions must remain evidentiary rather than rhetorical. Germany's own statements demonstrate that a government can recognize a serious long-term threat while acknowledging that particular allegations of political penetration remain unproven.

The Civil Service: An Especially Sensitive Potential Target

The possibility of entryism within the civil service deserves particular attention because permanent government institutions can exercise influence long after elected politicians have left office. Civil servants help formulate policy, administer public funding, advise ministers, oversee regulatory systems and maintain relationships with outside organizations. Their professional obligations include impartiality, respect for constitutional law and the separation of personal beliefs from official responsibilities. If individuals were to use such positions secretly to advance the objectives of an organization hostile to democratic principles, the consequences could extend beyond any single political decision. The same concern would apply to members of any extremist movement, whether religious or secular, seeking to compromise the independence of public administration.

However, there is a crucial difference between identifying a vulnerability and proving that it has been exploited. Publicly available evidence from France and Germany establishes official concern about Islamist influence strategies and relationships with public institutions, but it does not substantiate sweeping claims that Brotherhood operatives have captured European civil services. Such allegations require specific evidence concerning individuals, organizational direction, concealed relationships or improper official conduct. The appropriate response is therefore to strengthen ordinary safeguards: transparent appointments, rigorous conflict-of-interest procedures, scrutiny of undisclosed organizational affiliations where legally justified, and clear rules governing government partnerships with outside bodies. Civil servants should be assessed according to their conduct and adherence to constitutional obligations, not their religion, ethnicity or lawful political opinions.

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The United States: A Threat Once Treated as Distant Is Receiving New Attention

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For many years, American debate about the Muslim Brotherhood concentrated primarily on its activities in Egypt and the wider Middle East. The movement's role in Egyptian politics, its relationship with Hamas and the activities of Brotherhood-inspired organizations abroad attracted considerable attention, but the question of institutional influence within the United States remained more controversial. Researchers examining historical Brotherhood networks in North America have argued that some activists pursued long-term strategies involving religious institutions, civic organizations and engagement with political authorities. One frequently discussed document is a 1991 memorandum introduced as evidence during the Holy Land Foundation terrorism-financing prosecution. Analysts have interpreted the memorandum as evidence of ambitions to build institutional influence within American society, although the document's existence does not establish that contemporary American Muslim organizations, politicians or civil servants are implementing a unified Brotherhood strategy.

The distinction is essential because the United States has a constitutional tradition of protecting religious freedom, political association and participation in government. American Muslims have every right to establish organizations, seek public office, work in the civil service, criticize government policy and participate in political campaigns. None of those activities constitutes evidence of entryism. The legitimate national security concern arises when an organization conceals material connections to a designated terrorist entity, provides unlawful support to violence, misrepresents its financing or secretly directs officials to advance an agenda incompatible with their public responsibilities. These are matters that can be investigated through established legal procedures. Treating ordinary Muslim civic participation as suspicious would not only violate American principles but also make it more difficult to identify genuinely dangerous networks.

Washington's 2026 Designations Mark a Significant Change

The clearest development in American policy occurred following President Trump's November 24, 2025, executive order directing federal authorities to review particular Muslim Brotherhood chapters for potential terrorist designations. On January 13, 2026, the Treasury Department designated the Egyptian and Jordanian branches as Specially Designated Global Terrorists, citing their material support for Hamas, while the State Department designated the Lebanese Brotherhood branch, also known as al-Jamaa al-Islamiyah, as a Foreign Terrorist Organization. In March 2026, Washington

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designated the Sudanese Muslim Brotherhood as a Foreign Terrorist Organization, citing violent activities and its relationship with Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard (https://cognitura.org/disinformation/malicious-foreign-accounts-are-driving-viral-anti-u-s-and-anti-israel-narratives-online/) Corps. These actions represented concrete legal determinations concerning identified branches, rather than a blanket designation of every organization associated with Brotherhood thought.

The significance of these decisions extends beyond sanctions. They demonstrate that American authorities now regard particular Brotherhood branches as presenting threats serious enough to warrant the use of counterterrorism powers. The designations create legal consequences for financial transactions, material support and organizational relationships involving the named entities, providing a basis for investigating relevant connections where evidence exists. At the same time, the decisions do not establish that the Muslim Brotherhood operates as a single centrally controlled global organization, nor do they prove that American political institutions have been infiltrated. Their importance lies in providing a more precise framework for distinguishing between documented terrorist support, ideological influence and lawful civic activity. That precision is essential if Washington is to address genuine security concerns without turning the issue into an indiscriminate campaign against Muslim organizations.

American Political Institutions: Influence Must Be Distinguished From Infiltration

The growing visibility of Muslim Americans in political office, public administration and civic organizations has coincided with increasing allegations that Islamist movements are acquiring influence within American institutions. Some commentators have interpreted electoral victories, political appointments or advocacy relationships as evidence that Brotherhood-style entryism is succeeding in the United States. Such claims deserve careful examination, but the existence of Muslim elected officials or politically active Muslim communities is not itself evidence of ideological infiltration. A politician's religious identity, criticism of Israel or support for Palestinian rights cannot establish membership in the Muslim Brotherhood, and accusations of concealed organizational loyalty require documentation rather than insinuation.

The distinction became particularly important following the November 3, 2026, midterm elections, when Abdul El-Sayed became the first Muslim elected to the United States Senate. His campaign was accompanied by allegations of Brotherhood connections and extremist sympathies, but contemporary reporting found no evidence establishing those claims, which El-Sayed denied. His election therefore

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cannot responsibly be presented as proof of Brotherhood entryism. What the broader controversy does illustrate is the need for a more disciplined public discussion of political Islamism, one that focuses upon verified organizational relationships, financial networks and conduct rather than treating religious representation as inherently threatening. Without such discipline, legitimate concerns about extremist influence risk becoming indistinguishable from religious discrimination, ultimately undermining public confidence in the investigations that genuinely matter.

(https://cognitura.org/)

The Debate Over American Muslim Organizations

The United States has also experienced growing controversy over Muslim advocacy organizations, particularly the Council on American-Islamic Relations. In Florida, state authorities pursued a terrorist designation against CAIR (https://cognitura.org/hamas-gaza/why-handing-gaza-to-the-palestinian-authority-risks-renewed-terror/), and by November 6, 2026, the organization had suspended its operations in the state following developments in litigation over the designation. CAIR rejects the allegations against it, while civil liberties organizations have criticized the state's approach as a threat to constitutional protections. The dispute demonstrates how concerns about Islamist influence have moved from academic and intelligence discussions into concrete legal and political confrontations within the United States. It does not, however, establish that CAIR controls public officials or that allegations of organizational wrongdoing have been proven in criminal proceedings.

This controversy illustrates a broader problem confronting American authorities. Organizations may simultaneously participate in legitimate civil rights advocacy, hold controversial political positions and face questions about historical relationships or particular activities. Each allegation must be evaluated separately, and legal conclusions should not be inferred from political disagreement alone. Where credible evidence establishes unlawful financial support for terrorism, concealed foreign direction or other prohibited conduct, authorities should investigate and act. Where such evidence is absent, the rights of lawful organizations must remain protected. The strongest response to entryism is not an expansive definition that makes every political opponent suspect, but a carefully enforced distinction between transparent democratic participation and covert activity undertaken on behalf of organizations pursuing unlawful objectives.

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How Israel Can Become a Deflection From the Wider Ideological Debate

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Israel occupies an important place in the political messaging of many Islamist movements, but the relationship between Islamist ideology and anti-Israel activism requires careful distinction. Hamas emerged from the Palestinian Muslim Brotherhood tradition, and hostility towards Israel has been a central element of its political and military identity. Other Brotherhood-associated organizations and ideological currents have also made the Palestinian cause a prominent part of their public activity, sometimes using the conflict to mobilize supporters, build coalitions and establish political relevance. Because the Israeli-Palestinian conflict generates intense emotions and attracts broad international attention, it can provide opportunities for organizations to present themselves primarily through humanitarian or political advocacy rather than through a fuller discussion of their ideological objectives.

The danger arises when legitimate concern for Palestinian civilians becomes a means of avoiding scrutiny of an organization's broader positions concerning democracy, religious freedom, women's rights, minority protections or the use of violence. An organization that demands accountability from Israel should also be prepared to explain its position on Hamas's October 7 massacre, the taking of hostages and the rights of people who reject its religious or political worldview. Equally, criticism of Israel, participation in pro-Palestinian demonstrations or advocacy for Palestinian statehood does not establish Brotherhood affiliation or extremist intent. The essential question is whether particular organizations use the Palestinian issue to conceal unlawful relationships, justify attacks against civilians or deflect examination of documented ideological commitments. Israel should not become a substitute for that examination, because the wider issue concerns the integrity of Western democratic institutions and the principles upon which they operate.

Why Moderate and Reform-Minded Muslims Have a Stake in This Debate

One of the most overlooked aspects of the entryism debate is that Muslims who support liberal democracy, religious pluralism and individual freedom may themselves have strong reasons to oppose authoritarian Islamist movements. Muslim communities are not politically or theologically uniform, and many individuals reject the idea that religious identity should determine the constitutional order of the state. Others object to organizations claiming to represent all Muslims while promoting restrictive social expectations or attempting to control communal institutions. Where governments rely too heavily upon

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a narrow group of religious organizations as their principal interlocutors, they risk marginalizing the diversity of opinion within Muslim communities and strengthening precisely the gatekeeping structures that entryism investigations seek to understand.

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This is why effective policy must avoid treating Muslim populations as a single political constituency. Governments should engage with a broad range of voices, including secular Muslims, reform-minded religious leaders, women, young people and individuals who do not wish to be represented through religious organizations at all. Such an approach would make it more difficult for any ideological network to claim exclusive authority over a community and would strengthen the rights of Muslims who wish to participate fully in democratic society without accepting the political ambitions of religious movements. Protecting constitutional freedoms and investigating extremist influence are therefore complementary objectives when pursued carefully, because both depend upon ensuring that individuals remain free from coercion and that public institutions do not privilege one ideological organization over the wider population.

The Lessons Europe Offers America

France and Germany provide useful but distinct lessons for the United States. France has concentrated upon the relationships between political Islamism, communal institutions and the republican model of secular public life, while Germany has placed particular emphasis upon the compatibility of Islamist ideological objectives with its constitutional democratic order. Both countries have identified concerns about long-term influence strategies, yet their official findings also demonstrate the importance of avoiding exaggerated claims about the extent of proven institutional penetration. France's parliamentary investigators warned of genuine risks in local politics, while Germany explicitly acknowledged that it lacked evidence of targeted infiltration of parties represented in its federal parliament. These findings suggest that the threat should be taken seriously without assuming that every feared outcome has already occurred.

The United States can draw upon these experiences while remaining faithful to its own constitutional traditions. Greater transparency concerning foreign funding, clearer disclosure of organizational relationships, stronger enforcement of counterterrorism financing laws and appropriate scrutiny of conflicts of interest would provide tools for addressing covert influence without restricting ordinary religious or political participation. Intelligence cooperation with European partners could also help identify transnational networks where evidence establishes relevant connections. The objective should be to ensure that public institutions remain independent, accountable and governed by constitutional

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principles, while avoiding measures that punish individuals for lawful beliefs or associations. A democratic society demonstrates its strength not by abandoning its freedoms in response to ideological threats, but by protecting those freedoms through effective and proportionate enforcement of the law.

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The Cost of Ignoring Long-Term Ideological Influence

The danger of overlooking entryism is that its consequences, where it succeeds, may become visible only after relationships and institutions have been established over many years. An organization that acquires privileged access to government consultation, public funding or community representation may gradually shape policy discussions without attracting the attention associated with overt extremist activity. If its leadership conceals organizational connections or misrepresents its objectives, public authorities may make decisions without understanding whose interests are being advanced. These risks are not unique to Islamist movements; they can arise wherever organizations seek to use democratic institutions covertly to pursue antidemocratic objectives. The appropriate response is therefore to establish standards of transparency and accountability that apply consistently across political and ideological boundaries.

Ignoring credible evidence of such activity would be a mistake, particularly when intelligence agencies and government investigators have identified specific organizations and strategies deserving scrutiny. But exaggerating the threat would also be damaging, because it could encourage discrimination, weaken cooperation with Muslim communities and distract security services from demonstrable risks. The challenge is to recognize that nonviolent ideological influence and violent extremism are different phenomena requiring different responses. Terrorist organizations must be confronted through the criminal law and counterterrorism powers, while attempts to manipulate civic institutions should be addressed through transparency requirements, regulatory oversight and constitutional safeguards. A strategy that fails to distinguish these categories risks being both ineffective and unjust.

Conclusion: Defending Democracy Means Recognizing the Threat Without Abandoning Democratic Principles

By November 8, 2026, the Muslim Brotherhood and the wider question of Islamist entryism had become matters of serious concern for governments on both sides of the Atlantic. France had published a major investigation into Brotherhood-linked influence networks and undertaken parliamentary scrutiny of the risks facing local politics. Germany had identified the German Muslim Community as a central Brotherhood-associated organization pursuing political and social influence,

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while acknowledging the absence of evidence for targeted infiltration of federal parliamentary parties. The United States had designated particular Brotherhood branches as terrorist organizations or sanctioned entities and was experiencing increasingly contentious debates over the activities of Muslim advocacy organizations and the boundaries of lawful political participation. Together, these developments demonstrate that the issue can no longer be dismissed as a theoretical concern confined to the Middle East.

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The principal danger is not that Muslims are becoming more visible in Western political life, nor that religious organizations are participating in democratic debate. Those developments are consistent with the freedoms that define Western societies. The danger arises when movements committed to replacing constitutional principles with an ideological religious order seek influence through concealed affiliations, misleading claims of representation or relationships that compromise the independence of public institutions. Where such conduct is documented, governments have a responsibility to investigate and respond. Where allegations remain unproven, they must not be treated as established facts simply because they fit a wider theory of institutional infiltration.

Israel's experience with Hamas and other Islamist movements provides important context, but the broader issue reaches well beyond the Middle East. It concerns whether European and American institutions can recognize organized ideological threats without surrendering the liberties that distinguish democratic societies from the authoritarian systems those movements may seek to establish. That requires political leadership, informed intelligence work, transparency in public administration and a willingness to examine organizations according to their actual conduct rather than their preferred public image.

The lesson from France and Germany is that democratic institutions must pay attention not only to organizations that openly threaten them, but also to those whose documented objectives and methods raise questions about their commitment to the constitutional order. The lesson for America is to act upon evidence early, while refusing to confuse religious identity with extremist affiliation.

A confident democracy should have no difficulty welcoming Muslims into every level of political and civic life while insisting that all organizations and officials respect the same constitutional obligations. It should be equally capable of protecting religious freedom and investigating concealed relationships with organizations that support terrorism or seek to undermine democratic institutions. These principles are not contradictory; they are mutually reinforcing.

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The West's strongest defense against Islamist entryism is neither denial nor collective suspicion. It is the determination to protect democratic institutions through transparency, independent scrutiny, equal application of the law and an unwavering commitment to the freedoms that extremist movements cannot be permitted to erode.

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Footnotes

1. https://jinsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/The-Muslim-Brotherhood-10.29.26-2.pdf (https://jinsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/The-Muslim-Brotherhood-10.29.26-2.pdf) ↑
2. https://www.fddaction.org/action-center-search/policy-alerts/2025/11/11/muslim-brotherhood-terrorist-designation/ (https://www.fddaction.org/action-center-search/policy-alerts/2025/11/11/muslim-brotherhood-terrorist-designation/) ↑
3. https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ckgnnelvz0do (https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ckgnnelvz0do) ↑
4. https://www.congress.gov/event/115th-congress/house-event/108532/text (https://www.congress.gov/event/115th-congress/house-event/108532/text) ↑

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