

Brendan Disonell

Suny Cortland

Pol-350

4/21/24

## US Department of State

The U.S. Department of State wields substantial influence in shaping American foreign policy, with its decisions and actions reverberating globally. One critical aspect of its mandate is navigating complex relationships with key allies and regions, including Israel. Through examination of official statements, media coverage, and scholarly discourse, this essay will explore the advocacy and stance of the U.S. Department of State concerning Israel. By analyzing its role in promoting strategic partnerships and addressing diplomatic challenges, we gain insights into the intricacies of U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East and the dynamics of U.S.-Israel relations. When you look up Israel on the Department of States website it says this “The United States was the first country to recognize Israel as a state in 1948, and the first to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel in 2017. Israel is a great partner to the United States, and Israel has no greater friend than the United States. Americans and Israelis are united by our shared commitment to democracy, economic”([www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov)) This means we are allies with Israel and have been for a long time. It’s our job to protect democracy and keep communism from spreading that’s been the main theme here in America for quite some time now.

The U.S. Department of State's advocacy for Israel in U.S. foreign policy is prominently featured on its official webpage, where it highlights the strong and enduring partnership between

the two nations. The webpage emphasizes shared values and interests, particularly in democracy, security, and regional stability. Statements from high-ranking officials reaffirm the U.S. commitment to Israel's security and defense, underscoring the importance of military cooperation and strategic collaboration in the volatile Middle East region.

Media coverage provides additional insights into the Department's advocacy for Israel. Diplomatic engagements, official statements, and policy announcements are regularly reported, showcasing the depth and breadth of U.S.-Israel relations. Coverage often emphasizes the significant levels of aid and military assistance provided by the United States to Israel, highlighting the close alignment of interests and the perceived strategic importance of the alliance.

Scholarly texts offer further context on U.S. foreign policy towards Israel. Historical analyses trace the evolution of the relationship, from the establishment of Israel to contemporary challenges and opportunities. Bipartisan support for Israel in Congress is a recurring theme, reflecting the enduring nature of the alliance despite occasional policy differences and diplomatic tensions.

The advocacy for Israel in U.S. foreign policy reflects a multifaceted approach that encompasses diplomatic, military, and strategic dimensions. By prioritizing the security and well-being of Israel, the U.S. Department of State seeks to maintain stability and promote American interests in the Middle East while navigating complex geopolitical realities and diplomatic challenges.

Despite the longstanding alliance between the United States and Israel, U.S.-Israel relations have not been without challenges and controversies. Recent developments have

highlighted diplomatic tensions and policy disagreements, particularly regarding key issues such as settlements, the Two-State Solution, and the Israel-Palestine conflict.

One of the primary challenges in U.S.-Israel relations is the ongoing debate over Israeli settlements in the occupied territories. On the website it say's "In addition to security assistance, the United States participates in a variety of exchanges with Israel, including joint military exercises, research, and weapons development. Further, through the annual Joint Counterterrorism Group and regular strategic dialogues, the United States and Israel work together to counter a range of regional threats."([www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov)) The expansion of settlements has been a source of contention, with the United States expressing concerns over its impact on the prospects for a negotiated peace agreement with the Palestinians. Disagreements over settlement construction have strained diplomatic relations and led to friction between the two allies.

Another contentious issue is the question of the Two-State Solution and the future of the Israel-Palestine conflict. While the United States has historically supported a two-state solution as the basis for resolving the conflict, divergent views within the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships, as well as shifts in U.S. policy under different administrations, have complicated efforts to achieve a lasting peace agreement.

Media discourse and public opinion also reflect varying perspectives on U.S. support for Israel. While some voices advocate for continued U.S. support and partnership with Israel, others criticize what they perceive as unconditional backing and call for a more balanced approach that takes into account Palestinian interests and aspirations. Debates over U.S. aid to Israel and the use of military assistance have also sparked controversy and scrutiny.

When it comes to navigating the complexities of U.S. Israel relations requires careful diplomacy, strategic engagement, and a nuanced understanding of the historical, political, and cultural dynamics at play in the region. Despite challenges and controversies, the alliance between the United States and Israel remains a cornerstone of American foreign policy in the Middle East, with both countries sharing common interests and objectives in promoting regional stability and security.

The U.S. Department of State's advocacy for Israel in U.S. foreign policy underscores the depth and complexity of the bilateral relationship between the two nations. Through analysis of official communications, media coverage, and scholarly discourse, it is evident that the Department prioritizes a close strategic partnership with Israel, emphasizing shared values, security cooperation, and regional stability. Challenges and controversies persist, reflecting ongoing debates and tensions surrounding key issues such as settlements, the Two-State Solution, and the Israel-Palestine conflict. Despite these challenges, the alliance between the United States and Israel remains a cornerstone of American foreign policy in the Middle East, with both countries sharing common interests and objectives in promoting peace, security, and prosperity in the region. Moving forward, continued diplomatic engagement and dialogue will be essential for addressing differences and advancing shared goals in U.S.-Israel relations.

## Citations

*U.S. Department of State – Home*, [www.state.gov/](http://www.state.gov/). Accessed 22 Apr. 2024.