Negative Brief: Israel Military Aid Good

By Vance Trefethen

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HARMS / SIGNIFICANCE

Israeli defense industry thrives with US aid – helps build Israel’s domestic industry

Jeremy M. Sharp 2014. (Specialist in Middle Eastern Affairs, with Congressional Research Service) 11 Apr 2014 “U.S. Foreign Aid to Israel” <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/RL33222.pdf> (brackets added)

Almost all current U.S. aid to Israel is in the form of military assistance. U.S. military aid has helped transform Israel’s armed forces into one of the most technologically sophisticated militaries in the world. U.S. military aid for Israel has been designed to maintain Israel’s “qualitative military edge” (QME) over neighboring militaries. The rationale for QME is that Israel must rely on better equipment and training to compensate for being much smaller geographically and in terms of population than its potential adversaries. U.S. military aid, a portion of which may be spent on procurement from Israeli defense companies, also has helped Israel build a domestic defense industry, which ranks as one of the top 10 suppliers of arms worldwide.

Good for US foreign policy: Military aid to Israel yields enormous dividends from the partnership

Sen. Ted Cruz 2013. (R-Texas) Transcript of Sen. Ted Cruz's Remarks at the Heritage Foundation, 11 Sept 2013 <http://www.scribd.com/doc/167489438/Transcript-of-Sen-Ted-Cruz-s-Remarks-at-the-Heritage-Foundation>

Let’s take Syria’s neighbor, Israel. In my view the United States of America should remain unshakably alongside our vital ally the nation of Israel. Now, we have, right now, a strategic partnership with Israel that is often described as aid. I actually think aid is a misnomer for what we’re doing with Israel, because it is not, actually as my National Security Advisor Victoria Coates observed on the car ride earlier, it is not like sending food stuffs to Bora Bora. Rather, our aid to Israel is 100 percent military, and the United States of America gets an enormous dividend from that strategic partnership. We get an enormous dividend from the intelligence, from the resources, from the alliance on the ground, and it is beneficial to the United States of America to have an ally like Israel that is fighting alongside us in such a perilous part of the world where they are surrounded by terrorists who would do us harm and would do them harm. And in my view, when the military aid is renegotiated for Israel, we should give serious consideration to substantially increase the strategic partnership with the nation of Israel because it is overwhelmingly in the interest of U.S. National Security.

US aid to Israel won’t bankrupt us – it’s not much more than we give Egypt

David Meir Levi 2011. (American-born Israeli currently living in Palo Alto, CA. He holds a BA from Johns Hopkins University, and an MA in Near Eastern Studies from Brandeis University. He taught Archaeology and Near Eastern History at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and at the University of Tel Aviv; Director of Research and Education at the Israel Peace Initiative) In Defense of U.S. Aid to Israel 27 Oct 2011 <http://www.frontpagemag.com/2011/david-meir-levi/in-defense-of-u-s-aid-to-israel/>

As is apparent from the 2010 report, US aid to Israel was zero or negligible until 1967 (after the 6-Day War), and did not reach the current annual sums of $2.5 billion to $3 billion or more until 1997 (following the Oslo Accords).  $3 billion per year is not chump change; but it is hardy an amount that would “bankrupt” the USA, and it is not much more than America’s annual aid to Egypt.

US/Israel alliance is not fueling anti-American sentiment in Arab nations

Michael Oren 2011. (former Israeli ambassador to the US) “The Ultimate Ally” 25 Apr 2011 FOREIGN POLICY <http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/04/25/the_ultimate_ally>

Middle Eastern populations, meanwhile, have shown that they, too, are less concerned with Israel than with urgent issues at home. When able to express themselves freely, they have preferred to focus on political rights and economic opportunity. Conspicuously absent from the protests that swept the region in 2011 were burning Israeli -- or American -- flags or any reference to the U.S.-Israel relationship. Although emerging Arab governments might in the future -- as in the past -- seek to gain legitimacy by harnessing anti-Israeli sentiment, the claim that American support for the Jewish state axiomatically translates into anti-Americanism in the Middle East is no longer sustainable.

Even if it has drawbacks, the symbolic value of the alliance relationship given by military aid outweighs them

Gen. Isaac Ben-Israel 2009. (former Member of Knesset, is Chairman of the Israel Space Agency and head of the Workshop for Science Technology and Security at Tel Aviv University. Retired Major General in the Israeli military; was Head of Military R&D in the Israel Defense Forces and Ministry of Defense) “Israeli Security Dependence on the US” Nov 2009 The US and Israel under Changing Political Circumstances <http://d26e8pvoto2x3r.cloudfront.net/uploadimages/Import/(FILE)1258281848.pdf>

The structural damage of this aid may be greater than its financial benefit because it obscures the right considerations such as what is to be produced in Israel, what is to be bought in the US, and what is to be bought in shekels, to name just a few. All these considerations become problematic because things are given gratis. If it were only for the financial aid, I think we should consider giving it up. However, the real value of the grant is political: the United States declares to the entire world that Israel, although it is not exactly a formal ally of the United States, is one of those countries that the United States will not allow to weaken – and it is this value that is actually the important part rather than the financial aspect.

DISADVANTAGES

1. Military threats to Israel

Link: New country threats. Recent events mean that once-safe countries could now be drawn into conflict with Israel

THE ALGEMEINER 2013. (Israeli newspaper) 20 May 2013 [U.S. Congressman Introduces Legislation Aimed to Ensure Israel Maintains Its Qualitative Military Advantage (VIDEO)](http://www.algemeiner.com/2013/05/20/u-s-congressman-introduces-legislation-that-would-ensure-israel-maintains-its-qualitative-military-advantage-video/) <http://www.defenddemocracy.org/project/qualitative-military-edge/#sthash.WouHeWqD.dpuf> (brackets added)

“There’s a different environment in the region which I think offers a more regular assessment,” [Foundation for the Defense of Democracies Vice President Jonathan] Schanzer told The Algemeiner, noting that the Middle East has changed drastically in recent years due to the Arab Spring. “We’re looking at a situation where countries that were once believed to not have any interest in conflict— it’s now not inconceivable to imagine that they would enter into conflict with Israel.”

Link: New non-country threats. Israel faces increased risk from non-state actors, asymmetric warfare and unrest on the borders.

Jonathan Marcus 2013. (BBC Defense Correspondent) “Israel plans military ‘revolution’ to face new regional threat” 13 July 2013 <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-23287787>

As retired Brig Gen Michael Herzog, a former head of IDF Strategic Planning, told me: "The prospect of a conventional war breaking out between the IDF and a traditionally organised Arab army is now much less than in the past. However, the risk from non-state actors, of asymmetric warfare, and greater unrest along Israel's borders (with the exception perhaps of Jordan) is increasing and it is these threats that the Israeli military has to plan for."

Link: Hezbollah puts Israeli homeland under threat like never before

Jonathan Marcus 2013. (BBC Defense Correspondent) “Israel plans military ‘revolution’ to face new regional threat” 13 July 2013 <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-23287787>

"The Israeli military concept has always been to shorten the duration of any conflict, but this has become more important than ever before because of the growing missile arsenals of groups like the Lebanese Shia movement Hezbollah, which means the Israeli home-front is under threat like never before," Gen Herzog told me. Israel already deploys a variety of defensive measures like the Arrow and Iron Dome anti-missile systems, but improving its offensive capability is seen as the key to managing the tempo and duration of any future conflict.

Link: US military aid maintains Israel’s “qualitative military edge” (QME)

Jeremy M. Sharp 2014. (Specialist in Middle Eastern Affairs, with Congressional Research Service) 11 Apr 2014 “U.S. Foreign Aid to Israel” <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/RL33222.pdf>

U.S. military aid for Israel has been designed to maintain Israel’s “qualitative military edge” (QME) over neighboring militaries. The rationale for QME is that Israel must rely on better equipment and training to compensate for being much smaller geographically and in terms of population than its potential adversaries.

Link & Brink: Foreign Military Financing (FMF) aid for QME is the cornerstone of US security commitment to Israel

Andrew Shapiro 2011. (Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, US State Department) Remarks to The Washington Institute for Near East Policy 4 Nov 2011 <http://www.state.gov/t/pm/rls/rm/176684.htm>

The cornerstone of America’s security commitment to Israel has been an assurance that the United States would help Israel uphold its qualitative military edge. This is Israel’s ability to counter and defeat credible military threats from any individual state, coalition of states, or non-state actor, while sustaining minimal damages or casualties. This commitment was written into law in 2008 and each and every security assistance request from the Israeli Government is evaluated in light of our policy to uphold Israel’s Qualitative Military Edge. The most direct tool that the United States uses to ensure Israel’s qualitative military edge is security assistance. For some three decades, Israel has been the leading beneficiary of U.S. security assistance through the Foreign Military Financing program, or FMF.

Link & Brink: Qualitative military superiority key to Israel’s defense. The country is so small, there’s no other option

Dr. Yuval Steinitz 2003. (Chairman, Foreign Affairs & Defense Committee, Israeli Parliament) 11 Dec 2003 JERUSALEM ISSUE BRIEF Vol 3 No. 10, “The Growing Threat to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge” <http://www.jcpa.org/brief/brief3-10.htm>

Israel, on the other hand, enjoys no such strategic depth, and this is its main strategic Achilles heel - the country is so small. Hostile forces are relatively close to Israel's air bases, its main cities, and its centers of mobilization for reserve soldiers. Israel could face a situation in which its air superiority was paralyzed or jeopardized by primitive armed forces, such as commando forces or guerrilla forces coming from neighboring countries just a short distance away, or even from the Palestinian Authority. The first few days of a war are the most sensitive because the other side could create havoc in Israel's rear, either through great numbers of ballistic missiles launched from Syria, Egypt, or from other states such as Iran, or from long-range guns or rockets fired by Hizballah from Lebanon. Today Hizballah has more than 10,000 rockets including long-range missiles that are able to reach the city of Haifa, the Haifa naval base, and important air and ground bases throughout northern Israel. If an enemy force was able to penetrate even several kilometers into Israel using very primitive technologies, in order to jeopardize or even partially paralyze its air bases and mobilization centers, then Israel would not be able to exploit its air superiority or position enough ground forces on its borders. In fact, since Israel must now take into consideration the potential threat of Scud and other long-range missiles from a number of hostile countries, all of its air bases are within range of enemy weapons. So despite its qualitative edge, the fact that this country is so vulnerable, with no strategic depth, means that Israel has to be very careful not to be surprised and to preserve its qualitative edge.

Impact: Israel’s military strength is key to peace in the region

**Note: “The Agreement” in this context is the US agreement to provide military aid to Israel.**

Jeremy M. Sharp 2014. (Specialist in Middle Eastern Affairs, with Congressional Research Service) 11 Apr 2014 “U.S. Foreign Aid to Israel” <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/RL33222.pdf>

According to former Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns, who signed the agreement (entitled the Memorandum of Understanding on U.S. Military Assistance):   
We consider this 30 billion dollars in assistance to Israel to be an investment in peace - in long-term peace. Peace will not be made without strength. Peace will not be made without Israel being strong in the future.

2. U.S. jobs lost.

Link: Most of the aid money gets recycled back into the US economy

David Meir Levi 2011. (American-born Israeli currently living in Palo Alto, CA. He holds a BA from Johns Hopkins University, and an MA in Near Eastern Studies from Brandeis University. He taught Archaeology and Near Eastern History at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and at the University of Tel Aviv; Director of Research and Education at the Israel Peace Initiative)5 Oct 2011 U.S. Aid to Israel: Why It’s a Must <http://www.frontpagemag.com/2011/david-meir-levi/u-s-aid-to-israel-why-its-a-must/>

Happily, the USA has two very strong reasons to conclude that money to Israel is an investment for which the American people get a truly excellent return. First, there is a financial reciprocity in this “special relationship” quite unlike any other that the USA has. Much, and in many years most, of the money that the USA gives Israel has been used by Israel to purchase goods and services, both military and civilian, from the USA, so that American aid money is recycled back into the American economy. Nearly 90% of US aid to Israel is military, and Israel spends about 75% of that buying U.S. goods.

Impact: Tens of thousands of US jobs depend on military hardware Israel buys with aid money

C. Hart 2014. (journalist) Are Israel and the U.S. on a Collision Course? 15 June 2014 THE THINKER <http://www.americanthinker.com/2014/06/are_israel_and_the_us_on_a_collision_course.html> (brackets added)

This U.S. pledge was met last year when America gave $3.1 billion to Israel in military aid. [U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Middle East Policy, Matthew ] Spence claimed it was the highest amount in U.S. history. “That is part of a ten year, over $30 billion commitment to the State of Israel; coming at a time when the U.S. is making difficult budget decisions at home; making painful cuts. But, throughout these cuts, the iron clad commitment to Israel, in very concrete ways, remains.” Spence failed to point out that, reportedly, at least 75% of that assistance is designated for the purchase of advanced American weaponry.  Dr. Michael Oren, former Ambassador from Israel to the U.S., was one of the speakers at the roundtable. He commented, “The fact that Israel and our defense relationship generates tens of thousands of jobs for American workers is not a bad thing.”

3. US/Israel alliance is weakened or lost. AFF policy jeopardizes the US/Israel alliance.

Link: US military aid is an important pillar of the US/Israel relationship

Prof. Brent Sasley 2013. (Assistant Professor of Political Science at Univ of Texas-Arlington) 21 Jan 2013 Should U.S. Military Aid To Israel Be Cut? <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2013/01/21/should-u-s-military-aid-to-israel-be-cut.html>

In theory it shouldn’t be difficult to reduce U.S. military aid to Israel, if policymakers in both countries really wanted to make it happen. After all, Washington provided hundreds of millions of dollars of economic aid from the 1940s, until this assistance was [phased out by 2008](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/US-Israel/U.S._Assistance_to_Israel1.html). But military aid is an important pillar of the Israeli-American relationship, with benefits for both, and powerful actors on each side share that belief.

Link: US aid is a major component of US/Israel relations

Jeremy M. Sharp 2012. (Specialist in Middle Eastern Affairs, with Congressional Research Service) U.S. Foreign Aid to Israel 12 Mar 2012 <http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/187412.pdf>

For decades, the United States and Israel have maintained strong bilateral relations based on a number of factors, including robust domestic U.S. support for Israel and its security; shared strategic goals in the Middle East; a mutual commitment to democratic values; and historical ties dating from U.S. support for the creation of Israel in 1948. U.S. foreign aid has been a major component in cementing and reinforcing these ties.

Link & Brink: Broken Commitment. Israel has doubts about US policies, but Obama promised future military aid and Israel is taking him at his word.

Barbara Opall-Rome 2014. (journalist) Israel Banks on 10 More Years of US Aid 30 Mar 2014 DEFENSE NEWS <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20140330/DEFREG04/303300008/Israel-Banks-10-More-Years-US-Aid>

Despite misgivings over US President Barack Obama’s Mideast agenda and deep-rooted doubts about his ability to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran, the Israeli government is taking the US president at his word that it can expect another decade of military aid. In fact, it’s banking on it. After many months of internal debate and bureaucratic resistance from the Israeli Treasury, Defense Minister Moshe Ya’alon has government approval to take on more than $2 billion in commercial debt for near-term buys of V-22 tilt-rotor aircraft and other Pentagon-approved weaponry.

Link & Brink: Israel is counting on a letter of intent and taking a “leap of faith” that promised US military aid will arrive

Barbara Opall-Rome 2014. (journalist) Israel Banks on 10 More Years of US Aid 30 Mar 2014 DEFENSE NEWS <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20140330/DEFREG04/303300008/Israel-Banks-10-More-Years-US-Aid>

He acknowledged that the arrangement required “a leap of faith” by all parties — not only the Israeli government — that a future bilateral 10-year military aid pact will materialize. That “leap of faith” sparked extensive internal debate in Israel among financial officials, oversight authorities and political skeptics. The high risk inherent in shouldering deferred debt to be repaid from a prospective, yet amorphous, future agreement continues to concern many here, sources here say. However, after Washington agreed to provide a letter of intent to support DPP purchases with prospective future FMF funding, Israel’s Ministry of Defense prevailed in pushing the plan through the Israeli government.

Brink: US/Israel relationship has friction now: Resentment over US position on Palestinian peace talks

Barbara Opall-Rome 2014. (journalist) Israel Banks on 10 More Years of US Aid 30 Mar 2014 DEFENSE NEWS <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20140330/DEFREG04/303300008/Israel-Banks-10-More-Years-US-Aid>

A straight-talking former Israel Defense Forces chief of staff, Ya’alon is a prominent yet pragmatic hawk in Netanyahu’s coalition government. His repeated criticism of the US-led drive toward an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal and the perceived waning of US influence in regional and world affairs has sparked friction with Washington. He was widely quoted as blasting US Secretary of State John Kerry for his “inexplicably obsessed” pursuit of a deal unworthy of “the paper it was printed on.”

Impact: Israeli alliance is a profitable investment for the USA

David Meir Levi 2011. (American-born Israeli currently living in Palo Alto, CA. He holds a BA from Johns Hopkins University, and an MA in Near Eastern Studies from Brandeis University. He taught Archaeology and Near Eastern History at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and at the University of Tel Aviv; Director of Research and Education at the Israel Peace Initiative) 5 Oct 2011 U.S. Aid to Israel: Why It’s a Must <http://www.frontpagemag.com/2011/david-meir-levi/u-s-aid-to-israel-why-its-a-must/>

Israeli and American intelligence agencies continuously exchange information, analyses, and operational experience in counterterrorism and counter-proliferation. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security and its Israeli counterpart share technical know-how in defending against terrorist attacks, countering unconventional weapons and cyber-threats, and combating the drug trade. On the battlefield, Israeli armaments protect Bradley and Stryker units from rocket-propelled grenades, while Israeli-made drones and reconnaissance devices allow for safe surveillance of hostile territory. U.S. fighter aircraft and helicopters incorporate Israeli concepts and components, as do modern-class U.S. warships. The IDF has furnished U.S. forces with its expertise in the detection and neutralization of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), the largest cause of American casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan. Former Supreme Commander of  NATO and U.S. Secretary of State Gen. Alexander Haig (deceased) described Israel as “the largest US aircraft carrier, which does not require even one US soldier, cannot be sunk, is the most cost-effective and battle-tested, located in a region which is critical to vital US interests. If there would not be an Israel, the US would have to deploy real aircraft carriers, along with tens of thousands of US soldiers, which would cost tens of billions of dollars annually, dragging the US unnecessarily into local, regional and global conflicts.”[6] In short, support for Israel has been a very profitable investment for the USA.

Impact: National security benefit to the US is worth far more than $3 billion/year

David Meir Levi 2011. (American-born Israeli currently living in Palo Alto, CA. He holds a BA from Johns Hopkins University, and an MA in Near Eastern Studies from Brandeis University. He taught Archaeology and Near Eastern History at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and at the University of Tel Aviv; Director of Research and Education at the Israel Peace Initiative) 5 Oct 2011 U.S. Aid to Israel: Why It’s a Must <http://www.frontpagemag.com/2011/david-meir-levi/u-s-aid-to-israel-why-its-a-must/>

In contrast, the problems the United States faces in the Persian Gulf today stem from the fact that it does not have an Israel equivalent there.  Absent a strong, loyal, and dependable ally in the region, the United States has had to deploy, redeploy, and redeploy again, at a cost that easily exceeds a trillion dollars.  Repeated U.S. administrations came to power predisposed to associate with the Arab world and to disassociate from Israel; but in the end, most came to acknowledge the worth of Israel as a steadfast ally in a volatile region.  From Lyndon Johnson on, most have come to see that US support for Israel has been the most cost-effective national security investment for America since World War II and the Marshal Plan. In sum, Israel’s enemies are America’s enemies.  Israel fights the same Islamo-fascist terrorism that brought down our World Trade Center, blew up a large chunk of the Pentagon, killed more than 3,000 innocent American civilians, and cost our economy as yet unascertained billions of dollars.  Israeli-American strategic cooperation is not a given, it is not automatic, it is not a knee-jerk reaction to shared values, and it is not a panacea; but without it the world would be a much more dangerous place.  Israel helps keep America safe. At $3 billion a year, that’s an incredible bargain.

Impact: US national security reduced. Alliance with Israel is key to US security

Michael Oren 2011. (former Israeli ambassador to the US) “The Ultimate Ally” 25 Apr 2011 FOREIGN POLICY <http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/04/25/the_ultimate_ally>

Understandably, the most sober assessment of American interests is conducted by the U.S. military. The alliance with Israel, Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen told Congress in March, "[is of extraordinary value](http://www.c-spanvideo.org/videoLibrary/clip.php?appid=599636806" \o "Defense Department Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Request | C-SPAN, March 2, 2011" \t "_blank)." Israel, according to America's highest-ranking officer, is "[absolutely critical](http://rothman.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1381&Itemid=95" \o "Congressman Rothman Questions Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and Admiral Michael Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff about the Middle East | Rep. Steve Rothman, March 3, 2011" \t "_blank)" to U.S. national security.

Impact: National security benefit far outweighs the cost of military aid

Michael Oren 2011. (former Israeli ambassador to the US) “The Ultimate Ally” 25 Apr 2011 FOREIGN POLICY <http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/04/25/the_ultimate_ally>

Israel is the only Middle Eastern state never to oppose America on major international issues. Its fundamental interests, like its values, are America's. For the price of annual military aid equaling roughly half the cost of one Zumwalt-class destroyer, the United States helps maintain the military might of one of the few nations actively contributing to America's defense. It reinforces the only country capable of deterring Hamas and Hezbollah and impeding the spread of Iranian hegemony. According to published sources, the Israel Defense Forces is larger than the French and British armies combined. The IDF is superbly trained and, when summoned, capable of mobilizing within hours. These benefits of the U.S.-Israel relationship are of incalculable value to the United States, far outweighing any price.

Impact: Crucial Intelligence Lost. Israel gave $50-$80 billion worth of intelligence info to the US

David Meir Levi 2011. (American-born Israeli currently living in Palo Alto, CA. He holds a BA from Johns Hopkins University, and an MA in Near Eastern Studies from Brandeis University. He taught Archaeology and Near Eastern History at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and at the University of Tel Aviv; Director of Research and Education at the Israel Peace Initiative) 5 Oct 2011 U.S. Aid to Israel: Why It’s a Must <http://www.frontpagemag.com/2011/david-meir-levi/u-s-aid-to-israel-why-its-a-must/>

But, second, there is more to this issue than merely Israel’s using American money to help the US economy. Israel is a very powerful military ally as well. The security cooperation between Israel and the United States is vast, and Israel has consistently been a major security asset to the United States, an asset upon which America can rely, far more so than have been other state recipients of American largesse.[4] In the field of military intelligence Israel is arguably the world’s leading expert in collecting intelligence on terrorist groups and in counter-terrorism. It provides intelligence and know-how to the U.S.  According to Maj. Gen. George J. Keegan Jr., former head of U.S. Air Force intelligence, America’s military defense capability “owes more to the Israeli intelligence input than it does to any single source of intelligence,” the worth of which input, he estimated, exceeds “five CIAs.” He further stated that between 1974 and 1990, Israel received $18.3 billion in U.S. military grants. During the same period Israel provided the U.S. with $50-$80 billion in intelligen­ce, research and developmen­t savings, and Soviet weapons systems captured and transferre­d to the U.S.

4. Peace process hindered.

Historically, the Israeli-Palestinian peace process makes progress when the US/Israel relationship is stronger

Michael Oren 2011. (former Israeli ambassador to the US) “The Ultimate Ally” 25 Apr 2011 FOREIGN POLICY <http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/04/25/the_ultimate_ally>

The realists say that the gaps between Israeli and American policies on the peace process are unbridgeable. The United States, they maintain, is committed to creating a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, with East Jerusalem as its capital. Israel allegedly opposes these goals and thwarts them by building in those areas. But historically, progress in the peace process has been directly related to the strengthening of America's alliance with Israel. That bond convinced Arab rulers that they had no conventional military option against Israel and fortified Israelis to make the concessions necessary for peace. American security assurances -- including guarantees of continued oil supplies from Sinai and the replacement of evacuated air bases -- enabled Israel to withdraw from an area three times its size and to conclude the 1979 peace treaty with Egypt.

SOURCE INDICTMENT

Amnesty International : Only condemns Israel, not Hamas

Benjamin Weinthal 2012. (Berlin-based fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies) 15 Nov 2012 “The World Watches Israel Under Fire” <http://www.defenddemocracy.org/media-hit/the-world-watches-israel-under-fire/#sthash.oKYZrYRT.dpuf>

Predictably, the human-rights group Amnesty International showed no courage in slamming Hamas for its criminal ongoing rocket fire against Israel. The Jerusalem-based NGO Monitor has [chronicled](http://www.ngo-monitor.org/article/analysis_of_statements_by_political_ngos_on_gaza_crisis_november_) the mass cowardice of many human-rights groups who end up enabling Hamas.