

The U.S.–Israel Relationship

“Israel has no more loyal friend than the United States. We couldn’t have done it without her.”

—Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin



President Harry Truman, who recognized Israel minutes after its establishment, received Torah scrolls from Chaim Weizmann, the Jewish state’s first president.

As allies and models of democracy, America and Israel share common values—but as the attacks of Sept. 11 demonstrated, they also face common enemies. Both nations’ citizens have been targeted by Islamic terrorists, and both are threatened by radical regimes and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

In an age of global terrorism, U.S.-Israel cooperation in the fields of defense and homeland security has proven to be of paramount and ever-increasing importance. With each passing year, the natural and lasting strategic alliance between the two nations grows deeper, and more avenues for cooperation emerge as the strategic allies work together to confront these serious and shared threats.

The United States Has Helped Guarantee Israel’s Right to Exist

Since President Harry Truman provided Israel with critical international legitimacy by recognizing the state a mere 11 minutes after its establishment, American presidents and lawmakers from both parties have continued to stand by America’s closest ally in the Middle East.

Having helped ensure Israel’s birth, the United States has in

ensuing decades proven essential to its survival.

American military aid has helped Israel attain a qualitative edge over the Arab adversaries that have tried repeatedly through wars to destroy the Jewish state. U.S. support has also proven a strong deterrent to conflict, because Arab states contemplating attacks on Israel know they will face a U.S. ally defending itself with cutting-edge weapons systems.

In addition to providing this vital assistance, U.S. leaders have explicitly stated their commitment to Israel’s security against existential threats, vowing to help defend the Jewish state should it come under attack. “Israel is a solid ally of the United States,” President Bush has stated. “We will rise to Israel’s defense if need be.”

America and Israel Share Key Values

The strength of the U.S.–Israel relationship is rooted in the allies’ shared values and common histories.

Both nations were founded by refugees seeking political and religious freedom. Both were forced to fight for independence against foreign powers. Both have absorbed waves of immi-

grants seeking political freedom and economic well-being. And both have evolved into democracies that respect the rule of law, the will of voters and the rights of minorities.

The ties between the two nations are deep, existing at every level of government and society. Dozens of American states have concluded agreements with Israel to promote cooperation in trade, tourism, research and other areas. American and Israeli academics have long worked together on joint research projects, and numerous universities have exchange programs with counterparts in Israel. Facing the common threat of international terrorism, law enforcement officials from the United States and Israel are working together to devise new homeland security techniques.

Israelis and Americans Stand by One Another

Polls have found that more than two-thirds of Americans hold a favorable view of Israel, and Americans across a wide range of demographic groups strongly identify with the Jewish state. Support for a strong Israel is not limited by partisan allegiance—for the past half-century both major

parties' platforms have featured strong planks affirming the value of the U.S.–Israel relationship, and both Republican and Democratic presidents and lawmakers have worked to strengthen the bond between the two allies.

Polls have also shown that overall support abroad for the United States is highest within Israel, where nearly 80 percent of Israelis view the U.S. favorably. In a symbolic measure of solidarity with the United States following the attacks of Sept. 11, Israel renamed a major Jerusalem thoroughfare “New York Street,” and teeming crowds

of Israelis bestowed a heroes' welcome upon New York's mayor and delegations of first responders who visited. In the years since, from sharing security and counterterrorism expertise to dispatching humanitarian relief teams following Hurricane Katrina, Israel has always been there for the United States, offering everything the small nation can muster in support of its friend.

America and Israel Work Together Against Mutual Threats

Cooperation between the two nations has proven to be the

best way to advance a major goal shared by the United States and Israel—peace in the Middle East. By working closely with Israel as a partner rather than applying pressure, the United States has enabled Israel to take risks for peace and achieve peace agreements with some of its neighbors.

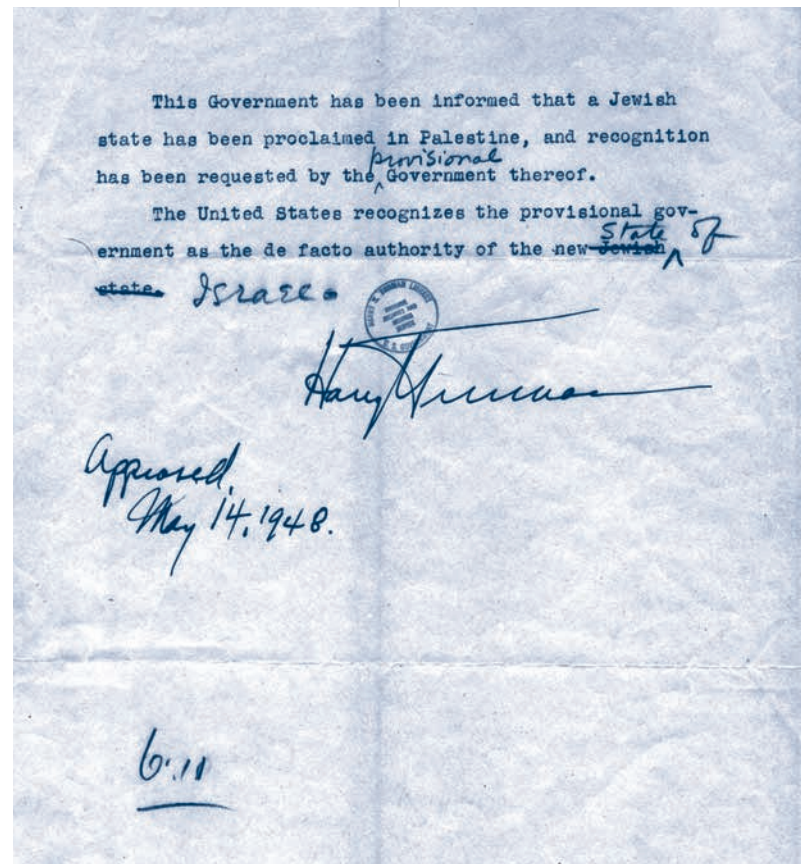
With the continued support and friendship of the United States, Israel will keep working to achieve all the goals it shares with its closest ally—defeating terrorism, defending against radical Islamism, safeguarding its citizens and tirelessly pursuing peace.



In solidarity with the U.S. following the attacks of Sept. 11, Israel renamed a major Jerusalem thoroughfare New York Street. (below) President Harry Truman provided Israel with critical legitimacy by recognizing the state a mere 11 minutes after its establishment.



Ehud Olmert's first international trip as prime minister was to the White House, where he and President George W. Bush reaffirmed the U.S.–Israel relationship's strength.



Key Points

- The U.S.–Israel relationship is a deep and natural alliance between two democracies that share core values.
- U.S.–Israel cooperation enables the strategic allies to face common threats including terrorism, Islamic radicalism and weapons proliferation.
- Since Israel's establishment, the United States has played an indispensable role in ensuring the Jewish state's survival.
- Strong support for Israel continues to be championed by both the Democratic and Republican parties.
- The overwhelming majority of U.S. and Israeli citizens solidly back the relationship between the two countries.
- By working in partnership with Israel, the United States has enabled Israel to take risks for peace and achieve peace agreements with some of its neighbors.