

# Pillars of the U.S.-Israel Relationship

Israel and the United States have shared a special bond since the establishment of the modern Jewish state in 1948. The U.S. was the first country to recognize Israel, only 11 minutes after its founding. Since then, the two countries have developed a resilient friendship that transcends any element of partisanship either in Washington or Jerusalem. As the two countries experience their own respective leadership transitions, the pillars established during the past 60 years will continue to remain strong.

## ▶ Support for Israel is Bipartisan

During the past 60 years, bipartisan support for Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East, has been a hallmark of virtually every Congress. Even during periods of partisan divisions in Washington or during the frequent fluctuations between peace and violence in the Middle East, the United States Congress has been a bastion of support for Israel.

## ▶ Congress Has Strongly Opposed Anti-Israel Rejectionism

While the United Nations, other international organizations, and the governments of many countries of the world often adopt the positions of Israel's adversaries, Congress has remained unwavering in its moral stand behind Israel and its right to self-defense. Indeed, Congress has become the necessary counterweight to much of the world's imbalanced approach to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Congress has understood that every Israeli government has sought peace, even as it has often been forced to defend the Jewish state against aggression.



President Harry Truman (left) receives a Torah scroll from Israeli President Chaim Weizmann.

▶ **The United States and Israel Have Shared Values**

The United States and Israel share all the characteristics of an unbreakable partnership. The Freedom House group recognizes Israel each year as a “Free” nation, in contrast to all the other countries in the Middle East.

Israel’s commitment to democracy, the rule of law, freedom of religion and speech, and human rights means that it shares a common worldview with the United States. The two allies share interests as well as values. They face many of the same threats in a volatile but strategic region. Above all, they share a deeply held commitment to stand by one another to face the challenges ahead. In a world of great uncertainty and shifting allegiances, Israel has been a key partner, ally, and friend to the United States.



**President Obama met with Israeli President Shimon Peres during a trip to Israel in July 2008.**

▶ **The United States and Israel Stand United for Peace**

Both countries have long recognized that their mutual interests of deterring war, promoting stability and eventually achieving peace are only possible if the United States continues to stand behind Israel. U.S. support for Israel has undergirded the success that was realized in Israel’s treaties of peace with Egypt and Jordan. These states, and many others in the Arab world, have come to understand that an Israel allied with America cannot be destroyed, thus making peace possible.

The past 60 years have demonstrated that any hope of achieving the goals of stability and peace in one of the world’s most dangerous regions depends on the superiority of Israel’s military; the financial, security, diplomatic and moral support of the United States; and American acceptance of the fact that Israel must make its own life-and-death decisions without pressure. If peace is to be realized, then both potential adversaries and would-be partners must understand clearly the immutability of the U.S.-Israel relationship.

▶ **The United States and Israel Work Together to Combat Threats**

The United States and Israel face many of the same threats, including the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, state-sponsored terrorism and the spread of Islamic radicalism. The two countries have set up a complex and cost-effective network of strategic cooperation programs, including sharing cutting-edge technology and valuable intelligence, conducting combined military exercises, and researching and developing new weapons.

The United States and Israel have also established joint anti-terrorism strategies. The United States has pre-positioned materiel in Israel for use in the event the United States ever needs to respond quickly to a future Middle East conflict. Through these cooperative efforts and the provision of advanced military equipment, the United States has committed to maintaining Israel's qualitative military edge over its potential adversaries.

▶ **The United States and Israel Maintain a Robust Economic Partnership**

As Israel's economy and technological prowess continue to grow, America will continue to benefit from the wide-ranging economic partnership enjoyed by the two countries. Clearly, the United States and Israel are two of the most technologically advanced countries in the world.

Several bi-national programs allow American companies and universities to benefit from Israel's expertise in agriculture and high technology, while others aim to break down barriers to trade and cooperation between the two countries to make collaboration easier. Israel was the first country to sign a free-trade agreement with the United States in 1985, which has resulted in a seven-fold increase in trade between the two nations.