



Middle East Spotlight

Our Modern Miracles

For thousands of years, Jews have been forced to confront innumerable enemies while alone, outnumbered, and overmatched in strength. Despite improbable odds, the Jewish people have persevered time and time again. The festival of Hanukkah commemorates a miracle from our past—the Maccabees who overcame a far-superior army to preserve their faith.

The observation of miracles is central to Jewish tradition. As the great philosopher, physician, and rabbi Moses Maimonides wrote, “A miracle cannot prove what is impossible. It is useful only to confirm what is possible.” In 1902, Theodor Herzl envisioned a Jewish state in his book *Altneuland*, but there were formidable barriers to re-gathering the people of Israel. Less than a half century later, the birth of the modern state of Israel became a miracle in our time, fulfilling both biblical prophecy and over 1,900 years of Jewish hope to return to the land of our forefathers.

The survival of the nascent state prompted the first Prime Minister of Israel, David Ben-Gurion, to say in 1956, “In Israel, in order to be a realist you must believe in miracles.”

Today, we continue to see the state of Israel surrounded by enemies seeking its destruction. Along its northern border, terrorist groups including Hezbollah, the Islamic State (IS), and Jabhat al-Nusra are gaining strength. In the south, Hamas remains in firm control of Gaza and terrorists roam the Sinai Peninsula. And to the east, Iran is set to receive approximately one hundred billion dollars in sanctions relief that will further fuel its support for terrorism and regional destabilization.

But as the Middle East descends into chaos, the Jewish state does not have to face these threats alone.

Today, Israel looks to the West and finds a trusted partner committed to its enduring security. It finds America ready and willing to send emergency funding for technologies like Iron Dome, which has saved countless lives by shooting down incoming rocket from Gaza. It finds our U.S. Congress ready and willing to provide \$3.1 billion annually for Israel’s security, along with broad bipartisan support in response to Palestinian terrorism—even amid unprecedented political gridlock. And it finds in America a strategic ally committed to the common advancement of shared values—democracy, innovation, freedom and the betterment of the entire world.

The presence of a strong, steadfast American partnership is Israel’s miracle in our time. As pro-Israel Americans, we bear the honor and responsibility of preserving this miracle and ensuring this vital relationship perseveres.

For more information on the U.S.-Israel relationship, please visit www.aipac.org.