



Session I
The Origins of US-Israel Relationship

Readings:

- Walter Russell Mead, “The New Israel and the Old: Why Gentiles Back the Jewish State,” *Foreign Affairs*, July-August 2008, pp. 28-46.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/20032714>
- Jonathan D. Sarna, “A Projection of America as It Ought to Be: Zion in the Mind’s Eye of American Jews,” in Alon Gal, ed., *Envisioning Israel: The Changing Ideals and Images of North American Jews* (Jerusalem: Magnes Press, 1996), pp. 41-59.
(<http://israelandtheacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/A-Projection-of-America-As-It-Ought-to-Be.pdf>)
- Allis and Ron Radosh, *A Safe Haven: Harry S. Truman and the Founding of Israel*, pp. 310-340

Guiding Questions:

- What is America’s “Zionist ethos”?
- What role did Christian and/or Jewish America have in the rebirth of the Jewish State?
- Why did Truman recognize the new State of Israel? How does the decisive role of one man contrast with the role played by large religious communities?



Session II
The Cold War: Asset or Liability

Readings:

- Douglas Little, “The Making of a Special Relationship: The United States and Israel, 1957-68,” *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 25, No. 4 (Nov., 1993), pp. 563-585. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/164535>
- Mordechai Gazit, “The Genesis of the US-Israeli Military-Strategic Relationship and the Dimona Issue,” *Journal of Contemporary History*, Vol. 35, No. 3 (Jul., 2000), pp. 413-422. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/261028>
- Moshe Gat, “Let someone else do the job: American policy on the eve of the Six Day War,” *Diplomacy & Statecraft*, Vol. 14, No 1 (2003), pp. 131-158. <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/09592290412331308761>
- William B. Quandt, “Camp David and Peacemaking in the Middle East,” *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 101, No. 3 (1986), pp. 357-377. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2151620>

Guiding Questions:

- Was Israel an asset or liability during the Cold War?
- What were U.S. interests in the Middle East?
- What would you consider the start of the U.S.-Israel alliance to have been?



Session III

Shared Threats, Shared Interests: Intifadas, Peace Process, Radical Islam, and Iran

Readings:

- David A. Welch, "The Politics and Psychology of Restraint: Israeli Decision-Making in the Gulf War," *International Journal*, Vol. 47, No. 2 (Spring, 1992), pp. 328-369
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/40202763>
- Scott Lasensky, "Friendly Restraint: US–Israel Relations During the Gulf Crisis of 1990-1991," *Middle East Review of International Affairs*, Vol. 3, No. 2 (June 1999), pp. 24-35.
<http://www.rubincenter.org/meria/1999/06/lasensky.pdf>
- Elliott Abrams, "Bombing the Syria Reactor," *Commentary*, February 2013
<https://www.commentarymagazine.com/articles/bombing-the-syrian-reactor-the-untold-story/>

Guiding Questions:

- How did the end of the Cold War and rise of terrorism changes U.S. perceptions of Israel?
- Did/how did the motivations for the U.S.-Israel alliance evolve?
- What were the main challenges to the relationship?



Session IV
Seventy Plus: The Future of the U.S.-Israel Alliance

Readings:

- Martin Kramer, “Israel and the Post-American Middle East: Why the Status Quo is Sustainable,” *Foreign Affairs Comment*, July/August 2016, <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/2016-06-08/israel-and-post-american-middle-east>
- Michael Oren and David Rothkopf, “A Jewish State vs. The Jewish State”, *Foreign Policy*, <http://foreignpolicy.com/2014/05/15/a-jewish-state-vs-the-jewish-state/>
- Michael Oren, “The Ultimate Ally”, *Foreign Policy*, April 25, 2011, <http://foreignpolicy.com/2011/04/25/the-ultimate-ally-2/>
- Robert Satloff, “The Long View: The Middle East Needs More Israels”, *Foreign Policy*, April 25, 2011 <http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/the-long-view-the-middle-east-needs-more-israels>

Guiding Questions:

- What role will the American Jewish community play in the U.S.-Israel relationship?
- Will America remain the preeminent power in the Middle East and what affect will that have on the U.S.-Israel alliance?
- Will the alliance become “normal”?