The Making of the U.S. - Israeli Relationship
Hist.385, 12:50-1:40 MWF Fall 2008

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The course will deal with the buildup and development of the Israeli-American relationship from the 1940s to the present. It will be based on lectures and discussion of articles: two meetings in a week will be lectures, and the in the third we will discuss an article(s) relevant to the week’s topic. I expect you all to be ready with the articles, and to be ready with the week’s reading. All the material under “discussion in class” will be on the course blackboard’s site. The reading material will be reserved in the library.

There will be three assignments throughout the semester: book report, a no-more than five-page paper and a no-more than fifteen-page paper. The book report will be on any book that is relevant to the course. The topic of the papers will be decided by the student, in consultation with me- the papers should deal with separate topics, although the second can relate to the first-it can deal with the next time frame or issue. In any case, you must conclude the topic with me.

Deadlines:
   Book report: October 15.
   First paper: November 10.
   Second (and final) paper: December 10.


Week 1- Orientation

The Framework
The United States and Israel

Reading:

Discussion in Class

**Israel and the United States**

**Reading:**
*Israel Studies*, Vol. 5 No. 2.

**Discussion in Class**

**Week 2- Israel’s National Security and Foreign Policy**

**Reading:**

**Discussion in Class**

**Week 3- The United States in the Middle East**

**Reading:**


**Discussion in Class**

**Week 4- Truman and Israel (1)- from the Yom Kippur Address to Recognition in Israel**

**Reading:**

**Truman and Israel (2)- In Pursuit of Security**

**Reading:**
Hahn, *Caught in the Middle East*, pp. 67-143.
Discussion in Class

Week 5- “Friendly Impartiality” (1953-1958)
Reading:

Discussion in Class

Week 6- The Changing Strategic Climate (1958-1961)
Reading:

Discussion in Class

Week 7- “Special Relations” (?), 1961-1963
Reading:

Discussion in Class

Reading:

Discussion in Class

Week 9- In the Height (and heat) of the Cold War, 1969-1976
Reading:

**Discussion in Class**


**Week 10- The Carter administration**

**Reading:**

Reich, *The United States and Israel* pp. 41-85.


**Discussion in Class**

Quandt, *Peace Process*, pp. 177-204.

**Week 12- From the First War in Lebanon to the Madrid Conference**

**Reading:**

Reich, *The United States and Israel* pp. 87-175.

**Discussion in Class**


**Week 13- In the Shadow of the Oslo Accords**

**Reading:**


**Discussion in Class**


**Week 14- What Can We Say About US-Israel Relations?**

**Discussion in Class**

The United States is committed to supporting the parties in efforts to reach a lasting, comprehensive peace agreement that offers a brighter future to both Israel and the Palestinians. U.S. Assistance to Israel. The U.S.-Israel bilateral relationship is strong, anchored by over $3 billion in Foreign Military Financing annually. In addition to financial support, the U.S. participates in a high level of exchanges with Israel, to include joint military exercises, military research, and weapons development. Through the Joint Counterterrorism Group and a semi-annual Strategic Dialogue, the U.S. and Israel prime ministers need to remain close to U.S. presidents, but their credibility at home also depends on remaining independent and at times defying U.S. pressure. That Trump all but accused Netanyahu of weakness if he didn't bar the two lawmakers and the sequence of events made it seem that Netanyahu was following a presidential directive. Israelis understand how dependent he's become on Trump and far from making Netanyahu seem decisive in banning the representatives, he now appears weak — taking orders from Trump and flip-flopping on an initial decision to admit them. The damage to the relationship is not yet critical. But a few more years of the Trump-Netanyahu experience, and what we witnessed over the past few days, might well make it so. The Israeli prime minister has made that relationship a key selling point of his re-election campaigns, claiming it has delivered in important ways. Under his watch, the Trump administration has overturned longstanding US policy by recognising Israel's sovereignty over the occupied Golan Heights and by moving the US embassy to Jerusalem. In particular, Mr Netanyahu sees Mr Trump's decision to abandon the Iran nuclear deal and get tough with the Islamic Republic as a crucial vindication of his own strategy to protect Israel from Tehran's expanding reach in the region. Anything sh