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The U.S. wasn't always Israel's main ally, what has changed and why?



Sources: The Diary

Although the U.S. has hardened its tone, in recent days it has become increasingly isolated from the rest of the world in its staunch defense of Israel during the offensive in Gaza.

The U.S. has demonstrated since the Hamas attacks on Sept. 7. October its unwavering support for Israel. In addition, it opposes the halt to the fire in Gaza that the rest of the world pleads with because it believes that It would benefit the Palestinian group. However, his role as a mediator together with other powers such as Qatar and Egypt allowed a period of a week-long truce in exchange for the release of hostages held by Hamas and the release of Palestinian women and children in Palestinian prisons Israel.

Last week, Washington was the only member of the Security Council to [vote against a resolution](#) that, in line with the UN secretary-general's request, He called for a ceasefire. On Tuesday, his isolation with a [resolution in the General Assembly](#) that was supported by 153 countries and rejected by only 10, including Israel, the United States, Austria and the Czech Republic. The [previous vote in the General Assembly](#) calling for a "cessation of hostilities", held in October, had 120 votes in favour and 14 against.

However, the U.S. [has hardened its tone](#) with Israel since the beginning of the offensive, which now totals more than 18,400 (7,729 children) killed in Gaza, according to local authorities. The President Joe Biden has warned that Israel "is starting to lose support" and has even criticised the government as "the most conservative in the world". Israel's history" and has acknowledged that he "does not want a two-way solution." States."

The United States was the first country to offer recognition the new Israeli government when the Jewish state declared its independence on May 14, 1948. 75 years later, Washington is the Israel's main military and diplomatic ally, but it wasn't always Like this. For the first two decades after independence, the Israel's main international ally was France, which supplied it with almost all of their weaponry, including planes, tanks, and ships, and He built the nuclear power plant with which he developed [nuclear weapons](#).

Nor did the U.S. offer the same diplomatic cover that it offers today. When Israel invaded Egypt alongside the British and French during the Suez Crisis of 1956, Washington joined Moscow in the United Nations to force Israel and its allies to withdraw. For many years, U.S. aid to Israel was limited to loans to buy food during economic hardship the years after independence.

What has changed and why?

Faced with rising tensions in the run-up to the 1967 [Six-Day War](#), Paris imposed an arms embargo on the region and refused to do so. deliver 50 fighter jets that Israel had paid for. After the During the war, France sided with the Arab countries, in part to improve relations with them after their defeat in the [Algerian War of Independence](#).

President Lyndon Johnson was sympathetic to the position of Israel, but was undecided about whether to supply large of weapons for fear that a regional conflict would attract the Soviet Union.

Following [Israel's stunning victory](#) and occupation of Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem, Washington came to the conclusion that the Arab nations had gone over to the side Soviet, so it increased arms sales to the Jewish state, including Phantom fighter jets.

Johnson pledged to maintain "[qualitative military advantage](#)" of Israel, kicking off decades of arms sales that helped to make the Israeli army the most powerful in the Middle East.

Did the U.S. support Israel's development of nuclear weapons?

In the late 1950s, France built for Israel a reactor capable of producing plutonium and a reprocessing plant in a secret facility in Dimona, a city located in the desert of the Negev, which provided the basic tools for developing the nuclear bomb. Israel told the U.S. that the nuclear plant it was only for "peaceful purposes," but in 1960 [the CIA concluded](#) that it would be used to produce weapons-grade plutonium.

In 1963, President John F. Kennedy demanded that Israel regularly allow U.S. inspectors into the Dimona nuclear facilities and warned him that if he did not submit "reliable information" about the nuclear plant, "would seriously call into question danger" to Washington's support for Israel, according to a report published in 2019 by the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz*.

Israel agreed to the inspections but, after the assassination of Kennedy, President Lyndon Johnson's administration was less strict in and supervision ceased in 1969. By that time, the U.S. officials had concluded that Israel was developing the atomic bomb despite the fact that it had stated otherwise.

When did the U.S. begin to mediate the peace accords?

When Egypt and Syria attacked Israel on Yom Kippur Day, In 1973, U.S. President Richard Nixon was alarmed by the Israel's insinuation that it might use nuclear weapons, after that his forces were initially forced to withdraw from the territories occupied six years earlier. Nixon ordered an airlift of military supplies to Israel.

When the tide of the war turned, the U.S. wanted to limit the the magnitude of the Egyptian losses, in part to keep the outside the conflict, but also to bolster influence on Egyptian leader Anwar Al Sadat. In turn, this It laid the groundwork for the [Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement](#) signed in 1979.

The Israeli government's failure to anticipate the The Yom Kippur War forced a political realignment that led to the Likud came to power for the first time, with Menachem Begin as the prime minister. Begin invited Al Sadat, through the United States, to visit Jerusalem, and the Egyptian president gave a speech in the Knesset (Israeli Parliament).

President Jimmy Carter organized negotiations that culminated in in the Camp David accords between Egypt and Israel, and laid the groundwork for the for the final peace treaty between Israel and Egypt in March 2015. 1979, by which Israel began its

withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula. But Begin rebuffed Carter's attempts to reach an agreement on the Israel to renounce [the Palestinian territories it had occupied](#) in 1967.

If Carter wanted peace, what did Ronald Reagan want?

Carter's successor, Ronald Reagan, was more interested in selling arms than in negotiating peace. Military support for Israel is consolidated under the Reagan administration, which also initiated a defense of its ally's most energetic diplomatic system.

Efforts focused particularly on protecting Israel of the criticism of the United Nations. The two countries signed agreements and Washington began stockpiling weapons in Israel that were officially assigned to U.S. forces, but they could be quickly handed over to the Israelis.

There were tensions. The Israeli attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981 was held without U.S. approval and led Reagan to suspend the some arms shipments to Tel Aviv. Neither does the U.S. government welcomed the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

But Washington continued to protect Israel at the UN, vetoing even a Soviet initiative in the Security Council to impose an arms embargo. Still, the Reagan Administration surprised Israel in speaking with the Palestine Liberation Organization, led by Yasser Arafat, which Israel considered a terrorist.

What has happened to peace initiatives?

A succession of presidents thought they might be the ones who they will eventually achieve a peace agreement between Israel and Palestine. Could Bill Clinton came closest when he oversaw a series of talks and agreements that culminated in the 1993 [Oslo peace accords](#), which created the Palestinian National Authority, that it would have limited governmental powers over certain areas of the occupied territories.

But the 1995 assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister The Israeli government that had signed these agreements, opened the way for the arrival of the power of Benjamin Netanyahu, who was openly opposed to a state. and did everything possible to block the Oslo process.

Clinton had one last chance to reach an agreement at the [Camp David summit](#). in 2000 by PLO leader Yasser Arafat, and then-Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak. When the When the talks failed, Clinton blamed Arafat. But some of the Clinton officials who were present at the talks They said that the Israeli offer was insufficient to reach a agreement.

One of the Israeli negotiators, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Foreign Minister, Shlomo Ben-Ami, later stated that if he were The Palestinian government would have rejected the Camp David proposals. In 2005, the former U.S. State Department official Aaron David

Miller, who played a key role in the peace efforts of Clinton said Washington had not acted as a neutral arbiter, but rather as a neutral arbiter. as "Israel's lawyer, serving Israelis and coordinating with at the expense of the success of the peace negotiations."

Clinton's successor, President George W. Bush, launched his peace efforts, the Road Map, although it pushed forward the plan to to compensate for the diplomatic damage caused by the invasion of Iraq. The Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon could not defy the White House, so he praised Bush's plan and then devoted himself to sabotage it by setting conditions. It also used the dismantling [of Israeli settlements and military bases in Gaza](#) in 2005 as a means of freezing the Roadmap on the chemical "Formaldehyde... so that there is no political process with the Palestinians," in the words of Sharon's chief of staff, Dov Weissglas.

Why were relations between Israel and Obama bad?

President Barack Obama granted Israel a new package of A record \$38 billion in military aid to the for ten years, but was still considered a little ally trustworthy, especially by Prime Minister Netanyahu.

Israeli officials were angry when Obama decided to He made his first visit to the region as president to Cairo, where he [delivered a speech in which he promised the Muslim world a "new beginning" after the Iraq war](#). Obama and Netanyahu held a tense meeting at the White House in the that the American said he wanted construction to stop and that Israel would take the settlement talks seriously. peace with the Palestinians.

Some Obama administration officials wanted the President set a deadline for Netanyahu to agree to enter into a Conversations. Otherwise, the U.S. would come up with its own plan for a Palestinian state. But that determination faded as that the Israeli leader was gaining political support in the United States, especially in the United States. among Republicans willing to thrash Obama.

Netanyahu also openly opposed Washington's deal with Iran to restrict Iran's nuclear program, calling it a "historic mistake" that would allow Tehran to develop atomic weapons. The Israeli leader took an unprecedented step by openly criticizing the White House policy in a speech to Congress.

Obama fired one last dart during his final month in office, when he took the unusual step of not vetoing a resolution of the Council of Trustees. UN Security Condemning Settlement Construction Israeli. Netanyahu responded by saying he was looking forward to the Donald Trump's arrival at the White House.

Netanyahu convinced Trump

By the end of his term as president, Donald Trump was [deeply unpopular](#) in much of the world. Israel was an exception after Trump move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, recognizing the city as the capital of Israel (contrary to the UN resolutions), unlike most countries.

The Trump Administration negotiated agreements to normalize relations between Israel and several Arab countries. He also presented his Israel's own Palestinian-Israeli peace proposal, which allowed Israel to annex about 30% of the West Bank. The plan included the vision of a Palestinian state made up of several enclaves surrounded by territory, which bore a strong resemblance to proposals for the Israeli right that have been described as a replica of the system of South African apartheid bantustanes for black citizens.

Trump's Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, revealed that, after the president suggested that Netanyahu might be the real obstacle to peace with the Palestinians, the Israeli leader showed Trump a doctored video showing Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas calling for the murder of children. Trump's position then veered against the Palestinians. The following year, Trump withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal.

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