

Friends and Allies: Why America Helps Israel

Some people claim that the United States should not be so supportive of Israel, or that being allies with Israel is making terrorists mad at us. These same people claim that the United States supports Israel so strongly because of the “power” and “influence” of the so-called “Israel lobby”: Jewish Americans and Evangelical Christians.

The fact is, nothing could be further from the truth.

There are many important reasons why the United States supports Israel, and many examples how Israel is a helpful, loyal ally to the United States in their mutually beneficial relationship. It is not a one-way relationship.

One source of this special relationship goes back to America’s very beginning. Our founding fathers believed in G-d and were greatly influenced by the Torah or Hebrew Bible. For example, the inscription on the Liberty Bell reads: “PROCLAIM LIBERTY THROUGHOUT ALL THE LAND UNTO ALL THE INHABITANTS THEREOF.” This quote comes from *Leviticus*, which G-d gave the Jewish people as part of the Torah.

A replica of our Liberty Bell is on display in “Liberty Bell Park” in Jerusalem, Israel’s undivided capital. Israel established the park and had the bell replica made to salute America’s Bicentennial. Another replica of our Liberty Bell is in the Israeli town of Netivot-Azata. According to the Liberty Bell Museum, the only other countries that display a replica of the Liberty Bell are Germany, Belgium and Japan.

COUNTRY	% OF VOTES COMMON WITH U.S.
Israel	88
Australia	88
Canada	85
Japan	80
France	75
United Kingdom	82
Germany	78
Egypt	45
Jordan	52
Iraq	48
Afghanistan	48
Turkey	65
Saudi Arabia	55
China	32
Russia	28
Mexico	52
Iran	25

Yes, like the United States, Israel is a free and open democracy with equal rights for all. There is no discrimination. The media is freely able to report what it chooses, including criticism of the government. Israel has more companies traded on the U.S. stock exchanges than any foreign country after Canada. A walk through the streets of Tel Aviv is almost like being in New York City. All Israeli citizens can vote and serve in Knesset.

Another reason America is so supportive of Israel is because Israel has always been such a loyal and dependable ally of the United States. As the chart to the left shows, few countries have been as supportive of America in the international arena as has Israel. In the history of the United Nations, Israel has voted with America’s positions in the world body more than 90% of the time. Canada has voted in concert with the U.S. just 49% of the time; England 60% of the time; Egypt 14% of the time and Saudi Arabia only 10% of the time.

In 1991, the first time the United States went to war against Iraq, Iraq fired 39 Scud Missiles into Israel, yet Israel never fired back at Iraq. Why? Because Israel’s ally, America, asked it not to. The U.S. was concerned that Israeli involvement in the war would result in the departure of Arab countries from the “Coalition of the Willing” and hamper our war effort. So rather than defend itself, Israel chose to help America.

“The ability of the U.S. Air Force in particular, and the Army in general, to defend whatever position it has in NATO (during the Cold War) owes more to the Israeli intelligence input than it does to any single (other) source of intelligence.” So said Gen. George F. Keegan, a retired chief of intelligence for the U.S. Air Force in 1986.

Israel was there for America during the Cold War, relaying to the U.S. what the Soviets were up to in the Middle East, with control of the critical oil reserves at stake. Israel is again America’s eyes and ears in the war against radical Islam and those who carried out the attacks of 9/11, and ISIS. Remember: Israel is on the front line in this struggle.

By the way, at Israel’s request, Israel no longer receives economic aid from the United States. In fact, the only aid Israel now receives is military aid. By agreement, all of the military aid that Israel receives from the U.S. is spent right here, boosting the U.S. economy and preserving American jobs. Israel also outsources jobs to America!

Also, a number of technological and military advances created by Israel have helped the United States. These include the Patriot Missile system which was used in the wars against Iraq and which protects U.S. troops today. Had Israel not bombed Iraq’s nuclear reactor in 1981, the United States might not have been able to defeat Iraq in 1991. There is also the TROPHY system that protects American tanks and personnel carriers.



Original Liberty Bell and one Israel Liberty Bell

Figures represent 2021 U.N. General Assembly votes

Source: U.S. State Department

Be wary of those trying to turn Americans against our friends in Israel. It is a mutually beneficial two-way relationship, with both countries helping one another and sharing and celebrating our common heritage and values that we cherish.

FACTS ABOUT JERUSALEM AND THE TEMPLE MOUNT

The Temple Mount (the actual name is Har Habayit which translates to “Mount of the House,” meaning the “Holy House” or Beit Hamikdash — the First Temple and the Second Temple) is located on Mount Moriah in Israel’s eternal undivided capital Jerusalem. The Temple Mount is the Jewish people’s holiest site. King David purchased the Temple Mount for 50 silver shekels and he brought the Ark of the Covenant to stand there. Combined, the two Temples stood for almost 1,000 years (960-586 BCE and 537 BCE-70 CE), and they were the center of Jewish religious life. Tens of thousands of Jews flocked to the Temple Mount on Yom Kippur and the three annual Jewish pilgrimage festivals – Passover, Shavuot and Sukkot. On the Ninth of Av in 70 CE, the Romans destroyed the Second Temple and slaughtered approximately one million Jews – events mourned by Jews around the world to this day.

Throughout successive invasions by Babylonians, Seleucids, Romans, the Byzantine (Christian) Empire, Sassanid Persians, Arab Caliphates (the Rashidun, Ummayyad, Abbasid, Seljuk, Fatimid, and Ayubbid Caliphates), Crusaders, Mamluks, Ottomans, the British, the Jordanians, Jews all over the world pray three times a day facing the Temple Mount, incorporating a prayer for the Temple to be rebuilt.

In 691 CE, the Muslim Ummayyad Caliphate built the Dome of the Rock shrine around the rock that may have been the holiest part of the Jewish Temples. The Ummayyads also built the al-Aqsa mosque on the southern part of the Temple Mount in 705-715 CE.

On June 7, 1967, Israel’s brave soldiers miraculously recaptured the Temple Mount after Israel was attacked in the Six-Day War. The joyous exclamation by Israeli soldiers: “The Temple Mount is in our hands!” is one of the most famous in recent Jewish history. IDF Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren sounded the shofar on the Temple Mount and led prayers. After its war victory, Israel ceded custodianship for the Temple Mount to the Jordanian Wakf. Under a so-called “status quo,” non-Muslims are permitted to visit the Temple Mount, but only Muslims were allowed to pray on the Temple Mount. Jews and Christians are not allowed to pray there, as per Muslim authorities.

Today, Palestinian-Arab leaders and others deny the Jewish Temples ever existed, and deny the Jewish people’s connection to Judaism’s holiest site. The Arabs have taken great pains to remove most archaeological indications of millennias-long Jewish presence there.



“For three thousand years, Jerusalem has been the center of Jewish hope and longing. No other city has played such a dominant role in the history, culture, religion and consciousness of a people as has Jerusalem in the life of Jewry and Judaism. Throughout centuries of exile, Jerusalem remained alive in the hearts of Jews everywhere as the focal point of Jewish history, the symbol of ancient glory, spiritual fulfillment and modern renewal. This heart and soul of the Jewish people engenders the thought that if you want one simple word to symbolize all of Jewish history, that word would be ‘Jerusalem.’”

-Teddy Kollek, while mayor of Jerusalem

Jerusalem is mentioned 669 times in the Jewish Bible (Tanakh) and the name Zion (which usually means Jerusalem) appears an additional 154 times.

You may never have noticed and now you will never forget: Directly in the middle of the name Jerusalem are the letters USA.

Under Jebusite rule and earlier, Jerusalem had been two separate cities, Jeru (Yere) and Salem (Shalem). Both of these names do appear in the Torah: "And Malki-Tzedek, King of Shalem" (Genesis 14:18). "And Abraham called that place...Yere" (Genesis 21:14). Around the time of Joshua's conquest, the Amorites consolidated the two and they combined the two names: Jeru-salem.

There is no “East” or “West” Jerusalem. It is one united city, and it is the undivided and eternal capital of the Jewish state of Israel. While the world seeks to divide Jerusalem and give the Palestinian-Arabs “East” Jerusalem – note what is in “East” Jerusalem: The Temple Mount and Kotel, the City of David, the Mt. of Olives, the Jewish Quarter. There are those who deny Jerusalem’s historic and modern centrality to Judaism, spitefully seeking to erase this fact, such as UNESCO. They and others seek to divide the city, to the detriment of the Jewish People.

When any part of Jerusalem is referred to as a “settlement,” it is particularly despicable! When any part of Jerusalem is called “occupied” it is an atrocity! The 1947 UN proposal for internationalizing Jerusalem as a "corpus separatum," under UN General Assembly Resolution 181, was only a non-binding recommendation.

“The city of Jerusalem is the seat of Israel’s President, Parliament, and Supreme Court, and the site of numerous government ministries and social and cultural institutions.” from the text of The Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995, which is U.S. law. On May 14, 2018, the new United States Embassy in Israel opened in Jerusalem. President Donald Trump ordered the U.S. Embassy relocated there from Tel Aviv so as to be in compliance with American law.

The majority of the population of Jerusalem has been Jewish since the mid-1800s, according to multiple censuses.

These are but a few salient facts about Jerusalem.

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