

# Scholars Circle Resource Guide

Double-sided

## From Jerusalem to Washington: The Dynamics of Israel-US Relations



### About Dr. Saltzman

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# Common Q&A's

## **What makes Israeli foreign and security policy unique?**

Israeli foreign and security policy is quite distinctive due to the combination of the Jewish religion and the historical experiences of the Jewish people. The land of Israel holds deep religious significance, while the trauma of the Holocaust shapes Israel's focus on strong defense and ensuring its survival. This blend of spiritual duty and historical memory drives Israel's emphasis on self-reliance, military strength, and a foreign policy centered on protecting the Jewish state in a challenging region.

## **How do Israelis see Trump's second term in office?**

Many Israelis view Donald Trump's second term with optimism, given his pro-Israel policies during his first term, such as recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital, relocating the U.S. embassy, and supporting Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights. His role in the Abraham Accords was also highly praised. While Trump's policies are seen as strengthening U.S.-Israel ties, some Israelis remain mindful of his unpredictability and the broader political context. Overall, they see a second term as likely benefiting Israel's strategic interests.

## **What role do Israelis ascribe to the American Jewish community as part of the US-Israel bilateral relationship?**

Israelis see the American Jewish community as a key factor in U.S.-Israel relations, viewing it as an important advocate for Israel's security and interests as well as a vital bridge between the two nations. Through lobbying, philanthropy, and public support, the community helps shape U.S. policy. While younger generations may hold more critical views on certain Israeli policies, the American Jewish community remains a vital ally in securing continued U.S. support for Israel.

# Key Takeaways

- ✓ From Israel's perspective, the U.S. is seen as its most crucial ally, providing vital political, military, and economic support in the face of regional threats.
- ✓ Israel recognizes that changes in U.S. leadership can affect the relationship, requiring adaptability in its diplomatic and security strategies.
- ✓ Israel is aware of the shifting dynamics within the American Jewish community, especially among younger members who may have differing views on Israeli policies, particularly in relation to the Palestinian issue, yet continues to see the community as a fundamental ally in U.S.-Israel ties.
- ✓ Israel's internal politics are also evolving, with increasing debates over issues like the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, security policy, and the role of religion in governance. These shifts impact the way Israel interacts with the current and future American administrations.

***The views expressed by the speaker don't necessarily reflect Chai Mitzvah's official position.***