

THE ISRAEL LOBBY AND AMERICAN POLITICS

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“Against the insidious wiles of foreign influence the jealousy of a free people ought to be constantly awake; since history and experience prove, that foreign influence is one of the most baneful foes of Republican Government.”

George Washington, Farewell Address, 1796

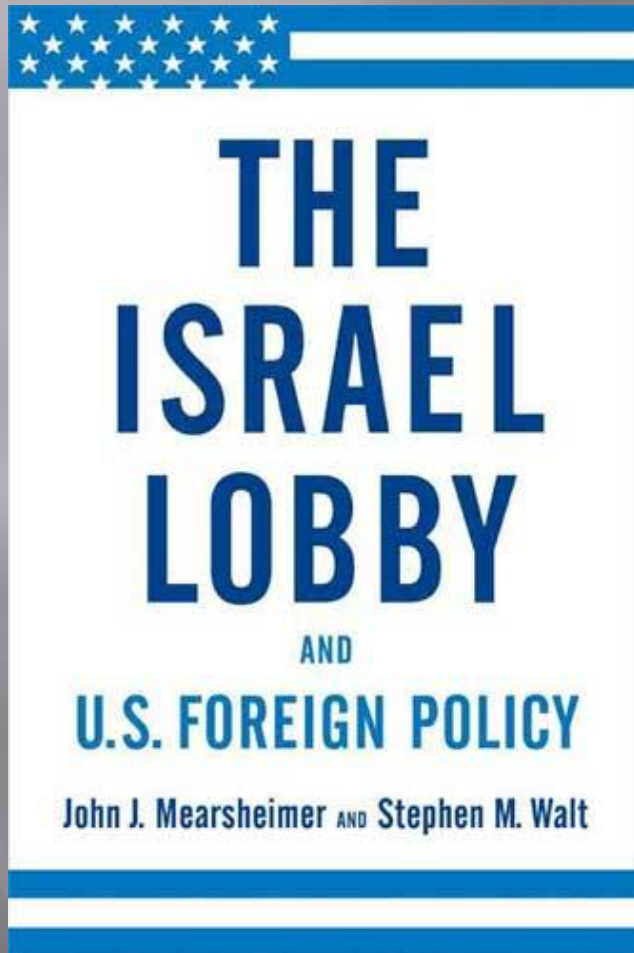
First Considerations

- ▣ Jews are good people!
- ▣ Judaism is wonderful!
- ▣ Israel is a blessing!

Anti-Semitism is not acceptable



This is a Summary of *The Israel Lobby*



- ▣ Published 2007
- ▣ [John J. Mearsheimer](#)
Distinguished Professor of Political Science, University of Chicago
- ▣ [Stephen M. Walt](#)
Professor of International Affairs, Harvard John F. Kennedy School of Government

Basic Theses

- ▣ There is an Israel Lobby
- ▣ It represents conservative Israeli political factions
- ▣ Exerts enormous force on US politics and foreign policy
- ▣ These are established, well-known facts, not speculation
- ▣ The lobby harms US, Israel, and world interests

1. Parts of Israel Lobby

- ▣ Political Action Committees (PACs)
- ▣ Private organizations
- ▣ Think tanks
- ▣ Writers, analysts, policy advisors
- ▣ Private donors

Israel Lobby PACs



AIPAC: Coordinates campaign contributions, can make or break any political candidate



Anti-Defamation League (ADL): lobbying, political pressure, media statements



Christians United for Israel (CUFI): Christian Zionist organization

Organizations



CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS
of Major American Jewish Organizations

Conference of Presidents: panel of leaders of 52 different pro-Israel organizations

Ameinu
American Friends of Likud
American Gathering/Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors
America-Israel Friendship League
American Israel Public Affairs Committee
American Jewish Committee
American Jewish Congress
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
American Sephardi Federation
American Zionist Movement
Americans for Peace Now
AMIT
Anti-Defamation League
Association of Reform Zionists of America
B'nai B'rith International
Bnai Zion
Central Conference of American Rabbis
Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America
Development Corporation for Israel / State of Israel Bonds
Emunah of America
Friends of Israel Defense Forces
Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life
Jewish Community Centers Association
Jewish Council for Public Affairs

The Jewish Federations of North America
Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs
Jewish Labor Committee
Jewish National Fund
Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
Jewish War Veterans of the USA
Jewish Women International
MERCAZ USA, Zionist Organization of the Conservative Movement
NA'AMAT USA
NCSJ: Advocates on behalf of Jews in Russia, Ukraine, the Baltic States & Eurasia
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of Young Israel
ORT America
Rabbinical Assembly
Rabbinical Council of America
Religious Zionists of America
Union for Reform Judaism
Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America
United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
WIZO
Women's League for Conservative Judaism
Women of Reform Judaism
Workmen's Circle
World ORT
World Zionist Executive, US
Zionist Organization of America

Think Tanks



American Enterprise Institute
(AEI)

PROJECT FOR THE
NEW AMERICAN CENTURY

Project for the New American
Century (PNAC)



Hudson
Institute

THE
WASHINGTON INSTITUTE
for Near East Policy

Washington Institute for Near
East Policy (WINEP)

Jewish Institute for National
Security Affairs (JINSA)



THE JEWISH INSTITUTE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS
Securing America, Strengthening Israel

Writers and Analysts

Linked with Neoconservatism, a political philosophy that:

- Aims to achieve US security and prosperity
- By intervening in affairs in other nations
- Promotes use of economic and military force
- Machiavellian: excludes spiritual or religious ideals



PAX AMERICANA

NEOCONS DOMINATE US POLICY



Richard Perle
AEI, WINEP, JINSA



Paul Wolfowitz
AEI



Robert Kagan
PNAC



William Kristol
PNAC



Douglas Feith



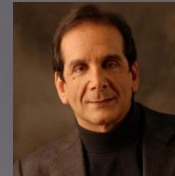
Elliot Abrams
Hudson



Daniel Pipes
Campus Watch



Aaron Friedberg
PNAC



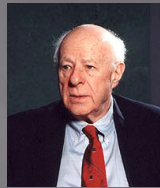
Charles Krauthammer
The New Republic



David Wurmser
AEI



James Woolsey
WINEP



Norman Podhoretz
Hudson



John Hannah
Cheney advisor



Reuel Gerech
PNAC, AEI



John Bolton



Eliot Cohen
PNAC



Dick Cheney



Donald Rumsfeld



William Luti
GW Bush advisor



William Bennett
PNAC

2. Activities of the Lobby

- ▣ Campaign contributions
- ▣ Political pressure
- ▣ Lobbying
- ▣ Propaganda

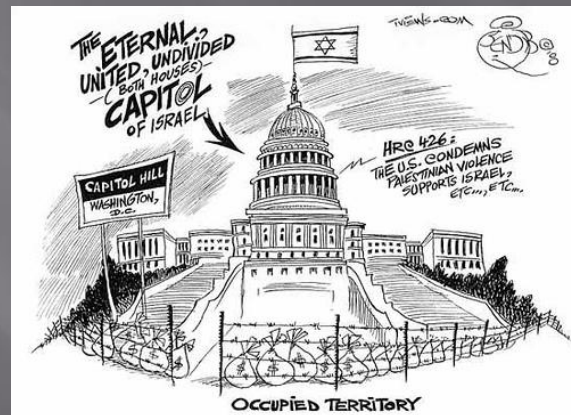
Campaign Contributions

- ▣ AIPAC interviews candidates
- ▣ AIPAC connects approved candidates with extensive private donor network
- ▣ Stealth PACs also make campaign contributions



Political Pressure

- ▣ Letters to public officials
- ▣ Public statements
- ▣ Explicit/implicit threats
- ▣ Mass letter, phone, email campaigns
- ▣ Few member of Congress dare oppose



Lobbying

- ▣ Meetings with officials
- ▣ Background studies
- ▣ Policy recommendations
- ▣ Dinners, awards, social functions, trips



Propaganda

- ▣ Newspaper columns
- ▣ One-sided media presentation: Israel always right
- ▣ Exaggerates strategic importance of Israel to US
- ▣ Overstates moral argument for unconditional support of Israeli policies
- ▣ Attacks every critic as 'anti-Semitic'

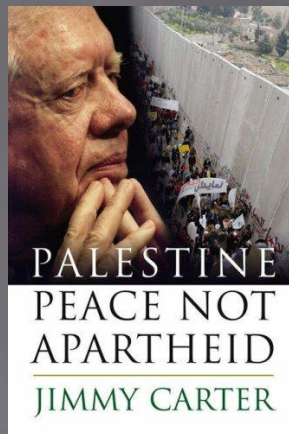


Effects of Lobby

- ▣ Iraq war promoted by Israel Lobby
 - Not by oil companies (war hurts oil profits)
 - Iraq was helping US contain Iran
- ▣ US ignores Israeli civilian attacks in 2006 Lebanon war
- ▣ US tolerates Israeli settlement of West Bank
- ▣ 9/11 attacks expressed Arab anger about US backing of Israeli militarism and Palestinian policies
- ▣ Unwillingness of US to objectively examine Afghan war
- ▣ Iran sanctions and continued tensions
- ▣ No US pressure on Israel to make peace

The Case Against Israeli Rejectionists

- ❑ Israel has no legal right to annex occupied territories
- ❑ 725,000 Palestinians were violently displaced from their homes in 1948
- ❑ West Bank today an apartheid system
- ❑ Palestinians are human beings and have rights!



Rejectionists (ctd)

- ▣ Many Israelis want peace
- ▣ Many support a separate Palestinian state
- ▣ Demagogues promote conflict to control population and consolidate political power



Conclusions

- ▣ George Washington's warning has come true
- ▣ Israeli rejectionists exert enormous influence in American politics and foreign policy
- ▣ The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the terrorist threat, and worsening relations with Islamic countries a result
- ▣ This harms Israel as well as the US

What Can Be Done?

- ▣ Call attention to Israel Lobby
- ▣ Scrutinize its influence and suggestions
- ▣ Public campaign financing
- ▣ Demand objective, civil, public debate

