

Syria, especially in favor of cold-enemy Turkey, especially in territory on its border where arch-enemy Iran continues an ominous build-up of military might.

Yet, Israel's military is ranked 17th strongest in the world, and Israel is ranked the 8th most powerful nation globally based on economic influence, political influence, international alliances and military strength.

Those rankings are obviously helpful in and of themselves, but they are important because they support President Trump's desire to have other countries contribute to fighting the "bad guys"—which both European and Arab nations have been reluctant to do, especially against Iran.

Indeed, Israel has attacked Iranian assets in Syria some 200 times, while even the U.S. has never done so. Mr. Trump should particularly be held to account for his lack of response to Iran's attack on U.S. ally Saudi Arabia and on oil tankers in the Gulf of Hormuz—both of which certainly rise far above "tribal disputes."

In any case, Israel's military power and prowess position it well to handle its own conflicts without direct U.S. intervention—which cannot be said for most states in the Middle East.

It also seems clear that Mr. Trump, as past U.S. presidents, would rather have the Israeli Defense Forces on the front lines of Middle East conflagrations than American servicemembers.

Israel's military strength likewise makes the Jewish state an ideal potential ally to Saudi Arabia, Egypt and other Arab Gulf states—since they are demonstrably unable or unwilling to risk armed response to Iran's aggression.

But let's not discount the \$3+ billion Israel receives annually in U.S. military aid—a critical factor in providing Israel such world-class power and influence.

This expense is clearly a bargain compared with the cost of activating U.S. troops and armaments in the region in case of conflict. That's especially true considering all such U.S. aid is spent in the U.S.—and that the U.S. regularly benefits from acquiring advanced Israel military technology and Middle East intelligence.

Nonetheless, Trump's seeming impulsiveness and unpredictability should make Israelis and supporters of Israel nervous. Relying on this President being a constant, as opposed to a fair-weather, friend could be risky.

While preserving an optimally warm friendship with the U.S. at all levels, Israel's best general strategy would seem to require maintenance of its ability to manage international relations—diplomatic, commercial and military—as independently as possible from this and future White Houses.

I hope you'll emphasize to friends, family and colleagues that while Israel highly values and cultivates relationships with the U.S. government (and both political parties), it is best served by continuing to develop its independence. We never know how these winds of favor may blow—in this administration and Congress . . . or the next.

In addition, I hope you'll also take a minute, while you have this material front and center, to visit FLAME's lively [new Facebook page](#) and review the P.S.

editorial hasbarah messages placed in media nationwide every month: The dire threats from Iran, Hamas and Hizbollah, the injustice of BDS, Palestinian anti-Semitism and more. If you support a bold voice that tells the truth about Israel in American media, please donate now.

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immediately below. It describes FLAME's new hasbarah campaign—
outspokenly questioning the validity and wisdom of the so-called two-state
solution.

Best regards,

Jim Sinkinson

President, Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)

P.S. Many politicians in the U.S., as well as in Western Europe, hold
steadfastly to the notion of a two-state solution for resolving the
Palestinians' conflict with Israel. However, it's become clear as stability
in the Middle East deteriorates, power balances shift and the
Palestinians themselves continue to reject peace initiatives, that a two-
state solution may be no solution at all. That's why FLAME has created
a new hasbarah message called "[Is a Two-State Solution Still
Possible?](#)" I hope you'll review this hard-hitting paid editorial, which
will run in coming months in the *New York Times* and *Washington
Post*. It lays out seven tough questions that must be answered before
two states can seriously be considered. This piece will also be sent to
all members of Congress, Vice President Pence and President Trump. If
you agree that this kind of public relations effort on Israel's behalf is
critical, I urge you to support us. Remember: FLAME's powerful ability
to influence public opinion-and U.S. support of Israel—comes from
individuals like you, one by one. I hope you'll consider giving a
donation now, as you're able—with \$500, \$250, \$100, or even \$18.
(Remember, your donation to FLAME is tax deductible.) To donate
online, just go to [donate](#) now. Now, more than ever, we need your
support to ensure that the American people, the U.S. Congress and
President Trump stay focused on realistic policies in relation to Israel,
the Palestinians and the entire Middle East.

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