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Facts & Logic About the Middle East

December 22, 2020



How should recent Arab-Israeli normalization agreements guide Biden's Middle East peace strategies?

Dear Friend of FLAME:

Our ability to recognize and understand historical trends in real time gives us greater power to harness the powerful current of events. By grasping the meaning of profound changes in the Middle East, the Biden administration will be able to create more favorable outcomes and avoid wasted time and political capital.

Such is the opportunity before us as Arab nations suddenly begin to embrace normalization with Israel. This momentous shift in behavior should make us rethink our assumptions about how—and with whom—we can most readily achieve peace in the region.

Above all, Arab-Israeli normalization initiatives shine light on the most promising paths to peace—none of which favors the U.S. rushing to the rejectionist Palestinian cause.

It should also disabuse would-be peacemakers of the notion that Israel is unwilling to or incapable of making peace with Arabs who wish it.

For decades, the State of Israel found itself surrounded by implacable enemies, many who sought its destruction. The Arab world had attacked the Jewish State at its reestablishment in 1948, and several other times, including in 1956, 1967 and 1973.

Preceding its military attacks, the Arab League, the regional organization of 22 Arab states, had initiated an economic boycott of the Jewish community in Mandatory Palestine beginning in 1945 in order to throttle it financially.

This violent rejectionism in the Arab world toward Jewish sovereignty continued for many years, but recent normalization agreements with the UAE, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco mean that today six member states of the Arab League have full relations with Israel, with others reportedly on their way.

How can the U.S. take advantage of this sea change in attitudes and behavior to

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YOU OBLIVIOUS TO KNOW THE TRUTH...

The Israel Apartheid Lie

Contrary to all facts, Israel's enemies maliciously accuse the Jewish state of South African-style discrimination against Arabs. Why do they tell this obvious lie?

Despite Israel's exemplary civil rights record and its long-standing policy of protecting all citizens and residents, including all Arab and Palestinian citizens and some 5 million stateless Arabs, it will continue to be an apartheid state. The high quality report in the magazine *Foreign Affairs* reveals the reality of Israel's apartheid.

What does the lie mean? Apartheid in South Africa was defined by the denial of basic human rights to a racial group, with the aim of maintaining that group in a subordinate position. In Israel, the aim is to maintain the Jewish majority and to deny the rights of the Arab minority. This is the essence of apartheid.

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How to stop the Big Lie about apartheid in Israel

Activists of all stripes, and those who have been silent, must speak out against the apartheid lie. This is the only way to stop the apartheid lie.

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FLAME is the only organization that defends Israel with paid

advance peace in the region, as well as its own interests?

First, many indicators tell us that the Arab-Israeli conflict is now largely past. In 2002, the Arab League endorsed the Arab Peace Initiative, which offered an end to the conflict and full normalization with Israel in return for major concessions to the Palestinians. The unquestioned “truth” that no Arab country would normalize relations with Israel before an Israel-Palestinian peace deal was signed has been broken. While still giving lip service to the Arab initiative, each country that normalizes relations in essence tears asunder the central premise of the document and undermines Arab opposition to Israel.

Most tellingly, the place where the “Three Nos”—no peace with Israel, no recognition of Israel, no negotiations with it—of the infamous Khartoum Resolution of 1967 was agreed to has now become the nation of “Three Yeses.” Sudan now has peace with Israel, recognizes and has negotiated a deal with it. The symbolic heart of the conflict has been breached in the very place it was most forcefully pronounced.

Second, it’s clear from the recent normalization agreements that these are more than formal documents. The growing partnerships between Israel and the UAE and Bahrain in a number of fields is testament to the warmth of these relations. Israelis are traveling in the thousands to Dubai, and an Emirati sheikh has just bought half of Beitar Jerusalem, a prominent soccer team in Israel’s capital. In Morocco, Jewish history and culture will soon be part of the school curriculum—unprecedented in the region.

Even in countries that have yet to normalize relations with Israel, rejectionism and hatred for Israel is diminishing. According to experts, there has been a notable reduction in anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist content in Saudi Arabian textbooks.

Third, this peace is due to much more than just a common foe—the Islamic Republic of Iran—that is bringing these nations together. There is a growing recognition that Jews and Arabs can chart a new course forward together, without being held back by the obstructionism of the Palestinians. For too long, Arab nations were held hostage to the whims of the Palestinian leaders who would dictate relations in the region and use them as a bargaining chip to be used against Israel.

The Arab world has now joined Israel in wearying of its anchor to a conflict that has little chance of being solved soon, despite repeated Israeli, U.S. and European attempts.

Finally, the blessed end of the regional conflict shows it was never about Jews and Arabs, or Islam, but about the Palestinians’ maximalist intentions to expunge Jewish sovereignty from the region. More and more Arabs are now fed up with this rejectionism and are deciding it will no longer impact their decision-making.

Dhahi Khalfan Tamim, Dubai’s deputy head of police and general security, wrote in September urging Arab nations to ignore Ramallah’s criticism of the UAE’s normalization process with Israel. “Rid yourselves of this notion that you don’t build relations with Israel except at the command of Mahmoud Abbas,” Tamim wrote on Twitter.

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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**FLAME'S WEEKLY
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FLAME's Hotline e-newsletter keeps you up to date on the most important pro-Israel advocacy issues and features our choice of the week's most informative and thought-provoking article on Israel and the Middle East. If you only subscribe to one pro-Israel news service, make it the FLAME Hotline.

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Indeed, even with peace breaking out all around them, the Palestinians—both the Palestinian Authority in Judea-Samaria (aka the West Bank) and Hamas in Gaza—continue to reject peace negotiations with Israel. Nor have either of these fierce enemies moved an inch in their positions, but rather still cling to their determination to defeat the Jewish state.

Israel and the Arab world are formulating a brighter future for the region together. What was taboo has now been broken. That can only be a good thing for all the peoples of the region, whether Arab or Jew. The belief that the region pivots on the Israel-Palestinian conflict—or that Israel doesn't want peace or can't bring itself to make peace with willing Arabs—has been debunked once and for all.

I hope you'll point out to friends, family, colleagues and your elected representatives that the wider conflict between Israel and the Arab world is now ending—one agreement at a time. The Palestinians are being left behind by their leaders, who remain implacably opposed to the Jewish state, even while the Arab world leaves them behind in a clamor to normalize relations with Israel.

I hope you'll also take a minute, while you have this material front and center, to forward this message to friends, visit FLAME's lively [Facebook page](#) and review the P.S. immediately below. It describes FLAME's new hasbarah campaign—which exposes the outrageous, false accusation that Israel is an “apartheid state.”

Best regards,

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

P.S. Every year, dozens of major American colleges and universities host Israel Apartheid Week, sponsored by radical pro-Palestinian groups like Students for Justice in Palestine. In addition, critics of Israel also assert that Israel is or will soon become an apartheid state. As you know, nothing is further from the truth. Israel guarantees equal rights to all its citizens and its laws bear zero resemblance to any of the hateful rules of apartheid South Africa, where the term was invented. To clarify this point, FLAME has created a new *hasbarah* message called “[The Israel Apartheid Lie](#).” I hope you'll review this convincing, fact-based paid editorial, which will run in *USA Today*, the *Washington Post*, and other media nationwide. It spells out specific tenets of apartheid and refutes the apartheid calumny against Israel point by point. 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 the President stay committed to realistic policies in relation to Israel, Iran and the entire Middle East.

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