

anti-normalization-with-Israel movements in Jordan.

On the other hand, because of its fragile history and geographical location—sharing borders with Syria and Iraq—Jordan is a relatively unstable and vulnerable country. Long eyed by extremists like ISIS and Al Qaeda, the Hashemite Kingdom feels constantly under existential threat.

This vulnerability makes the preservation of Jordan's regime, borders and sovereignty a key component of Israel's own national security. If the Jordanian monarchy fell, it would be a disaster for the Jewish state: To have international terrorist organizations, or possibly Iran, a few miles from Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and the Coastal Plain—where the majority of Israel's population lives—would in turn threaten the existence of the Jewish state.

This high-stakes mutual need has fostered daily cooperation between both militaries. In short, the continued stability in Jordan against external threats depends to a large extent on an Israeli "security umbrella."

That Israel is propping up the Jordanian regime is not something Jordan's leaders are openly proud of, so they don't acknowledge it to their people. Thus, any peace with Israel would be seen by the people as the king's agreement—not theirs—and would not have widespread support. Yet little or nothing has been done to change this attitude.

While King Abdullah rarely goes too far in his criticism toward Israel, he allows other senior officials to constantly berate the Jewish state. In 2017, Yahya Al-Saud, a member of the Jordanian parliament, said of an Israeli Member of Knesset: "The shoe of any Palestinian child is more honorable than this villain and his entity [country]," Saud said, "and the shoe of any Arab and Muslim is better than him and his rogue entity, which has no origin and no religion."

Relations became most strained during 2019, when King Abdullah said at an event in New York, "The Jordanian-Israeli relationship is at an all-time low." This was around the time when Amman recalled its ambassador to Israel, and there was no joint ceremony marking the 25th anniversary of the Israel-Jordan peace agreement.

However, the arena that strains the relationship most surrounds the Temple Mount—Israel's holiest site and the location of the Muslim Al Aksa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock.

The custodianship of al Aqsa became a Hashemite legacy in 1924 and has been administered by consecutive Jordanian kings. When Jordan conquered Jerusalem in 1948, it established the Jerusalem Islamic Waqf to manage and control holy sites, including the Temple Mount, something Israel left in place when it liberated the holy site during the Six Day War.

There are differing interests at stake here, with Israel seeking to limit the influence of the Waqf, which has become increasingly extremist and intolerant of non-Muslim access to the site. On the other hand, King Abdullah has asserted a more public role as 'Defender of the Holy Places in Jerusalem'—in order to cement his domestic legitimacy and Islamic bona fides, especially as the Palestinian Authority, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Hamas exert efforts to control the Temple Mount.

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We witnessed most recently how a spat between the two governments can escalate, when Israel prevented Jordan's crown prince from a high-profile visit to Jerusalem and the Temple Mount, because his armed retinue was much larger than agreed upon with Israel.

In retaliation, Jordan did not approve Prime Minister Netanyahu's request to fly over Jordan for a brief historic trip to the UAE. The dispute received unprecedented public visibility.

Now that Israel sees in the UAE and Bahrain what a warm peace with Arab countries looks like, it should no longer accept a game in which it has to accept blows to its image and national security. While Israel needs a stable Jordan, the Jordanians need Israel's protection far more so.

The truth is, without Israel's security and intelligence assistance, Jordan would probably not survive in its current form. The king remains in power largely because Israel helps fend off constant attempts to depose him and his regime.

It's time for Israel to demand that the Jordanian leadership stop its threats against Israel and start moving its people away from anti-normalization crusades and tilt them towards peace and understanding of the Jewish state.

Please point out to friends, family, colleagues and your elected representatives that if the relationship between Israel and Jordan is going to continue—and there are powerful reasons it should—it must be mutually honest, respectful and cordial. It must also ensure that the Jordanian people fully understand Israel's role in their security. Along with improving alliances throughout the Middle East, Israel and the U.S. should press the Jordanians to end the current duplicitous and counterproductive relationship once and for all.

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 dangerous folly of the U.S. trying to entice Iran back into the failed “Iran Deal” of 2015.

Best regards,

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

P.S. The Biden administration and many members of Congress seem determined to reengage with Iran over the coming year—and some reports indicate a willingness to return to the failed “Iran Nuclear Deal” without preconditions. As you know, this would be disastrous—for the U.S. and for Israel and our other allies in the Middle East. The Iran Deal gave the Islamic Republic a roadmap to nuclear weapons and did nothing to check their jihadi activities, including development of long-range ballistic missiles. To warn Americans of this danger, FLAME has created a new *hasbarah* message called “[No Fool's Deal with Iran](#).” I hope you'll review this convincing, fact-based paid editorial, which will run in *USA Today*, the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and other media nationwide. It spells out specifically the protections any new Iran

deal must provide. This piece will also be sent to all members of Congress, Vice President Harris and President Biden. 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 Biden stay committed to realistic policies in relation to Iran, Israel and the entire Middle East.

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Facts and Logic
About the Middle East
PO Box 3460
Berkeley, CA 94703

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