

# PAPER 11B:

AMERICA: ISRAEL'S BIGGEST ALLY

A CRASH COURSE ON THE TRUTH

Unconditional American support and funding of war crimes



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# THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP

As one of the most powerful (and aggressive) countries in the world, the United States of America has shown continuous support for Israel since its inception, Israel being its most key ally in the Middle East. This has manifested itself in verbal support, financial support, military support, UN Security Council support, and even lobbying support. However, using American aid and military assistance, Israel has committed several war crimes, crimes against humanity, and even apartheid. American support has facilitated Israel's disregard for international law and its disregard for human rights. In return, Israel has attacked the US military and been found guilty of espionage.

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## AMERICAN MILITARY AID



Since WWII, Israel has been the largest recipient of cumulative aid from the U.S. From 1949-2010, Israel received a grant total of \$109 billion, the majority of it in the form of military assistance. Currently, Israel receives roughly \$3 billion per year in military assistance. This assistance is rather special because of the fact that one of America's stated aims in this military aid is so that Israeli maintains a "qualitative military edge" over all other countries in the Middle East. Further, Israel is the only country that receives military aid that has special permission to use 25% of its military grants to purchase weapons from Israeli companies. This ensures that the Israeli military industry also thrives. Also, the US currently has a stockpile of its own weapons in Israel, worth \$800 million. While these are not Israeli property, Israel can get permission to use these weapons, and has (most recently in 2006 during Israel's massacre in Lebanon). Even though Israel continues to break international law, and has used American weaponry to commit war-crimes, they go unpunished, and in fact, their military aid has continuously increased, reaching a high in recent years. America also provides a limited amount of aid to Palestinians, through humanitarian relief and for their "policing". However, there is a strict auditing process, and it has been ensured that none of this aid goes toward any lethal weapon. Meanwhile, America provides Israel with lethal weapons and no auditing process. As the administration cuts funding to the America's most vulnerable, it simultaneously has increased its aid to a country unapologetic for its illegal occupation and apartheid. The Security Council is the body of the UN whose responsibility is the "maintenance of international peace and security". This means that the Security Council (SC) decides when sanctions on countries are necessary and when military action is needed. However, there are five permanent members of the SC, who hold veto power. These five countries are the US, Russia, China, France & the UK. There are also ten elected members of the SC.

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## VETOING SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS



As such, America has unfortunately vetoed numerous resolutions that call Israel to account. Thus, Israel remains to be in violation of numerous resolutions from the UN General Assembly and SC, despite the vast amount of US



veto. So far, the USA has vetoed 45 SC resolutions critical of Israeli policy. The most recent veto was in February 2011 in a call for Israel to cease its illegal settlements. All 14 members of the SC voted in favour of the resolution.

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## INFLUENCE OF AIPAC



Contrary to what one may expect, the interests of Israel play a huge role in American politics. AIPAC, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, founded in 1963 is one of the largest lobbies, and by far, the leading pro-Israeli lobby. In two studies, it was found to be the second most powerful lobbying group. The lobby secures America's funding of the Israeli occupation, and continued military cooperation along with various issues in Israeli interests. An example of this, is sanctions on Iran and a strong opposition to the Palestinian statehood bid. Some of its officials have also been found guilty of spying for Israel and passing along classified documents to the lobby. The lobby itself has also been investigated for espionage. Its annual policy conference is attended by thousands of people, and besides the State of Union address, this conference is the "largest bipartisan gathering of U.S. senators, representatives, administration officials, diplomats, and foreign ambassadors". Several presidents have also made appearances at AIPAC conferences, only showing its vast amount of influence and support. While the lobby itself does not endorse any candidate, the lobby's members provide significant amounts of funding towards candidates. In most American elections, the candidates stance on Israel is significant enough to make or break a candidate. For more on the lobby, see John Mearsheimer & Stephen Walt's "The Israel Lobby & US Foreign Policy".

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While America easily overlooks Israeli aggressions against other countries, it has also overlooked Israeli aggressions against **itself**. Although America is Israel's biggest ally and supporter, America is not immune to Israeli aggressions. On several occasions, there have been espionage scandals, where classified information has

## OVERLOOKING ISRAELI AGGRESSIONS



been passed to Israel. In 1967, Israel deliberately attacked a US Navy ship in international waters and killed 34 members of the crew. While Israel claims that it did not know the identity of the ship, witnesses claim the Israeli army was aware and that both the name of the boat and the US flag were clearly visible. Nevertheless, Israel killed 34 members and injured over a hundred other Americans. Many witnesses and those involved claim that this was a deliberate attack and that Israel has not been held to account for its illegal attack on the USS Liberty. And yet, it receives unconditional American support and billions of dollars.

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