



Strategic Reports 7

Asset Test: How the United States Benefits from Its Alliance with Israel

[*Michael Eisenstadt*](#) and [*David Pollock*](#)

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The U.S.-Israel relationship has traditionally been defined in terms of a moral obligation, shared cultural and political values, and common strategic interests. Since the end of the Cold War, however, the two governments have preferred not to publicly discuss the details of their security relationship, while other types of crucial cooperation have gone unrecognized by the media and other observers, making it easier for critics to portray Israel as a liability rather than an asset.

In this report, Michael Eisenstadt and David Pollock highlight the numerous, often-ignored benefits of the special bilateral relationship. In the hard security realm, Israel remains an important partner in dealing with evolving terrorist and military threats as well as preserving the competitiveness of the U.S. defense-industrial base through joint development efforts and cutting-edge technology. Just as important, Israel has facilitated U.S. efforts to deal with emerging soft security challenges related to economic competitiveness, the information technology revolution, resource sustainability, and public health.

THE AUTHORS

Michael Eisenstadt is director of the Military and Security Studies Program at The Washington Institute. His twenty-six-year career as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve included stints with the U.S. Security Coordinator for Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

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Policy Forum

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Infographic

ASSET TEST

By Michael Eisenstadt and David Pollock

How the United States Benefits from Its Alliance with Israel

Israel contributes substantially to the United States in the domains of **hard security** (defense and intelligence) and **soft security** (economic competitiveness, sustainability, and non-military security). For background research and citations, download the complete report at WashingtonInstitute.org/asset-test



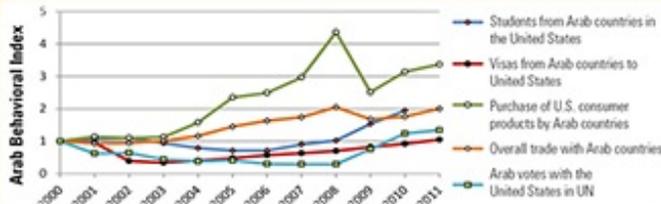


The "innovation going on in Israel is critical to the future of the technology business."

Bill Gates

U.S. support for Israel has gone hand-in-hand with good relations with the Arab states. U.S. ties with the Arab states have flourished in recent decades: visa applications for travel to the United States, trade, and military cooperation are at all time highs. For complete details, see: *Actions, Not Just Attitudes: A New Paradigm for U.S.-Arab Relations* by David Pollock (The Washington Institute, 2010).

25% of U.S. exports to the Middle East go to Israel, but it's only 3% of the region's population.



Hard Security



U.S. firms have established R&D centers in Israel to take advantage of its leadership in the following fields (2012 rankings):
#1 in engineers/scientists per capita
#1 in quality of scientific research institutions
#1 in R&D as percentage of GDP
#1 in wastewater recycling (80%)
#2 in cleantech innovation
#4 in patents per million population
#5 in scientific publications per capita

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Information drawn from *Asset Test: How the United States Benefits from Its Alliance with Israel*.

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