

The Israel-UAE Agreement Is a Key Step for Peace and Sends a Crucial Message to Palestinians

by [Dennis Ross \(/experts/dennis-ross\)](#)

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Emirati leaders apparently understood that this move would preserve the two-state option and preempt Iran from exploiting the annexation issue—while also opening access to previously off-limits U.S. weaponry.

We don't hear many good news stories out of the Middle East, particularly recently, in the midst of the despair over Beirut, regional conflicts and the ravages of COVID-19. But on Thursday there was a hopeful development: President Trump announced a historic peace agreement that will normalize relations between the United Arab Emirates and Israel. Now what had been taking place below the table will be put on top of it. Security cooperation can be acknowledged in public and won't have to exist in the shadows. Israeli companies will be able to operate openly in the UAE, and Israelis will be able to fly directly to the Emirates using their Israeli passports. Israel's informal diplomatic liaison to the International Renewable Energy Agency in the Emirates will be replaced by an embassy. But why now?...

[Read the full article on the Washington Post website.](#)

[\(https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/08/13/israel-uae-agreement-is-key-step-peace-sends-crucial-message-palestinians/\)](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/08/13/israel-uae-agreement-is-key-step-peace-sends-crucial-message-palestinians/) ❖

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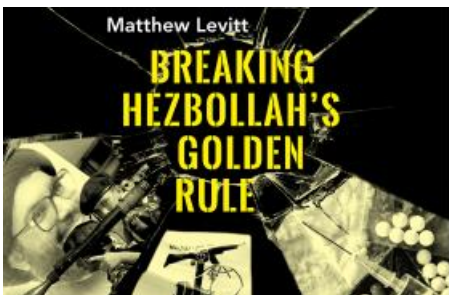
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