

I'm an Ardent Zionist. But Israel's Annexation Makes No Sense.

by [Robert Satloff \(/experts/robert-satloff\)](/experts/robert-satloff)

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS



[Robert Satloff \(/experts/robert-satloff\)](/experts/robert-satloff)

Robert Satloff is executive director of The Washington Institute, a post he assumed in January 1993.



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If Netanyahu decides to throw prudence aside and proceed with the move, it would impose impossibly high costs and deliver few benefits.

This is a tough time to be a cheerleader for the U.S.-Israel relationship. It is not easy to watch as our close partner—with the reckless [encouragement \(https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-ambassador-says-washington-ready-to-recognize-annexation-within-weeks/\)](https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-ambassador-says-washington-ready-to-recognize-annexation-within-weeks/) of the White House—considers annexing parts of the West Bank, a policy that would [imperil both countries' interests \(https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/wrestling-with-annexation-the-elusive-search-for-a-policy-rationale\)](https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/wrestling-with-annexation-the-elusive-search-for-a-policy-rationale) despite the clear availability of better alternatives. I am proud of my advocacy for the bond between these two nations, which has spanned my whole career as a scholar and think tank director. I [argued \(https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/global-opinions/wp/2017/01/25/what-trump-would-gain-from-moving-the-u-s-embassy-to-jerusalem/?itid=lk_inline_manual_3\)](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/global-opinions/wp/2017/01/25/what-trump-would-gain-from-moving-the-u-s-embassy-to-jerusalem/?itid=lk_inline_manual_3) publicly that the United States should move its embassy to Jerusalem. I opposed the Iran nuclear deal and [urged \(https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2015/08/iran-deal-congress-better-alternative/401222/\)](https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2015/08/iran-deal-congress-better-alternative/401222/) senators to vote against that flawed agreement. I believe bolstering Israel advances U.S. interests, strengthening a pro-American ally in the world's most turbulent region. And yet even to an ardent proponent of U.S.-Israel cooperation, this example of it defies all logic...

[Read the full article on the Washington Post website. \(https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/im-an-ardent-zionist-but-israels-annexation-makes-no-sense/2020/06/25/f949e6a4-b59e-11ea-a8da-693df3d7674a_story.html\)](https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/im-an-ardent-zionist-but-israels-annexation-makes-no-sense/2020/06/25/f949e6a4-b59e-11ea-a8da-693df3d7674a_story.html) ❖

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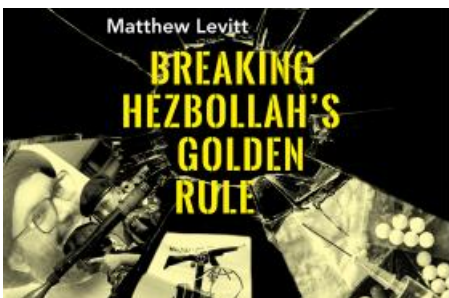
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