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# Saudi-Israeli Diplomacy Progresses Amid Looming Middle East Challenges

by [Simon Henderson](#)

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### [Simon Henderson](#)

Simon Henderson is the Baker fellow and director of the Bernstein Program on Gulf and Energy Policy at The Washington Institute, specializing in energy matters and the conservative Arab states of the Persian Gulf.



Articles & Testimony

**The reported meeting between the crown prince and Netanyahu will likely shift normalization into the fast lane, but much can happen to slow, stop, or even reverse it.**

**T**he Middle East will never be quite the same again. The meeting Sunday between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, though initially denied by Riyadh, no doubt happened. It almost certainly wasn't their first meeting—previous maritime assignations on luxury boats in the Red Sea have been rumored—but this was the most transparent, logged by several websites that track flights. Held in a palace in the growing futuristic Saudi city of Neom, the meeting broke new ground in that, reportedly, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was also there. Two questions spring to mind. Why? And why now?...

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*The Hill*



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