

Will the Biden Team Tighten or Unravel US-Saudi Ties?

by [Simon Henderson \(/experts/simon-henderson\)](/experts/simon-henderson)

Jan 27, 2021

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Also published in *The Hill*

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



[Simon Henderson \(/experts/simon-henderson\)](/experts/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.



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Explosions in Riyadh, uncertainty about the Iran nuclear deal, and a potentially damaging CIA report about Jamal Khashoggi's murder are among the many factors that could alter the new administration's calculus.

Many thought U.S.-Saudi relations were going to be an early casualty of the Biden administration. Perhaps they still will be, but for the moment the ties are strengthening. On Monday, the *Wall Street Journal* reported "U.S. Forces Expand Reach in Saudi Arabia." On Sunday, the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* had reported "Israel Allows U.S. to Deploy Iron Dome Missile Defense in the Gulf." Quite where the missiles will be deployed is not being disclosed, but the kingdom would be one obvious destination. Yet these developments are surely vulnerable to any readjustment of relations or reduction in U.S. posture in the Gulf..

[Read the full article on the Hill website. \(https://thehill.com/opinion/international/536032-will-the-biden-team-tighten-or-unravel-us-saudi-ties\)](https://thehill.com/opinion/international/536032-will-the-biden-team-tighten-or-unravel-us-saudi-ties) ❖

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