

initiative to promote the development of sustainable critical minerals supply chains through industry and government level investment coordination. At the private sector level, American firm Cove Capital LLC and Kazakh firm Kaz Resources recently [announced \(https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2025/06/19/3102165/0/en/Kaz-Resources-LLC-and-Cove-Kaz-Capital-LLC-Announce-2025-Work-Programs-to-Advance-Critical-Minerals-Projects-in-Kazakhstan.html\)](https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2025/06/19/3102165/0/en/Kaz-Resources-LLC-and-Cove-Kaz-Capital-LLC-Announce-2025-Work-Programs-to-Advance-Critical-Minerals-Projects-in-Kazakhstan.html) increased coordination, committing to critical mineral exploration and resource development in Kazakhstan.

Shared Interests

In April 2025, China [responded \(https://www.reuters.com/world/china-hits-back-us-tariffs-with-rare-earth-export-controls-2025-04-04/\)](https://www.reuters.com/world/china-hits-back-us-tariffs-with-rare-earth-export-controls-2025-04-04/) to President Trump's reciprocal tariffs by placing export restrictions on many critical minerals, recently [expanding \(https://www.reuters.com/world/china/china-tightens-rare-earth-export-controls-2025-10-09/\)](https://www.reuters.com/world/china/china-tightens-rare-earth-export-controls-2025-10-09/) them to elements used in strategic defense and chip applications. Given China's monopoly over much of the critical minerals supply chain, such restrictions are potentially debilitating for the United States and many of its allies. As Washington attempts to diversify its entry and exit points along the critical minerals supply chain, the Trump administration is [looking \(https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/2025/10/united-states-japan-framework-for-securing-the-supply-of-critical-minerals-and-rare-earths-through-mining-and-processing/\)](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/2025/10/united-states-japan-framework-for-securing-the-supply-of-critical-minerals-and-rare-earths-through-mining-and-processing/) to allies for assistance. It is not alone: many other countries are announcing critical minerals strategies to diversify their supply chains and fortify their economies.

Israel is also looking to secure its role in and access to the critical minerals supply chain. Their urgent [need \(https://www.gov.il/BlobFolder/reports/critical-minerals-nov-2025/he/critical-minerals-nov-2025.pdf\)](https://www.gov.il/BlobFolder/reports/critical-minerals-nov-2025/he/critical-minerals-nov-2025.pdf) for strategic minerals for its defense and high tech industries underscores the value of adding Kazakhstan to the accords, a familiar face with an abundance of critical minerals. Israel's innovation sector has the [capacity \(https://www.ynetnews.com/opinions-analysis/article/ryaa7lo5lx\)](https://www.ynetnews.com/opinions-analysis/article/ryaa7lo5lx) to further develop mining and refining technology that excels in energy efficiency, equipment lifecycle, metal recycling processes, and logistics, which presents downstream development opportunities for Kazakhstan.

Middle East countries, in particular Gulf states desiring to lead in green energy, technology, and AI, are likewise dependent on critical minerals. The United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Bahrain, original members of the Abraham Accords, have both committed resources to achieve these ambitions.

The UAE is already [investing \(https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/coal/uae-signs-1-8-billion-deal-with-us-firm-to-boost-global-critical-minerals-supply/124797338\)](https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/coal/uae-signs-1-8-billion-deal-with-us-firm-to-boost-global-critical-minerals-supply/124797338) in global mining projects while expanding its own refining capacity. It has consistently [signaled \(https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/strategies-initiatives-and-awards/strategies-plans-and-visions/finance-and-economy/abu-dhabi-economic-vision-2030\)](https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/strategies-initiatives-and-awards/strategies-plans-and-visions/finance-and-economy/abu-dhabi-economic-vision-2030) that metals are essential to post-hydrocarbon diversification. Additionally, [ADQ \(https://www.adq.ae/\)](https://www.adq.ae/), Abu Dhabi's sovereign wealth fund, [joined \(https://www.reuters.com/markets/deals/abu-dhabis-wealth-fund-adq-orion-team-up-invest-12-blm-metals-mining-2025-01-30/\)](https://www.reuters.com/markets/deals/abu-dhabis-wealth-fund-adq-orion-team-up-invest-12-blm-metals-mining-2025-01-30/) the \$1.8 billion Orion Critical Minerals Consortium (Orion CMC) alongside [Orion Resource Partners \(https://orionrp.com/\)](https://orionrp.com/) and the U.S. Development Finance Corporation (DFC <https://www.dfc.gov/media/press-releases/dfc-joins-1-8-billion-consortium-secure-critical-mineral-supply-chains-and>). This [consortium \(https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/coal/uae-signs-1-8-billion-deal-with-us-firm-to-boost-global-critical-minerals-supply/124797338\)](https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/coal/uae-signs-1-8-billion-deal-with-us-firm-to-boost-global-critical-minerals-supply/124797338), created to secure investment for near-term mining and refining opportunities, works to address glaring U.S. and allied co-financing gaps at a time when international partnerships are essential to expanding resource security.

In early September, Bahrain [announced \(https://isa.org.jm/news/the-kingdom-of-bahrain-sponsors-impossible-metals-to-apply-for-a-deep-sea-mining-exploration-contract-in-international-waters/\)](https://isa.org.jm/news/the-kingdom-of-bahrain-sponsors-impossible-metals-to-apply-for-a-deep-sea-mining-exploration-contract-in-international-waters/) its sponsorship of Impossible Metals, a Silicon Valley startup that [aims \(https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/trumps-deep-sea-mining-push-gains-momentum-bahrain-backing\)](https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/trumps-deep-sea-mining-push-gains-momentum-bahrain-backing) to mine critical minerals from the Pacific Ocean seabed. This move is consistent with an April [executive order \(https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/04/unleashing-americas-offshore-critical-minerals-and-resources/\)](https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/04/unleashing-americas-offshore-critical-minerals-and-resources/) that seeks to establish "the United States as a global leader in responsible seabed mineral exploration," an area in which China maintains a strong presence.

Recommendations

In order to best capitalize on Kazakhstan's inclusion in the Abraham Accords, expanding them further while establishing a multilateral working group on critical minerals and augmenting co-investment initiatives can lead both to increased resource sharing between signatories and serve as a lever for Washington and its allies in the strategic competition with China. The United States should:

- **Encourage other states that have relations with Israel and key critical mineral reserves to join the Abraham Accords.** Washington should facilitate the addition of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Azerbaijan, which have rich deposits of critical minerals such as [indium \(https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2590332221006606\)](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2590332221006606), [rhenium \(https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2590332221006606\)](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2590332221006606), [selenium \(https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2590332221006606\)](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2590332221006606), and [tellurium \(https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2590332221006606\)](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2590332221006606) as well as enormous reserves of antimony, which together are all vital in strategic semiconductors, aerospace, defense, and renewable energy industries. Expansion may make the Abraham Accords more appealing to other countries as well, further growing the network.
- **Establish a multilateral critical minerals working group among Abraham Accords countries.** The Trump administration should leverage the resource opportunities in Kazakhstan, especially given the hesitancy of Israel's Abraham Accords partners to convene since October 7, 2023. It should push to establish a durable diplomatic infrastructure with each Abraham Accords country to coordinate, provide oversight, and realize mutual critical minerals ambitions. The endeavor should be low profile and incremental so as not to dissuade participation on political grounds and should emphasize a clear and specific mutually beneficial goal of building a shared critical minerals ecosystem.
- **Expand partner co-investment opportunities for critical minerals security.** This could take many forms, but the priority should be to expand the Orion CMC—the largest active U.S.-allied initiative to mobilize co-investment for production-ready [projects \(https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/coal/uae-signs-1-8-billion-deal-with-us-firm-to-boost-global-critical-minerals-supply/124797338\)](https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/coal/uae-signs-1-8-billion-deal-with-us-firm-to-boost-global-critical-minerals-supply/124797338)—to other Abraham Accords countries.

RECOMMENDED



BRIEF ANALYSIS

Throwing Water on Turkey's Warming Ties with China

Feb 4, 2026

•
Soner Cagaptay,
Ela Peterson

(/policy-analysis/throwing-water-turkeys-warming-ties-china)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

[Another Iran "Deal" Is Less Important Than Exerting U.S. Leverage](#)

Feb 4, 2026

♦
Michael Singh,
Richard Nephew

(/policy-analysis/another-iran-deal-less-important-exerting-us-leverage)



ARTICLES & TESTIMONY

[Peace Through Leverage in Gaza: How to Limit Hamas's Influence and Ensure Israel's Compliance](#)

Feb 2, 2026

♦
Dennis Ross,
David Makovsky

(/policy-analysis/peace-through-leverage-gaza-how-limit-hamass-influence-and-ensure-israels)