

# The United States Just Made Middle East Peace Harder

by [Elliott Abrams \(/experts/elliott-abrams\)](/experts/elliott-abrams), [Michael Singh \(/experts/michael-singh\)](/experts/michael-singh)

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## ABOUT THE AUTHORS



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**Peace in the Middle East will not be accomplished through a UN vote, but rather through the renewal of U.S. leadership in the region and the rebuilding of trust with America's partners there.**

**S**izing up the Israeli-Palestinian conflict upon assuming office, President Obama decided Israeli settlements were the problem, and he insisted on a total freeze on construction. What followed were eight years of deadlock, the deterioration of U.S. relations with Israelis and Palestinians alike, and widespread disillusionment with the two-state solution.

Despite this track record, Obama is leaving off where he began: in a departure from Washington's typical role as Israel's defender at the United Nations, the United States refused to use its veto and allowed the adoption of a Security Council resolution condemning Israeli settlements...

**[Read the full article on the Washington Post website. \(https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-united-states-just-made-middle-east-peace-harder/2016/12/23/d0ecc3ea-c923-11e6-bf4b-2c064d32a4bf\\_story.html?hpid=hp\\_no-name\\_opinion-card-b%3Ahomepage%2Fstory&utm\\_term=.4d19f3749462\)](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-united-states-just-made-middle-east-peace-harder/2016/12/23/d0ecc3ea-c923-11e6-bf4b-2c064d32a4bf_story.html?hpid=hp_no-name_opinion-card-b%3Ahomepage%2Fstory&utm_term=.4d19f3749462)** ❖

*Washington Post*

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