

Asset Test: How the United States Benefits from Its Alliance with Israel

by [Michael Eisenstadt \(/experts/michael-eisenstadt\)](#), [David Pollock \(/experts/david-pollock\)](#)

Sep 5, 2012

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

(/sites



[Michael Eisenstadt \(/experts/michael-eisenstadt\)](#)

Michael Eisenstadt is the Kahn Senior Fellow and director of The Washington Institute's Military and Security Studies Program.



[David Pollock \(/experts/david-pollock\)](#)

David Pollock was the Bernstein Fellow at The Washington Institute from 2007 until his death in 2024, focusing on regional political dynamics and related issues.



In-Depth Reports

Part of a series: [Asset Test \(https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/series/asset-test\)](https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/series/asset-test)

or see Part 1: [Asset Test 2021: How the U.S. Can Keep Benefiting from Its Alliance with Israel \(/policy-analysis/asset-test-2021-how-us-can-keep-benefiting-its-alliance-israel\)](#)

Read this groundbreaking study of the numerous, oft-ignored benefits of the special bilateral relationship between the United States and Israel.

The U.S.-Israel relationship has traditionally been defined in terms of a moral obligation, shared cultural and political values, and common strategic interests. Since the end of the Cold War, however, the two governments have preferred not to publicly discuss the details of their security relationship, while other types of crucial cooperation have gone unrecognized by the media and other observers, making it easier for critics to portray Israel as a liability rather than an asset.

In this report, Michael Eisenstadt and David Pollock highlight the numerous, often-ignored benefits of the special bilateral relationship. In the hard security realm, Israel remains an important partner in dealing with evolving terrorist and military threats as well as preserving the competitiveness of the U.S. defense-industrial base through joint development efforts and cutting-edge technology. Just as important, Israel has facilitated U.S. efforts to deal with emerging soft security challenges related to economic competitiveness, the information technology revolution, resource sustainability, and public health.

THE AUTHORS

Michael Eisenstadt is director of the Military and Security Studies Program at The Washington Institute. His twenty-six-year career as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve included stints with the U.S. Security Coordinator for Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

David Pollock is the Kaufman fellow at The Washington Institute and former senior advisor for the Broader Middle East at the State Department.

Policy Forum

Watch a conversation with leading scholars, business leaders, and scientists on new strategic and economic dimensions of the U.S.-Israel alliance ([/policy-analysis/view/asset-test-perspectives-on-the-benefits-of-americas-alliance-with-israel](#)).

Infographic

(/uploads/Documents/other/AssetTest_Infographic.pdf)

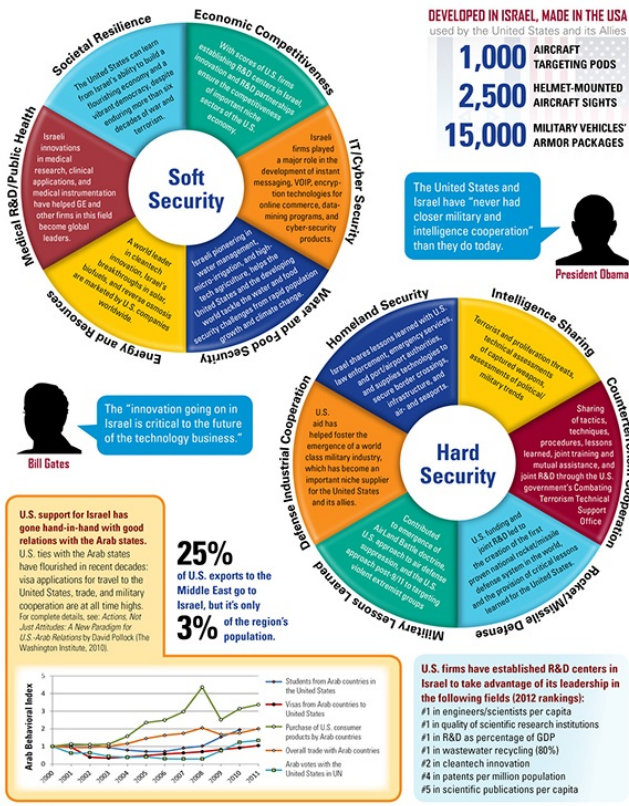
(/uploads/Documents/other/AssetTest_Infographic.pdf)

(/uploads/Documents/other/AssetTest_Infographic.pdf)

ASSET TEST *How the United States Benefits from Its Alliance with Israel*

By Michael Eisenstadt and David Pollock

Israel contributes substantially to the United States in the domains of **hard security** (defense and intelligence) and **soft security** (economic competitiveness, sustainability, and non-military security). For background research and citations, download the complete report at WashingtonInstitute.org/asset-test



THE WASHINGTON INSTITUTE for Near East Policy | 1828 L Street NW, Suite 1050 • Washington, DC 20036 • 202-452-0650 • www.washingtoninstitute.org

Download a PDF version ([/uploads/Documents/other/AssetTest_Infographic.pdf](#)) of this infographic [or click on the image above].

Information drawn from *Asset Test: How the United States Benefits from Its Alliance with Israel*. ❖

PART OF A SERIES

Asset Test (/policy-analysis/series/asset-test)



Asset Test 2021:

(/policy-analysis/asset-test-2021-how-us-can-keep-benefiting-its-alliance-israel)



Israeli Startups Are Leading Efforts to Combat Food Insecurity

(/policy-analysis/israeli-startups-are-leading-efforts-combat-food-insecurity)



Worldwide Water Crises: Israeli Innovations Can Help

(/policy-analysis/worldwide-water-crises-israeli-innovations-can-help)

RECOMMENDED



BRIEF ANALYSIS

A Better Plan for Sanctioning Iranian Airlines

Apr 23, 2024

◆
Babak Taghvaei

(/policy-analysis/better-plan-sanctioning-iranian-airlines)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

Iraqi Militias Hit Two U.S. Sites in Iraq and Syria

Apr 22, 2024

◆
Michael Knights,
Hamdi Malik,
Crispin Smith,
Alex Almeida

(/policy-analysis/iraqi-militias-hit-two-us-sites-iraq-and-syria)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

Rise and Fall of the AKP's Islamist Appeal in Türkiye

Apr 22, 2024

◆
Mustafa Gül

(/policy-analysis/rise-and-fall-akps-islamist-appeal-turkiye)

TOPICS

[Military & Security \(/policy-analysis/military-security\)](/policy-analysis/military-security)

[Peace Process \(/policy-analysis/peace-process\)](/policy-analysis/peace-process)

[U.S. Policy \(/policy-analysis/us-policy\)](/policy-analysis/us-policy)

REGIONS & COUNTRIES

[Israel \(/policy-analysis/israel\)](/policy-analysis/israel)