



[Policy Analysis](#) /
[Conference Reports](#)

U.S.-Israel Relations in a Changing Middle East

by [Dennis Ross](#), [Amos Yadlin](#)

May 7, 2012

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



[Dennis Ross](#)

Dennis Ross, a former special assistant to President Barack Obama, is the counselor and William Davidson Distinguished Fellow at The Washington Institute.

[Amos Yadlin](#)

Amos Yadlin served for five years as the head of Israeli military intelligence and, from 2011-2012, was Kay fellow on Israeli national security at The Washington Institute. Over his distinguished career, General Yadlin spent more than forty years in uniform, including service as defense attache in



In-Depth Reports

Ambassador Robert Blackwill, Ambassador Dennis Ross and Maj. Gen. Amos Yadlin (IDF, ret.) said that Israel remains an important strategic asset for the United States. “The U.S. and Israel share key vital interests in a fast-changing region with multiple dangers and threats to both,” Ross said during a plenary session of The Washington Institute’s Weinberg Founders Conference.

Blackwill, a former deputy national security advisor, echoed this sentiment, saying that the rise of Islamists following the Arab Spring and the security threat of a nuclear Iran has made the relationship between the two countries as valuable as ever. He expressed concern that Israeli action against Iran could cause a significant crisis in U.S.-Israeli relations if it forced Washington to intervene and engage in a prolonged military conflict.

Ross, a former special assistant to President Obama and a key foreign policy advisor in several administrations, said that the United States and Israel must demonstrate that every option was considered before taking military action against Iran in order to ensure that the international community will support continued sanctions after a strike. Military action alone, without continued diplomacy, Ross argued, will not be enough to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon in the long term.

While both allies share the strategic goal of preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons, Yadlin said, the United States and Israel have different timelines for dealing with Tehran. He detailed further differences between the two governments regarding the Iranian regime's commitment to weaponization and acceptable parameters for a potential negotiated settlement of the nuclear dispute.

The panelists underscored the importance of dialogue between the United States and Israel to address the upheavals of the Arab Spring. According to Blackwill, since the Arab revolts began, Islamist forces have been unleashed that are antithetical to U.S. national security interests and hostile toward diplomacy. Yadlin agreed, saying the Arab Spring should be called the Arab intifada. Israeli concessions to the Palestinians or other Arab neighbors, he said, will will not temper the growing Islamist factions in the region. ❖



[View/Print Page as PDF](#)

SHARE



EMAIL ALERTS



[Sign Up](#)



RECOMMENDED



BRIEF ANALYSIS

Anti-Normalization Laws: A Powerful Weapon in the Fight Against Peace

June 22, 2021, starting at 12:00 noon EDT (1600 GMT)

Nadim Koteich,
Majid Harb,
Hanin Ghaddar,
Joseph Braude



BRIEF ANALYSIS

Sword of Jerusalem vs. Guardian of the Walls: Gaza and the Next Lebanon War

Jun 15, 2021

Assaf Orion



BRIEF ANALYSIS

Iran's Atlantic Voyage: Implications of Naval Deployments to Venezuela or Syria

Jun 15, 2021

Farzin Nadimi

TOPICS

Peace Process

U.S. Policy

REGIONS & COUNTRIES

Israel

STAY UP TO DATE



SIGN UP FOR EMAIL ALERTS



THE
WASHINGTON INSTITUTE
for Near East Policy

1111 19th Street NW - Suite 500
Washington D.C. 20036
Tel: 202-452-0650
Fax: 202-223-5364

[Contact](#)

[Press Room](#)

[Subscribe](#)

The Washington Institute seeks to advance a balanced and realistic understanding of American interests in the Middle East and to promote the policies that secure them.

The Institute is a 501(c)3 organization; all donations are tax-deductible.

[About TWI](#) /

[Support the Institute](#)



© 2021 All rights reserved.

[Employment](#) /

[Privacy Policy](#) /

[Rights & Permissions](#)