The Middle East Is Changing. Will Palestinians Be Left Behind?

by Dennis Ross

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The Palestinian issue has become far less of a priority for most Arab states, who now tend to see Israel as a bulwark against regional threats and a partner on urgent health, water, and food-security needs.

The UAE deal can be used to foster a resumption of diplomacy that can change the stalemated reality between Israelis and Palestinians. But critics have missed this point. They have also missed the point that the Palestinian Authority’s efforts to get the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to condemn the deal were rebuffed. Historically, any resolution that Palestinians pushed to criticize a move toward normalization with Israel would have been adopted almost reflexively. But not now. Why? What does this, and the Bahraini decision to also formalize peace with Israel, tell us about how the region is changing?

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