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U.S. Aid to Israel in Four Charts

Israel has long been the leading recipient of U.S. foreign aid, including military assistance. That aid has come under heightened scrutiny over the course of Israel's conflicts with Hamas and Iran.

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U.S. and Israeli army officers talk in front a US Patriot missile defense system. Jack Guez/Getty Images

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The United States was the first country to recognize the provisional government of the state of Israel upon its founding in 1948, and for many decades it has been a

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state. Israel has received

hundreds of billions of dollars in U.S. foreign aid in the post-World War II era, a level of support that reflects many factors, including a U.S. commitment to Israel's security and the countries' shared foreign policy interests in a volatile and strategically important part of the world. Israel is also a leading buyer of U.S. weapons systems via traditional arms sales.

The two countries do not have a mutual defense pact, as the United States has with allies such as Japan and fellow members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

However, Israel is among a short list of "major non-NATO allies" and also has privileged access to the most advanced U.S. military platforms and technologies.

In 2024, U.S. military aid to Israel soared to its highest level in decades during Israel's ongoing war with Hamas in Gaza. The conflict was sparked by Hamas's October 2023 attack that killed approximately twelve hundred Israelis—the deadliest in the country's history. More than sixty-five thousand Palestinians, including a large share of civilians, have died in the conflict, according to the United Nations and the Hamas-run Gaza health ministry. U.S. military support also proved essential during Israel's recent hostilities with Hezbollah in Lebanon and with Iran, helping Israel significantly degrade the military capabilities of its longtime rivals.

How much U.S. aid does Israel receive?

Israel has been the largest cumulative recipient of U.S. foreign aid since its founding, receiving over \$300 billion (adjusted for inflation) in total economic and military assistance. While the United States has also provided large foreign aid packages to other Middle Eastern countries, particularly Egypt and Iraq, Israel stands apart.

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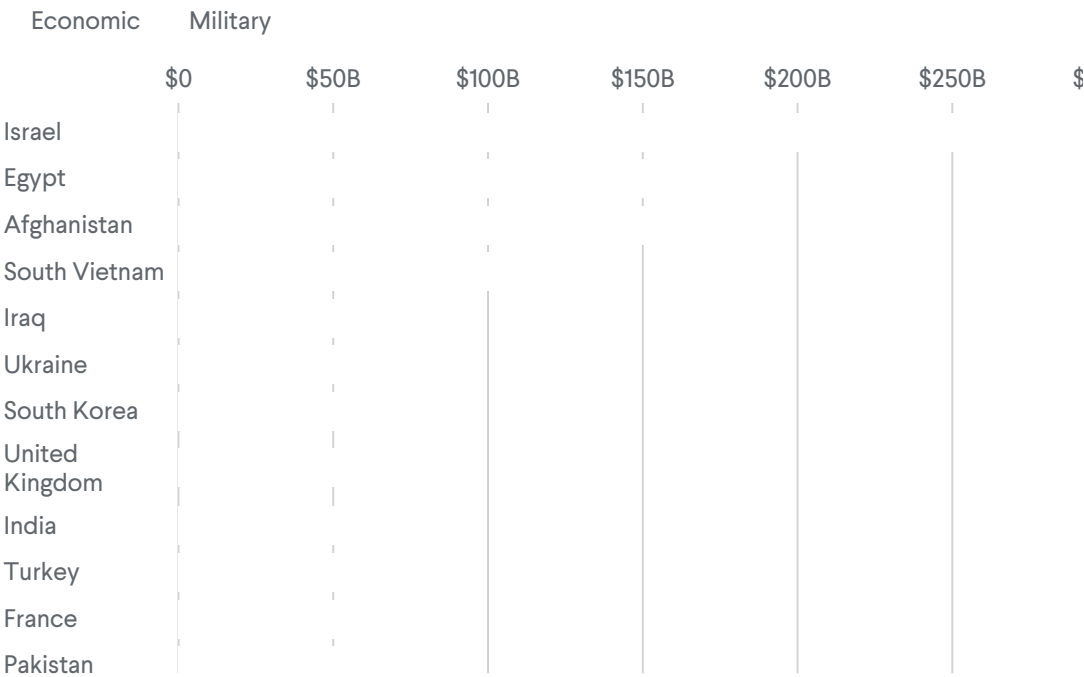
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Israel Is the Largest Cumulative Recipient of U.S. Aid Since 1946

Total aid from fiscal years 1946 to 2024 (constant 2024 dollars)



Notes: Military aid for Israel includes missile defense funding starting in 2006, using data from the Congressional Research Service. All other data is from [foreignassistance.gov](https://www.foreignassistance.gov). Aid to Ukraine for fiscal years 2022 to 2024 is reported by the Kiel Institute for the World Economy as being around \$16 billion higher than figures from [foreignassistance.gov](https://www.foreignassistance.gov). South Vietnam existed as a country until the end of the Vietnam War in 1975. Data for 2024 is partially reported.

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The United States provided Israel considerable economic assistance from 1971 to 2007, but nearly all U.S. aid today goes to support Israel’s military, the most advanced in the region. The United States has provisionally agreed via a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to

provide Israel with \$3.8 billion per year through 2028, including \$500 million per year for missile defense.

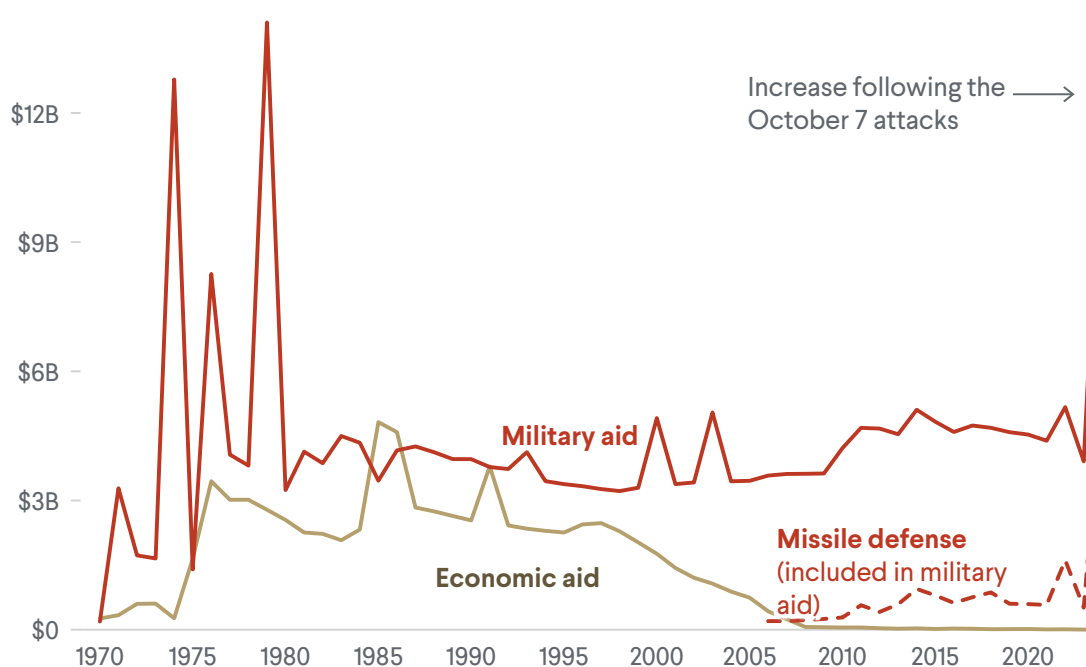
Israel has been using American-made weapons against its foes—including Hamas, Hezbollah, and Iran—for decades. The Israeli military has reportedly received expedited deliveries of weapons from a strategic stockpile that the United States has maintained in Israel since the 1980s.

What military aid has the United States provided Israel since the October 7 attack?

Since the start of Israel's war with Hamas on October 7, 2023, the United States has enacted legislation providing at least \$16.3 billion in direct military aid to Israel. The aid was authorized in three pieces of legislation: a supplemental appropriations act in April 2024 which provided \$8.7 billion, and appropriations acts in 2024 and 2025 which provided \$3.8 billion per year in line with the MOU. Of the total, \$6.7 billion is for missile defense.

The U.S. Has Provided Significant Military Aid to Israel Since the 1970s

Aid by fiscal year (constant 2024 dollars)



Note: Data is from foreignassistance.gov, with the exception of FY 2025 and missile defense data, which are from the Congressional Research Service.

Sources: foreignassistance.gov; Congressional Research Service

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In May 2025, the Israeli Defense Ministry said since October 2023 the United States had delivered ninety thousand tons of arms and equipment on eight hundred transport planes and 140 ships. The extraordinary flow of aid has included tank and artillery ammunition, bombs, rockets, and small arms.

How does Israel use the aid?

Most of the aid is provided as grants under the Foreign Military Financing (FMF) program, which funds countries' purchases of U.S. military equipment and services through the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program or in some cases through direct commercial contracts.

Israel has historically been one of the top recipients of U.S. arms sales. In April 2025, it had 751 active FMS cases with the U.S., worth a total of roughly \$39 billion. Israel has also been permitted to use a portion of its FMF aid to buy equipment from Israeli defense firms—a benefit not granted to other recipients of U.S. military aid, which are required to buy from American firms. However, this domestic procurement benefit is set to be phased out in the next few years.

Israel Has Been a Top Recipient of U.S. Arms Sales

U.S. arms sales, fiscal years 1950 to 2024 (not adjusted for inflation)

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Saudi Arabia | \$182B |
| Japan | \$70B |
| Israel | \$63B |
| Australia | \$61B |
| Taiwan | \$56B |
| South Korea | \$53B |
| Egypt | \$46B |
| Qatar | \$40B |
| United Kingdom | \$37B |
| Germany | \$36B |
| Kuwait | \$35B |
| United Arab Emirates | \$34B |
| Iraq | \$27B |

Source: U.S. Department of Defense

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U.S. aid reportedly accounted for around 20 percent of Israel’s defense budget in the years prior to the Israel-Hamas war. Israel, like many other countries, also buys U.S. military products outside of the FMF program.

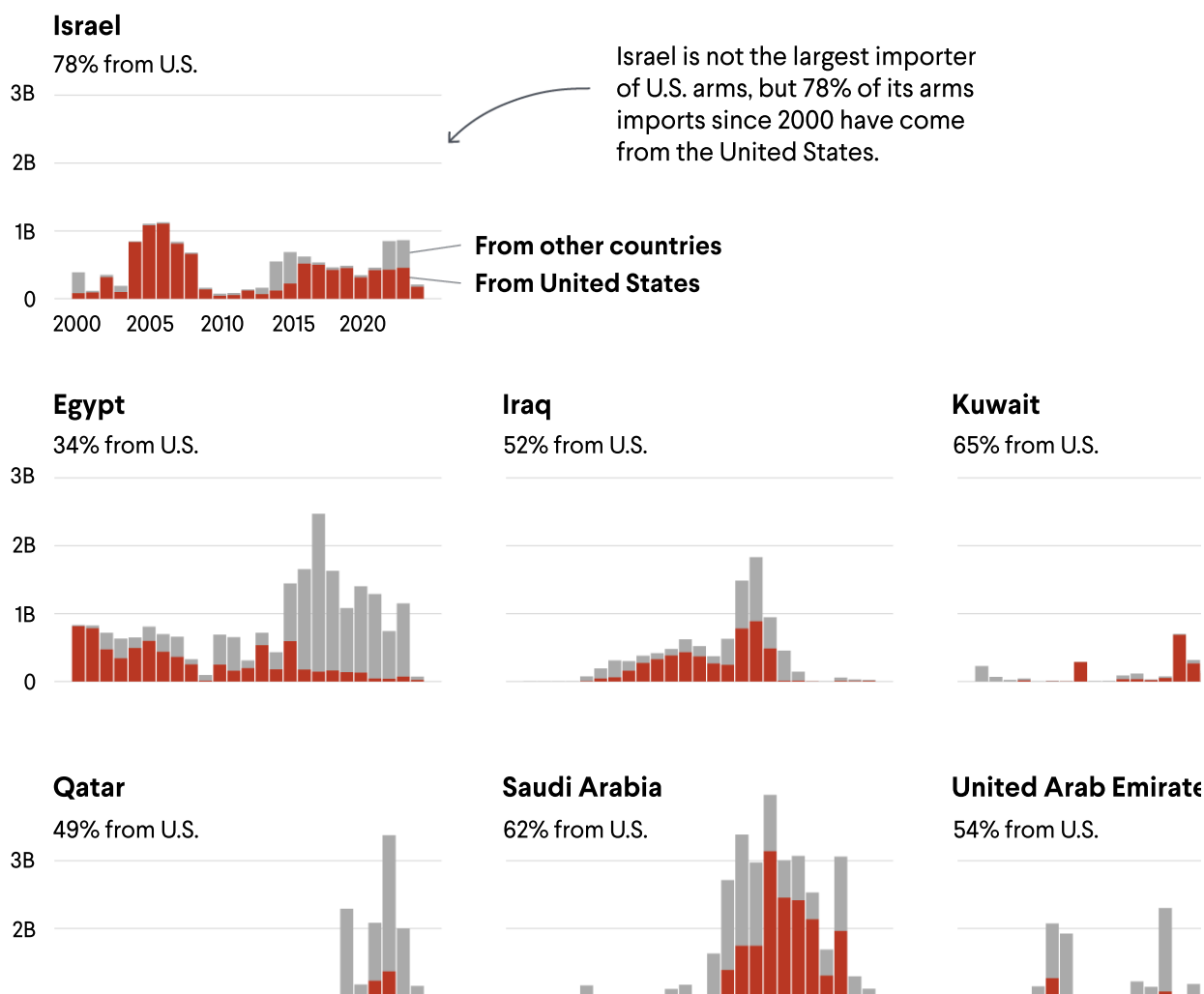
Currently, \$500 million per year is slated for Israeli and joint U.S.-Israeli missile defense programs, in which the two countries collaborate on the research, development, and production of defense systems used by Israel, including the Iron Dome, David’s Sling, Arrow, Arrow II, Arrow III, and Iron Beam. While the Iron Dome was solely developed by

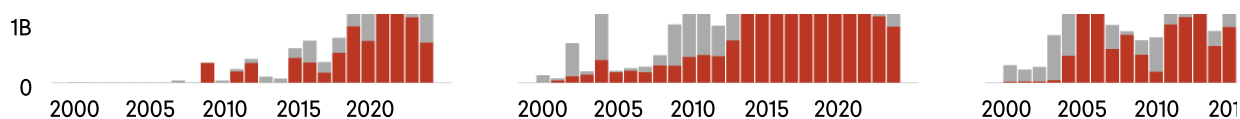
Israel, the United States has been a production partner since 2014. David's Sling and the Arrow system were developed jointly by Israel and the United States. Iron Beam development was begun by an Israeli company, with the U.S. contractor Lockheed Martin later joining development.

While Israel does purchase some arms from other countries, the large majority of its arms imports come from the United States. In recent years, the remainder have come primarily from Germany, although in August 2025 the German government announced it would stop providing military equipment that could be used in Gaza.

How Israel's Imports of U.S. Arms Stack Up

Estimated military value of arms imports*





*Military value is expressed as “trend-indicator-value,” a unit developed by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) that represents the military capability of arms sales.

Note: Countries included are the largest recipients of U.S. arms sales in the Middle East.

Source: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

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U.S. Military Support for Taiwan: Five Charts



Are there any conditions or restrictions attached to the aid?

Transfers of U.S. military equipment to Israel, as to other foreign governments, are subject to relevant U.S. and international law. The president must notify Congress [PDF] before selling foreign powers major weapon systems or services valued above a certain dollar threshold, and lawmakers are allowed a period to review the sale. For transactions with Israel (and other close U.S. allies), the threshold that triggers a fifteen-day congressional review ranges from \$25 million to \$300 million, depending on the defense articles or services.

Congress can block a sale through a joint resolution, although this has never happened. In special cases, the president can bypass congressional review if they deem that a national security emergency exists. President Biden used this expedited waiver process for both Israel and Ukraine, and President Trump used it for Saudi Arabia in his first term and Israel in his second. For smaller transactions that don't meet the dollar threshold, no congressional review is required.

Get the Facts

How Much Aid Has the U.S. Sent Ukraine?



The United States cannot provide security assistance to foreign governments or groups that commit gross human rights violations, a red line enshrined in the so-called Leahy Law. Some legal scholars and other critics have alleged that the United States has not applied the Leahy Law with regard to Israel as it has with other Middle Eastern countries.

Any military aid that the United States provides to recipients must only be used according to agreed-upon terms and conditions, and it is incumbent on the U.S. government to monitor the end use of the equipment it provides. For instance, the Ronald Reagan administration banned transfers of cluster munitions to Israel for several years in the 1980s after it determined that Israel had used them on civilian targets during its invasion of Lebanon.

Israel has agreed to use U.S. weapons only in self-defense. Outside of this, Biden administration officials said in mid-October 2023 that they had not placed further limitations or constraints on how Israel uses U.S. weapons, although they said that Israel should observe international law. In February 2024, four months into the Israel-Hamas war, Biden issued a national security memo requiring recipients of U.S. military aid to give written assurances that they would observe international law in their use of the aid, and that they would facilitate the delivery of U.S. humanitarian assistance in the area of armed conflict where the U.S. military aid is being used. In February 2025, the Trump administration rescinded the memo.

What is Israel's qualitative military edge (QME)?

QME has been a conceptual backbone of U.S. military aid to Israel for decades, and it was formally enshrined in U.S. law in 2008 [PDF]. It requires the U.S. government to maintain Israel's ability "to defeat any credible conventional military threat from any individual state or possible coalition of states or from non-state actors, while sustaining minimal damage and casualties." QME is based on NATO military planning vis-a-vis a potential conflict with the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact countries during the Cold War.

Under the 2008 law, the United States must ensure that any weapons it provides to other countries in the Middle East do not compromise Israel's QME. In several cases, this has required the United States to provide Israel with offsetting weaponry as part of larger regional arms sales. QME has also ensured that Israel is the first in the region to receive access to the most sophisticated U.S. military weapons and platforms, such as the F-35 stealth fighter, of which Israel has fifty.

Has U.S. support for Israel changed in response to the death toll and humanitarian crisis in Gaza?

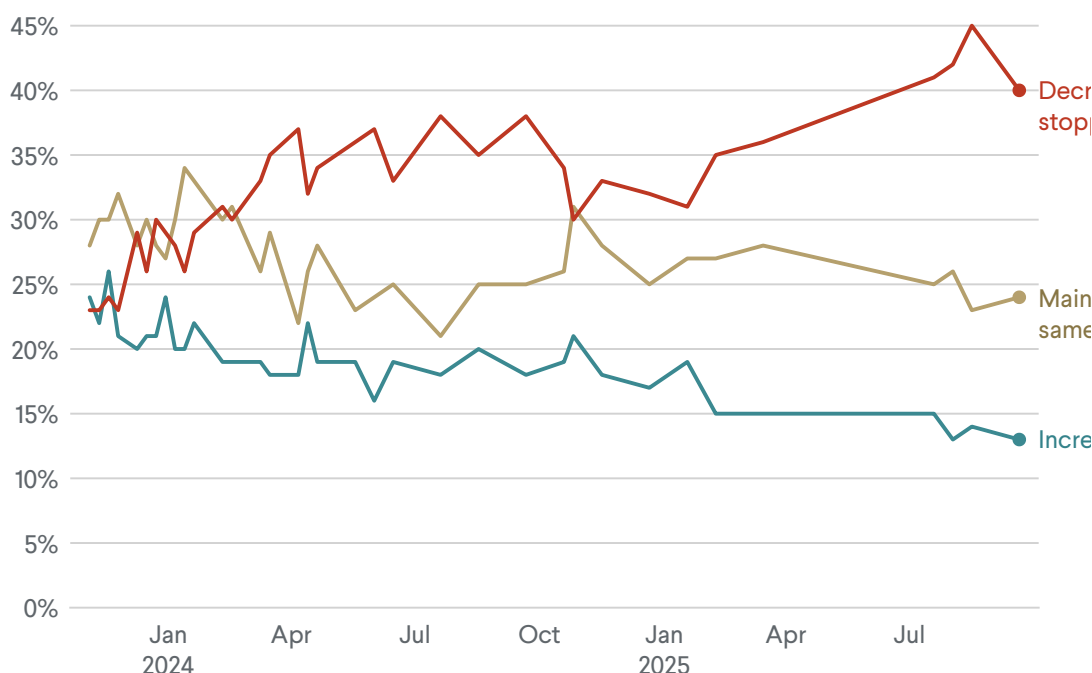
Israel received widespread support from the West immediately following Hamas's October 7 attack, but pro-Israel sentiment in the United States and many other countries has weakened as the humanitarian situation in Gaza has deteriorated. International alarm over the conditions in the enclave grew after a UN-backed monitor declaring famine in August 2025.

Many humanitarian groups have voiced concerns about Israel's heavy air and ground assaults on Gaza, as well as its obstruction of aid to the densely populated enclave. Israel claims the high death toll is a result of Hamas using people as "human shields." In December 2023, South Africa filed a case at the International Court of Justice accusing Israel of genocide, a claim Israel and the United States both denounced as unfounded. In May 2024, the prosecutor for the International Criminal Court (ICC) charged both Hamas and Israeli leaders with multiple war crimes and crimes against humanity. Israel and the United States rejected the charges against Israeli leaders.

Recent Economist/YouGov polls find declining support among Americans for military aid to Israel over the past year, with a plurality now favoring a decrease in aid. A 2024 Pew Research Center poll also found Americans voiced greater support for the Israeli people than for the Israeli government. Polls have consistently found that support for Israel varies by age, skewing highest among older Americans.

A Plurality of Americans Favor Decreasing Aid to Israel

Share of U.S. adults who favor increasing, decreasing or stopping, or maintaining the same level of military aid to Israel



Note: Responses of “Not sure” are not shown.

Source: Economist/YouGov

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How Have the Biden and Trump Administrations Supported Israel?

Both the Biden and Trump administrations have provided Israel with critical military support, including aid and weapons sales.

While Biden was an ardent supporter of Israel’s right to self-defense and provided significant military and diplomatic support, he was critical of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s handling of the war and his government’s plans for postwar Gaza. Biden warned in December 2023 that Israel’s “indiscriminate bombing” of Gaza risked costing Israel its international support. In early 2024, the Biden administration paused a

shipment of large bombs to Israel, effectively acknowledging that Israel was using American-made weapons in a manner that caused civilian deaths in Gaza and risked violating the laws of war.

The Biden administration expanded the already large U.S. military presence in the Middle East to protect U.S. installations and ships, as well as to help defend Israel. U.S. forces helped Israel neutralize two separate Iranian missile and drone attacks, in April and October 2024. U.S. forces have also been protecting merchant shipping in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden against regular Houthi attacks.

Trump criticized Biden for not being sufficiently supportive of Israel, and in early 2025 his administration rescinded the Biden administration's conditions on aid, saying it had "imposed baseless and politicized conditions on military assistance to Israel at a time when our close ally was fighting a war of survival on multiple fronts against Iran and terror proxies."

Following the outbreak of war between Israel and Iran in June 2025, the Trump administration deployed U.S. bombers to target Iran's nuclear sites, coordinating its military campaign with Israel. Trump has occasionally expressed disagreement with Netanyahu, stating that there is "real starvation" in Gaza after Netanyahu denied that Israel was causing hunger.

Meanwhile, some lawmakers—primarily Democrats—have sought to condition U.S. military aid to Israel or to block sales altogether.

Prior to the war, the U.S.-Israel relationship had experienced strains over the rhetoric and policies of Netanyahu's government, including its plans to curb the Israeli Supreme Court's powers and its approval of more Jewish settlements in the West Bank. The so-called two-state solution had been a long-running U.S. foreign policy goal, although the Trump

administration has not pursued it. At the UN General Assembly session in 2025, some U.S. allies announced their recognition of a Palestinian state over the objections of Israel and the United States.

In recent years, some U.S. and Israeli analysts have said that U.S. aid to Israel should be reevaluated because Israel is now a wealthy country—the fourteenth richest per capita—with one of the most advanced militaries in the world. Unlike Cold War-era Israel in the 1970s, when large amounts of U.S. aid started to flow, modern Israel is more than capable of providing for its own security, and the U.S. aid unnecessarily distorts the bilateral relationship and the countries' respective foreign policies, these observers say. CFR Senior Fellow Steven A. Cook wrote in May 2024 that U.S. military aid should be phased out over ten years and replaced with a series of bilateral agreements on security cooperation, a move he says would benefit both countries and help normalize their relations.

The late Martin S. Indyk, former U.S. ambassador to Israel and CFR Distinguished Fellow, also called for reductions in U.S. aid. “The U.S.-Israel relationship would be a lot healthier without this dependence. Time for Israel at seventy-five to stand on its own two feet,” he wrote on X in June 2023.

Some experts argue that U.S. aid actually weakens Israel's defense industrial base while serving primarily as a guaranteed revenue stream for U.S. defense contractors.

On the other hand, supporters of continued aid say that it fosters ongoing, important collaboration between U.S. and Israeli defense industries and experts, and in the end helps the countries counter shared threats in the Middle East, particularly Iran. U.S. aid remains a “vital and cost-effective expenditure” that enhances U.S. national security, and it should not be reduced or conditioned, wrote more than three hundred Republican lawmakers in 2021. Ending U.S. military aid today “would send a message to all of Israel's enemies that Israel's greatest friend was stepping away, so they should double down on their plans for more, and more deadly, assaults on the Jewish state,” wrote CFR Senior Fellow Elliott Abrams in September 2023.



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