
Robert People will fight for America, not Israeli war criminals

Since 1967, Israel has had bipartisan support for American funding for its economy and its military. The America Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and dozens of similar organizations commonly called “The Israel Lobby” have become too powerful and they have corrupted our government. Their campaign donations have bought too many American politicians and false charges of “antisemitism” have punished Israel’s critics for too long. Robert People believes that the American government’s first duty is to the American people, both their needs and their consciences. We must not allow the Israeli government to have power over us, to conduct genocide, or to ruin our country’s reputation as a defender of human rights, such as the rights to life, liberty, and free speech.

Policy Positions

- Robert People will not accept any AIPAC funds either directly or through intermediary/bundling methods
- Robert People will vote to stop American arms shipments to Israel.

Historical Background:

As the First World War raged to a deadlock in 1917, British Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour issued a statement encouraging Jewish people to move to Palestine and form a state of their own, a concept called “Zionism.” Palestine was then a part of the Ottoman Empire, which Britain was fighting, and Palestine had an overwhelmingly non-Jewish population. After the war, the Ottoman Empire broke up. Britain then obtained control of Palestine through a League of Nations mandate in 1923.

After the Second World War ended in 1945, the Holocaust, the mass extermination of Jews in Europe, convinced many Jewish survivors that a Jewish-ruled nation was necessary for their safety. New Zionists, many of them dispossessed European refugees, flooded into Palestine. The British, whose vast empire was also based on racial supremacy, armed them. The Zionism which had begun with real estate purchases after the Balfour Declaration transitioned into a violent campaign to displace the non-Jewish population. This non-Jewish population is colloquially referred to as “Arabs” for the language they speak. They are affiliated with a wide variety of religions, however, such as Islam, Eastern Orthodox Christianity, Catholicism, Druze, or no religion. Over the past eighty years, these ongoing ethnic cleansing campaigns to establish and expand Israeli territory have been brutal.

In one of the first acts of high-profile terrorism, a Zionist militia unit called the Irgun bombed the British administrative headquarters at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem in 1946, killing 91 soldiers and civilians. Their intent was to hasten the British departure, paving the way for Zionist militias to take over. Britain ultimately chose to withdraw, and the Irgun went on to become the modern-day Likud party in Israel's parliament, the Knesset.

As British troops withdrew from the region, a United Nations diplomat, Dr. Paul Mohn, drew a map for two separate nations, Israel and Palestine. The partition plan gave 62% of the land to the new Israeli state, even though only about 33% of the people in Israel and Palestine were Jewish. Though clearly unfair to and unpopular with the Arab residents, the plan still passed by the UN General Assembly in November of 1947. Not satisfied with even those advantageous boundaries, the now very well-organized and well-armed Zionist militias began to acquire the most desirable ports, cities, agricultural lands, and freshwater resources by force.

Several neighboring Arab countries sent troops to help the outgunned and virtually untrained Palestinians. However, these military units were mostly token forces and were most of their governments restricted them from fighting on the land the UN had designated in its partition plan for Israel. Israeli units, on the other hand, maneuvered freely, conducting massacres of Arab villagers and frightening the rest into leaving their homes. Many Palestinian refugees funneled into two remaining territories, the tiny, very densely populated Gaza Strip, occupied then by Egyptian troops, and the West Bank, occupied by Jordanian troops. Other Palestinian refugees fled to neighboring states such as Jordan (most of whose contemporary population are descended from those Palestinian refugees), Lebanon, and Syria.

In the 1947-1948 war for Israeli independence (known as the "Naqba", or catastrophe, to Palestinians) more than 400 Palestinian Arab towns and villages were destroyed or depopulated, and more than 700,000 Arabs were displaced from their original homes. Only recently have some Israeli scholars (called "the new historians") obtained access to sealed evidence and published the stories of these massacres, such as the execution of 107 Palestinians at Deir Yassin. The new state of Israel's Jewish-dominated, apartheid-style government also would not allow Palestinian refugees it had displaced to return. It reserved conquered lands solely for Jewish immigrants, and it has gone on to conquer new lands in the many wars that followed.

Since its inception, Israel has grown into a regional economic and military superpower. It has used this might to start wars to take territory away from its neighbors. In 1956, along with Britain and France, Israel invaded the Sinai Peninsula and tried to seize the Suez Canal, but President Eisenhower intervened through international pressure and diplomacy to stop them.

In 1967, Israel took the Golan Heights from Syria and the remaining swatches of the UN's map set aside for Palestine (the West Bank and Gaza Strip) from Jordan and Egypt. Israel again invaded the Sinai and

this time kept it. Israel falsely portrayed this war as necessary for its survival, claiming Arab neighbors were about to attack. However, US intelligence had privately contradicted Israeli diplomats before Israel attacked. The US had reassured Israel that, if war were to break out, Arab forces could easily be destroyed very quickly. Israel's name for this war, "The Six Day War," underlines this reality. Israel's propaganda machine declared a heroic victory against powerful Arab armies. Proud Israel supporters worldwide gained confidence in the Zionist state. Pro-Israel Lobbyists secured more economic aid and weapons to fight future wars. Israel now claimed to be "the only democracy in the Middle East." Clearly, though, only Jewish citizens had full rights, and millions of Palestinian Arabs living in what were now Israeli-occupied territories had none at all.

The United State of America, in its own racial supremacy turmoil trying to end segregation and Jim Crow, still came to see Israel as a Cold War ally. The US military used Israel as a test bed for new American weapons, especially expensive air superiority jet fighters, which gave Israel a decisive advantage over its Soviet-supplied neighbors. The Israel Lobby became very successful at getting Congressional approval for transfers of weapons, often completely free of charge.

The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) struck back with sporadic terrorist attacks against Israel, most notably the murders of Israeli Olympic athletes in Munich, Germany in 1972, and the hijacking of an Air France airliner to Entebbe, Uganda in 1976, which ended in bloodshed. Israel responded by hunting down, globally, the Palestinians that it tied to terrorist attacks and assassinating them. Israel's overseas assassinations of Palestinian political leaders and Iranian nuclear scientists have since become commonplace.

Egypt and Syria combined forces in 1973 in a surprise attack, which Israel calls "The Yom Kippur War," to recapture territories lost in 1967. President Nixon rushed top-of-the-line jet fighters to Israel's air force, helping to turn the tide. In response, Arab nations in the Organization for Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) stopped selling oil to the US, sharply spiking gas prices. The Camp David Accords and the subsequent Egypt-Israel peace treaty established peace between Israel and Egypt in 1979 in exchange for Israel's return of the Sinai. The Palestinians, however, were not considered in the treaty. This would become a pattern for Israel's future peace treaties, establishing agreements with Arab nations one by one without consideration for the rights or fates of the Palestinians living as refugees abroad or in the occupied territories.

Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982 to expel refugee PLO fighters who were conducting border raids into Israel. When the PLO withdrew, Israeli forces enabled the Sabra and Shatila massacres of Palestinian families left behind. Thousands were killed. President Reagan sent Marines to Beirut in 1982 as part of a peacekeeping force. Both their barracks and the American embassy were bombed in suicide attacks by a new terrorist group called Islamic Jihad, resulting in hundreds of American deaths and creating lasting suspicion and animosity between Americans and pro-Palestinian Arabs.

The withdrawal of Israel from Lebanon began a lull in major military actions. However, new forces appeared on the scene, dedicated to opposing Israeli occupation, while the PLO made peace with Israel. Hezbollah emerged as a paramilitary group on the Israeli/Lebanese border in southern Lebanon and was supplied by Iran. Young Palestinians in the occupied territories began the First Intifada (Arabic for “uprising”) in 1987, protesting the Israeli occupation. Israeli General Yitzhak Rabin told occupation forces to “break their bones” and was elected Prime Minister in 1992. Negotiations between Israel and the PLO led to the two Oslo Accords in 1993 and 1995. The PLO became the Palestinian Authority (PA), gaining some self-governing ability in the occupied territories, but not an independent state. Palestinians were still living under Israeli occupation.

Starting in 1967, Israeli settlers began to build large, illegal settlements on the West Bank, walling off the Palestinians into fragmented pieces of lands between the settlements. In 1994 one Israeli settler, Baruch Goldstein, massacred 29 Palestinians who were praying at a mosque in Hebron. Another West Bank Israeli settler, Yigal Amir, assassinated Rabin in 1995 for signing the Oslo Accords, fearing those might lead to a future Palestinian state. The pro-settler Likud Party’s Benjamin Netanyahu would succeed Rabin and he has served, and continues to serve, as Israel’s Prime Minister for 19 of the past 30 years. Frustrated by the lack of progress towards independence, Palestinians revolted in a much more violent Second Intifada. This intifada was marked by suicide attacks into Israeli territory and led to a permanent separation of the Israeli and Palestinian populations using very high walls and large numbers of Israeli military checkpoints throughout the West Bank. Palestinians could no longer seek employment in Israel, and a separate state for them in the now very fragmented West Bank became unlikely.

Meanwhile, the US became embroiled in two major wars with Iraq. The first was a limited war in coalition with many allies in 1991 to push Iraq back out of Kuwait, which it had illegally invaded. The US, however, kept troops in countries like Saudi Arabia, which some Arabs considered to be an occupying force in a country with many Islamic holy sites. In hopes of intimidating the US into leaving Saudi Arabia and in retaliation for violence in wars against Muslims throughout the Middle East and Southwest Asia, an Arab terrorist group, al Qaeda, attacked the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, DC on September 11, 2001, killing nearly 3,000 Americans. The US responded by immediately invading Afghanistan, where al Qaeda was headquartered, but also by invading Iraq in 2003. Iraq had nothing to do with the 9/11 terrorist attacks but was falsely accused of possessing weapons of mass destruction. A pro-Israel group of foreign policy experts called “the neocons” influenced President George W Bush to invade. Both Israel and the neocons argued that Iraq under its dictator, Saddam Hussein, was an existential threat to Israel, and that overthrowing its regime could turn it into an Israeli-friendly, democratic country. The invasion and occupation of Iraq killed between 150,000 and 1 million people, and, especially since no WMD were found there, is widely considered the US’s worst foreign policy mistake in our history. American credibility was badly damaged and many in the region began to associate American warmongering with Israeli warmongering.

In occupied Gaza, a new political party called Hamas took power from the PA in 2006 and began administering that territory. Hamas announced that it was dedicated to overthrowing the Israeli government. It also began accumulating arms and sending small-scale raids into Israel which the Israeli military quickly routed. Israel began blockading Hamas-ruled Gaza, ending most commerce and travel for all the 2 million Palestinians living there. Both Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza started assembling large quantities of crude rockets, sometimes firing them into Israel. By the 2010s, sporadic battles would break out along Israel's borders with Lebanon and Gaza. Hezbollah or Hamas would launch rocket attacks, usually with little damage but also inflicting small numbers of casualties. Israel would retaliate with massive firepower, often killing dozens or hundreds of civilians. Israel called these retaliatory strikes "mowing the lawn."

On October 7, 2023, a very large Hamas force of 6,000 soldiers overwhelmed Israeli border units in a surprise attack and raided nearby Israeli towns, killing approximately 380 members of Israel's security forces and 815 civilians. They took 251 more Israelis back to Gaza as hostages. Israel struck back by cutting off food, water, medicine, and electricity to Gaza, and bombarded much of Gaza into rubble, killing more than 70,000 Gazans. Many experts, notably Amnesty International and both UN and even Israeli scholars, have called Israel's post-October 7th indiscriminate slaughter of men, women, and children a genocide. They have also noted that hospitals, medics, aid workers, and journalists were being deliberately targeted with precision weapons.

At the same time, Israeli settlers illegally living in the occupied West Bank have stepped up their murders of Palestinians. Hundreds of Palestinians have been murdered with impunity including, in 2025, a young American citizen visiting from Tampa, Saif Musallet. No one has been held accountable for his murder, or of any of the other murders of West Bank Palestinians. Israeli forces have also imprisoned thousands of Palestinians in both occupied territories without charge or due process. Many in custody have been deprived of food, tortured, raped, or have died in custody. On March 30, 2026, the Israeli Knesset passed a law making the death penalty the default punishment for West Bank Palestinians who are convicted of deadly attacks classified as terrorism by military courts. Palestinians in the West Bank live under Israeli military law while Israelis in the occupied territory live under civilian law, creating a dual legal system.

What Must Change:

America has been Israel's most generous provider of economic and military aid. The US has given Israel 700,000 weapons since 1950 and US support accounts for 15% of Israel's defense budget. Israel is the largest recipient of US foreign military financing and donated weapons provided by the US have been extensively used in Gaza. Since October 7th of 2023, 50,000 tons of military equipment have been sent from the US to Israel. There has been a 10-year agreement in place from 2016 which committed the US to

providing \$3.3 billion in military aid each year plus \$500 million for missile defense. Tens of billions of dollars in weapons over the past six decades have transferred from the US to Israel and these same weapons are used when Israel starts wars and attacks its neighbors. The Israel Lobby that insists on this favoritism and bankrolls many American politicians is, in fact, funded largely by Republican billionaires such as Jan Koum, Robert Kraft, Bernie Marcus, and Miriam Adelson. They receive very little popular support from rank-and-file American Jews.

Israel also receives unique loan guarantees from the United States that have enabled and strengthened its economic growth. This growth has included its own very high technology weapons industry, making it the ninth largest arms exporter in the world with arms sales raking in billions of dollars. America also vetoes United Nations Security Council Resolutions that Israel opposes, usually when those resolutions denounce violent Israeli behavior. This has happened 14 times. The US has sanctioned institutions and entire countries for pressing charges against Israel for war crimes. This favoritism toward Israel is very different from US foreign policy with any other country in our history. So long as this continues, the US is enabling Israel's abuses and preventing it from seeking a just peace in good faith with its neighbors.

Prior to 2022, AIPAC was primarily a lobbyist group collaborating with American politicians to influence congressional policies towards Israel. It is now one of the largest spenders in Congressional elections. AIPAC spent money on more than 80 percent of the seats up for re-election in 2024. They contribute to both Republicans and Democrats and are now doing so through anodyne sounding entities, like "Elect Chicago Women," which don't reference Israeli policy stances at all. They are hiding their true purpose for backing specific candidates, which is keeping Israel-backers in office.

Because American support is so empowering, AIPAC has pushed to repress criticism of Israel in our government, even from Jewish candidates. They spent millions on attack ads against a former Congressman running to get back into Congress, Thomas Malinowski, because he was open to conditioning military aid to Israel on human rights considerations. American critics of AIPAC or Israel's actions have been branded by some as antisemitic. This is not only Presidents and Congresspeople, but also immigrants, students, professors, reporters, entertainers, and even ordinary citizens with ordinary jobs. Supporting Israel's sovereignty as a country does not mean unquestioning allegiance to their actions. Opposition to Prime Minister Netanyahu's and the Israeli government's actions does not equal judgment of Jews. American Jews are increasingly critical of Benjamin Netanyahu's leadership of Israel and his actions towards other countries and people. Some American Jews, such as members of groups like Jewish Voice for Peace, are also denouncing Israel's apartheid form of government. Palestinians deserve equal rights with Israelis, just as Blacks deserve equal rights with Whites in South Africa and the United States. This can happen regardless of whether Palestinians have a state of their own or not. A 2025 Gallup poll now shows most Israelis and Palestinians do not support a two-state solution.

The influence of this lobby and AIPAC's funding has been reflected through our government's lack of response to Israel's treatment of Gazans and through President Trump joining Israel in initiating the Iran War. Secretary of State Marco Rubio publicly admitted that America was pulled into the current war with Iran because Israel was determined to attack. False accusations that Iran may soon obtain a nuclear weapon remind us of the rationale for our disastrous invasion of Iraq in 2003. If American officials can be so easily manipulated by Israel into catastrophic wars, and the Israel Lobby can punish Americans for objecting, then we aren't a free country anymore. The US is in another bloody and expensive war American citizens didn't want because the current crop of American politicians are too weak to stand up to Israel.

Robert People objects. He wants what American voters want. According to an April of 2026 Pew Research poll of 3,507 Americans, 80% of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents have an unfavorable view of Israel, as do 60% of all respondents. Backing Israel is not only morally wrong, it's also a good way to lose an election. He wants policies that reflect what Americans value. He will fight for liberty, justice and peace instead. American politicians should stop supporting Israel and Israel's wars. We should instead seek justice for those experiencing the hell of genocide, and use funds formerly sent to Israel to improve the quality of life for American citizens. This includes universal healthcare, child nutrition, high quality and affordable childcare, and affordable higher and technical education. The fate of our people matters. The insatiable appetite of the war machine, and of the war-profiteering billionaires who benefit from war at everyone else's expense, must be stopped. Until this is done, military drones now hunting humans in Gaza, Ukraine, and throughout the Middle East could one day become part of our own bleak future.

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