

BACKGROUND BRIEFER



Advancing US Leadership to Secure Peace in the Middle East

Our Mission

The Pompeo Foundation advocates for a vision of American foreign policy that advances American interests, strengthens our partnerships, and promotes freedom, peace, and prosperity.

Our work on Israel and the Middle East reflects the proven diplomatic approach pursued by 70th Secretary of State Mike Pompeo during his time in office: support our democratic allies, build regional coalitions, isolate adversaries who threaten stability, and demonstrate a willingness to use American hard power where necessary to achieve our goals.

Weakening Iran's Ability to Project Power

The Islamic Republic of Iran is an avowed enemy of the United States, the foremost state sponsor of terrorism, and the chief source of instability and misery in the Middle East. As Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo spearheaded efforts to isolate the Iranian regime, cut off access to the funds needed to accelerate its nuclear weapons program and support its terrorist proxies, and punish Tehran's acts of aggression against the United States.

By promoting policies including the "maximum pressure campaign" and the lethal strike against Quds Force Commander Qasem Soleimani, Secretary Pompeo curtailed the Iranian regime's ability to project power. This laid the groundwork for the tough approach taken during the second Trump administration that has enabled Israel to fight and win against Iran's proxies in Gaza and beyond.

Embracing a "No Daylight" Policy Toward Israel

The Obama administration pursued a deeply misguided policy of appeasement toward Iran and antagonism toward Israel, resulting in the most anti-Israel foreign policy in American history. Under Secretary Pompeo's leadership, the United States reversed this approach: putting unprecedented pressure on Iran and prioritizing the security of our most important ally in the region, Israel. Instead of pursuing the discredited model of peace talks that served only to legitimize and empower the corrupt Palestinian Authority, the Pompeo State Department took steps to bolster Israel's position – including moving the US Embassy to Jerusalem and recognizing the historic ties of the Jewish people to Judea and Samaria.

The strong partnership forged in the first Trump administration culminated in the unprecedented cooperation between the United States and Israel in President Trump's second term: Working together to destroy Iran's nuclear program in the 12 Day War and to forge the Peace Plan that recovered Israel's remaining living hostages.

The Abraham Accords: A New Foundation for Peace

Under Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's leadership, the Trump administration established a new paradigm for peacebuilding: isolate bad actors and incentivize constructive forces in the region to pursue peace and cooperation with Israel. The resulting groundbreaking agreements known as the Abraham Accords normalized relations between Israel and multiple Arab nations—the UAE, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco—and represent the most significant step towards regional peace in decades.

The diplomatic relationships, trust, and regional partnerships established through the Abraham Accords created the foundation for broader Middle East engagement. Arab nations that had normalized relations with Israel played important mediating roles in the Gaza negotiations, and provided leverage and credibility throughout the ceasefire negotiations.

The Path Forward

The diplomatic successes of 2020-2025 prove that peace is possible when America leads with clarity and strength. The Pompeo Foundation is committed to promoting policies that will build upon this success by promoting research and policy recommendations that advance the following goals:

Expand the Abraham Accords

- Bring additional Muslim nations into the normalization framework, including Saudi Arabia and Indonesia
- Deepen economic, security, and cultural ties between Israel and partners in the Arab and Muslim world
- Support the economic and people-to-people connections that make peace irreversible

Isolate and Weaken the Iranian Regime

- Maintain maximum pressure on the Iranian regime
- Prevent Iran from reconstituting its nuclear weapons program
- Counter Iranian proxy forces across the region
- Support the Iranian people's aspirations for freedom

Restore Deterrence and Stability through American Leadership

- Advocate for unwavering support of Israel as America's most reliable democratic ally
- Promote foreign policy rooted in American strength and interests
- Position the US as indispensable to achieving Middle East peace



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