

# **Trump's "America first" approach is great for Israel**

written by Dr. Raphael BenLevi | 12.11.2024

The desire to see US allies do more for their own security aligns well Israel's ambition to see the current war result in a significant change in the regional balance power.

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# **Expect Trump to win elections and Biden to bash Israel**

written by David M. Weinberg | 12.11.2024

Trump does not want America to be dragged into full-scale war in the Middle East any more than Biden does, but Trump can be expected to better provide Israel with the diplomatic and material defenses.

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# **Full accountability**

written by David M. Weinberg | 12.11.2024

Time for Washington to put real pressure on Hamas and its backers. Here are few suggestions.

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# **Do “they have a point”?**

written by David M. Weinberg | 12.11.2024

The pro-Hamas mobs outside the Democratic convention in Chicago must not be legitimized. Biden and Harris should be calling them out, not coddling them.

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# **An open letter to President Biden: Stop turning a blind eye to terror**

written by Ruth Wasserman Lande | 12.11.2024

Destiny has placed you, at this particular time, in a position of power and at the helm. You currently hold the reins on the stability of our region and the protection of Western values.

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# **The US must support any Israeli counter-attack on Iran**

written by Asher Fredman | 12.11.2024

Steadfast American support for an Israeli operation against Iran and Hezbollah will send a clear message to the Islamic Republic and improve overall security in the region.

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# How much influence does the US really have over Israel?

written by Lahav Harkov | 12.11.2024

The pullout of the vast majority of the IDF's troops from Gaza in recent days has raised questions about whether Israel's military campaign is ending with a whimper.

Amid pressure from its most important ally and weapon supplier, the US, the operation in Rafah — where Hamas's remaining battalions are located — has not yet begun. But based on the remarks made by Israel's top generals and politicians, it appears as though it will go ahead. After IDF troops left Khan Younis on Sunday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared: "We are but a step away from victory."

Yet members of his governing coalition remain sceptical, with far-Right minister Itamar Ben-Gvir responding that "if the Prime Minister decides to end the war without a broad attack on Rafah to defeat Hamas, he won't have a mandate to continue serving." Hours later, Netanyahu released a video in which he said "there is a date" for the operation.

The continued delay of the Rafah invasion also shows that Washington has greater sway than Israel's leadership is willing to acknowledge — at least publicly. Out in the open and in meetings with Israeli officials, the White House's criticisms have grown sharper and more threatening to the alliance with Israel. Indeed, the withdrawal of troops from Khan Younis came only three days after Netanyahu and Joe Biden spoke on the phone, with the American President saying that "US policy with respect to Gaza will be determined by [its] assessment of Israel's immediate action" to improve the humanitarian situation. He also called for an "immediate ceasefire". Netanyahu's office announced the opening of more crossings for humanitarian aid hours later.

A source familiar with Netanyahu's thinking confirmed that there are several motivations behind the troop withdrawal: giving a chance for a hostage release and ceasefire deal; calming the Americans down; the beginning of Eid al-Fitr; and preparing for invading Rafah, which he said Netanyahu plans to do.

The Biden administration's influence over the war effort in Gaza is apparent: the President and his Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, have taken part in Israeli war cabinet meetings and this week's increased aid is not the first time Israel has changed its plans after meetings and conversations with White House officials.

The danger is that if this withdrawal is part of a mini-ceasefire or a brief pause, the US will try to make it permanent, as Biden administration officials have said they hoped to do in the past. Then, Israel will be faced with the choice of either going it alone, without American support, or giving in, thus allowing for Hamas's remaining brigades in Rafah to continue posing a threat.

But it should also be noted that the US continues to supply weapons to Israel, and the Biden administration has yet to set additional conditions on its military aid, despite unprecedented backing for such a policy from within the Democratic Party. The President has not backed down from his support for the war aims of eliminating the Hamas threat and bringing home the more than 130 hostages remaining in Gaza.

What's more, influence does not mean omnipotence. Biden also demanded that Netanyahu "empower his negotiators to conclude a deal without delay to bring the hostages home" — yet the deal still fell through.

The question, then, is whether this influence is such that Israel will make any major changes due to US influence, such as backing down from eliminating the final Hamas battalions in Rafah.

Recent remarks from Israeli Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer, someone so close to Netanyahu that he has been nicknamed "Bibi's brain", indicate that Jerusalem is determined to push forward regardless of the pressure from Washington.

"If Israel does not take care of Hamas in Gaza after what it did on October 7th," Dermer said, "I truly believe that this country has no future because all the buzzards circling around this country are going to think that you can pick apart this carcass [...] That's why the determination to take them out is so strong, even if it leads to a potential breach with the United States."

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# **The big chill sets in, once again**

written by David M. Weinberg | 12.11.2024

Israel must resist America's fantasy framework for a swift, dangerously indecisive, end to the Gaza war.

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# **Ramifications of the Deepening Rift between the US and Israel**

written by Col. (res.) Prof. Gabi Siboni | 12.11.2024

America is undermining its own interests and sabotaging advancement of a regional architecture based on Saudi Arabia and the Abraham Accords countries.

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# **Biden has failed to understand what this war means to Israel**

written by Meir Ben Shabbat | 12.11.2024

The Biden administration has not internalized that for Israel, the defeat of Hamas is an existential issue. It is not like America's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, which were conducted thousands of miles away.