

American Involvement and Foreign Policy

Suggested Titles

Chomsky, Noam. **Fateful Triangle: The United States, Israel, and the Palestinians.** Forward by Edward Said. Updated Edition. Cambridge: South End Press, 1999. (“Chomsky’s seminal tome on Mideast politics has become a classic in the fields of political science and Mideast affairs. For its tenth printing, Chomsky has added chapters bringing the book completely up to date, with a new preface by Chomsky, a new foreword from Palestinian author and activist Edward W. Said, and new material on the Intifada, the ongoing Israeli-PLO “peace process” (including the Oslo and Wye accords), and Israel’s war against Lebanon.” —South End Press)

Khalidi, Rashid. **Brokers of Deceit: How the U.S. Has Undermined Peace in the Middle East.** Boston: Beacon, 2014. (“What has happened to the Palestinian people since 1948 is one of the great crimes of modern history. Of course, Israel bears primary responsibility for this tragedy. However, as Rashid Khalidi shows in his smart new book, American presidents from Truman to Obama have sided with Israel at almost every turn and helped it inflict immense pain and humiliation on the Palestinians. At the same time, they have employed high-sounding but dishonest rhetoric to cover up Israel's brutal behavior. As *Brokers of Deceit* makes clear, the United States richly deserves to be called "Israel's lawyer." —John J. Mearsheimer, coauthor of *The Israel Lobby* “Drawing on his own experience as a Palestinian negotiator and recently released documents, Rashid Khalidi mounts a frontal attack on the myths and misconceptions that have come to surround America’s role in the so-called “peace process” which is all process and no peace. The title is not too strong: the book demonstrates conclusively that far from serving as an honest broker, the US continues to act as Israel’s lawyer – with dire consequences for its own interests, for the Palestinians, and for the entire region. Professor Khalidi deserves much credit for his superb exposition of the fatal gap between the rhetoric and reality of American diplomacy on this critically important issue.” —Avi Shlaim, Emeritus Professor of International Relations at Oxford and author of *The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab World*. "Khalidi has combined history, common sense and his first-hand understanding of Arab-Israeli peace talks, as brokered by Washington, to make the case that American national security interests would be best served by a just peace in the Middle East. Instead, he writes with great sadness, Washington's efforts to be an honest broker fall "somewhere between high irony and farce" —and puts democratic America, with its avowed commitment to freedom for all, in the position of enabling the continued subjugation of the Palestine people. This is an important book." —Seymour M. Hersh, *The New Yorker*)

Mearsheimer, John J. and Stephen M. Walt. **The Israeli Lobby and U. S. Foreign Policy.** New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007. (“Controversial.” —Terry Gross, Fresh Air, NPR “It could not be more timely.” —David Bromwich, *The Huffington Post* “The strategic questions they raise now, particularly about Israel's privileged relationship with the United States, are worth debating.” —David Remnick. *The New Yorker* “Ruthlessly realistic.” —William Grimes, *The New York Times* “The argument they present is towering and clear and about time.” —Philip Weiss, Mondoweiss.com “Mearsheimer, a political scientist at the University of Chicago, and Walt, on the faculty at Harvard, set off a political firestorm.” —Jay Solomon, *The Wall Street Journal*)

Rynhold, Jonathan. **The Arab-Israeli Conflict in American Political Culture.** Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015. ("Professor Rynhold has made a pioneering and illuminating contribution to our understanding of the contemporary American Jewish community and its complex relationship with the Arab-Israel conflict. For the first time, scholars of American Jewry, US foreign policy and Middle Eastern politics will gain insights into the deep and often strident divisions among American Jews on an issue of paramount importance to their identity, their values, and their connection to Israel. *The Arab-Israeli Conflict in American Political Culture* is an essential source for anyone interested in American Jewish, US-Israel, and Israeli-Palestinian affairs." --Michael B. Oren, former Israeli ambassador to the United States "Jonathan Rynhold's book is a first-rate analysis of the changing position of Israel in American politics. Rynhold carefully demonstrates how Republicans and Evangelical Christians have increasingly embraced Israel, while Democrats and most American Jews - Orthodox Jews are a notable exception - have increasingly questioned Israeli policies. This book is highly recommended for anyone interested in the role of Israel in US and Jewish politics." --Robert O. Freedman, Adjunct Professor, The Johns Hopkins University "Jonathan Rynhold is one of the most perceptive observers of American perspectives on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that Israel has produced in recent years. While many Israelis fashion themselves as experts on America, Rynhold is the real thing. He has kept his finger on the pulse like very few others. Readers will gain much from his wide knowledge and profound insights." --David Makovsky, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy)

Related Titles

Ben-Zvi, Abraham. **Decade of Transition: Eisenhower, Kennedy, and the Origins of the American-Israeli Alliance.** New York: Columbia University Press, 2015. ("In short, this volume is a very important addition to the literature on American foreign policy in the Middle East that contributes significantly to our collective knowledge. It will undoubtedly become a central work in the field and is most highly recommended for anyone doing research in this area." --*Israel Affairs*)

Christison, Kathleen. **Perceptions of Palestine: Their Influence on U.S. Middle East Policy.** Updated Edition with a New Afterword. 1999. ("[A] masterful treatise on how it is that the United States managed to ignore the Palestinians for a century." --Donald Neff, *Journal of Palestine Studies*)

Gallagher, Nancy. **Quakers in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: The Dilemmas of NGO Humanitarian Activism.** Cairo: American University in Cairo Press, 2007. (“The Israeli–Palestinian conflict has resulted in the longest-standing refugee crisis in the world today. Based on new archival research and interviews with surviving participants, this book considers one early effort to resolve that crisis while offering helpful lessons for current efforts at conflict resolution in the Middle East and elsewhere. When war broke out in Palestine in 1948, the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), a Quaker service organization, had just won the Nobel Peace Prize for its peacemaking endeavors and its service to war refugees during the Second World War. On the basis of that experience, the United Nations invited the highly visible AFSC to provide humanitarian relief to Arab refugees in Gaza. The AFSC also sent volunteers to work in Israel, where they hoped to serve both Arabs and Jews. Its long-term goal was repatriation of the refugees and conciliation and coexistence between Israelis and Palestinians. As eyewitnesses to some of the major events of the conflict, the AFSC volunteers came to understand it better than most outsiders at the time. By examining these early efforts at peacemaking and assistance, historian Nancy Gallagher has uncovered essential insights for today’s peacemakers, human rights activists, and humanitarian NGOs.” –Amazon)

Green, Stephen. **Living by the Sword: America and Israel in the Middle East 1968-87.** Brattleboro, VT: Amana Books, 1988. (“Israel’s relationship with the United States lies at the heart of the Middle East conflict. Not only does American largesse underpin Israel’s immense military power, and hence unyielding attitude, but it may be the key to any compromise....Rather than offering a detailed chronological narrative, the book focuses on particular episodes involving the two countries.” —Andrew Gilmour, *Journal of Palestine Studies*)

Green, Stephen. **Taking Sides: America’s Secret Relations with a Militant Israel.** New York: William Morrow and Company, 1984. (“The author has burrowed with a prosecutor’s diligence into unpublished American archives. The book has been and will be praised by those who believe the United States has damaged its own security, and Israel’s too, by uncritical and often secret support of Israel’s actions, no matter how extreme. Those who believe that American support has not gone far enough, and that American and Israeli interests are identical will sputter with indignation.” — John C. Campbell, *Foreign Affairs*)

Judis, John. **Genesis: Truman, American Jews, and the Origins of the Arab/Israeli Conflict.** New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux; Reprint ed. 2015. (“[Judis] is a careful historian.” —Joseph Dorman, *The New York Times Book Review* “Judis digs deeply into history, politics and diplomacy to explain the backstory of today's headlines . . . [A] provocative book.” —Jonathan Kirsch, *Jewish Journal* “John Judis has long been one of America's best political historians. Now he's proved himself one of the best historians of American foreign policy towards Israel. You don't have to agree with all of John's conclusions to be powerfully impressed by the extent of his research, the quality of his insight, and his deep empathy for both Jews and Palestinians in the tortured land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. One of the best books about the U.S.-Israel relationship I have ever read.” —Peter Beinart, author of *The Crisis of Zionism* “John Judis fairly and carefully explores Harry Truman's conflicted attitudes toward the establishment of the state of Israel—and he does far more. A conscientious attempt to deal with the ethical paradoxes involved in the establishment of the state of Israel, this book makes us aware of the implacable moral ambiguities with which we all must live as we make choices in a deeply flawed world.” —Alonzo L. Hamby, Distinguished Professor of History, Ohio University; author of *Man of the People: A Life of Harry S. Truman* “This is the best kind of history—taking a historical episode we think we know about (Truman recognizing the new state of Israel) and probing what really happened and what it meant for the future. John Judis is one of America's best journalists. In Genesis he brings together both lucid writing and passionate insight in a way that sheds light on current American policy in the Middle East.” —James Mann, author of *Rise of the Vulcans and The Obamians* “Genesis, John Judis's history of the Truman administration's relationship to Israel and its neighbors, is a smart, unsentimental, and independent-minded rendering of a complicated tale. His arguments and evidence challenge the comforting myths that sustain all sides of this tragic conflict and, in doing so, have the potential to point all its actors in a more hopeful direction in the future.” —Eric Alterman, author of *The Cause: The Fight for American Liberalism from Franklin Roosevelt to Barack Obama*)

Knopf-Newman, Mary Jane. **The Politics of Teaching Palestine to Americans: Addressing Pedagogical Strategies.** Hampshire, U.K.: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011. (“...Knopf-Newman exposes how language and history have obscured the reality of Palestinians, which has been suppressed in the United States. This brilliant and important work is instructive in every sense of the word.” — J. Kehaulani Kauanui, Associate Professor of American Studies and Anthropology, Wesleyan University)

Rubenberg, Cheryl A. **Israel and the American National Interest: A Critical Examination.** Urbana; Chicago: The University of Illinois Press, 1986. (“The single most satisfactory scholarly study, by far, of the U.S.-Israeli relationship. It represents a major contribution to our knowledge and understanding of one of the most sensitive and important areas of U.S. foreign policy.” — Richard Falk)

Ruebner, Josh. **U.S. Military Aid to Israel: Policy Implications and Options.** Washington, DC: US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation, 2012. [40 pp.; downloadable at <http://aidtoisrael.org/section.php?id=400>] (“[E]stablishes the legal, political, economic, strategic and human rights rationale for ending \$30 billion of U.S. taxpayer-financed weapons transfers to Israel from 2009 to 2018.” — US Campaign)

Said, Edward and Christopher Hitchens, eds. **Blaming the Victims: Spurious Scholarship and the Palestinian Question.** New York: Verso, 1988. (“The aim of these exhaustive, detailed essays and book reviews is to highlight what Said, a professor at Columbia, calls in his introduction the “grotesque, almost parodistic garishness” of pro-Israeli, anti-Palestinian scholarship in the West, particularly in the U.S., where, he says, “it is as if even the narrative of Palestinian history is not tolerable.” In one piece, Said examines the reception of Joan Peters’s book, *From Time Immemorial: The Origins of the Arab-Jewish Conflict* over Palestine, which argues that most of the Arabs in Palestine in 1948 were recent arrivals from other parts of the Arab world: despite widespread enthusiasm in the U.S., the book was greeted with embarrassed disavowal in Israel and a critical thrashing for shoddy methodology in Britain.” —*Publishers Weekly*)

Spiegel, Steven. **The Other Arab-Israeli Conflict: Making America’s Middle East Policy, from Truman to Reagan.** Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015. (“*The Other Arab-Israeli Conflict* illuminates the controversial course of America’s Middle East relations from the birth of Israel to the Reagan administration. Skillfully separating actual policymaking from the myths that have come to surround it, Spiegel challenges the belief that American policy in the Middle East is primarily a relation to events in that region or is motivated by bureaucratic constraints or the pressures of domestic politics. On the contrary, he finds that the ideas and skills of the president and his advisors are critical to the determination of American policy. This volume received the 1986 National Jewish Book Award.” --Amazon)

Zougbe, Daniel E. **Indecision Point: George W. Bush and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.** Cambridge: MIT Press, 2014. (“For anyone wishing to understand the reasons for America’s disastrous failures in the Middle East in the post-9/11 era, this book will be a very good place to start. Daniel Zoughbie offers a fascinating account of the part played by the Bush administration in the diplomacy surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He begins by illuminating the underlying philosophical assumptions that shaped America’s broader engagement with the Middle East. His compelling argument is that George W. Bush never decided between the moralist and the realist positions and, as a result, his policy was incoherent and ineffective. It is a story with no end of a lesson. The book should therefore be required reading for the makers of American policy toward this endlessly complex and troubled region.” —Avi Shlaim, professor of international relations, University of Oxford, and author of *The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab World*)