

THE UNITED STATES AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Professor Abraham Ben-Zvi

GOVT 438 / Summer 2006

The course is intended to reconstruct American diplomacy in the Middle East as it unfolded during the last five decades. In addition to analyzing major issues and developments, such as Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's shuttle diplomacy in the aftermath of the Yom Kippur War of October 1973, the Camp David Conferences of 1978 and 2000, and the Gulf War of 1991, it will seek to integrate the Arab-Israeli framework into the broader analytical framework of such issues as alliance formation, alliance politics, and patron-client relations.

1. Introduction

Required Reading

Abraham Ben-Zvi. The United States and Israel: The Limits of the Special Relationship. (New York: Columbia University Press, 1993), pp. 1-27.

Recommended Reading

Stephen M. Walt, The Origins of Alliances. (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1987), pp. 17-49.

2. Early Historical Background; The Truman Era

Required Reading

Steven L. Spiegel. The Other Arab-Israeli Conflict: Making America's Middle East Policy from Truman to Reagan. (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1985), pp. 11-49.

3. The Eisenhower Era:

(a) The Baghdad Pact; the Alpha Plan; the Sinai 1956 War

Abraham Ben-Zvi. Decade of Transition: Eisenhower, Kennedy, and the Origins of the American-Israeli Alliance. (New York: Columbia University Press, 1998), pp. 19-57.

Recommended Reading

Neil Caplan. Futile Diplomacy: Volume 4: Operation Alpha and the Failure of Anglo-American Coercive Diplomacy in the Arab-Israeli Conflict, 1954-1956. (London: Frank Cass, 1997), pp. 261-289.

Walt. The Origins of Alliances, pp. 50-80.

4. The Eisenhower Era:

- (b) From Divergence to Convergence: the 1958 Jordan Crisis and its ramifications; the collapse of the Baghdad Pact**

Required Reading

Abraham Ben-Zvi. Decade of Transition, pp. 59-97.

Recommended Reading

Spiegel. The Other Arab-Israeli Conflict, pp. 83-93.

- 5. The Kennedy Era: Kennedy and Egypt; the consolidation of the American-Israeli alliance and the sale of American arms to Israel (the Hawk sale); the Johnson Palestinian initiative**

Required Reading

Ben-Zvi. Decade of Transition, pp. 97-129.

Recommended Reading

Warren Bass. Support My Friend: Kennedy's Middle East and the Making of the US-Israel Alliance. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003).

Spiegel. The Other Arab-Israeli Conflict, pp. 94-117.

- 6. Johnson, Israel and Egypt; the 1967 Arab-Israeli War: Global and Regional Ramifications; the conclusion of UN Resolution 242; the politics of arms sales to Israel**

Required Reading

Abraham Ben-Zvi. Lyndon B. Johnson and the Politics of Arms Sales to Israel: In the Shadow of the Hawk. (London: Frank Cass, 2004), pp. 1-103.

- 7. The Nixon Era: From 1969 to the 1973 War: the Rogers Plans; the September 1970 Crisis; Superpower competition and the limits of détente**

Required Reading

Spiegel, The Other Arab-Israeli Conflict, pp. 166-215.

Recommended Reading

Henry Kissinger. The White House Years. (Boston: Little Brown, 1979), pp. 1276-1300.

- 8. Nixon, Ford and Kissinger: The incremental road from crisis management to phased conflict resolution: The December 1973 Geneva Peace Conference; the disengagement agreements, the reassessment and the October 1975 Egyptian-Israeli interim agreement**

Required Reading

Ben-Zvi. The United States and Israel, pp. 77-102.

Recommended Reading

Henry Kissinger. Years of Renewal. (London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1999), pp. 422-459.

Spiegel, The Other Arab-Israeli Conflict, pp. 219-314.

- 9. The Carter Era: The Search for comprehensive settlement; the October 1, 1977, superpower initiative; President Anwar Sadat's peace initiative and the September 1978 Camp David conference**

Required Reading

Spiegel. The Other Arab-Israeli Conflict, pp. 315-380.

Recommended Reading

William B. Quandt. Camp David: Peacemaking and Politics (Washington: The Brookings Institution, 1986).

Zbigniew Brzezinski. Power and Principle: Memoirs of the National Security Adviser, 1977-1981. (New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1983), pp. 252-288.

10. The Reagan Era: From the Lebanon War to the first intifada

Required Reading

Spiegel, The Other Arab-Israeli Conflict, pp. 395-429.

Recommended Reading

George P. Shultz. Turmoil and Triumph: My Tears as Secretary of State. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1993), pp. 43-84.

Eisenberg and Caplan, Negotiating Arab-Israeli Peace, pp. 43-59.

11. The Bush Era and the Gulf War of January 1991; the loan guarantees and the “new world order”

Required Reading

Ben-Zvi, The United States and Israel, pp. 191-213.

12. Clinton, George W. Bush and the post-Cold War international system; from the Oslo Accords to Camp David

Recommended Reading

Dennis Ross. The Missing Peace: The Inside Story of the Fight for Middle East Peace. (New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2004), pp. 591-779.

13. Summary and Conclusions

Grades

Oral Presentation	20%
Class Participation	20%
Final Exam	60%