

# THE 1st IDI GLOBAL EVENT

The IDI Global Newsletter



## The Future of US - Israel relations under Biden's administration

**HOST: Mr. Nadav Tamir**

In March 2021, took place **the first IDI Global event**, after months of organisation and planning, the President of IDI Global, **Tal Zelinger**, with the support of **the IDI team** and the other IDI Groups, decided to open the new year with an innovative and “covid-free” meeting, to follow the new rules of these last years. In fact, most of our meetings take place in virtual rooms.

For the incredible launching of the International Diplomacy Initiative, we had the honour to invite **Mr. Nadav Tamir**.

He is currently **the executive director of J. Street Israel and adviser for international affairs at the Peres Center for Peace and Innovation.**

# Who is he? Let's see more about him!

**In 1993**, Mr. Tamir joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the following year began to serve as the Policy Assistant to the Foreign Minister. He has had the privilege of serving as a policy assistant under 3 Foreign Ministers: Shimon Peres, Ehud Barak, and David Levy.

**In 1997**, he was promoted to the position of Political Officer at the Israeli Embassy in Washington D.C. Four years later, he was granted the position of Director General Advisor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jerusalem.

**In 2010**, he returned to Israel after his Master in Public Administration from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, and after four years of serving as the Consul General of Israel to New England at the Consulate General of Israel in Boston.

Until **July 2011**, he served at the Policy Planning unit of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## For the anniversary of the 5th year since Shimon Peres' death, Mr. Tamir wrote an article on his blog about the knowledge he had inherited from the ex-President.

<< Under Peres' leadership Israel saw a swift climb to the forefront of innovation in **science** and **technology**, his aspirations for peace were more difficult to realize.

Peres' philosophy is sorely lacking in today's political landscape.

The unique elements of his philosophy have **immense potential** for turning Israel into an innovator and initiator of **proactive diplomacy for peace**.

The approach distinguished him from other Israeli leaders who often treated any development in the Middle East with alarm and hostility, blinding them to potential opportunities to **advance peace**.

After many years working alongside him, I've boiled the "**Peres Philosophy**" down to the following four core elements: **Responsibility and Initiative**, **Win-Win Perspective**, **Everlasting Optimism**, and **Orientation Towards the Future**. >>



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*The two main pillars of Peres' vision for the future of Israel were peace and innovation.*  
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All of us know the importance and the relevance that the US has all around the world, with the world's most powerful military organisation, its huge economy which represents one quarter of the world's wealth, and its leading role in international organisations, such as NATO and the UN.

For these reasons, and much more, today, more than ever, the topic of **the relation between the USA and the Middle East** is always a big question mark.

Mr. Nadav Tamir participated in our meeting to discuss this topic, talking about the relationship between the US and Israel.

## The Biden Administration and how it relates to the Netanyahu government.



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*The relations between US and Israel are more than foreign policy, they are considered more as domestic policy, due to the important impact that Israel affairs have to deal with American affairs.*

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Relations between the US and Israel are much more than just who is leading, as social media makes us believe – such as Netanyahu against Obama or against Trump. But there are some **structural issues** that are much deeper than personalities.

First of all, Mr. Nadav Tamir, gave us **an instrument to analyse and understand the basis** of the US and Israel relations: the VIP, Values, Interests and Policies.

He made a focus on these three characteristics, to understand why the US and Israel are connected.

Firstly, **the Value**. Both States are an immigrants land, both are sharing the same rule of law and the policy of social justice. For these reasons and much more, Mr. Tamir explained that **there is a connectedness** between the American values of democracy and Israeli values.

Secondly, **the Interest**. The US really **needs Israel** as an ally, due to various types of strategies (some of these linked to the Cold War), with **the purpose** to contain **Soviet influence** in the Middle East.

Seeing that the power of China is growing, and terrorism actions in the Middle East too, the US **interest and intervention are increasing**. Afterwards we will see if these interventions have a great impact or are simply vain.

The last one, **Policies**. The pro-Israeli policy in America was always very strong, and in this sector, **the jewish community has a very significant role**. Even if they represent the 2% of the population, their influence in US politics is very important in these kinds of relations.

# The American Interventions in the Middle East were not only a “benefit” for these States

Since the Cold War **interventions in the Middle East from the US have been increasing**, together with the increase of military actions.

Mr. Tamir about these actions said:

<< **American interventions in the middle east were pretty much catastrophic. Such as in Iraq with the purpose to create a democratic Middle East by force and failed completely, in Libya there was more chaos after the American intervention than before, and in Syria they failed too.** >>

Maybe **the way** Americans used **was wrong**, the majority of their interventions were in a military way. And all of us know that **you can't solve a conflict with violence**, with the army. Because the consequences will be the same: using violence.

Mr. Tamir was clear to say that **US-Israeli relations are useful and very important for Israel and the Middle East, even though many times American interventions are not so helpful.**

## The Biden Administration in US-Israeli relations

<< **For Israel the Middle East without the US would be much tougher** >> said Mr. Tamir.

This problem is not only due to the assistance that the US provides, but it is due to **the vacuum that America can leave**, which will be filled by other States or forces, with whom Israel doesn't have a deep connection. And this **can be troublesome** not only for Israel.

The Biden administration is structured in a different way. Mr. Tamir, said that his direction is more **“by heart”** - regarding pro-Israel policies.

Mr. Tamir made a brief summary about the various US administrations, since Obama's one.

He said that **the Obama administration** was pro-Israel, but more **in an intellectual and calculated way**; using this relation only as a benefit or a purpose to achieve.

Whereas, **the Trump Administration** he said that was **right the opposite** of Biden's one. Due to the different attitudes, different ideas and policies.

Then, **the Biden Administration** is more favorable to Israeli government. It is “from the stomach” - as Nadav Tamir said - he really cares deeply about Israel.

**The first important objective** for America is to **create a coalition of moderate forces** against Iran, against Al-Qaeda, and with the Biden Administration, they are going to pursue it.

<< **We actually need an American mediator who could work, not only with Israel, but who could work with Palestinians too.** >> said Mr. Tamir.

In fact, the Israeli State cannot carry on without the Palestinian State, which is the most important ally for Israel. For this reason these relations, we have talk about, **have to include the Palestinian State too**. And not all the administrations, during the years, have been supporting these bilateral relations.

<< **I'm actually think that Biden is a very good news for Israel** >> - Mr. Tamir

From his point of view, Biden is one of the best presidents that the US has had in terms of foreign policy and political party.

In fact, Biden is not part of the progressive wing of the democratic party and is not a republican, and following the word of Mr. Tamir: **“he is exactly what Israel needs at the moment”**.

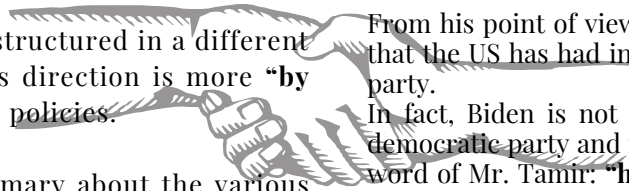
Actually, **Biden had a great knowledge about foreign policy**, the best one that America has had since Bush I. Before becoming president, he was the chairman of the senate foreign policy committee for years.

Moreover, Mr. Tamir said:

<< **He has the criticism of what Trump did to the relations and, he has the ability to repair some of the damage that was done in the last decade to the US-Israeli relations** >>

In conclusion, the Biden administration **seems to be a blessing** for the relations between US and Israel.

Now we have to see how these relations will develop with the new Israeli government.



## Why is this kind of topic useful to know and why is it important to be updated?

The International Diplomacy Initiative decided to host Mr. Nadav Tamir talks about foreign relations, because we take care of topics such as democracy and relations among States, **with the purpose to inform and report information more and more.**

Hoping to reach the majority of the population, in a way to let everyone know **how the world is moving and his billions ways.**

**We want to inform people about the international resources and markets, the preservation of a balance of power in the world, and the protection of human rights and democracy.**



The IDI honoring Mr. Nadav Tamir after his lecture, at Peres Centre for Peace and Innovation

*Thanks for reading!*

*We are waiting for you at our next event!*

*You can find all the information and events at the IDI website! Click on the Logo!*

# The International Diplomacy Initiative

THE FUTURE OF DIPLOMACY

Written by Giada Frulla