

If you don't regularly receive my reports, request a free subscription at [steve\\_bakke@comcast.net](mailto:steve_bakke@comcast.net) !+-  
Visit my website at <http://www.myslantonthings.com> !

## **Abraham Accords: Iran's worst fear**

Steve Bakke  November 18, 2024



The Independent State of Israel was formed in 1948, following a United Nations vote creating a partition plan. Almost two decades later, after a resounding 1967 military victory over an Arab coalition, primarily Egypt, Syria, and Jordan, Israel offered peace in exchange for recognition by the Arab League. The Arab League repeated its earlier rejections with the consensus response known as “The 3 No’s,” “no peace with Israel, no negotiations with Israel, no recognition of Israel.”

It’s 2024 and Israel hasn’t known peace, largely due to wars and skirmishes with Palestinian ruling organizations. And the Palestinians still have no nation. This isn’t about a resolvable issue of land or borders. It’s about religion and is apparently unresolvable. At least five times major concessions of territory, including up to virtually all of the “West Bank” was offered by Israel to the Palestinians, but all offers have been rejected. It seems clear that a two-state solution will never happen.

In 2020, a new variable was added to the search for Mideast peace. Benjamin Netanyahu had become convinced that Israeli/Palestinian peace could not be a prerequisite for broader Israeli/Mideast peace negotiations, or it would never happen.

Israel had signed peace agreements years before with Egypt, via the Camp David Accords, and Jordan, following the Oslo Accords. And Trump decided to commit immediately to a wider Arab goal. In four months he had brokered four separate “normalization” agreements between Israel and: United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco. These were the “Abraham Accords,” a modern-day Jewish/Islam “covenant.”

Just as plans were being made to negotiate with other countries, the Biden administration came to power, and while the new administration did attempt to take advantage of aspects of the existing progress, momentum was lost for further attempts to expand the agreements to other countries. Apparently, the reason for this was the new administration’s belief that first, a two-state solution must be found to end the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. That isn’t likely.

Promising early results from Accords included: unofficial understanding that Israeli/Palestinian peace with a two state solution can’t be a successful prerequisite to broader normalization; the Arab League no longer gave veto power over foreign policy to Palestinian leadership; a Dubai-based port operator reportedly partnered with an Israeli firm to bid on a shipping hub in Israel; Israel and Jordan signed an energy-for-water deal;

and a UAE government-owned company was scheduled to build a new solar power facility in Jordan.

Continuing this “parade,” here are several more developments: U.S. facilitated joint energy and environmental projects; in 2021, the UAE Airforce flew alongside Israeli fighter jets in Greece’s aerial training exercises; state-owned Israeli and Emirati defense contractors announced plans, during the Dubai airshow, to develop vessels to deter damage caused by Iranian anti-ship mines; and in 2022 Israel began importing aluminum from Bahrain.

Bringing Saudi Arabia into the fold isn’t yet a reality, but it seems to be a real possibility, contingent on renewing aggressive diplomatic efforts. Early on, the Saudi government granted permission for certain Israeli commercial flights to use its airspace. And there hasn’t been Saudi objections to advances being made between other Arab countries and Israel.

Unfortunately Iran entered the picture on October 7, 2023, via an attack by its proxy, Hamas. Hamas officials guaranteed more attacks would follow. Israel decided it has no margin for error in their fight for continued existence. You know the rest. This attack was carefully orchestrated and brutally conducted. But it was somehow different.

This Hamas attack wasn’t just a continuation or expansion of the long-running Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Iran was fully behind the event. Many observers believe Iran was desperate to undermine and destroy the clear progress being made by the Abraham Accords.

It’s logical to conclude that Iran’s worst fear is the creation of partnerships, military and economic, between its arch-enemy Israel and its many Arab/Muslim adversaries. Iran had acted through proxy organizations, first Hamas in Gaza, followed by Hezbollah in Lebanon.

I’m looking forward to Mike Huckabee, the prospective Ambassador to Israel, to accelerate Abraham Accord advances as soon as possible. Nothing can be certain, but there’s huge potential payback for pursuing the relationships already created and expanding the agreements to Saudi Arabia and beyond.