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Peace in the Middle East: follow a path through freedom

By Steve Bakke  October 14, 2020



With the United States signing as official witness, Israel recently signed agreements with both the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. These agreements, known by the majestic title “The Abraham Accords,” provide real hope for peace and stability in the Middle East.

The administration took an unusual path in getting to the signing table. Trump said of his methods: “We’ve taken a very different path. You could say it’s a back door, but I call it a smart door, not a backdoor.” Although not poetic, that description works.

The Heritage Foundation uses an Index of Economic Freedom. Syndicated columnist Star Parker picked up on something interesting. The parties to these accords are world leaders on the Heritage index. UAE ranks highest of all Persian Gulf states, and is a world-wide leader at number 18, one below the U.S. Israel ranks 26th, and Bahrain 63rd, one above France.

Conventional wisdom says the road to Mid-East peace must travel through Palestinian negotiations. That hasn’t worked. Perhaps the road to Mid-East peace must be shored up by including countries that have already experienced benefits of freedom. While Palestinian officials are welcome, they will have to join others on this “freedom road.”