

Model United Nations Conference 2018 Preliminaries

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ABSTRACT

On May 3rd 2017, Donald Trump said, “Over the course of my lifetime, I’ve always heard that perhaps the toughest deal to make is the deal between the Israelis and the Palestinians”^[1]. On December 6th, however, he betrayed the Middle East policy America holds for the recent 20 years and recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, which was criticized intensely in the world. **This paper lists out reasons for Trump to go on his way on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict from following parts: Middle-east situation, America’s Internal Factors and Trump’s personal peculiarity. Furthermore, it predicts the possible consequence of this statement.**

I. MIDDLE-EAST SITUATION

¹ Ben Cohen: Can Trump survive Abbas? <https://www.jns.org/opinion/can-trump-survive-abbas/>

The marginalization of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict is a significant reason why America made this statement. Since 2003, the fact that the Iraq War, the Iranian nuclear issue, the Arab spring, the Syria's civil war and so on took place in a row, made terrorism the overwhelming issue to the Middle East. Therefore, the long-standing Israel Palestinian Conflict is no longer the core of the Middle East, and even has been forgotten. **Trump's statement has stirred up anger of the Muslims around the world, and has successfully refocused global attention on the Israel Palestinian Conflict.**

The current situation in the Middle East also provides a favorable opportunity for this policy adjustment. **On the one hand, some Arab countries consider Iran and the Islamic militant group as current enemies, rather than Israel.** Trump thinks this will help persuade Arab countries like Saudi Arabia to take part in the Middle East peace process and to help reach the Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement. **Sectarian strife, on the other hand, has made many Sunni Arabs in Palestine strengthen ties with Israel to counter Iran,** which made it a time for action and breakthrough.

II.AMERICA'S INTERNAL FACTORS

The Jerusalem statement is an implication of U.S. long-term diplomatic plan. It is clear that the United States will not change its sides with Israel.

First of all, Jews influence America's society greatly. There is a saying, "the United States controls the world and the Jews control the United States". There are about twelve million Jews around the world, of whom there are six million in Israel, and most of the rest are in the USA. Though Jews make up only 2 percent of American population, **its elites control the mainstream.** From the congress to the Silicon Valley, from Wall Street to Hollywood, are essentially controlled by the Jews. **Especially in the politics, Jews are willing to participate as well as to be in charge.** There are 23 Jewish members and 11 Jewish senators out of 108 seats in the congress. They formed strong communities as well. For example, among 305 lobbies America has, 285 of them are Jewish^[2].

² 马晓霖：阿以争端 <http://wemedia.ifeng.com/46250193/wemedia.shtml>

Second, Israel is America's most important ally in the Middle East. America puts anti-terrorism and the fight against Islamic State as priority, while Israel considers the nuclear-armed Iran as the biggest security threat. **As a result, both of them have the common strategic interests. Israel's battlefield has long been America's most advanced military experimental field. Israel is also the only democrat country in the Middle East.** In terms of values, the maintenance of Israel is the preservation of American values. Jerusalem statement is an important move to repair the crack of bilateral relations caused by the Obama government, and to maintain a strong America-Israel relationship as well as America's influential power in the Middle East.

III. TRUMP'S PERSONAL PECULIARITY

The important promises Trump made during the general election, such as to exit the Trans-pacific Partnership Agreement and the Paris Agreement on climate change have been fulfilled. To remove the American embassy is another important commitment he has made. In 1995, Congress adopted the Jerusalem Embassy Act. Yet, for over 20 years, every previous president has exercised the law's waiver, and failed to deliver. However, "Today, I am delivering."^[3] **Thus, it can be seen that he wants to show he is a faithful president,** who aims to gain more support for his political work and re-election after.

Though this statement completely denies the policies of his predecessor, **Trump's decision has deep considerations for the next step.** Recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel is equal to giving permission to Israel to occupy East Jerusalem, which meanwhile forcing Palestinian to consider the proposed agreement seriously to make concessions. **The ultimate purpose of this statement is to formally propose an American version of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement in the first half of 2018.** Led by Trump's son-in-law Kushner and his team, they have detailed the Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement for nearly a year. **The goal is to put forward the framework, and let the two nations negotiate under the coordination of the United States.**

³ Transcript of Donald Trump's speech on Jerusalem:
<https://www.caasimada.net/full-text-donald-trumps-speech-jerusalem/> (search time: 2018/1/30)

IV. POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCE

The Middle East's attitude directly affects the consequences of this statement. **Though the whole Muslim world has given its strong condemnation to America, most of the countries are just for their own interests to make a political statement,** while their influence cannot cause substantial impact on the Israeli-Palestinian peace process^[4]. **Some powerful Arabic countries have also lost interest in the Israel Palestinian Conflict.** For example, Egypt's President Al-Sisi is calling for more attention on his domestic issues.

In addition, since **the U.S. government has consistently been the leading provider of bilateral development and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinians,** with more than USD 5.2 billion provided^[5], it has a decisive influence on the Israel Palestinian Conflict. **Palestinians can do no more than expressing their dissatisfaction with oral condemnation, and may have to make compromises to America.** Although several violent protests have erupted in Palestine, the situation is not out of control because they are spontaneous, sporadic and unorganized.

⁴ 丛培影: 耶路撒冷声明暗藏玄机美版“两国方案”或解套巴以问题

⁵ U.S. Assistance to Palestinian: <https://jru.usconsulate.gov/our-relationship/policy-history/assistance/> (search time: 2018/1/30)