



Iran Is Pushing Israel and the Gulf Closer Together

[Emily B. Landau](#) & [Shimon Stein](#)

July 26, 2017

The past years have seen positive winds blowing from the Gulf states toward Israel, in particular from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. These states are signaling their willingness—fueled by a common interest in [confronting Iran](#)—to step up cooperation with Israel, including elevating it to the public domain.

The new willingness of these states to explore expanded cooperation with Israel can be scrutinized and assessed in terms of its possible implications in three different contexts:

- As a platform that can help achieve a grand bargain for peace between Israel and the Palestinians;
- In terms of Israel-Gulf cooperation per se, and resulting normalization of relations with Israel;
- And as a vehicle for encouraging the establishment of new regional dialogue frameworks in the Middle East, on topics of common interest.

Analysts and political figures have been assessing the emerging trends from different perspectives and with these different objectives in mind. The prism through which new offers of cooperation to Israel are assessed influences whether they are viewed more as a viable opportunity, or an unrealistic pipe dream.

....

Emily Landau is a senior research fellow at the [Institute for National Security Studies \(INSS\)](#) and head of its Arms Control and Regional Security Program.

Shimon Stein is a senior research fellow at the [Institute for National Security Studies \(INSS\)](#). He served as Israel's ambassador to Germany (2001–07).

For full article, see:

<http://nationalinterest.org/feature/iran-pushing-israel-the-gulf-closer-together-21679>
