

The US has toned down settlement rhetoric

There's a new West Bank settlement and nobody seems all that concerned

By [Zaki Shalom](#) and [Jonathan Mintzer](#) 27 May 2018

Two months ago, Israeli families started moving into Amichai, the first new West Bank settlement built in almost 20 years. The settlement will house families from the Amona outpost, which was closed after the Supreme Court of Israel ruled that it was built on private Palestinian land. From the time construction began last year, the United States has remained silent on this new development. Most notably, a United States envoy (including President Donald Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner) arrived to Israel the day after Amichai construction began in 2017, and made no official statement on the topic. The Foreign Ministers of Germany and France also made no mention of the new settlement during their meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on March 26, 2018, the day Amichai was inaugurated. This muted response to Amichai's construction may signal a new shift in United States, and perhaps European, settlement policy.

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