Is the Israel-UAE agreement a game changer for Israel?

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In an Aug. 13 tweet, U.S. President Donald Trump celebrated the Israeli-Emirati accord to normalize relations as a "HUGE breakthrough." Israel's integration into the region has been a goal of U.S. and Israeli foreign policy for decades, and the mid-August announcement was the first major official step in that direction in over 25 years. But is this really a game changer for Israel's strategy in the Middle East?

Motives

Before assessing the potential ramifications of this development, it is important to examine why Israel and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) chose this particular moment to make official their long-standing, under-the-table, bilateral cooperation. U.S. and Israeli motivations require little explanation: The leaders of both countries have sought to promote better relations between Israel and the Arab world for decades because it is in their nations' interests as well as their personal political interests.

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