



Between Gaza and the Gulf: The Abraham Accords, Israel, and Palestine

Anyone who thought that the Abraham Accords would eliminate the need to address the Palestinian issue was wrong. The events in Jerusalem and Gaza mark the first significant tests of the normalization process.

by [Yoel Guzansky](#), [Zachary A. Marshall](#) / May 24, 2021

For some, the agreements that Israel signed with the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan under the auspices of the Trump administration's Abraham Accords process had the potential to prompt progress on solving the intractable Israeli-Palestinian conflict. However, for others, the agreements meant there was no need to pass through Ramallah, to first make progress on the Israeli-Palestinian issue. The period of time that has elapsed since the agreements were signed is insufficient for obtaining an appropriate perspective to answer this question. However, recent events show that the Israeli-Palestinian issue is not going anywhere.

The four Abraham accords countries—the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan—do not have a deep commitment to the Palestinian issue. Their top interest in signing the agreements was primarily related to their relationship with the United States and the incentives they received from the Trump administration, such as American recognition of Moroccan sovereignty over the disputed Western Sahara and Sudan's removal from the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism.

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