



Fresh Start & Old Problems: How US Policy Toward Iran and Afghanistan Could Influence Israel

by [Ekaterina Blinova](#) / 28.08.2021 (updated 11:59 GMT 29.08.2021)

The new Bennett government is going to refurbish US-Israeli relations, but will be unlikely to instantly reach common ground on its Iranian and Palestinian dilemmas, Israeli observers say. The US has decreased its presence in the Middle East, and Afghanistan is claimed by the Jewish state to be fraught with certain risks, Tel Aviv warns.

[...]

"The new approach is mainly focused on the understanding that Israel has to return to the traditional political approach about the bilateral support from the American administration," says Dr **Kobi Michael**, a senior research fellow at the **Institute for National Security Studies at Tel Aviv University**.

[...]

Washington's hasty pull-out from the Central Asia state and the Taliban* takeover may also embolden various jihadi groups, warns **Michael**: "I would say that the problem is the idea of inspiration, inspiration and encouraging of all the radical fundamentalist Salafist jihadist actors here in the region," he says. "And unfortunately, there are many."

He draws attention to the fact that " Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad leaders were the first to congratulate the Taliban leaders about their achievements." **Michael** does not rule out that Islamists will now step up attacks against Tel Aviv.

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