



### **Three years on, how have the Abraham Accords helped the UAE?**

*While trade, travel have increased between the two, questions remain about the issue of Palestine.*

By Giorgio Cafiero / Published On 17 Sep 2023 17 Sep 2023

Three years ago, the United States mediated an agreement between the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Israel, promising to normalise ties between these Arab Gulf states and Israel.

[...]

**Ilan Zelayat**, a Tel Aviv-based defence and political risk analyst, also assesses that Abu Dhabi does not regret normalisation thanks to the billions in bilateral trade, the boost to its tourism sector, and the strategic air defence systems it received because of the accords.

“The UAE knew what they were getting into, fully aware in 2020 that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict wasn’t going anywhere, but they did assume that a certain status quo would be maintained,” Zelayat said.

“However, the talk of ministers from the far-right-wing Israeli government ... about the ‘erasure’ of a Palestinian town or on ... massive building in the West Bank, along with the visit of ministers to Jerusalem’s Al-Aqsa compound, this is something Abu Dhabi cannot overlook,” he said, adding that Abu Dhabi’s “honeymoon” phase with Israel is effectively over, Zelayat feels.

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