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Neither Harris nor Trump would upend US Israel policy, but there are key differences

A Republican victory would mean less tension on humanitarian issues and more pressure on Iran, but the current veep would have an easier time brokering a Saudi deal

By Lazar Berman / 6 November 2024

Tens of millions of Americans voted Tuesday to determine whether the next US president will be Kamala Harris or Donald Trump.

The result of the contest will have far-reaching implications for the future of the United States. But it is also being closely watched around the world, as US policy reverberates far beyond its own borders.

[...]

"What I would expect is a more direct expectation for a two-state solution, at least a lip service towards a two-state solution," said **Avishay Ben Sasson-Gordis of the Institute for National Security Studies** in Tel Aviv. "If you think about her team and the people she's appointing, these are people who have in the past been critical of both Palestinian but also Israeli reticence to move towards a political solution."

[...]

Still, some points of friction that would likely exist with Harris would be unlikely to be issues with Trump.

"He's not concerned about humanitarian issues or how Israel uses power in a measured way," said Ben Sasson-Gordis. "He's not a firm believer in international humanitarian law or committed to the laws of war."

[...]

"That leaves them with ratcheting sanctions, which I think one should expect operating against Iranian influence in the region," said Ben Sasson-Gordis.

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