

Trump's triumph is a blow for Israel's biggest enemy

Dean Shmuel Elmas / 6 Nov, 2024

Iran will be fearful for the fate of its nuclear program, bearing in mind Trump's previous decision to walk away from the nuclear agreement in 2018 and renew sanctions.

Donald Trump will be the next US president, becoming only the second American in history after Grover Cleveland (1885-1889 and 1893-1897) to serve two non-consecutive terms. But unlike Cleveland, Trump's election will have a major impact on the Middle East, and not just Israel.

[...]

"Saudi Arabia and the UAE do not necessarily prefer either Trump or Harris, they prefer stability and continuity," says **Dr. Yoel Guzansky, head of the Gulf Program at Tel Aviv University's Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)**. "It's hard for them when a new president comes along and completely changes the policy." In Trump's first administration, there were many developments on the Saudi front. The seeds of normalization with Israel were planted, but on the negative side, Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi was murdered in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in 2018.

"Trump was comfortable because he didn't meddle with domestic policy, and even defended the Saudis in the Khashoggi case before Congress. On the other hand, Biden started the term in a bad way and leaked the Khashoggi report to the CIA," notes Dr. [Guzansky](#).

He believes that "with Trump, there will be some continuity. He will not criticize them on internal issues and will give them freedom. He will be harsh in his rhetoric against Iran, a topic they like and will want to complete normalization between Israel and Saudi Arabia."

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