

Military aid, but at what price?

Op-ed: Maj. Gen. (res.) Amos Yadlin analyzes the fundamental disparities between the US and Israel that are holding up negotiations on the aid deal.

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A recent letter signed by [83 US senators](#) willing to support a long-term agreement that would greatly [increase the military aid](#) Israel receives is an important development, as it is a bipartisan initiative that reflects the Senate's broad support of Israel. And yet, the letter also brought to the fore the disparities between the two nations. To understand this issue, it is important to note that these differences aren't focused on numbers and accounting, but rather on strategic opinions regarding threats from the Middle East, on worldviews and on the appraisals and stances of both countries. The eight main differences between them are listed below.

1. A difference in strategic opinions: According to Israel, the agreement with Iran endangers its security, and therefore the US, which had been the driving force behind the agreement, should help Israel with the resulting threats. The Obama administration, on the other hand, sees the agreement with Iran as a strategic accomplishment that will decrease the nuclear threat to Israel.

2. A difference in ideology: The current US administration sees the peace process as the best support it could give to Israel's security, while Israel foresees considerable security risks that will arise as a direct result of a future peace agreement (as Oslo and Gaza loom in the background). The Israeli government also has its doubts regarding the values and interests that comprised the bedrock for the generous assistance Israel had received from the US in previous years.

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