

The Impact of the Religious Dimension on President Trump's Attempts to Resolve the Palestinian Issue

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This study aimed to examine the principal religious ideas and beliefs that influenced President Trump's attempt to impose a particular settlement on the Palestinian issue through the "Deal of the Century," with its two main pillars: Arab-Israeli normalization and the "Peace to Prosperity" plan of 2020, followed by the 2025 attempt to displace the people of Gaza and assume control over the Gaza Strip. The study also sought to highlight the actual extent of Zionism's influence on President Trump's policies and decisions regarding the settlement of the Palestinian issue.

The study employed the descriptive approach to present the Zionist American currents that influence U.S. policy toward the Palestinian issue. It also adopted the behavioral approach in order to conduct a political analysis of Zionist ideas and principles and to assess the extent of their influence on Trump's decisions and conduct concerning the settlement of the Palestinian issue.

The study concluded that Zionist religious currents played a major role in the foundations of President Trump's proposed settlement of the Palestinian issue. It further found that Zionist beliefs and principles regarding the land of Palestine played a central role in President Trump's decisions and practices concerning the settlement of the Palestinian issue, on the basis of advancing Zionist principles centered on Greater Israel, accelerating end times events, the return of the Messiah, and the destruction of all those who oppose Zionism and its principles, which are entirely linked to the interests of "Israel" alone.

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The study recommended the need for a firm Arab and Islamic rejection of the pillars of the Deal of the Century, together with greater attention by Arab and Islamic organizations to adopting appropriate means and mechanisms for raising global awareness of Zionist beliefs that are hostile to international peace and security, particularly within the United States. In addition, it

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recommended the establishment of an Islamic lobby within the United States to confront the power of American Zionist current

Keywords- employed, recommended, establishment, concerning

1.1 Introduction:

Republican candidate Donald Trump won the presidency of the United States for two non-consecutive terms, 2017–2021 and 2025–2028, with the support of the Republican Party, which is regarded as the political incubator of a close alliance with right wing religious currents espousing Zionist thought and advocating absolute support for the Israeli occupation state.

Zionist ideas and principles were clearly reflected in President Trump's decisions toward the Palestinian side and in his attempts to settle the Palestinian issue during the period 2017–2021. These ideas were further reinforced by the political elite surrounding President Trump, including his first vice president, Mike Pence, a Christian Zionist who supports unconditional backing for Israel and its demands, as well as Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who adheres to Christian Zionism in support of "Israel." Trump also surrounded himself with a number of Jewish Zionist figures, such as his son in law Jared Kushner, whom he assigned the task of resolving the Palestinian issue, and the extremist Jew David Friedman, the U.S. ambassador to Israel. Under this U.S. administration, which was supportive of Israel, President Trump issued decisions contrary to Palestinian interests and sought to impose the Deal of the Century in 2020, with its pillars for settling the Palestinian issue, which disregarded Palestinian rights and supported the implementation of all Israeli demands.

Trump's policies and decisions, consistent with Zionist thought in support of Israel, also continued from the beginning of his second presidency in 2025. During this second term, he relied on an administration and advisers who openly demonstrated their unconditional support for Israel and their endorsement of the realization of all Zionist beliefs and principles. These figures included Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, who declared that anyone who loves America must

love Israel; the Zionist pastor Mike Huckabee, appointed as Washington's ambassador to Israel; and Marco Rubio, U.S. Secretary of State, who is considered among those most closely connected to Zionist organizations. Within the context of this administration, with its strongly pro-Israel orientations, President Trump did not refrain from calling for the displacement of the people of Gaza amid the Israeli genocide in the Gaza Strip (2023–2025), rather than exerting pressure to stop that genocide.

1.2 Research Problem:

A complete congruence between Zionist beliefs and principles and President Trump's decisions and policies toward the Palestinian issue became evident during his first presidential term (2017–2021). This began with his recognition of Jerusalem as the unified capital of the Israeli occupation state, followed by the relocation of the U.S. embassy there to reaffirm that recognition. It also included his encouragement of the continuation of Israeli settlement activities in the West Bank and the imposition of Israeli sovereignty over it. Moreover, he called for abandoning the two-state solution in pursuit of implementing what he claimed to be the Deal of the Century, which was based first on Arab–Israeli normalization and then on the "Peace to Prosperity" plan, a plan that disregarded all Palestinian demands and rights affirmed by international legitimacy and United Nations resolutions. While President Trump's policies and practices aimed at imposing an unjust settlement on the Palestinians were becoming increasingly apparent, some Arab states were concluding Abraham Accords in various fields security, military, cyber, economic, and other forms of agreement indicative of normalization with the Israeli occupation. In addition, Arab statements praising President Trump were also made, including that of Abdulrahman Al Sudais, Imam of the Two Holy Mosques in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, who stated that President Trump

was leading the world toward peace, stability, security, and prosperity, and prayed that God would guide his steps and bless his efforts (Faour, 2018, p. 125). This suggests a marginalization of the Palestinian issue and a deprivation of its Arab and Islamic depth.

Although the Deal of the Century was hindered after the end of Trump's first term in January 2021, he returned in his second term beginning in January 2025 to reaffirm his complete alignment with the Israeli side when he openly and explicitly called for the displacement of the people of Gaza in the midst of the Israeli genocidal campaign against the Gaza Strip (2023–2025). This opened the door wide for extremist Israeli figures to reaffirm Trump's call for the displacement of the people of Gaza, as well as to accelerate the annexation of the West Bank to Israeli territory and the expansion of settlements. A number of members of Trump's second administration also demonstrated their complete loyalty to Zionism and linked Washington's policies toward the Palestinian issue to Israel's priorities.

These political practices and behaviors on the part of President Trump gave rise to the following main research question:

What is the impact of the religious dimension on President Trump's attempts regarding the settlement of the Palestinian issue?

This main question led to the following sub questions:

1. What are the religious currents that support President Trump?
2. What political decisions and pillars did President Trump adopt in order to impose a settlement on the Palestinian issue?
3. What was the impact of the religious currents supporting President Trump on his attempts for a specific settlement for the Palestinian issue?

1.3 Objectives of the Study:

1. To identify the religious currents that support President Trump.

2. To examine the political decisions and pillars adopted by President Trump in an effort to impose a settlement on the Palestinian issue.

3. To reveal the impact of the religious currents supporting President Trump on his attempts to settle the Palestinian issue.

1.4 Significance of the Study:

1. The study makes a scholarly contribution by demonstrating the extent to which the decisions of the U.S. president are influenced by the religious dimension that dominates the party supporting and endorsing him.
2. The practical significance of the study lies in providing an accurate perspective on the extent of the religious dimension's influence on President Trump's policies and decisions, during both of his presidential terms, regarding the settlement of the Palestinian issue.

1.5 Study Methodology:

1.5.1 The study adopted the behavioral approach to conduct a political analysis of the ideas and principles underlying the religious dimension supportive of President Trump, and to assess the extent of their influence on his decisions and behavior regarding the settlement of the Palestinian issue.

Key words: Principles of Zionism – Pillars of the Deal of the Century

1.5.2 The study was also based on realist theory, which centers on power and interest and the extent to which both were activated in President Trump's attempts to settle the Palestinian issue.

2. Presentation of the Religious Currents Supporting President Trump

Despite the fact that the U.S. Constitution affirms the separation of religion and state and guarantees freedom of religion, and it does not regard religious affiliation as a condition for any official or unofficial position. However, actual practice demonstrates the intertwining of religion with American political affairs and with the decisions of successive governments, beginning with the phrase "In God We Trust" printed on the U.S. dollar, as well as the oath

taken on the Bible by the elected U.S. president, in addition to other decisions and practices that highlight the importance of the religious dimension in U.S. foreign and internal policies.

The United States of America is considered a country with a Protestant majority, particularly of an Anglican orientation, into whose creed Jewish Zionist literature has seeped. As a result, renewed importance and status were accorded to the Holy Bible, particularly the Old Testament (the Torah). This gave rise to a convergence between Protestant ideas and Zionist thought, which linked the Jews to Palestine and regarded them as God's chosen people. Accordingly, Protestants came to believe in the necessity of establishing a Zionist state in order to fulfil the divine will through the Second Coming of Christ (Ka'sis, 2017, p. 3).

Protestantism also embraces the doctrines of total destruction and the blessed millennium, which are based, first, on the presence of Jews in Palestine so that they may rebuild Solomon's Temple on the site where Al Aqsa Mosque currently stands. From there, Christ will return to rule the world for a period estimated at one thousand years. It further holds that the Battle of Armageddon will take place between Christians and the unbelievers by which they mean Muslims, Confucians, "China," and the states of the former Soviet Union. Protestants also believe that, according to their vision, annihilation will befall the unbelievers while one third of the Jews will remain. In the midst of the war, Christians will rise bodily to heaven, then return to earth in procession with Christ, while the Jews will constitute Christ's inner circle when he becomes ruler during the blessed millennium (Book of Revelation: 16, 19, 20). It is worth noting that 63% of Protestant voters supported Trump in the 2024 presidential election (Future for Advanced Research and Studies, 2024).

2.1 Religious Currents Supporting President Trump and Embracing the Ideas of Christian Zionism

A positive correlation has been observed between the degree of religious commitment among

American voters and their support for the Republican Party. Indeed, 94% of Republicans voted for President Trump, united around specific issues such as opposition to abortion, opposition to homosexuality, and opposition to same sex marriage. Nevertheless, their central theological and political principle remains support for and endorsement of Israel (Desouki, 2025, p. 649).

The Republican Party included right wing and conservative American religious currents, all of which aligned with the principles of Jewish Zionism, all ultimately serving the interests of the Israeli occupation state. The following is a presentation of the most important of these currents (Sizer, 2016, pp. 187–225):

a) The Christian Zionist Current

This current represents a right wing religious trend. Its followers believe that whoever abandons "Israel" will lose divine favour. They also play an important role in shaping U.S. decisions supportive of Israel because of their alliance with circles within the Republican Party. Their beliefs combine crusading and Zionism, and their religious convictions are based on Talmudic principles and ideas outlined in the Jewish Encyclopedia (Nassar, 2017, pp. 11–12), including the following:

1. The Jews are God's chosen people, according to the Book of Genesis.
2. The Jews are linked to the Holy Land in Palestine, as stated in the Book of Genesis.
3. The doctrine of Christ's return: They believe that Christian salvation will be achieved through the Second Coming of Christ ("Jesus") after the gathering of the Jews in Palestine. Jerusalem occupies a central place in this belief, as it is considered the site that will witness the end of time, where the prophecy of the Battle of Armageddon will begin to be fulfilled. This battle will end in a thousand-year period of peace, but it will be preceded by seven years of tribulation caused by natural disasters, diseases, and wars. They also believe that Israel will remain قائم during the years of tribulation and that Solomon's Temple will be rebuilt during that period.

4. They believe that they can accelerate Christ's Second Coming by hastening events and preparing the world for his return, which in their view is conditional upon the realization of "Greater Israel." This would encompass all of Palestine, Lebanon, and Jordan, while also controlling more than 70% of Syria, half of Iraq, one third of the territory of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, part of Kuwait, and one quarter of Egypt's territory (Al Shaheen, Al Wuhaili, Salim, & Jamil, 2025, p. 7), and gathering the Jews of the world into what would represent the state of "Greater Israel."

In other words, Christian Zionism adopts Zionist beliefs that make the future of humanity dependent on a global Jewish government headed by the one they call Jesus the Saviour. They also seek to accelerate events and realize Zionist beliefs, as well as to spread chaos in order to reach a historic war the Battle of Armageddon that will rid them of all those who do not believe in their Zionist doctrines, namely the "unbelievers." They regard the Middle East as the principal arena for these events that, in their view, will qualify them to rule the world.

b) Evangelical Christians (Spector, 2009)

This is a Protestant sect that believes in a "pure" Christianity whose theological foundations are derived from Judaism and the Old Testament. They feel remorse over the historical hostility between themselves and the Jews, and they believe that God is pleased with those who please and bless Israel, whereas He curses those who harm it or seek to injure it. They even regard the divine criterion for judging nations as being based on how they treat the Jews.

Surveys have shown that 81% of evangelical voters, supporters of the nationalist Republican Party, voted for President Trump in 2017 (Zhou, 2023). Their support for him also continued during the second presidency. Indeed, many of them believe that God chose Trump to accelerate the beginning of the new covenant that will lead to the end times, during which Jesus will return to earth and all humanity will be judged. They went even further by describing him as the King

of Israel, God's hammer, and the voice of God (Desouki, 2025, p. 607).

c) The Neoconservative Current

The neoconservative current is considered one of the most important religiously influenced trends affecting U.S. foreign policy. It adopted the beliefs of Christian Zionism and the Christian Right, and it endowed U.S. global dominance with a Christian religious character as a prelude to the Second Coming of Christ following the establishment of a state for the Jews (Ali, 2025, p. 54). Among its most prominent demands is the reshaping of the Middle East, even if that requires the use of force. It also encourages preventive wars in order to achieve the desired goals and interests, and it believes that important truths are the monopoly of the ruling elite (Owaid, 2024, p. 400).

It is worth noting that a large number of Jews joined the neoconservative current, which led them to exaggerate the importance of "Israel" for the realization of U.S. geostrategic interests. This enabled them to play an influential role in reshaping the Middle East in Israel's favor (Zhou, 2023).

90% of the conservative movement voted for Trump in the 2024 election (Future for Advanced Research and Studies, 2024).

d) American Zionist Lobbies (Bard, 2026)

The Zionist lobby is defined as a loose but organized alliance comprising a number of individuals, organizations, institutions, currents, and Jewish associations, as well as currents that believe in Zionist ideas and principles centered on serving Israel's interests. It is evident that this lobby includes both Jewish and non-Jewish groups. It also encompasses non-Jewish religious currents that nonetheless believe in Zionist ideas, including Christian Zionism and Christians United for Israel, and it includes members of the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as thinkers, writers, specialized research centers, and media outlets. The following is a presentation of the most important organizations and institutions that support Zionist thought and back Israel (Mohammed, 2024, p. 4):

- AIPAC: one of the largest American Zionist lobbies, which exerts direct pressure on the U.S. Congress and has long supported pro-Israel candidates by providing them with financial and material backing, demonstrating its influence within Congress (Bard, 2026).
- The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, which is responsible for maintaining communication between the Jewish community and the U.S. executive authority.
- Christians United for Israel, the American lobby loyal to the Israeli entity.

Krieg and Maher (2024) noted that Trump, during his 2024 second presidency election campaign, sought to attract Jewish voters. He reminded them of his achievements during his first term, beginning with granting them the Golan Heights, the Abraham Accords, his recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, the transfer of the U.S. embassy there, and the billions of dollars he had given them. He described himself as Israel's best friend, thereby leaving them no excuse not to elect him and even placing some blame on them if he were to lose that presidential election. Indeed, the role of Jewish money in influencing the outcomes of both the presidential and congressional elections became apparent when President Trump praised the role of Miriam Adelson, the Israeli American citizen, who financed Trump's first and second election campaigns with more than 60 million dollars (Al Jazeera, 2025). This demonstrates the extent of Zionist currents' intervention and influence in U.S. elections in order to facilitate the victory of their preferred candidate and ensure the implementation of their Zionist demands, all in pursuit of Israel's interests.

e) The MAGA Current

The MAGA current is regarded as an umbrella for evangelical Christians, traditional conservatives, and economic nationalists. It is composed of diverse, overlapping, and multi-layered segments, yet all of them rally around Trump as a central figure. They regard him as the savior leader, and as the divine instrument that

protects the nation from moral decay. They also agree on absolute and unconditional alignment with Israel. Moreover, they consolidated their presence and influence within the Republican Party through the inclusion of political and intellectual figures and circles of capital in order to ensure the effectiveness of this new right wing current's influence within the Republican camp (Advisory Centre for Studies and Documentation, 2025).

Based on the foregoing, it becomes clear that the religious currents supporting President Trump believe in Zionist doctrines and ideas associated with Israeli interests. This has led them to regard support for Israel and alliance with it as a religious duty and Israel's legitimate right. It may also be argued that these Christian Zionist principles disregard values and ethics when attempting to impose such beliefs in reality. This helps explain why their followers show little concern for the Israeli genocide to which the Palestinian people were subjected during 2023–2025 in pursuit of Zionist beliefs. Nor do they show concern for the Palestinian people and their legitimate rights over the course of decades; rather, they call for their displacement to other Arab countries on the basis that they are Arabs.

The Republican candidate Trump was able to win the presidency for the period 2017–2021, while the Republican Party also took control of the Senate, despite losing seats in the House of Representatives. Even so, it managed to dominate Congress (Roush, 2017, p. 23). He then won the 2024 election through the Electoral College and also prevailed at the national level in the popular vote, thereby giving Republicans the opportunity to control both the Senate and the House of Representatives, in addition to their control of the Supreme Court owing to conservative dominance over it. Trump boasted of this by saying that America had granted us an unprecedented mandate (Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, 2024, pp. 4, 8).

3. Pillars of President Trump's Settlement of the Palestinian Issue

President Trump's settlement of the Palestinian issue emerged within the context of a broad electoral base imbued with Zionist thought. He framed this settlement as the Deal of the Century, which rested on two pillars:

3.1 Israeli Normalization Agreements with Certain Arab States:

President Trump contributed to facilitating Israeli normalization with certain Arab states through the Abraham Accords, beginning in 2020. He was confident that he would be able to maintain the momentum of Arab normalization with Israel. The process began with the United Arab Emirates on 15 September 2020, through a series of agreements covering a number of fields. It was followed by Bahrain in October 2020, then normalization with Sudan on 23 October 2020, and subsequently Morocco on 10 December 2020. There is no doubt that the Arab states that entered into normalization had their own particular objectives; however, all of them abandoned the principle of "land for peace," which had been endorsed by the League of Arab States and the Arab Peace Initiative, and instead adopted Trump's principle of "peace for peace," a shift that harms Palestinian rights and undermines the two state solution (Daloull, 2025, p. 2095).

3.2 The "Peace to Prosperity" Plan, 2020:

President Trump sought to impose the "Peace to Prosperity" plan in 2020 as a framework for settling the Palestinian issue. The following are its most important provisions concerning the unresolved issues between the Israeli and Palestinian sides resulting from the Israeli occupation (The White House, 2020, pp. 4–41):

A. Jewishness of the State:

The "Peace to Prosperity" plan adopted the principle that the Palestinians must recognize "Israel" as a fully sovereign Jewish state and accept arrangements that would grant Israel its vital security needs. President Trump also believed that this would be beneficial to Egypt and Jordan.

B. Jerusalem:

The Deal of the Century stipulated that unified Jerusalem would be the eternal capital of "Israel." It also assigned "Israel" responsibility for the holy sites therein, including Al Aqsa Mosque. As for future Palestine, its capital would consist of Palestinian neighborhoods Kafr 'Aqab, Abu Dis, and the eastern part of Shu'fat and they could call it Jerusalem or give it another name (The White House, 2020, p. 17).

B. The Two State Solution:

The Deal of the Century disregarded the two state solution endorsed by international law and United Nations resolutions, and instead approved another arrangement that it described as realistic, though it ignored Palestinian rights and demands. The plan drew a map of what was described as a Palestinian state; however, in practical terms, according to the framework of the deal, this amounted to a limited sovereignty, demilitarized Palestinian entity, fragmented into several separate areas and surrounded on all sides by Israeli power. In addition, it granted "Israel" control over the airspace of the future Palestinian state, as described by President Trump, while assigning Israel overriding security responsibility.

C. Settlements:

The provisions of the Deal of the Century granted legitimacy to the existing settlements and even allowed Israel to annex 30% of the West Bank and the Jordan Valley, as well as to establish new settlements. It also considered the settlements within Palestinian territory to be under Israeli sovereignty. In return, Israel would relinquish two separate enclaves in the Negev to the Palestinians as an expansion of future Palestine. At the same time, "Israel" would retain overriding security responsibility for all Palestinian territory (The White House, 2020, pp. 12–13), in addition to Trump's recognition of "Israel's" sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

D. The Right of Return and the Status of Palestinian Refugees:

The provisions of the Deal of the Century stated that Palestinian refugees could choose either to settle in their host countries, to move to another country, or to live in the fragmented entity

referred to as future Palestine. However, within the same deal, a condition was imposed that Palestinian entry into Palestine should not exceed a level deemed to pose security threats to “Israel.”

E. Delineating the Borders of “Israel” and Future Palestine:

The plan delineated the borders of future Palestine and those of “Israel” in the Deal of the

Century according to a designated map (Figure 1), in which future Palestine appears as a set of fragmented and separate areas whose total size is said to be approximately equivalent to the area of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, according to President Trump (The White House, 2020, p. 41).



Figure 1. Map of Occupied Israel and an Independent Palestine under Trump's Proposed Settlement

The Deal of the Century failed, the “Peace to Prosperity” plan faltered, and the process of Arab normalization was disrupted following Trump’s loss of a consecutive second presidential term. The failure of the deal deepened further after Operation Al Aqsa Flood, launched by Palestinian resistance movements in Gaza on 7 October 2023 in protest against the Deal of the Century, which had sought to liquidate the Palestinian cause without imposing any obligations on the occupying state of “Israel.”, Not to mention Israel’s military operation, in which it committed genocide against the Gaza Strip “2023-2025”, which prevented the realistic implementation of the terms of what they claimed was the “Peace to Prosperity Plan”.

Trump returned to the U.S. presidency in 2025 and began his term in January 2025 by revoking the decision issued by his predecessor, Biden, banning the export of an arms shipment to Israel. That ban had been intended to prevent Israel from receiving a shipment of weapons that included 2,000 pound bombs, among them 1,800 MK 84 bombs, because of its invasion of Rafah Governorate in the Gaza Strip in 2024 (Darraj & Khojabashi, 2025, pp. 39–40), along with other financial and military assistance to the Israeli side. President Trump also called for the displacement of the people of the Gaza Strip, but later retreated after both Egypt and Jordan refused to receive displaced Gazans. He then approved a “peace plan” that led to the cessation of the genocide, but under conditions unjust to the people of

Gaza. He also appointed himself head of the Peace Council responsible for managing Gaza's affairs, although a transitional Palestinian technocratic committee remained responsible for Gaza's civil and service related matters (U.S. Department of State, 2025). The plan, however, did not address the core unresolved issues of the Palestinian question.

As for the peace plan imposed by President Trump in 2025, the twenty clauses he drafted to secure a ceasefire in Gaza during the period of Israeli genocide in Gaza addressed only the conditions of a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, without addressing the West Bank, its holy sites, or the outstanding issues between Palestinians and Israelis.

4. The Impact of the Religious Dimension on President Trump's Settlement of the Palestinian Issue, 2020

President Trump surrounded himself with extremist right wing Christian figures who held Zionist beliefs. His advisers and administration during his first presidential term played an influential role in attempts to impose the pillars of the Deal of the Century as a framework for settling the Palestinian issue, beginning with his vice president, Mike Pence, a staunch supporter of Israel, who declared that evangelicals support Israel in order to obtain God's blessing. This implies that divine blessing and approval are conditioned upon the blessing and approval of the Jewish people, an understanding that reinforces the idea that the Jews are God's chosen people.

President Trump also appointed three conservative justices to the Supreme Court in order to ensure the protection of Christian principles and to demonstrate to all that the White House and the evangelicals are one family (Zhou, 2023). He then issued an executive order establishing the Faith Office as a replacement for the White House Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives (The White House, 2025). During his second term, he issued a document calling for the combatting of anti-Semitism (Faith Office, 2025), thereby creating a climate

conducive to serving Zionist ideas embraced by American Zionist, evangelical, and conservative currents. President Trump then began formulating decisions and plans aimed at settling the Palestinian issue. The following section illustrates the extent to which the Deal of the Century and its pillars were compatible with Zionism.

4.1 Arab-Israeli Normalization

President Trump led the process of Israeli normalization with Arab states namely the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco through the Abraham Accords of 2020, which moved beyond a cold peace to the conclusion of multiple agreements with the occupying state of "Israel" in various economic, military, and cultural fields (Daloull, 2025, p. 2095). It may therefore be argued that the Arab normalization agreements with Israel were intended to grant "Israel" Arab legitimacy for its occupation of the land of Palestine. They also prepared the ground for recognition of the Jewish character of the occupying state of "Israel," in addition to marginalizing the Palestinian issue amid the ambitions of the normalizing Arab states to acquire advanced Israeli technology in various fields. Moreover, these agreements contributed to the spread of the idea of rejecting Palestinian resistance within the framework of Arab-Israeli alliances, thereby weakening and isolating the Palestinian front. At the same time, they enabled the Israeli occupation state to implement its Zionist schemes, especially those aimed at achieving regional hegemony that would facilitate the realization of Greater Israel.

4.2 The "Peace to Prosperity" Plan

The compatibility between this plan and Zionist beliefs is evident in the following:

President Trump described Islamic resistance movements in Palestine and Lebanon as terrorist movements, and the drafting of his speech has been attributed to Stephen Miller, the conservative right-wing figure known for his hostility toward Muslims (Al Zaytouna Centre for Studies and Consultations, 2022, p. 43). This

hostility became evident in the provisions of the Peace to Prosperity plan:

A. The Necessity of Recognizing the Jewish Character of the State:

The peace plan begins with the requirement of recognizing the Jewish character of "Israel," thereby fulfilling the Zionist principle that links the Jews to the Holy Land and grants Israel a religious status connected to Palestine, in realization of what is stated in Zechariah 2:12: *"And the Lord shall inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land, and shall choose Jerusalem again."*

B. Recognition of Jerusalem as the Unified Capital of Israel:

President Trump declared his recognition of Jerusalem as the unified and eternal capital of "Israel," and then implemented the 1995 decision to relocate the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem a step that no previous president had dared to carry out. Surveys indicated that 77% of evangelical Republicans approved of his recognition of Jerusalem as the unified and eternal capital of Israel, as well as of the relocation of the U.S. embassy there. Moreover, 98% of them supported him and opposed calls for his impeachment and trial despite the domestic crises he faced during his first term (2017–2021) (Bouke'bash, 2020, pp. 201, 206). They regarded President Trump's decisions and bold practices as accelerating the fulfilment of biblical religious prophecies, the return of Christ, and the occurrence of the final battle of history, Armageddon.

C. Encouragement of Settlement Expansion:

President Trump encouraged Israeli settlement activity and supported its continuation during his first presidential campaign. He then appeared to retreat after assuming office, declaring on 2 February 2017 that the construction of new settlements was not helpful to the peace process. However, in 2019, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, under the Trump administration, stated that Israeli settlements were not inconsistent with international legitimacy, thereby departing from the position of the U.S. State Department since

1978, which had considered the settlements in the 1967 territories illegal (Al Zaytouna Centre for Studies and Consultations, 2022, pp. 9–11).

His position became even clearer on 21 March 2019, when he recognized Israeli annexation of the Golan Heights (Al Zaytouna Centre for Studies and Consultations, 2019, p. 2). His pro settlement stance was further reinforced in the "Peace to Prosperity" plan, in which he expressed readiness to recognize Israeli sovereignty over the Jordan Valley areas and the settlements in the West Bank (The White House, 2020).

Encouragement for the continuation of Israeli settlement expansion intensified further during President Trump's second term, when the U.S. Embassy in Israel announced, in a post on X, that it would provide passport services in a settlement in the West Bank Efrat settlement beginning on 27 February 2026. It also added that it was seeking to provide similar services in settlements in Ramallah and Haifa (Platform X, 2026).

In addition, Mike Huckabee, the U.S. ambassador to Israel in 2026, stated in an interview with Tucker Carlson his Zionist ideas rooted in the Book of Genesis, and publicly expressed views defending Israel's right to seize Arab lands located between the Euphrates and the Nile in pursuit of "Greater Israel," in accordance with biblical prophecy (Al Zaytouna Centre for Studies and Consultations, 2026, p. 20). This reflects President Trump's and his administration's encouragement of territorial expansion, extension, and settlement at the expense of neighboring Arab states.

D. Depriving the Palestinians of the Right to Self Determination:

It became clear that President Trump's plan deprived the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination, as its provisions were drafted by him together with his administration and advisers without reference to the Palestinians, the very of the cause. Moreover, its provisions were designed solely to satisfy Zionist beliefs.

E. Depriving Palestinians of the Right of Return and Attempting to Eliminate International Responsibility toward the

Palestinian

The Deal of the Century deprived the Palestinian refugee of the right to return to Palestine except to a very limited extent, in order to preserve Israeli security. It further asserted that Palestinians could choose either a country of asylum or integration into the host state, subject to that state's approval, which clearly indicates that it denied them the right of return. In the same vein, it sought to terminate international and UN responsibility toward the Palestinian refugee through attempts to end the work of UNRWA by reducing U.S. assistance directed to it. President Trump boasted before Jewish leaders that he had halted the support the United States had been providing to the Palestinians, and told them that he had informed the Palestinians that he would not pay them unless they agreed to the "Peace to Prosperity" deal (Al Zaytouna Centre, 2022, p. 35). He also drew a parallel between the Palestinian refugee and the Jewish refugee from Arab countries, and the latter's right to compensation for lost property, thereby seeking to end UNRWA's role and dispose of the Palestinian refugee issue altogether.

Refugee:

their status as places of pilgrimage for followers of the Abrahamic faiths. It also notes that existing buildings in the West Bank should not be demolished without legal or punitive reasons (The White House, 2020: 38). Given the importance of economic resources, it can be argued that the Al-Aqsa Mosque, by linking its economic significance to the aforementioned clause, will not be demolished due to its economic importance as a religious site for Muslims, Zionists (both Jews and Christians). Its economic importance can be further demonstrated by comparing the significance of the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem with that of the Grand Mosque in Mecca and the Prophet's Mosque in Medina, Saudi Arabia. According to a study by Qanawi (2019: 193), the latter two contributed approximately \$13 billion to Saudi Arabia's national income in 2017 through the performance of Hajj and Umrah pilgrimages by Muslims in the Kingdom. This highlights that the revenue from religious tourism to Jerusalem and the Al-Aqsa Mosque is estimated to be around \$13 billion annually. At the very least, or perhaps even more so, considering that Jerusalem has religious significance for all followers of the Abrahamic religions, the idea of building Solomon's Temple next to the Al-Aqsa Mosque without demolishing it is raised. This is entirely consistent with the idea of the Abrahamic religion, which seeks to unify religions and allows Muslims, Christians, and Jews to perform their worship and prayers, each in their own temple (mosque, church, synagogue), but in one place (the House of the Abrahamic Family).

F. The Construction of Solomon's Temple:

Surveys revealed varying degrees of support for the construction of "Solomon's Temple" on the ruins of Al Aqsa Mosque. 56.91% of respondents expressed some level of approval, distributed as follows: 11.68% partial approval, 16.28% approval, and 28.95% strong approval. Although this percentage indicates support for the idea of constructing the Temple, it reflects a lower level of acceptance and endorsement than that accorded to other Zionist principles. By contrast, the percentage of opposition reached 10.20%, including 2.63% strong opposition, 4.61% opposition, and 2.96% partial opposition. This percentage points to a particular degree of disagreement regarding the issue of building the Temple, especially given that 32.89% expressed neutrality on the matter (Clark, 2007).

The "Peace to Prosperity" plan, on page 38, affirms the sanctity of holy sites in Jerusalem and

Within the framework of such justifications, President Trump assigned "Israel" responsibility for Al Aqsa Mosque in all its components, including its restoration. He also moved toward imposing a spatial and temporal division of Al Aqsa Mosque under the pretext of allowing followers of all religions to pray there during their religious occasions. The Temple movements, together with the government of the occupation state, affirmed that the Islamic Waqf does not administer Al Aqsa as such, but merely administers the Islamic presence within it, while a parallel body would administer the presence of

followers of other religions. This was coupled with enabling Jews to enter on the Sabbath, taking control of one of Al Aqsa's gates Bab al Silsila and seeking a spatial settlement for the southwestern area of Al Aqsa (Al Zaytouna Centre for Studies and Consultations, 2020, pp. 6–10). All of this serves to guarantee Israel's control and hegemony over Jerusalem and its religious, political, and economic resources, together with the construction of the Temple to appease the currents supporting its construction in order to accelerate the coming of the Messiah, in accordance with Zionist principles.

V. President Trump's Decisions Adverse to the Palestinian Side (Al Zayyat, 2022, p. 65):

President Trump attempted to liquidate the Palestinian issue by relieving "Israel" of the outstanding issues with the Palestinians. To that end, he adopted a number of decisions that were unjust to the Palestinians and their rights, including the following:

- The enactment of the Anti-Terrorism Clarification Act (ATCA) of 2018, which permits lawsuits to be filed in U.S. courts against the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Palestinian Authority (Interactive Encyclopedia of the Palestinian Question, 2018).
- The suspension of U.S. aid in 2018 to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).
- The termination of support for hospitals in Jerusalem: in 2018, President Trump halted 25 million dollars that had been allocated to six hospitals providing medical and treatment services to the West Bank and East Jerusalem.
- The closure of the PLO office in Washington and the expulsion of the Palestinian ambassador, Husam Zomlot, in 2018.
- The protection of Israeli interests: the U.S. House of Representatives approved the imposition of sanctions on the International Criminal Court because it had issued arrest warrants for Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant, the former Israeli Minister of Defense (Darraj & Khojabashi, 2025, pp. 39–40).

- The "Peace to Prosperity" plan linked U.S. policy toward Iran and its activities to the security determinants of "Israel" (The White House, 2020, p. 4). This approach helps explain the U.S. pressure imposed on Iran, which Israel regards as its most dangerous enemy. During his first term, President Trump announced the United States' withdrawal from the nuclear agreement with Iran on 8 May 2018, an agreement concluded by his predecessor Obama in 2015. He also described Iran as a state that finances terrorism and declared that he would seek to prevent it from achieving a nuclear breakthrough. He imposed economic sanctions on Iran and on any country that might assist it in acquiring a nuclear weapon, and he froze Iranian financial assets estimated at billions of dollars (Al Sharqawi, 2018, p. 3).

The American hostility toward Islamic Iran is attributed to several causes, among the most important of which is the emergence of Islamic Iran as a regional power in the Middle East competing with "Israel" (Ashwaq, 2025, p. 28). Iran's strength derives from the diversity of its economic sectors, beginning with energy resources oil and gas. It possesses 10% of global oil reserves and ranks fourth worldwide in oil production; it also possesses 10% of global raw gas reserves. In addition, it has diversified economic sectors hydrocarbon, agricultural, manufacturing, banking, and financial services which distinguishes it from members of OPEC, whose economies rely mainly on oil. Moreover, its geopolitical location enables it to control the Strait of Hormuz, which constitutes a vital artery of supply chains between East and West, especially in energy trade. Added to this is Iran's pursuit of nuclear capability and its support for and financing of Islamic armed factions in the Middle East opposed to American and Israeli expansionist policy, as well as Iran's belief that it has both the right and the ability to lead the Islamic world against global tyranny.

Israeli hostility toward Iran also increased because of Iran's support for the Palestinians and its endorsement of a just solution to the Palestinian issue. Iran has consistently condemned repeated Israeli attacks on the Gaza

Strip. This was also reflected in the military intervention of the Lebanese Hezbollah, backed by Iran, in response to Israel's attack on Gaza in 2008–2009, as well as in Iran's provision of logistical support at times, and political and financial support at other times, to the Islamic movements in Palestine namely Islamic Jihad and Hamas (Alawi, 2021). Later, Iran's proxies in the region supported the Palestinian resistance movements in Gaza during the period of Israeli genocide in the Gaza Strip (2023–2025). Undoubtedly, all of these factors combined confirm Iran and its Islamic regime's confrontation with the American and Israeli systems, which in turn intensifies American and Israeli hostility toward it.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth stated in 2025 that Iran threatens the stability of the Middle East and that the United States and its allies must confront it firmly. He also declared that supporting Israel amounted to a revival of the Crusades (Darraj & Khojabashi, 2025, p. 23). He also authored a book entitled *American Crusade*, in which he expressed his orientations, arguing that the powerful U.S. military is the only force that defends Christianity and Israel. According to him, that powerful military is what prevents communist China from dominating the world, and it is also what prevents Islamists from acquiring nuclear weapons through which they seek to erase Israel and the United States from the map of the world. These statements reflect hostility toward Arabs and Muslims, and he further underscored his animosity toward Muslims through a tattoo of the Arabic word "kafir" on his arm.

The strategic American hostility toward Islamic Iran became clear in President Trump's decision to launch a military attack on Iran on 22 June 2025 under the name "Midnight Hammer," in support of Israel after Iran's proxies had backed the Gaza Strip during 2023–2025 by directing military strikes against Israel namely Lebanese Hezbollah, the Houthis in Yemen, and Islamic resistance movements in Iraq. In that attack, Washington used American B 2 bombers, which dropped 14 smart bunker buster bombs of the

GBU 57 type, each weighing 30,000 pounds, and struck three Iranian nuclear facilities Natanz, Fordow, and Isfahan in order to damage the nuclear programme (Abu Arshid, 2025, pp. 4–5). Afterwards, Trump declared that Iran's nuclear capability had been eliminated.

However, only a few months later, on the morning of Saturday, 28 February 2026, he once again announced an American attack, with Israeli participation, against Iran under the pretext of defending the American people from imminent Iranian threats. Meanwhile, Netanyahu, the prime minister of the occupation state, declared that this joint Israeli American operation sought to remove the existential threat to Israel posed by the Iranian regime (Al Jazeera Channel, 2026). What is striking is Trump's shifting justifications and pretexts for the American Israeli attack on Iran: at one point he claimed that the Iranian regime must be removed and that he would personally intervene to nominate an alternative Supreme Leader for Iran; at another, he invoked the American Iranian tensions that had existed since the success of the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979; and at yet another, he cited Iran's potential acquisition of nuclear power, despite Iran's agreement to transfer enriched uranium outside the country and to subject its nuclear programme to strict monitoring. Soon thereafter, on 2 March 2026, Rubio stated, after the strike had been carried out, that the reason was the unilateral Israeli strike on Iran, meaning that a pre-emptive American strike on Iran had become necessary out of fear of an Iranian attack on U.S. interests in the Middle East (Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, 2026, pp. 3–4). That attack resulted in the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader and a number of Iranian political and military leaders.

Within two hours of the American Israeli attack on Iran, the rapid Iranian response began through the use of various types of missiles to strike the territory of the occupied state of Israel, as well as U.S. bases and interests in countries across the Middle East. Iran also struck transport vessels approaching the Strait of Hormuz, which disrupted the movement of commercial goods

from East to West through the strait. The war in the Middle East remained ongoing at the time of writing, particularly after Lebanon entered the war by launching an attack on the occupied Palestinian territories.

What is particularly striking is the timing of the joint American–Israeli attack on Saturday, 28 February, which preceded the Jewish festival of Purim the Feast of Lots celebrated by Jews on 14 March. In Esther 8, the occasion commemorated by that festival is the foiling by Esther, the wife of the Persian king Ahasuerus, of the plot of the Persian minister Haman, who had sought, by order of the king, to annihilate the Jews; yet they were saved through Queen Esther. The Saturday preceding Purim is known as Shabbat Zakhor, during which Jews recite verses and passages in remembrance of deliverance from an existential threat during the ancient Persian Empire.

The American–Israeli attack against Iran also produced geopolitical crises that affected the global oil economy, particularly in light of Iran's control over the Strait of Hormuz, as well as the damage sustained by the Arab Gulf states as a result of the Iranian response to the American Iranian aggression against vital U.S. interests in those countries.

5. The Impact of Right Wing Zionist Currents on Trump's Settlement of the Palestinian Issue

Although President Trump was baptized in a Presbyterian church belonging to a Protestant denomination, he stated in 2020 that he was a non-denominational Christian (Taylor, 2017). Moreover, Froehlich (2020, pp. 10–11) regarded him as ignorant of the Bible, excessively and blatantly dishonest, and as having a record marked by divorce and marital infidelity. Lawsuits were also filed against him involving sexual assault, racism, and failure to fulfil promises.

Similarly, Eller (2020, p. 2) argues that President Trump is among the least religiously observant political figures of the modern era. Yet his supporters liken him to Christ, call him the saviour, and regard him as the voice of God and the hammer of God. In addition, an analysis

issued by the Arab Gulf States Institute (2026) indicated that numerous journalistic investigations had shown that President Trump had a social relationship with the criminal Jeffrey Epstein, who was accused of crimes contrary to morality and faith, and that the U.S. Department of Justice had established the lack of credibility in Trump's accounts of his friendship with Epstein.

Rabbi Elhanan Miller also argued that President Trump exploits religious rhetoric in order to appease the evangelical constituency without possessing genuine faith, and considered his support for Israel to be politically rather than religiously motivated (Sky News Arabia, 2025). Nevertheless, despite all these characteristics of President Trump, which suggest a lack of religiosity, the conservative American religious constituency described him as a divine messenger, sent to accomplish special missions. They also described him as the new Moses and the Cyrus of the age, on the grounds that the Persian king Cyrus was not Jewish, yet was the one who enabled the Jews to return after the Babylonian exile. Likewise, Benjamin Netanyahu praised Trump's role and likewise considered him comparable to Jesus and the saviour (Akram, 2026).

It is also noteworthy that President Trump made more than 280 promises to the American people, and an analysis of 21 major promises concluded that he had fulfilled only one of them namely, the appointment of conservative judges (Froehlich, 2020, p. 32). However, as became evident through the pillars of the Deal of the Century, the plan sought to fulfil all Israeli demands and even aligned itself with Israeli ambitions, thereby highlighting the influence of American Zionist currents on President Trump's settlement of the Palestinian issue.

In conclusion, it became clear that President Trump sought to preserve his broad electoral base, represented by religious currents supportive of "Israel" and calling for the acceleration of events in order to realize Zionist beliefs and principles. This was particularly evident in the pillars of the Deal of the Century, which aligned with the fulfilment of all Israeli demands and

aspirations during his first presidential term. He also aligned himself with Zionist beliefs when he offered multiple justifications for his war against Iran, a war that could lead to global chaos and, according to the Christian Zionist vision, could pave the way for the Battle of Armageddon, the coming of the awaited saviour, and the destruction of the unbelievers namely the Russians, the Chinese, and the Muslims so that they might live through the blessed millennium, according to the Book of Genesis.

It is worth noting that the U.S. Congress, in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, both controlled by the Republican Party, granted President Trump approval to continue U.S. military operations, with Israeli participation, against Iran (Al Jazeera Net, 2026). Based on the above, it can be concluded that American religious movements with Zionist beliefs had a significant influence on President Trump's attempts to resolve the Palestinian issue, which sought to fully align with most Zionist demands without considering the Palestinian side and its legitimate rights.

6. Findings

Based on the foregoing, the study arrived at the following findings:

- A. American religious currents supportive of Israel contributed to Trump's victory in the U.S. presidency for two non-consecutive terms.
- B. The Arab-Israeli normalization agreements also sought to diminish the Arab and Islamic depth of the Palestinian issue.
- C. The provisions of the Deal of the Century were designed to realize Zionist beliefs

and their fundamental principles in Palestine and the Middle East.

D. President Trump utilized American military power, with military participation, in order to achieve the hegemony of "Greater Israel" in the Middle East.

E. The influence of the religious current with Zionist beliefs was evident in Trump's attempts to resolve the Palestinian issue.

7. Recommendations

All revealed religions acknowledge events associated with the end times; however, they do not seek to impose a particular reality in order to accelerate their occurrence. Rather, they uphold values and virtue in their decisions and practices in pursuit of God's approval. On the basis of the study's findings, the following recommendations are proposed:

- A. Arab and Islamic organizations should be urged to take the necessary measures to raise global awareness of the violent nature of Zionist beliefs.
- B. Awareness should be promoted within the United States in order to oppose Zionist beliefs founded on the making of wars and the killing of others.
- C. An Islamic lobby should be established and strengthened within the United States to confront American Zionist currents.
- D. There must be a clear Arab and Islamic rejection of the pillars of the Deal of the Century.
- E. Support should be given to the establishment of international organizations capable of taking punitive measures against all those who seek to implement crusading beliefs.

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