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A careful examination of the Israeli policy paper "A Clean Break: A New Strategy for Securing the Realm" reveals that grand changes often require a well-laid plan. Authored by a group of advisors to Israel, nearly all its members went on to hold influential positions in the U.S. government, media, and academia. Many of the paper's policies, such as toppling Iraq's government, are now being implemented, posing new challenges globally. Others, like Israel's economic reform, have seen little success outside their borders. The ACB policy implementation scorecard highlights successes and failures (see Exhibit 1). This paper aims to provide an overview of the ACB plan's execution, despite some events predating it by many years. While the authors' ascension to power in the U.S. is notable, the plan's success cannot be solely attributed to them. Unfortunately, the ACB policies have mostly harmed U.S. interests. The ACB framework serves as a useful tool for understanding why U.S. interests have faltered in the Middle East and how politics and lobbies often trump statecraft. The paper "A Clean Break" contains six policy recommendations for former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, crafted by a study group including Richard Perle, James Colbert, and Douglas Feith. The ACB's call to abandon failed policies like "land for peace" in favor of a focus on the region's "balance of power" reflects a realpolitik approach heavily reliant on U.S. action and resources (see Exhibit 2). The paper urges increasing U.S. Congressional support, strategic cooperation on missile defense, and harnessing Cold War rhetoric to sway public opinion. The ACB policy initiatives also include eliminating movements toward comprehensive peace in favor of the "Peace for Peace" strategy, stressing a balance of power as the sole test of legitimacy, and nurturing alternatives to Arafat. Establish a joint committee to monitor Palestinian compliance and withhold U.S. aid if they do not comply. Promote human rights to isolate Palestinians from their own communities. Legitimize the historical land claims of Israel and encourage recognition by Arab nations in exchange for peace. Challenge Arab states, labeling them as "police states" without legitimacy, and fortify regional alliances. Work with Turkey and Jordan to insert hostile tribes into Syria. Question Syrian legitimacy and contain their actions, striking select targets. Install a Hashemite monarchy in Iraq and isolate Syria with a friendly regime in Iraq. Engage Syria, Iran, and Iraq in Lebanon, addressing the Lebanese Shiites' ties with Iraq towards Jordan. Implement economic reforms, eliminate social Zionism from the economy, and cut taxes to demonstrate U.S. maturity and self-reliance. Rebuild Zionism by rejuvenating the national ideal and shaping the regional environment to favor Israel. Advocate for pre-emption as the preferred national defense strategy. Key goals include increasing U.S. Congressional support, implementing a "peace for peace" Palestinian strategy, containing destabilizing regional challengers, promoting economic reform, and rejuvenating Zionism. These objectives are achieved through various networks, including policy research think tanks, specialty press, and opinion columns within the Bush Administration. The Distribution and Implementation Network, a group linked to IRMEP 2003, consists of influential members who advocate for Israel's interests in the US. These individuals have successfully pushed policies favorable to Israel through various channels. Key areas of focus include defense policy, joint weapons development, and homeland security. Prominent figures such as Paul Wolfowitz, Richard Perle, Douglas Feith, Elliot Abrams, and David Wurmser are part of this network. They utilize think-tanks like the American Enterprise Institute, JINSA, and Heritage Foundation to shape public opinion and influence policy decisions. Mainstream media outlets, including The Weekly Standard, The New Republic, Commentary, and columnists like David Brooks, Lawrence Kaplan, William Kristol, and Norman Podhoretz, also play a crucial role in disseminating their views. This network has been instrumental in shaping US foreign policy, often prioritizing Israel's interests over those of the United States. Critics argue that this group has hijacked American policy, disregarding constitutional principles and undermining legitimate US interests. Their actions have been characterized as "treasonous" by some, highlighting the deep divide between their lobbying efforts and the true needs of the US. Senator Helms' campaign secretary stated that Senator Helms has a poor record on Israel, with supporters across the country acknowledging this. Following his close call in reelection, Helms announced that he would exempt one-third of US foreign aid to Israel from cuts, citing its strategic importance. He also supported relocating the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and increased appropriations for Israel. A survey shows Congress is compensating Israel by internalizing conflicts and using US resources. The resolution aims to officially endorse Zionist organizations' monitoring groups, such as Campus Watch, which would further enable Israeli operatives to exert influence and deny aid to countries opposing Israel's interests. This move is part of a broader effort to solidify the 1967 borders and legitimize Israeli protection over holy sites in occupied territories. The legislation also seeks to promote a "peace for peace" approach with Palestinians, essentially negating their land claims and reducing their goals to mere survival. Notably, some Congress members have promoted policies that label Jordan as Palestine, implying relocation or ethnic cleansing of Palestinian peoples. This approach has been pushed by pro-Israel agents who discredit the more conventional "land for peace" strategy as unworkable and lacking in security for Israel. Overall, this legislation is seen to serve Israeli interests at the expense of US civil liberties and foreign policy initiatives in the Middle East. The Israeli government has been able to reject land-for-peace initiatives while accelerating settlement activities due to the lack of control over external forces. Additionally, Israel has exploited cracks in the original roadmap for peace by proposing amendments and delays, which have been tolerated by the US President. Furthermore, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and his network have worked to discredit the architects of the roadmap, particularly European nations. This effort has been boosted by the US's failure to gain support from traditional allies and the UN after the invasion of Iraq, allowing Israel to create divisions within the quartet. The success of the US invasion of Iraq has enabled pro-Israel leaders to contain and destabilize other Arab governments, including Syria, which is being threatened with "invasion" due to its alleged support for terrorist groups. The redirection of US forces to Syria after the toppling of Saddam Hussein is a priority for Israel, as it seeks to increase allegations of Syrian transshipments of war materiel and use as an entry point for regional Muslims answering a call for jihad. The US is using its massive military presence in the region to justify further use of force against Syria and Iran, citing the recent violence in the Golan Heights as a pretext. The conflict has escalated with Hezbollah guerrillas killing seven Israeli soldiers, prompting Israel to launch air strikes that destroyed three Lebanese power stations and injured 20 civilians. The US has also labeled all branches of Hezbollah as terrorists and is accusing Iranian-backed fighters of being combatants, which could lead to further military action against Iran. Meanwhile, the Bush administration is using a smear campaign to defame Saudi Arabia, laying the groundwork for potential future military action. In Egypt, US foreign aid is conditional on increased support for Israel and altering its curriculum to promote a more positive image of the country. Israel continues to face significant economic challenges, with its government debt-to-GDP ratio reaching a staggering 103% in 2002 and projected to balloon to at least 106% by 2003. This is significantly higher than most OECD countries, including Canada, Germany, France, the US, and Japan. The Bank of Israel predicts that interest payments on the government debt will continue to increase, reducing the government's ability to invest in infrastructure and social programs. The country's economic mismanagement has led to a severe recession, with its GDP dropping 1.1% in 2002 and unemployment averaging 10.3%. The government has also run up a significant budget deficit, with an overdraft of \$579 million in February, the highest on record. Israel is also struggling with the collapse of its kibbutz movement, which was once a symbol of social Zionism. While some kibbutzim are still thriving, many are facing financial difficulties and have seen their membership dwindle due to the country's aging population. Furthermore, Israel has over-developed its high-tech sector, investing heavily in software and military products without considering domestic demand or the competition from US and global firms. This has led to a dramatic collapse of the Israeli high-tech sector, which has had a disproportionate effect on the country's economy compared to larger economies that have weathered the storm. Overall, Israel's economic reform efforts are deemed insufficient by IRMEP, earning an ACB score of "1 out of 5". Given article text here the US would use this concept to silence critics of Israel by smearing them with accusations of anti-Semitism, making it easier for politicians and media outlets to ignore criticisms of Israeli policies. The Israeli government and its supporters have long used smear campaigns to discredit critics of Zionism, such as the Anti-Defamation League targeting individuals with ties to Israel. A similar pattern has emerged in the US, where politicians like Pat Buchanan have linked "war party" members to Israel without evidence, only to face accusations of anti-Semitism. Despite this, the charges and evidence are now being shared more widely. Christian radio shows and high-profile conferences feature speakers who denounce Islam and promote a pro-Israel agenda. The best-selling novels "Left Behind" glorify apocalyptic scenarios involving Israel, causing concern among Jewish leaders. While these Christian groups believe in divine support for Israel, this support can be double-edged, as the biblical apocalypse often leads to the persecution of Jews. Furthermore, there is no clear guidance from the Bible for the treatment of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. Some fundamentalists advocate for their expulsion, while evangelicals believe that Prime Minister Rabin's peace overtures were a mistake that cost him his life. The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) has been praised for its effective promotion of Zionism, but its methods have also raised concerns. Given text Israel has created an equal and opposite negative effect on the United States, as shown in Exhibit 6. In this section, we assess the extent of the damage and assign it a numerical score. According to the U.S. Damage Assessment Scorecard: "Clean Break" Policy Implementation (IRMEP 2003), the Israeli influence over the U.S. Congress has a profoundly damaging effect. The ideologues promoting policies based on Israeli or Zionist objectives are effectively enforced by U.S. law and military might, leading to the erosion of American ideals. The idea that the United States operates best as a secular entity begins to wither away. The Bill of Rights states that Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, but by accepting and exporting U.S. power in support of two religions, Christianity and Judaism, Congress has violated the U.S. Constitution and itself. Further signs of erosion include distributing communications to U.S. soldiers fighting in Muslim lands exhorting them to "pray for President Bush." This suggests that the separation of church and state in the United States has collapsed. The IRMEP scores this damage assessment as 5 out of 5. A second significant damage is caused by the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which leaves only the United States capable of enforcing solutions. By siding with Israel's interests, the U.S. compromises its role as a neutral broker and strains its relations with the global community. This damages U.S. adherence to a "peace for peace" strategy, scoring it at 4 out of 5 in terms of damage to U.S. Middle East Interests. Finally, the Israeli plan to "destabilize" and "redraw the map of the Middle East" poses a significant threat to global stability, potentially sparking World War III. The US is increasingly viewed as a rogue state by the international community due to its actions under the pretext of "regime change". By picking fights with ethnic groups and tribes without fully understanding their complexities, the Bush Administration is reaping the consequences of its extremist policies. IRMEP's damage assessment score for the US stands at 5 out of 5. The Israeli economic reform has limited direct impact on US interests, but it does lead to unintended technology transfers, damaging relations between the two countries. Israel's reliance on US aid is a negative factor for the US, as it alienates the global community and Arab states. The high levels of aid to Israel, despite being insubstantial in percentage terms, have a significant impact on the US foreign aid budget. Supporting the rejuvenation of Zionism has polarized opinions within the US and compromised the constitutionally protected freedoms of US citizens. A case study highlights the differing treatment of two American citizens with military ambitions. One, an ardent Jewish youth, can serve in the Israeli Defense Force without any repercussions, while the other, a Palestinian youth, faces detention and imprisonment for even suspected sympathies towards Palestinian causes. If Palestinian youth join any group considered militant opposition to Israel, they will immediately be implicated in association with "terrorist" organizations. This can lead to detainment as an enemy combatant or even execution by US intelligence operatives. The US has effectively criminalized all militant opposition to Israel. Moreover, Israel reserves the right to assassinate American citizens suspected of acting against Israeli interests, even within US borders. The US has subtly codified support for Zionism, undermining its founding principles of fairness and secularism. This has damaged its reputation as a just nation, now aligned with evangelical interest groups and agents of Israel. IRMEP's damage assessment score is 4 out of 5, indicating significant harm to US foreign policy objectives and national interests.

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