

## **EXPERTS DISCUSS TRUMP, ANTI-SEMITISM, AND ISRAEL**

**[BEGIN FILE]**

### **FRED FLEITZ:**

Good morning. My name is Fred Fleitz. I'm president and CEO of the Center for Security Policy. Welcome to an important Center panel on antisemitism, defending Israel, and the Trump Administration. We have some important matters to discuss today that address religious liberty as well as US and international security. There's been a surge in antisemitism in this country and around the world as I think you know in the last couple of years. Some of this has been from the far right and we saw this in the heinous attacks on a synagogue in Pittsburgh in 2018 and the Poway synagogue last April. We know that far right extremists are responsible for this and that they're being radicalized over the internet. This is reprehensible and an affront to modern society and I'm very pleased that the Trump Administration's taking this very seriously. The Center does, too. But we're going to talk about something else today and that is surging antisemitism and hatred of Israel on the left that is being done in partnership with Islamists. It's my view that as serious as antisemitism from the far right is, this is even more serious because it is being brought into the mainstream. It's being normalized by the media, by academics, by government officials and incredibly it has even entered the US Congress. Now, our friends on the left deny this. They just claim they're engaging in legitimate criticism of the Israeli government or Israeli officials. Yet when Israel takes steps to defend itself, they pounce immediately. And they have nothing to say, these folks on the left, when Israel takes steps to defend its security. We also know there's something called the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement, which supposedly is in response to Israel's mistreatment of the Palestinian people, but we know this is an effort to destroy Israel, to undermine its right to exist and it's being pushed by the left and by Islamists. So, we're holding this panel today because this hatred of Jewish people and Israel on the left is becoming mainstream and acceptable, but let's be clear, this is not true of most Democratic members of Congress, including Nancy Pelosi who gave a fabulous speech to an AIPAC conference earlier this year where she said antisemitism is anti-American and Israel's security is America's security. Sadly, the Democratic Party is moving away from Pelosi and most Democrats. And we knew this, because you may remember Congresswoman Ilhan Omar said some reprehensible antisemitic things just a few months ago. But Pelosi was unable to pass a resolution condemning Omar or her remarks. She did get a resolution passed, but it had to be filled with a long list of other types of bigotries to condemn, including Islamophobia. So, Congresswoman Omar insulted Jewish people and the House passed a resolution condemning Islamophobia. Think about that. Regrettably, the most energetic members of the left, the future of the Democratic Party, are socialists who are not just radical socialists, they're antisemitic and they're anti-Israel. They haven't taken over the Democratic Party yet, but they are trying to do so. Fortunately, we have in place right now an American president who is the most pro-Israel in history. He did what other presidents would not do. He moved the US embassy to Jerusalem, but he did even more than that. He really bucked the foreign policy establishment when he recognized the Golan Heights as Israeli territory. This is territory Israel needs now more than ever to defend its security because the breakdown of what has happened in Syria and the fact that Iran could use Syrian territory to threaten the security of Israel. We know the strong support President Trump has expressed for the Jewish people, we know that his daughter Ivanka not only is a convert to Judaism, but is bringing up her children into the Jewish faith, but that has not stopped the left from attacking the president with ridiculous charges of antisemitism. Well, we're going to try to set the record straight on that today. So, let's be clear that this growing antisemitism on the left and hatred of Israel are threats not just to religious freedom and the Jewish people, this is a threat to one of America's closest and most important allies, which is a crucial partner for peace in the Middle East. The left's effort to weaken this ally in conjunction with radical Islamists and America's relationship with Israel could have dire consequences for American and international security. Well, I have an all-star panel here to discuss these crucial issues. I'm going to briefly mention them now and

I'll give a more detailed introduction before they speak. Our first panellist is Morton Klein. He is the national president of the Zionist Organization of America. Rabbi Yechezkel Moskowitz, founder and CEO of MBLA International. James Carafano, vice-president of the Heritage Foundation. And Matthew Brodsky, a geopolitical analyst and senior fellow at the Gold Institute for International Strategy. So, our first speaker will be Morton Klein. He's national president of the Zionist Organization of America, the oldest pro-Israel group in the United States founded in 1897. Mr. Klein is widely regarded as one of the leading Jewish activists in the US. He's a child of Holocaust survivors. Born in a displaced persons camp in Gunzberg, Germany. Mort is a national treasure who has been one of America's leading voices, fighting against antisemitism and anti-Israel bias. Among his many accolades, the national Jewish weekly, the *Forward*, named him as one of the top five Jewish leaders in US society today. The Philadelphia [UNCLEAR] named him as one of the top dozen Jewish activists of this century. Now, Morton's appearance today could not be more timely since he gave powerful remarks on Sunday at a huge rally in New York City against antisemitism when he spoke out against the surge of Islamic antisemitism in America and demanded not just that US imams preaching this nihilistic Jew hatred be called out, but folks on the left who are facilitating this hatred, that they be called out also. So, Mort, with that, the floor's yours.

**MORTON KLEIN:**

Well, thank you, Fred. It's an honor for me to be here with such an important group as the Center for Security Policy that I've been working with for twenty-five years. When you were maybe still in high school. Anyway –

**FRED FLEITZ:**

Grade school.

**MORTON KLEIN:**

Grade school. [LAUGHTER] Well, first of all, I want to put this a little bit into context. It is not a coincidence that the two leading anti-Semites in Congress are both Muslims. It pains me to say this. It's not a coincidence. ADL polls show that thirty-four percent of American Muslims are antisemitic. The Koran, the standard Koran, preaches that Jews are under the curse of Allah, that Allah has transformed disobedient Jews into apes and pigs and such. At the West Point of Islam, in Cairo, al-Azhar University, they preach hatred against Jews. They even give sermons preaching the hadith lines about seeking out the Jew, whether he is behind a tree or rock, and kill him. Imams have been videotapes all over America, all over America, promoting this type of hatred and asking that every Jew be annihilated one by one. It's shocking that I'm saying this, but this is the painful truth. And we have demanded these imams be fired, but none of them has been fired. We have Linda Sarsour, a leading antisemitic Muslim activist, who praises rock throwing against Jews, praises the terror war against Jews, demands that Jews stop being humanized and despite this, we have Bernie Sanders hiring her as a surrogate. A Jewish man hiring this anti-Semite as a surrogate. And we have Mahmoud Abbas, the head of the Palestinian Authority, publicly and continuously paying Arabs to murder Jews. It's a law in the Palestinian Authority. So, this is the context in which we have these two antisemitic Muslim congresswomen. Ilhan Omar, a Democrat from Minnesota, who has publicly stated in tweets and speeches that the Jewish state is evil, that the Jewish state has hypnotized the world to support it. She supports boycotting Israel. She said Jewish money is the reason members of Congress support Israel. She's compared boycotting Israel to boycotting Nazi Germany in the 30s. It's just shocking. And she calls supporting Israel, maybe the most important ally America has, allegiance to a foreign country. Of course, she accuses Israel of apartheid, even though thirteen Israeli Arabs were just elected to the Knesset in an election, twelve sit there now. I don't think there were too many blacks in the South African parliament during their apartheid years. And she is joined by Rashida Tlaib, a Democrat from Michigan, who has called to stop all aid to the Jewish state, who calls Israel racist and

also apartheid, says that Israel discriminates against darker-skinned people. My God, they go to Ethiopia, Israel, take black people from Ethiopia into Israel to give them a good life and a decent life and yet she makes this outrageous statement. She supports BDS as well. She has put on her map in the office over the state of Israel a little piece of tape saying Palestine, erasing Israel from her own office map. When she won her first election, she wrapped herself in the Palestinian Authority flag. Talk about being a loyal American. When she talked about the Holocaust, she said, this gives me a common feeling. And then she makes the outrageous Orwellian lie that the Palestinian Arabs lost their lives and lost land providing a safe haven for the Jews after the Holocaust, when in fact six Arab countries invaded Israel and attempted to murder every Jew and destroy the Jewish state. This monstrous lie. She takes pictures with Hezbollah supporters, with Hamas supporters, and only this week she praised Farah Belu [PH] a Muslim who was thrown out of the women's march board for her antisemitism. And she, this week, praised that woman. She has called Israel, stated Israel is not an ally, that it's not a democracy, these monstrous Orwellian lies and the painful aspect of this is not only does her party not condemn these people by name, the resolution that was passed never mentioned Omar and Tlaib by name. They don't condemn them by name. In fact, they've actually defended them. Defended them saying these words they don't understand. It's just shocking. So – and these words have been translated into violence in Europe, these types of antisemitic, Islamic sermons. And I worry, God forbid, this should happen in America. I will end by simply quoting Paul Johnson, a great historian, a non-Jewish historian, in his book, *A History of the Jews*, where he said one of the principle lessons of Jewish history has been that repeated verbal slanders are sooner or later followed by violent physical deeds. Time and again over the centuries, antisemitic writings and statements have created their own fearful momentum which climax in the fusion of Jewish blood. God forbid this should happen. We are urging Muslim leaders, good imams, Democratic leaders, Republican leaders, Sanders and Warren and other Democratic candidates who, by the way, three or four of them have publicly defended Omar and Tlaib. Of the Democratic presidential candidates, we're demanded and urging them to condemn the vicious hatred and bigotry against Jews that these two Muslim members of the Congress continue to spew forth. Thank you.

**FRED FLEITZ:**

Thanks, Mort. I want to – I had forgotten to thank our viewers on Facebook and YouTube. I might add you can submit us questions over Facebook and YouTube after our panel speaks. We'd be happy to answer them. Our next panellist will be Rabbi Yechezkel Moskowitz, who is the founder and CEO of MBLA International. He is – Rabbi Moskowitz started the Moss Show, a podcast provided political commentary for the Jewish community and I was pleased to be on one of your first shows. It was a – I strongly recommend that you listen to it and it is also featured on Twitter. Rabbi Moskowitz is a dynamic speaker who has been an important voice, speaking out on threats to the US-Israel relationship and antisemitism in his role as the special assistant to Chema Moskowitz, who heads the Irving I. Moskowitz Foundation. Rabbi?

**RABBI YECHEZKEL MOSKOWITZ:**

First of all, Fred, thank you so much for having me on this panel. This is my second panel with the Center. It's really an honor and it's actually kind of interesting because I'm sitting on a panel with Mort Klein, who has a long, rich history with my family. And it's like kind of coming full circle, being that my grandfather worked with Mort many years ago and here I am, sitting on the same panel with Mort. I wanted to address a little bit of a different angle than Mort was. Mort was speaking a lot about how there's a lot of antisemitism coming from the liberal progressive movement, specifically the Islamists within that movement. I would like to address the Jewish angle of that whole equation. So, when we talk about the history of the Jewish people in the United States, it's pretty rich, pretty rich and fruitful one. Jewish people have definitely been net positive contributors to American society, especially for the fact that the Judeo-Christian values upon many of the tenets of the

constitution are based, are actually grounded in the Jewish faith. But we saw over the years in the evolution of the quote-unquote American Jew that the Jewish, Jewish community in America has evolved into three types of Jews. The first, who, for the most part, are ignored, are Jews who embrace their values and their heritage. And they are proud of being an American and proud of keeping the torch, so to speak, of their Jewish faith and heritage and propagating those values. The second are Jews who are indifferent to the values upon which their culture stands. Rather, their Jewishness boils really down to Jewish cultural symbols based on what they believe is an antiquated heritage long lost, soon to be forgotten. Third is what we'll be mostly discussing right now, are Jews who, in the pursuit of happiness and the American dream, so to speak, have embraced liberal progressivism as Judaism. This trend really started in the 60s and the 70s when the Jewish leadership, mainly coming up from the egalitarian segments of American Jewry, replaced Jewish culture with liberal progressive social justice, now known as the Tikkun Olam ideology. So, there are several examples within the last couple of years that exemplify this behaviour. I mean, there's a very long, rich history of this, but just to give a couple of bullet points and a couple of examples, the Never Again campaign to stop ICE and Trump's concentration camps continues to mostly be led by Jewish activists. In fact, over two hundred and fifty hashtag Jews against ICE were arrested at a protest back in August alone. Sadly, the fact that these social justice warriors are so against appropriation of any type are so easily able to appropriate the concept of never again to this issue is lost on them and is a symptom of the problem. Dozens of synagogues across the country, also mainly affiliated with the egalitarian community, joined a network of houses to offer undocumented immigrants protection during the expected US-wide raids. A pseudo-group of rabbis known as T'ruah, rabbis for social justice, which Mort here is battling vigorously against on social media, run a network of synagogues that provide, basically, sanctuary for undocumented families. One of those was, sadly, none other than the Tree of Life Synagogue which ran – which ran, literally, fundraisers for Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, otherwise known as HIAS, this liberal progressive refugee organization, which has really forgotten its Jewish roots, has launched an emergency response program to insure asylum seekers along the border get legal pro bono representation. HIAS also organizes aid missions to the southern border with solidarity missions across the border. One such event included over forty rabbis and Jewish leaders, among them Jill Jacobs, who visited migrant centers in Tijuana. The list goes on and on. This is all happening while there are over three hundred and fifty organizations who wrote a letter to Jeff Sessions opposing what they called the cruel policy of family separation at the border. Obviously, this doesn't really help the narrative or change the narrative of the white supremacists who often refer to the Hart-Celler Act of 1965, which was actually introduced to Congress by Emanuel Celler, a Jew, and was written in part by Deputy AG Norbert Shelly [PH] as proof, so to speak, that there's in fact some greater Jewish conspiracy to overthrow the white population in this country. Oftentimes, the same liberal progressives who are involved in this social justice nonsense, are oftentimes participating in some of the most vile and grotesque anti-Israel activism, taking groups such as T'ruah, rabbis who claim that Israel is an occupier of Palestinian land, another rising star, the group known as If Not Now and the [UNCLEAR] Love Trumps Hate, Bend the Arc and many more, actively seek to normalize Israel hatred and give credence to the antisemitism that is spewing forth from the liberal progressive camp. So, in summary, the behaviour of the liberal progressive Jewish community promotes, in my opinion, antisemitism, knowingly or not, in two ways. The first, they already are festering the already pre-existing antisemitism within the neo-Nazi white supremacist camp. These groups – these groups, indeed those who promote liberal progressivism and socialism as the enemy just as much as they did in the 1920s. And they're seeing, once again, the conspirator, so to speak, in the grand social justice scheme as being none other than the Jews. Obviously, aside from this being patently false, such rhetoric obviously turns Jews into targets for white supremacists' deadly frustration. And we've seen, unfortunately, how this plays out across the country. Second, which although it has not been yet as deadly as the first, is a lot more frequent, which is the anti-Israel, pro-BDS lobby. This community sees and even promotes a moral equivalency between Jewish self-defense and Palestinian terrorism. They promote within their mosques across the United States, as Mort stated, obviously protected by

free speech, mind you, some of the most classic antisemitic tropes and even resurrecting the classic pre-World War One blood libels and much more. The thing is, that instead of being repudiated by the Jewish community, these antisemitic groups in fact just see how Jews are embracing their anti-Israel rhetoric. Or even defending their actions under the guise of Islamophobia, making it challenging for others, including various government agencies and NGOs to tackle this problem. Inadvertently, this criticism coupled with inaction provides these groups with a silent approval, so to speak, that not only can they continue to express their antisemitic sentiment, but express full-blown-on Jewish hatred. It is well known, obviously, that the Squad works with these aforementioned groups. Oftentimes, hosting these groups in their offices on the Hill. So to speak, showing off their Jewish friends. Saying, look – there’s an expression in Judaism that they are showing themselves to say, look, we’re kosher because we have the Jews with us. This is much akin to the, so to speak, Jews who, during the Middle Ages, would convert to Christianity and would become the most antisemitic people within the town or the community. And there’s a historic precedent for them. We’re seeing very much the same. Kind of the idea that’s going on. To them, to the whole liberal, to the whole wide spectrum of the liberal progressive community, and most importantly within the Islamic faction of that, the, so to speak, Judeo values that were bestowed upon Western culture, the Jerusalem of modern thought, is the enemy. So, in conclusion, this embrace of anti-Israel and anti-capitalist sentiment has, in every sense of the word, translated into anti-Jewish sentiment within the liberal progressive community. When you dehumanize the brave soldiers of the IDF or call Jewish landlords, as New York City mayor De Blasio does, evil, rest assured that Jews will be targeted. The ongoing reality in New York City, which Mort was just in New York, protesting, does not exist in a vacuum. It is an ongoing issue that the left is clearly not willing to address. Period. Obviously, this is mainly because it’s coming from within their caucus with a kosher certification of the liberal progressive community. So, my message to the liberal progressive Jewish community is such. Instead of focusing on the border, perhaps they should be protesting the Jews that are being targeted in Brooklyn on a daily basis. But they probably won’t. Because if they agree – they most likely agree with those perpetrating the hate. After all, the Orthodox Jews are typically perceived as right-leaning or indeed, at least according to them, causing climate change and our evil landlords. With that, I believe that this clearly indicates how this is an issue of grave concern to the entire American community and, as Fred has mentioned to us many times, is an issue of national security and should be, it should be taken very seriously.

#### **FRED FLEITZ:**

Rabbi, thank you. Our next speaker will be James Carafano. He is vice-president of the Heritage Foundation’s Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy. He also is the Heritage E. F. Richardson Fellow. Jim is one of America’s leading national security experts in his start as a teacher and in his role as a prolific writer and researcher. Jim also is a twenty-five year Army veteran with a masters and doctorate degree from Georgetown. In addition, Jim is an adjunct professor at Georgetown and serves as a visiting professor at National Defense University. Jim?

#### **JAMES CARAFANO:**

Well, first of all, thanks to the Center for Security Policy for putting this event together and inviting me. I’m a huge fan of the Center and their work. They’ve been incredibly courageous, I think, for many years, doing exactly what, I think, the critics would not want them to do, which is to be silent. Right? To be demonized and then to just be quiet and go away. And instead, I think they’ve been really courageous, not just in standing up in a principled way, but also letting – bringing the facts to the table. And letting honest facts speak for themselves. So, thanks – glad you’re here, Fred, and thanks for your leadership. And thanks for the voice that the Center provides. I think maybe the most helpful thing I can do is to maybe just take a step back and talk about why this matters to Americans. And I think there’s two points worth making. The first is the fundamental issue of human rights and

the fact that America's not the world's policeman. We're not the world's babysitter. And we're not here to lecture the world. But having said that, as an instrument of foreign policy, America cares about human rights, because human rights fundamentally better the human community of which we are part of. And this administration in particular gets criticism for not actually embracing that role, which is completely unfounded because, in fact, this administration not only embraces that role, it embraces it in the right way. And we had an illustration of that this week with the president, at the United Nations General Assembly, not just speaking with great authority and courage on the floor of the UN to all the assembled masses of world leaders, but hosting a sidebar in which the United States talked about the fundamental importance of religious liberty and religious freedom and combatting religious persecution. Because, well, a lot of people on both sides of the aisle, right and left, talk about human rights, that conversation has become tremendously diluted in the world in which we live today where human rights essentially becomes this – the kind of the thing that we like right now. And it's been abused on the right and the left and particularly on the left it's only been abused to foster their pet projects as fundamental human rights, but actually used as an instrument of lawfare and aggression against states like Israel and others. So, it's actually, what the president is doing is saying, look, we should all focus on the fundamental things that provide human freedom and there is none more essential, none more quintessential to the human experience than the right of people to worship their God and that those who persecute the right of people to worship their God are the true evildoers in the world. So, I think from that perspective, this is important – an important issue for Americans to stand up as a powerful and clear and consistent voice against antisemitism. But the United States is a country like every country which its foreign policy is driven both by its interests and its values. And we have deep interests in the state of Israel. And it's this, the United States, quite honestly, is a global power with global interests and responsibilities. Again, we're not, that's just who we are. We have companies and people and citizens and friends and allies on every corner of the planet. And the United States has a responsibility to protect those interests and those rights. And so we have to act as a global power. And what really connects us to the globe? What knits the entire world together? And there's really three regions that are really important, fundamentally important to the United States. In order for us to get to the places we need to be to protect our interests. And they are Western Europe, the Middle East, and the Indo-Pacific. And oftentimes these days we hear discussions about, well, we really need to be focusing on China and we forget the centrality of the Middle East. It's called the Middle East for a reason. It actually is in the middle of everything. It is the great transit point of the world. Commerce, finance, oil, people, they all flow in and out of this region. If this region is not at peace, America is never safe. And what is the great threat to this region? Today, it's fundamentally the – Iran and Iran's deep, destabilizing influence. It's been other things in the past. It will be other things in the future. The United States can never walk away from the Middle East and be safe in our own homes. It doesn't have to be the land of milk and honey that they talk about in the Bible, but it's important for the United States, this part of the world is stable and peaceful. And so, we, in a sense, have to be present. We don't have to be present with many divisions and multiple aircraft carriers all the time, but we have to be able to be in the region and to get to the region and know what's going on in the region and operate in that region. And so, at the base of that policy always is, you know, America's anchor. We have these in other places as well. In Europe, our anchor is really Great Britain. Great Britain anchors America to the transatlantic community and to Europe. And so, we're always present as a transatlantic power. In the Indo-Pacific, it's really Japan and South Korea. They're our anchors, our longstanding traditional allies that we can count on. And they anchor us into that region and will always make America an Indo-Pacific power. And in the Middle East, it is the tiny country of Israel. Israel is our most longstanding, most dependable, most capable, most reliable ally. And in a sense, it is America's anchor into that region. And as long as that alliance is strong, America is a force and a power that's present in the region. And so, the future of Israel is not just a matter of America championing the rights of religious liberty and religious freedom and combatting antisemitism, it is also a key strategic interest for the United States. And, let's be honest, the antisemitic campaign is, at its root, a project to destroy Israel. It is the doppelganger, the other side of

the physical destruction of Israel as a nation. If we can't amass armies and planes and bombs and ships and drive the Israelis into the sea, we can destroy their legitimacy and their credibility with the international community and scare people away from partnering, shouldering, and working with the Israelis. And that's what this campaign, fundamentally, is really all about. And why it has to be a core American policy to be a strong partner of Israel and to be really the world's leader in leading in the campaign combatting against antisemitism.

**FRED FLEITZ:**

Jim, thank you. Our final speaker will be Matthew Brodsky, a geopolitical analyst and senior fellow at the Gold Institute for National Strategy. He previously was director of policy for the Jewish Policy Center. Matthew holds an MA in Middle East history from Tel Aviv University. He's a specialist in Middle East affairs and Arab politics. I'm sure you've frequently seen him on FOX News and other channels. He's a prolific writer and his work has recently – frequently appears in the *National Review*, the *Jerusalem Post*, the *National Interest*, the *Federalist*, and the *Hill*. And he frequently appears on the Center's radio show, Secure Freedom Radio. Matthew?

**MATTHEW BRODSKY:**

Thank you, Fred for hosting and thank you to the Center for Security Policy. Very important issues and an excellent panel here to address it. So, I'm going to be speaking about BDS. What is BDS? So, in its simplest definition, of course, it's boycott, divest, and sanctions against Israel. Understanding its origins is fairly important. Many of its supporters claim that the movement began in July of 2005 as a call by Palestinian civil society organizations for a boycott, divest, and sanctions movement against Israel, and for academic and cultural boycotts. The BDS architects also date it back to 2005 as a Palestinian-led movement for freedom, justice, and equality that intends to effectively challenge the international support for Israel, for Israeli apartheid and settler colonialism. Now in this telling of the story, it was founded a year after the establishment of the Palestinian campaign for the academic and cultural boycott of Israel in Ramallah. A great effort is taken to portray the movement as an indigenous Palestinian cause that's all about liberal philosophies, freedom, justice, equality, yadda, yadda, concepts that really resonate in an increasingly progressive West. In reality, the roots of the campaign predates the modern day establishment of Israel as a state in 1948. By the end of 1945, three years before Israel's statehood and a few months after the last death camps in Europe were liberated, the newly formed Arab League Council formally declared a boycott against Jewish products and manufactured goods and called for all Arab institutions, organizations, merchants, commissions, agents, individuals to refuse to deal in or distribute or consume Zionist products or manufactured goods. And you'll notice that Jewish and Zionist are used interchangeably there. The boycott actually remained in place for the duration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, primarily conducted by Arab states until 2001, when a forum of non-governmental organizations was convened that year, called the UN World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance. Try that as an acronym. In Durban, South Africa. This was a conference drenched in antisemitism, copies of the antisemitic work, *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, they were sold on the grounds. The forum's final declaration described Israel as a racist apartheid state that was guilty of racist crimes including war crimes, acts of genocide and ethnic cleansing. So, this of course, predates what the people who are now currently spokesmen in the Palestinian areas are wanting to portray. It promotes a policy of complete and total isolation of Israel as an apartheid state. This is the Durban strategy from 2001. The imposition of mandatory and comprehensive sanctions and embargoes, the full cessation of all links between all states and Israel. This conference is where the BDS movement we see practiced today was born. It seeks to link Israeli policies with the racial segregation practice of South Africa, as you can see there. The hope was to convince the international community to adopt the same type of boycott and sanctions campaign that contributed to the downfall of that system. Of course, given modern sensitivities, it wasn't considered to be against the Jewish people, but against Zionists and Israeli

settlers. So, contrary to the common BDS mythology, the first Palestinian BDS conference wasn't actually held until 2007 in Ramallah, giving birth to the BDS national committee comprised of a number of anti-Israel groups to serve the Palestinian – to serve as the Palestinian coordinating body for the global BDS campaign. So, despite the disguise as a Palestinian human rights movement, the BDS movement was founded by left wing socialists and Marxists in 2001, explicitly to undermine Israel's sovereignty, skilfully exploiting the languages of peace, justice, and human rights to appeal to Western audiences. So, who comprises the BDS movement? Cause it's not just a person or a simple idea. It's made up of a dozen NGOs and radical activists around the world. It includes rejectionist Palestinian groups in cooperation with radical left wing groups in the West. BDS leaders and organizations are also linked to the Palestinian Authority and Palestinian student organizations. While funded Muslim organizations, most of whom have ties to the Muslim Brotherhood, such as the Council on American-Islamic Relations and others, other radical groups, terror supporting organizations, in some cases, even terror groups themselves such as Hamas. Of course, they are backed up with groups in the US as you've heard already today. Anti-Israel Jewish groups – or, I should say, anti-Israel, yeah, Jewish groups like J Street individuals and left wing students and academics, ACLU, other liberal groups have joined with BDS advocates, supporters obviously include politically, here in the US, members of the Squad, Ilhan Omar, Rashida Tlaib, civil rights icon Representative John Lewis of Georgia actually joined in recently. Jewish Voice for Peace, Black Lives Matter, frankly, the list is far too long to – just to list here. But a lot of it gets back to the Western ideals, a play on progressive ideology. That's how it is basically disguised and masked here. A lot of these also have ties to the terrorist organizations. More than thirty Hamas and PFLP operatives hold senior positions within BDS advocacy organizations. Known terrorists are invited to the national conventions of BDS affiliates. For more on all of this, you can read a report called Terrorists in Suits that Israel has put out, provides detailed evidence of more than a hundred links between BDS and Hamas and PFLP people, both of whom are, of course, US designated terrorist groups. So, in Western circles, BDS is commonly understood, is commonly misunderstood. It's genuinely – generally viewed as a progressive, nonviolent campaign led by Palestinian grassroots organizations, propelled by Western human rights groups who call for boycotting Israeli goods produced in the occupied or disputed Golan Heights. But the BDS movement seeks to eliminate Israel even before addressing the Palestinian issue. The BDS movement isn't about registering dissatisfaction with Israeli policies. It's about applying a double standard to Israel. BDS is designed to demonize and delegitimize the Palestinian state and actually replace it with a Palestinian state. It does not simply object to Israel's administration of land it captured after Arab armies invaded the state in 1967, it opposes Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state in its pre-1967 borders – borders. That's according to the movement's own official documents. The BDS lobby actually calls for a series of steps that would dismantle the Jewish state. So, it's important to understand that the occupation that they refer to is not the 1967 occupation. It's the existence of Israel, the occupation of any land, Arab land, basically, from the sea to the river or the river to the sea. When they refer to the United Nations General Assembly resolution 194 which recognizes Palestinian refugees', quote, right of return to their homes, there is no actual right that exists in international law and its implementation and practice actually means the end of Israel as a democratic national state. Of course, they advocate the removal of the security barrier, which would make Israel the destination for weekly suicide terrorist attacks as it previously was. They also call for a phased demand, actually, it's kind of based on the PLO platform from 1974, which is ending the occupation and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantling the wall, recognizing the fundamental rights of Arab Palestinian citizens to full equality, which they have. Respecting and protecting and promoting Palestinian refugees to return to their homes through this resolution. And basically, this is the phased approach where you essentially take what you can get now and you continue to strive for the full enchilada, we shall say, later. Now, what makes this antisemitic is, [UNCLEAR] always talks about how it's all about the B Team, well, when it comes to the modern features of antisemitism, it's all about the Ds. Three Ds, specifically. Delegitimization, demonization, and double standards. So, the standard definition of antisemitism



include denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination by claiming the existence of the state of Israel as a racist endeavour, applying double standards by requiring of it behaviour that is not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation. The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism, just accepted by the EU and the State Department here, states that delegitimization, demonization, and the use of double standards towards Israel are modern day forms of antisemitism. So, in context, there are fifty-seven Muslim states, twenty-four Christian states, that's, by law, there are actually over a hundred if you're going by population, six Buddhist states, but only one Jewish state. There are presently about a hundred and twenty-four countries that are involved with territorial disputes, the 1967 issue, for Israel, that is. Many of which have produced much greater human suffering than is involved between Israelis and Palestinians. But the BDS movement or platform singles out Israel and only Israel and it's a campaign to end its existence, which is the world's Jewish state. So, BDS is essentially turning antisemitism into a social movement. The fundamental truth is that, of course, we should say that not all of its supporters are anti-Semites. The movement itself is antisemitic, though, in its intent and its effect. It seeks to cut off the only Jewish state in the world from all international trade, diplomatic relations, cultural and academic programs, tourism, all other ties with every nation on earth. If fully implemented, it would destroy the state. Now, we should also close by saying that Israel has no problem with criticism. It's a very vibrant, democratic state. In fact, they bash each other as well, if not better, than we bash each other here in our political system. But what they reject is delegitimization, demonization, and the double standard. These are the features of modern antisemitism and that's why the BDS movement is, to its core, an antisemitic platform. Thank you.

**FRED FLEITZ:**

Matthew, that was fabulous. I'm going to ask two quick questions and then we'll open it up while the panel talk among themselves. My first question concerns BDS. I'd like you to start with it, Matthew, you know, I've expressed real concern that antisemitism and hatred of Israel is coming into Congress. But, on the other hand, the House recently passed a resolution condemning the BDS movement. Which it was opposed by certain members of Congress. Does this give us hope that maybe that Democratic members of Congress understand this problem and maybe there's something we can do to fight off antisemitism from coming into the Congress?

**MATTHEW BRODSKY:**

Well, if the question is does the Democrat side understand this for the House, I mean, that verdict is still out. However, what we're seeing now, the trendlines, as I think has already been pointed out here, are certainly not encouraging. It seems to – the Squad has hijacked the talking points, but not just the talking points as you can see how the legislation itself in the House was a watered-down version of what was already in the Senate, which the – I believe Nancy Pelosi, frankly, I don't, I'm pretty sure she didn't have a problem with her, many in the caucus didn't have, many Democrats didn't have a problem with the harder definition that would target, push back against the BDS movement. So, I think we're seeing essentially the lurching further to the left in the Democrat Party and it's being hijacked by that. We'll see if – how that is essentially going to play out. It's kind of like I look back at – at what happened when Trump was elected president. There was the internal divisions within the Republican Party that had to be sorted out. Well, Democrats at this point seem to be four to six years behind where Republicans are, except for this is actually a sinister movement in which they're going to have to deal with it themselves because Republicans seem fairly unified on this matter. Democrats, that's still – remains to be seen.

**JAMES CARAFANO:**

Can I offer an even more pessimistic assessment? [LAUGHTER] And that is, what this actually, I think, reflect is a real transformation in American foreign policy, which is American attitudes towards

the state of Israel. Which, traditionally, for years in foreign policy and the Congress and the right and left support for Israel was relatively bipartisan. I mean, although, there's always detractors on both sides, but in the mainstream, it was completely non-controversial in the US Congress to support the bilateral relationship between the US and Israel. That's starting to change. We're actually seeing the political parties adapt in their partisan political platforms different – different attitudes towards the state of Israel. And a major contributor to that really has been, I think, the transformation of the American Jewish communities, which in many ways was always a firebreak, it was a glue that really kind of held both sides together and it goes back to the issue that you talked about, which is kind of the transformation of the American Jewish community, which has become increasingly more secular, increasingly more liberal, and an increasingly smaller force in the American electorate. And the result of that is getting kind of dragged into this BDS movement. It has dragged more, it has kind of fallen behind a more progressive Democratic Party, which has now found itself going down the road of viewing Israel not as the ally that we respect on both sides, but as an issue to debate with the right over. And that is really problematic. If nowhere else, it's, I think, problematic for Democrats because, conversely, ironically, and nobody knows this issue better than Fred, there is a bit of a consensus in the United States about what is the great problem in the region. And that is Iran. Left and right agree on that. They don't agree on the Iran deal and, again, nobody's a bigger expert on that than Fred. So, they have disputes about how to handle Iran, but everybody in America, I mean, in the political, by and large, recognizes that Iran is the great threat to American policy in the Middle East and has to be dealt with. This creates a real problem for Democrats who then are abandoning the most important ally in the region that we need to work with to contain Iran.

#### **MORTON KLEIN:**

May I say, the BDS movement is predicated on gigantic propaganda, Orwellian lies. We found on campuses that many of the kids who are not bad kids, believe in BDS because they believe the lies. They believe that there is an occupation. Occupation means that someone has stolen someone else's sovereign land. Of course, there was never a country called Palestine. Even the word Palestine is a Roman name. If there was an Arab country, Palestine, why did they use a Roman name? And there's no occupation. Israel has given away all of Gaza, forty percent of Judea and Samaria, that's where ninety-nine percent of the Palestinian Arabs live. They have their own parliaments, their own schools, their own textbooks, their own police, their own businesses. They run their lives completely – except security. And the only reason Israel has to share in security is because terror cells in the Palestinian areas continue to evolve, want to come into Israel to kill Jews. Secondly, settlements. They believe that Israel's built settlements in eighty percent of Judea and Samaria. When they find out the truth that the Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria comprise less than two percent of the West Bank of Judea and Samaria, they're in shock. And they're in shock that there's not been a single new Jewish community settlement built since Oslo began in '93. The only building that has occurred is within the boundaries of the existing communities there in 1993 when Oslo began. And also statehood. The kids – the people are shocked to find out that Israel has offered a state to the Palestinian Authority at least three times in the last nineteen years, rejected every time without a counteroffer. And they've been offered a state seven times in the last eighty years, starting with the Peel Commission in 1937 and then the UN resolution 181 in 48 and they rejected it every time because it meant accepting Israel as a Jewish state and saying they'll be no further claims. Proof that the issue is not land or statehood, it's Israel's absolute destruction. And the final issue, they believe, is why isn't Israel offering to give away parts of Jerusalem. Well, the truth is, and this is the truth that people do not like to talk about, if Jerusalem's so holy to Muslims, why on earth is it that in their holy book, the Koran, the word Jerusalem is never mentioned, not a single time. And why is it when they controlled Jerusalem, the most important parts of Jerusalem, between '48 and '67, that they allowed it to become a slum? Did they make Amman their capital? There was virtually no water, running water, no electricity, no plumbing in Jerusalem when the Arabs controlled it. Not a single Arab leader except for Jordanian leaders ever visited Jerusalem when they controlled it. Because it's really not holy to them. And those

are the things, I think, have to be promoted by those who care about the truth, those who care about Israel, that the whole BDS movement is promulgated on outrageous, propagandistic, Orwellian lies.

**FRED FLEITZ:**

Rabbi, do you have thoughts on this?

**RABBI YECHEZKEL MOSKOWITZ:**

I think that the panellist from the Heritage said something that's very important. That we're seeing how the Jewish community is transferring over with their less electorate power. I think that there was just – I just saw an op-ed in the *New York Times* yesterday where actually it just kind of segues into what happened just now in the Israeli elections that everybody's kind of confused about what's going on over there, but one thing is certain is that one of the major issues that has been going on between the American Jewish community, specifically the liberal progressives segment of it, and Israel is there's been this sort of wedge between both communities and it's kind of been blamed on Benjamin Netanyahu, the prime minister, for being a right wing hawk. But the op-ed in the *New York Times*, which was written by a liberal progressive, was saying that he thinks that even Benny Gantz, if he becomes the prime minister, this is going to act – he was saying it's a bad thing that Benny Gantz won because the now American Jewry is going to learn that they don't really like Israel at all. And that they're going to find that Benny Gantz is not going to be that much different on a policy level than Benjamin Netanyahu and that, to him, was a cause of concern because that means that finally American liberal Jews who don't really have any, don't have really much of a connection with Israel and have, I guess you could say, truly assimilated into American, into their liberal progressive American culture, don't look at Israel as a priority anymore. Which really boils down to something that my grandfather used to speak about, which is truly a total degeneration of their Jewish pride and understanding of their Jewish history and like at the end of the day you have to remember the treatment of Jews is the canary in the coalmine for every civilization in history. And when Jews are just totally ignoring that, it's an alarming factor.

**FRED FLEITZ:**

You know, I mentioned earlier that President Trump has been maybe the most pro-Israel president ever and has been extremely supportive of the Jewish community. At the same time, he's been criticized for his close relationship with Benjamin Netanyahu. I wonder if the panel would like to comment on how the Trump Administration has been doing and what more might it do to address this issue of antisemitism and support of the US-Israel relationship.

**JAMES CARAFANO:**

I'd be happy to start. You know, I – I think there's a profoundly, like the most professional word I can think of is scary, thing going on in the world. So, we've entered what's now called kind of the era of great power competition, so, the focus of US power, protecting its interests in the world is really kind of dealing with the, the countries that have the authority and capacity to really challenge that. That includes China, Iran, Russia, cause of those nuclear weapons, North Korea. But one of the interesting products of that competition has been how the issue of freedom and human rights can be completely perverted or really whitewashed and oftentimes it is the liberal voices in the Western world which are actually participants and enablers of this process. So, we – we've had a great discussion here about antisemitism. And about how the BDS movement has essentially weaponized Western human rights against a people. Not protecting human values, but essentially been turned to the destruction of the religious liberty of the Jewish people. We've seen the same thing with the Uyghurs. Here you have over a tenth of the Uyghur population in China, over a million people, thrown into camps, completely extrajudicial, nothing to do with the Chinese legal system and you have not only the Western world but most of the Arab world completely silent to this unbelievable we religious atrocity. How could

that be possible? Well, the answer is easy because nobody wants to upset China. And so here we – you know, we have to, I think, really look at ourselves as a Western civilization and culture and, I don't know what the Jewish word is, but where's our backbone? Where's our heart, where's our soul? You know, where's our guts that we can't – that we let people, you know, turn us against the Jewish people? Then we let people turn a blind eye to a tremendous atrocity. Even as a, you know, look, I mean, I – the hypocrisy is incredible. Places like this, you know, the Center for Security Policy has been attacked over and over again for being anti-Muslim, right? And yet here is the greatest atrocity against Muslims of the modern time, right? A million people thrown in prison. And people don't care. There's more discussion about the plight of Uyghurs here who hate Muslims and you care – because, because you don't. Because you cherish this notion of religious liberty and here, and to tie this back to the administration, you know, once if you – if you strip away the tweeting and the yelling and the screaming and everything else and you actually look at US government policy, one of the stellar focuses of this administration has been the promotion of religious liberty and combatting religious persecution and the lodestars of that campaign have been combatting antisemitism, bringing attention to the plight of Christians in the Middle East, and bringing attention to the – what's been perpetrated against the Uyghurs in Asia.

#### **MORTON KLEIN:**

With respect to President Trump, not only has he moved the embassy – and, by the way, when the embassy law was passed in '95, Senator Jon Kyl and Newt Gingrich were the two principle people. We at the ZOA, I'm proud to say, were involved from the very beginning. The Jewish groups were initially against this, saying this will ruin the peace process, that if you don't move it, you'll get the peace. Well, it wasn't moved for over twenty years and, of course, there was no peace. So, the Jewish leadership was completely wrong. But not only has Trump done the things that Fred Fleitz has mentioned, he stopped funding UNBRA [PH], an organization that promotes vicious hatred, even violence against Jews. He stopped funding the United Nations Human Rights commission that almost every one of their resolutions are anti-Israel. When the Taylor Force Act was passed – and, by the way, I have to say, for one year it was not voted on, it wasn't passed. And AIPAC has refused to get on that bill for a year. You'll have to ask them why, but they only got on it when the bill was weakened after a year where the Palestinian Authority would not, initially they were going to lose all of the four hundred and fifty, five hundred million dollars funding from the US if they didn't change their law that pays Arabs to murder Jews. And the more Arabs – more Jews in Arab murders, the higher their pension and salary for the rest of their life. And then it was passed where they would only lose one-third of the money that America gets. But President Trump said, I don't care. I'm not giving them any more money. He cut out all the money even though Taylor Force only required one-third. And look at President Trump's appointments. The most incredibly pro-Israel people who understand the truth of the Arab Islamic war against Israel and the West. John Bolton, Pompeo, Nikki Haley, Mr. O'Brien, who now has just been appointed, Rick Grenell, the ambassador to Germany, the most important European country. Michael Pence, the vice-president. You can't get more pro-Israel than Mike Pence. So, we have – the Jews and those who are pro-Israel, like evangelical Christians, have to appreciate that President Trump has been wildly not only pro-Israel, but understanding of the dangers Israel faces from the Arab Islamic world.

#### **MATTHEW BRODSKY:**

If I could touch on a few other characteristics here. One thing that President Trump has stressed and, I believe, even at the General Assembly just today, is to push for full Arab-Israeli normalization. That is something that is – would be huge and needs to happen, hopefully more on the surface than behind the scenes. That is something that would do more than most other symbolic type of acts, if it happens in reality. And, of course, with the understanding that Iran is in fact the main problem that is focusing Israeli and most of the Arab attention in that direction, it's Iran. This is a great time to do it, which is,

of course, something that happened by accident with – started with president Obama making the painfully horrible JCPOA. But something else that President Trump has realized is the importance of the culture war. Frankly, when you see him at his best, when he is in the culture war. This is actually important because what we're seeing in the BDS movement, of course, how it works in the West is that this is – it's a part of progressive lefty ideology now. So, he doesn't mind having that battle and at the same time, his people that he has in the White House working on the peace process have worked very hard to push back against the mythology, because in the end, a lot of this with the culture war and the peace process, dealing with the Middle East in general, is about pushing back on mythology. They remember history, but it's what they've pretty much invented and, boy, is it transmitted well. So, pushing back on the idea that, well, Palestine is a state that's existed forever or the return of refugees, just the idea that I laid out in how BDS works that this is just about 1967 issues, occupation. No, it's 1948 issues, it's Israel's existence and that's important. So, I think what President Trump has done, it's not just, you know, receiving a list from someone of – well, these are things that would make a specific group happy. Or, you know, these are things on a list to get done. He actually has understood the soup that it's in, you know, and how to basically get to the root of it, which is something that, as we were discussing before, is really going to play out over the coming years.

**MORTON KLEIN:**

And Mr. Brodsky mentions the refugee issue. It's so important to know, and I know Mr. Brodsky knows this, resolution 194 that was passed that said that refugees, or so-called Arab refugees, should be allowed to come into Israel. Every Arab country voted against that resolution. Why? Because it said they could only come back to Israel after the Arab countries made peace with Israel. And the Arabs didn't give a damn about the refugees and they weren't about to make peace with Israel, so, every one of them voted against that resolution. Here they are screaming about how important refugees are.

**MATTHEW BRODSKY:**

They tend to like something that is previous and then is no longer on the table. In fact, a very famous prince from a Middle Eastern country said that to Arafat on the way to see President Clinton in the Oval Office for, to get the famous Clinton parameters, was whenever we – we always say no, whenever we say no, there's always something less that's available later. Isn't it time that we should say yes and –

**FRED FLEITZ:**

I want to get Rabbi Moskowitz in on this, but I first want to embarrass him a little bit by praising his participation at a panel the Center did at CPAC '19 earlier this year. And the title of this is why antisemitism and anti-Zionism are threats to US national security. The rabbi spoke at this panel and he was like a rock star. He held court for twenty minutes afterwards with all of the people and this was a standing room only panel. If you want to see his remarks at this, you can see them at our website, [securefreedom.org](http://securefreedom.org). But anyway, after embarrassing you for this, do you have any thoughts on this question?

**RABBI YECHEZKEL MOSKOWITZ:**

First of all, I got such a high from it, I want to know if we're going to do it again this year at CPAC [LAUGHS]. But speaking of the president, I know that, again, this is just going back into the theme of, like, what I was speaking about before, the president has done so much for Israel and so much for the Jewish people. I was once with him in a room and we were talking about him and I actually mentioned to the president that he said to me, so, you liked that I moved the embassy in Jerusalem? And I was like, Mr. President, that's not the only thing I like as a Jew that you've done. I mean, I love what you're doing with protecting religious freedoms. I'm seeing everybody – I highly recommend

people watch his speech that he spoke about at the UN. I like what he's doing on the education front. It helps alleviate pressure for Jewish families. I like what he's doing to combat antisemitism, and the list goes on and on. Mainly the – we were speaking about the Taylor Force Act, things of how an administration can continue talking about that [UNCLEAR] an organization on the president, is an affiliate in Israel, the president of the National Council of Young Israel, Farley Weiss, was like more very instrumental in helping with the initial movement on that bill. The thing is, is that Jason Greenblatt was doing so much amazing work on social media, constantly educating the world on what's going on and the administration has to continue doing that. Jason leaving now is an unfortunate situation. But the administration could continue educating the world. They have this platform that they can educate the world. The – at the same token, I'm also thinking about like the post-Iran, hopefully we will be able to solve this Iran issue. God willing, we all want that to happen. Normalization with the Arab, with the Arab world, cannot be contingent on Iran. It has to be contingent on normalization for the sake of normalization. And the US Administration can do a lot to help propagate that. That, by educating the Arab world and helping them facilitate within their own culture reformation, that they're able to come to terms with the reality on the ground and not that, looking at Israel not only as an ally for the sake of combatting Iran, but also for the sake of just the idea of cultural diversity and the ability to interact with each other. Part of that is, in my opinion, recognizing Israel as a sovereign state. And with that, the – I don't know, none of us really know what the deal of the century is going to be, but obviously the administration should constantly, should be trying to do whatever they can to evaluate what has not worked thus far and consider promoting sovereignty, Jewish sovereignty, over the land of Israel, with obviously an – some sort of arrangement with the local Arabs with maybe an autonomy, so to speak, arrangement. [UNCLEAR] we've been, with several other, we're the only Orthodox organization that has been promoting on the Hill sovereignty and we're starting to work with some of our partners, hopefully, to continue to promote this idea that the Jewish people are a sovereign nation and deserve a sovereign state in the region. And I believe that by educating the US public about that, we can help further the, I guess the normalization within the region as well.

#### **JAMES CARAFANO:**

Can I just offer one follow-up thought to that? Because I – it gets back to another thing this administration has done well, is, for so many decades, American presidents, when they came into office were told nothing can get done unless we solve the Jewish-Palestinian problem. Everything else has to be put on hold, to link it right, and, you know, magically if you solve this problem, everything else will blossom, right? And this president has to [UNCLEAR] position and I think he's demonstrably proven that was a silly idea, right? That the region is not progressing not because we can't solve the Israeli-Palestinian problem. The region's not progressing because the region has lots of problems, right? What the Iranian thing has – what the Iranian situation has done is, it has, I think, forced an enormous amount of Arab introspection. And I do think that there is a possibility that, one is we can actually see a real security relationship develop between Israel and the Arab states out of necessity. But having kind of broken that glass, you could see where that could metastasize into all kind of economic and other connections and tethers. For a couple of reasons. One is, one of the things the Arab states really need to unleash their economic growth is they need real innovation, right? They need real connectivity, right? And Israel's the little engine that could, right? Israel is right in their own backyard. They have a state which could be a catalyst for the entire region in terms of economic transformation, economic freedom. And there's incentives for them to do that. And part of that is the encroachment of China, right? What's the alternative to the Chinese coming into your region and taking over? And the answer is, you develop your own capacity to kind of be an economic bloc that will, in a sense, immunize yourself against the Chinese. So, in the Middle East's own self-interests, it's kind of time for them to get their act together. And so, I agree with you that normalization can happen on the back of the Iran deal, but there is a window that might have been created here which could start that process. And I think the policies of this administration, both in pressing back against

Iran, not tethering all progress in the region to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, and engaging in constructive – engaging with the Egyptians, engaging with these other countries, even, you know, not giving up on ties with Turkey, right? Willing to be a partner that will help nurture the – look, not, and not to kind of say, we’re going to come in and protect you guys. You guys have to feed yourselves. But we are a partner in that. You know, I’m not a political guy, I’m not completely non-partisan, but I think, you know, six or seven more years of that policy, that could actually bear fruit.

**RABBI YECHEZKEL MOSKOWITZ:**

And I think that the litmus test for this would be the relationship between Israel and Jordan. And the relationship between Israel and Jordan although there is a lot of security collaboration, unfortunately, it’s not been able to transfer into a personal relationship to the point that when the administration did the gas deal, they had to do it through an American intermediary cause the Jordanians would have not, would not, were not willing to buy directly from the Israeli’s gas. And it will be the same case right now over water rights, which are becoming a contentious issue because of the Sea of Galilee having an impending ecological disaster. So, you could end up with a situation where the Jordanians, literally, are not interested in buying water from Israel and that’s going to be an issue. So, from my perspective, I would like to see the Jordanians and Israelis have a better relationship. And until that doesn’t happen, I just don’t see how that will be able to evolve anywhere else.

**JAMES CARAFANO:**

I take your point. And what do the Jordanians really bring to the table? It’s an enormous amount of human capital. And what do you need to really leverage that capital? They have to integrate in the region.

**RABBI YECHEZKEL MOSKOWITZ:**

A hundred percent.

**MATTHEW BRODSKY:**

You know, I’m more hopeful that some of the Gulf states, monarchies, I’m much more hopeful there. I’m usually pessimistic in general, notwithstanding my legislation comment before. But I think that there’s a reason to be hopeful. That going forward, I think the new generation understands quite well that oil is not going to be the way to fuel their economy and they understand that they need to do what Israel has done, which is to innovate and when you look around, you see Israel as a giant beacon of innovation –

**JAMES CARAFANO:**

And if I could just take that one step forward, what does this mean for the American left? So, if Israel integrates into the region, right, and essentially sealing their stops, what does that mean for the American left? And I think we can see a fracturing of the American left. Because between, you know, people who are committed to these really extremist agendas, can they really exist in a party which, in some sense, wants to be tethered to reality? And I’m not sure they can.

**MATTHEW BRODSKY:**

That’s why it’s still part of that super culture war thing that –

**FRED FLEITZ:**

You know, I want to respond to some things you said, Jim, about the Iran nuclear deal. I’ve done a lot of research on this for the Center and it’s – there’s a number of things that need to be pointed out concerning this move to the left by the Democratic Party and what I think is clear hatred of Israel.

Bear in mind that the nuclear deal with Iran was implemented over the objections of the Israeli government with no input from this government and you've heard Netanyahu repeatedly condemn it. But what's worth noting is that there are strong arguments being made by the left right now that we can live with a nuclear Iran. And why can't Iran have nuclear weapons because Israel does. I mean, that may sound really ridiculous, but Paul Pillar, who used to be a CIA officer, he's a leftist professor at Georgetown, he wrote an article on why we can live with a nuclear Iran in the *National Interest* a few years ago. I think it's worth noting that as the Democratic Party becomes more radical, as these radical socialists and people with anti-Israel sentiments get into the party, there's going to be a thinking here that really is against our national interests, against the interests of Israel. People who somehow think that we can live with an Iran armed with nuclear weapons. And I think that was really behind this terrible nuclear deal that Obama's administration put forward. It never really stopped Iran from pursuing nuclear weapons, had a very short timeline, and Iran was easily able to cheat on it because the verification was so weak. So, I think when we think about this surge to the left and this surge in antisemitism and hatred of Israel in the Democratic Party, it really does have pretty dire implications for American and international security.

**MORTON KLEIN:**

When you have a country like Iran that publicly proclaims – and repeatedly – death to America and death to Israel, that's not a country that you want to allow them to have nuclear weapons. You wouldn't want Nazi Germany to have nuclear weapons. Yes, there's a big difference between Israel and France and others having nuclear weapons and Iran. Israel is not threatening anyone, doesn't proclaim even verbally to threaten anyone, and Iran does. We should have learned from the 30s and 40s, the Nazi Germany years that when a country makes public threats of that nature, you better believe them. And that's why, God forbid, we do not allow Iran to have nuclear weapons just like we would never have allowed, God forbid, for Nazi Germany to have had nuclear weapons.

**MATTHEW BRODSKY:**

Another aspect of the public garbage that's associated with that type of thinking is Israel is assumed to have had a nuclear weapon since the late 1960s. It sparked no nuclear arms race. The idea that Iran could have a nuclear weapon, oh, that scares the pants off of everyone in the region. So, clearly, one country is –

**RABBI YECHEZKEL MOSKOWITZ:**

Cause they know they would use it.

**MATTHEW BRODSKY:**

And they openly declare, right, so, this is obviously the main animating problem of the region today. One of them.

**JAMES CARAFANO:**

And I think, you know, funnily enough, I think that's the one issue that many of us fear, right? The problem of a nuclear Iran. I mean, the mullahs are crazy, but if Iran has a nuclear weapon, it's not Israel that's the problem. At the – do people really think that Turkey and Saudi Arabia and Egypt are going to stand by and let Iran have nuclear dominance over them? That's not going to happen. And essentially, this will be not just – not just we have a highly proliferated region, this will be the death of non-proliferation. It will be. It will just be the death.

**MATTHEW BRODSKY:**

And this is being done, this is the existential issue that is facing Israel today. At the end of the day, it's all about what's the Trump Administration going to do next, what are we going to do, what if some



Democrat is elected, how – what if we just get back into the deal and stick our head in the sand and pretend it's going to work?

**JAMES CARAFANO:**

Yeah, and not to say nice things about Fred, cause I never do that, but both in government and at CSP, the one, I think, the lodestar, you know, your research has always been don't lose sight of what's going, what the real policy issue is here, is a nuclear armed Iran is a not just a danger to the United States. It's a global danger and it cannot be permitted. And if anything, I think JCPOA accelerated the threat, it didn't diminish it.

**FRED FLEITZ:**

That's right. Look, a nuclear Iran is an existential threat to the state of Israel. And Mort is exactly right. Iran is a state sponsor of terror. That's why Iran can never be allowed to get nuclear weapons. And frankly, the Obama administration was going to let them get these weapons. There's no question about that. This deal was such a joke. They tried to get a deal because they wanted to have a big celebration, a legacy agreement for Barack Obama. It was a catastrophe. And one of the best things President Trump did was to get us out of this fraudulent agreement and you can see how all the Democrats are trying to fight back now, that this was really a good deal, that we should try to get back in on it. Unfortunately, Iran is saving us from ourselves from its recent behaviour, including firing cruise missiles at Saudi oil facilities and its other provocations. It's – I think the Europeans are running out of patience in trying to stay in this agreement. But I think we have to think of the trendline here, where this came from, and where the Democratic Party and the left is moving us in national security.

**JAMES CARAFANO:**

Yeah and – I'm sorry – I was going to say, not only is it a bad deal, but the arms import waivers, they expire next year, right? So, if something isn't done, things could get a lot worse.

**MORTON KLEIN:**

I think it's important, I have a fear, I hope I'm wrong, that once, with God's help, we resolve this Iran nuclear danger, where Obama even said himself publicly after thirteen years, Iran can do whatever they want in terms of their nuclear program, quite shocking, I'm worried that once that's resolved, hopefully it will be, will the Arab, will the Muslim world revert back to their overt hostility towards Israel? I say this because traditional Islam remains the fundamental problem. Why you have in the Middle East seventy-five to ninety-five percent of the Muslims are antisemitic according to Pew's own polls. It's because traditional Islam preaches hatred of Christians, Jews, and until that's resolved, we will have a hotbed of danger in the Middle East. Aayan Hirsi Ali, the former Muslim, who's a scholar at Stanford University's Hoover Institute, has publicly stated repeatedly it is Islam that taught her to hate Jews and Christians and the West. And I must say President Sisi who I met with two years ago in Cairo, the president of Egypt, said publicly at al-Azhar University, the mainstream main, West Point of the Islam world, he said this, it is inconceivable, said el-Sisi, that the thinking, the wrong ideas that we Muslims hold most sacred should cause the entire Islamic nation to be a source of anxiety, danger, killing and destruction, said el-Sisi, for the rest of the world, impossible. That thinking is antagonizing the whole world. We are in need of a religious revolution. You imams are responsible before Allah. The entire world is waiting. Is waiting. What a courageous statement by a Muslim leader of a Muslim country at al-Azhar University, that part of the problem is traditional Islam and its preachings. They have to have a revolution just like the Christians had a revolution in the 60s with their hateful language that they used to preach back in those days.

**MATTHEW BRODSKY:**

I think you have reason to hope on this regard when it comes to this reformation. Again, when it comes to Saudi Arabia or the UAE, I think when it comes to Turkey, Muslim Brotherhood promotion, I think when it comes to Qatar, far more problematic. But that is part of the – that's, I'm still hopeful that this can move forward because the current model there, I think they're beginning to become aware it's not going to work, both economically, culturally, religiously. So, I mean, we'll see. You know, it's said two optimistic things. This is just not me.

**JAMES CARAFANO:**

No, no, just back, back to the administration where, and which Fred was part of, and I give him a lot of credit for helping guide these policies, but, you know, America's been, really since the 70s, kind of bipolar, right? We jump in with two feet in the Middle East then we try to jump out with two feet, right? And this is the first administration which I think really has come up with a realistic policy that says, look, we have to stay engaged with the region, right, because it's in our interest and we can be a force for good. On the other hand, we can't solve their problems and we shouldn't try to. And I just think that balance is not just right, but the time for that is right, so, I'm – I am optimistic. Optimistic and the Middle East don't normally go together. But I am – I do feel that there is a space here that can be worked if this administration just stays on this course. And this is why I think this issue that you brought up today is so important. Because what we have here is really, you know, like the old movies, the guys are – they're trying to take the track away, right, so the train will just run off the track and that's fundamentally what the BDS movement is. They don't want this to work. They don't want people to be at peace and to love each other. They want the hate to continue. And the only way they can do that is to derail the train.

**FRED FLEITZ:**

You know, what I see is that the debate in this country is confused, condemnations of white supremacy from the far right, and I condemn these things without reservation. But this is diverting us from a surge, a real surge in antisemitism. Including in New York City, which is, which is much worse than you would know and it is not being reported in the press. And as I said, this is not just a religious liberty issue. This is an effort to delegitimize the American relationship with Israel. To hurt Israel. Not just to hurt the Jewish people and American Jews. So, I mean, no one wants to say that, but the Center under Frank Gaffney has a tradition of saying things that people don't want to hear and talking about politically incorrect things and this is, this is our politically incorrect topic for today. I think we've kept you out of the discussion for the last few minutes, Rabbi, I thought I'd give you a chance to weigh in.

**RABBI YECHEZKEL MOSKOWITZ:**

Well, it's just fascinating listening to all the different comments here. I think that the, just to follow up on their comments, I think that both sides are right. That there is a lot of optimism, but at the same time, we definitely need to see a reformation and it's going to – it has to come hand in hand. If we don't see one, the other side is statistically just not going to probably work out. And I think that those who are optimistic, I think that they do obviously hope that there will be a reformation and I think that there are people out there like Imam Talidi [PH] who are promoting this kind of new Islam and I'm all for it. I mean, if they can pull that off then that would be amazing for everybody in the world, but at the same time, the pessimist in me is a little – is skeptical. [LAUGHTER] A little skeptical, a little bit, I'm being, I just, I don't know if I shared it with you, I shared it with a few of my grandfather's writings from when he wrote *One Minute to Midnight* and it's kind of like regurgitating the same ideas, that just look up a word which Trump – thirty years ago, so, it's very hard to see how it has any, has anything really changed? But at the same time, we have to continue fighting. That's the most important thing.

**FRED FLEITZ:**

Matthew, a final thought before we wrap up?

**MATTHEW BRODSKY:**

Look, I just want to, would say thank you again for hosting this, this is incredibly important, the timing is incredibly important. I think one thing that he said that's incredibly important when it comes to our own Jewish faith is Tikkun Olamism, which has essentially hijacked a good portion of our religion and has become a substitute for the religion itself. And this explains a large problem that we ourselves need to address. And, I mean, it's, I'm surprised myself to have been optimistic on two occasions involving the Middle East because I always say that no one makes money betting on peace in the Middle East.

**FRED FLEITZ:**

Thank you. Well, I hope you all enjoyed watching this important Center for Security Policy on antisemitism, defending Israel, and the Trump Administration. I think we had a very good discussion here that I hope you'll find useful. We're going to post this video on our YouTube and Facebook sites as well as on [securefreedom.org](https://securefreedom.org), where you'll find other material that our experts have been writing on this topic. I'd like to thank Morton Klein, Rabbi Moskowitz, James Carafano and Matthew Brodsky for a vigorous discussion and we'll be posting more of these real soon. Thank you for watching.

**MATTHEW BRODSKY:**

Thank you.

**[END OF FILE]**