

Is the US Turning Against Israel? Vijay Prashad Explains

Is the historic US-Israel alliance beginning to crack? In this interview, historian and journalist Vijay Prashad examines the growing tensions between Washington and Tel Aviv following the US-Iran understanding. Why are Israeli leaders openly criticizing the United States? Has the Gaza genocide fundamentally changed American public opinion on Israel? And who ultimately shapes US policy in the Middle East? The discussion covers: • Why Israeli leaders reacted angrily to the US-Iran agreement • The future of US-Israel relations • The impact of Gaza on American public opinion • Who really influences whom—Washington or Tel Aviv? • Israel's military gains in Lebanon • The strategic implications for Iran and the wider Middle East • The question of Lebanon, the Litani River, and future regional conflicts Watch till the end for Vijay Prashad's analysis of one of the most consequential geopolitical shifts in recent history. #USIsrael #Iran #MiddleEast #Israel #Gaza #VijayPrashad #Geopolitics #InternationalRelations #Lebanon #USForeignPolicy

#Mudiar

So maybe a good place to start is the U.S.-Israel relationship itself. Right after the announcement of the MOU, there was an apparent meltdown within circles of Israeli officials—Naftali Bennett, Itamar Ben-Gvir, Bezalel Smotrich—all saying how bad this deal is, and not just that, saying that it reflects a growing rift between the United States and Israel. Is this a temporary shift, or does it also indicate what we've seen after the genocide in Gaza, notably a huge shift of public opinion in the United States about Israel? What is your sense about the future of the U.S.-Israel relationship?

#Guest

Yeah, you know, one should never, ever overestimate or dance around the U.S.-Israeli relationship, because the U.S.-Israeli relationship is a mystery. You know, people have spilled ink. There have been so many books written about it, so many talk shows. Does the United States define Israeli policy, or has the Israeli lobby or the Zionist lobby taken over the U.S. government? You know, currently the right-wing television personality Tucker Carlson has been sort of bent out of shape about, you know, who controls whom. Do the Israelis control the United States, or does the United States control Israel? Evidence is thrown back and forth.

You know, when the Israelis attacked the USS Liberty, a U.S. warship, the United States did nothing really in retaliation, you know, and has never really sought to retaliate for that. And so this is an old debate, very hard to reconcile or complete this debate. It's true that we're going to see a lot of ups and downs in the relationship. The United States is eager to end the conflict with Iran that the U.S. started with Israel. Yeah, the U.S. started the conflict. The U.S. merely wants to come back to the

day before the conflict began. If we're honest about what's being leaked from the statements, I mean, OK, the Iranians say we don't want a nuclear weapon. Hello.

They said that before the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran. The Iranians say we're going to perhaps de-escalate enrichment. They already agreed to that in Oman before this conflict started. At the end of the day, the U.S. is saying, well, we're going to make a great deal. The Strait of Hormuz is going to be open. The Strait of Hormuz was open before this began. So what are you actually gaining from this? In fact, it's not in Iran that the gains are being made. The gains in this period were made by Israel against Lebanon, where Israel during this period entered southern Lebanon, far beyond the Litani River, came up to Saida, effectively destroyed village after village in a very brutal campaign against the Lebanese people.

That's a real gain that Israel has made. It has basically destroyed a very substantial part of Lebanon, weakened an already weak Lebanese state, and has created, you know, basically an enormous buffer zone for Israel. Now, will Israel have to withdraw from that as part of the terms of an agreement? I don't think they're going to agree, and that's going to be a real sticking point between the United States and Tel Aviv. You know, that is going to be where we will see perhaps finally the proof of the debate: who controls whom?