



Lauder School of
Government, Diplomacy
and Strategy

Institute for
Liberty & Responsibility



United States and Israel in the Public Minds

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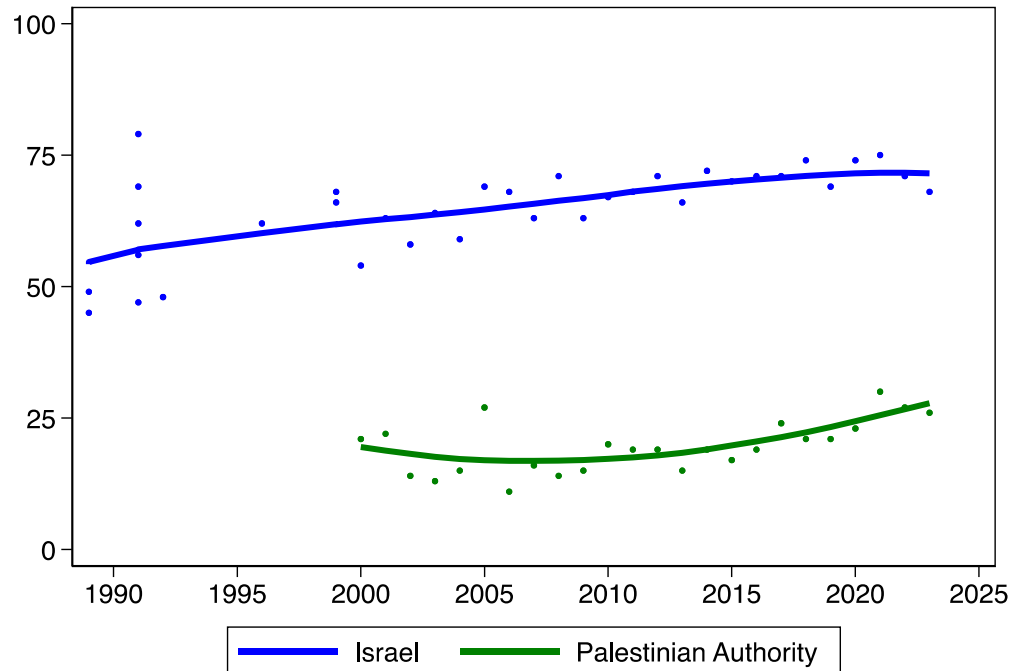
American Public Opinion toward Israel

The US-Israeli relations would be untenable
without a supportive public opinion



Overwhelming Support

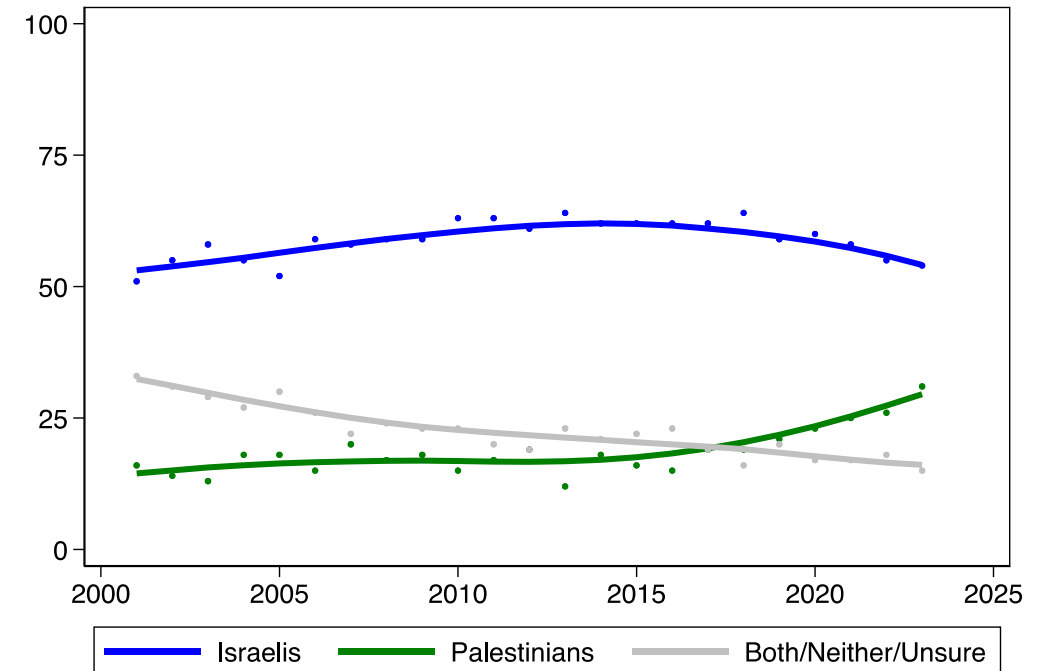
Favorability



Source: Gallup Surveys

What is your overall opinion of [Israel / Palestinian Authority]?

Sympathies

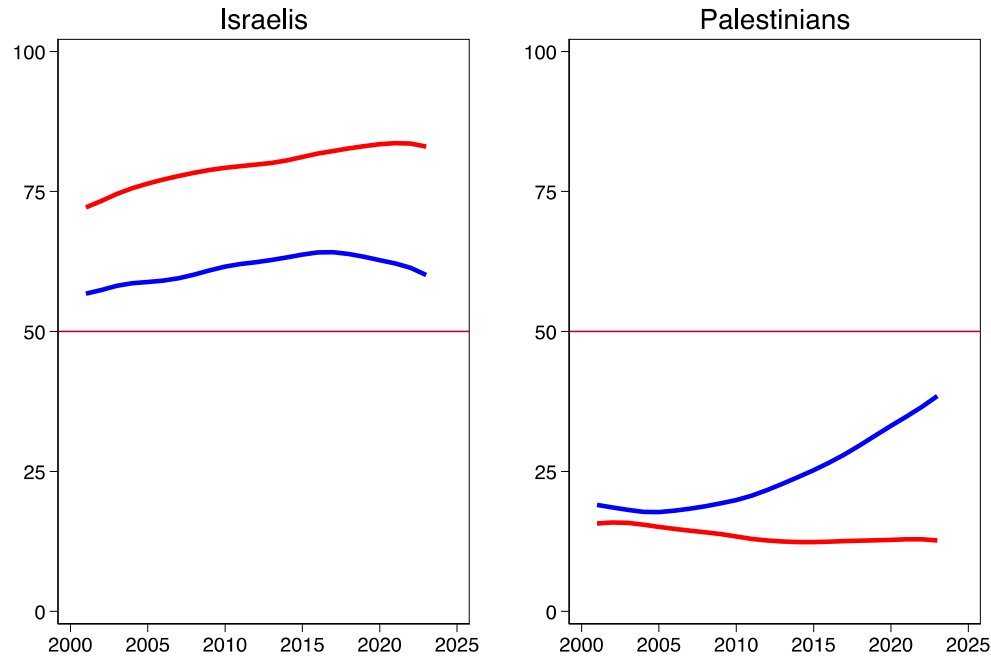


Source: Gallup Surveys

In the Middle East situation, are your sympathies more with the Israelis or more with the Palestinians?

Overall Trend of Increasing Partisan Divide

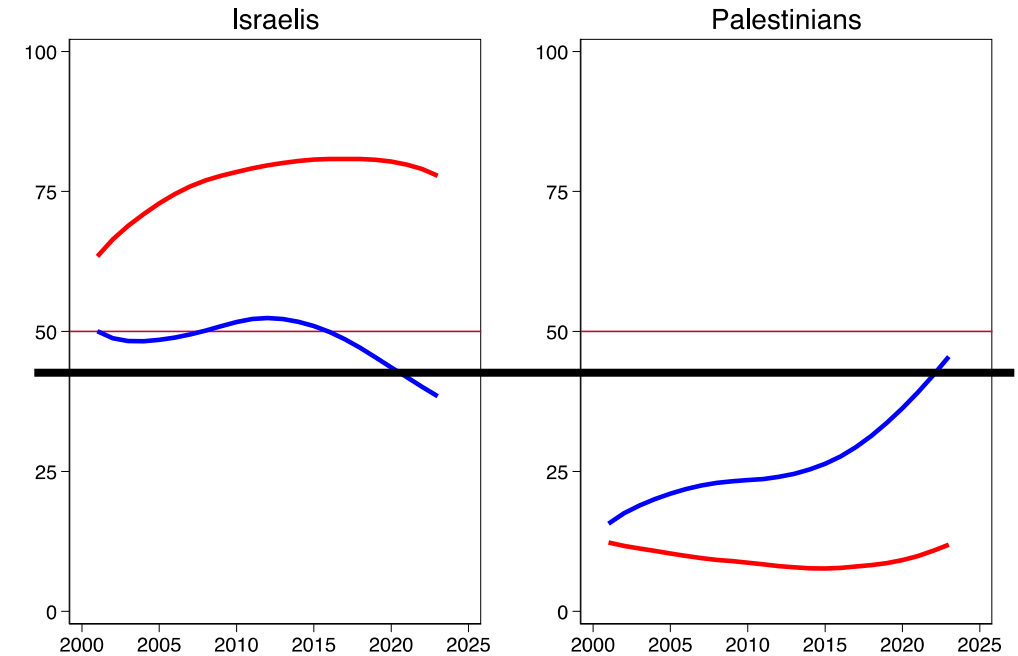
Favorability



Source: Gallup Surveys

When asked separately (favorability)

Sympathies

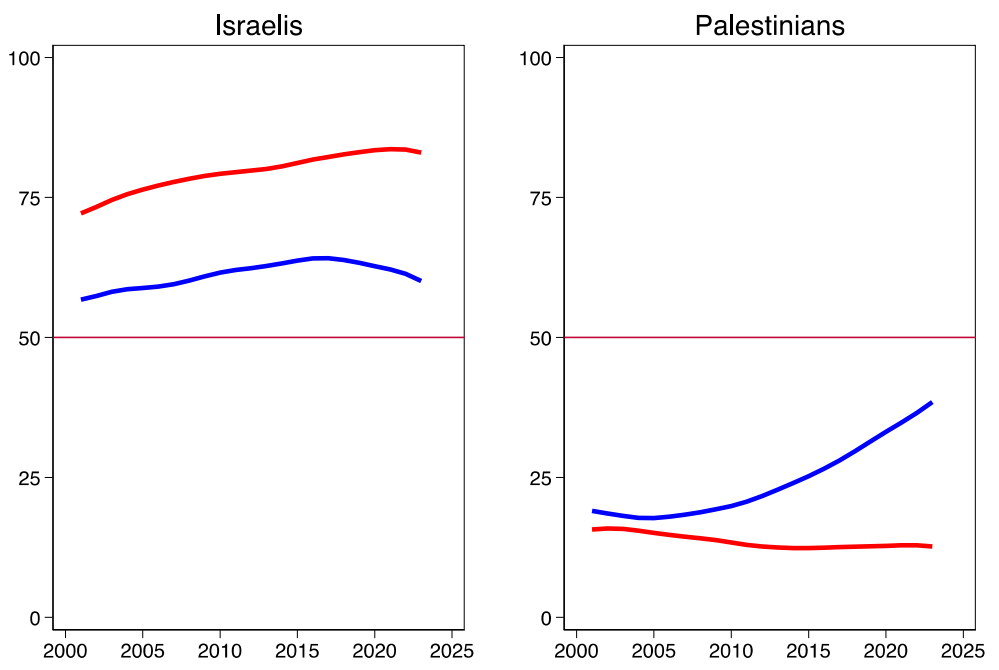


Source: Gallup Surveys

When asked to choose (Israelis vs. Palestinians)

Overall Trend of Increasing Partisan Divide

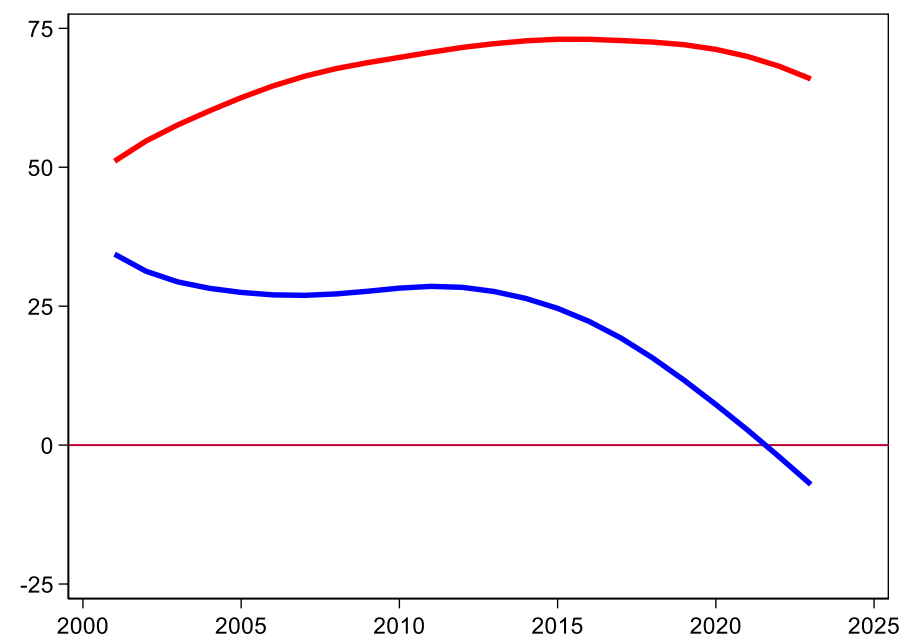
Favorability



Source: Gallup Surveys

When asked separately (favorability)

Sympathies: Gap

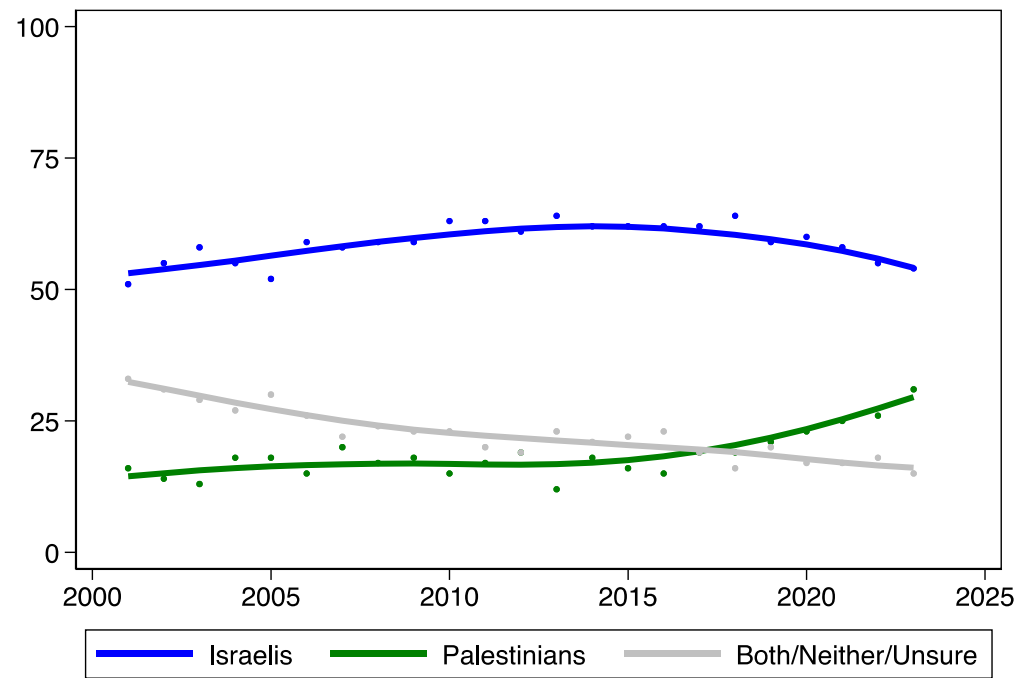


When asked to choose (Israelis vs. Palestinians)



The decline runs much deeper

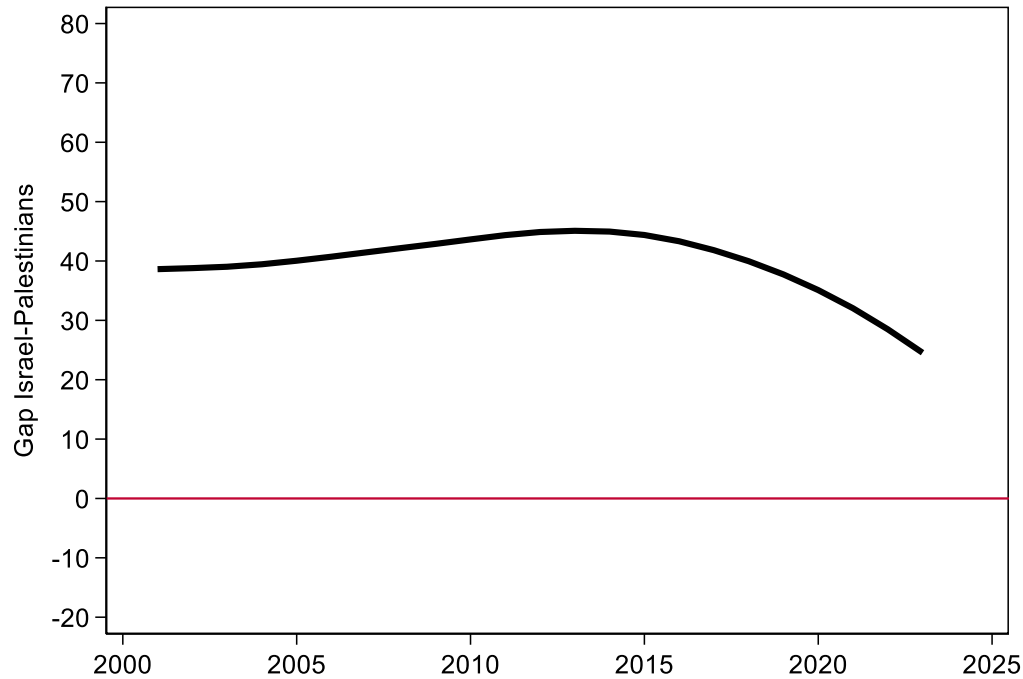
Sympathies



Source: Gallup Surveys

The decline runs much deeper

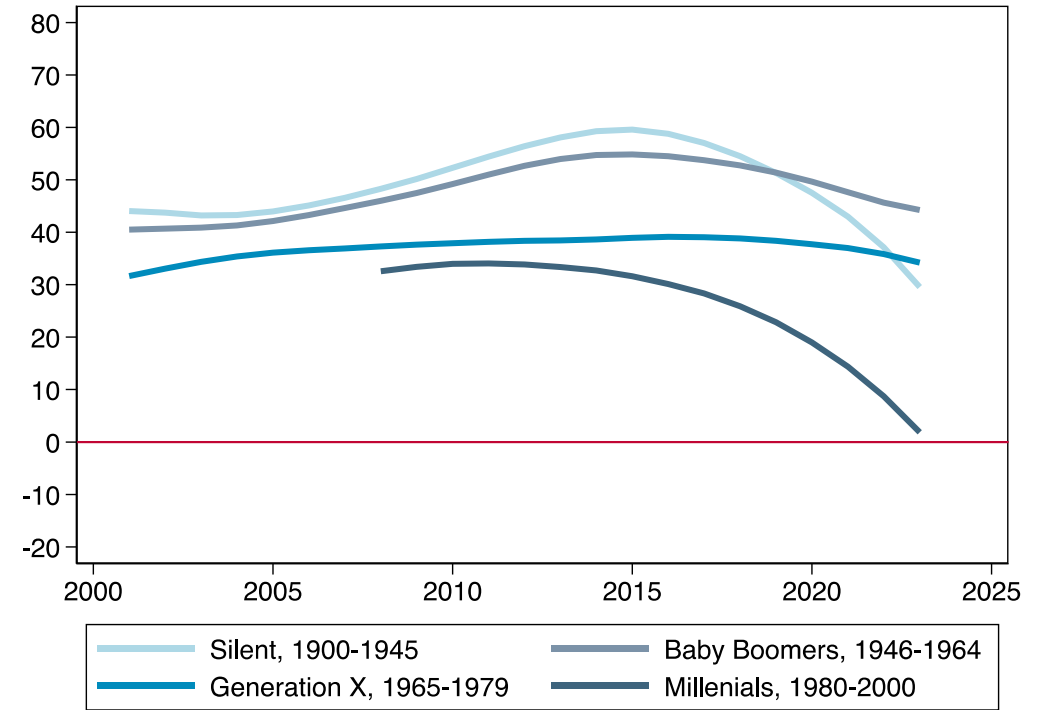
Sympathies: Gap (overall)



Source: Gallup Surveys

* Sympathies with Israel minus Sympathies with Palestinians

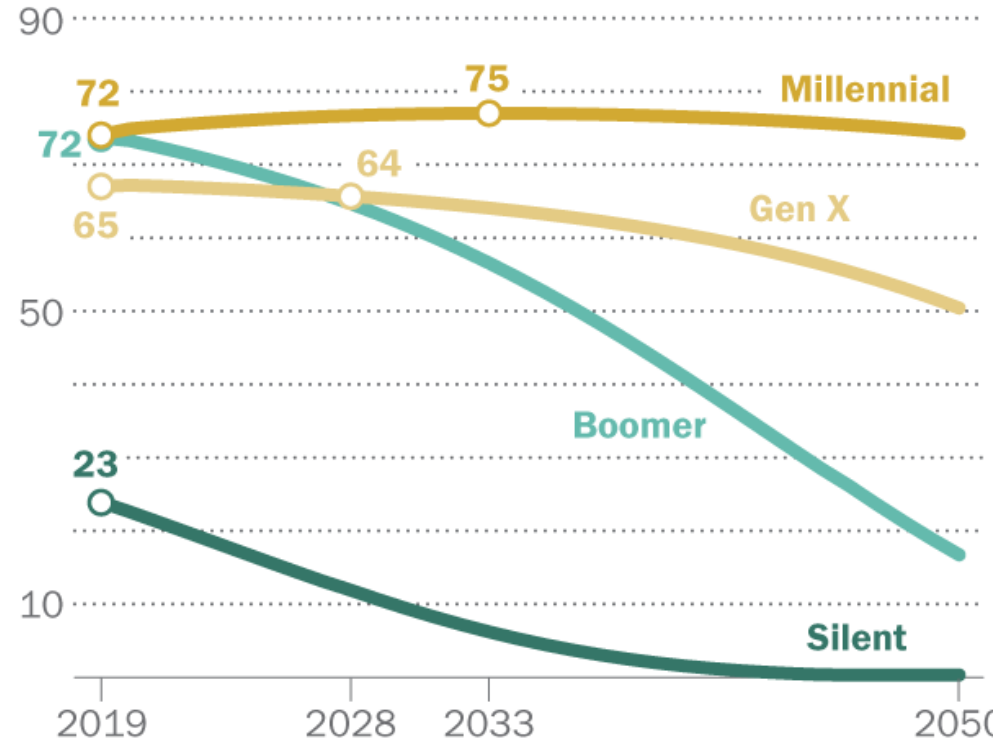
Sympathies: Gaps by Generations



* Sympathies with Israel minus Sympathies with Palestinians

Projected population by generation

In millions



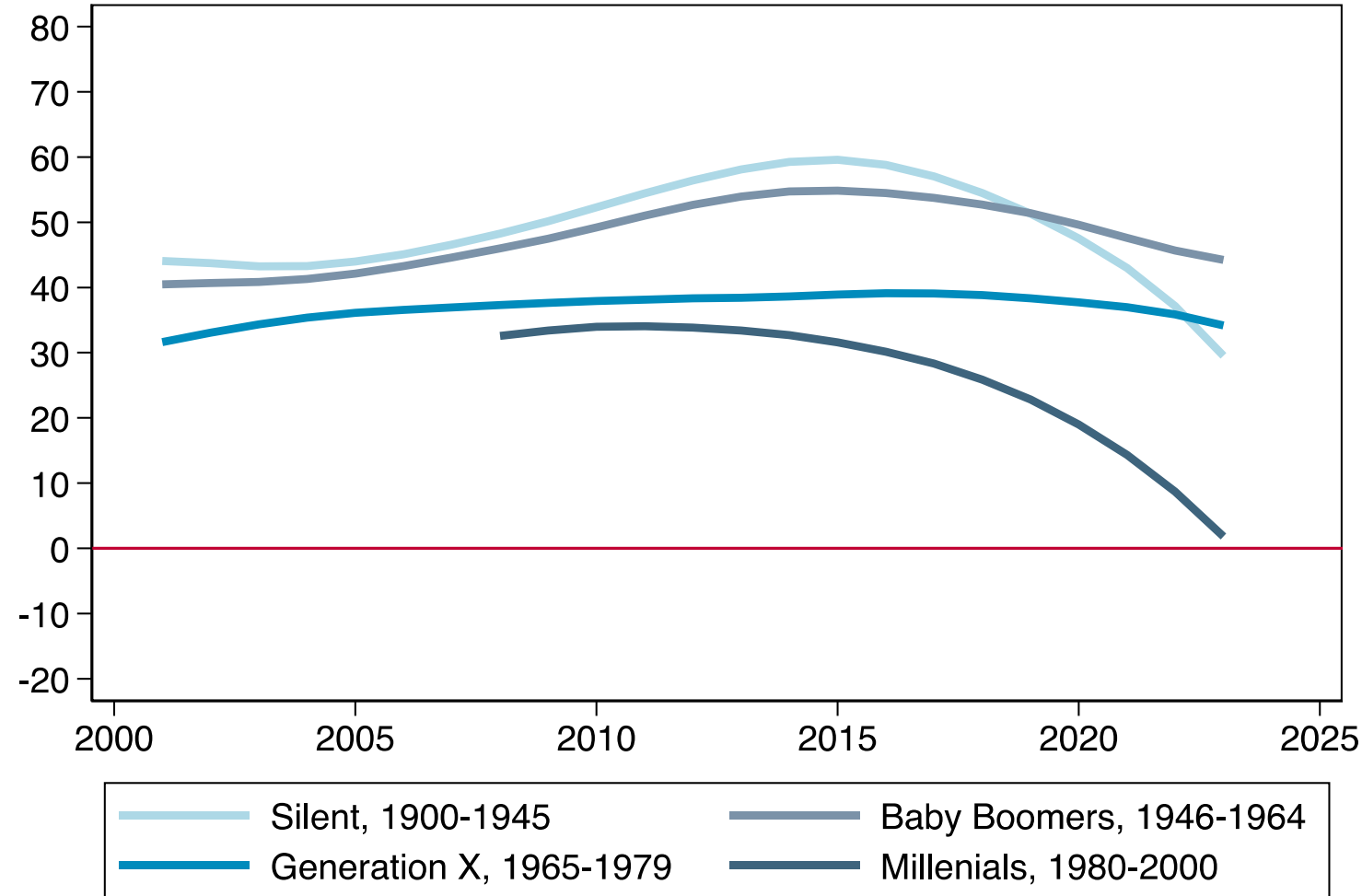
Note: Millennials refer to the population ages 23 to 38 as of 2019.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of U.S. Census Bureau population estimates released April 2020 and population projections released December 2017.

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Gap between Sympathies toward Israelis and to Palestinians



- Silent, 1900-1945
- Baby Boomers, 1946-1964
- Generation X, 1965-1979
- Millennials, 1980-2000

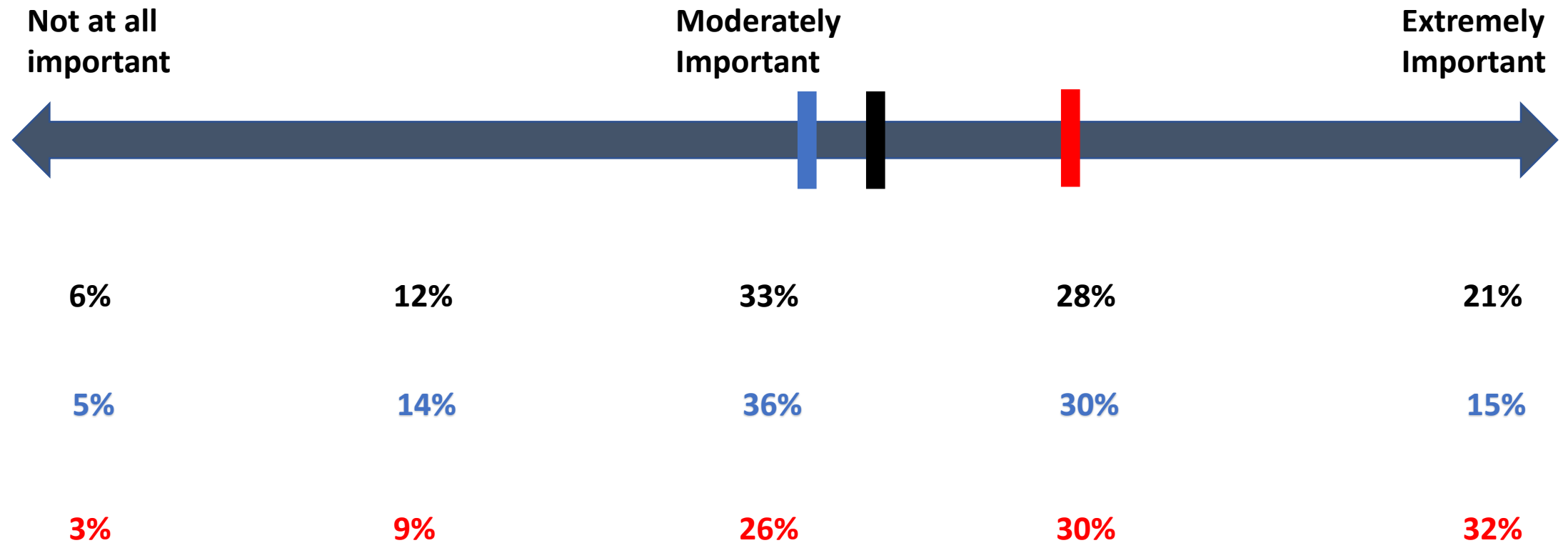
Considerations for Maintaining a Special Relationship with other Countries

A world map in the background, color-coded by region. North America is light yellow, Europe is light orange, Africa is light yellow, Asia is light orange, and Australia is light yellow. The United States is highlighted in a darker shade of light orange.

- **How important is each one of the following considerations?**
 - **US Strategic Relations: 84%**
 - **US Business interests: 78%**
 - **Shared Democratic Values: 77%**
 - **Shared Religious Values: 38%**



Importance of US-Israel Relations





Why Important?

- Because Israel is our ally: 81%
- Because Israel is a strategic asset for the United States: 80%
- Because Israel is a Democracy: 71%
- Because Israel is the Holy Land and the birthplace of Christianity: 54%



American Public Opinion
toward Israel

Is it legitimate to critique Israel for policies that are not consistent with American values?

- **Legitimate: 60%**

- **Republicans: 47%**
- **Democrats: 70%**

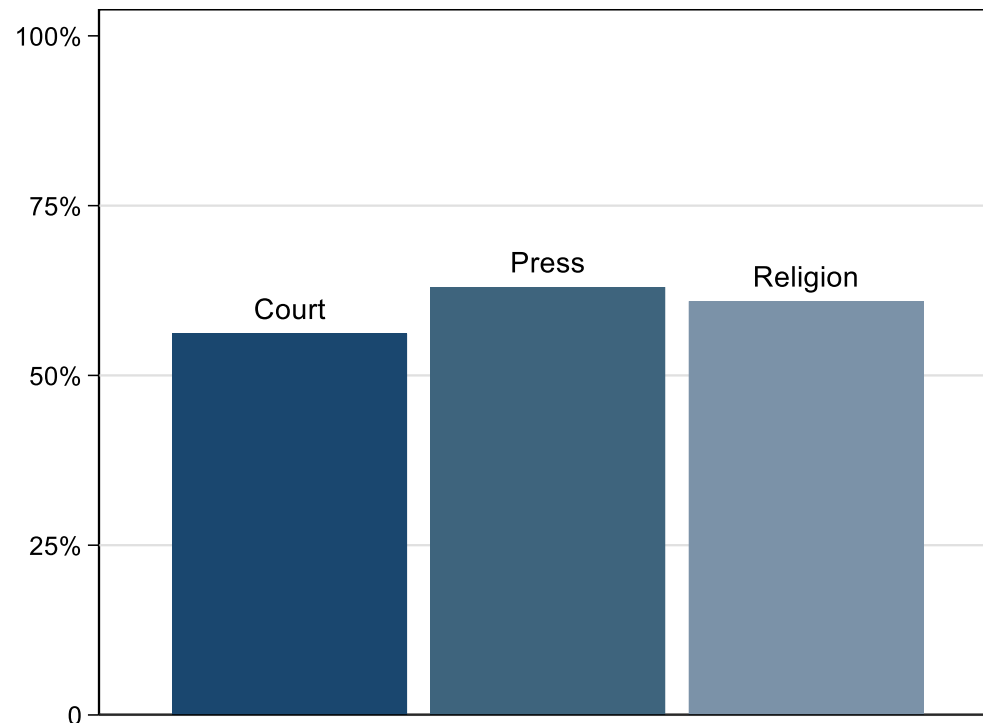
- **Not including Don't Know: 28%**



In response to Ambassador Nides for his comments about the judicial reform



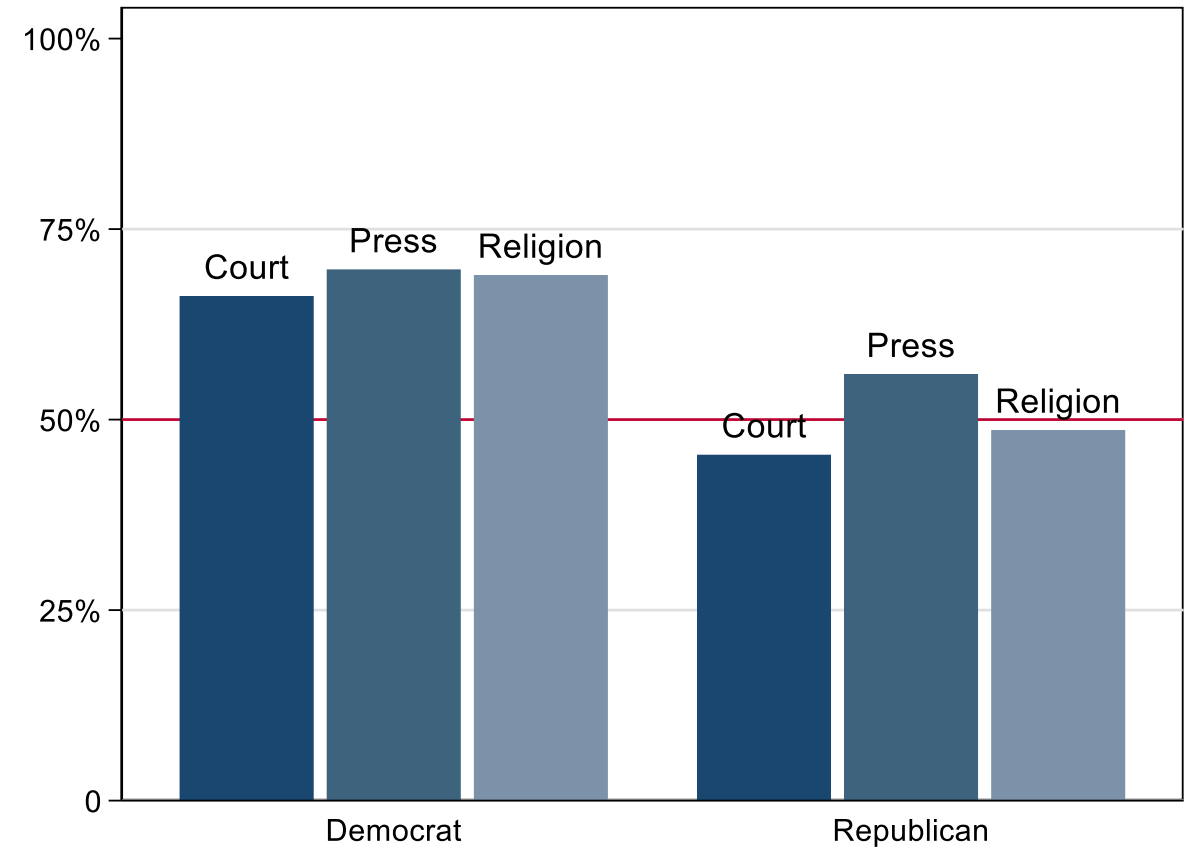
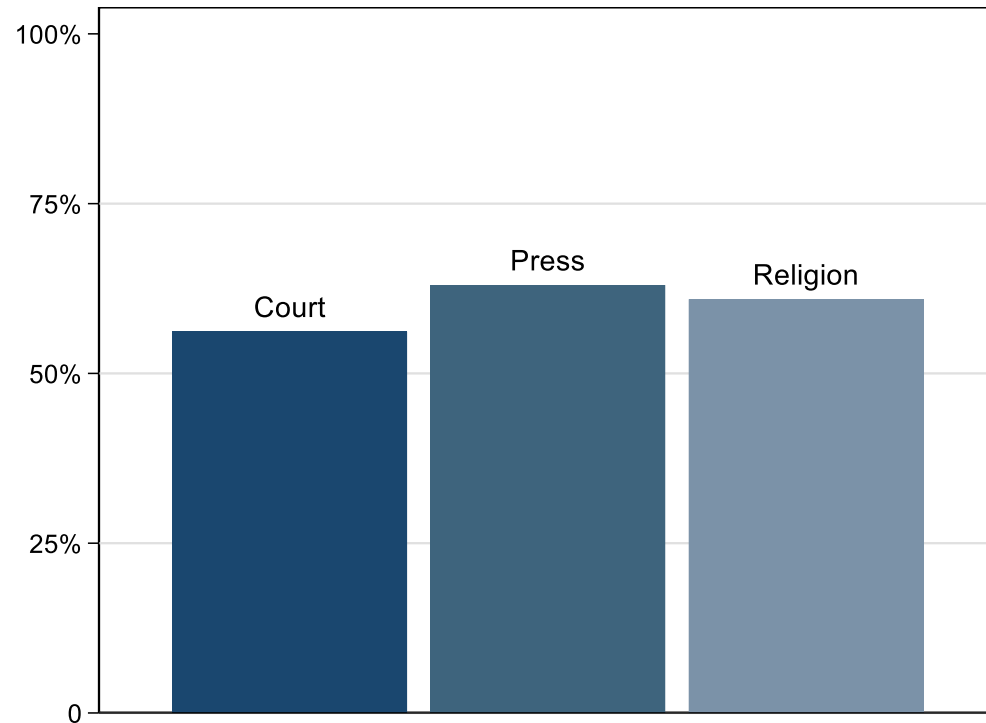
Legitimate to critique Israel for reforms



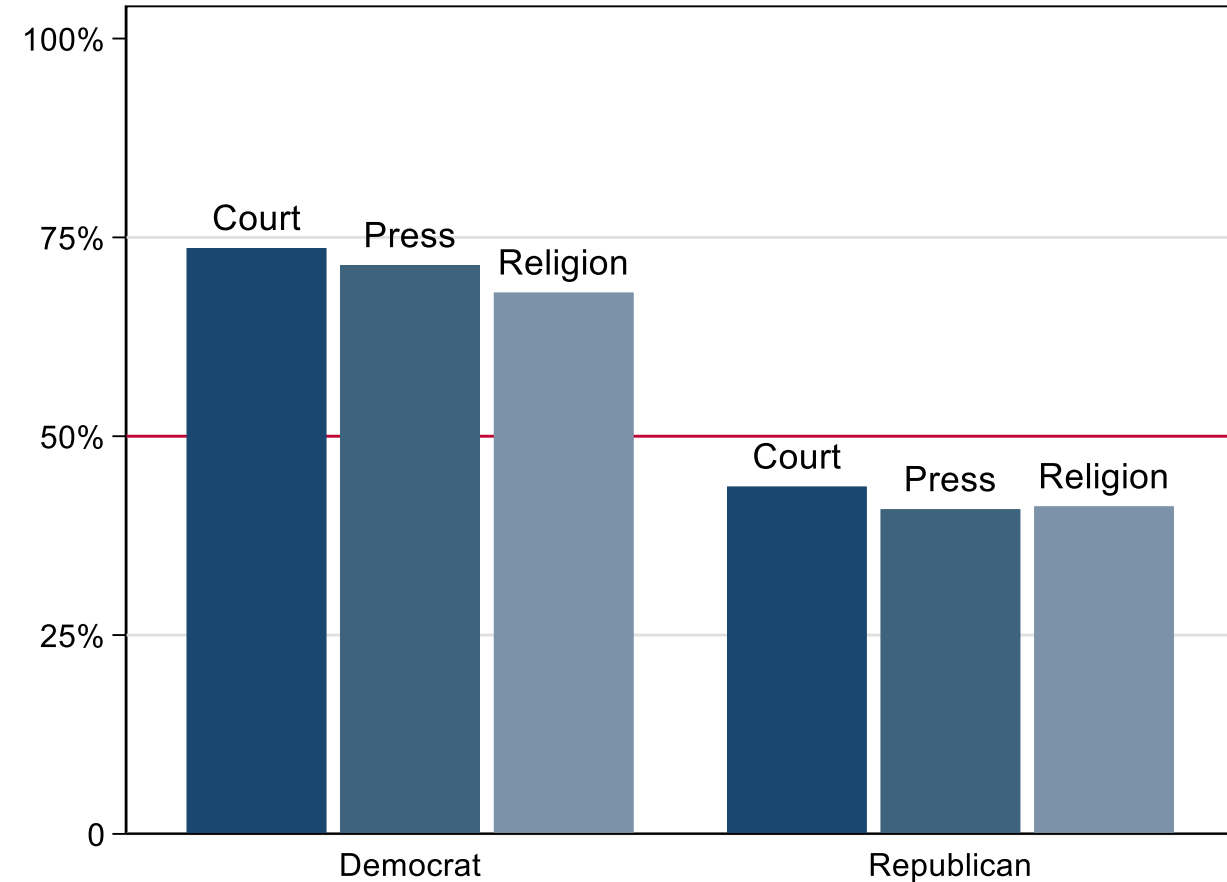
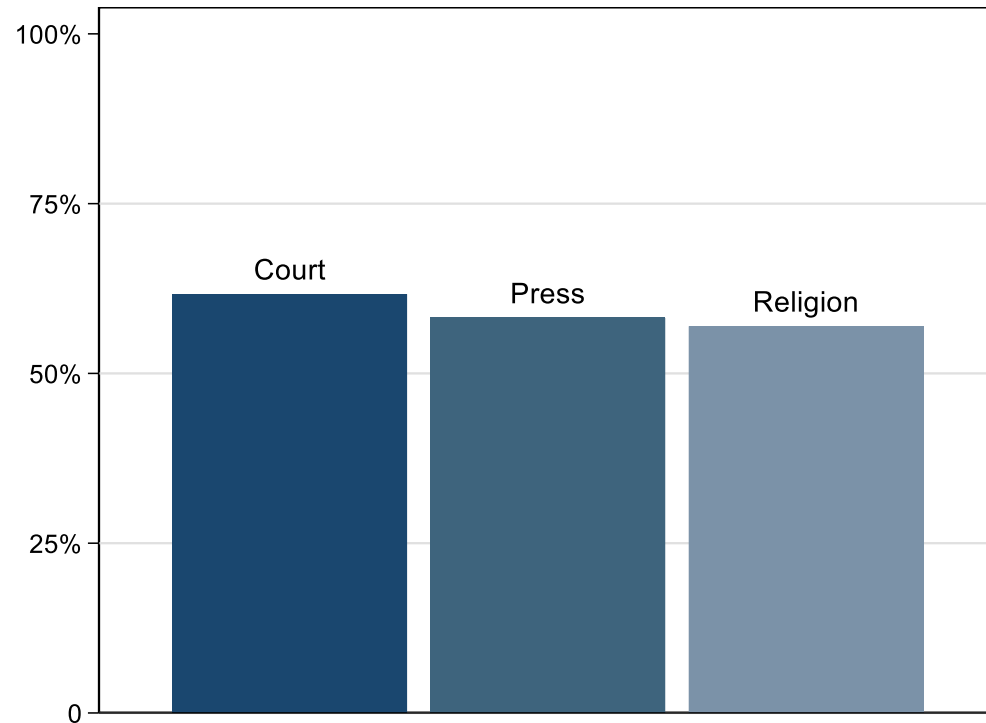

טלי גוטליב
 @TallyGotliv

לשר התקשורת יש סמכות להפסיק שידורי תקשורת בעת מצב מיוחד ובעת חירום בעורף כפי שהכריזה הממשלה. אדוני השר זה הזמן להשתיק את שידורי 11, 12, 13 במסגרת סמכותך לפי ס. 13 לחוק הבזק. בשנאה ובשקרים ובפגיעה בחוסן הלאומי ע"י ערוצי תקשורת תועמלניים ופוגעניים משיבים באופן היחיד שהם יבינו.

Legitimate to critique Israel for reforms



Re-evaluate relations if reforms pass?





Assessing Public Views of the US among Israelis



Israel in the world: Associate with...

Democratic
Countries

78%

Any country, depending
on Israel's interest,
regardless of democracy

41%

- **US** important Ally: 90% (April 2021: 83%)
- **Russia** is a natural ally: 15% (April 2021: 40%)
- Israel should get closer to **China**, the rising power: 42% (April 2021: 59%)

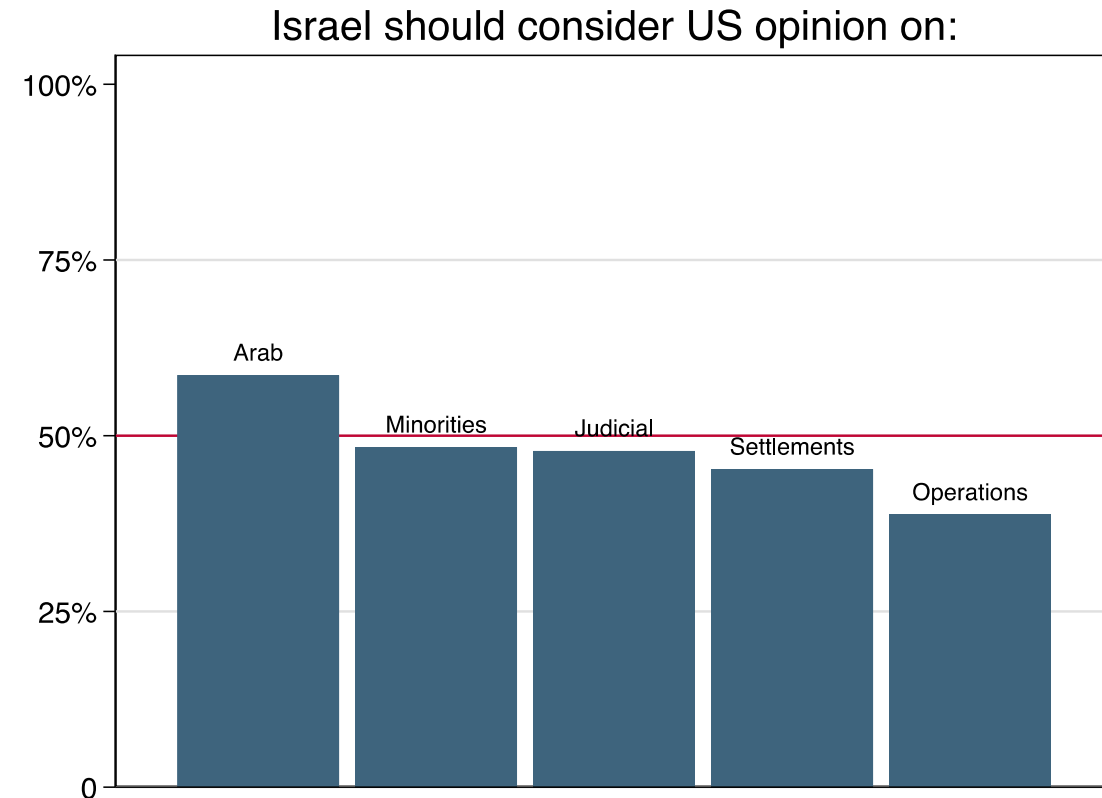


Importance of US-Israel Relations

- US important ally: 90%
- Israel does not have a better ally than the US: 75%
- Israel needs US Support: 84%
- Favorable view of the US: 75%

Israel should consider the US opinion on:

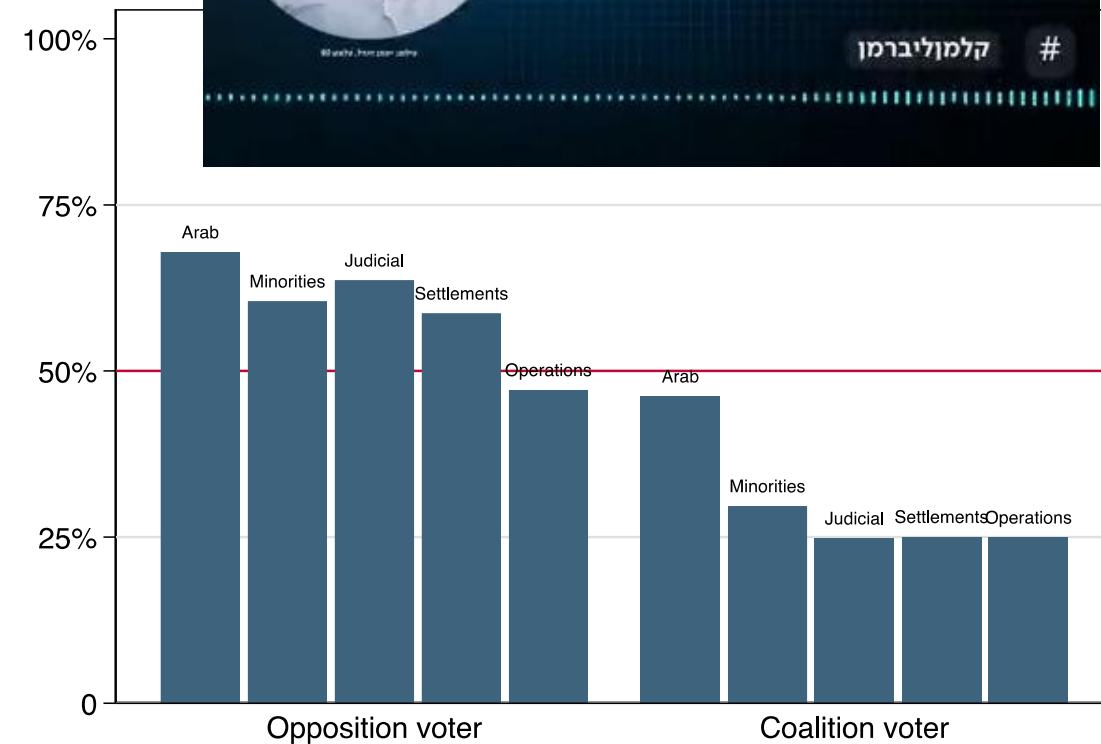
- Israel's relations with Arab countries
- Israel's building of settlements in Judea and Samaria
- Israel's military activities in Judea and Samaria
- Minority rights in Israel
- Proposed changes to the judicial system





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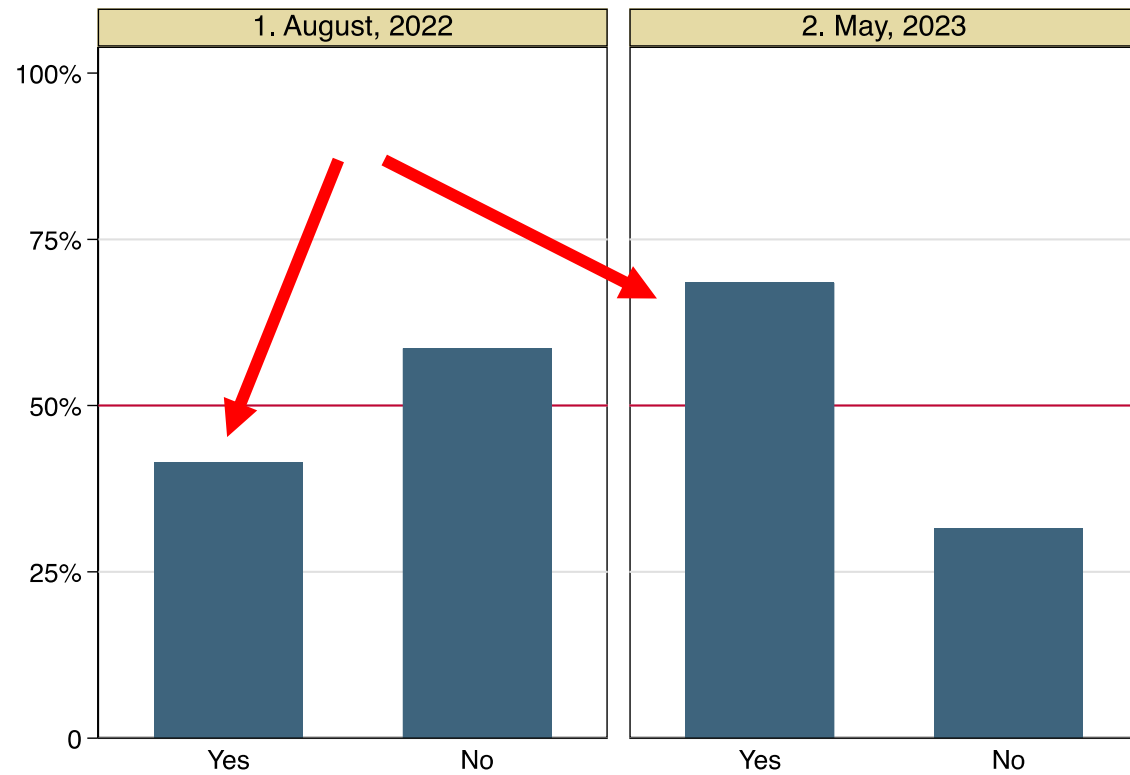
Judicial Reform

- Legitimate to Critique?
 - **Overall: 51%**
 - **Coalition voters: 18%**
 - **Opposition voters: 75%**

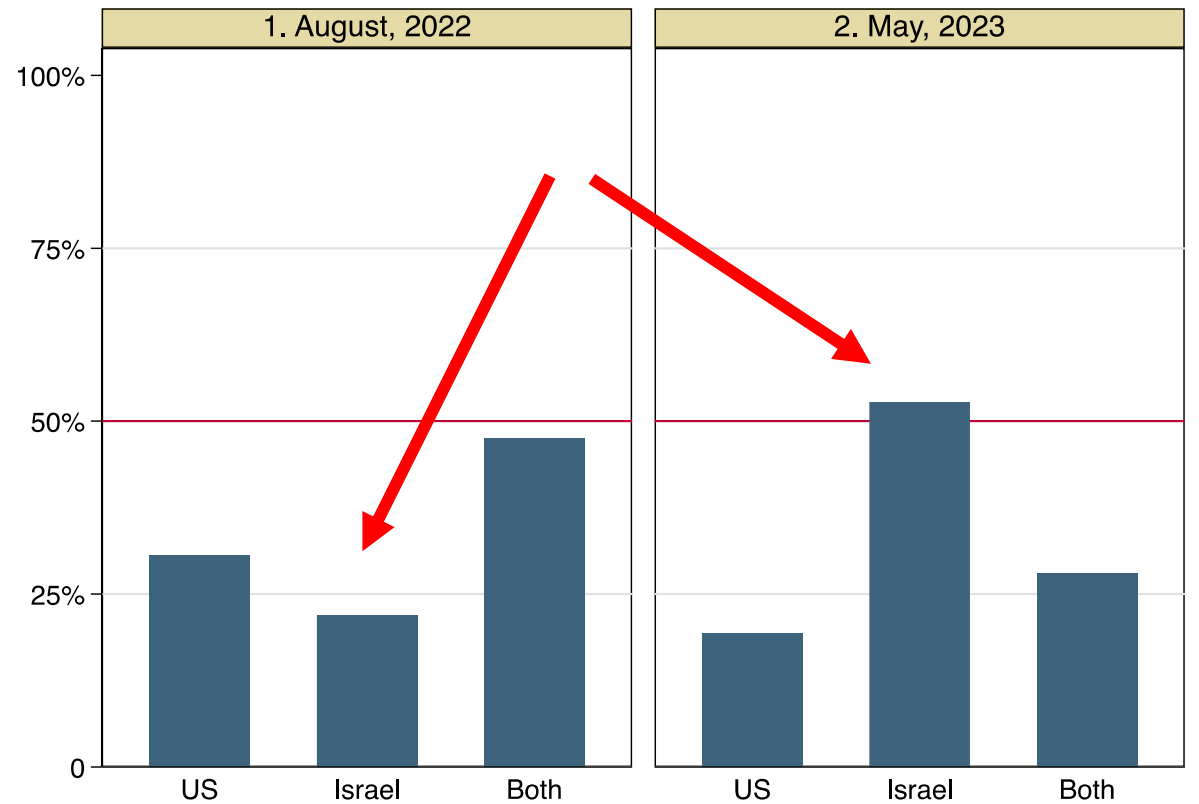
- Will it hurt US-Israeli relations?
 - **Overall: 56%**
 - **Coalition voters: 30%**
 - **Opposition voters: 70%**



Decline in US-Israel Relations (2022)?



Graphs by SURVEY



Graphs by SURVEY

Main Takeaways

- Americans have a favorable view of Israel
- But,
 - The overall support is becoming (extremely) polarized
 - Support is significantly lower among younger generations (especially millennials)
 - Importance of democratic values
- Israelis view the US as an important and strong ally
- But,
 - Israelis acknowledge that Israel should consider US opinion on some issues (relations with Arab countries) but not on others (settlements and military operations)
 - Israelis see a decline in US-Israeli relations and increasingly attribute it to the actions of the Israeli government



Thank you

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