

Answering the Ten Most Common Accusations Against Israel

A Quick-Reference Guide from USIEA

1. "OCCUPATION"

MYTH: *The West Bank and Gaza are occupied Palestinian territory.*

FACT: No Palestinian state has ever held sovereignty over this land, so calling it "occupied Palestinian territory" is inaccurate on its face. Israel fully withdrew from Gaza in 2005, dismantling every settlement and exhuming Jewish graves rather than leave them behind, and returned only after Hamas' October 7 attack. In Judea and Samaria (the West Bank), Jews have lived continuously since biblical times. In fact, Jordan expelled Jewish residents and destroyed dozens of synagogues after capturing the territory in 1948.

2. "APARTHEID"

MYTH: *Israel is an apartheid state that discriminates against Arabs on the basis of ethnicity.*

FACT: The apartheid label collapses once you look at who actually governs the Palestinian people. Arab citizens of Israel hold full political rights, including to vote, representation in the government, and Supreme Court appointments. These are rights that apartheid South Africa denied Black citizens by law. Most Palestinians outside Israel aren't governed by Israel at all: the Palestinian Authority administers the areas containing most West Bank Palestinians, and Hamas has ruled Gaza exclusively since 2007. A framework built for a racial minority ruling a disenfranchised majority doesn't fit a dispute where most Palestinians live under their own leadership.

3. "GENOCIDE"

MYTH: *Israel is committing genocide against the Palestinian people in Gaza.*

FACT: Genocide requires intent to destroy a people because of who they are. Israel's goal is dismantling Hamas and recovering the hostages taken on October 7, not eliminating Palestinians as a people. Hamas' own tactics—using civilians as human shields and building [tunnels](#) beneath hospitals and homes—are the real war crime that makes Palestinian civilian deaths almost unavoidable. Unlike history's actual genocides, Israel has opened aid corridors and [vaccinated](#) hundreds of thousands of Gazan children in the middle of the war, actions no exterminationist campaign would take.

4. "SETTLER-COLONIALISM"

MYTH: *Israel is a settler-colonial state built on land that belongs to Palestinian Arabs.*

FACT: Jews are a people indigenous to this land, not foreign settlers. Archaeological, textual, and genetic evidence documents a continuous Jewish presence spanning roughly 3,000 years, a history no European colonial power ever had anywhere it colonized. The label is used to frame Israel's entire existence, not just its policies, as an injustice requiring "decolonization."

5. REJECTED PEACE PROPOSALS

MYTH: *Israel has never been serious about allowing a Palestinian state to exist.*

FACT: Jewish and Israeli leadership repeatedly signaled willingness to partition the land and negotiate Palestinian statehood: [the 1937 Peel Commission](#), [the 1947 UN Partition Plan](#), and two exceptionally generous 21st-century offers—[the 2000 Clinton Parameters](#) and [Ehud Olmert's 2008 proposal](#), both covering all of Gaza, roughly 97% of Judea and Samaria (the West Bank), and a Palestinian capital in Jerusalem. Each time, Palestinian leadership rejected the proposal or failed to accept it. This myth shifts blame for the conflict entirely onto Israel, absolving Palestinian leadership of its own repeated refusals to make peace.

6. THE UNITED NATIONS

MYTH: *The UN's frequent condemnation of Israel reflects Israel's uniquely poor human rights record.*

FACT: The numbers reflect a rigged voting bloc, not a moral scorecard. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Arab League give Israel's critics a large, disciplined starting bloc of Muslim-majority states, which—combined with the Non-Aligned Movement and other regional coalitions—routinely produces lopsided outcomes at the United Nations. From 2015 to 2024, the General Assembly [passed](#) 173 resolutions against Israel, more than double the 80 passed against every other country on earth combined, including Syria, Russia, North Korea, and Iran—actual human rights violators. The Human Rights Council maintains a standing agenda item that exists for no other country, a structure a former UN Secretary-General himself once called disappointing. The disparity is used to manufacture the appearance of global consensus against Israel from what is actually a bloc-voting numbers game.

7. INTERNATIONAL MEDIA

MYTH: *News coverage of the conflict offers a neutral, factual account of events.*

FACT: The media's own record on this conflict contradicts that claim. In October 2023, for example, major outlets worldwide ran headlines blaming Israel for an explosion at Gaza's Al-Ahli Hospital, based solely on a claim from the Hamas-run Health Ministry, before any independent investigation occurred. Human Rights Watch, no friend of Israel, later [concluded](#) the explosion was most likely caused by an errant Palestinian rocket, and U.S. intelligence assessed the death toll between 100 to 300, far less than the 471 first reported. The false story reached hundreds of millions of people within hours; the correction reached only a fraction of that audience. Uncorrected first impressions like this one are frequently used to cement a narrative of Israeli guilt that later facts cannot fully undo.

8. THE ISRAEL LOBBY

MYTH: *A powerful Israel Lobby exercises outsized influence over U.S. foreign policy.*

FACT: “The Israel Lobby” rarely describes actual lobbying from the state of Israel. The label gets applied to anyone who supports Israel, whether they lobby or not: evangelicals, Jewish voters, elected officials, national security experts, ordinary political commentators, all folded into one term, as though independent agreement were proof of secret coordination. It brands widely held support for a democratic ally as evidence of covert foreign influence, rather than what it is: a political position millions of Americans hold for their own reasons.

9. AMERICAN AID TO ISRAEL

MYTH: *U.S. military aid to Israel is a wasteful giveaway that doesn't serve American interests.*

FACT: The aid serves American interests in many ways. Under the current U.S.-Israel Memorandum of Understanding, [nearly all \\$3.3 billion in annual Foreign Military Financing](#) must be [spent on American-made weapons](#), rising to 100% by 2028, supporting an estimated 20,000 American jobs. In return, the U.S. gains an ally that co-develops missile defense systems and shares intelligence that saves American lives. Severing the relationship would not save money; it would hand a scientifically and technologically advanced ally to rivals like China or Russia that are eager to fill the vacuum.

10. ACADEMIA

MYTH: *Universities offer balanced treatment of Zionist and anti-Zionist perspectives.*

FACT: Faculty inside these institutions report otherwise. A 2025 [survey](#) by the Academic Engagement Network and the Anti-Defamation League found 43.5% of Jewish and Zionist faculty felt unwelcome in their own committees or events, and 5.7% were barred from faculty groups entirely because of that identity. Money helps explain the imbalance: Qatar, an Islamic state hostile toward Israel, is [the largest source of foreign funding](#) to American universities, giving more than \$6.6 billion since the 1980s, including [over \\$1.1 billion in 2025 alone](#), more than any other country. A relatively small number of activists, reinforced by that funding, can make an entire field hostile to a Zionist perspective and discourage scholars from voicing one.