



# Proxy Wars and Strategic Alignments: The Influence of U.S. Military Support to Israel on its Relationship with Iran in the Middle East

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## Abstract

This research investigates the implications of U.S. military support to Israel on its relationship with Iran, particularly in escalating proxy conflicts in the Middle East. The study contends that the U.S. administration's consistent military assistance aimed at bolstering Israel's defence capabilities against Iranian-backed proxy groups significantly influences the dynamics of U.S.-Iran regional interactions. Utilizing a mixed-methods approach, the study incorporates qualitative data from interviews uncovering themes such as asymmetric dynamics, domestic political influences, threat perceptions, and regional instability. Findings reveal that U.S. support for Israel fosters an environment of mistrust and escalated tensions, prompting Iran to reinforce its involvement with proxy groups. The research ultimately suggests policy adjustments for the U.S. administration, advocating for a reassessment of military support to Israel, emphasizing multilateral negotiations addressing regional complexities, and maximizing efforts to promote Palestinian self-determination as pathways to enhance strategic interaction with Iran and contribute to greater stability in the region.

**Keywords:** Military Support, Proxy Groups, U.S.-Israel-Iran Relations, Regional Dynamics, Foreign Policy

## Introduction

The contemporary U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East is caught in a complex interplay between strengthening Israel's defense capabilities through military support and countering Iran's strong opposition to Israel's regional presence. Not immediately after its founding in 1948, rather the U.S. administration began providing extensive military support to Israel after its Six-Day War with Arab nations in 1967 (CFR Editors 2017; Kurz et al. 2018; Laufer 2019; Levey 2008; Narea 2023; Sharp 2015; Stephens 2007). Similarly, with the end of formal diplomatic relations following the 1979 Iranian Revolution, the U.S. administration's

interactions with the newly formed Iranian regime became strained due to ideological differences in favor of Israel's presence and other regional interests (See, Beeman 2008; Byman 2008; Estrada et al. 2020; Jiang 2017; Robinson 2020; Sachs 2019; Siraj and Bakare 2022). This multifaceted situation has shaped the contemporary U.S. administration's foreign policy toward the Middle East focusing on strengthening Israel's defense capabilities and countering Iran's hostility toward Israel.

As regional dynamics evolved, the emergence of various non-state actors in the Middle East often classified as proxy groups by the U.S. administration significantly influenced its interaction with both Israel and Iran (Allin

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and Simon 2010; Hefezi et al. 2024; Jones 2024; Lazaroff 2024; Siraj and Bakare, 2022). The U.S. administration continues to provide military support to Israel to strengthen its defense capabilities to counter those proxy groups challenging its presence in the region (Baldor 2024; Garamone 2023; Israfan 2024; Olay 2024; “U.S.-Iran Tensions Soar During Israel-Hamas War” 2023). This support of the U.S. administration ensures that Israel safeguards its regional interests while remaining a reliable ally (Eisenstadt and Pollock 2022; Rumley 2023). Conversely, tensions with Iran continue as the U.S. administration alleges Iran supports these proxy groups that pose a security threat to Israel (Crisisgroup 2024; Lillis 2023; Sharifi 2024; Silva and Kube 2024). As a result, the U.S. administration views this Iranian support for proxy groups as a challenge to its broader regional interests (“Confrontation with Iran” n.d; Toropin 2023). Given the complexity of these interactions, scholarly inquiry is essential to explore the implications of the U.S. administration’s military support for Israeli defense against proxy groups and how these dynamic influences its relationship with Iran. This research provides valuable insight into the complexities of contemporary Middle East conflicts, particularly the involvement of proxy groups and the U.S. administration's relationship with Iran and Israel.

This research examines how the U.S. administration's military support to strengthen Israeli defense capabilities influences its relationship with Iran. By analyzing the involvement of proxy groups in the Middle East, the study assesses how the U.S. administration's military support for Israel influences its strategic engagement with Iran. Therefore, the central research question guiding this study is: How does the U.S. administration's military support for strengthening Israel's defense capabilities against proxy groups shape U.S. strategic interaction with Iran? Through a mixed-methods approach, this research contributes to the existing literature by examining the complex tripartite relationship between the United States, Israel, and Iran providing particular attention to how the involvement of proxy groups influence these relationships in the Middle East.

## Literature Review

The strategic dynamics of U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East are deeply entangled in two distinct positions, including military support for Israel against proxy groups and resistance to Iran's opposition to Israel's presence in the region. Scholars such as Reich and Powers (2018), Cavari (2021), and Yarhi-Milo et al. (2016) highlight the support of the U.S. administration as a central pillar for ensuring Israel's stability and

presence in the region. Some other findings indicate that the administration provides military support to Israel not only to strengthen its defense capabilities but also to protect U.S. regional interests (Bapat 2011; Freedman 2017; Ramos and Hikmawan, 2022). Literature exploring this relationship also indicates that the U.S. administration's support for Israel is informed by shared values and mutual stances against common adversaries (Roth 2009; Sharp 2015). However, these relationship dynamics require a nuanced understanding of how military support for Israel influences the U.S. administration's interactions with Iran, especially considering the involvement of proxy groups in the region.

On the other side, the existing literature on the US–Iran relationship predominantly describes the U.S. administration's adversarial interactions with Iran (e.g.: Bahgat 2023; Estrada et al. 2020; Hussain 2015; Janeba 2024; Mahapatra 2016; Mousavian and Toossi 2017; Naji and Jawan 2011). Many scholarly discussions emphasize the administration's concerns regarding Iran, particularly its reach toward nuclear ambitions, its support of non-state actors often labeled as proxy groups, and its challenge to US military presence in the Middle East (Albarasneh and Khatib 2019; Byman 2008; Jiang 2017; Maloney 2023; Parsi 2024; Sherrill 2012). Scholars such as Hadar (2007) and Rome (2019) argue that the U.S. administration's approach to Iran is fraught with controversy and confrontation, largely driven by concerns about supporting those proxy groups that challenge its regional interests. However, this binary perspective overlooks the nuances in the evolution of US-Iranian relations, particularly as the U.S. administration's strategic interaction with Iran appears to be increasing over military support to Israel. To fully understand this context, it is necessary to examine how the involvement of proxy groups in the Middle East influences the U.S. administration's interactions with Iran while strengthening Israel's defense capabilities.

Recent scholarship has focused its attention on the involvement of various proxy groups in shaping U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East (Abbas and Syed 2023; Byman 2023; Cragin 2015; Farhadinasab and Jafari 2016; Hollingshead 2018; Jose and Fathun 2021; Lynch 2021; Manni 2012; Tira and Guzansky 2024; Tellidou 2024; Yazıcı 2018). Scholars such as Khan and Zhaoying (2020), Lynch (2021), and Pollack (2022) emphasized that the involvement of proxy groups in the region creates a highly volatile and fragmented security environment for Israel. The U.S. administration therefore provides military support to strengthen Israel's defense capabilities as a direct countermeasure to those proxy groups that threaten its existence. Such continued

support of the U.S. administration not only maintains Israel's security but also maintains its regional interest, however, this approach has strained U.S. strategic interaction with Iran.

This study therefore aims to fill a critical gap in the literature by bridging theoretical constructs with empirical evidence. While existing research predominantly focuses on isolated case studies or theoretical models, this study employs a multi-dimensional approach. By combining the balance of threat theory with both qualitative insights and quantitative evidence, the research provides a nuanced analysis of U.S.-Israel-Iran dynamics. While existing literature explored the U.S. administration's interactions with both Israel and Iran separately, there remains a significant gap in systematically examining the interconnectedness of these relationships with the involvement of proxy groups. By examining how U.S. administration military support to Israel against proxy groups influences its interaction with Iran, this study offers policy recommendations aimed at de-escalating US-Iran tensions and fostering a more balanced approach in the Middle East. Furthermore, this research emphasizes the importance of understanding the involvement of proxy groups as a key element in shaping the US-Iran-Israel trilateral relationship, which ultimately contributes to more informed policy decisions regarding future U.S. administration interactions in the region.

### Theoretical Framework

The theoretical underpinning of this research revolves around a deductive approach that applies the balance of threat theory. This framework is highly relevant to this research as it emphasizes the importance of understanding how states perceive and respond to perceived threats within an international system that is characterized by varying levels of power and influence. Through the balance of threat theory, this research explores how shifts in regional power dynamics impact the interaction between the states.

**Balance of Threat:** The theory of balance of threats defined by Walt (1985) serves as an important framework for understanding how the U.S. administration's military support for strengthening Israel's defense capabilities against proxy groups shapes its strategic interactions with Iran. This theory argues that states form alliances and military support based not only on the distribution of power but also on perceptions of threats posed by other states (Walt 2009). Regarding US-Israel-Iran interaction, the U.S. administration alleges Iran of supporting various proxy groups that threaten Israeli security, which ultimately affects its own regional interests (Magramo et al. 2024; U.S.

Department of Defense 2024). This perception of threat encourages the U.S. administration to provide military support to strengthen Israel's defense capabilities.

Similarly, Walt (1985) argues that states evaluate threats based on several factors, including the intentions of other states. In this case, Iran's alleged intention to support proxy groups constructs a sense of insecurity for Israel that prompts the U.S. administration to provide its military assistance (Lopez 2024; Miller 2024). The U.S. administration's military support to Israel can therefore be seen as a balancing strategy to counter Iranian intentions to pose a threat through the involvement of proxy groups in the region (Bahgat 2023; Lillis 2023; Sharifi 2024). The relationship became complicated after the 1979 Iranian Revolution, as differences in regional interests with Iran including Israel's presence intended the U.S. administration to provide military assistance to strengthen its defense capabilities.

Therefore, applying the balance of threat theory provides valuable insight into assessing the U.S. administration's military support for Israel and its influence on strategic engagement with Iran. Exploring the interplay between perceived threats, intention, military support, and the influence of proxy groups deepens the understanding of the US-Israel-Iran trilateral relationship and informs policy recommendations for future U.S. administrations dealing with similar regional interactions in the Middle East.

### Methodology

This research uses mixed methods to examine how the U.S. administration's military support to Israel shapes its relationship with Iran. A total of 115 participants were interviewed for this research out of which 105 responses were included for qualitative data analysis. The recruitment strategy consisted of circulating multiple invitation requests using tools such as social media, referral requests, and email. Participants were then selected by purposive sampling based on their backgrounds and experiences, particularly those with expertise in the U.S. administration's military support to Israel and its strategic interactions with Iran. Individuals with at least five years of relevant professional experience in current or previous roles in academic or non-academic fields were considered eligible to participate in this research.

The academic participants included scholars and researchers who contributed relevant theoretical and analytical insights to this research from backgrounds including but not limited to Middle Eastern studies, international relations, political science, history, sociology, and security studies. Similarly, non-academic participants included practitioners and experts from

backgrounds including foreign policy, journalism, political analysis, government positions, and field expertise who provided policy-based analysis and practical insights relevant to this research. After completing the screening process and eligibility confirmation, semi-structured personal interviews were conducted using a predesigned guide. Verbal consent was obtained before interview questions were asked and each session lasted approximately 2–3 hours during which data were recorded for transcription and analysis, ensuring confidentiality. The findings of this research incorporate interviews as a means of gathering insights from scholars and practitioners across the field. However, the study acknowledges that interviews reflect subjective perspectives, understanding, and experiences which might not fully provide conclusive evidence. To address this limitation, the research also integrates secondary data to ensure a comprehensive evaluation of the theory by combining subjective insights with objective verification.

After completing data collection, the research progressed to the analysis phase where major themes were identified and interpreted from the interview responses. Using advanced visual tools and matrix coding, MAXQDA software was used to manage interview data, integrate frequency distribution for mixed method analysis, and identify themes based on emerging response patterns. A wide range of relevant written sources including books, academic monographs, journal articles, government reports, and policy documents were also used to triangulate the information gathered from the interview data. This comprehensive review increased the depth and context of the data analysis by integrating relevant understanding and evidence addressing the research question which enriched the overall credibility of the study findings. The results of this analysis systematically addressed the research question of how the U.S. administration's military support for strengthening Israel's defense capabilities against proxy groups shaped U.S. strategic interaction with Iran. The research adhered to ethical

commitments ensuring rigorous and objective analysis throughout the process.

### Findings

The findings of this research aim to address the central research question of how the U.S. administration's military support for strengthening Israel's defense capabilities against proxy groups shapes U.S. strategic interaction with Iran. However, before understanding the dynamics of this tripartite relationship, it is necessary to clarify the concept of proxy groups based on the findings of this research and identify the key proxy actors involved in the conflict with Israel. Proxy groups usually refer to militant or paramilitary organizations supported or directed by Iran that are formed to advance strategic interests in the Middle East without its direct military involvement, particularly against the presence of Israel (Lane 2023; Maloney 2024; Robinson 2024; “What Is Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and Why Is It Designated a Terror Group by the United States?” 2024). Participants specified that Iran supports three main groups to maintain its hostile stance against Israel, as presented in Figure 1: Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis (also known as Ansar Allah). Of these, 45 percent of participants shared Hezbollah as a key proxy group emphasizing Iran's shared ideological beliefs, strategic interests, and mutual objectives in countering Israel's presence in the Middle East. Similarly, 35 percent of participants noted that Iran supports Hamas as a counter to both the influence of the U.S. administration and Israel’s presence in the region. While 18 percent of participants noted that Houthi activities are supported by Iran not as a direct counter to Israel's presence, but to undermine wider regional interests due to its alliance with the U.S. administration. Therefore, this research defines Hezbollah and Hamas as proxy groups based on the participants' argument and after weighing the responses to explore how the U.S. administration's military support for strengthening Israel's defense capabilities shapes U.S. strategic interaction with Iran.

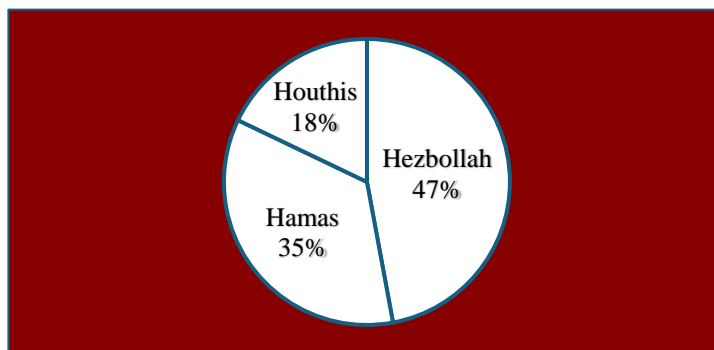


Figure 1: Proxy Groups

An analysis of the interview responses revealed four major themes consistently identified by participants that directly related to the central research question. The accompanying frequency distribution table, Figure 2, illustrates the occurrences of specific themes within the total interview responses. Notably, the data indicate that participants perceive an asymmetric dynamic in the U.S. administration's strategic interaction with Iran due to its military support for Israel against proxy groups, which is displayed as the highest frequency out of the themes identified. In contrast, regional instability was considered another major factor in the U.S. administration's military support for Israel which

appeared relatively with lowest frequency in interview responses as a theme influencing its strategic interactions with Iran. Each theme is discussed in detail below, integrating responses from both academic and non-academic sources and providing a general understanding of how the U.S. administration's military support for strengthening Israel's defense capabilities against proxy groups shapes U.S. strategic interactions with Iran. This approach is facilitated by the triangulation of original data with secondary sources while enriching the overall analysis and understanding of the identified themes.

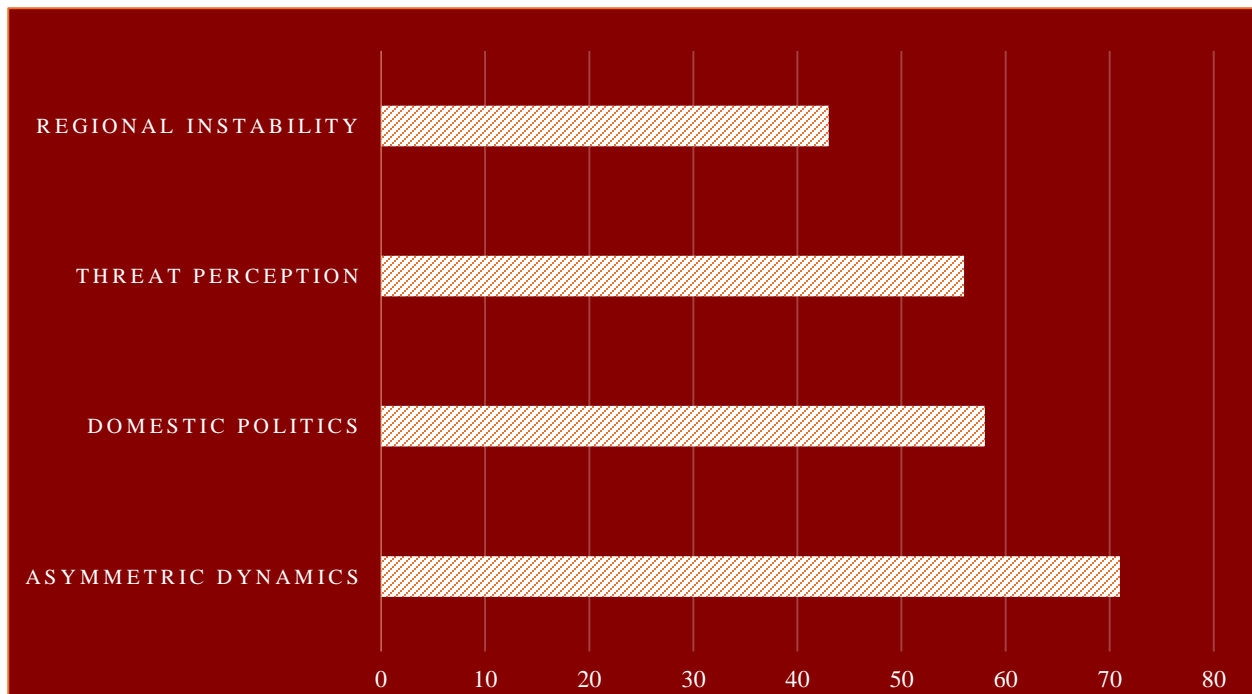


Figure 2: Frequency Distribution

**Asymmetric Dynamics:** The U.S. administration's military support for strengthening Israel's defense capabilities against proxy groups created asymmetric dynamics in U.S. strategic interactions with Iran. The U.S. administration has been a staunch ally of Israel for decades providing substantial military support and defense equipment as deemed necessary for its security and presence. Given the U.S. administration's ideological alignment with the establishment and its support for strengthening Israel's military capabilities, Iran views this as a direct threat to its regional interests. Iran positions itself as a leader in the global Islamic resistance against Israel, thus framing such military support by the U.S. administration as a broader

conspiracy against the Muslim world (Akbarzadeh 2024). Iran interprets the U.S. administration's military support to strengthen Israel's defense capabilities as a symbol of Western imperialism and links opposition to its presence for protecting Muslim identity in the Middle East.

The involvement of proxy groups further complicates this asymmetric dynamic. The U.S. administration's military support for defense capabilities enables Israel to adopt a more assertive and aggressive posture to continue its presence in the Middle East. In response, Iran counters Israel indirectly by supporting proxy groups threatening its security and existence. This dynamic also reinforces Iran's suspicions that the U.S. administration is complicit in Israel's aggressive actions

in the region. Thus, Iran perceives the U.S. administration as an enabler of forming proxy groups and encouraging Israel's direct military involvement by strengthening its defense capabilities in the region. This perception enhances the asymmetric dynamics of the U.S. administration as Israel's presence is interpreted as a strategic effort to weaken Iran's resistance through proxy groups in the region.

The U.S. administration's military support for strengthening Israel's defense capabilities has encouraged the formation of new alliances such as the Abraham Accords to legitimize its establishment further alienating Iran's resistance against Israel (Federico-O'Murchú 2020; "Moroccan Foreign Minister Bourita Says Abraham Accords Provide 'Incredible Momentum' for Peace in Middle East" 2023). In response, Iran strengthened its involvement in proxy groups to continue its strong opposition to Israel's presence in the Middle East. Thus, Iran's strategy of resistance through its proxy groups has emerged as an important rationale behind military support from the U.S. administration to Israel. Thus, the U.S. administration's military assistance to strengthen Israel's defense capabilities not only established an asymmetric dynamic in U.S. strategic engagement with Iran but also entrenched tensions and mistrust between these two nations.

**Domestic Politics:** The U.S. administration's military support to strengthen Israel's defense capabilities against proxy groups is linked to a complex interplay between domestic politics in the U.S. and its influence on foreign policy decision-making toward Iran. The findings showed that the influence of pro-Israel lobbying groups, particularly the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) has been crucial to U.S. foreign policy in providing unilateral military support to strengthen Israel's defense capabilities against proxy groups ("How AIPAC Shapes Unconditional US Support for Israel" 2024; "Policies We Support," n.d.). Therefore, such support from lobbying groups to adopt policies of disproportionate military support to strengthen Israel's defense capabilities against proxy groups complicates U.S. administrative interactions with Iran.

Similarly, the decision of the ruling party to implement the U.S. administration's military support to strengthen Israel's defense capabilities has made its relations with Iran more complicated. More than 50 percent of participants agreed that Republican administrations have demonstrated a more overt pro-Israel stance with extensive military support to strengthen its defense capabilities, while Democrats have demonstrated more neutral positions with some factions advocating a more balanced approach. This partisan divide appears to have

hindered the U.S. administration's ability to implement consistent and effective engagement with Iran. In addition, the Republican administration's military support for strengthening defense capabilities is perceived by Iran as a direct threat and justifies its policies and actions in support of proxy groups against Israel. This cyclical hostility further complicates the U.S. administration's strategic engagement with Iran and contributes to continued military support to strengthen Israel's defense capabilities against proxy groups in the Middle East.

Thus, domestic politics play an important role in providing military support by the U.S. administration to strengthen Israel's defense capabilities against proxy groups that profoundly shape U.S. adversarial interactions with Iran. This military support is influenced by the involvement of pro-Israel lobbying groups in U.S. foreign policy decisions and partisan views within the political administration towards Iran.

**Threat Perception:** The threat perception of Iran, Israel, and the U.S. as a trio significantly informs the U.S. administration's military support for strengthening Israel's defenses against proxy groups that play an important role in shaping U.S. strategic interactions with Iran. From the Iranian perspective, the military assistance of the U.S. administration is seen as a direct challenge and threat to its regional interests to oppose Israel's presence. Historically, Iran characterized the U.S. administration's broader influence in the region as the "Big Satan" and Israel as the "Little Satan" and perceives the alliance of these two countries as a major obstacle to its interests, which include its aspirations to eliminate Israel from the landscape of the Middle East ("Iran: U.S. and Israeli Threats & Options," 2023; Netjes and al-Ahmad 2024). As a result, Iran comprehends the military support provided by the U.S. administration to strengthen Israel's defense capabilities as a strategy to weaken the Islamic regime together with its regional interest. Thus, Iran's involvement in supporting proxy groups is not only a threat to Israel's presence but also a strategy to oppose the U.S. administration's broader regional interests. This dynamic perpetuates the cycle of rivalry, where the U.S. administration strengthens military support for Israel's defense capabilities under the threat perception from Iran.

In contrast, the rationale behind the U.S. administration's military support includes considering the threat posed by Iran to the presence of Israel and the possibility of destabilizing the broader Middle East. This perspective leads the U.S. administration to view Iran's support of proxy groups not only as a response to threaten Israel's security but also as a challenge to its

regional interests (Lazaroff 2024). The U.S. administration is therefore wary of such influence that emboldens proxy groups against Israel thereby complicating any strategic interaction aimed at easing its relationship with Iran. This assumption fosters the security dilemma where actions taken by the U.S. administration to strengthen Israel's defense capabilities inadvertently provoke Iran's regional interest to eliminate Israel thereby fueling the involvement of proxy groups. Thus, the U.S. administration's military support to Israel against proxy groups is perceived as a direct threat that complicates U.S. strategic engagement with Iran.

**Regional Instability:** The U.S. administration's military assistance to Israel not only complicates the strategic interaction with Iran but also exacerbates the existing regional tensions between the two countries. Iran views Israel's military superiority supported by the U.S. administration as a tool to suppress Palestinian right to exist. This complaint fueled Iran's anti-Israel rhetoric and continued support for proxy groups often opposed to Israel's presence in the Middle East. While these proxy groups claim to defend Palestine, Iranian-backed militancy exacerbates the humanitarian crisis with retaliatory attacks on Israel that fuel broader regional instability. The administration's strengthening of Israel's defense capabilities through military assistance creates a perception for Iran that the U.S. is not a neutral actor in the Israeli-Palestinian issue. This complicates the U.S. administration's strategic engagement in resolving broader regional instability, capitalizing on this sentiment by supporting proxy groups against Israel by portraying Iran as a champion of the Palestinian cause.

Similarly, by strengthening Israel's defense capabilities with military assistance, the U.S. administration unwittingly facilitates Iran's sense of strategic encirclement by intensifying its formation of proxy groups and alliances across the Middle East. It is clear from the growing involvement in the proxy conflicts in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, and Yemen where Iranian-backed groups aim to oppose the U.S. administration's aligned broader regional interests under the guise of defending Palestinian rights and countering Israel's presence (Dunne 2008; Hamidreza and Barnes-Dacey 2024). Rather than fighting for separate concerns, these proxy groups are interrelated contributing to greater regional instability where Iran keeps all parties in the same orbit and prompts an outright withdrawal of military assistance from the U.S. administration to Israel. The strategy to strengthen Israel's defense capabilities by the U.S. administration thus maintains a volatile strategic relationship with Iran.

## Conclusion and Recommendation

The findings of this research reveal that the U.S. administration's military support for strengthening Israel's defenses against proxy groups adversely shapes its strategic interactions with Iran. The asymmetrical dynamics created by such support position the U.S. administration as an active participant in a complex geopolitical chess game where Iran perceives military assistance to strengthen Israel's defense capabilities as a direct threat to its regional aspirations and ideological anti-Israel positioning. The findings reflect how military support strengthened Israel's aggressive posture in the Middle East and prompted Iran to increase its support for proxy groups such as Hezbollah and Hamas, which act as adversaries to the U.S. administration's interests in the Middle East. This continuous series of perceived threats fosters an environment of mistrust for the U.S. administration where strategic interactions between the U.S. and Iran are increasingly complicated.

The research also highlights the significant role of domestic politics in shaping U.S. foreign policy toward Iran and Israel. The influence of pro-Israel lobbying groups and partisan divisions within the U.S. administration's political landscape has resulted in a consistent pattern of military support for Israel which further alienates Iran and exacerbates tensions related to the involvement of proxy groups. This complicated interplay reinforces the narrative within Iran of a U.S.-Israeli conspiracy compelling Iran to pursue aggressive countermeasures primarily through the involvement of proxy groups to threaten Israel's presence. Furthermore, the overlapping threat perceptions among the U.S., Iran, and Israel together contribute to a security dilemma that fuels continuous hostility in the Middle East. The security measures including military support by the U.S. administration towards Israel are perceived as offensive threats by Iran, while Iran's involvement in proxy groups is similarly viewed as an aggressive action by both U.S. and Israel.

To ameliorate the strained interaction of the U.S. administration towards Iran while fostering stability and considering Israel's presence in the Middle East, several policy recommendations can be considered. The U.S. administration should reevaluate its military support for Israel considering the wider dynamics of the Middle East. This reassessment should particularly focus on diminishing any perceived asymmetric advantages that could encourage aggressive actions by Israel towards Iran under the guise of its national security. This balanced approach encourages strategic interaction with Iran which could foster a more constructive environment for dialogue regarding broader stability and minimizing the involvement of proxy groups in the region.

Second, the U.S. administration could facilitate multilateral negotiations that include key players in the Middle East with a specific focus on addressing the role of proxy groups and their impact on regional stability. This could involve establishing a framework for mutual security guarantees where both U.S.-Israeli interests and Iranian regional aspirations are acknowledged and addressed.

Furthermore, the U.S. administration needs to enhance its efforts in promoting Palestinian self-determination which could serve to undermine the legitimacy of Iranian-backed proxy group's narratives. By positioning itself as a neutral actor advocating for peace and equity in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the U.S. administration could mitigate anti-American sentiments and potentially reduce Iranian support for the formation of other proxy groups in the region.

Lastly, addressing domestic political influences on foreign policy can lead to a more coherent and stable U.S. administration approach to the Middle East. Engaging diverse political viewpoints and fostering bipartisan military support for balanced foreign policy strategies with Israel could pave the way for a more effective engagement with Iran. By implementing these recommendations, the U.S. administration can introduce a strategic interaction with Iran, ultimately contributing to a more stable and secure Middle East.

### Limitations

While the premise of this article is framed within the context of Iran's opposition to Israel's presence in the region, it is acknowledged that this perspective is specific to the Iranian government and does not necessarily reflect broader international consensus. Some may disagree with the notion of Israel's right to exist, and this disagreement is noted for clarity. However, for the purpose of this research, the focus remains on examining the strategic relationships between the U.S., Israel, and Iran, including the implications of proxy group involvement in regional dynamics.

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