

Regarding "The Israel Lobby": Where's the debate?

by [Canute](#)

Fri Mar 24, 2006 at 05:43:24 AM PDT

"Why has the United States been willing to set aside its own security and that of many of its allies in order to advance the interests of another state?" ask authors John Mearsheimer of the University of Chicago and Stephen Walt of the John F Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

The answer, according to the paper, which is already stirring debate in academic circles and fury among pro-Israel groups, is the influence of the pro-Israel lobby.

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According to the study, pro-Israel lobby groups have exploited the sensitivities of major media outlets and of US politicians to campaign contributions to maintain their sympathy for Israel regardless of what it does in the region.

The pro-Israel lobby has worked hard to suppress its critics, something the authors say has not been good for democracy, especially one that now claims to be promoting freedom in the Arab world.

During the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) annual conference this month, which attracted top US officials and congressional leaders, the new Republican majority leader in the US House of Representatives, John Boehner, vowed never to allow anti-Israel legislation to come to the floor.

"As the new House majority leader, I can assure you that under my leadership, legislation that is in any way perceived as anti-Israel will not be considered in the House of Representatives," said Boehner.

Now, I would tend to believe that most people around here would agree that any silencing of skeptics by organizing blacklists and boycotts, or by suggesting that critics are anti-Semites, would violates the principle of open debate upon which democracy depends.

However, I don't know wheter or not, I should be surprised about the deafening silence around Dkos, or America for that matter, regarding any acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by a lobby that causes major trouble for the US on several fronts. Where's the debate?

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President John F. Kennedy
Memorial Stadium, Berkeley
March 23, 1962

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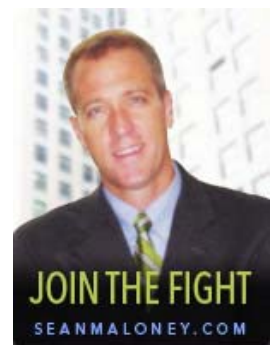


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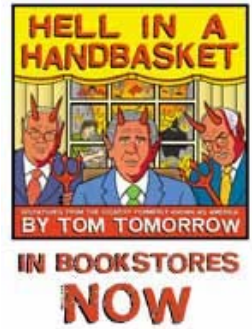
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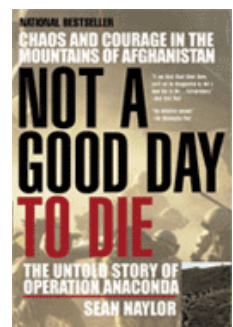
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