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Exactly how much does israel cost US?

Dr. Stephen Zunes and Tom Malthaner



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our project

originally published at **Wake Up From Your Slumber**

1/22/07

It's **neither by hard work, nor by chance** that israel has the world's 36th largest economy.

Since 1992, the U.S. has offered Israel **an additional \$2 billion annually in loan guarantees**. Congressional researchers have disclosed that **between 1974 and 1989, \$16.4 billion in U.S.**

Military loans were converted to grants and [this] was the understanding from the beginning. Indeed, all past U.S. loans to Israel have eventually been forgiven by Congress, which has undoubtedly helped Israel's often-touted claim that they have never defaulted on a U.S. government loan. U.S. policy since 1984 has been that **economic assistance to Israel must equal or exceed Israel's annual debt repayment to the United States**.

Unlike other countries, which receive aid in quarterly installments, aid to Israel since 1982 has been given in a **lump sum at the beginning of the fiscal year, leaving the U.S. government to borrow from future revenues**. Israel even lends some of this money back through U.S. treasury bills and **collects the additional interest**.

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resistenza irakena
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Diritto
internazionale
all'Università di
Teramo

:: ONU - XX
Assemblea
Generale (1965):
La XX Assemblea
Generale dell'ONU
(1965) dichiara
"la legittimità
della lotta da
parte dei popoli
sotto oppressione
coloniale, per
esercitare il loro
diritto all'
autodeter-
minazione e
all'indipendenza".
Inoltre,
l'Assemblea invita
"tutti gli Stati a
fornire assistenza
morale e
materiale ai
movimenti di
liberazione
nazionale nei
territori coloniali".

:: ONU -
Risoluzione 1514
"L'Assemblea
Generale dichiara
che: la
soggezione dei
popoli a dominio
straniero,
conquista e
asservimento
costituisce una
negazione dei
diritti umani
fondamentali, è
contraria alla
Carta delle
Nazioni Unite ed è
un impedimento
alla promozione
della pace e della
cooperazione
mondiali.
Tutti i popoli
hanno diritto all'
autodeter-
minazione; in
virtù di tale diritto
essi devono
liberamente

In addition, there is the more than \$1.5 billion in private U.S. funds that go to Israel annually in the form of \$1 billion in private **tax-deductible donations** and \$500 million in Israeli bonds. The ability of Americans to make what amounts to tax-deductible contributions to a foreign government, made possible through a number of Jewish charities, does not exist with any other country. Nor do these figures include **short- and long-term commercial loans from U.S. banks**, which have been as high as \$1 billion annually in recent years.

Dr. Stephen Zunes is an assistant professor in the Department of Politics at the University of San Francisco

Benefits to Israel of U.S. Aid Since 1949 (As of November 1, 1997)

Foreign Aid Grants and Loans
\$74,157,600,000

Other U.S. Aid (12.2% of Foreign Aid)
\$9,047,227,200

Interest to Israel from Advanced Payments
\$1,650,000,000

Grand Total
\$84,854,827,200

Total Benefits per Israeli
\$14,630 Cost to U.S. Taxpayers of U.S. Aid to Israel

Grand Total
\$84,854,827,200

Interest Costs Borne by U.S.
\$49,936,680,000

Total Cost to U.S. Taxpayers
\$134,791,507,200

Total Taxpayer Cost per Israeli
\$23,240

Stephen Zunes

Total U.S. aid to Israel is approximately **one-third of the American foreign-aid budget, even though Israel comprises just .001 percent of the world's population** and already has one of the world's higher per capita incomes.

Indeed, **Israel's GNP is higher than the combined GNP of Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, the West Bank and Gaza.** With a per capita income of about \$14,000, Israel ranks as the sixteenth wealthiest country in the world; Israelis enjoy a higher per capita income than oil-rich Saudi Arabia and are only slightly less well-off than most Western European countries.

AID does not term economic aid to Israel as development assistance, but instead uses the term "economic support funding." Given Israel's relative prosperity, U.S. aid to Israel is becoming increasingly controversial.

In 1994, Yossi Beilen, deputy foreign minister of Israel and a Knesset



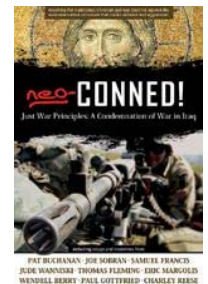
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Valeria Poletti

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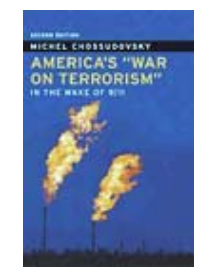
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member, told the Women's International Zionist organization, **"If our economic situation is better than in many of your countries, how can we go on asking for your charity?"**

U.S. Aid to Israel: What U.S. Taxpayer Should Know

by Tom Malthaner

This morning as I was walking down Shuhada Street in Hebron, I saw graffiti marking the newly painted storefronts and awnings.

Although three months past schedule and 100 percent over budget, the renovation of Shuhada Street was finally completed this week.

The project manager said the reason for the delay and cost overruns was the sabotage of the project by the Israeli settlers of the Beit Hadassah settlement complex in Hebron.

They broke the street lights, stoned project workers, shot out the windows of bulldozers and other heavy equipment with pellet guns, broke paving stones before they were laid and now have defaced again the homes and shops of Palestinians with graffiti.

The settlers did not want Shuhada St. opened to Palestinian traffic as was agreed to under Oslo 2. This renovation project is paid for by USAID funds and it makes me angry that my tax dollars have paid for improvements that have been destroyed by the settlers.

Most Americans are not aware how much of their tax revenue our government sends to Israel.

For the fiscal year ending in September 30, 1997, the U.S. has given Israel \$6.72 billion: \$6.194 billion falls under Israel's foreign aid allotment and \$526 million comes from agencies such as the Department of Commerce, the U.S. Information Agency and the Pentagon.

The \$6.72 billion figure does not include loan guarantees and annual compound interest totalling \$3.122 billion the U.S. pays on moneyborrowed to give to Israel.

It does not include the cost to U.S. taxpayers of IRS tax exemptions that donors can claim when they donate money to Israeli charities.

(Donors claim approximately \$1 billion in Federal tax deductions annually. This ultimately costs other U.S. tax payers \$280 million to \$390 million.)

When grant, loans, interest and tax deductions are added together for the fiscal year ending in September 30, 1997, **our special relationship with Israel cost U.S. taxpayers over \$10 billion.**

Since 1949 the U.S. has given Israel a total of \$83.205 billion. **The interest costs borne by U.S. tax payers on behalf of Israel are \$49.937 billion**, thus making the total amount of aid given to Israel since 1949 \$133.132 billion.

This may mean that **U.S. government has given more federal aid to the average Israeli citizen in a given year than it has given to the average American citizen.**

I am angry when I see Israeli settlers from Hebron destroy improvements made to Shuhada Street with my tax money.

determinare il loro status politico e liberamente perseguire il loro sviluppo economico, sociale e culturale".

:: Convenzione di Ginevra, Protocollo Addizionale I (1977): La lotta armata può essere usata, come ultima risorsa, come mezzo per esercitare il diritto all' autodeterminazione.

:: Tribunale penale internazionale In base allo Statuto del Tribunale penale internazionale, sono definiti "crimini di guerra": (1) attacchi lanciati intenzionalmente contro popolazione civili in quanto tali o contro civili che non prendano direttamente parte alle ostilità; (4) attacchi lanciati intenzionalmente nella consapevolezza che gli stessi avranno come conseguenza la perdita di vite umane tra la popolazione civile, e lesioni a civili o danni a proprietà civili ovvero danni diffusi duraturi e gravi all'ambiente naturale che siano manifestamente eccessivi rispetto all'insieme dei concreti e diretti i vantaggi militari previsti.

:: Iraq anthem (click to listen)

Also, it angers me that my government is giving over \$10 billion to a country that is more prosperous than most of the other countries in the world and uses much of its money for strengthening its military and the oppression of the Palestinian people.

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