

A Fresh Start on Israel's Relations with the US and Europe: What would it take?

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-- The Spirit of '76: America 'ain't Europe
... and America remains supportive of
Israel

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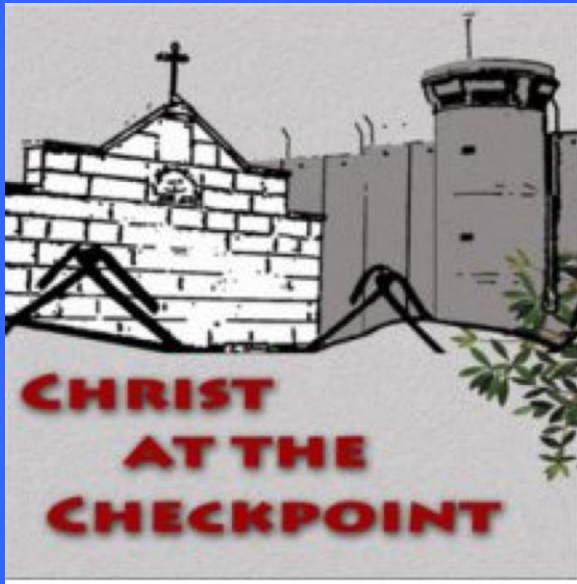
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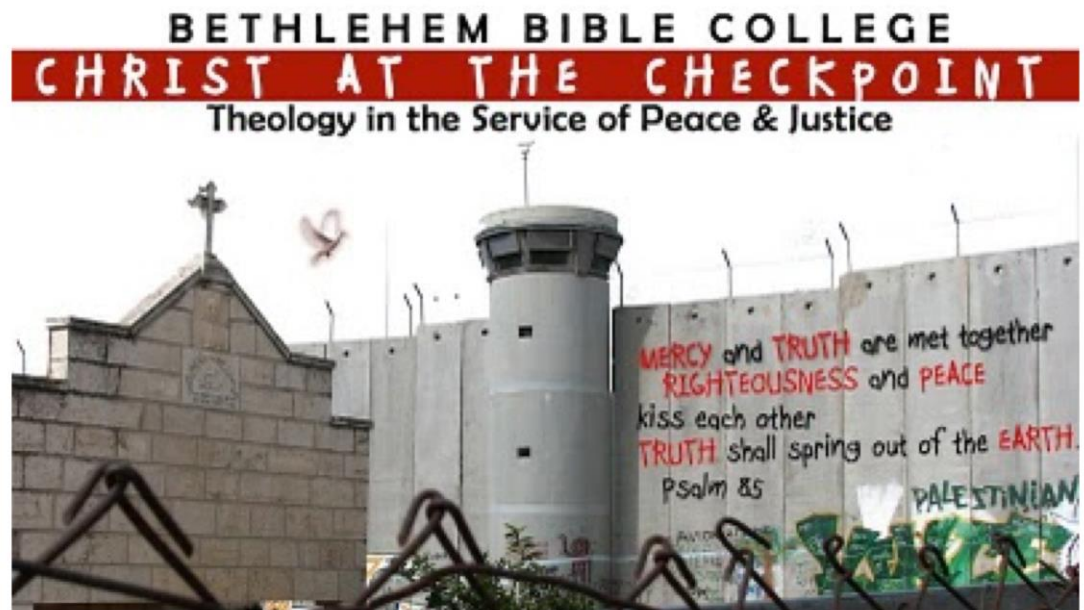
Warning Signs in US-Israel relations

- Europeanization?:

● Christ at the Checkpoint



Je



Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, November, 2007

- “I know what its like to hear that you can’t use a certain road or pass through a checkpoint because you are a Palestinian. I know what it is like to feel discriminated against and powerless,” Rice told a closed meeting of Arab and Israeli representatives, according to the Dutch representative at the summit, Franz Timmermans.

President Barack, Obama, Cairo, June 4, 2009

- “Palestinians must abandon violence. Resistance through violence and killing is wrong and does not succeed. For centuries, black people in America suffered the lash of the whip as slaves and the humiliation of segregation. But it was not violence that won full and equal rights. It was a peaceful and determined insistence upon the ideals at the center of America's founding.”

The Palestinians as “black”



Israel as *the* human rights
“outlaw”



Warning Signs in US-Israel relations

- ⊙ Europeanization?:
- ⊙ -- Christ at the Checkpoint
- ⊙ -- Palestinians as “black”
- ⊙ -- Israel as *the* human rights “outlaw”

The Bermuda Triangle (or unholy trinity) of
Racism

Colonialism

Imperialism

- Exploiting the rise of a global mass media, and what the Palestinian academic Edward Said called the twentieth century's "generalizing tendency," the Palestinians transcended their local narrative...As a result, Said noted in 1979, "the Palestinians ... view their struggle in the same framework that includes Vietnam, Algeria, Cuba, and black Africa." Soon "The Zionist settler in Palestine was transformed retrospectively and actually from an implacably silent master into an analogue of white settlers in Africa."

- (Troy, Moynihan's Moment: America's Fight Against Zionism-as-Racism, 2012, 73).

The Universalizing of American Youth, the Particularizing of Israeli Youth?



But American foreign policy...
Built on fears more than hope



But American foreign policy...
Built on fears more than hope



American's top 5 feared man-made disasters:

● Terrorist Attack	19.7%
● World War	18.5%
● American Decline	17.4%
● Economic Collapse	16.7%
● Nuclear/Biological Attack	16.0%

(Chapman Survey of American Fears, 2014)

Challenge: to be anti-Islamist NOT Islamophobic



A Fresh Start on Israel's Relations with the US: What would it take?

1. PEACE!



A Fresh Start on Israel's Relations with the US: What would it take?

1. PEACE! (in US) Or (at least) Israel Driving the Peace Train



A Fresh Start on Israel's Relations with the US: What would it take?

2. Need new language – in the US few are “anti-Israel”
and in Israel, few are “anti-peace”
(Settlement Hawks versus Settlement Doves?
Security First versus Peace Now?
Solid Skeptics versus Fluid Risk-takers?)



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3. Big Tent – Bipartisan, cross-the-spectrum drive against Delegitimization:

- Solid Skeptics: stop looking at anti-BDS as theirs
- the Fluid Risk-Takers must realize that the more you believe in territorial concessions, the more furiously should you fight, BDS, especially anti-normalization and delegitimization



Gallup Poll, February 2015

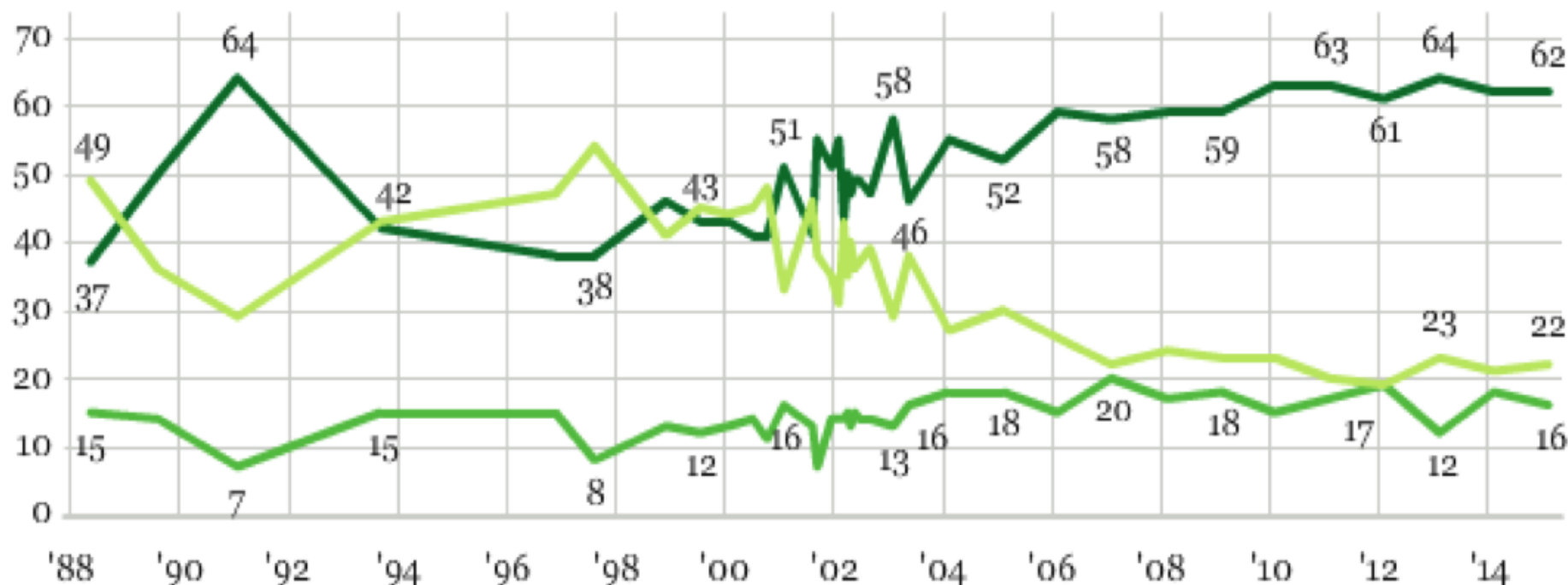
Americans' Sympathies in Mideast Conflict

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

■ % Israelis

■ % Palestinians

■ % Both/Neither/No opinion

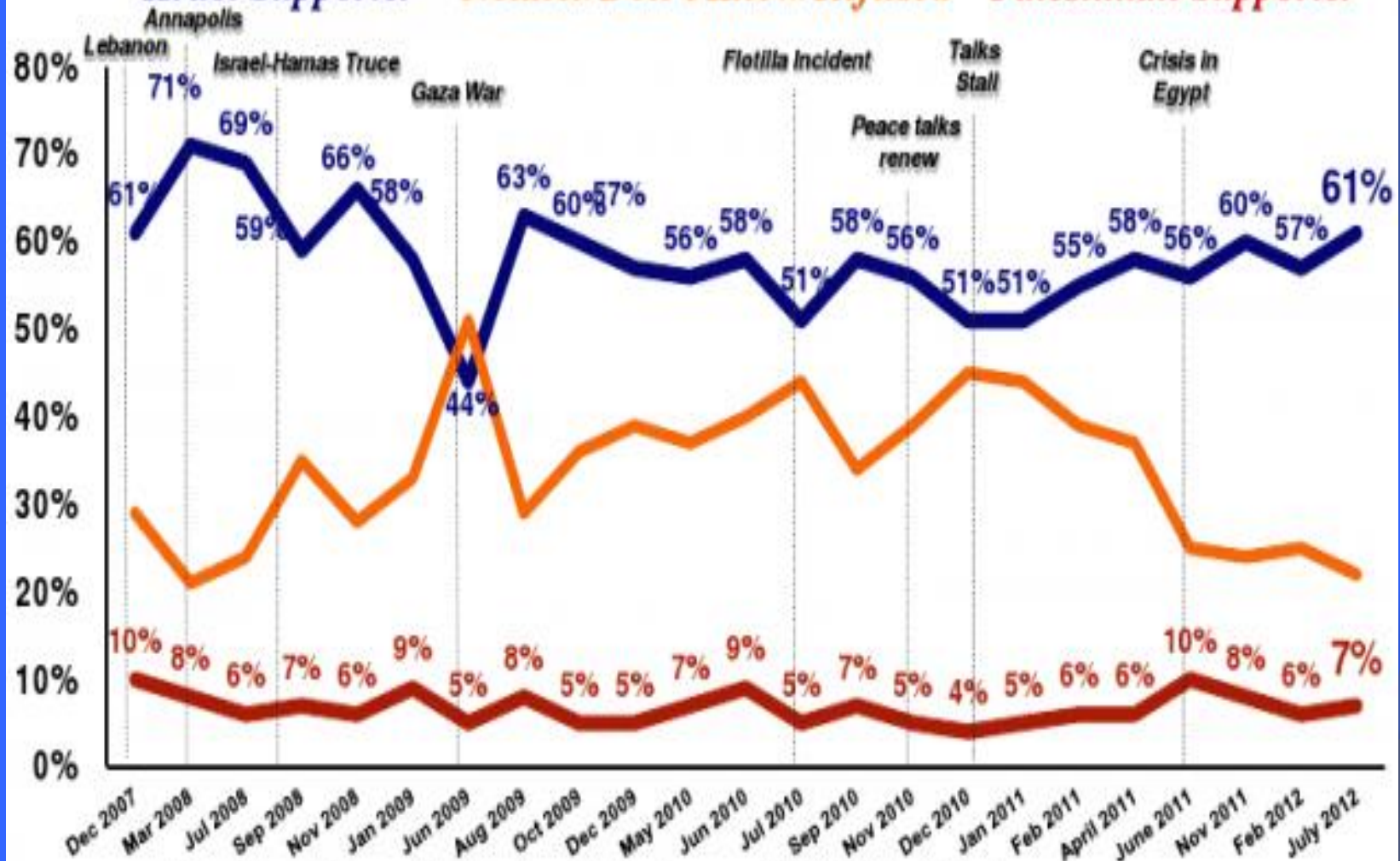


GALLUP®

Israel Supporter

Neither/Don't Know/Refused

Palestinian Supporter

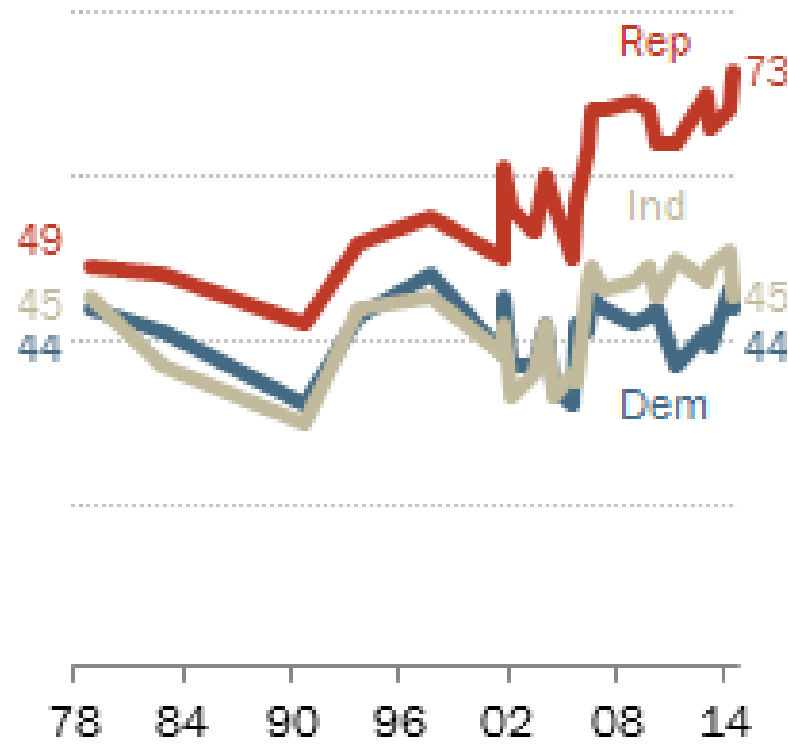
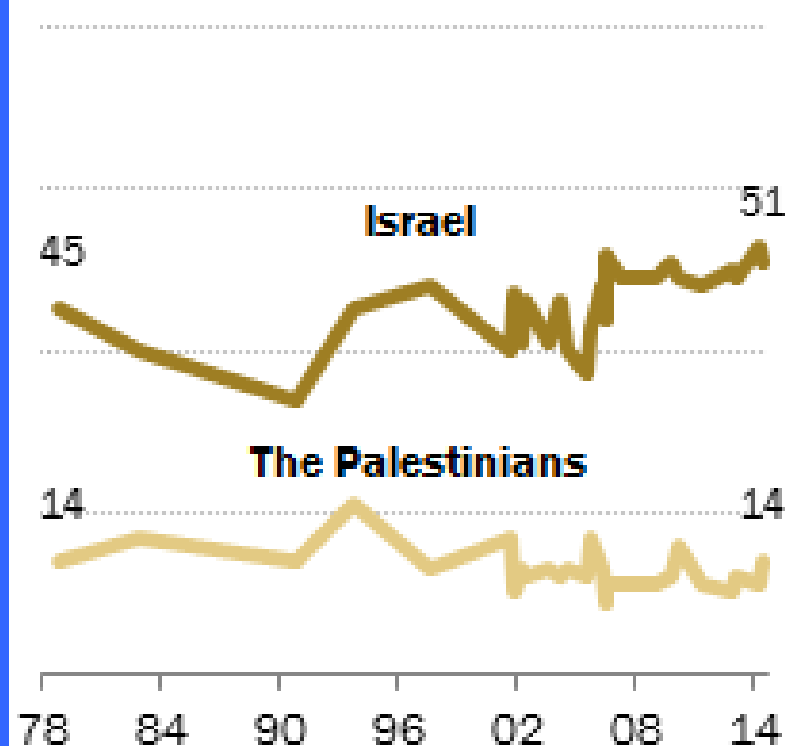


** Trend from joint research by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner and Public Opinion Strategies.

Middle East Sympathies, 1978-2014

In the dispute between Israel and the Palestinians, who do you sympathize with more? (%)

Sympathize more with Israel, by party (%)



Survey conducted July 8-14, 2014. Volunteered "Both," "Neither," "Don't know" responses not shown. 1978-1990 data from the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

More Grassroots than Astroturf –
More Good Moments than Bad

