

# Israel and the UAE Break With Precedent

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# Israel and the Arab League

**1945**  
Formation of the Arab League

**1947**  
U.N. Partition Plan for Palestine

The Arab-Israeli War starts after the attempts to divide Palestine into an Arab state and a Jewish state.

**1948**  
The state of Israel is established

**1949**  
The Arab-Israeli War ends with a set of armistice agreements between Israel, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria.

**1967** “**NO**” — **Peace with Israel**  
 — **Recognition of Israel**  
 — **Negotiations with Israel**”

The "Three Nos" - Arab League  
Khartoum Resolution

**1971**  
The United Arab Emirates gains independence and joins the Arab League

**1979**  
The Arab League condemns the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty, expels Egypt from the League

**1994**  
The Israel-Jordan Peace Treaty is signed without grievances from the Arab League

**2002**  
The Arab League endorses Saudi Arabia's Arab Peace Initiative calling on Israel to withdraw to pre-1967 borders in exchange for full diplomatic relations

**Easing Tensions With the United Arab Emirates**

- 2015:** Israel announces it will open a "diplomatic office" in the UAE
- 2016:** Israel's U.N. ambassador secretly visits the UAE to meet with government officials
- 2018:** Israel's minister of culture and sports pays the first official state visit to the UAE to attend a Judo competition where the Israeli national anthem is publicly played
- 2019:** Israeli and UAE officials begin backdoor discussions about normalization at a U.S.-led anti-Iran conference in February. By December, the parties hold additional secret talks and a trilateral meeting with the U.S. on a formal normalization process
- 2020:** The UAE sends its first flight to Israel delivering COVID-19 aid to Palestinians through Etihad airlines in May. In July, two UAE companies agree to a research and development partnership to combat COVID-19. On Aug. 13, Israel and the UAE announce they will normalize relations through the Abraham Accords

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When the United Arab Emirates normalized relations with Israel earlier this month, it broke with decades of precedent. Since the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948, the Arab League – particularly its Gulf members – has maintained a hard line against Israel. This position was solidified when, at the conclusion of the 1967 Six-Day War, the Arab League issued the Khartoum Resolution, which stated that its members refused to establish peace with Israel, or even to recognize or carry out negotiations with it.

When the UAE gained independence in 1971 and joined the Arab League, it also adopted a hard-line stance on Israel. But following the 9/11 attacks, the emergence of the Iranian threat, and the UAE's establishment of closer ties with the U.S., the country began planting seeds for normalized relations with Israel. The two countries engaged in intelligence sharing, backdoor talks and reportedly even weapons sales in their fight against terrorist organizations and Iran-backed groups that threatened their interests in the Middle East. They announced their diplomatic breakthrough on Aug. 13 and said they would continue to build more ties. They plan to deepen cooperation on trade, defense, investments, COVID-19 and an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal.

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