

LA Jews for Peace Policy Statement

Los Angeles, CA. Oct.12, 2023 Contact: info@LAJewsforPeace.org

Hypocrisy of U.S. War Policy in Israel-Palestine and Ukraine

The United States' primary focus on war abandons any effort to forge a political solution in both the Israel-Palestinian and Ukrainian conflicts.

The sole U.S. objective in the Ukraine-Russia war is to militarily support Ukraine. President Biden says the U.S. will stand with Ukraine as long as it takes. As Russia bombs and destroys Ukrainian lives, property, and infrastructure with impunity, it is obvious that a political solution is needed. Neither side can "win." The only way to stop Russia from bombing Ukraine to rubble is for a political solution. Yet that is not a U.S. priority.

The sole U.S. objective in the Israel-Palestine war is to militarily support Israel. The American political dialog focuses on Hamas terrorists who massacred hundreds of Israeli civilians. President Biden, along with leaders of France, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom, pledged "steadfast and united support to the State of Israel, and our unequivocal condemnation of Hamas and its appalling acts of terrorism." Biden asked Congress to authorize military assistance for Israel, and went so far as to send the U.S. Sixth Fleet to the Eastern Mediterranean in a move to "protect" Israel from Hezbollah or Iran from coming to Hamas' aid.

This repeats an old, but failed, strategy. Every time Israel has a major attack on Gaza (five since 2007), Israel's goal is to end Hamas rule. Every time Israel claims success. But every time Hamas remains in power. Israel's military defeat of Hamas cannot extinguish the fundamental Palestinian drive to live in freedom. The only thing that will be accomplished by the Israel's bombardment of Gaza is another massacre. The U.S. should never support a massacre, even by an ally in retaliation for a grave injustice.

Hypocrisy Twice Over

Hypocrisy One is the U.S. contorted policy on occupation. The U.S. opposes the Russian occupation of parts of Ukraine and funds Ukraine's war to reclaim territory. At the same time, the U.S. supports Israel's occupation of Palestine including the present war, and Israel's 56-year effort to deepen the occupation to the extent that it is now widely described as apartheid.

Hypocrisy Two is the U.S. abandoning its role as world peacemaker. Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright called the United States the "indispensable nation" because it was her deep belief that the U.S. was committed to global peace and progress.¹ By focusing on a military rather than a political solution, the U.S. is choosing war over peace, and even undermining its stated goal of a Palestinian state alongside Israel. By not vigorously pursuing peace, the U.S. is enabling future massacres.

LA Jews for Peace calls on the United States to end both hypocrisies.

¹ Speaking at the Woodrow Wilson Center, May 28, 2015. <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/the-us-still-the-indispensable-nation-conversation-madeleine-albright>