I want to be clear about two things: even if this stuff wasn't true, even if Israel was a good and useful ally, even if they didn't spy on us, even if LGBT Israelis had rights etc, **it still wouldn't make their oppression of Palestinians okay.** This is meant as a way to poke holes in common arguments about Israel in hopes that people realize that if Israel isn't honest or truthful or even morally right when it comes to these things, we need to seriously look at its power and completely rethink our relationship to its government, our relationship to the state of Israel, our relationship to the structures set up to keep Israel ethnically Jewish, and take what we know about how it treats Palestinians and come up with a solution that will actually mean peace for *everyone* who lives in the holy land. This is NOT meant to be a theory heavy list about how Zionism is colonialism etc. This is meant to get people who support Israel to realize that everything they think they know about Israel is wrong. The sources in this document are meant to be widely acceptable and impossible to dismiss on the grounds of ideological orientation.

- **Israel is not a LGBT haven**
  - **Gay marriage is not legal in Israel**[11]
  - **Gay people face institutional barriers to getting the same rights as straight people**
    - Widowed LGBT couples are forced to wage an uphill battle to receive standard compensation, bereaved spouses shoulder a burden of proof from which straight couples are exempt.[4]
    - Gay couples cannot adopt or use legal surrogacy within Israel to have children, forcing them to find other ways to have kids[5]
    - LGBT people that are divorced out of a straight marriage have been prevented by Israeli courts from introducing their children to their new LGBT romantic partner[8]
  - **The state-appointed Israeli rabbinate is incredibly homophobic**
    - A MK (member of the Knesset) from the Shas party (orthodox) was forced to resign after intense outcry from rabbis for attending his gay nephew's wedding[6,7]
- **Israel knows its peace proposals are bad**
  - [Author speaking about Palestine] "Certainly no other state in the world has such curtailed sovereignty, or faces so many obstacles to building a workable economy and society. Given all this, it is not surprising that Barak's former foreign minister, Shlomo Ben-Ami, who was a key participant at Camp David, later told an interviewer, "If I were a Palestinian I would have rejected Camp David, as well." (105)[1]
- **Israel isn't even nice to all Jews despite branding itself as the homeland for all Jews**
  - Israel has a police brutality and institutional racism issue against Ethiopian Jews

        - Israel gave semi-permanent birth control to Ethiopian Jewish immigrants without their knowledge[17]
        - 2019 saw dozens of protests throughout the country to protest the killing of an unarmed Ethiopian-Israeli teen boy by an unnamed and yet uncharged off-duty police officer. Ethiopian Israelis say that police abuse and discrimination are normal for them.[12]
    - Israel has denied the Jewishness of converts and right to return of African Jews
        - Israel initially forced Ethiopian immigrants to Israel, the very same Ethiopians that Israel holds up on a pedestal as proof of their good intentions for bringing them to Israel, to go through Israeli-approved conversions, effectively negating the Judaism that Ethiopians had practiced for hundreds of years[16]
        - After years of deliberations, the Israeli Interior Ministry resolved not to grant recognition to the Jewish community of Uganda.[13]
        - Converts that converted to Judaism in any sect other than orthodoxy face harsh restrictions and insurmountable barriers when trying to immigrate to Israel[14]
- **The origin story of the IDF begging Palestinians to be their neighbors is almost entirely fabricated.[18]**
    - Prominent Israeli historians have described mainstream Israeli history as "indoctrination" and "mythology"[15]
    - David Ben Gurion's own diary entries talk about the pillaging, looting and razing of Palestinian villages[15]
    - Based on Yitzhak Rabin's diary entries, it is probable that the 'asking Palestinians to be our neighbors' took place in only one or two villages out of 400 and only for mere days during the entirety of the establishment of the State of Israel.[15]
        - Once the Zionists feared they would lose the war of independence, they realized it would be easier to simply force Palestinians to leave and not allow them to return, which then became the strategy and still is today.[15]
- **Withholding aid to Israel has gotten it to stop illegal behavior in the past**
    - "When Israel ignored demands that it halt work on a canal to divert water from the Jordan River in September 1953, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles promptly announced that the United States was suspending foreign assistance. The threat worked: Israel agreed to stop the project on October 27 and the US aid was restored. Similar threats to halt American aid played a key role in convincing Israel to withdraw from the territory it had seized from Egypt in the 1956 Suez War." (24)[1]

Take the following section with an ENORMOUS grain of salt. Basically anyone who is invested in Palestinian solidarity knows that the US has horrible foreign policy and 'good'

allies of the United States are bad in their own way. THAT BEING SAID, the 'Israel a vital ally' is a major talking point among Zionists in the center left and rightward camps. It is sometimes easier to point to a few mere points and say "no they aren't" than to do a huge dive into US imperialism. I am trying to appeal to a wide audience here, besides, being sympathetic to Palestinians could very well be someone's starting point into the huge ideological valley that is being critical of US foreign policy.

- **Israel isn't a good ally or really even an ally at all**
    - **Supporting Israel is at contradiction with US interests**
        - "Instead of being a strategic asset, in fact, Israel has become a strategic liability for the United States. Backing Israel so strongly is making Americans more vulnerable- not less- and making it harder for the United States to achieve important and urgent foreign policy goals." (50)[1]
        - Although Israel's military did help check Soviet client states like Egypt, Syria, and Iraq, America's commitment to Israel played a significant role in pushing those states into Moscow's arms in the first place." (52)[1]
        - "Israel's settlement policy on the West Bank is at cross-purposes with US interests and contrary to US policy. The lack of progress toward a peace settlement undercuts Arabs who are willing to live in peace and strengthens the influence of Islamic fundamentalists and other Arabs who have no interests in the kind of stable Middle East that would be compatible with US interests and Israel's security." (54)[1]
        - "More important, claiming that Israel and the United States are united by a shared terrorist threat has the casual relationship backward. The United States did not form an alliance with Israel because it suddenly realized that it faced a serious danger from "global terrorism" and urgently needed Israel's help to defeat it. In fact, the United States has a terrorism problem in good part because it has been so supportive of Israel." (64)[1]
        - "Israel is portrayed as a vital ally for dealing with its dangerous neighbors, but the commitment to Israel is an important reason why the United States sees these states as a threat in the first place." (72)[1]
    - **Israel shares bad intelligence**
        - "Israel has also provided the United States with faulty and misleading intelligence on several occasions, probably in order to encourage the United States to take actions that Israel wanted. Prior to the six-day-war, for example, Israeli intelligence assessments painted a grim and frightening picture of Egyptian capabilities, which American intelligence officials believed to be both incorrect and politically motivated." (55)[1]
    - **Israel is a military liability**

        - "The United States and its allies eventually assembled more than four hundred thousand troops to liberate Kuwait, but they could not use Israeli bases or allow the IDF to participate without jeopardizing the fragile coalition against Iraq." (58)[1]
        - "In other words, Israel was not seen as a prized ally because US policy makers believed its help was essential for dealing with these so-called rouge states. Rather, Washington worried about these states in good part because it was already committed to protecting Israel. With respect for Iran, for example, the main points of contention between Tehran and Washington were Iran's opposition to the Camp David peace process, its support for Hezbollah, and its efforts to develop WMD. The importance of these issues was magnified substantially by the existing US relationship with Israel, of course – such as its desire to prevent any single state from dominating the gulf and thereby ensure access to oil – and its pursuit of these interests occasionally led to friction with some states in the region. In particular the United States would have undoubtedly opposed Iran's WMD efforts even if Israel had never existed. But the US commitment to Israel made these issues seem even more urgent, without making them easier to address." (60)[1]
        - "Although the United States does have important disagreements with each of these regimes [Syria, Iran or Iraq] – most notably their support for certain terrorist organizations and their apparent interest in acquiring WMD – they are not a dire threat to vital American interests, apart from the US commitment to Israel itself." (71)[1]
    - **Israel spies on us**
        - "The U.S. government concluded within the past two years that Israel was most likely behind the placement of cellphone surveillance devices that were found near the White House and other sensitive locations around Washington, according to three former senior U.S. officials with knowledge of the matter."[2]
        - Israel has admitted to spying on the US using moles inside the CIA[3]
    - **The money we give to Israel for its military isn't helping the US**
        - "Likewise, the FMF program normally requires recipients of US military assistance to spend all of the money here in the United States, to help keep American defense workers employed. Congress grants Israel a special exception in the annual appropriations bill, however, authorizing it to use about one out of every four US military aid dollars to subsidize its own defense industry" (27)[1]
        - "Remarkably, Israel is the only recipient of US economic aid that does not have to account for how it is spent. Aid to other countries is allocated to

specific development projects (HIV/AIDS prevention, counter narcotics programs, children's health, democracy promotion, improving education, etc.) but Israel receives a direct lump-sum cash transfer. This exception makes it virtually impossible for the United States to prevent its subsidies from being used for purposes that it opposes, such as building settlements on the West Bank."(28)[1]

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