



## Israel: 8th Most Influential Country in the World

The *USA News & World Report* describes Israel as “the only Jewish nation in the world, a small country on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea” that has had a large influence on global affairs. For its relatively small size, the country has played a large role in global affairs,” the article said. “The country has a strong economy, landmarks of significance to several religions and strained relationships with [some] of its Arab neighbors.”

The rankings for “Most Influential Country” are based on “a global perceptions-based survey,” the magazine said, “and countries are ranked based on the highest scores among more than 11,000 informed elites in a compilation of five country attributes: leader, connected to the rest of the world, influential culture, politically influential and strong international alliances.”

Israel came in ahead of several influential countries including Canada, Australia, and India. The United States, Russia, and China dominated the top three spots. (*JPost, April 23, 2019*)

**“At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes,” says the Lord” Zephaniah 3:20.**

-  1. United States
-  2. Russia
-  3. China
-  4. Germany
-  5. United Kingdom
-  6. France
-  7. Japan
-  8. Israel
-  9. Saudi Arabia
-  10. South Korea

*Top Ten Ranked Nations*  
(<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/power-rankings>)  
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### TRUMP’S PEACE PLAN WILL BE (ALMOST) EVERYTHING ISRAEL WANTS IT TO BE



*French Ambassador to the US, Gerard Araud (L), Senior White House Advisor Jared Kushner (R) (Photos via Wikimedia Commons, (CC BY 4.0).*

There were those who were concerned that after recognizing Jerusalem as Israel’s capital, moving the USA Embassy here, and giving a thumbs-up to Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights, President Donald Trump was going to require some pretty big concessions of the Jewish state in his soon-to-be-released scheme for Middle East peace.

But France’s outgoing ambassador to the USA, Gerard Araud, signaled last week that the Jewish state has no need to worry on that front. Araud acknowledged that he doesn’t know the details of Trump’s plan, rumored to be a full 50 pages long, but that he does know it will be “very close to what the Israelis want.”

Days earlier, a senior USA official believed to be Middle East envoy Jason Greenblatt was cited by Israel as hinting that the term “two-state solution” won’t be part of Trump’s plan.

This official noted that since Israelis and Palestinians understand the term differently, it was pointless to use it as the basis for a peace agreement. Araud said that Trump’s “Deal of the Century” was almost certainly “doomed to fail.”

The French ambassador praised Trump and his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, for thinking outside the box in coming up with their plan, but said that both men had gravely underestimated the Palestinians' willingness to choose [this plan] over an...outcome that doesn't meet all their demands. Indeed, the Palestinian leadership has already rejected Trump's offering before it's even been released.

That really shouldn't come as much of a surprise, considering that Yasser Arafat previously turned down a final status agreement offered by former-USA President Bill Clinton and then-Israeli PM Ehud Barak that met 95% of Palestinian demands, including control over large parts of eastern Jerusalem. (*Israel Today*)

***“The way of peace they do not know; there is no justice in their paths. They have turned them into crooked roads; no one who walks along them will know peace” Isaiah 59:8.***

WASHINGTON – US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo refused to endorse a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. During a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on Wednesday regarding the State Department 2020 budget request, Pompeo expressed hope that the upcoming peace plan would create the conditions in which Israelis and Palestinians could solve the conflict, but did not provide any specifics.



***U.S. Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo visits the Western Wall and Tunnel with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem on March 21, 2019 (State Department photo by Ron Przysucha/ Public Domain).***

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***President Donald J. Trump with Jason Greenblatt, Special Representative for International Negotiations, Trump Admin (Photo via Twitter, @JasDovEsq, Twitter.com).***

In a four-minute exchange between Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Virginia) and Pompeo, the two argued about the prospects of an upcoming peace process between Israel and the Palestinians.

Kaine pressured Pompeo to declare the US official position is still to back the two-state solution, but Pompeo declined to give a definite answer. (*JPost, April 23, 2019*)

In essence he said that it had never worked in the past, so something new must be offered. The Trump administration has been promising for many months that it would roll out a Middle East peace plan after Israel's election.

