



But past persecution of the Jews cannot be a license to subjugate another people, the Palestinians. Nor can the solemn U.S. promise to stand by Israel be a blank check to the Jewish state when its policies undermine stated American aims.

One such Israeli policy is the relentless settlement of the West Bank. Two decades ago, James Baker, then secretary of state, declared, "Forswear annexation; stop settlement activity." Fast-forward 20 years to Barack Obama in Cairo: "The United States does not accept the legitimacy of continued Israeli settlements." In the interim the number of settlers almost quadrupled from about 78,000 in 1990 to around 300,000 last year.

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