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- IRVING KRISTOL
- MIDGE DECTER
- JEANE KIRKPATRICK
- PAUL WOLFOWITZ
- DOUGLAS FEITH
- PETER RODMAN
- STEPHEN CAMBONE
- DONALD RUMSFELD
- DICK CHENEY
- I. LEWIS LIBBY
- ELLIOT ABRAMS
- ZALMAY KHALILZAD
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- ROBERT B. ZOELLUCK
- RICHARD PERLE
- R. JAMES WOOLSEY
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- ROBERT W. TUCKER
- FRANCIS FUKUYAMA
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- ROBERT KAGAN
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- FRED BARNES
- JOHN PODHORETZ
- NEAL KOZODOY
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Why won't anyone say they are Jewish?

en français

Friends help each other out. That's why the US sends billions of dollars every year to Israel. In return, Israel advances US strategic interests in the Middle East. But despite this mutual back scratching, Israeli-American relations are enduring a rough patch. Last December, a senior State Department official blasted Israel for having "done too little for far too long" to resolve the conflict with its Palestinian neighbors. Indeed, President Bush himself had scolded Israel a month earlier with his demand that "Israel should freeze settlement construction, dismantle unauthorized outposts, end the daily humiliation of the Palestinian people and not prejudice final negotiations with the building of walls and fences."

Harsh words, but is it all just window-dressing?

This was not the first time Bush criticized Israel and he has made numerous calls for a "viable"

Palestinian state during his presidency.

Nevertheless, he has never concretely punished Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon for ignoring US directives and shrugging off his commitment to the peace process. It's also worth noting that diplomatic admonitions are the responsibility of the State Department which has been on the losing

end of the policy wars in Bush's White House. One wonders what Israeli-American relations, and indeed what American relations with the rest of the world would look like if the neocon hawks who control Rumsfeld's Defense Department were also in charge at State.

A lot of ink has been spilled chronicling the pro-Israel leanings of American neocons and fact that a disproportionate percentage of them are Jewish. Some commentators are worried that these individuals – labeled 'Likudniks' for their links to Israel's right wing Likud party – do not distinguish enough between American and Israeli interests. For example, whose interests were they protecting in pushing for war in Iraq?

Drawing attention to the Jewishness of the neocons is a tricky game. Anyone who does so can count on automatically being smeared as an anti-Semite. But the point is not that Jews (who make up less than 2 percent of the American population) have a monolithic perspective. Indeed, American Jews overwhelmingly vote Democrat and many of them disagree strongly with Ariel Sharon's policies and Bush's aggression in Iraq. The point is simply that the neocons seem to have a special affinity for Israel that influences their political thinking and consequently American foreign policy in the Middle East.

Here at Adbusters, we decided to tackle the issue head on and came up with a carefully researched list of who appear to be the 50 most influential neocons in the US (see above). Deciding exactly who is a neocon is difficult since some neocons reject the term while others embrace it. Some shape policy from within the White House, while others are more peripheral, exacting influence indirectly as

journalists, academics and think tank policy wonks. What they all share is the view that the US is a benevolent hyper power that must protect itself by reshaping the rest of the world into its morally superior image. And half of the them are Jewish.

Kalle Lasn

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<http://canadiancoalition.com/adbusters01/>
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FOLLOW-UP below:

If half the neocons were Palestinians, would the US have invaded Iraq? -- the 'Jewish Debate' continues

In a previous issue of Adbusters and on our website, Adbusters editor Kalle Lasn wrote an [article](#) that asked a contentious question: "Does the Jewishness of the neocons influence American foreign policy in the Middle East?" Hundreds of responses flooded in -- postings on our site, letters, emails, faxes, threatening phone calls, cancelled subscriptions, and even talk of picketing stores that carry Adbusters magazine.

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Here, then, is Kalle's response, and the ongoing debate:

The list of Jewish neocons we came up with is a provocation, I'll admit. And if it were a list of dentists or firefighters or stockbrokers, then that would indeed be very offensive. However, the neocons are no ordinary group – they are the most influential political/intellectual force in the world right now. They have the power to start wars and to stop them. They are the prime architects of America's foreign policy since 9/11 – a policy that is heavily weighed in favor of Israel and a key source of anti-Americanism around the world. So I think it is not only appropriate, but necessary to put them under a microscope. And if we see maleness, whiteness, Jewishness, Zionism or intellectual thuggery there, then let us not look the other way.

On the ethnic question: Is it not just as valid to comment on the Jewishness of the neocons as it is to point out that the majority of them are male or white or wealthy or from the Western world or have studied at a particular university? If half the neocons were Palestinians, would the US have invaded Iraq?

Kalle Lasn,
Editor-in-Chief, Adbusters

Email us your thoughts, the best ones will be featured here.

<http://canadiancoalition.com/adbusters01/index1.html>
same date as above

SEE ALSO responses in Adbusters 62, fall/winter 05