



University of Macau  
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Thesis Topic

The ‘Distant Neighbor’ Matters:  
The Role of the U.S. and Its Impact on the  
Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

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## Statement

I, Wong Ka Kei, hereby state that this thesis is my own and original work, apart from the sections where origins are clearly stated. All the materials in this thesis have never been used (partially or wholly) in fulfilling the requirements for any degree or qualification in this or other universities prior to this submission.

Student's Signature: Wong Ka Kei

Date: November, 2011



## Abstract

Ensuring the security of the Middle East has always been of utmost importance to the U.S. interests in the Middle East. In order to reach this prerequisite, advancing Israeli-Palestinian reconciliation has been one of the U.S. foreign policies to maintain the security in the Middle East. However, because of the complexity of the Israeli-Palestinian dispute, and additionally, the U.S. foreign policy which emphasized the expansion of the U.S. power in the Middle East, as well as the stable supply of petroleum, the Israeli-Palestinian issue was merely a secondary one before 9/11.

The happening of 9/11 was a great turning point to the U.S. foreign policy, and especially of its Israeli-Palestinian policy. At that time, the U.S. regarded counter-terrorism as the most essential aspect of its foreign policies and further more, the U.S. paid renewed attention to the Israeli-Palestinian issue and strove to combat all the terrorist activities within the Israeli-Palestinian region, while simultaneously promoting Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

The focus of this thesis is to study the U.S. foreign policy on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and its impact on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict after 9/11, as the U.S. has regarded it a crucial factor in advancing Israeli-Palestinian peace talks. The thesis will examine the effect of the Israeli-Palestinian policy during the administration of the U.S. Presidents, Clinton, Bush and Obama. Furthermore, this paper will also analyze the continual changes of the Israeli-Palestinian situation under the role of the U.S. on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through utilizing the approaches of realism and the clash of civilization. We will see what influence that role of the U.S. on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has brought to Israel and Palestine respectively before and after 9/11. All of these are going to be explored in the following chapters.

## The U.S. , Israel and Palestine<sup>1</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> Retrieved Sep 30 from <http://esc-time.com/en> ; <http://righttruth.typepad.com>;  
<http://www.worldjewishdaily.com/palestinian-flag.php>

## Map of Israel and Palestine<sup>2</sup>



<sup>2</sup> Mapsof. (2010) 'Israel, with the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights'. Retrieved Aug 08, 2011 from <http://mapsof.net/map/israel-west-bank-gaza-strip-and-golan-heights>

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