

# WHY WON'T ANYONE SAY THEY ARE JEWISH?

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 shunning 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 the 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 below). 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*

- NORMAN PODHORETZ
- 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
- JOHN BOLTON
- DOV ZAKHEIM
- ROBERT B. ZOELICK
- RICHARD PERLE

- R. JAMES WOOLSEY
- ELIOT COHEN
- ROBERT W. TUCKER
- FRANCIS FUKUYAMA
- WILLIAM KRISTOL
- ROBERT KAGAN
- GARY SCHMITT
- ELLEN BORK
- DAVID WURMSER
- JOSHUA MURAVCHIK
- REUEL MARC GERECHT
- MICHAEL NOVAK
- FR. RICHARD J. NEUHAUS
- MEYRAV WURMSER
- IRWIN STELZER
- RUPERT MURDOCH
- RICHARD MELLON SCAIFE

- THOMAS DONNELLY
- OWEN HARRIES
- MICHAEL LEDEEN
- FRANK GAFFNEY
- MAX BOOT
- GARY BAUER
- WILLIAM BENNETT
- DANIEL PIPES
- LAWRENCE KAPLAN
- MARTY PERETZ
- CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER
- DAVID BROOKS
- FRED BARNES
- JOHN PODHORETZ
- NEAL KOZODOY
- JONAH GOLDBERG