



The Making of an Alliance

Laying the foundation for an understanding of US–Israeli relations, this lively and accessible book provides critical background on the origins and development of the ‘special’ relations between Israel and the United States. Questioning the usual neorealist approach to understanding this relationship, David Tal instead suggests that the relations between the two nations were constructed on idealism, political culture, and strategic ties. Based on a diverse range of primary sources collected in archives in both Israel and the United States, *The Making of an Alliance* discusses the development of relations built through constant contact between people and ideas, showing how presidents and prime ministers, state officials, and ordinary people from both countries impacted one another. It was this constancy of religion, values, and history, serving as the bedrock of the relations between the two countries and peoples, over which the ephemeral was negotiated.

DAVID TAL is Professor and Yossi Harel Chair in Modern Israel Studies in the Department of History at the University of Sussex. A historian of diplomatic and military history, he has published extensively on Israeli diplomatic and military history, and US diplomatic history and disarmament policies. He is the author of books including *Israel’s Conception of Current Security: Origins and Development 1949–1956* (1998), *War in Palestine, 1948: Strategy and Diplomacy* (2004), *The American Nuclear Disarmament Dilemma, 1945–1963* (2008), and *US Strategic Arms Policy in the Cold War: Negotiation and Confrontation over SALT, 1969–79* (2017). He is the editor of *The 1956 War: Collusion and Rivalry in the Middle East* (2001) and *Israeli Identity: Between Orient and Occident* (2004).

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The Origins and Development of the
US–Israel Relationship

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To – our children, Omer, Marva and Eynav.

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