

US AMBASSADORS TO ISRAEL 1988–2017



Daniel Shapiro was appointed US Ambassador to Israel by President Barack Obama in July of 2011.

DANIEL SHAPIRO (2011–2017)

EDUCATION

BA from Brandeis University in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies
MA from Harvard University in Middle Eastern Politics

LANGUAGES Hebrew, Arabic

CAREER

- House Foreign Affairs Committee under Chairman Lee H. Hamilton: staff (1993–1995)
- Office of Senator Dianne Feinstein: legislative assistant and senior foreign policy adviser (1995–1999)
- National Security Council under President Bill Clinton: director of legislative affairs and as a Congressional liaison for National Security Adviser Sandy Berger (1999–2001)
- Office of Senator Bill Nelson: first legislative adviser and then deputy chief of staff—primarily on foreign policy issues (2001–2007)
- National Security Council under President Barack Obama: senior director for the Middle East and North Africa focusing on Israel and played a central role in talks regarding the Middle East Peace Process and the strengthening of military cooperation between the U.S. and Israel (2009–2011)



James Cunningham was appointed US Ambassador to Israel by President George W. Bush in June of 2008.

JAMES CUNNINGHAM (2008–2011)

EDUCATION

BA from Syracuse University in Political Science and Psychology, magna cum laude

LANGUAGES Italian, French, Spanish

CAREER

- FSO early tours: Stockholm, Washington, Rome, and the US Mission to NATO
- NATO under Secretary General Manfred Woerner: chief of staff (1988–1990)
- US Mission to the United Nations: deputy political counselor (1990–1992) In State Department Office of European Security and Political Affairs: deputy director (1992–1993) and then director (1993–1995)
- US Embassy in Rome: deputy chief of mission at the Embassy in Rome (1996–1999)
- United Nations: ambassador, deputy permanent representative and acting permanent representative (1999–2004)
- Consul General for the Chinese special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macau (2005–2008)



Richard Henry Jones was appointed US Ambassador to Israel in September 2005 by President George W. Bush.

RICHARD HENRY JONES (2005–2008)

EDUCATION

BS from Harvey Mudd College in Mathematics

MA and PhD from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in business/statistics

LANGUAGES Arabic, French, German, Russian

CAREER

- FSO early tours: France, Tunisia, and Saudi Arabia
- State Department under President George H. W. Bush: director of Division of Developed Country Trade in the Office of Egyptian Affairs and director of the Office of Egyptian Affairs (1987–1989)
- US Ambassador to Lebanon (1996–1998)
- US Ambassador to Kazakhstan (1998–2001)
- US Ambassador to Kuwait (2001–2004)
- Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government: senior fellow (2004–2005).
- State Department under George W. Bush: Senior Advisor to the Secretary of State and Coordinator for Iraq Policy (2005)



Daniel C. Kurtzer was appointed US Ambassador to Israel by President George W. Bush in 2005.

DANIEL C. KURTZER (2001–2005)

EDUCATION

BA from Yeshiva University; PhD from Columbia University

CAREER

- FSO early tours: Egypt and Israel (1981–1986)
- State Department under President Ronald Reagan, President George H.W. Bush, and President Bill Clinton: Deputy Director of the Egypt desk, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research. Office of Secretary of State – policy and speechwriting staff, President Clinton's team of advisors on the Arab-Israeli peace process



Martin Indyk was first appointed US Ambassador to Israel by President Bill Clinton in April of 1995.

MARTIN INDYK (1995–1997, 2000–2001)

EDUCATION

B. Econ. from University of Sydney

PhD from Australian National University in international affairs

CAREER

- American Israel Public Affairs Committee: deputy research director (1982–1985)
- Washington Institute for Near East Policy: founding Executive Director (1985–1995)
- Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies: adjunct professor of foreign policy and Israeli politics
- National Security Council under President Bill Clinton: special assistant and senior director of Near East and South Asian Affairs, senior member of Secretary of State Warren Christopher's Middle East peace team



Edward S. Walker was first appointed US Ambassador to Israel by President Bill Clinton in 1997.

EDWARD S. WALKER (1997–2000)

EDUCATION

BA from Hamilton College; MA from Boston University

CAREER

- US Army (1962–1965)
- Entered Foreign Service in 1967
- President Jimmy Carter's Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Negotiations: Special Assistant (1979–1981)
- State Department under President Ronald Reagan: Executive Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of State (1982–1984) Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs
- Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- United States Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (1989–1992)
- Deputy Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations (1993–1994)
- US Ambassador to Egypt (1994–1997)



Daniel C. Kurtzer was appointed US Ambassador to Israel by President George W. Bush in 2005.

EDWARD DJEREJIAN (1993–1994)

EDUCATION

BS from Georgetown University

MA from the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University

LANGUAGES: Arabic, Russian, French, Armenian

CAREER

- US Army (1960–1962)
- Office of Under Secretary of State George Ball: special assistant (1962– 1964)
- FSO early tours: Lebanon and Morocco (1964–1972)
- Office of Under Secretary of State Joseph J. Sisco: executive assistant (1972–1975)
- Consul General in Bordeaux, France (1975–1977)
- State Department under Jimmy Carter: officer in the Bureau of European Affairs (1978–1979)
- US Embassy in USSR: chief of political section
- US Mission to Jordan: deputy chief (1981–1984)
- President Ronald Reagan's White House: Special Assistant to President and Deputy Press Secretary of Foreign Affairs (1985–1986)
- State Department under President Ronald Reagan: Deputy Assistant Secretary of Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs (1986–1988)
- Ambassador to Syria (1989–1991)
- State Department under President George H.W. Bush and President Bill Clinton: Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs (1991–1993)



William C. Harrop was first appointed US Ambassador to Israel by President George H.W. Bush in January of 1992.

WILLIAM C. HARROP (1992–1993)

EDUCATION

BA from Harvard College

MA from Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University

LANGUAGES: French, Italian

CAREER

- US Marine Corps (1950–1952)
- FSO early tours: Italy: Sicily and Rome (1953–1958)
- State Dept. President Eisenhower, President Kennedy: Office of Personnel–Office of Washington Assignments, Bureau of European Affairs, Bureau of African Affairs–Congo desk (1958–1963)
- US Embassy in Belgium: Economic officers (1963–1966)
- US Consulate in Lubumbashi, Congo: Principal officer (1966–1968)
- State Dept. under President Johnson and President Nixon: Bureau of Intelligence and Research–director of Regional African Affairs (1969–1971) Policy Planning Council (1972–1973)
- US Embassy in Australia: deputy chief of mission (1973–1975)
- US Ambassador to Guinea (1975–1977)
- State Department under President Jimmy Carter: Bureau of African Affairs–principal deputy to Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Richard M. Moose (1977–1980)
- US Ambassador to Kenya (1980–1983)
- State Department under Ronald Reagan: Inspector General of the Foreign Service (1983–1986)
- US Ambassador to Congo (1988–1991)



William Andreas Brown was first appointed US Ambassador to Israel by President George H.W. Bush in 1988.

WILLIAM ANDREAS BROWN (1988–1992)

EDUCATION

BA, MA and PhD from Harvard University; National War College

LANGUAGES: Chinese, Mongolian, Malay, Russian, French, Japanese

CAREER

- US Marine Corps (1952–1954)
- Early FSO tours: Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, USSR, India (1956–1970)
- State Department under Richard Nixon: Bureau of East Asian–Deputy Director of Office Asian Communist Affairs (1970–1972)
- EPA under President Ford and President Carter: Executive Secretary (1974–1977)
- US Mission to Taiwan: Deputy Chief of Mission (1978)
- US Embassy to Israel: Deputy Chief of Mission (1979–1982)
- University of New Hampshire: Diplomat in Residence (1982–1983)
- State Department under President Ronald Reagan: Assistant Secretary of East Asian and Pacific Affairs (1983–1985)
- US Ambassador to Thailand (1985–1988)



David M. Friedman was nominated by president-elect Trump in December 2016 to serve as US Ambassador to Israel. He is currently awaiting confirmation.

DAVID M. FRIEDMAN

EDUCATION

BA from Columbia in Anthropology; Law Degree from New York University School of Law

LANGUAGES: Hebrew

CAREER

- Member of New York Bar since 1982.
- Bankruptcy lawyer, partner at Kasowitz, Benson, Torres & Friedman since 1994
- Co-chaired Trump's Israel Advisory Committee with Jason D. Greenblatt during Trump's presidential campaign
- President of the American Friends of Beit El Institutions (fundraises for settlement Beit El)