Why does the United States support Israel?

*Major reasons*

1. National security
   - Israel is the best intelligence gathering network in the world, and they share information with America
2. Geopolitical strategic calculations – having a presence in the shatterbelt region is good.
3. Israeli government is like America’s
   - Preliminary-democracy, political parties, universal vote, legal system based on same foundations as that in America (stari decisis, English common law, civil law, Jewish law) with attorney representation but no juries
4. Israeli values are like a majority of Americans a majority of the time.
   - Pro-women’s rights, pro-gun rights, pro-free speech, pro-gay/lesbian rights, pro-environment, pro-education, free media. Israel has a history of responding with emergency aid and humanitarian support teams to disasters across the world.
5. Military – Israel has nuclear weapons and cyber-espionage/warfare capacities. The two countries also collaborate on the joint-development of sophisticated technologies.
6. Electoral politics – US public opinion and voters generally sympathize more with Israelis than Palestinians. Jews and Evangelical Christians are along the most politically engaged groups in the US…the former traditionally supports Democrats and the latter Republicans.
7. Religious reasons – “supporting a Jewish state is reinforcing (or being true to) our own Christianity”.

*Secondary (minor) reasons*

1. Business interests – American airlines make much money flying there, and dozens of the top US companies have set up technology incubators (on solar energy and water conservation, for instance) in Israel to take advantage of the country’s penchant for new ideas. They then lobby US politicians
2. The Jewish lobby in Washington DC
   - Certainly not as strong as the NRA or AARP, but also not a non-influence by any means.
3. Capitalism and Economics – although Israel makes up just 3% of the population of the Middle East, it was the destination of 25% of all US exports to the region in 2011
4. The US-Israeli alliance has at times helped spur closer US-Arab relations, on the theory that only the US could convince Israel to make concessions in negotiations. No Arab ally of the US has ever, as a result of its pro-Israel posture, refused to cooperate with Washington on counterterrorism or denied its requests for access, basing or overflight rights.
5. Historical reality – US alignment to Israel was a counterpunch to the Soviet alignment with Arab countries
6. Historical regret – US knew of the Shoah and could have slowed it, but did nothing.

Why does the Arab world not like the West?

*Issues for most*

1. Globalization – seen as purposeful effort to spread western culture at expense of others.
   - Hollywood films, internet
2. Oil – many believe that westerners are oil-obsessed and in the region for their own aims
3. In American politics, Middle Easterners are often vilified and project stereotypes.
4. The legacy of Western influence in the region is ever-present
   - National borders of Arab countries throughout the Middle East; architecture
5. Israel and the United States are friends
6. America financially support Israel

*Issues for few*

1. Religion – There is a belief that Christianity is ‘out to get’ Islam (think Crusades)