

# The Unnatural Alliance: Exploring the Troubling Partnership Between Israel and South Africa

In a world grappling with the wounds of apartheid and the lingering shadows of colonialism, the alliance between Israel and South Africa has stood as an anomaly, defying conventional wisdom and raising profound questions about morality and geopolitical alliances.

This comprehensive article delves into the depths of this enigmatic relationship, tracing its historical origins, uncovering its political motivations, and examining its far-reaching implications. Join us as we embark on a journey to understand the "Unnatural Alliance," a partnership that has drawn both condemnation and curiosity.



## The Unnatural Alliance: Israel and South Africa

by James Adams

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## Historical Beginnings

The roots of the Israel-South Africa alliance can be traced back to the shared experiences of both nations. Israel emerged as a Jewish state in 1948, while South Africa was grappling with the horrors of apartheid, a system of racial segregation and oppression that tore the country apart.



*(From left). South African propaganda chief Eschel Rhoodie, Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, South African intelligence head Hendrik van den Bergh, and Israeli defense minister Shimon Peres at the Prime Minister's Residence, Jerusalem, April 11, 1975.*

Despite their vastly different histories, both countries found common ground in their outsider status. Israel was a young nation struggling for recognition in a hostile region, while South Africa was an isolated pariah, condemned by the international community for its apartheid policies.

## **Political Interests**

Beyond historical connections, political interests played a significant role in fostering the bond between Israel and South Africa. Israel saw South Africa as a potential ally in the Middle East, while South Africa saw Israel as a source of weapons and technology to suppress its anti-apartheid movement.

This mutual benefit paved the way for secret military and economic cooperation between the two nations. Israel provided South Africa with advanced weapons systems, including fighter jets, tanks, and missiles, while South Africa supplied Israel with uranium and other strategic resources.

## **Moral Dilemmas**

As the apartheid regime in South Africa intensified its brutality, the alliance between Israel and South Africa became increasingly controversial. Many around the world condemned Israel for supporting a government that blatantly violated human rights.



Despite growing international pressure, Israel maintained its ties with South Africa, arguing that it was providing assistance to a friendly nation. However, the moral implications of this support cast a long shadow over Israel's reputation.

### **Post-Apartheid Era**

With the end of apartheid in 1994, the nature of the Israel-South Africa alliance underwent a significant shift. South Africa, now a democratic nation, condemned Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories and called for an end to the conflict.

While diplomatic relations have been maintained, the warmth of the relationship has cooled. South Africa has become increasingly vocal in its

criticism of Israeli policies, and the lingering legacy of apartheid continues to strain the partnership.

## Global Perspectives

The Israel-South Africa alliance has drawn strong reactions from around the world. Some see it as a betrayal of the core values of democracy and human rights, while others argue that it is a necessary alliance for security and economic reasons.

The international community has been divided on how to respond to this partnership. Some nations have imposed sanctions on South Africa, while others have maintained ties with both Israel and South Africa.

The alliance between Israel and South Africa is a complex and controversial issue that has defied easy answers. Rooted in historical connections and political interests, it has raised profound questions about morality, international relations, and the enduring legacy of discrimination.

As the world continues to grapple with the challenges of racism, oppression, and global alliances, the "Unnatural Alliance" between Israel and South Africa serves as a cautionary tale, reminding us of the importance of upholding human rights and seeking true reconciliation.



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