

**Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria**  
**Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research**  
**University Dr. Moulay Tahar -Saida-**  
**Faculty of Letters, Foreign Languages, and Arts**  
**Department of English**



# **The Jewish Lobby and Its Influence on the U.S Politics The Elections of 2016**

A Dissertation Submitted to the Department of English in Partial Fulfillment of Master Degree

**Presented by:**

**Halimi AbdelAziz**

**Supervised by:**

**Dr. Rabha Raouti**

**Examined by:**

**Dr. Benadla Djamel**

**Dr. Talbi Abdelkrim**

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## **Dedication**

*To my dear Mother  
to my friends Kaoudj Abderrahmane  
and Chamma Amar.*

## Acknowledgments

*Alhamdulillah, this work could not be achieved without the help of ALLAH who gave me the strength to carry on.*

*I would like to thank. First of all, I owe special Thanks to my supervisor Dr. Raouti Rabha for unbelievable guidance and expertise.*

*I would also like to express my gratitude to the members of the Jury.*

## **Abstract**

This research seeks to shed light on the impact of the Jewish Group on the US politics. It basically examines the role of the Jewish lobbying institutions and organizations in influencing the US public opinion. It also addresses the American political life and how the United States' government works and manages its affairs. It similarly analyses the unprecedented advocacy of the lobby to protect the interests of both American Jews and Israel. This dissertation, therefore, points out to the main contributions of the American Jews to the US presidential elections. It concludes with the factual dominance of the Jewish Lobby in the US presidential electoral campaigns of 2016.

**Key Words:** Jewish - Presidential Campaigns of 2016 - American - Lobby - Government - Israel.

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## **General Introduction**

The role of the Jewish Lobby and its impact on the US politics is something too difficult to ignore in the current time. Jewish influence can be easily traced in the Media, US government branches, and most importantly the influence of the lobby in the US presidential campaign of 2016.

The subject of this dissertation is about the Jewish Lobby and its influence on the US politics. This study explores the Jewish history in the United States, its demography and geographic concentration. It also addresses the US politics which has been influencing the world for decades, and has subsequently changed its face ever since.

The Jewish imprints in the US government are obvious. The Jewish Lobby uses strong institutions and organizations to manipulate the American government and the private life of the American politicians adding to that the ascendance of the American Jews on the presidential campaigns specially the elections of 2016.

The Jewish group has been influencing the US government and its policies for decades. This influence and dominance is because of the powerful institutions and organizations that have been established by the group. Moreover, this influence can be spotted also in the US presidential campaigns especially the presidential campaign of 2016.



Basing ourselves on the previous facts about the Jewish interest group' dominance on the American political life and free will, a number of questions have been raised, for example:

- 1- How the Jewish Lobby controls the US government and its different branches?
- 2- what institutions and organizations are behind this influence and dominance?
- 3- how the Jewish Group affects the presidential campaigns?
- 4- most importantly, how the Jews managed to impact the 2016 presidential elections?

The aim of this research is to shed light on the connections between the results of the presidential campaign of 2016 and the Jewish Lobby in the United States. It, therefore, tries to explain how the Jewish organizations and interest institutions influence the results of the presidential elections.

This topic has been overly viewed by some authors as an important subject. For example the political authors John J. Mearsheimer and Stephen M . Walt wrote their book *"The Israel Lobby and the US foreign Policy"* assert that the Jewish Lobby has an enormous grip on the US politics in protecting the interests of Israel and the Jewish community in the United States. My contribution lies in showing how the Jewish Lobby dominates the US government and its presidential campaigns of 2016.

Among the hindrances that faced the accomplishment of this humble work have been the lack of sources and references mainly with regard to controversies that surround this issue in both governmental and public opinion in the United States of America.

This topic is presented in three chapters. The first deals with the Jewish settlers and their immigration waves to the United States. It also tackles the demographic profile of the Jewish community in addition to its geographic concentration throughout the whole nation. The second chapter highlights the US government branches and how they function. It spots light on the Jewish Lobby's institutions and organizations. Finally, the third chapter examines the history of the US elections and the Electoral College. It also focuses on the Jewish contributions to the US presidential campaigns and specifically their contributions to the 2016 elections.

## *Section One: Origins, Immigration, demography and Space*

Today, the United States of America is undisputedly the most diverse country in the world especially in terms of race and ethnicity. Millions of people of different races and ethnicities have been shaping the United States' history for ages. Although different in origin and cultural background, these racial and ethnic groups tend likely to live together and tend to share the wealth and enjoy the blessings of this nation equally. Historically speaking, this diversity and variety of races and ethnicities goes back to the first people who reached the American shores in 16th century; and most importantly Europeans who came from every corner of the old continent bearing different nationalities. Interestingly enough, a considerable number of those immigrants, either voluntary or forced<sup>1</sup>, were of Jewish ancestry flooding to the Promised Land to escape persecution and oppression from either their governments' tyranny or from people's anti-Semitism sentiments. In fact that number of Jewish people has come to found the nucleus of the contemporary Jewish community living in the United States turning from a weak and dispersed group worldwide into one of the most influential minorities in today's America mainly at the economic and political level.

Joellyn Wallen Zollman who holds PhD in the Jewish history believes that People of Jewish decent came to the United States in three waves: The first wave included basically the Jews of the Iberian Peninsula i.e. Spain and Portugal. This group arrived during the colonial period after a hard time of persecution and oppression by the

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<sup>1</sup> African Americans were brought to the United States against their will.

Christians. Such Jews of Spanish and Portuguese origins were overwhelmingly called "*Sephardim Jews*". The dominant language that was spoken was Ladino (Judeo-Spanish), this language unified the Jews in the Peninsula in their daily lives. As far as their customs are concerned, the Sephardim Jews were mostly influenced by Muslims in architecture, as well as a lot of sciences such as Geometry, Astronomy, and Medicine (Solomin).

The second wave of Jewish immigration took place shortly before the onset of the American Civil War. Jews arriving during this period came from Central Europe and are historically known as "Ashkenazim". The Ashkenazim Jews came mainly from Germany, and they spoke Yiddish Language. Most of them fled the hardships and pogroms of Europe for better life in America. Currently, Ashkenazim Jews constitute the most populous Jewish ethnic group in the United States (Solomin).

As for Jews arriving during the third wave which took place from 1880s to the 1920s, they were mainly from Russia and from some parts of Eastern Europe. Scholar Jerome A. Chanes reports that what characterizes this third wave is that it brought a lot of effectiveness and cohesiveness to the Jewish community (2).

These co-called immigration waves were the main reason of the existence of the Jewish Community in today's America; especially the second wave because the country was expanding South and West which led these Jewish families to peddle and become prospering merchants and businessmen. However, the third wave of immigrants remained in the cities where the economic opportunities were more available. This consequently led to an urbanized Jewish community (Chanes3).

## 1. The Jewish Immigration Waves to the United States

### 1.1. Sephardim Jews

The term "*Sephardi*" is a Hebrew term for Spain. This term was given to the Jews of Spain and Portugal (Iberian Peninsula). The Sephardi group members have come from different backgrounds such as Turkish, Balkan origins as well as Judeo-Spanish speaking people. In his book, *The Sephardim of the United States: An Exploratory Study*, Marc D. Angel mentions that this group included a great number of Syrian Jews. More tellingly and practically all these groups who came from different backgrounds live in the U.S today fleeing the prosecution from the Christians and the royal expulsion that took place in the 16<sup>th</sup> century paving the way to this massive immigration towards the U.S (78).

It is worth noting that the Sephardim Jews are known for their very conservative nature. They preserve their traditions and customs as language, arts, and religion in spite of the fact that Spain in that era that was dominated by Islam. Nevertheless, Sephardic Jews have Subsequently been influenced by the Islamic culture (Solomin). Historically speaking, the Sephardim Jews were the first immigrants to arrive to New Amsterdam in September 1654. It is important to mention that their role in the colonies was of a great importance because they had been highly skilled in commerce. This was reflected in their great contributions to the Jewish community. However, they suffered considerable losses as they experienced intermarriage with the Ashkenazi Jews flocking towards the shores in the early 19th century. Such an event has meaningfully changed the scale of the Sephardim Jews influence, because Ashkenazim Jews started founding their own

synagogues and institutions as Spanish and Portuguese Jews couldn't cope with the new comers as we shall see when dealing with Ashkenazim Jews (Angel 84).

## **1.2. Ashkenazim Jews**

Ashkenazim Jews are people who came from Eastern Europe or those of a German decent. In other words, the American Jewish community is largely dominated by these Jews. Some of them migrated during Sephardic wave. However, in 1800s they started to come in huge numbers, especially the German Jews because they fled hardships, persecution, and restrictive laws.

They looked to America as a shelter and indeed it was for them a salvation because later they became a more influential ethnic group in every aspect of the American life especially in politics (Zollman).

By the end of the First World War, 250,000 German Jews came to America. This huge number played a great role in expanding the American Jewry in the United States, Jews started as peddlers and merchants in the small cities of the Midwest of the U.S. In a similar way, East European Jews started to come in large numbers from 1880 till 1924. During this span of time, almost two million Jews arrived mostly from Russia, Austria, and Hungary. The Eastern European Jews settled in poor neighborhoods of major cities. What has made them so different is their distinguished ideological perspectives such as liberal politics and social equality. This consequently had a great influence on their Jewish community (Zollman).

## **2. Demography and Space of the American Jewry**

### **2.1. American Jewish Population**

Socio-demographic studies have contributed greatly in the estimation and the size of the American Jewish population in the U.S. However, this research is still an ongoing one. According to surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center, the Jews are characterized by typically special demographic features. For example, the Jews are the oldest people in the U.S population. From a different perspective, they are known for their good educational accomplishments and highly classified income in the United States compared with many other immigrant groups. Spatially speaking, Jews are more likely to settle in the Northeast of the U.S (35).

Generally speaking, Jews are dominantly living in a certain geographic region. This has to do with the diversity and availability of the jobs they practice. The Pew Hispanic Research Center found out that about 43% of the Jewish group lives in the Northeast of the U.S; while 23% of them live in either the South or the West. However, only 11% of them live in the Midwest. In short, half of this percentage resides in the urban areas, while the other half lives in the suburbs (16).

### **2.2. Demographics of the Jewish Group**

By 2010, the Jewish Population reached 5.275.000, and that means 1, 7% of the United States' population. This large population goes back decades before the WW1 when the Jew immigrants fled the pogroms that were taking place in Europe. In addition to that before 1918, the U.S didn't issue an Entry Visa, or government document needed

to enter the U.S to the immigrants arriving to Ellis Island<sup>2</sup> (Greater Philadelphia Jewish Coalition on Immigration).

Having said that, the Jewish community has been growing from the first days of discovering the United States of America. This growth was due to certain hardships and hard times the Jews faced in Europe in the Medieval Ages and the latest centuries. Thus, the Jews believed that the New Found Land was their last salvation from hardships and bad conditions of life, and indeed it was.

The following table describes the significant growth of Jewish population through the years of their immigration to the United States.

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<sup>2</sup> Ellis Island: is an island in New York Bay that was the immigration station for the United States.



Table 1: Jewish Population in the U.S from 1654 to 2015.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Jewish Population</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Jewish Population</b>
1654	25	1910	1,508,000-2,349,754
1700	200-300	1920	3,300,000-3,604,580
1776	1,000-2,500	1927	4,228,029
1790	1,243-3,000	1937	4,641,000-4,831,180
1800	2,000-2,500	1940	4,770,000-4,975,000
1820	2,650-5,000	1950	4,500,000-5,000,000
1826	6,000	1960	5,367,000-5,531,500
1830	4,000-6,000	1970	5,370,000-6,000,000
1840	15,000	1980	5,500,000-5,920,890
1848	50,000	1992	5,828,000
1850	50,000-100,000	2009	6,544,000
1860	150,000-200,000	2011	6,588,065
1870	200,000	2012	6,721,680
1880	230,000-280,000	2013	<b>6,721,965</b>
1890	400,000-475,000	2014	<b>6,769,000</b>
1900	937,800-1,058,135	2015	<b>7,160,000</b>

Sources: Ira M. Sheskin and Arnold Dashefsky (Editors), "Jewish Population in the United States, 2012." *American Jewish Year Book* (2012) (Dordrecht: Springer) p. 143-211. Available in <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jewish-population-in-the-united-states-nationally>. Seen on March the 2nd, 2017.

### **2. 3. Statistics on the Jewish Population in the United States**

The above table shows the rising statistics of the Jewish population between 1654 to 2015. It also includes all the Jewish individuals, adults and children from the U.S Census Bureau. Moreover, it explains and exhibits the number of Jews during their immigration years in addition to the demographic statistics on the national level. Therefore, in this table, the Jewish population is counted for a specific reason: Jews born to Jewish parents, and those who converted to Judaism.

To add to this point, the Jewish population is geographically concentrated in some states in North America. According to *Vital Statistics: Jewish Population in the United States, by State*, the Jewish population is noticed larger in some states and that goes to their political and economical affiliation. i.e. New York has 10.8% of the Jewish population, New Jersey 7.2%, Washington D.C 9%, and Florida 5,4%.

Researchers Jonathan Golden and Jonathan D. Sarna confirm that the Jews live in cosmopolitan cities such as New York and New Port where opportunities of commerce and trade exist. In a parallel way, some Jews live near synagogues in a religious Jewish community. It is of extreme importance to notice that the Jewish Lobby headquarters is located in Washington D.C where much support is advocated to support the interests of Israel. Nevertheless, the Jewish community can also be found in some areas of the United States due to political, economical, and influential reasons.

## *Section Two: American Immigration Policy towards people of Jewish origin*

### **1. Government Attitude toward the Jewish immigrants**

The American immigration policies have seen a lot changes throughout the course of the American history, from Columbus era and the time of the discovery of America. As a subject, immigration has always been the most controversial subject in the American politics and Congress. Several legislations have been passed dealing with immigration in the United States.

The American immigration policy towards the Jews changed by the end of the 1920s. Because the U.S had issued two immigration acts: Emergency Quota Act 1921 and Immigration Act of 1924, these two acts aimed to protect the American worker from the foreign skilled immigrants. This led the government to minimize immigration from some areas of the world.

By 1929 the United States was having a bad time economically and this consequently led to a change in its politics. Subsequently, its attitude and policies towards the world changed too. Keeping the same line of thought, unemployment among Americans themselves increased after the Great Depression pushing President Franklin. D. Roosevelt to adopt and sign an executive order to limit immigration to the United States (Greear 14).

More tellingly, this Order coincided with the rise of the Nazi regime in 1933, leading to the elimination of the Jews excessively from the top places in Germany,

crystallizing in Hitler's Civil Service Law which excludes non-Aryans from stepping towards official posts in the German government. This law was intended to end the Jewish dominance in Germany (Grear 14-15).

Additionally, the change of both the immigration policy and the public attitude took place because Anti-Semitic movement was violently striking in the U.S. The Jews were thus banned from clubs, schools, and social environments. This Anti-Semitic sentiment prevailed in the mid 30s till 1940. In the same vein, Americans of German ancestry were under the influence of the Nazi propaganda in the U.S advocating this attitude of eliminating the Jews (Grear 16).

This mistreatment vis-à-vis the Jews were counter-attacked by important manifestations from the American Jewish Committee. This committee was trying to protect the civil rights of the Jews. It thus pushed the U.S government to have a voice in what was happening in Germany. From a different perspective, the United States could not intervene in other countries' affairs especially when it deals with a special minority group because the U.S also had some cruel laws against the African-Americans<sup>3</sup>. Therefore, some Christian groups urged for public manifestations and managed to bring demonstrators into the streets where they shouted and expressed their anger against the Nazi regime and the Anti-Semitism acts (Grear16-17).

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<sup>3</sup> Jim Crow: An Act issued to prevent Blacks from participating in various activities with the Whites.

## **2. The U.S Public Attitude towards Jewish Refugees**

The public attitude differed from the U.S government and also among Americans. As mentioned earlier, the United States was going through tough and difficult times economically. As a matter of fact, the government advocated a policy to limit immigration, and that policy led a lot of Jews to their deaths (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum).

World War Two generated drastically different opinions and ideas about the Jews. The Nazis were taking over Europe and Jewish refugees were allowed to leave Germany. Facing these events, The United States tightened security because it feared the Nazi spies could infiltrate the American national security through the Jewish refugees. On the whole, Americans were also divided in opinions when it came to the Jewish refugees, they had different opinions and thoughts as we shall see in the next poll voting :

<b>What is your attitude toward allowing German, Austrian, and other political refugees to come into the U.S.?</b>	
We should encourage them to come even if we have to raise our immigration quotas	<b>4.9%</b>
We should allow them to come but not raise immigration quotas	<b>18.2%</b>
With conditions as they are we should try to keep them out	<b>67.4%</b>
Don't know	<b>9.5%</b>

Fealty, Mick. *US public attitudes towards Jewish immigrants fleeing Hitler's Germany in 1938... September 2016.*  
Available in:

<https://sluggerotoole.com/2016/09/20/us-public-attitudes-towards-jewish-immigrants-fleeing-hitlers-germany-in-1938/> .

A simple glance at the above table, one can notice a variation in the attitudes of American public opinion towards the Jews because of the political events that took place at that time in addition to the violent actions that were committed by the Nazi regime in Germany against the Jews. By January 1944, Franklin D. Roosevelt was pushed by his government and also the American Jewish community to step down and rescue the European Jews. At the same time, he also created War Refugee Board (WRB) to save refugees with the help of the Jewish World Congress, and thanks to this Board tens of thousands were saved in Hungary and in Europe (Fealty).

## *Section One: The United States' Government*

### **1. An Overview on the U.S government**

The United States is knowledgeably a federalist country. This means that the country's governance takes place at the state level or the local one. The US has been a democratic country for more than 200 years, and today is one of the biggest political countries dominating the world. Moreover, the US has created over the years a society that is fair and free and all that credit goes to its Constitution.

All of that started overwhelmingly with the growing population in 13 colonies such a factor pushed the American Revolution and the War for the Independence from Britain in 19th April, 1775. The war lasted more than two years. Within these two years, a lot of political shifts and ideas were proposed to the King of England to express their feelings and show how the American people were eagerly willing to separate from Britain.

July 4th, 1776, was the day when the world came to know that a new nation has been born, and that the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Second Continental Congress<sup>4</sup> making this day the "Day of Independence" for the United States. In 1783, the 13 colonies wrote and developed the Articles of Confederation. This document allowed each colony to have special its laws and its own money and army (Gurucharri 1).

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<sup>4</sup> Continental Congress: is a legislative assembly composed from delegates from the rebel colonies who met during and after the American Revolution; they issued the Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation.

Andrew Dowie, a well-known economist whose article was published by Advance Asset Management, asserts that the founding fathers were resolute in the construction of the US Constitution to give credibility and freedom and grant different terms to each member in the main three branches of the United States government including the Executive, the Legislative, and the Judicial (1).

## **2. The Structure of the U.S government in Brief**

### **2.1. The Executive Branch (Presidency)**

This branch is held by the US president and his advisors. The US presidential candidates are elected to a four year term through an election system which is the Electoral College. When the president holds the Oval House, he becomes the Commander-in chief. His job is to manage all the staff that works in the Executive Branch and to make sure that the laws in the country are well implemented (Maisel). The US president has some judicial powers. He gets to pick Attorney General. He also nominates Supreme Court Judges and US district attorneys. The power of the US president is enormous because he is the commander- in-chief not only to the government but also to the military (Dowie 2).

Sandy Maisel, a professor in Colby College notes that the U.S president is assisted by a huge number of people working under his control; therefore, the staff of the Executive Branch comprises five million civilian and military personnel working under rules and federal guidelines issued every year.



## **2.2. The Legislative Branch ( The Congress )**

The founding fathers who wrote the American Constitution made the Legislative branch ( Lawmaking ) more powerful than the two other branches. This branch is made up of two bodies: The House of Representatives and the Senate ( Congress ). The main job of this branch is to make laws and rules for the U.S nation.

The U.S Congress helps to raise money to the government and suggests how his money will be spent. Congress abides by certain bills that should be introduced by its members. It is important to mention that the president has a saying in making laws. In addition to a budget presented by the Executive branch to the Congress and the latter interferes to pave the way to spend this budget (Maisel). That being said, the US Congress has other essential powers such as declaring war on another country. it has also the right to regulate trade, and it can impeach the president too. The Congress as we said earlier is made up of two bodies: The House of Representatives and the Congress.

### **2.2.1. The House of Representatives**

The House of Representatives is larger than any other body in Congress ( Senate ). It contains 435 members. Every two years, the House elects new members. These members represent the people in the congressional district, each state has its own representatives according to its small or big population. In addition to that the House chooses a leader from the dominating party to become the Speaker of the House (Maisel).

### **2.2.2. The Senate**

The Senate is the smaller house in the US Congress. It is made up of 100 Senators from every state. The people elect two of them to represent them in US Congress. According to Timothy O. Lenz and Mirya Holman co-authors of a book entitled "*American Government*" confirm that the Senate has the power to approve or disapprove the presidential appointments. Cabinet level posts, and the U.S Senate can approve or disapprove all treaties with nations (53).

In other words, the president of the Senate is the United States Vice President. His main power is to decide when a tie in vote takes place. However, his presence is ceremonial. Even though the Senate is the lower house in the U.S Congress, it has the same structure of the House of Representatives, and it's very effective and relies on formal structure of power (64).

### **2.3. The Judicial Branch ( The Federal Court System )**

The United States of America has a federal system that is comprised of one national government and 50 state governments. The federal court system is composed of the Supreme Court, 94 District Courts, and 13 Appeal Courts (Lenz and Holman 108).

To be more clear on this point, this branch is specialized in the Court System of the United States. The highest court in the U.S is the Supreme Court. It is composed of the Chief Justice and eight associates who get picked by the U.S president by the approval of the Senate. The Supreme Court has many powers and can intervene in the

two branches mentioned above, and therefore it keeps their powers in check in order to be ready for any misuse of power (Maisel).

### **3. Political Parties in the United States**

Logically, in order to know how American elections are managed, we have better to understand what a political party is. Fischer defines a political party as a group of people sharing certain principles and values to lure the people and be effective in a certain government in order to be the dominant party in the government (27).

If said differently, the United States has two important and dominant parties in the political arena which are the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. Each party has its own values and principles. Considering the two-party system in the United States, the parties are governed by the laws of the individual states, which orchestrate the U.S elections to the local and federal offices. In addition to that, in this two-party system, every party has its own unity and interests and its own directions either it's the left wing or the right wing (Lenz and Holman 238).

#### **3.1. Democratic Party**

The Democratic Party was founded by Thomas Jefferson in 1779. The party's principles are giving a chance to the excluded people and to provide a governmental base to give the poor good welfare conditions and opportunities to experience the American Dream (Parla). Adding to this point, the Democratic Party is founded on popular base that gives the American community diversity and strength. The Democrats follow some

liberal philosophies, and they like the government to observe the nation's economy closely. Moreover, they want the government to give the people good healthcare insurances, welfare, and education opportunities.

In the 1900s, the Democratic Party started to witness greatness because of the changes that were taking place in the United States and the world, and most importantly at the level of leadership that resulted in the rise of some Democrats to the White House such as: Woodrow Wilson, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and John F. Kennedy. This kind of leadership shaped the principles and the values of the Democratic Party, making this party major one in the United States (Parla).

### **3.2. Republican Party**

The Republican Party was founded in the late 1850s. The first Republican president was Abraham Lincoln. The Republicans consider themselves conservatives because they follow some conservative philosophies, which can be noticed in their values; that consider the American citizen is the one who decides.

Republicans believe that honor, dignity, and freedom should be given to every American citizen. To be more brief, the Republicans want less government, less income distribution, and good market economy.

Melanie Mayne, who is the author of "*The Origin of the American Democratic Party*" observes that these two parties are in constant conflict; however, they seek to create a government that is managed and operated by the American citizens.

The greatness of this country and how it tuned into one of the most powerful nations in the world is still under a big question. For example, are all American government decisions democratically taken by its free people without restrictions from any side?.

It is impossible to speak about the US politics without speaking about the Interest Groups in the United States. This is due to their dominance on the government and policies that the government make. Therefore, what role do interest groups play in impacting the American government policies either at the domestic or foreign level? More precisely, as the most powerful lobby group, does the Jewish group have any impact in government decisions? These questions and other similar ones will be answered and discussed in the following section.

## ***Section Two: The Jewish Interest Group***

### **1. Interest Pressure Group: A Conceptual Framework**

Interest Group is a collection of citizens or organizations that share a mutual and common aims, and push for public policies. The interest groups in the United States play a great role in shaping and influencing the Politics. That influence can be through institutions and organizations that were founded by these Groups. In this concern the philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche states "*Madness is rare in individuals - but in groups, political parties, nations, and eras it's the rule*" (Lenz and Holman 252).

### **2. The Jewish lobby History (overview)**

Benjamin Ginsberg, a Jewish author in Political Science claims that the Jewish lobby has been influencing the American economy, political life, and the banking system since 1960s. Despite the fact that the population of the Jewish group is barely 3% of the American national population, half of the billionaires of the U.S are Jews that's why, the owners of the major networks in Hollywood are Jews. Moreover, the majority of well-known and famous newspapers are owned by Jews. i.e. The New York Times (qtd. in Weber).

The Jewish lobby is primarily composed of the American Jews who hold higher political posts in the U.S government. In addition to Israeli officials who have public affairs with Americans those who have common interests. The lobby intends to influence

the foreign policies of the United States by supporting Israel and distorting the public criticism that the lobby frequently faces in the U.S (Lieberman 236).

This alliance between the United States and Israel have made the relations between the two countries powerful ever since the Six-Day War in 1967 that took place between the state of Israel and some Arab countries. Since that time the U.S foreign policy has been in favor of Israel. Starting from this point, we can notice that the United States risks its own security and principles for the sake of Israel, and also risks the security of the neighboring countries of Israel as well.

In their book *"The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy"*, researchers John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt argue that the state of Israel get free pass from every candidate who wants to be elected president of the U.S. Some claim that Israel gets this good privilege from the U.S, because it's the only country in the Middle East that adopts the same values as the U.S. That being said, the authors of this book spot light on the idea that looms round the privileged status in Congress for any future president who pledges allegiance to the state of Israel (5and 6).

The influence of the lobby affects both parties Democrats and Republicans, and none of the politicians can stand against it because it would minimize the chance of becoming a U.S president or to hold an official position in the government. In short clear words, the Jewish lobby has become an influential lobby by establishing institutions and organizations that influence and impact the politics and the economy of the United States. So from where does the Jewish lobby draw its power and influence?.

### **3. Jewish Lobby and its Organizations**

#### **3.1. The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC)**

This committee is a pro-Israel lobby located in Washington D.C. Its main goals are to ensure support and back up Israel. Such a committee operates with both parties of the United States to pass laws that interest and benefit Israel (Beilan 8).

AIPAC was founded in 1953 by I.L Kenen to stand against the State Department Opposition. This committee is divided into four departments. Its focus is on political developments, research, legislative and executive influence. This committee operates with more than 100 employees with 10 regional offices that collect more \$ 67 million annually to advocate legislative and executive power. AIPAC's administration is composed of 18 officers. It is important to mention that most of them are leaders of other Jewish organizations. These officers are chosen every two years by an executive committee. They hold monthly meetings to discuss problems and the political issues (15).

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee is a pro-Israel lobby that brought the Jewish voice together in the United States, and advocated support to Israel by influencing political leaders. This committee exercises its influence by providing free educational trips to the U.S Congress members by the American Israel Education Foundation (Beattie).



### **3.2. The Anti-Defamation League (ADL)**

This organization was a new branch from the old Zionist organization *B'nai B'rith*. It was founded in 1914. Its duties were to defend the Jews from Anti-Jewish acts and Anti-Semitism. However; the ADL today has changed its agenda. It gathers information and critics about Israel and make them the headlines in social media (Blankfort 3).

Jeffery Blankfort who is a journalist points out that ADL was found by San Francisco Police conducting spying mission across the nation. It was spying not only on Arab-Americans but also on Black Americans, Latino Americans, and major trade unions as well (3).

Blankfort goes far beyond that when saying that the Anti-Defamation League was going to be prosecuted in the court of law, but some Zionist leaders intervened and the organization promised to stop its activities. Today, the organization works closely with the Police Departments across the United States and gives the policemen free trips to Israel to teach them how to react and respond when they are facing terrorist attacks ( 3).

### **3.3. The American Jewish Committee (AJC)**

The American Jewish Committee was founded by German Jews in 1906. It had been a peaceful committee until the World War II, and the beginning of suffering of the Jews that took place in the Holocaust. Recently, the AJC has become more active on the international level by influencing the European Union (3 and 4).

Today, this committee has a weekly gathering with high member officials from the EU in Brussels to promote and help the state of Israel to win the support of the EU voice as well, and the international voice against Palestine to continue its settlement policy in the West Bank.

#### **4. U.S Congress and the Jewish Lobby**

The Jewish interest group follows numerous methods to influence and impact the U.S government. One of it is the lobby's dominance over Congress. The lobby's dominance over the Congress is proportionately significant, because when other cases are discussed in the Congress such as: Health Care, Unemployment, or Welfare there is a lot of hot debate in Capitol Hill. However, when it comes to Israel there is hardly any critic or debate on the issue ( Mearsheimer and Walt 42).

Legislators and congressional candidates are rewarded by AIPAC on their good actions and behavior towards Israel. By contrast, those who challenge and criticize the lobby are ousted. According to Mearsheimer and Walt AIPAC is very influential over Capitol Hill, because members of Congress ask for data and information from this organization before going to the Library of Congress.

To be more clear, AIPAC has strong hold on the U.S Congress, and it challenges the Congressmen and the Senators those who criticize and question the US-Israeli relations, and we can see that its power is extended to the three branches of the U.S government (43).

In a book entitled "*How Does Congress Shape the Middle East; and How AIPAC Shape Congress?*", Kirk J. Beattie asserts that the U.S Congress acts with a free will when it comes to Israel politically and economically. Adding to the same author Congress announces \$ 3.2 Billion annually to assist Israel military and economy.

## **5. The Executive Branch and the Jewish Lobby**

The lobby has great influence on the Executive Branch because of the influence of the Jewish voters on the presidential elections. Even though, the Jews are small minority in the American community but they make big campaign donations to candidates of both parties. Therefore, these voters focus more on the Key States such as: Florida, Illinois, and New Jersey....etc. Consequently, this leads to electoral outcomes because the Electoral Vote matters in the American elections (Mearsheimer and Walt. 43 and 44).

Moreover, this lobby influences the administration in power by planting pro-Israeli officials in the White House near the president of the U.S. These officials push policies that benefit Israel and they are backed by the organizations of the lobby that we discussed earlier (44 and 45).

## **6. Media Manipulation**

As we all know that the United States Mass Media is always bias when it comes to Israel, because the Pro-Israel organizations play a great role in influencing the Media since they don't want the American community to question the support of Israel that the

United States provides. To be more clearer, these Pro-Israel committees influence the media, think tank, academia, and some institutions that shape the public opinion.

The U.S media plays a great role in distorting the fact about Israel specially about Palestine because the Media can't cover the news without mentioning the role of Israel. That's why, it is noticed that most media reports seem to be more biased to Israel. Most often the Jewish lobby organizes letters to boycott the news networks that speak freely, describing them as being anti-Israel and anti-Semitic networks (45).

## **7. Think Tank Institutions**

These "*Think Tank*" institutions were created by the Jewish lobby in 1985. As Mearsheimer and Walt explain in their book, these think tank play a great role in shaping public debates and pushing for better policies. Over the years, the Jewish lobby created these institutions to help establishing a solid base to improve U.S-Israel relations and stop any criticism that could hurt these relations (46).

There are major institutions that were founded by the lobby for example: the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), the Brookings Institution, the Center for Security Policy, the Heritage Foundation, Hudson Institute, and the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA). All these institutions work for the lobby and protect the Israeli interests in the United States of America (46).

## *Section One: The U.S Election and the Electoral College*

As we have seen in the previous chapter, the Jewish lobby has enormous powers and impact on the American government, and how the lobby uses its organizations and institutions to dominate the governmental branches of the U.S government, and all this effort from the Jewish lobby is to protect the State of Israel in the Middle East, and create an international voice to advocate for the Jewish communities around the world. Therefore, the United States has its own system of elections and it's different from any election in the world because of its diversity and forethought. In addition to the primaries and caucuses thrown by both parties to choose the presidential candidates who will later go campaigning across the United States to spread their projects and ideas to the U.S citizens, and persuade them to vote for them.

Knowledgeably, there are two systems to choose the president of the U.S: Popular Vote and the Electoral College. However, the latter is the one taken into consideration despite of the fact that a president wins the popular vote and loses the Electoral College he will not be the president. In both cases he must win the Electoral College in order to become the U.S president.

The United States elections is a big deal, because \$ 10 billion Dollars are spent to push the election of the candidates at the federal, state and local level. All of this spending and concern because 120 million citizen is going to vote and choose the U.S president and the party that is going to rule the U.S Congress (Hall 2). That being said,

the American elections are operated by the States because of the federal laws that exist in every state and these laws are followed and obeyed.

### **1. The U.S Election: a Historical Overview**

The U.S election is a historical event that occurs every 4 years, which the American citizens decide who's going to be the next president of the United States and what party is going to control the government. That's why the U.S election has two phases. First, the political parties hold local election to choose who is going to represent their party in the November general election. The second phase is selecting the president, and this phase is different from the first one because it is a national election (Hall 16).

The elections play a great role in transferring power from one president to another in a peaceful way, they also make the citizens of the U.S have a voice in choosing the candidate they believe it's the one who fits to be the U.S president. Therefore, the American system of the elections may appear complicated and hard to grasp but it gives every citizen the chance to be noticed and be heard.

To win a presidential nomination, candidates are selected through winning delegates, and these delegates attend the national convention of the party and vote for the nomination of the candidate they see fit to represent them in the general election. To add to this point, these delegates are picked through two selections. First, Primary election through which the candidates present delegates based on their performance in the states for example, if a state has 20 delegates and a candidate received 40 % of the vote;

therefore, the candidate has 8 delegates in that state. Second, a Caucus which is a political meeting to register all the members of the party. In these meetings people speak in favor of their candidates they support and at this caucus the supporters of each candidate are counted to allocate the delegates (Hall 18).

## **2. The Electoral College**

The Electoral College was created by the founding fathers who adopted this system from the Assembly of the Roman Republic. The number of the votes in every state is dictated by its representation in the Congress; however, both systems of the Roman Republic and the Electoral College have positive effects on the nation, and negative ones too ( Kimberling ).

Thad E. Hall, a professor in the university of Utah, illustrates in his book *Premier on the U.S Election System* that the national election can't decide who the U.S president is. However, the State-by- State election is the key because when the candidate obtains the majority of the electoral votes in the Electoral College, automatically becomes the U.S president (17).

The number of the electoral voters in each state is similar to its congressmen and senators that represent it in the Congress. For example the state of Florida has 15 Congressmen and 2 Senators, so it has 17 electoral voters. To add to this point, there are 538 electoral votes in the Electoral College; therefore, to win the presidency and become the U.S president, a candidate needs to win a 270 votes. And if a tie takes place the U.S

House of Representatives would break the tie by casting one vote each to choose the President (17).

The American system of elections is playground for a lot of interest groups one of these interest groups is the Jewish group. When it comes to the elections, the Jewish follow some protocols such as: Influencing the media to support the nominee they think is good for them by endorsing him / her. Another method they follow which is the donations that they give to the election campaigns for rallies and conferences across the United States. In other words, the Jewish group donations are limitless as we are going to see in the next title. In this concern Michael Medved, a well-known Jewish author claims that the Jewish power and influence on the American cultural life cannot be ignored or misjudged when he states that *"It makes no sense at all to try to deny the reality of the Jewish power and prominence in popular culture"* (qtd in Weber). In the next section we shall deal with the Jewish power and its contributions to the Presidential Elections in the United States and specially the Elections of 2016.



## ***Section Two: Jewish Intesest Group and Its Influence on The U.S Election***

### **1. The Contributions of the Jewish Group in the U.S Elections**

The Israeli Lobby in the United States includes different types of people with differents ideologies. Since the election of 1990, the lobby has favored Democrats. In 2016 the federal donations collected more than \$17 million to support their favorite candidate (Sultan).

Statistically speaking, in 2016 *J Street* which is an organization that advocates for U.S interests in the Middle East has collected more than \$ 3.4 million in contributions mainly from individuals in the PACs, 19% of these contributions were from Pro-Israel lobby and these contributions went to the Democratic candidate. Adding to that, since 2007, the Jewish Lobby has given \$30.800 to Republicans whereas the Democrats have taken nearly \$ 8 million. Therefore, we notice that the lobby favores the Democratic Party and its candidates because of the methods and principles the party follows which are beneficial to the State of Israel (Sultan).

### **1.2. The U.S Campaigns and Money Donations**

Thad E. Hall believes that money plays an important role in the United States' elections; because the first Amendment in the U.S Constitution allows the citizens to have freedom of speech and that can be through the Media or advertising. However, the Supreme Court has ordered the government to intervene in the spending of an individual

or organization on a certain campaign or political party due to the ability of fraud and electoral manipulation (18).

The next Table shows some data and information about the donations and contributions that support the campaign and political committees.

**Campaign Finance Limits : Contributions to Campaigns**

Donor Type	To each candidate or candidate committee per election	To national party committee per calendar year	To state, district & local party committee per calendar year	To any other political committee per calendar year	Special Limits	
Individual	\$2,500	\$30,800	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$117,000	Overall 2-year limit
National Party Committee	\$5,000	No limit	No limit	\$5,000	\$43,100	to Senate candidate per campaign
State, District & Local Party Committee	\$5,000	No limit	No limit	\$5,000	No limit	
PAC (Multi-Candidate)	\$5,000	\$15,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	No limit	
PAC (Not Multi-Candidate)	\$2,500	\$30,800	\$10,000	\$5,000	No limit	
Authorized Campaign Committee	\$2,000	No limit	No limit	\$5,000	No limit	

Hall, Thad E. *Primer on the U.S Election System*. International Foundation for Electoral Systems, 2012. P (19).

The above table reveals the spending of different donors to the Election Campaigns. The candidate whose running for presidency can spend as much money as he wants on his campaign because there is no law that forbids this in the United States. We can also notice the spending of the PACs also known as, Political Action Committees.

These committees are formed by a certain interest group to collect and raise money for their favorite candidate.

Saying this differently, these PACs play a great role in the American elections; because they raise big sums of money from associations, individuals, and unions, and they spend this money to support or be against candidates (Hall 20).

## **2. The Impact of the Jewish Group on the Elections of 2016**

The U.S elections is a delimma for the Jewish Lobby, because the winning president has to pledge allegiance to the State of Israel, and cherish the U.S-Israeli relationship that has been going for decades. That's why, all the candidates running for the presidency have to attend the AIPAC conference for declaring their respect and commitment to the U.S-Israeli alliance (Neubauer 2).

In an article entitled "*Here's Why AIPAC and the Israeli Lobby Will be Critical to 2016 Elections*" Ben Geier claims that AIPAC is one of the most powerful polished organizations in the Jewish group because it has a strong grip on Washington D.C, and also has powerful lobbyists who know how to sway them to vote for the welfare of Israel.

Geier also clarifies that AIPAC does not endorse the candidates publically, and doesn't give money directly to them. However, AIPAC pushes and influences the donors to contribute to the candidates and PACs that will be convenient to Israel and its interests. Moreover, the Pro-Israeli individuals and the PACs have donated \$ 7 million (USD) to federal campaigns in 2016 elections.

The 2016 election is maybe one of controversial elections in the history of the United States because the candidates had different backgrounds for example Hillary Clinton has been a well-known politician for decades, and has played a great role in the administration of Barack Obama as Secretary of State. Whereas, Donald Trump is a wealthy businessman with less experience in politics. That's why, these two candidates created a cycle and aimed for different people and ethnicities during their campaigns.

Steven Windmueller a professor of Jewish Communal Studies believes that the American Jewry will play great role in the 2016 Election, through their funding support and political protagonism. He even strongly confirms that this election is a Jewish one, because the candidates has connections with the Jewish community.

## **2.1. The Encroachment of Jewish Vote**

Despite the fact that the American Jewry population makes just 2% of the U.S population, it has a big influence on the Electoral Polls. That's why, the Jewish professor Gil Troy confirms in his research paper "*The Jewish Vote: Political Power and Identity in US Elections*" that the American Jews since the elections of 1928 have voted Democratic. He also believes that 70% of the American Jews are liberals and thinks that the understanding of the Jewish Vote is going to open a door to understand the Jewish identity (5).

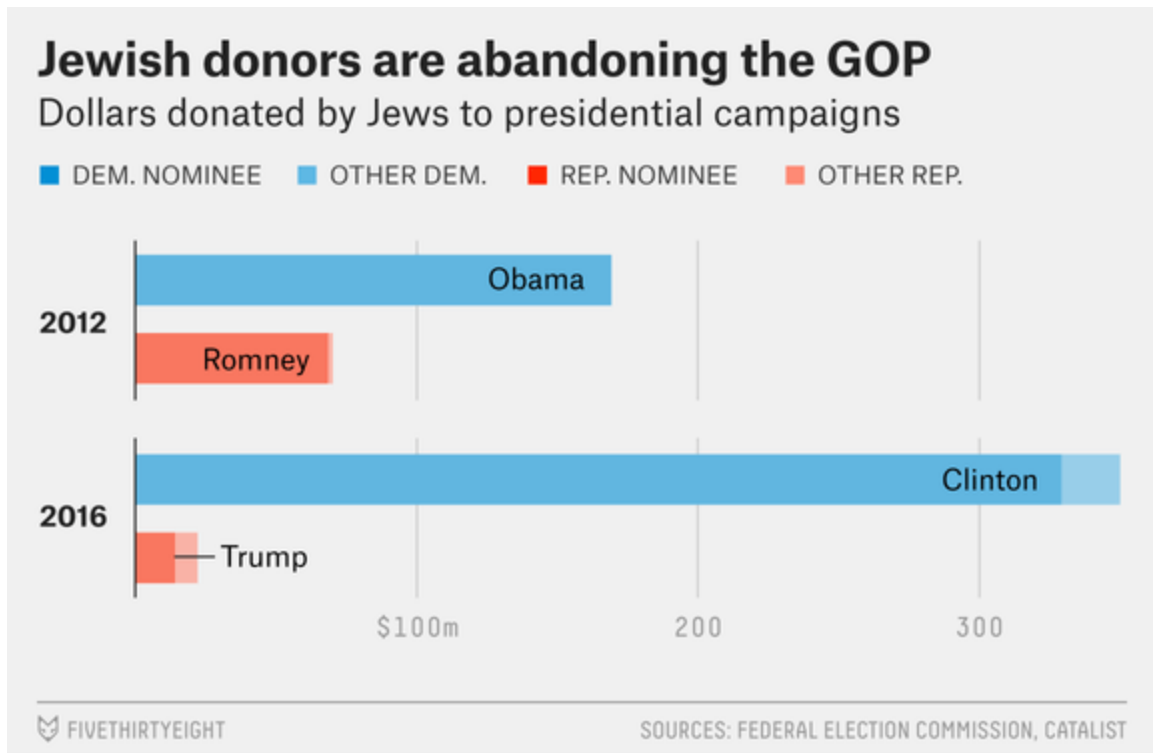
American Jews believe that the Liberalism is salvation and inheritance of their Jewishness. In addition they want to be free from suppressions and restrictions when it

comes in matters such as: Abortion, Homosexuality, and divorce. As we said earlier, the Jewish voter always takes the interests of Israel into account, and the 2016 Elections was an election that defined who is the most Pro-Israel and who is going to be beneficial for the welfare of Israel (5-6).

In an article entitled "*The GOP's Donors Are Abandoning Trump*" authors Eitan Hersh and Brian Schaffner point out that 96% of Jewish donations has gone to candidate Hillary Clinton. On the other hand, Donald Trump has taken just 4% of the Jewish donations. This is due to the fact that the Jewish group has supported Barack Obama in this election 2008 and re-election in 2012. Consequently, we notice that the American Jews are more confident in Hillary Clinton, and they feel so distant from Trump because of his racism, policies towards refugees, and his Anti-Semitic followers.

### **3. Donations of the Jews to the Presidential Campaigns and the Results of 2016's Elections**

In the Graph, we shall observe the donations that were given to candidates of the Presidency in 2012 and 2016. These donations were given by the Jewish donors of course to help the candidates campaigning, and also these donations have another motive as we have known the Jewish Lobby, and its way of dominating the US government and the Elections by providing and supporting the candidates they see fit to the interests of the American Jews and Israel .



Source: Hersh, Eitan, and Schaffner, Brian. *The GOP's Jewish Donors Are Abandoning Trump*. September 21, 2016. Available in:

<<https://www.catalist.us/news-innovation/2016-news/the-gops-jewish-donors-are-abandoning-trump/>>.

The above Graph, describes respectively the election campaigns of 2012/2016. It also shows how much support and the kind of donations the American Jewish give to the Democratic Party. Therefore, this support indicates that the American Jews are more Liberal and thus advocate for Liberalism, because in all cases, it is good for them and for their interests.

The Election of 2012, president Obama received a lot of donations from the Jews, 18% to be exact while Romney took 7%. On the other hand, in the elections of 2016 Hillary Clinton was maybe the most welcomed candidate and appreciated by the Jewish

donors, because we can notice that she took 96% while her rival candidate Trump who took just 4% of the donations which means that the Jewish donors abandoned him, due to his policies and his high-profile life, and probably about cultural and social identity that make Donald Trump good for business, and bad when it comes to politics in the US (Hersh and Schuffner).

However, some rich Jews did not think twice about helping Donald Trump's campaign. For example, Jewish billionaire Sheldon Adelson announced in May 2016 that he would spend \$100 million to support Trump's election (Burleigh). According to Bloomberg News, the Trump's general election campaign collected more than \$500 million Dollars. On the other hand, Hillary Clinton's campaign barely collected half of this money (Allison).

If said differently, the elections of 2016 have been one of the major elections in the history of the US. This is due to the US Electoral College that played a great role making Donald Trump 45th president of the US and defeating all odds that were against him, while making Hillary Clinton loses the elections but wins the popular vote.

His victory was because of the Electoral College, because at election day Trump received 279 electoral votes where 270 is needed to win. Whereas, Hillary Clinton won the popular vote about 2.8 million votes more than Trump. Therefore, Trump's loss of the popular vote did not stop him from becoming the 45th president of the United States of American (Taylor).

## **General Conclusion**

The United States elections of 2016 was a major election in the history of the US, because nobody expected the aftermath. Although factually speaking, winning the elections seemed to out of reach, Donald Trump managed to defeat Hillary Clinton and to become the 45th president of the US. However, this task was possible for him thanks to the Electoral College that gives the opportunity to every citizen to elect and choose the person who thinks it is better to rule the country.

Having said that, we must not forget the influence the Jewish Lobby had on both the US government and its rulers. Of course, this would have never been possible for the Jewish interest group without using every way possible through its institutions and organizations to impact the government and the presidential elections through the years.

This impact can be noticed through the donations in the presidential campaigns by the Jewish donors who support the candidates that they think are good for their interests. These donations come from the wealthy American Jews, and also from Jewish organizations such as the PACs that were created by the lobby to collect the money to be spent during such campaigns.

Most importantly, we shall never forget the AIPAC conference where every US presidential candidate delivers that speech to pledge allegiance to the State of Israel. Moreover, the candidate must give his/ her word to protect and cherish Israel and to promote the US-Israeli relationship that has been powerful for decades.



The Jewish Lobby is no more working in the dark. The Jewish Group is very open now to the public. In short words, the Jewish interest group seems to be far from any critics. It seems that anti-Semitism has become something from the past. Today, underestimating Jews wherever they are found is something American future presidential candidates have to fight to gain the blessings of the influential pressure groups in the United States of America.

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