

Three Questions for Obama

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Although probably not a popular topic for reasons completely unrelated to its importance, I would like to address the ongoing crisis between the people of Israel and Palestine and America's involvement in the crisis. I have three closely related questions that address this issue:

1. Putting aside the United States long-standing friendship with Israel could you explain why the United States is seeking to defeat radical Islamic elements in Central Asia which is over 50 percent muslim, while doing little or nothing to counter radical Jewish elements in the heart of the Islamic world?
2. Until the Israelis talk with their most important enemies -- namely, the Hamas and the Hezbollah, it is unlikely that peace will ever be achieved in the Middle East. What is the United States doing to encourage Israel to negotiate with all of its enemies -- not simply the ones that the Israeli government feels that it can easily bend in its own direction?
3. One of the United States most important democratic values is that of separation of church and state. Supporting a two-state solution in the Middle East is supporting a de facto Jewish state -- this despite a very large minority of Palestinians living in Israel and a much larger number of Palestinians living in refugee camps in neighboring Arab states and in need of a permanent home. Why not support a one-state solution?

