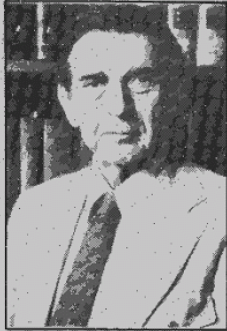


With the start of the Palestinian Intifada in December 1987, one of the most distinguished Professors of International Law and Human Rights - Professor Charles Black of Yale University Law School and Columbia University Law School -- felt he must speak up and call for a major change in the U.S. relationship with Israel until Israel allowed creation of an independent Palestinian State. When for the first time in his life no magazine or journal would publish his extensive essay, [JCOME](#) stepped forward to do so. It was published at the time in pamphlet form and expanded in 2021 into a [book](#) with a new updated Introduction by [Mark Bruzonsky](#) that tells the whole story behind this

unique publication.

**LET US RETHINK  
OUR "SPECIAL  
RELATIONSHIP"  
WITH ISRAEL**

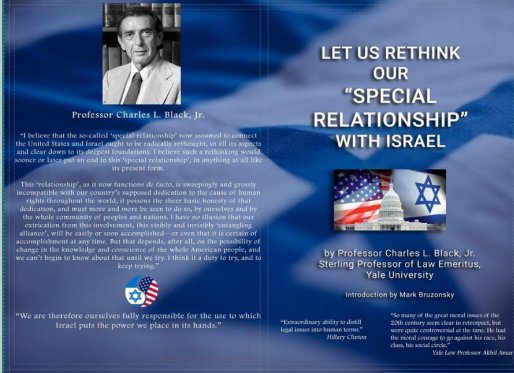


*"We are therefore ourselves fully responsible  
for the use to which Israel puts the power  
we place in its hands."*

By Professor Charles L. Black, Jr.  
Sterling Professor of Law Emeritus,  
Yale University

*A publication of  
The Jewish Committee On The Middle East  
JCOME*

***Let Us Rethink Our  
"Special Relationship"  
With Israel***  
by Professor Charles L. Black,  
Jr. - Sterling Professor of Law  
Emeritus Yale University  
Introduction by Mark Bruzonsky



The book cover features a portrait of Professor Charles L. Black, Jr. on the left. The title "LET US RETHINK OUR 'SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP' WITH ISRAEL" is prominently displayed in the center. Below the title is a small graphic showing the American flag, the White House, and the Star of David. The author's name and affiliation are listed below the graphic. A quote from the book is visible at the bottom of the cover.

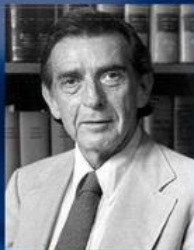
**"I believe that the so-called "special relationship" now assumed to connect the United States and Israel ought to be radically rethought, in all its aspects and clear down to its deepest foundations. I believe such a rethinking would**

**sooner or later put an end to this "special relationship" in anything at all like its present form. This "relationship" is sweepingly and grossly incompatible with our country's supposed dedication to the cause of human rights throughout the world; it poisons the sheer basic honesty of that**

dedication. I have no illusion that our extrication from this involvement, this visibly and invisibly “entangling alliance”, will be easily or soon accomplished. We can’t begin to know about that until we try. I think it a duty to try, and to keep trying.”

*“Extraordinary ability to distill legal issues into human terms.”* **Hillary Clinton**

*“So many of the great moral issues of the 20th century seem clear in retrospect, but were quite controversial at the time. He had the moral courage to go against his race, his class, his social circle.”* **Yale Law Professor Akhil Amar**



Professor Charles L. Black, Jr.

“I believe that the so-called ‘special relationship’ now assumed to connect the United States and Israel ought to be radically rethought, in all its aspects and clear down to its deepest foundations. I believe such a rethinking would sooner or later put an end to this ‘special relationship’, in anything at all like its present form.

This ‘relationship’, as it now functions *de facto*, is sweepingly and grossly incompatible with our country’s supposed dedication to the cause of human rights throughout the world; it poisons the sheer basic honesty of that dedication, and must more and more be seen to do so, by ourselves and by the whole community of peoples and nations. I have no illusion that our extrication from this involvement, this visibly and invisibly ‘entangling alliance’, will be easily or soon accomplished—or even that it is certain of accomplishment at any time. But that depends, after all, on the possibility of change in the knowledge and conscience of the whole American people, and we can’t begin to know about that until we try. I think it a duty to try, and to keep trying.”



“We are therefore ourselves fully responsible for the use to which Israel puts the power we place in its hands.”

## LET US RETHINK OUR “SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP” WITH ISRAEL



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