



ISRAEL *and* INTERNATIONAL LAW

Summary CONVERSATIONS Episode 2

The Abraham Accords – a new approach to the Middle East?

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Guest: Dr. Daphné Richemond-Barak

Moderator: Andrew Tucker

Dr. Richemond-Barak explained the significance of the agreements reached in 2020 by Israel with the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco and Sudan.

Key points:

- The Abraham Accords are potentially a game-changer. They offer a new approach to peace and stability in the region, based on mutual respect, cooperation and partnerships. This contrasts with the approach of the past decades which has been premised on rejection of Israel's legitimacy and the view that the Palestinian demands have to be met before peace can be achieved in the Middle East.
- This reflects a shift in alliances within the Arab/Islamic world. It is a complicated and delicate process that will take time.
- The agreements have been instrumental in stimulating many initiatives between Israeli organizations, companies and individuals with counterparts in the Arab countries.
- One area of great potential is empowering the involvement of women in many different disciplines.
- These agreements do not prejudice the negotiations between Israel and the PLO. On the contrary, they can promote and stimulate cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians that will benefit both parties.
- In fact, the UAE and other "Abraham" states could make a positive contribution to Israeli-Palestinian relations in the coming years. However, this will require a change in the mindset of the Palestinian leadership.
- Hopefully, this will also lead to a greater degree of respect between Muslims and Jews in Israel.