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Abraham Accords; The Implementation in Practice

Jelige: *Keleti olajág*

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1. Introduction

The Abraham Accords can be considered a hot topic in the Middle East. This initiative seeks to establish peace in the region through normalization agreements between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan. Since the Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel was proclaimed in 1948, there has been a continuous unrest and tension in the Middle East, also known as the Arab-Israeli, and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. It is obvious that making peace in the region has been on the agenda for decades in Europe and the US. With establishing peace, the security of the EU would be ensured, albeit working together with the Gulf Cooperation Council brought mixed outcomes.¹ The Middle East has borne a strategic importance for the US. The stationing of US military units in the region can confirm the abovementioned statement.² Furthermore, the Abraham Accords can contribute to standing up together against terrorism which ruins the lives of so many throughout the whole world, but especially in the signatory countries and in their neighboring states.

The purpose of my choice of topic is to get to know the region, the state of play between the countries and what the discussed agreements mean in practice. In the future, I would like to deal with this area, perhaps even work in this field. I am currently attending the second year of International Public Management course and my intention is to lay the foundations of my future from academic perspective and to gain experience in research.

In this paper, document analysis was used as the main methodology. For this the primary sources were the Abraham Accords, the deals between the above-mentioned countries; I analyzed them in detail, what do they mean in theory and what really came into existence since the signing of them. My secondary sources are different specialized literatures, reports and statements from various countries and other graphs, maps, and statistical data from official origins.

The aim of the paper is to evaluate and interpret mostly numerical facts while avoiding subjective assessments. It is important to investigate the facts and remain objective throughout the process as much as possible since it is still a very recent development, considering the first

¹ Nemzetközi és Európai Tanulmányok, Az Európai Unió mediterrán térséggel összefüggő kapcsolata, 2019. p.25 https://nkerepo.uni-nke.hu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/123456789/13032/Web_PDF_Az%20EU_mediterran_terseggel_osszefuggo_kapcsolata.pdf?sequence=1

² Jones, S. G., Daniels, S. P., 2022, U.S. Defense Posture in the Middle East https://csis-website-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/publication/220519_Jones_USDefensePosture_MiddleEast_0.pdf?60gG7N1_4FxFA6CNgJKAbr24zmsKXhwx

treaty was signed in 2020, and not entirely feasible to evaluate its strengths and weaknesses at this early stage. Moreover, it is very easy to take a path which leads to a political point of view, but it is not my intent to look at these agreements from a biased perspective. Thus, my aim is to present the Abraham Accords, their significance, and their achievements in a way that by the end of the research the reader can see a clear picture of what the existence of the accords mean in practice to the participating countries and indirectly to the whole world.

2. Methodology

Among the types of research methodology, we can find the qualitative research branch which contains document analysis, which is the main methodology used in the research paper. *“The process involves evaluating electronic and physical documents to interpret them, gain an understanding of their meaning and develop upon the information they provide.”*³ Document analysis can be the sole method of a research, but it can also be part of a research design, in case of that, the combination of different research methods is called triangulation.⁴ There are different types of documents used for methodical interpretation such as advertisements, books, journals, letters, maps, charts, press releases, reports, surveys, public records, among others. The investigative process involves finding, selecting, evaluating, and summarizing the data from the documents.⁵

Different purposes can be fulfilled with documents. Five functions can be distinguished. First, documents can supply context within the field of the research, giving background information or historical insights can help the researcher to comprehend the historical origins of the examined topic. Second, information from documents can indicate some questions that need to be noticed during the research. Third, documents can bring additional research data. *“Information and insights derived from documents can be valuable additions to a knowledge base”*⁶ Fourth, documents can help to track changes and developments. For example, the researcher can compare the reports of different years and draw a conclusion from the

³ Indeed Editorial Team, 2021. Document Analysis Guide: Definition and How To Perform It <https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/document-analysis>

⁴ Gross J. M. S., Edited by Frey B. B. 2018. The SAGE Encyclopedia of Educational Research, Measurement, and Evaluation <https://methods.sagepub.com/reference/the-sage-encyclopedia-of-educational-research-measurement-and-evaluation>

⁵ Bowen, G. 2009. Document Analysis as a Qualitative Research Method, chapter: Defining Document Analysis https://www.researchgate.net/publication/240807798_Document_Analysis_as_a_Qualitative_Research_Method

⁶ Bowen, G. 2009. Document Analysis as a Qualitative Research Method, chapter: Specific Uses of Documents https://www.researchgate.net/publication/240807798_Document_Analysis_as_a_Qualitative_Research_Method

information. Fifth, documents can be analyzed in order to prove and verify findings. Especially sociologists use document analysis to authenticate their findings. The readers have greater trust towards the result if there is a convergence of data. In case of opposition the researcher should continue the examination.⁷

To further elaborate the interpretation of document analysis we should look at the advantages of using it. Other methods can be more time-consuming compared to document analysis because it uses data selection and not data collection. With internet almost every necessary information is accessible and usually if a public event happened, there is some official record of it. Documents are unaffected throughout the course of research therefore, document analysis does not have to deal with the concern of reflexivity opposed to other qualitative research methods. As a consequence of being non-reactive, documents are solid, so repeated reviews are possible. Another advantage of document analysis is the exactness of it. Exact names, details, places, references are usually included in the documents. Moreover, a longer span of time can be examined using the proper documents.⁸

As anticipated, there are also some limitations of the method of document analysis. Since the documents are usually not created for an exact research purpose the details are not always satisfactory. There can be too many unnecessary data and too little useful information. Occasionally documents are cannot, or difficult to be retrievable, and sometimes it can be also inaccessible in case of classification. The information can be biased depending on the issuer of the information and their intention. However, the advantages certainly prevail over the limitations.⁹

To narrow down the field of document analysis the method of practice-oriented document analysis will be used in this research paper. This way of interpretation of the document focuses on its transformative and modifying power over reality.¹⁰ In this case, we will examine the possible influence of the Abraham Accords on reality. During the research the Abraham Accords were used as primary source. Secondary sources, such as reports, and articles are used to study the executions of the treaties in practice.

⁷ Vid.: Footnote 6;

Ferraris, M. (2013). Documentality: Why it is necessary to leave traces. In Documentality: Why it is necessary to leave traces (pp. 380). Fordham University Press.

⁸ Bowen, G. 2009. Document Analysis as a Qualitative Research Method, chapter: Advantages and Limitations of Document Analysis

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/240807798_Document_Analysis_as_a_Qualitative_Research_Method

⁹ Vid.: Footnote 8

¹⁰ Asdal K. 2015. What is the issue? The transformative capacity of documents
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1600910X.2015.1022194>

3. Abraham Accords

Prior to the evaluation of the individual agreements, it is important to look at the origin of the conflicts and the previous peace agreements between Israel and other Arab countries. The declaration of the independence of Israel set in motion the constant and still on-going war in the region. Likewise, the Six-Day War created additional tension between the countries when in 1967 Israel occupied the Golan Heights, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank including East Jerusalem and the Sinai Peninsula, from Syria, Jordan, and Egypt. However, the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel included the return of the Sinai territory.¹¹ Two accords were signed starting with the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty in 1979 and twenty-five years later, in 1994 the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty. However, the state of relation of these countries can be characterized as cold peace. Notwithstanding there is a relative peace between the countries there is still an ongoing verbal aversion concerning the peace agreement and the relationship. It helped the normalization of the relations between Israel and the two countries, but the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has remained unsolved. It is noticeable that for 72 years only two peace agreements could come into force, and both times the US played a significant role as mediator. In 2020, Israel made peace with the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Morocco through the Abraham Accords. In 2021, Sudan joined the group of countries who reached an agreement with Israel, increasing the number from two to six in only one year.

The public opinion varies from country to country. Based on the examination of the chart in Figure 1, it is observable that among the Arab nations the approval of the UAE and Bahrain signing the Abraham Accords with Israel is below 50% of the asked participants in December 2020. Despite Jordan and Egypt being in peace with Israel for the longest time among the questioned countries, they are among the least supportive states. In Egypt the support of the agreement is 25%, and in Jordan it is the lowest, only 9%.

¹¹ Lindsay J. Benstead (2021): Civil society, insecurity and Arab support for normalization with Israel: Contextualizing the Abraham Accords, Mediterranean Politics, DOI: 10.1080/13629395.2021.2008669

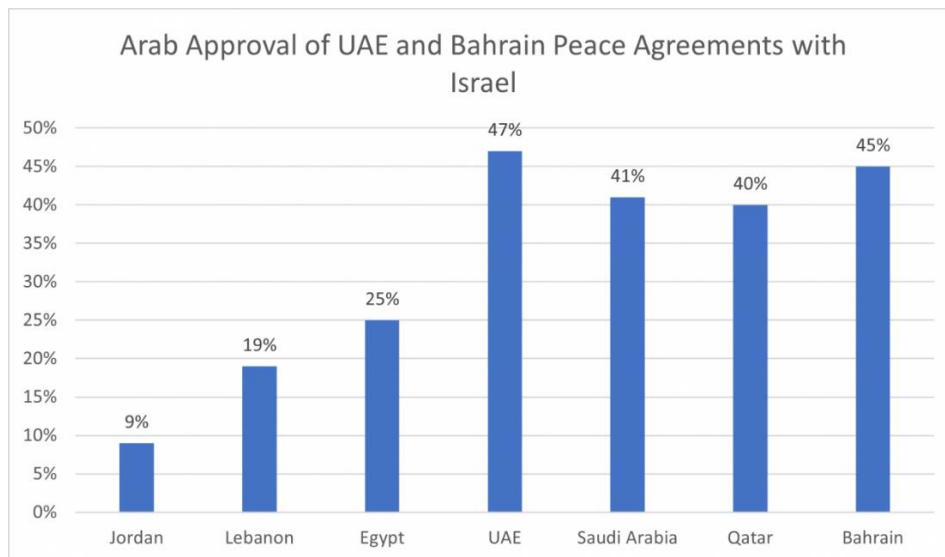


Figure 1: Support of Abraham Accords among Arab nations in December 2020¹²

3.1 Treaty of Peace, Diplomatic Relations and Full Normalization Between the United Arab Emirates and the State of Israel

The UAE was the first Arab country after 26 years to sign a peace agreement with Israel on 15 September 2020 in Washington DC. The signatories were Benjamin Netanyahu, then incumbent Prime Minister of Israel, Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the UAE, and witnessed by Donald J. Trump, then incumbent President of the US. On the same day, another agreement came into force between Bahrain and Israel though, the pact does not provide specific details on their future cooperation. Morocco joined the agreement on December 22, 2020, and the latest member of the Abraham Accords is Sudan who affiliated on January 06, 2021. By signing the treaty, the participants recognized each other's sovereignty over their territory and normalized the ties between the states. Their mutual goal was to establish peace and stability in the region through cooperation in the economic field and development of diplomatic relations between the nations.

¹² Pollock, D., Cleveland, C. 2020. UAE Public Shifts Toward Peace with Israel – and with Qatar <https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/uae-public-shifts-toward-peace-israel-and-qatar>

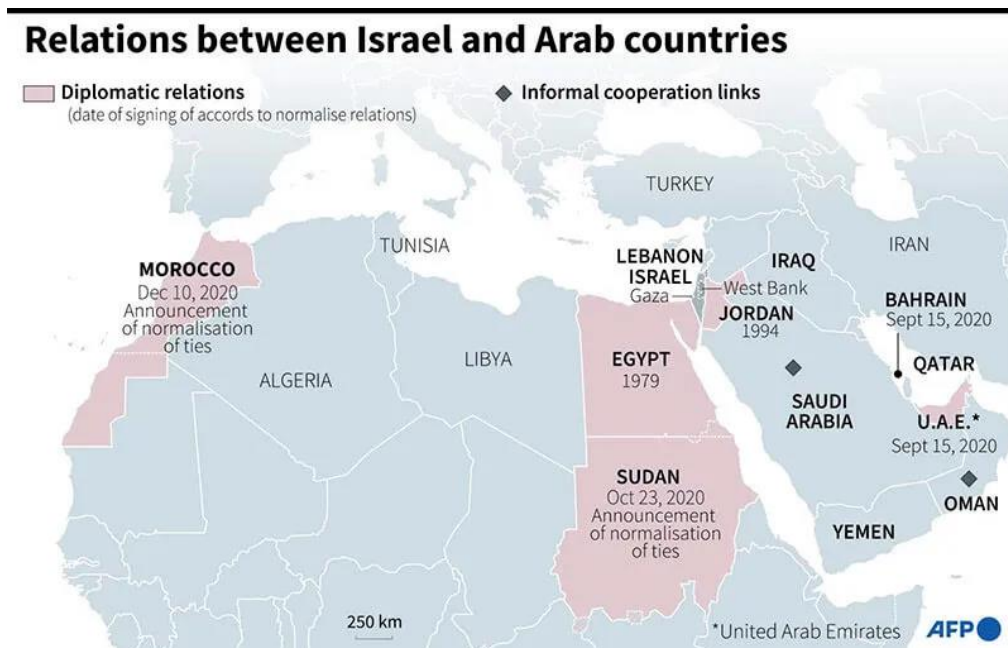


Figure 2: Countries with peace agreements with Israel¹³

The analysis of the agreements commences with the inspection of the Israel-UAE normalization treaty considering it is the longest and it offers the opportunity to compare the remaining agreements.

Israel and the UAE declared the establishment of embassies, which can be considered as an important step in the process of advancing their partnership; it is included in the Accords in the following way: *“The Parties shall exchange resident ambassadors as soon as practicable after the signing of this Treaty, and shall conduct diplomatic and consular relations in accordance with the applicable rules of international law.”*¹⁴

It is stressed, that regular dialogue and discussion is fundamental to keep friendly relations between them as well as taking crucial steps to prevent any terrorist activity against each other or to support any groups and activities in relation with terrorism. For enhancing diplomatic relations and to spread peace an agreement was reached in the following areas: Finance and Investment, Civil Aviation, Visas and Consular Services, Innovation, Trade and Economic Relations, Healthcare, Science, Technology and Peaceful Uses of Outer-Space,

¹³ Devonshire-Ellis, C. 2022. The Abraham Accord Are Attracting Chinese & Western Investment In The Middle East <https://www.silkroadbriefing.com/news/2022/07/25/the-abraham-accords-are-attracting-chinese-western-investment-in-the-middle-east/>

¹⁴ Abraham Accords Peace Agreement: Treaty Of Peace, Diplomatic Relations And Full Normalization Between The United Arab Emirates And The State Of Israel 2020, Article 3 https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/UAE_Israel-treaty-signed-FINAL-15-Sept-2020-508.pdf

Tourism, Culture and Sport, Energy, Environment, Education, Maritime Arrangements, Telecommunications and Post, Agriculture and Food Security, Water, Legal Cooperation¹⁵.

The participating countries must respect each other's culture and to advance it they shall ensure that people have the opportunity to participate in cultural, educational, scientific and other exchanges between the nations. Through the joint forums combatting terrorism and extremism can be more effective, and by providing the necessary visa and consular services the countries facilitate a more secure travel for their citizens. It is included in the agreement that Israel and the UAE shall join the US to launch a 'Strategic Agenda for the Middle East' which puts emphasis on the expansion of regional diplomatic, trade and other cooperations.¹⁶

An annex can be found in the agreement where areas of cooperation mentioned in Article 5 are elaborated with longer details. Beginning with finance and investment the parties are required to *"deepen and broaden bilateral investment relations, and give high priority to concluding agreements in the sphere of finance and investment"*¹⁷, along with establishing a multilateral working group for the 'Tracks for Regional Peace' initiative. It is followed by the recognition of the importance of providing regular direct commercial flight between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, later we will see what it means in practice with numbers of flights and passengers. Civil aviation leads us further to a tightly connected field, tourism. It plays a key role in developing the economy while deepening cultural links between the nations.¹⁸

The parties are expected to cooperate to bring favorable conditions for trade and open the way to innovations. By establishing partnerships in the fields of science and technology the countries can create joint funding for research and other scientific projects. Thus, ensuring technological advancements in the countries. The field of space science is also emphasized, including exploration and use of outer space and exchange of experts and information. The topic of environment protection and climate change further request joint actions from the participating nations by cooperating in the development of different environmental protection strategies and establishing a center for elaborating pioneer results and solutions to climate challenges. Through this agreement the UAE and Israel acknowledge the importance of continuous development of telecommunications and information technologies, installment of

¹⁵ Abraham Accords Peace Agreement: Treaty Of Peace, Diplomatic Relations And Full Normalization Between The United Arab Emirates And The State Of Israel, 2020, Article 5 <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/UAE-Israel-treaty-signed-FINAL-15-Sept-2020-508.pdf>

¹⁶ Abraham Accords Peace Agreement: Treaty Of Peace, Diplomatic Relations And Full Normalization Between The United Arab Emirates And The State Of Israel, 2020 <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/UAE-Israel-treaty-signed-FINAL-15-Sept-2020-508.pdf>

¹⁷ Abraham Accords Peace Agreement: Treaty Of Peace, Diplomatic Relations And Full Normalization Between The United Arab Emirates And The State Of Israel, 2020, Annex - Finance and Investment <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/UAE-Israel-treaty-signed-FINAL-15-Sept-2020-508.pdf>

¹⁸ Vid.: footnote 16

direct communications services, in addition the parties will aim to develop sectors connected to 5G networks, wireless communications.¹⁹

Since the Accords were signed in 2020 in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, which influenced every country throughout the whole world, it was quite logical to mention healthcare in the agreement. In relation to the treatment of, and the development of a vaccine for the COVID-19 virus an excellent potential can be seen regarding the two country's cooperation. Agriculture, food, and water security were also recognized as important areas in terms of collaboration. The parties agreed on the critical importance of sustainable agricultural development and water use in order to preserve the environment and the promotion of renewable energy cannot be left out as well.²⁰ The reason behind its importance is the fact that the territory of the Middle East is already lacks water resources and it is exceptionally exposed to climate change.

Through signing the Abraham Accords, the involved parties agreed on new maritime arrangements, which includes granting *“normal access to its ports for vessels and cargoes of the other Party, as well as vessels and cargoes destined for or coming from the other Party. Such access shall be granted on the same terms as generally applicable to vessels and cargoes of other nations.”*²¹ The agreement finishes with the significance of supporting legal cooperation between the states and common legal assistance in commercial and civil matters.²²

3.2 Declaration of Peace, Cooperation, and Constructive Diplomatic and Friendly Relations Kingdom of Bahrain – State of Israel

The bilateral agreement between Bahrain and Israel is much shorter compared to the previously discussed one between the UAE and Israel. It is only one page in contrast to the seven-page long peace treaty concerning UAE Israeli relations. With the active help of the US, Bahrain and Israel agreed on declaring peace and recognize each other's sovereignty. There is a mutual commitment in advancing peace and security in the Middle East and in achieving an enduring settlement in case of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In the course of negotiations, the two country representatives agreed on establishing full diplomatic relations in order to avoid threats and use of force while enhancing peaceful coexistence between the nations, which

¹⁹ Vid.: footnote 16

²⁰ Vid.: footnote 16

²¹ Vid.: footnote 16, Annex - Maritime Arrangements <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/UAE-Israel-treaty-signed-FINAL-15-Sept-2020-508.pdf>

²² Vid.: footnote 16

includes the reciprocal opening of embassies. Similarly to the bilateral agreement between Israel and the UAE the agreement with Bahrain also pursue cooperation in the areas of investment, tourism, including the operation of direct flights between the countries, security, telecommunications, technology, energy, healthcare, culture, and environment. Thus, we can state the content is almost identical compared to the above-mentioned treaty. However, it is not elaborated in the same way; there is no annex included in the agreement, and there are no concrete details on the quality of cooperation. The wording of the text shows us that at the time of signing the declaration the parties did not have already-written plans: *“The Kingdom of Bahrain and the State of Israel have agreed to seek agreements in the coming weeks [...]*”²³

3.3 Joint Declaration US-Morocco-Israel

The Morocco-Israel declaration is the only document within the list, that includes not only the recognition of each other’s sovereignty over their territory, but also adds the *“proclamation by the United States of America on ‘Recognizing the Sovereignty of the Kingdom of Morocco over the Western Sahara’”*²⁴. It is important to mention, that after Spain withdrew from the area in 1975 Morocco gained administrative control over the two-third of the country. Since then, there is an ongoing dispute between Morocco and the Polisario Front, the Sahrawi people. The US is the only nation who recognizes Moroccan sovereignty over the territory, even the UN considers the entire area as a non-self-governing territory.²⁵ It is likely that the recognition of Western Sahara could happen because the situation is similar to the relation between Israel and Palestine. Countries that are in similar situation tend to identify themselves with the recognition of sovereignty of the discussed states. The case is very much alike in case of Kosovo and its non-recognition by countries who deal with problems concerning minorities such as, Spain, Romania, Greece.²⁶

Beyond that, the approach of the peace agreement essentially resembles the aforementioned pacts. It is important to pay attention to the fact that the declaration states the

²³ Abraham Accords: Declaration Of Peace, Cooperation, And Constructive Diplomatic And Friendly Relations, 2020 https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Bahrain_Israel-Agreement-signed-FINAL-15-Sept-2020-508.pdf

²⁴ Abraham Accords: Declaration Of Peace, Cooperation, And Constructive Diplomatic And Friendly Relations, 2020, Paragraph 4 <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Joint-Declaration-US-Morocco-Israel.pdf>

²⁵ MEE Staff, 2020. What is Western Sahara and why does Morocco claim sovereignty over it? <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/morocco-western-sahara-battle-sovereignty> Dr. Besenyő J., Miletics P. 2017. Országismertető Marokkó Nyugat-Szahara <http://real.mtak.hu/83720/1/orszagismertetomarokko.pdf>

²⁶ Lefteratos A. 2022. Contested statehood, complex sovereignty and the European Union’s role in Kosovo <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09662839.2022.2138350>

reopening of liaison offices in Rabat and Tel Aviv, instead of Jerusalem, the capital city of Israel. Moreover, it is noteworthy that the wording specifically refers to ‘liaison offices’ and not embassies. The distinction between a liaison office and an embassy is that the former acts as a channel of communication, while the latter also engages in business activities.²⁷ Resembling the Israel-UAE normalization treaty, granting authorization for direct flights between the two countries and working in cooperation in various economic, scientific, and natural fields is also part of the bilateral agreement. Additionally, the proclamation specifies the significance of preserving the unique status of Jerusalem, home of the three monotheistic religions, Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. This section is not mentioned in the other documents.²⁸

3.4 Israel-Sudan normalization agreement

The normalization agreement between Sudan and Israel is different from the above-mentioned treaties. Its position in the Abraham Accords can be questioned since Sudan signed a pact with the US, and nothing shows it clearer than the fact that there are two signatories in the declaration, one for the Republic of the Sudan and one for US Treasury Secretary as witness. There is another substantial distinction between the Sudan treaty and the rest: *“the deal appears to fall short of full diplomatic ties, since there was no mention of opening embassies in the others’ capitals”*.²⁹ The pact is not detailed in the sense of elaborating the fields the countries want to cooperate in; it only mentions the support of science, art, medicine, and commerce. Two key parts are missing from the Israel-Sudan agreement. Firstly, the absence of establishing diplomatic ties, secondly, the lack of starting direct flights between Israel and Sudan.³⁰

COMPARISON

²⁷ Tizhe, E. 2021, The Role of Disguised Embassies in Diplomatic Relations <https://irpj.euclid.int/articles/the-role-of-disguised-embassies-in-diplomatic-relations/#>

²⁸ Joint Declaration, 2020 <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Joint-Declaration-US-Morocco-Israel.pdf>

²⁹ Jakes, Lara; Walsh, Declan; Ragson, Adam (October 23, 2020). "Trump Announces Sudan Will Move to Normalize Relations with Israel". The New York Times. Archived from the original on November 15, 2020. Retrieved October 23, 2020.

³⁰ The Abraham Accords Declaration, 2021 <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Sudan-AA.pdf>

Actions Countries	Establishing diplomatic relations	Civil aviation, tourism	Finance and investment	Healthcare	Trade and economy	Science and technology
United Arab Emirates	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kingdom of Bahrain	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kingdom of Morocco	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Republic of the Sudan				✓	✓	✓

Table 1: Comparison of cooperation fields based on mentions in the treaties of the participating countries³¹

4. Discussion

Examining the outcomes of the agreements give us a clear picture whether the past two years, since the accords were signed, have brought the countries any closer to the aims they established. The subject can be approached from various aspects. By detailing the topic to different fields, a profound conclusion can be drawn at the end of analyzing it. The following topics are examined: diplomatic ties, and opening embassies, civil aviation, tourism, healthcare, trade and economy, and science and technology. The actions in practice show the seriousness of the intentions of the country in cooperation, and establishment of peace. By opening to other countries can broaden the opportunities the country can provide to its citizens. Creating new businesses and joint research can improve the standard of living for many people.

4.1 Diplomatic ties, and opening embassies

Diplomatic relations are essential to create both bilateral and multilateral connections with other governments. Opening an embassy has a significant meaning. The serious intention of establishing and strengthening diplomatic ties can be concluded by exchanging representatives of the countries to deepen the relationship and to ease the process of working

³¹ The table is self-made based on my conclusions of the official documents of Abraham Accords.

together. Setting up an embassy directly means the recognition of the other state's sovereignty over its own territory. Its main purpose is to represent the sending country and to support the steady functioning of foreign affairs.³² It is almost always located in the receiving country's capital city. However, regarding Israel the case is different. The location sends a message of the sending country's stand on whether Israel claims Jerusalem legitimately or not. In 2018, by relocating the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, the US recognized Jerusalem as the capital city of Israel. Few countries followed suit such as Guatemala, but strategically more important countries, for example France, Italy, and Turkey, remained in Tel Aviv. In case of the participating countries of the Abraham Accords it is the same, the establishing of embassies took place in Tel Aviv.

The UAE's embassy opened its office on May 30, 2021 in the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange building, whilst Israel's embassy is in Abu Dhabi, the capital city of the UAE, this way starting the establishment of diplomatic ties and recognizing Israel's sovereignty.

On September 30, 2021, the Foreign Minister of Israel, Yair Lapid, officially opened Israel's embassy in Manama, capital of Bahrain however, Bahrain had not established its embassy in Israel at that time, only later.³³ However the information is a little confusing and there is no specific material on it.

Even though Morocco has not opened its office in Israel, yet another significant change occurred. Morocco and Israel decided to upgrade their diplomatic relations and convert the liaison offices to embassies. A Moroccan ambassador also has arrived at Israel, which indicates serious intention of inaugurating the embassies in both countries.³⁴

In case of Sudan perhaps it is understandable that the country has not focused on establishing diplomatic ties with Israel due to significant problems in internal affairs and foreign policy. After the ouster of the head of state of Sudan, Omar al-Bashir in 2019 another political unrest disturbs the country. In October 2021 a military coup took place in the country, when the Sudanese military overthrew the government.³⁵ These political factors do not contribute to the progress of opening towards new countries.

³² Vid.: Footnote 27

³³ Berman, L. 2021. Lapid inaugurates Israeli embassy in Bahrain <https://www.timesofisrael.com/lapid-inaugurates-israeli-embassy-in-bahrain/>

³⁴ Ortiz, J. 2022. Israel announces the imminent opening of Morocco's embassy in the country <https://atalayar.com/en/content/israel-announces-imminent-opening-moroccos-embassy-country>

³⁵ International Crisis Group, 2021, Sudan <https://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/horn-africa/sudan>

4.2 Civil aviation, and tourism

Before signing the Abraham Accords, there were no direct flights between the contracting parties. On November 19, 2020, the national airline of the UAE, Etihad Airways and its Israeli counterpart, El Al Israel Airlines signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) which pursues to begin joint codeshare services between Tel Aviv and Abu Dhabi.³⁶ The establishment of direct flights between the nations opens the door to the citizens to visit each other's countries, to get familiar with the other's culture. Becoming acquainted with different lifestyles, beliefs, and cultures can aid in breaking stereotypes and creating an unbiased environment. Frequent flights can ease the work of businesspersons seeking to make trades and opening new perspectives for closer cooperation.

El Al Israel Airline provides daily direct flights between Tel Aviv and Abu Dhabi.³⁷ Etihad Airways is not the only airline in the UAE which grants flights to Israel. It was shortly followed by Fly Dubai, launching the first flight in November 2020. The latest launching of new services is connected to Emirates Airlines with introducing daily flights to Tel Aviv.³⁸ Furthermore another facilitation took place on October 10, 2021, when “*a bilateral agreement that will exempt tourists from both countries from visa requirements when visiting the other country*”³⁹, it applies to all Israeli and UAE passport holders.⁴⁰

Gulf Air, national airline of Bahrain and El Al established direct routes between Israel and Bahrain by signing the MoU on December 4, 2020.⁴¹ However, there are no daily flights as it is seen in case of Israeli-UAE passage, only two or three times per week.⁴² Additionally, visa is required for the travelers of both countries.

Morocco opened direct passage to Israel as well between Marrakesh, Casablanca, and Tel Aviv. The first direct flight from Tel Aviv to Marrakesh came true on July 25, 2021, by Israir Airlines and a few hours later on that day a second flight landed by El Al, which stated it

³⁶ Godinho, V. 2020. Abu Dhabi's Etihad and El Al Israel sign MoU to cooperate on codeshare and loyalty programme <https://gulfbusiness.com/abu-dhabis-etihad-and-el-al-israel-sign-mou-to-cooperate-on-codeshare-and-loyalty-programme/>

³⁷ <https://booking.elal.com/booking/flights?market=HU&lang=en>

³⁸ Lim, J. C. 2022. Historic moment as Emirates launches its first-ever service into Israel <https://www.aerotime.aero/articles/31443-emirates-launch-first-flight-tel-aviv-israel>

³⁹ The UAE and Israel: A Year of Progress, Tourism & Aviation, Updated September 3, 2021. <https://www.uae-embassy.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/Accords-UAE-ISR-Partnerships.pdf>

⁴⁰ <https://www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/missions/tel-aviv/services/visas>

⁴¹ Petruskaite, G. 2020. Gulf Air and El Al to launch direct Bahrain-Tel Aviv route <https://www.aerotime.aero/articles/26621-gulf-air-and-el-al-to-launch-direct-bahrain-tel-aviv-route>

⁴² <https://booking.elal.com/booking/flexible-search> , <https://www.gulfair.com/>

plans five flights per week to Casablanca and Marrakesh.⁴³ Royal Air Maroc launched its first direct flight almost eight months later on March 13, 2022. The Moroccan airline will provide four flights per week between Casablanca and Tel Aviv.⁴⁴ Together they cover adequately the demand of the citizens even if they do not have daily flights.

As the agreement did not mention the creating of direct flights between Sudan and Israel there are no initiative to start working on establishing them.

In conclusion, the countries who promised direct passage between the countries by signing the accords really made improvement by putting the ambition in practice. The flights are already existing in great number between the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco and Israel.

4.3 Healthcare

Israel and the UAE already made advancements in cooperating in the field of healthcare. Prior signing the Abraham Accords APEX National Investment from the UAE signed a strategic commercial agreement with Israeli Tera Group to cooperate on coronavirus research focusing on advancing testing and vaccine technology. Exchanging and welcoming medical experts promote further collaboration with the help of signing an additional treaty in April 2021.⁴⁵ In July 2021, Department of Health in Abu Dhabi signed an MoU with Clalit Health Services. Both sides will assist in clinical trials and future research projects.⁴⁶ To look at more recent events, in July 2022 Israel and the UAE have signed an agreement to support diabetes research and a shared study on mass vitamin D deficiency.⁴⁷ These are only a few of the numerous agreements between the two countries.

In February 2022, the Ministry of Health in Bahrain signed an MoU with Israel to deepen the ties between the two countries in case of healthcare through joint projects, exchange of expertise and in other ways.⁴⁸ In the next month, March 2022, Israel and Bahrain agreed on supporting the latter country by training nurses and doctors and on mutual recognition of

⁴³ The Arab Weekly – Israel launches first direct flights to Morocco after normalisation, 2021.

<https://the arabweekly.com/israel-launches-first-direct-flights-morocco-after-normalisation>

⁴⁴ Bodell, L. 2022. Royal Air Maroc Launches Direct Flights To Israel <https://simpleflying.com/royal-air-maroc-launches-israel-direct-flights/>

⁴⁵ Kan-Tor & Acco, 2021. UAE AND Israel Sign New Healthcare Collaboration Agreement- The Abraham Accords Are Working <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=fe239ade-24a8-461d-ba6f-bc34162a7af2>

⁴⁶ WAM, 2021. Department of Health - Abu Dhabi, Clalit Health Services of Israel sign MoU to increase cooperation in healthcare sector <https://www.wam.ae/en/details/1395302949478>

⁴⁷ MEMO, 2022. Israel and UAE to collaborate on cancer and diabetes research

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20220714-israel-and-uae-to-collaborate-on-cancer-and-diabetes-research/>

⁴⁸ BNA, 2022. Boosting Bahraini-Israeli cooperation in health and medical fields

<https://www.bna.bh/en/BoostingBahrainiIsraelicooperationinhealthandmedicalfields.aspx?cms=q8FmFJgiscL2fwIzON1%2BDqO7soMee8hMq84RWtolvTg%3D>

medical licenses. Additionally, Israel accommodates Bahraini patients in their hospitals to undergo necessary treatments.⁴⁹

Even though Sudan did mention healthcare in its normalization agreement with Israel there are no obvious advancements regarding cooperation in this area. However, despite Morocco not mentioning health management in the treaty, there are various relevant actions in relation with cooperation in healthcare. In June 2022, Israel and Morocco signed a memorandum of understanding for the building of several hospitals throughout Morocco. By signing the agreement, the parties promised to carry out bilateral cooperation between the private sectors of the two countries. The Israeli IMS is planning to invest \$497 million for the design, construction, and machinery of a couple hospitals in Morocco. It is also planned to create a network to allow Moroccan employees in the nursing sector to move to Israel to work. Copper Pharma, the leading pharmaceutical company in Morocco stated that it is open to establish more partnerships with Israeli pharmaceutical companies.⁵⁰ Joint conferences also took place; one of them recently, in November 2022, where sixty medical experts from Israel, Morocco, and France attended.⁵¹

To sum up the usual situation is accurate in this particular area as well. The UAE, Bahrain and Morocco are developing stronger ties with Israel in case of healthcare with joint research programs, scientific conferences, and financial aid for hospital building and equipment purchasing. Sudan, not surprisingly, lacks improvement regarding cooperation between the country and Israel.

4.4 Trade and Economy

Thanks to the bilateral agreement between the UAE and Israel trade between the two countries increased significantly. Export from Israel to the UAE grew from \$58.8 million to \$384.47 million. The main export items were pearls and precious stones and metals, followed by electronic equipment.⁵² In case of export from the UAE to Israel an even bigger growth can be seen. In 2020 the value of export reached \$120 million, while in 2021 it exceeded \$1.02

⁴⁹ TDT Bahrain, 2022. Bahrain And Israel Pledge To Further Enhance Cooperation In Health Sector <https://www.newsofbahrain.com/bahrain/79407.html>

⁵⁰ Latrech O. 2022. Israel to Invest \$497 million to Build Hospitals in Morocco <https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2022/07/350026/israel-to-invest-497-million-to-build-hospitals-in-morocco>

⁵¹ Jeffay N. 2022. 'Medicine and peace' conference in Morocco features Israeli docs and Shabbat songs, The Times of Israel <https://www.timesofisrael.com/medicine-and-peace-conference-in-morocco-features-israeli-docs-and-shabbat-songs/>

⁵² Israel Exports to United Arab Emirates <https://tradingeconomics.com/israel/exports/united-arab-emirates>

billion, it means almost a 1000% increase.⁵³ Israel's first big trade accord with an Arab state took place in May 2022, when the UAE and Israel signed a free trade agreement to deepen their relationship.⁵⁴ There are estimations that over the next five years trade between the countries will increase from \$1.2 billion to \$10 billion.⁵⁵

Trade between Bahrain and Israel grew as well from 2020 to 2021. Israeli export reached \$3.81 million during 2021 compared to 2020's \$72 thousand. The main export items were the same as in case of the UAE, pearls, precious stones, and metals. Miscellaneous chemical products are placed second on the export list.⁵⁶ Similarly to the deal between Israel and the UAE, Israel and Bahrain plan to make a free trade agreement as well.⁵⁷

Israel and Morocco signed a trade and investment cooperation deal in February 2022. Israel seeks to increase the annual trade volume from the current \$131 million to \$500 million and with this to further deepen the economic ties between the two countries. This agreement covers facilitations of trade and investment in the areas of aerospace, automobile, agri-food, textile, and pharmaceutical industries.⁵⁸ Vehicles, aircraft, ships, and other transport equipment are at the first place of exports from Israel to Morocco in 2021 by making up 67%.⁵⁹ Morocco's number one export products to Israel are articles of apparel, not knit or crocheted, and the second place belongs to articles of apparel, knit or crocheted. These two types combined make \$79.96 million, which account for more than half of the total exports. Morocco exported \$9.76 million in 2020, and a growth of more than 1000% can be observable since in 2021 it reached \$117.11 million.⁶⁰

The normalization agreement between Sudan and Israel has not been as successful as the above discussed treaties. There is no exact data of trade between the two countries only promises from 2020. It is somewhat understandable considering the fact that from 1958 Sudan

⁵³ United Arab Emirates Exports to Israel <https://tradingeconomics.com/united-arab-emirates/exports/israel>

⁵⁴ Al Jazeera and News Agencies, 2022. Israel signs first Arab free trade agreement with UAE <https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2022/5/31/israel-signs-major-trade-deal-with-uae>

⁵⁵ Reuters, 2022. Israel, Bahrain hope to seal free trade deal by end of year <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israel-bahrain-hope-seal-free-trade-deal-by-end-year-2022-10-31/>

⁵⁶ Israel Exports to Bahrain, 2021. <https://tradingeconomics.com/israel/exports/bahrain>

⁵⁷ Vid.: Footnote 55

⁵⁸ France 24, 2022. Morocco and Israel sign trade and investment cooperation deal <https://www.france24.com/en/middle-east/20220221-morocco-and-israel-sign-trade-and-investment-cooperation-deal>

⁵⁹ The Ministry of Regional Cooperation, Israel, 2022. The economic ties between Israel and Morocco are growing stronger <https://www.gov.il/en/departments/news/morocco240322>

⁶⁰ Israel Imports from Morocco, 2021. <https://tradingeconomics.com/israel/imports/morocco>

law prohibited relations and business relationships with Israel up until the peace agreement in 2021.⁶¹

Overall, the UAE, Bahrain, and Morocco executed the promised actions, while Sudan tends to fall behind the expected obligations. A powerful growth of interstate trade can be seen in the time since the signing of the normalization agreements. All in all, it is fair to say that regarding trade the countries have made relevant practical progress thanks to the bilateral agreements.

4.5 Science and Technology

The relation between Israel and the UAE since signing the Abraham Accord has been influencing various fields, science and technology are also included in the cooperation. Since September 2020, the signing of the treaty up until now the number of bilateral agreements has increased. The two countries are putting big emphasis on the development of artificial intelligence and space science. The first MoU was signed in September 2020, between MBZUAI and Israel's Weizmann Institute of Science. It will ensure the mutual work of the two countries in the development of AI. Under the terms of the agreement there is opportunity to create exchange programs between the two universities, to share computing resources, and to establish a shared virtual institute for AI.⁶² In December 2020 a new community was established, first of its kind. SNC, Nobex, Hybrid, and Fusion LA launched the UAE-IL Tech Zone with the aim of connecting the fields of innovation, technology, and business in Israel and in the UAE. This association connects the entrepreneurs and investors from the two countries.⁶³ One of the recent projects between the UAE and Israel came into existence in February 2022 in the field of space. The Israeli and Emirati Space Agencies made a joint call for research groups to suggest new proposals jointly.⁶⁴

Bahrain and Israel made relevant progress in the last two years in the area of cooperation in science and technology. One of them happened in August 2021, DERASAT and Jerusalem

⁶¹ The Times of Israel, 2021. Sudan repeals 1958 Israel boycott law amid normalization efforts https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/sudan-repeals-1958-israel-boycott-law-amid-normalization-efforts/

⁶² WAM – Ismail E. 2020. MBZUAI, Weizmann Institute of Science to collaborate on AI research <https://wam.ae/en/details/1395302869346>

⁶³ CISION PR Newswire, 2020. Start-Up Nation Central (SNC) launches UAE-IL Tech Zone, the first UAE and Israel innovation community, in collaboration with Nobex, Hybrid, and Fusion LA <https://www.prnewswire.com/il/news-releases/start-up-nation-central-snc-launches-uae-il-tech-zone-the-first-uae-and-israel-innovation-community-in-collaboration-with-nobex-hybrid-and-fusion-la-800743784.html>

⁶⁴ The Jerusalem Post, 2022. Israel, UAE open call for research into space <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-696173>

Centre for Public Affairs signed a MoU to strengthen cooperation in scientific research and activities and to exchange information regarding the scientific field.⁶⁵

Israeli and Moroccan ministers of science signed an MoU in May 2022, to strengthen their cooperation in science and technology including AI, water management, agricultural technologies, renewable and clean energies, information technology, innovation in space, among others.⁶⁶ In September 2022, the two countries signed a treaty on energy. Under the agreement 20 Moroccan and 33 Israeli research centers are involved. The aim is to cooperate in the areas of solar energy, rechargeable batteries, recycling, and storing and transporting energy.⁶⁷

In case of Sudan the situation is similar to the aforementioned areas of cooperation. There has not been tangible progress only visitations from officials. Sudan clearly needs time to settle down its domestic unrest and to open towards Israel.

Summarizing, various advancements were made in the field of technology and science. Numerous joint programs came into existence between the UAE and Israel in terms of researcher exchange programs among others. In case of Bahrain and Morocco further technological cooperations were established between them and Israel by strengthening the relationship.

5. Conclusion

The Abraham Accords are a series of normalization agreements between the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco, Sudan and Israel. The aim is to initiate peace in the Middle East in order to end the Arab-Israeli conflict. It enhances cooperation between the countries in various fields such as diplomatic relations, tourism, finance and investment, healthcare, trade and economy, and science and technology. Since the signing of the first treaty on September 15, 2020, numerous initiatives took place and proved that cooperation can exist between the states. The aim of the research paper was to analyze the Abraham Accords and then to look at the implementation of it in practice.

The results of the research:

⁶⁵ TDT, 2021. Bahrain And Israel Sign Deal To Develop Scientific Cooperation
<https://www.newsofbahrain.com/bahrain/74532.html>

⁶⁶ Bassist R., AL-MONITOR, 2022. Israeli, Moroccan ministers of science and technology sign cooperation agreement <https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/05/israeli-moroccan-ministers-science-and-technology-sign-cooperation-agreement>

⁶⁷ Ministry of Foreign Affairs Israel, 2022. Israel and Morocco sign bilateral agreement for energy cooperation <https://www.gov.il/en/departments/news/israel-morocco-bilateral-energy-cooperation-agreement-29-sep-2022>

1. Elaboration of the Abraham Accords.
2. Proving the establishment of diplomatic ties.
3. Proving the introduction of direct flights.
4. Proving the cooperation in healthcare.
5. Proving the establishment of economic ties through trade.
6. Proving the cooperation in technological and scientific research fields

The results of the research are detailed below.

Diplomatic ties were established between the previously mentioned countries, resulting in opening embassies in Abu Dhabi, Manama, and Tel Aviv. In case of Morocco there is no embassy yet, but they upgraded the status from liaison office to embassy which foreshadows a good start however, in Sudan no further steps have been made yet.

By opening the airspace for direct flights in Israel, the UAE, Bahrain, and Morocco easier travelling was created. The termination of visa requirement between the UAE and Israel, and the daily direct flights enables the tourists and businesspeople to visit the country in a more comfortable way. Bahrain and Morocco also provide frequent flights and welcomes Israeli tourists furthermore, Bahrain also works on implementing the visa exemption with Israel.

As a result of the Abraham Accords many joint research and exchange programs came to life. It is important to mention the cooperation between Israel and Morocco where Israel supports building hospitals with \$497 million. In Bahrain Israel contributes to the training of the nurses and other healthcare workers thanks to the agreement.

A serious growth can be seen in trade between the countries. With the opening towards each other, exports from the UAE to Israel exceeded an increase of nearly 1000% and the case is similar with the export from Morocco to Israel. The UAE have already created a free trade agreement with Israel and Bahrain plans to follow suit. In case of Sudan no trade agreements were made in the last two years since the signing of the accord.

Thanks to the bilateral agreements the cooperation on technology and science flourishes. Exchange programs and a new scientific community were created with the mutual assistance of the UAE and Israel. Bahrain and Morocco signed various MoUs in the field of science and numerous conferences and scientific programs were held. However, it is not the case in Sudan, no real progress has been achieved in the country, partly thanks to the political unrest inside its territory.

Considering the mutual achievements thanks to the Abraham Accords it is valid to state that the agreements were successful, and a longer cooperation can be expected. Real results can be achieved only by executing the treaties in practice and being open-minded towards change.

Taking into account the presented accomplishments so far, the future holds big potential in the peace agreements between Israel, the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan, and a more secure and peaceful Middle East can be achieved.

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8. Annex

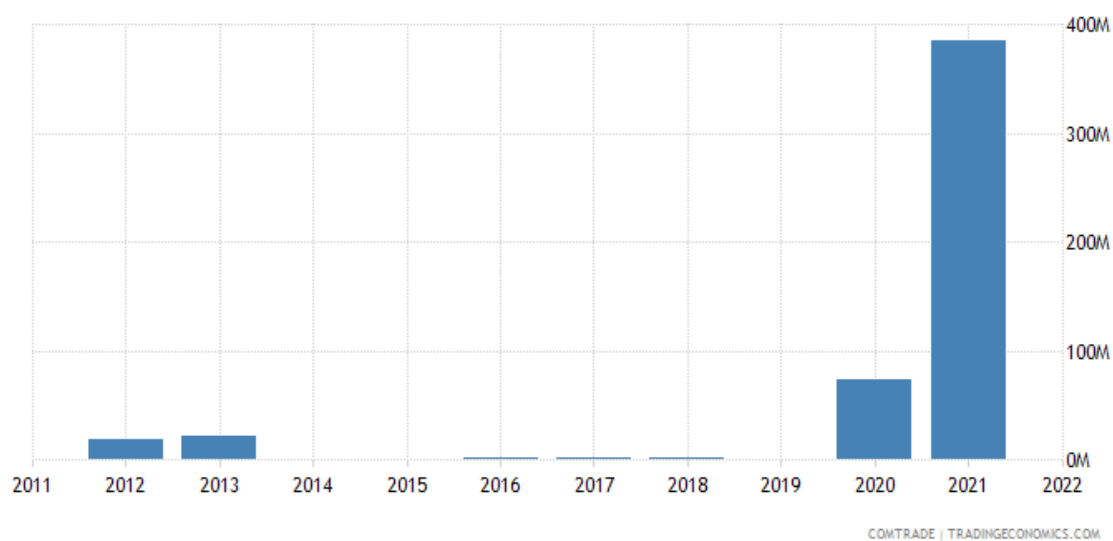


Figure 3 Export from Israel to the UAE⁶⁸

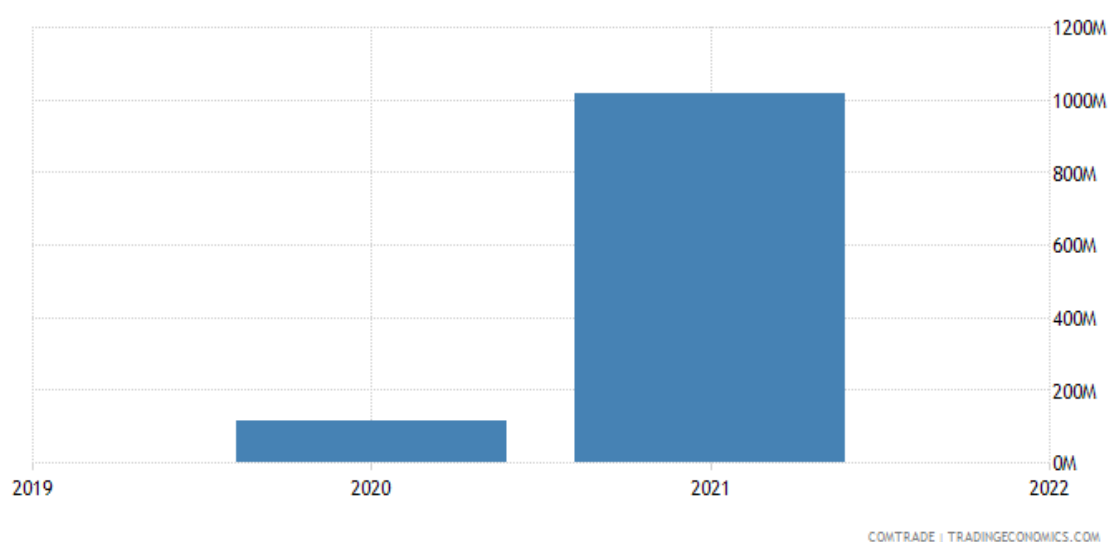


Figure 4: Export from the UAE to Israel⁶⁹

⁶⁸ Trading Economics, 2022, Israel Exports to United Arab Emirates
<https://tradingeconomics.com/israel/exports/united-arab-emirates>

⁶⁹ Trading Economics, 2022, United Arab Emirates Exports to Israel <https://tradingeconomics.com/united-arab-emirates/exports/israel>

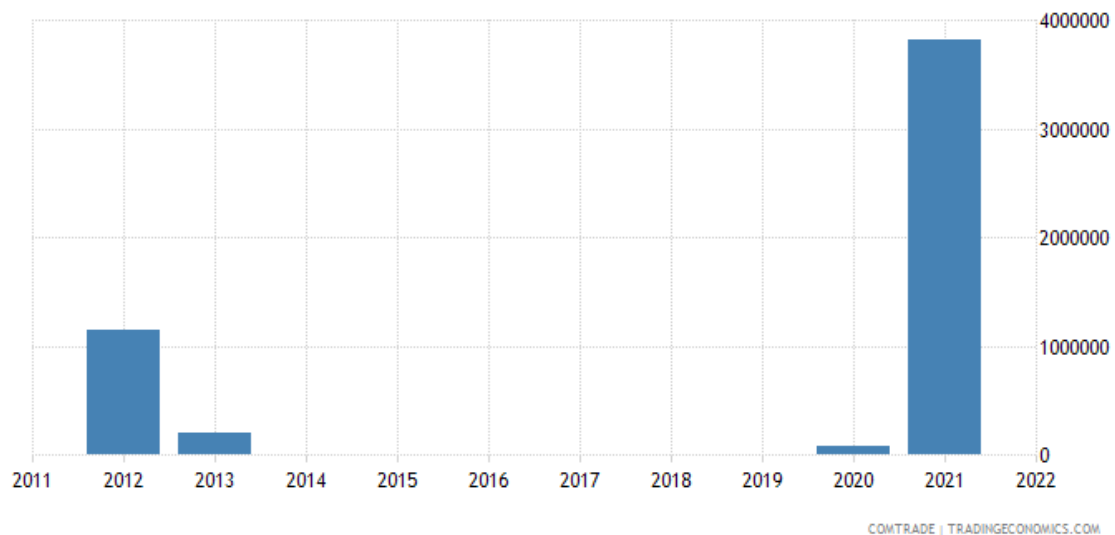


Figure 5: Export from Israel to Bahrain⁷⁰

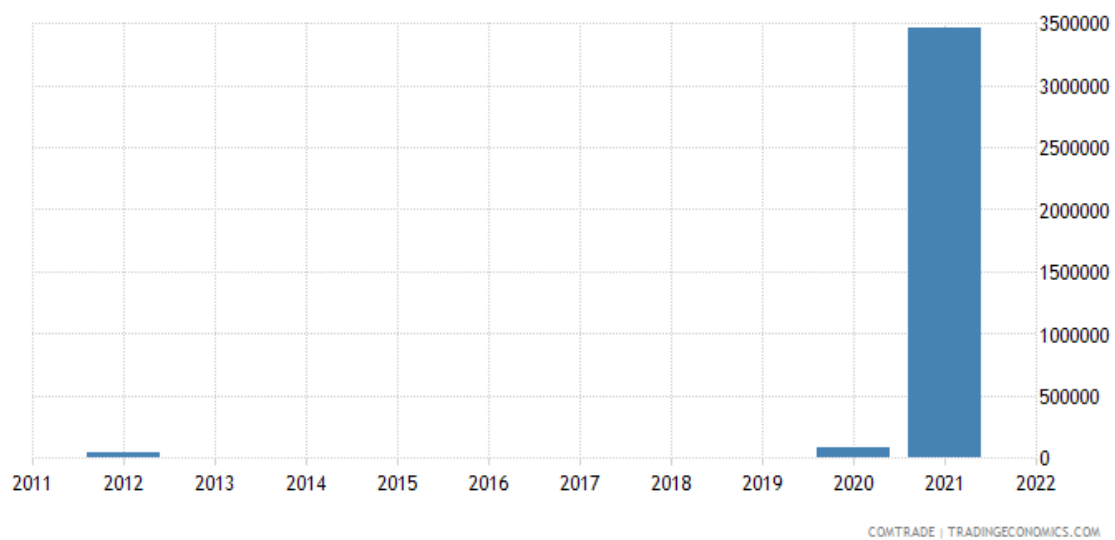


Figure 6: Export from Bahrain to Israel⁷¹

⁷⁰ Trading Economics, 2022, Israel Exports to Bahrain <https://tradingeconomics.com/israel/exports/bahrain>

⁷¹ Trading Economics, 2022, Israel Imports to Bahrain <https://tradingeconomics.com/israel/imports/bahrain>

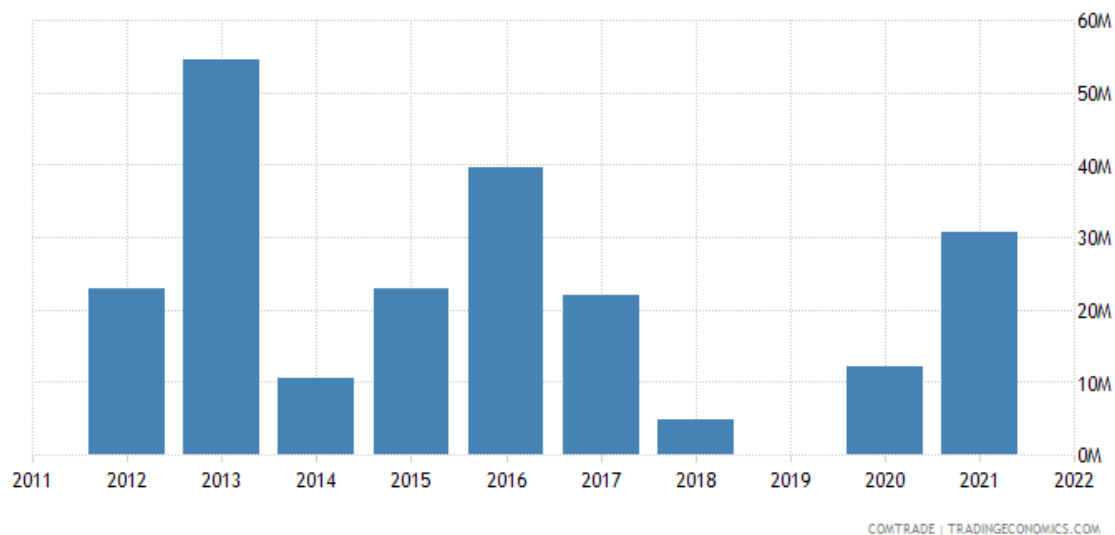


Figure 7: Export from Israel to Morocco⁷²

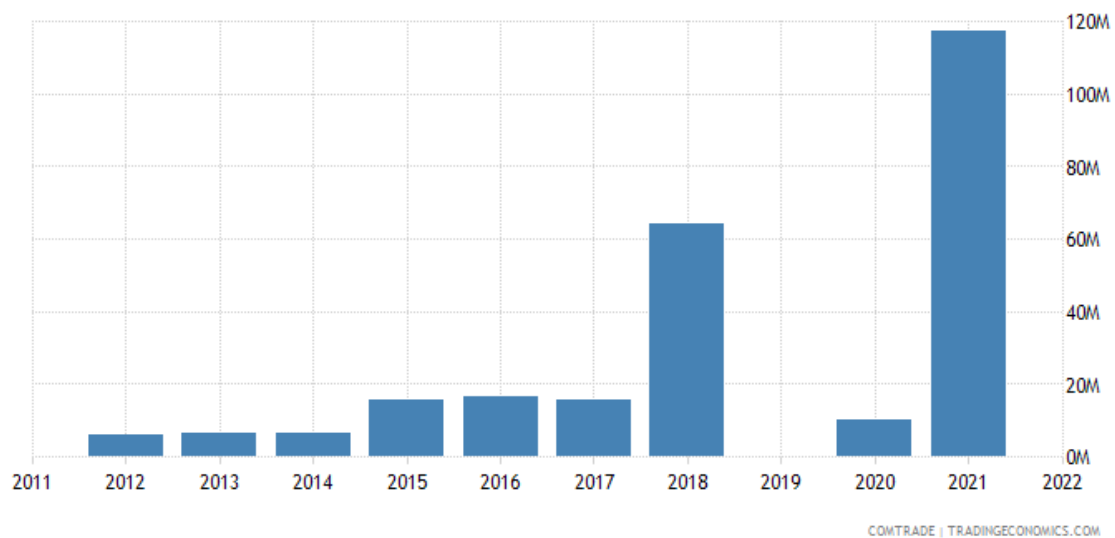


Figure 8: Export from Morocco to Israel⁷³

⁷² Trading Economics, 2022, Israel Exports to Morocco <https://tradingeconomics.com/israel/exports/morocco>

⁷³ Trading Economics, 2022, Israel Imports to Morocco <https://tradingeconomics.com/israel/imports/morocco>