

Was Harry Truman a Zionist? And Why It Matters Today

Featuring John Judis, *The New Republic*



Wednesday, March 26, 2014

4:00 – 5:30 PM

1120 Susquehanna Hall

Harry Truman is celebrated for recognizing the new state of Israel, but there is evidence he was never comfortable with the idea of a Jewish state, and would have preferred some sort of Arab-Jewish federation. Largely because of vigorous lobbying by American Zionists urging support for a Jewish state, Truman gave up on the idea of a federation, and the U.S. was the first country to recognize Israel. Judis argues that the campaign to persuade Truman anticipated today's "Israel Lobby."



John B. Judis is a Senior Editor at *The New Republic*. His new book, *Genesis: Truman, American Jews, and the Origins of the Arab/Israeli Conflict*, deals with the role played by the American Zionist leadership in influencing US policy towards the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine.

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This event is being co-sponsored by the Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Studies, the Gildenhorn Institute for Israel Studies, the Department of American Studies, and the Department of History.

