

Dr. Josef Olmert

Dr. Josef Olmert offers a rare combination of talents: a top Middle East scholar, former peace negotiator, political insider, published journalist and author, as well as a seasoned public speaker. He is currently an Adjunct Professor at American University's School of International Service in Washington, DC.



As Director of the Government Press Office and Advisor to then-Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir during the first Gulf War and the International Peace Conference in Madrid, he secured press relations for Israel with the Soviet Union and China, and represented the Prime Minister in numerous conferences and appearances in the United States, Great Britain, Australia, China, Russia, Japan and South Africa, among others.

His media experience has included penning a political column for Israel's largest circulation daily, *Yediot Aharonot*, as well as *The Jerusalem Post*, and numerous appearances on radio and TV programs at home and abroad.

Dr. Olmert was a member of the Israeli delegation for peace talks with Syria in the Madrid Peace Conference and subsequent Washington, DC talks (1991-92). In addition, he was a frequent participant in United Nations-sponsored conferences on the Middle East. His fluency in Hebrew, Arabic and English, as well as command of Russian and French, added value to his role.

In 1999, Dr. Olmert served as policy advisor to former Defense Minister Moshe Arens. In this capacity, he participated in official talks with the U.S. Departments of Defense and State as well as with counterparts in other countries.

As to Israeli politics, Dr. Olmert played a significant role, particularly as a director and founding member of the Council for Parliamentary Democracy that spearheaded the successful campaign to repeal direct elections for Prime Minister.

Dr. Olmert, who holds a Ph.D. from the London School of Economics in Middle East History, headed the Syria and Lebanon desks at Tel Aviv University's Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies – where he served on the faculty. In addition, for eight years he authored chapters on Syria and Lebanon for the book, *The Middle East Contemporary Survey*. He has authored three books on the Middle East, as well as numerous articles in academic and popular journals. Dr. Olmert was a visiting professor at Cornell University, York University in Toronto and City College New York. As a speaker, Dr. Olmert's reach has extended nationally and internationally, from colleges and universities in the U.S. and Canada, to major Jewish and civic organizations.

Dr. Josef Olmert, scion to one of the most prominent political families in Israel, is a son of former Knesset member, the late Mordechai Olmert, and a brother of the former Prime Minister of Israel, Ehud Olmert. He resides in Washington, DC.