**The Jewish Vote in US Electoral Politics**

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My participation in the debate will address the make-up of the American Jewish population and why it matters in the American body politic. I will then consider the moment when the “Jewish vote” became a salient notion in US politics. American Jews have overwhelmingly supported the Democratic Party since the 1930s. This was linked to their status as a primarily urban, working class population, which rapidly transformed in the period after World War II into the most highly-educated segment of the American electorate. It is facilitated also by their sociological homogeneity: American Jews are almost exclusively of central or eastern European background (in contrast with the French Jewish population, with its large North African, French and Eastern-European components). I will also consider what factors determine American Jewish voters’ choices in presidential candidates, and pay special attention to the issue of foreign policy towards Israel. Finally, I will address the current election, and American Jewish voter’s overall support of Hilary Clinton.

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