



[A U.S. Intelligence Report Details the Long-Standing Efforts Undertaken by the United Arab Emirates to Try and Influence American Politics](#)

A classified United States intelligence report has described the United Arab Emirates' efforts to try and influence the American political system. The National Intelligence Council, the government agency behind the report, has expressed that it compiled it in order to help guide U.S. policymakers in their decision-making regarding the Middle East and the UAE. Most troubling regarding the development is the fact that it unveils attempts by a close ally of the United States to engage in this behavior, with the report delving into how the UAE tried to exploit vulnerabilities to ensure favorable U.S. foreign policy decisions towards it. The UAE is the third-largest buyer of U.S. weapons, and the United States has sold them over \$29.3 billion in military equipment including fighter jets and missiles. The UAE's armed forces have also fought alongside the United States military in places like Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria. These aspects combined with the fact that the two countries partner on a range of issues including defense, trade, and law enforcement has prompted observers to express unease and concern over the UAE's array of meddling tactics.

Some analysts have speculated regarding the type of effect that the revelations may have on U.S.-Emirati relations moving forward, particularly since the report goes into the variety of legal and illegal measures undertaken by the UAE to try and influence the United States' foreign policy decisions in its favor. The UAE worked through different administrations to take advantage of the United States' vulnerabilities including the reliance on campaign contributions, the use of lobbying firms, and using law enforcement to disclose laws that are designed to prevent foreign interference in American affairs.

The UAE has spent millions in donations to American universities, lobbyists, and think tanks in return for favorable coverage and positioning. Some of their recent attempts at meddling consist of hiring former U.S. intelligence officials to surveil American leaders, politicians, journalists, and U.S. companies. This also includes hundreds of retired U.S. military officers such as former generals and admirals. A Washington Post investigation uncovered how there are notable former military and security personnel who now work as contractors or consultants for the UAE. While foreign governments often spend copious amounts of money in Washington to fund their interests with lobbyists, consultants, and others, the UAE has even taken this to another level by directly hiring former officials to their payroll – in many cases for salaries in the six and seven figures.

Under U.S. federal law, retired military personnel are not allowed to receive anything of value from foreign governments that would compromise their allegiance to the United States. The Washington Post reports, however, that there is no criminal penalty for violating this law and the enforcement of it is virtually nonexistent. These recent revelations raise legitimate questions about national security, if former U.S. military and security officers are able to work with foreign governments to no avail and with no consequences. National security staff are often aware of the activities of these former military personnel, but these operations remain in effect because the federal government has yet to reform its foreign policy laws and has not provided enough resources to the U.S. Justice Department to combat the issue.

It remains to be seen whether or not the report spurs the United States to re-evaluate its alliance with the UAE and reform laws to ensure that former officials are not able to work in such a manner with foreign governments.