Over his long distinguished career, James Petras authored hundreds of articles and dozens of books on many topics, including social change in Latin America, unmasking globalization as 21st Century imperialism, and the subject of this contribution to his *festschrift*: the power of the Israeli Lobby, Occupied Palestine and US-Israeli militarism. This power gives US imperialism a particular twist in several (the US and Middle Eastern) arenas of international relations, as well as establishing bulwark of US imperialism in a critically important albeit volatile area of the world state system.

This article reviews in depth some of his current writing and analysis from three of his recent books: *The Power of the Israeli Lobby in the US*, *Rulers and Ruled in the US Empire*, and *Zionism, Militarism and the Decline of US Power*.

The *Power of Israel in the US* (2006) is a work of epic writing documenting the influence of the most powerful lobby in Washington. It extends to the highest levels of government, the business community, academia, the clergy, the mass media, and, as Edward Said once said about the Senate virtually the entire (body) can be marshaled in a matter of hours into coming together for Israel.

The root of its power is in the high proportion of Jewish families among the wealthiest and most dominant in the country. They include billionaires and many others who have created a ‘tyranny of Israel over the US’ with consequences grave enough to threaten world peace, security, the global economy, and democracy’s very future in America and elsewhere. Because of its influence, Washington unconditionally supported all Israeli aggression since 1967. Israel also played a leading role in both US Iraq wars and intervening sanctions, but that’s not all. It may press us into war on Iran and its hugely destabilizing effects if it comes. More still, it suppresses open Middle East debate and dissenting opposition to its imperial agenda—regardless of the harm to America or how grievously it violates international law.
Attacking Iraq in 1991, 12 years of punishing sanctions, and then invading and occupying the country in 2003 removed one of Israel’s key adversaries, with Iran, Hamas, Hezbollah and Syria remaining. At the same time, it ended Iraq’s support of Palestine, allowing Israel to advance further toward its goal of total regional dominance in partnership with Washington.

Committed Israeli support makes this possible from (i) officials at all levels of government; (ii) influential Jewish organizations and lobbying groups like the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish American Organizations (CPMAJO), the Zionist Organization of America (ZAO), the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), and according to some observers, the single most powerful Washington lobby—AIPAC; as well as (iii) the vast ‘Jewish Diaspora’, including many thousands of dedicated activists: doctors, lawyers, dentists, philanthropists, key Wall Street figures, major bank executives, Federal Reserve governors, its chairman, other key businessmen, major media bosses, the clergy, academia and journalists given special prominence because of their support of a pro-Israeli agenda, the regime’s aggressive war policy, and its most grievous of disturbing crimes of war and against humanity—like the savagery shown Gaza under siege and the Nazi-like blitzkrieg against civilian men, women and children, massacred as if for fun in an electronic war game.

As a result, Israel gets away with mass murder and receives more US aid than all other nations combined and special privileges with it: billions of dollars annually in aid; the latest weapons and technology; low or no interest rate loans; some simply waived and not repaid; additional monetary aid as requested; unrestricted US market access for its products and services; free entry of its immigrants; guaranteed Security Council vetoes for unfavourable to its interests resolutions; freedom to operate covertly inside America, including on US military bases; and Washington’s partnership in its aggressive wars, its military agenda, occupation of Palestine, wars against Lebanon, unwarranted attacks on Syria, retention of the Golan Heights, and freedom to commit the most grievous crimes of war and against humanity, including mass-Palestinian incarcerations, free use of torture and as much mass murder as expedient.

Regardless of its harm to America, Israel gets what it wants because the ‘Zionist power configuration (ZPC)’ extends well beyond the Lobby. It includes a ‘complex network of interrelated formal and informal groups, operating at the international, national, regional, and local