

# The U.S. Presidential Election Campaign in the Arab Media



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In the run-up to the 2004 presidential elections in the United States, newspapers in the Arab world have focused much attention on the campaign and the candidates. While this heightened attention to the American political process has included legitimate coverage of news events, expressions of ugly anti-Semitism and conspiracy theories about Jewish control of the Democratic and Republican parties – or of the U.S. government – have appeared in the Arab press with startling regularity.

Some of the most shocking editorial cartoons depict accusations of a Jewish or Israeli conspiracy to control the American democratic process. One dominant theme is the claim that America's elections are being controlled behind the scenes by a manipulative Jewish lobby and the Israeli government. Others suggest that both candidates are the handmaidens of Jews, especially when it comes to matters of foreign policy or the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Or the candidates are portrayed as bending over backwards to satisfy Jews, who are stereotypically portrayed as greedy, evil and conspiratorial. A number of cartoons suggest that there is no difference between a vote for President George W. Bush and Sen. John Kerry, since both men are 'controlled' by Jewish interests.

ADL, which monitors and exposes anti-Semitism in the Arab media, continues to monitor this trend within the context of events and the wider drumbeat of anti-Semitism that pervades the Arab world. The following is a country-by-country compilation of offensive images that have appeared in the Arab media concerning the U.S. election.

*On the cover: Akhbar al-Khalij, (Bahrain) October 7, 2004*

The double-headed creature represents "American politics." The right head is "the Republicans", while the left is "the Democrats".

## Bahrain



*Akhbar al-Khalij*, October 10, 2004

On one of Sharon's shoes is written "the Republican party"; on the other - "the Democratic party".



*Akhbar al-Khalij*, October 7, 2004

The double-headed creature represents "American politics." The right head is "the Republicans", while the left is "the Democrats".



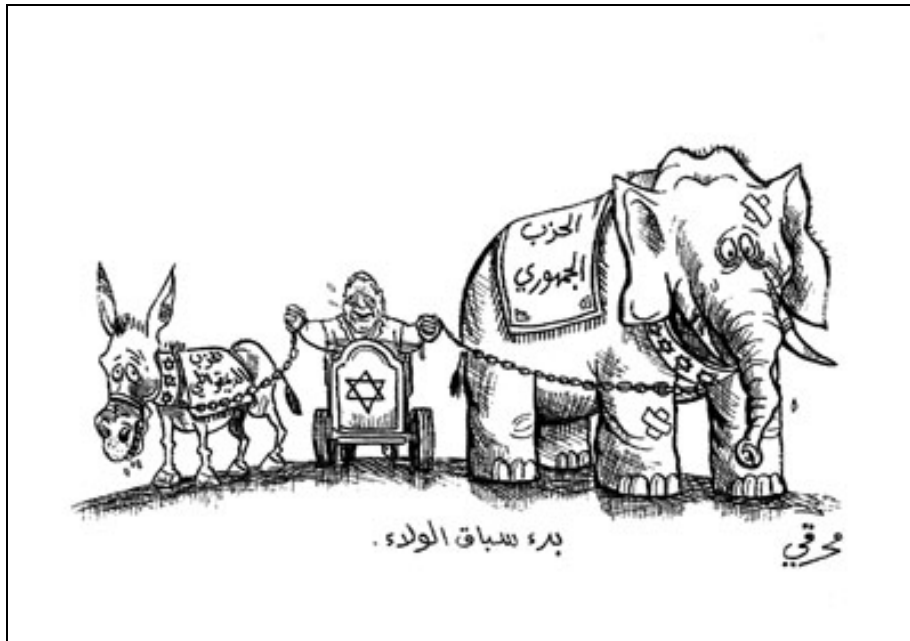
*Akhbar al-Khalij*, July 30, 2004

On the right, Bush from the Republican Party; on the left, Kerry from the Democratic Party.



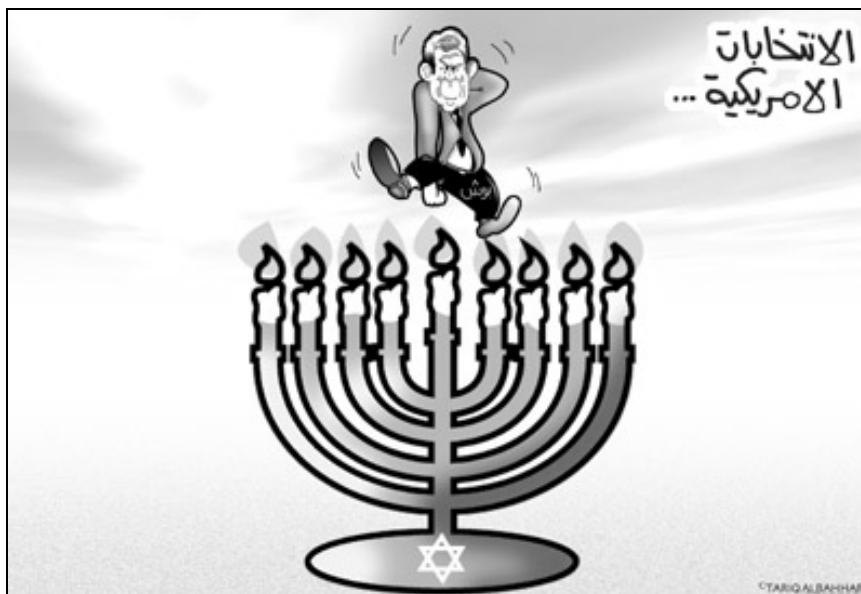
*Akhbar al-Khalij*, July 28, 2004

On the left, the donkey represents "the Democratic Party"; on the right, the (Jewish) elephant represents "the Republican Party", who is crushing "the world". Bush is saying: "The world is becoming now safer".



*Akhbar al-Khalij*, July 26, 2004

The cartoon's title: "The beginning of the Loyalty Race". The Jew is holding "the Republican Party" (on the right) and "the Democratic Party" on the left.



*Akhbar al-Khalij*, March 19, 2004

The cartoon's headline: "The American Elections".



*Akbar al-Khalij*, February 6, 2004 The cartoon's headline: "With the Approach of the American Elections". Israel is giving the US a sack full of money labeled "Iraq oil".

## Egypt



*Al-Wafd*, October 28, 2004

The cartoon's headline: "The American Elections' Competition". Kerry is saying: "I'm the first"; Bush is saying: "I will strangle him first", while running towards "the Arab world."

Jordan



*Ad-Dustur*, October 28, 2004

The Jew is standing in front of a ballot box on which is written: "Elect Bush", while Kerry is standing behind him.



*Ad-Dustur*, October 23, 2004

Bush and Kerry are saying: "We are with you". Sharon is saying: "And we are with.... you. (Could) you pay?"



*Ar-Rai*, October 20, 2004

The candidates are puppets controlled by a Jewish puppeteer with Star of David cufflinks.



*Ar-Rai*, October 17, 2004

Sharon is singing (while pictures of Bush and Kerry are behind him): "Neither Bush nor Kerry will benefit anybody but me".



*Ad-Dustur*, October 12, 2004

Israeli Prime Minister Sharon is wearing military uniform decorated with skulls and the images of Bush and Kerry.



*Ad-Dustur*, October 5, 2004

Bush and Kerry are kissing "The Jewish voice", while ignoring "the Arab voice". The Arab votes are being dropped directly in the garbage.



*Ad-Dustur*, September 9, 2004

Sharon is lying down on two ballot boxes, saying: "Wherever I feel like sleeping I sleep, and I am relaxed". On the right, on the ballot box: "Elect Bush, the son of.... Bush". On the left, on the ballot box: "Elect Kerry (we have nothing to do with Qui Rit cheese\*)". \*Meaning: La Vach Qui Rit Cheese- a type of cheese whose Arabic spelling is the same as "Kerry"



*Ad-Dustur*, September 5, 2004

The cartoon's headline: "What is (?) bitter is only bitterer than him". Kerry is holding a ballot box on which is written "Elect Kerry". The Arab is entering a note saying "we are with you", while holding a bag containing "the Arab

voices". With his left hand behind his back, Kerry is giving a note to the Jew, saying: "We are with you".



*Ad-Dustur*, August 3, 2004  
Bush and Kerry are reciting: "Israel is always right! Israel is always right!"



*Ad-Dustur*, July 29, 2004  
"The Jewish lobby" is holding the Democrats and the Republicans.



*Ad-Dustur*, January 21, 2004

In Arabic: "The American Elections".

## Oman



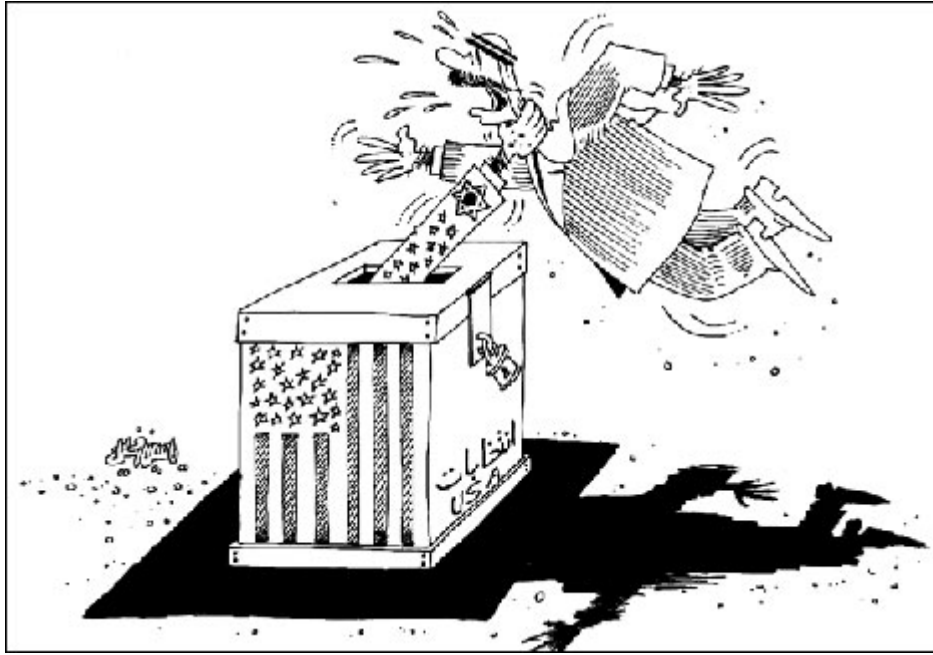
*Al-Watan*, October 24, 2004

The cartoon's headline: "Debate". On the right: "Bush"; on the left: "Kerry".



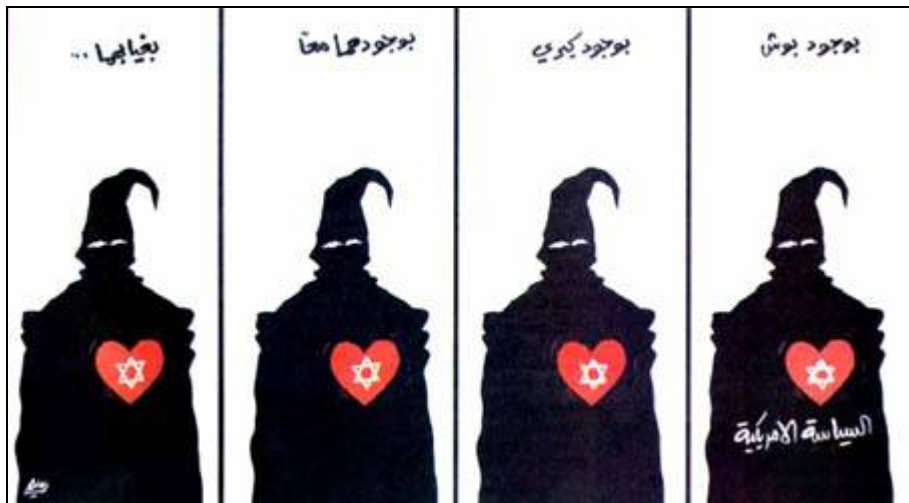
*Al-Watan*, October 17, 2004

Two Americans are carrying Jews, running towards the White House - the first is representing the Democrats, while the second is representing the Republicans.



*Al-Watan*, October 10, 2004  
In Arabic: "USA Elections".

## Palestinian Authority



*Al-Quds*, October 12, 2004

On the right figure: "the American policy". From right to left:

1. With Bush's presence
2. With Kerry's presence
3. With the presence of both of them
4. With the absence of both of them

## Qatar



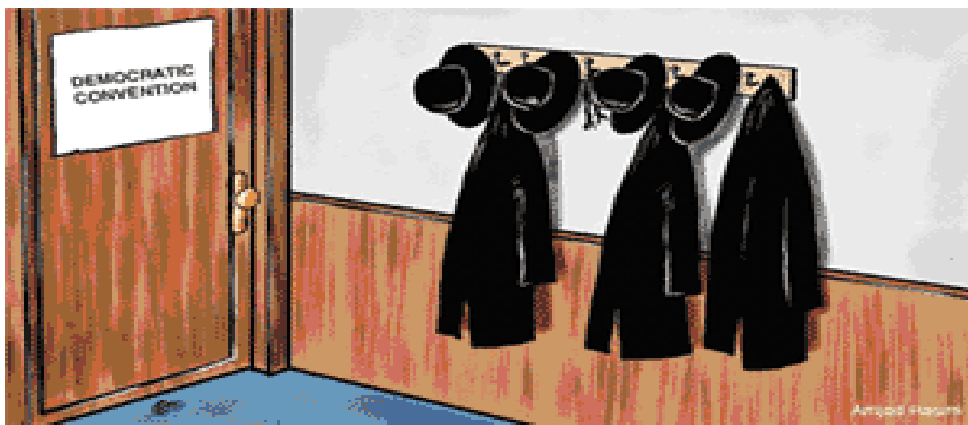
*Al-Watan*, February 9, 2004

In Arabic: "The American Elections". Sharon is taking "the settlements" (in the kennel) from the Gaza Strip.

Saudi Arabia

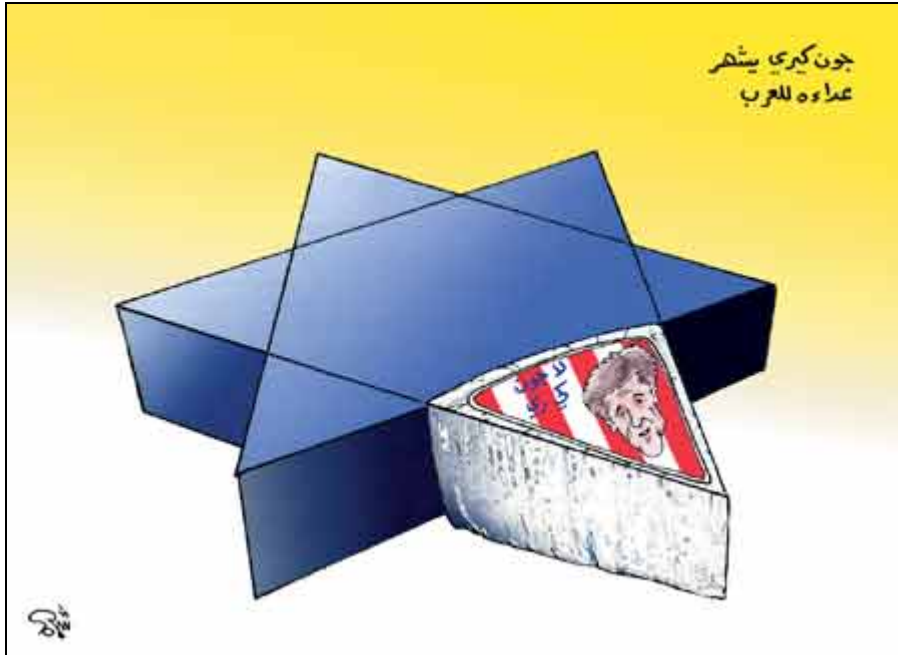


*ArabNews*, August 9, 2004



*Arab News*, July 27, 2004

The black coats and hats of Orthodox Jews are shown outside the door to the Democratic Convention, suggesting "Jewish control" of the Democratic party.



*Al-Watan*, July 27, 2004

The cartoon's headline: "John Kerry is declaring his enmity to the Arabs". In the triangle: "No to John Kerry".



*Ar-Riyadh*, January 7, 2004

The Jew is holding a ballot box on which is written: "The American elections". The USA is holding a pigeon representing "the peace process". Both of them are standing on "the Arab world".

## United Arab Emirates (UAE)



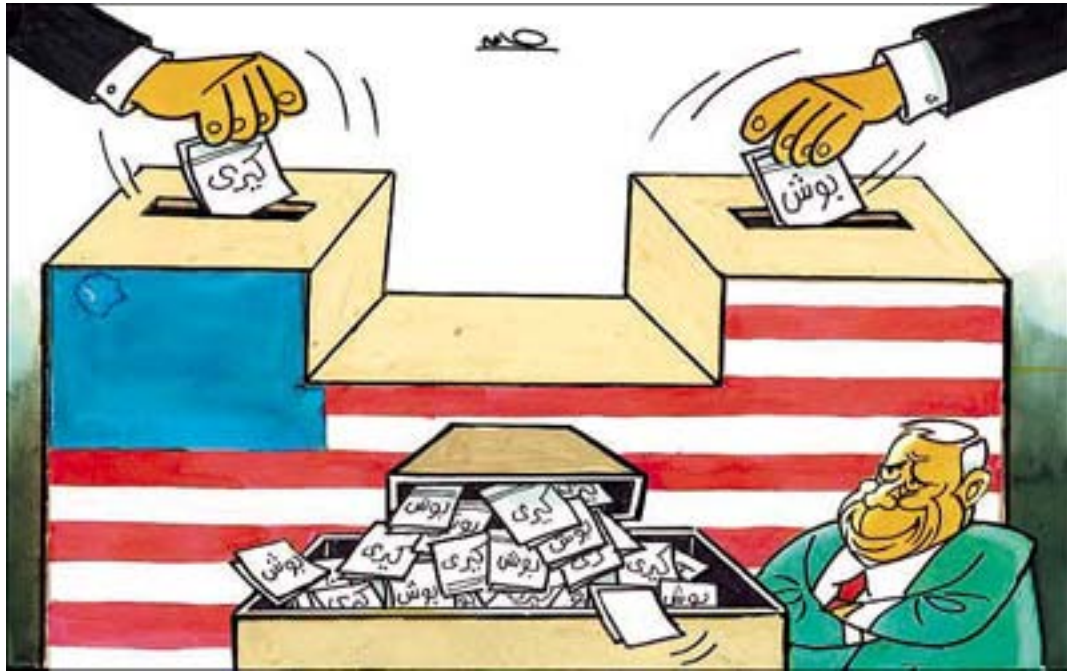
*Al-Ittihad*, October 27, 2004

The American in the middle is watching Bush and Kerry wrestling, saying (about the Jew): "He is laughing since he is the only one who knows who will win the elections".



*Al-Ittihad*, September 23, 2004

In Arabic, on the box: "Ballot box of the American elections". The Jew is sitting on the box, asking the American: "Who did you vote?"



*Al-Ittihad*, September 19, 2004

The voters are voting on one side "Bush" and on the other "Kerry", while Sharon is waiting for the results".



*Al-Ittihad*, August 28, 2004

On the left: "Elect Bush, the Republican Party's candidate"; on the right: "Elect Kerry, the Democratic Party's candidate". The man on the right is asking his friend: "Who do you think will win?" His friend is answering: "Sharon, of course".



*Al-Ittihad*, August 25, 2004

On the right: "Elect Bush, the Republican Party's candidate"; on the left: "Elect Kerry, the Democratic Party's candidate". In both of the signs, Sharon's picture appears.



*Al-Ittihad*, July 31, 2004

In Arabic: "The Congress".



*Al-Ittihad*, June 14, 2004

The cartoon's headline: "The competition still continues". Bush is putting Stars of David in a ballot box of the Republican Party, while Kerry is putting Stars of David in a ballot box of the Democratic Party. Below: "The American elections".

## Arab Newspapers

*Akhbar al-Kahlilj* (Bahrain) - A pro-government daily and Bahrain's oldest newspaper; editor in chief - Anwar Muhammad 'Abd ar-Rahman.

*Arab News* (Saudi Arabia) – English language Saudi daily.

*Ad-Dustur* (Jordan) – a government-owned paper that expresses pro-Palestinian anti and anti-Israeli views. It is considered a reputable paper.

*Al-Ittihad* (United Arab Emirates) - a semi-official daily.

*Al-Quds* (Palestinian Authority)– an opposition daily, which does not contravene government policy.

*Ar-Rai* (Jordan) – a government daily; expresses the approaches of the Jordanian regime.

*Ar-Riyadh* (Saudi Arabia) - A Saudi daily, one of the four principal Saudi papers (the three others are: *al-Madina*, *al-Jazira* and *al-Watan*). The paper presents a relatively conservative attitude, while emphasizing (as most of the Saudi papers) its praise of the Royal family.

Generally, the Saudi government lays severe limitations on the freedom of press and has a strict censorship, even on the foreign press that enters Saudi Arabia. Since the Saudi press is government-oriented, it concentrates on praising the Saudi Royal Family. Of course, opposition or independent newspapers do not exist in Saudi Arabia. However, the London based Saudi press has more independent features.

*Al-Watan* (Oman) - the only privately owned daily - owned by a business group; established in 1971; Editor in-chief - Muhammad Ibn Suleiman at-Tani; enjoys high popularity; has a circulation of 40,000.

Although the daily is privately owned, the government has a right (by law) to censor materials

*Al-Watan* (Qatar) - *Al-Watan* is one of the five Qatari dailies. *Al-Watan's* chairman is Hamad bin Sahim al Thani, a member of the royal family (All of the papers are owned by different branches of the royal family). The Foreign Minister, Hamed bin Jasem bin Jaber al Thani, owns half of the newspaper.

*Al-Watan* (Saudi Arabia) – a daily owned by the governor of the 'Asir district.