

Highlights From Netanyahu's Fiery Congressional Speech

Wednesday marked the fourth time Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has addressed a joint session of Congress, the most of any world leader in history. His staunchest critics have claimed that the real reason for his visit to the States was "to enlist domestic American support to keep waging the war" rather than to end the war and bring the hostages home. Others have faulted him for failing to deliver anything of substance in terms of a long-term solution, let alone making serious concessions toward the Palestinians.

His supporters saw things quite differently, with one headline proclaiming, "JOINT SESSION: In wartime address to Congress, Netanyahu gives 'masterclass in global diplomacy,' most powerful speech of his career – 55 standing ovations."

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While the Middle East pundits parse the details, here are some of the most memorable lines from his speech. Bibi clearly knows how to fire up the crowd. Indeed, the "no fewer than 55 standing ovations" marked "the most of any such speaker in congressional history." (Note that he is more popular in America than in Israel, especially among American evangelicals.)

After his introductory remarks, these were his opening lines:

We meet today at a crossroads of history. Our world is in upheaval. In the Middle East, Iran's axis of terror confronts America, Israel and our Arab friends. This is not a clash of civilizations. It's a clash between barbarism and civilization. It's a clash between those who glorify death and those who sanctify life.

After introducing several Israel Defense Forces soldiers who were sitting in the audience, including “Lieutenant Yonatan, Jonathan Ben Hamo who lost a leg in Gaza and continued to fight,” Netanyahu said, “My friends, these are the soldiers of Israel—unbowed, undaunted, unafraid.”

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