

# Navigating the Israel-Palestine Conflict: Historical Roots, Current Dynamics, and Pathways to Peace

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## Abstract

The conflict between Israel and Palestine is arguably one of the longest and most complex political tensions in the contemporary world, which has its basis in conflicting narratives, territorial claims, and other factors. For most of the last century, the region commonly referred to as Palestine has been the centre of conflict between Jewish and Arab communities. This report explores the historical background, present situation, and the actors involved, including the Arab countries, the United Nations, and the international community. The paper discusses the fundamental causes of the conflict, the issues that made the conflict worse, and ways to bring the conflict to an end. Recommendations include strictly adhering to a permanent ceasefire, focusing on legal and humanitarian responsibilities, tackling socioeconomic inequalities, prioritizing rebuilding critical infrastructure and strengthening international cooperation. The study shows that there is a need for more efforts to be made for the two sides, namely the Israelis and Palestinians, to be able to live in harmony.

*Keywords: Israel-Palestine conflict, geopolitical issues, historical origins, current dynamics, Arab countries.*

## 1. Introduction:

Israel-Palestine issue is the most prolonged and complex geopolitical issue of our time, and its sources are traced back to fierce rival claims, territorial misappropriations, and long-standing side issues (Karsh, 2023). Since the end of the 19th century, the land called Palestine has been disputed and fought over by both Jewish and Arab communities, which has resulted in historic conflicts, violent clashes as well as humanitarian disasters. This conflict not only affected the political landscape of the Middle East but also drew attention to the global realm from influential actors and entities that were looking forward to resolving the enduring

complexities of the conflict itself (Indriasandi & Wargadinata, 2023).

Alongside that line of thinking, this report will investigate the complexities of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through historical backgrounds, settled status of affairs, and involved parties, such as Arab countries, the UN, the international community, and others. Through examining the main reasons behind the conflict, the ways in which these existing issues are becoming problematic, and the roadmaps to peace, this report aims to offer insights and recommendations for dealing with this long-term dispute in the region and, therefore, promote stability in this region.

This article intends to provide a deeper understanding of the Israel-Palestine conflict by way of a context-oriented account. It also goes on to shine a light on the recent developments as well as the prospects surrounding the matter.

### 1.1 Background of the Conflict

The origins of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can be traced back to the 1880s when both Jewish and Arab populations challenged each other for the land renowned as Palestine at the time (Smootha, 2015). The situation became worse when the Balfour Declaration was issued in 1917, where Britain supported creating a "national home for Jews" in Palestine (Lederman, 2020). From the Arab's standpoint, this proclamation expressed a clear preference for the rights of the Jews rather than for those of the Arab population, which remained under their control and resulted in a chain of wars throughout the years. The following mandate of the British on Palestine, instituted by the League of Nations in 1922, became another source of tension in the region because it supported the migration of Jews into the area (Hughes, 2009). The arrival of Jewish immigrants induced the population to move to new places; thus, the Arab community started having second thoughts about sharing their future with the Palestinian Jews (Munayer, 2001).

While the Jewish people continued their resettlement plans, the Arabs only got more resistant to the presence of their people and to what they perceived as a threat to their land and rights; in 1947, the UN's Partition Plan that is to divide Palestine into separate state for Jews and Arabs (Slater, 2020). According to this plan, Jerusalem is an international city. The plan was agreed upon by Jewish leaders

who had been consulting, but the Arabs foresaw the partition as unfairly giving the Jews and not taking into consideration their concerns. This was a turning point towards the 1948-49 Israeli-Arab war, which erupted one year after the Israeli declaration of independence (Golani, 2010). As a result of the war, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were displaced, and Israel got its state. This was a significant step in the rise of conflict.

### 2. Current Issue

The Israel-Palestine conflict has been the primary source of the continuing tensions and violence in the Middle East and remains one of the hotspots of the region. The matter has come to a worse situation with the use of aerial campaigns and ground operations within the Gaza Strip and, in particular, Rafah city (Jaber & Bantekas, 2023). These military actions are probably due to the fact that they belong to the Israeli response to a hostage situation that started in October 2023 when the kidnappers took hostages. So far, these efforts to secure the release of the hostages have not been successful. The fatalities record in Gaza make a heartbreaking and unbelievable sign, and the reports mean around 34,000 casualties (Center for Preventative Action, 2024). That figure is not only a direct measure of the immediate human sacrifices of this conflict but also demonstrates a major long-term humanitarian problem that this part of the world is facing. The tremendous rate of losses caused by the war extends far beyond the war zone, drawing the sympathies of neighbouring countries and the international community that are concerned about the situation (Masudi, 2023).

The Israeli army has been criticized regarding the strategy it uses, with some

observers doubting if the present approach is suitable for the long term. Interior affairs in Israel are now under investigation by the State Comptroller of Israel to expose intelligence wrongdoings before the attack last October 7 by Hamas, thus quelling internal worries of the army on IDF's preparedness and response (Kubovich, 2024). Abroad, there have been attempts to persuade the parties to stop hostilities and to negotiate in good faith again. The United States, which has been instrumental in the region, has brought to the table a \$1 billion weapons deal for Israel, a decision that aroused the curiosity of many about how the US is taking a side and not aiming for peace (The Associated Press, 2024). Approval of the White House that a possible operation led by Israel close to Rafah, the town in Southern Gaza, is a huge mistake, and the US administration is nevertheless trying to reach a truce.

### 3. Role of Arab Countries

The Arab world mainly turned out to be a determining factor in regard to the Israel-Palestine conflict. This role still evolves globally as a result of the recent escalation, which started in October 2023 (Mier y Teran, 2024). The mechanism behind the engagement of Arab nations is an interlocking combination of traditional affiliations, religious meanings, regional geopolitics, and international diplomacy.

Arabs, ever since the sprouting of Israel in 1948, have been at the heart of the event, which has triggered many wars, such as the War of 1948, the Six-Day War of 1967, and the Yom-Kippur War of 1973. These consummate conflicts were motivated by the overall rejection of the country Israel as a state and the demand for a Palestinian state (Cohen, 2017). The type of Arab actions has changed from armed

confrontation to diplomacy and negotiation. This change was noticed as the years went by. The Arabian World's approach towards the conflict has witnessed a noticeable development. It has been most pronounced in the signing of peace treaties such as the Peace Treaty of Egypt and Israel in 1979 and the Peace Treaty of Jordan and Israel in 1994 (Benstead, 2019). These pacts initiated the genesis of a new Arab-Israeli rapprochement. It is noteworthy that certain Arab countries acknowledged Israel and established official diplomatic relations with it.

In 2020, the scenery changed again with the Abraham Accords, as the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco decided to recognize Israel and start new ties with the Jewish state (Resnick, 2023). These states' adjustment reveals an element of pragmatism instrumentalized by them for the sake of checkmating Iran's growing regional presence and economic and security cooperation with Israel (Muhammad, 2023). At the heart of the ongoing conflict lies the religious symbolism of Jerusalem and its sacred shrines, with people from both faiths holding a stronger spiritual connection to the city. The attitude of the Arab world towards the Palestinians remains favourable, with a majority of the people not only taking to the streets serving as ground zero but also expressing solidarity (Ali, 2023).

Arab nations have stood up to the humanitarian catastrophe caused by the conflict by reaching out and providing aid to the Palestinians whenever the need arises (Quigley, 2023). Such assistance entails financing treatment, providing medical supplies, and repairing infrastructure

destroyed during the war. On the political front, Arab countries have demonstrated consistent backing of the two-state solution. Their position entails the setup of a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital (Seidner, 2023). In their diplomatic activities, they have made use of organizations like the United Nations to persuade for action and have participated in mediation to lower the tension. The Arabic world has its political rifts and conflicting national positions, which result in different approaches to conflict. However, the core of the problem lies in the fact that while the Palestinian issue mainly drives one country, the other is more concerned with countering Iran's influence or dealing with domestic challenges.

The Iranian support for Palestinian groups is another factor that has increased levels of complexity within the conflict, thus playing a part in influencing the strategic Arab states' calculations (Vakil, 2023). This has resulted in a complicated proxy war process where these groups are against Israel, and some Arab states are practically seeking to counterbalance Iran's endeavours.

#### **4. Role of UN General Assembly.**

The UNGA has always been a forum for discussions and decision-making, and the fact is that power does not depend on a country's size or strength. As to the case of the renewed conflict between Palestine and Israel, which sprouted again in October 2023, UNGA's role has been the most crucial in that it has been able to gather the world leaders to participate in the solution of the conflict, which is a political and humanitarian crisis (Tsaregorodtseva, 2023). UNGA's response included the passing of resolutions that asked parties to declare a ceasefire, adhere to international

law, and safeguard the lives of civilians (Klapouschak, 2023). These non-binding resolutions implied the international community's approval, which, combined with the power of moral persuasion, hindered the perpetuation of hostilities and channelled the parties toward negotiations.

UNGA was a place for the members to show their sides as well as discuss world issues and their challenges that helped in global talks on the crisis. Such a debate is crucial in that it avoids the conflict falling below the international limelight, with other events receiving more attention. The deliberations within the UNGA have the potential to shape public opinion and even government policies in various areas of the world, which will affect international diplomatic pressure that can lead to conflict resolution. Additionally, the UNGA can advise the Security Council (which has the power to make and impose decisions) on which measure to adopt.

Apart from political approaches, the UNGA is instrumental in the organization of humanitarian aid. The UNGA is capable of issuing resolutions to make member states and international bodies give emergency aid to the affected populations, drawing attention to the critical needs of health and education. In this regard, UNGA's participation in the Palestine-Israel conflict indicates the body's support for human dignity and respect for international human rights (Khasanov, 2023). The proceedings of the UNGA action focused on the Palestine-Israel conflicts, disclosed the fundamental problems in interrelations, and reached a peaceful resolution. Nevertheless, the UNGA is able to adopt resolutions and any recommendations, and it depends on the cooperation of the member states and the

parties involved in the conflict (Marton Seidner, 2023). However, UNGA's potential depends on member states' political will and the interaction of politics of the world.

The UNGA's interaction with the Palestine-Israel conflict proves, on the other hand, the significance of multilateralism and the role played by international institutions in managing global crises (Chen & Guo, 2023). UNGA gives a forum for states of all sizes so that they can get together to face common problems and build an atmosphere of the international community as well as a common sense of shared responsibility.

## **5. Future Recommendations**

Since the Israel-Palestine conflict began, it has constituted a brood of instability in the Middle East and will make future peacekeeping activities more complex. To tackle this ongoing conflict, an integrated approach that joins the enforcement of international law, diplomatic efforts, and humanitarian assistance must be utilized. The strategies mentioned above are designed to offer a platform for future steps to hopefully resolve the conflict and promote lasting harmony in the region.

### **5.1 Ceasefire and Diplomacy:**

The ceasefire should be totally complete and permanent. This step is vital to stop more extermination of the civilian population and provide a milieu conducive to the process of negotiation making possible. The international community, with the US being the most prominent actor, should deploy diplomatic tools to this extent to ensure a ceasefire and to bolster UN attempts to mediate and facilitate dialogue.

### **5.2 Legal and Humanitarian Measures:**

Accountability is fundamental in the conflict-resolution process. The USA and its partnered countries have to enforce laws and policies that stop the misuse of arms and prevent the aid from being troubled. International law upon which the block of peace is built needs to be held; otherwise, the credibility and internal order will be lessened.

### **5.3 Societal and Political Changes:**

Within Israel, as well as the Palestinian territories, the rising socioeconomic gap needs to be taken into account. It was aimed at one-heartedness and wished that extremism would be replaced with moderation. This new cultural attitude, without doubt, is vital to shaping an atmosphere that is an engine of peace and to stirring cooperation and goodwill.

### **5.4 Infrastructure and Reconstruction:**

Worldwide management should prioritize rebuilding Gaza and other damaged places. This effort should present a clear choice for Hamas and other groups: to opt for development and transformations instead of raging feuds. Although functioning infrastructure is just a physical necessity, it also represents a psychological positive and is undoubtedly a direct step taken toward peace.

### **5.5 International Cooperation:**

Regional cooperation is a requisite for the Middle East's safety and security. Confidential cooperative conversations between Israel and Saudi Arabia provide room for larger peace endeavours in the area. They would consequently build a solid basis for mutual understanding and

recognition of the significance of diplomatic ties that will have a good effect on the whole region.

## **6. Conclusion**

In essence, the Israel-Palestine conflict keeps posing a challenging problem with many consequences for security in the region and the whole international system. After what was shown in this study, the roots of this conflict are deep, going back as far as many unresolved historical injustices and territorial rights claims from both sides. Nevertheless, the challenges along the path to permanent peace—the sea of vested interests and diplomatic efforts—there are always the bright spots—humanitarian aid and international cooperation—that facilitate reconciliation. It vitally calls for all stakeholders, such as the regional powers, the international community, and the direct parties, to seize upon these chances, put dialogue above violence, and strive for a peaceful solution where Israelis and Palestinians can live side by side in dignity, security, and mutual respect. Beyond doubt, only through concerted and long-term efforts can one interrupt the conflict circle and lay the foundations for a shining prosperity that will serve the lives of future generations.



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