

The Israeli-Palestinian Dispute and Global Ramifications

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Abstract: The Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a long-standing and complex dispute, significantly affects the global order. It influences global geopolitical dynamics, regional stability in the Middle East, and the essential frameworks of international law and humanitarian efforts. This conflict also impacts the relationships among major global powers, including the United States, Russia, and European countries, and also counties of middle east regions, Iran, etc., as they have to manage their alliances and interests in the region. It also contributes to broader tensions between Western countries and the Islamic world in terms of global terrorism and security strategies. The persistent nature of this conflict continues to challenge diplomatic efforts and international peace initiatives, highlighting the international community's broader difficulties in resolving the regional disputes. The conflict's effects extend beyond immediate political and military consequences, influencing global economic factors, energy markets, and refugee movements, underscoring its extensive and multifaceted impact on the world order.

Keywords: Geopolitical Dynamics; World Order; Security Strategies; Regional Stability and Security; Global Diplomatic Relations; global Terrorism.

1. Introduction: The conflict between Israel and Palestine is a convoluted and enduring disagreement with deep-seated historical, religious, and political origins. Central to this conflict is the contentious dispute over territory, particularly the ancient land of Palestine, and the fervent desire for self-determination by both Israelis and Palestinians.

In July 2023, as Israeli demonstrators flooded the streets of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, the White House expressed concern over Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's judicial reforms. US President Joe Biden urged Netanyahu to foster consensus within Israel. Biden, frustrated by Netanyahu's increasingly rigid stance, sought counsel from Thomas Friedman, who emphasized the need for assertive guidance in preserving Israel's democratic values. Another influential voice, Nicolas Kristof, suggested reconsidering the annual \$3.8 billion US aid to Israel.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a multifaceted interplay of historical legacies, political movements, and religious convictions. Rooted in millennia of competing claims to the land and driven by Zionism and Arab nationalism, the conflict embodies deep-seated grievances and aspirations. Moreover, the religious significance of the region to Jews, Muslims, and Christians adds another layer of complexity, transforming the dispute into not just a territorial contest but also a clash of identities and sacred traditions. Resolving this intricate conflict demands a nuanced comprehension of its historical, political, and religious underpinnings, alongside a steadfast commitment to dialogue and reconciliation.

II. Historical, Political, and Religious Dimensions of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict:

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict encompasses a complex interplay of historical, political, and religious factors, essential for understanding its contemporary complexities.

(i) Historical Roots:

Ancient History: The land known as Canaan and later Palestine, has been inhabited by various peoples, including Canaanites, Israelites, and Philistines, dating back to biblical times.

Roman and Byzantine Periods: After revolts against Roman rule, the Jewish population diminished, leading to the renaming of the region as Palestine and subsequent diverse rule by various empires.

Ottoman Empire: From the 16th to 20th centuries, Palestine was under Ottoman rule, fostering a mosaic of ethnic and religious communities.

British Mandate: Following World War I, Britain governed Palestine under a League of Nations mandate, leading to increased Jewish immigration and rising tensions between Jews and Arabs.

(ii) Political Roots:

Zionism: Emerging in the late 19th century, Zionism advocated for a Jewish homeland in Palestine, fuelled by anti-Semitism and the aftermath of the Holocaust.

Arab Nationalism: Concurrently, Arab nationalism sought to establish a Palestinian nation-state in response to colonialism and Jewish immigration.

Partition Plans and Statehood: The UN proposed a partition plan in 1947, leading to the Arab-Israeli War and the establishment of Israel, while the West Bank and Gaza came under Jordanian and Egyptian control.

(iii) Religious Roots:

Judaism: The land holds deep religious significance for Jews, serving as the biblical Promised Land with Jerusalem as its spiritual centre.

Islam: Palestine is revered in Islam, particularly Jerusalem and the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest site in Islam.

Christianity: Numerous holy sites associated with Jesus Christ contribute to the region's religious significance for Christians.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict transcends local disputes, impacting regional stability, global diplomacy, humanitarian concerns, terrorism, and international politics. Its resolution poses a significant challenge to the global order, necessitating sustained international cooperation.

III. Sinews of Israeli-Palestinian War:

Since Hamas's attack on 7 October 2023, in which Hamas-led militant groups launched a surprise attack on Israel, in which 1,195 Israelis and foreign nationals, including 815 civilians, were killed, and 251 taken hostage with the stated goal of forcing Israel to release Palestinian prisoners. Israel in retaliation, has killed more than 12000 Palestinians in Gaza in seeking to wreck the first. But Israel's declared goal of destroying Hamas requires its financial base to be dismantled first. It is mainly based overseas in friendly countries, furnished with money launderers, mining companies and much else. Hama's financial empire is reckoned to bring in more than 1billion dollars a year.

Having been painstakingly being crafted to avoid western sanctions, it may be out of reach for Israel and its allies. Hamas's income pays for everything from school teacher's salaries to missiles. Around \$360 million comes from import taxes on goods brought into Gaza from the West Bank or Egypt. This is the easiest source of cash for Israel to strangle. After withdrawing from the Gaza strip in 2005, it strictly limited the movement of goods and people across the border. Now it stops even the most basic necessities such as fuel and food, for getting in.

A much larger income stream though comes from abroad. Israeli officials reckon this amount to around \$ 750 million per year, making it the main source of funding for Hamas's current stockpile of arms to Palestinian Islamist groups, mainly in military aid. The task for Hamas's financiers is to move this money around without falling prey to America's sanctions. In the past one month alone, American officials imposed three rounds of restrictions on people and companies for funding Hamas.

Dodging American sanctions require some ingenuity. Millions of dollars flow through crypto markets. America's Treasury department says Hamas has smuggled more than \$20 million through Redin, a currency exchange crammed among tourist shops deep in Istanbul's run-down Fatiha neighbourhood. The

department also says Binance, the world's biggest Crypto exchange by trading volume, has allowed its users to carry out transactions with Hamas.

But the lion 's share of Hamas money at least \$500 million a year comes from its investments, some of which are firms registered in countries across Middle East. These are run by Hamas's investment office and employ its members. American official says the firms donate to charities which in turn funnel funds to Hamas. Turkish officials say profits are sometimes taken directly. Untangling these revenue streams is tricky for Western regulators. One such firm built the Alfa Mall, Sudan's first shopping mall, while another has mines near Khartoum, its capital. A third build skyscrapers near Sharjah, in the UAE. Many of these companies boast of their business deals, but deny any affiliation with Hamas.

IV. Dynamics of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict:

Since Hamas's attack in October 2023, Israel has intensified its military operations in Gaza, resulting in significant casualties. However, Israel's objective to eradicate Hamas hinges on dismantling its financial infrastructure primarily situated overseas in friendly nations. Hamas's financial resources, estimated at over \$1 billion annually, sustain its operations, including providing for essential services and acquiring weaponry. Israel's efforts to disrupt these finances range from border restrictions to targeting overseas financial channels, albeit hindered by complex money laundering tactics and crypto transactions.

The conflict also witnessed domestic political challenges, with Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant advocating for an alternative governance model for Gaza, challenging Prime Minister Netanyahu's post-war plans. Netanyahu, in response, emphasized the need to eliminate Hamas before considering any alternative governance.

V. Global Implications of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict:

The conflict exerts significant global implications across various domains:

(i) **Regional Stability and Security:** The conflict directly impacts regional stability, influencing relations among neighbouring countries and broader alliances.

(ii) **Global Diplomatic Relations:** It shapes foreign policies and alliances, reflecting broader geopolitical dynamics.

(iii) **International Law and Human Rights:** Debates over legal and humanitarian issues contribute to the development of international norms.

(iv) **Global Terrorism and Extremism:** Extremist groups exploit the conflict, posing security threats globally.

(v) **Economic Implications:** Instability affects global economic flows, particularly in oil markets and trade routes.

(vi) Media and Public Opinion: Media coverage shapes public perceptions and policies, influencing international pressure and advocacy efforts.

(vii) Impact on Global Institutions: The conflict challenges the efficacy and credibility of global institutions like the UN.

VI. Risks of Regional Spill over:

The interconnected nature of the Middle East's political, religious, and social dynamics poses risks of regional spill over, including:

(i) Proxy Wars and Militant Groups: Armed groups in Gaza and the West Bank could escalate activities, affecting neighbouring countries.

(ii) Political and Sectarian Tensions: Strained relations and sectarian divides could exacerbate conflicts and alliances.

(iii) Refugee Flows and Humanitarian Crises: Escalation leads to population displacement and humanitarian emergencies, straining regional resources.

(iv) Global Economic Impact: Disruption in oil markets and trade routes affects global economic stability.

(v) International Involvement: Involvement of global powers could exacerbate tensions and conflicts.

(vi) Terrorism and Extremism: Radicalization and support for extremist groups escalate, posing security challenges globally.

VII. Russia's Role in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict:

Russia's nuanced approach in the Middle East contrasts with past Soviet policies, aiming to maintain diplomatic ties with both Israel and its adversaries. While Russia has improved relations with Israel, its self-appointed role as a mediator extends to other regional actors, facilitating dialogue and presenting itself as a key player in the Middle East. Russia supports international efforts for a ceasefire and emphasizes adherence to international law in resolving the Palestinian issue.

VIII. Israel and Iranian War: A spillover

The first major spillover of this conflict has been in the form of Israel and Iran war when Israel attacked Iranian key nuclear facilities on 13 June 2025. It was a surprised attack by Israel in which there has been substantive damage to the buildings, nuclear facilities. Israeli air and ground forces assassinated some of Iran's prominent military leaders, nuclear scientists and assassination attempt were made to eliminate top political leaderships of Iran. To justify the attack on Iran at first Israeli are of the firm belief that Iran has been very close in making nuclear bomb which is intended to eliminate Israel. Secondly, they are of the view that Iran has been engaged in providing various forms of aid, including funding, weapons, and training,

to a number of groups that have attacked Israel. These groups are:

(i) Hezbollah: A Shia Islamist political party and militant group based in Lebanon, founded in 1982 to resist Israel's invasion of Lebanon. Iran is considered Hezbollah's primary backer, providing substantial financial support, weapons, and training. Hezbollah has launched missiles and rockets into Israel, particularly since October 2023.

(ii) Hamas: A Sunni Islamist political and militant group that governs the Gaza Strip. Iran has historically provided Hamas with funding, weapons, and training, although the relationship has had periods of tension.

(iii) Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ): Another Palestinian Islamist militant group operating primarily in Gaza and the West Bank. PIJ has received significant support from Iran, particularly after Hamas's relationship with Iran became strained at times.

(iv) Houthis: A Zaydi Islamist political and militant group that controls territory in Yemen. They have launched missile and drone attacks towards Israel, particularly since October 2023, claiming solidarity with Palestinians.

(v) Islamic Resistance in Iraq: This is a coalition of Iran-backed Shia Islamist paramilitary groups in Iraq. They have claimed attacks against Israeli territory using long-range strikes.

(vi) Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP): A secular Marxist-Leninist group that is considered part of the Axis of Resistance and receives support from Iran.

(vii) Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine – General Command (PFLP-GC): This group, based in Syria, also receives aid from Iran and the Syrian government.

US strikes, 22 June, 2025 on nuclear facilities at Natanz, Isfahan, and Fordo by B2 Bombers on which followed by Iranian retaliation against US in which Iran launched ballistic missile attacks at the Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, the largest US military installation in West Asia, clearly indicates that the Israel- Palestine armed conflict has really spilled over and affected not only the Middle East region but also other parts of the world as well.

IX. Suggested measures to resolve Israeli-Palestinian conflict:

The Israeli-Palestinian dispute is complex multi-dimensional issue requires huge efforts from all the stake holders. The following measures are suggested for the resolution of ongoing dispute:

- (a) One state solution
- (b) Two state solution
- (c) Confederation
- (d) Autonomy-Plus
- (e) The US should “own” Gaza

(a) One-State Solution

One state solution means all the entire population of Israel Jews and Palestine Arabs should be living together under an umbrella of one state. The state will be run on democratic and secular lines wherein all the citizens will have the mandate to exercise their rights on equal footings without any discrimination. Theoretically, it seems doable but in practice it may not be since there are problematic areas such as, heterogeneity of population, boarder issues, religious sentiments, and issue of refugees which might go against the option of one - state solution. There are people within the Israelis ranks they may not agree with one-state solution. They are of the view that if the state citizenship is granted to all Palestinians, then it would result in minority status to Jews by which the state per se would lose its recognition as the sole Jews state.

(b) Two State Solution

The city Jerusalem is holy to Jews, Muslims, and Christians. Each group claims its stake on it. Israelis and Palestinians claim Jerusalem as the capital, and on the other hand for Jews Jerusalem is the holiest city. They (Jews) further believe that the First and Second Temples of antiquity stood, on what Jews now call the Temple Mount, and where the Western Wall stands as a remnant and reminder of the Second Temple.

Muslims, are no behind in asserting their claim for Jerusalem. Jerusalem for Muslims, is the third holiest city after Macca and Madina, it is the place where Muhammad ascended to heaven.

The al-Aqsa Mosque, located on top of the Temple Mount has a very high religious importance for the Muslims.

The third stake holder for the Jerusalem is Christians. It is a place where Jesus was crucified. Jerusalem also has the Church of the Holy Sepulchre where there are two holiest sites in Christianity namely, the site of the crucifixion, and Jesus' empty tomb.

If two state theory is swung into action then it would result in division of Jerusalem, which has been outrightly rejected by majority of Israelis on the grounds that they cannot compromise on Old City, Western Wall, and Temple Mount.

Another problem is of refugees. There is difficulty in shifting the population which has already settled. Hundreds of thousands of Israelis who live in West Bank settlements will have to move from Palestinian side. It will not be an easy proposition since they will have two options, either to become the citizens of Palestine thereon on the voluntary basis but such possibility is rare or move back to Israel. The later position is more likely.

(c) Confederation: Another option can be of declaring the entire region as confederation in which Israel and Palestine two independent nations will be accommodated in line with European Union in which each side would have its own government, but they will work together on resources, security, and economic issues. There would be free movement of the people from one country to another country with in the confederation. However, the citizens on each side can only vote in their own country only.

(d) Autonomy-Plus: Another option can be of limited autonomy for the West Bank in the areas already under Palestinian control. The Palestinians would hold their own elections and maintain their own schools, services, and run administration but they will not have the right to have army. All the security matters including protection of boarders will be done by Israel only.

(e) The US should “own” Gaza: on 04 Feb 2025, the US President Donald Trum that the US should take control of Gaza to ensure stability. Palestinians should be relocated. He has proposed moving Gaza's 2.3 million residents to Egypt and Jordan, arguing they would be “better off”. The cited suggestion has been outrightly rejected by Egypt and Jordon and other countries of the Middle East. I too suggest that this solution is not doiable.

VIII Summary of Findings:

- The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a complex interplay of historical events, political movements, and religious beliefs. The historical claims to the land by both Jews and Palestinians, fuelled by Zionism and Arab nationalism, have created deep-seated grievances and aspirations.
- The Israeli-Palestinian conflict remains a pressing global issue, impacting regional stability, international relations, and humanitarian concerns. Addressing this conflict necessitates comprehensive understanding, sustained international cooperation, and adherence to international law to mitigate broader regional implications and promote global peace and stability.
- The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a multifaceted interplay of historical legacies, political movements, and religious convictions. Rooted in millennia of competing claims to the land and driven by Zionism and Arab nationalism, the conflict embodies deep-seated grievances and aspirations.
- The Israeli-Palestinian conflict transcends local disputes, impacting regional stability, global diplomacy, humanitarian concerns, terrorism, and international politics. Its resolution poses a significant challenge to the global order, necessitating sustained international cooperation.
- The Israel-Palestinian conflict is deeply embedded in a complex regional and international context.
- Its escalation risks triggering a cascade of destabilizing events throughout the Middle East and beyond, potentially drawing in multiple states and non-state actors, and leading to widespread humanitarian, economic, and security challenges.
- Addressing this conflict requires careful diplomatic efforts to prevent broader regional implications.

Suggested Readings:

1. "From the Editors" 2023 Institute of Palestinian Studies
2. "The Sinews of War" Economist, November 25, 2023
3. "Russia's Middle Eastern Engagements amid Ukraine Conflict" World Focus, April, 2024
4. "Are Palestinian Rights Universal Rights? Universalisms Compared
5. "Algorithmic State Violence: Automated Surveillance and Palestinian Dispossession in Hebron's Old City" International Institute of Middle East Studies (2023)55, 461-78