

Navigating the Crossroads: Understanding the Interconnected Realities of Israel-Palestine

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Abstract:

The Israel-Palestine conflict sprouts from a range of historical and political issues. This abstract gives an insightful summarization of the same. From the beginning of the 20th century to now, a combination of past events and present-day happenings in politics has had an impact on how the conflict looks. This information will talk about land arguments, safety fears as well as rival nations. Deeply rooted narratives and identities lie at its heart, all rooted in a piece of land and a past. This results in a variety of perspectives among Israelis and Palestinians because of religion, ideological bends as well as global shifts in power. However, there are still chances of peace amidst numerous barriers. These interdependent facts must be appreciated to enhance understanding and compassion; thus paving the way for an equitable and viable settlement.

Keywords: Israel-Palestine conflict, historical context, political context, global issue.

Introduction:

Even though perennial tensions and complex geopolitical patterns characterize much of the area, the changing fortunes of Israel-Palestine distinguish them as global concerns. This involvement in regional stability and international relations extends the complexity of these conflicts beyond their respective territories. In this article, a norm-breaking set of relations will be presented within the context of the Israel-Palestine conflicts. By analyzing the past and the present, as well as the wider range of international relations, we hope to bring clarity into the maze that forms the Middle East. After reading this article, the history and formation of Israel will be crystal clear and after understanding the history, the current situation will be clear.

History of Israel:

Israel's creation is a complex event that closely relates to the Jews' experiences, the decay of empires, nationalism, together with the aftermath of World War II.

In the late 19th century, the Zionist Movement was created for two reasons: one grew from anti-Semitism that was increasingly prevalent all over Europe; another wanted Jews themselves to determine their future. The leaders among these Zionists looked at different nationalist ideas of that time. They decided that the best way forward was for there to be Israelites' own country located in Palestine which was historically a Jewish nation's territory. The League of Nations granted Britain authority over Palestine under its mandate after the First World War when Palestine was part of the Ottoman Empire in 1920, under its control until 1948. The Balfour Declaration issued by the British government in 1917 supported the establishment of a national home for the Jews in Palestine, providing a basis for Jewish migration to the country. Tensions

between Jews and Arabs residing in Israel have been escalating with increased immigration of Jews into the country especially during the 20th century because of persecution faced in Europe, and efforts made by the Zionists among other reasons. The British reacted to Arab resistance to Jewish immigration and land acquisition with restrictions on Jewish immigrants' entry into Palestine and the purchase of land by Jews. This increased Arab opposition to Jewish settlements and so sparked off several violent revolts such as the 1936-1939 uprising. The Jewish Holocaust and the aftermath of World War II were points of time in history when humanity suffered huge losses caused by the elimination of six million Jews from Europe by Nazi Germany. This caused alarm among Jews because they felt that they were unwanted in the world. This was when they first started thinking of having their own country though this dream seemed so unrealistic to many. It is believed that if there were a country with Jews as its majority during this period such a tragedy would not have happened because everyone would have been able to take refuge in that place. According to the UN Partition Plan and the Declaration of Independence that took place in the year 1947, Palestine was meant to be divided into separate Jewish and Arab states with Jerusalem as an international city; while the Jewish leaders bought this idea, the Arab leaders opposed it. The State of Israel was declared by the Jewish leaders of Palestine on the eve of May 14th, 1948, when the British Mandate was about to end. After decades of struggle, the Declaration of Independence became the climax of it. During the Arab-Israeli War of 1948 (War of Independence), Israel's declaration of independence was met with instant Arab hostility from its neighbours, including Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq, they started a planned army invasion to stop the creation of Israel. Despite being less in number and weapons, the Israeli forces fought back the Arab armies and gained more land area under their command making Israel a solid nation as of now. The establishment of Israel was a defining period in Jewish history as it marked the realization of an age-old aspiration to return to their forefathers' countryside following years of ostracism and torment. Despite that, it initiated a drawn-out warfare against the Arab nations leading to current tumults in land demarcations and cultural coexistence issues that have dominated this area's political landscape up to now. (Israel - Facts, History & Conflicts | HISTORY).



Conflict Between Israel-Palestine:-

Hamas fired about 5,000 rockets into southern Israel on October 7, at approximately 6:30 am (03:30 GMT). Sirens were heard from as far as Beersheba and Tel Aviv. 2,500 was the confirmed number of rockets that Israel's military said were fired during the offensive, according to Hamas militants. Unprecedentedly, almost an hour later, fighters on air, land, and sea (a multi-pronged) crossed into Israel. Most of these fighters got in through breaches in security barriers which divided them from the Gazans. To understand the situation of Israel-Palestine, it is important to know about the PLO group and Hamas group.

Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) was established in 1964, before the establishment of Hamas, the PLO was founded to represent the Palestinian people and their national aspirations, thus early engaging in diplomatic approaches to pursuing Palestinian freedom. Upcoming armed struggle in the late 1960s and early 1970s, PLO changed its focus by conducting the same against Israel rather than carrying out attacks as well as terrorism. Within this period, there were many incidents involving the PLO that were highly publicized such as the Munich Olympics massacre in 1972. This armed struggle was meant by PLO towards the liberation of Palestine and setting up a Palestinian independent state. During this period, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) started diplomacy with Israel, which by the 1990s led to the Oslo Accords that were signed by Yasser Arafat who was then the leader of the PLO necessitating his return from exile to head the newly created Palestinian Authority (PA). The treaties then provided for Palestinian rule over some of the areas under occupation thus heralding a two-nations policy for the first time.

In the wake of the first Intifada, Hamas rose in the waning years of the 1980s as an offshoot of secular Palestinian nationalist movements which had before then been identified mainly as PLO failures. One of its key ideologies is opposition to Israel's existence as well as a call for an Islamic sovereign state covering all territories under occupation in the past decades. Islamic fundamentalism forms a foundation upon which it bases itself while maintaining resistance against Israelis. While the PLO combined armed struggle and diplomacy as strategies, Hamas has always put armed resistance at a core since its formation. It carries out suicide bombing missions and fires rockets into civilian areas along with other forms of violence aimed at military personnel as well as innocent Israelis. This list includes details about some of these incidents: Moreover, the wing of Hamas that is armed –the Qassam Brigade- has also given in to its militancy. The Palestinian Authority (PA), which was dominated by the PLO's Fatah faction, has been ruling over the population in Palestine. "Hamas came into power in Gaza because it was seen as less corrupt than Fatah," said one expert who asked not to be named or quoted directly. Iqbal al-Ghaben, a founding member of Hamas, became the Islamic group's prime minister three years ago when it won a majority in the Palestinian legislative elections.

To sum up, the PLO and Hamas have both contributed immensely to the conflict between Israel and Palestine. It is worth noting that, while PLO's priority was military action coupled with diplomatic negotiations, that of Hamas has always been geared towards militancy and the promotion of an Islamic regime. These are some of the reasons why they took different stances leading to this point. ([Israel-Gaza war in maps and charts: Live tracker | Israel War on Gaza News | Al Jazeera](#)).

The conflict between Israel and Palestine is of many types and is long-standing, for it is influenced by a lot of historical, religious, territorial, socio-economic, or geopolitical factors.

Historic Palestine, which is inclusive of current Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip, is claimed by both Palestinians and Israelis. A long-time territorial conflict between them resulted from this common claim on land. When Israel was formed in 1948 it forced, hundreds of thousands of Palestinian people out

of their homes, so many settled down as refugees and Jews had already started setting settlements there. Jerusalem holds great religious importance for Jews, Christians, and Muslims, making it one of the conflict's hotspots. The disputes over ownership of and visits to sacred places, especially within the Old City, tend to increase tensions between Israelis and Palestinians. Religious Fanaticism: Radicalization and violence have been promoted by fanatics who embrace extreme interpretations of religious stories, including only one religion. In 1967 during the Six-Day War, the Israel-occupied West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip territories were under Israel's control. The territory has been considered to be occupied by Israel since 1967 because these places are internationally recognized as such by law. The establishment of Jewish settlements in such areas has been termed as being in contravention of international law as a result, it has opposed them. Israel has further attracted condemnation from global partners due to its decision to expand the same in this region to cater to population growth as well as punitive measures taken against rogue nations. Attacking Israeli civilians and military targets makes Palestine militants like Hamas and Islamic Jihad a security threat to Israel which results in military actions. Implementing barriers, checkpoints, and invading military personnel among others is how Israel ensures its safety from terrorism and stops extremists from getting into the country. Nevertheless, even with these methods, there are times when it becomes difficult to tell which person is a terrorist. The divisions within the Palestinian leadership have made efforts toward achieving Palestinian unity difficult because of conflicting interests among different factions. This had led to a lack of coordination when negotiating with Israel especially due to diverse approaches adopted by Fatah controlling Palestinian Authorities and Hamas in charge of Gaza. Israeli politics is characterized by disputes over what will happen next regarding the construction of new houses in the West Bank or Gaza Strip which are disputed territories between these parties on one hand, but on the other hand, they are also arguing over what should be done with Jerusalem if any permanent settlement agreement is reached. The involvement of regional forces like Egypt, Jordan, Iran, and Saudi Arabia has participated in the conflict by supporting Palestinian factions or intimidation diplomacy towards Israel as well as pursuing their strategic goals in this area. ([History of the Israeli-Palestine conflict: A chronology - The Washington Post](#)).

Issue of Jerusalem:

One of the most contested and complex aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the question of Jerusalem. People from three major world religions believe that Jerusalem has significant importance when it comes to history and religion. Importantly, it boasts essential religious sites such as the Western Wall belonging to Jews, the Church of Holy Sepulchre by Christians, and the Dome of Rock including the Al-Aqsa Mosques used by Muslims. Due to its status quo as being a place where religious pilgrim's menace meets and political hegemony changes hands, the city has always played an important role in terms of civilization and empires' activities. After the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, Jerusalem was split into two; Israel took West Jerusalem, while East Jerusalem became part of Jordan. However, East Jerusalem; including the Old City and divine deposits was captured by Israel in 1967 as part of the Six-Day War and eventually annexed it. Thus, this declaration did not gain international recognition: Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel and it cannot be divided. The United Nations among other international bodies does not recognize the annexation of Israel outside itself. In the future, Palestinians want to have East Jerusalem as their capital. They see Israel controlling East Jerusalem. It breaks international law and it is an infringement on their rights, for example, denying them the right to self-determination. One of the most crucial issues in Israeli-Palestinian dialogues is the status of Jerusalem. Another related factor is Palestine's

desire to have East Jerusalem as its capital. Decisions made by Israel concerning East Jerusalem are perceived to be illegal and hinder self-determination which is a natural entitlement to every human being. Israeli settlements build up along the borders of East Jerusalem on one hand while other activities include revocation of residency rights on an arbitrary basis as well as demolishing houses on the Eastern part. Religious dedication and identity are communicated through Jerusalem's holy places by Jews, Christians, and Muslims, with each group asserting rights to the same areas. This assertion leads to conflicts both within and between religions as well as geographically among different countries that consider themselves protectors of peace worldwide. Consequently, there have been quite several flare-ups due to access disputes among others, which resulted in violence including riots starting from 1921 up until now. On numerous occasions, there have been movements opposing such actions in general but more importantly against any given party ruling out other people's tree. It also leads to international tension between Israel-which sees itself as the representative of the Jewish people worldwide-and Palestinians who consider themselves an Islamic nation living on what they regard as their sacred land at the heart of which lies al-Aqsa mosque and Haram al-Sharif. For instance, starting from 1948 when Israel was declared an independent state till this very day there have been tensions.

When we talk about Jerusalem we are referring to the broader, more complicated picture of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In particular, this encompasses historical narratives, religious hopes, territorial demands, and political interests. It is believed that settling the Jerusalem issue paves the way for a lasting and fair peace deal between the Israelis and the Palestinians. ([The Jerusalem Issue, Explained - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)).

Violation of International Laws:

Both sides have violated international law in many ways in the Israel-Palestine conflict.

The Fourth Geneva Convention (1949): The Fourth Geneva Convention is applicable in case of an occupation; it forbids specific acts by those who have occupied territories. Since 1967, as a result of Israeli occupation, both the West Bank including East Jerusalem as well as Gaza Strip have violated different clauses within this convention. For instance, violations range from creation as well as growth in numbers for settlements belonging to Israelis within areas under occupation (Cotterrell et al. 1530). ([IHL Treaties - Geneva Convention \(IV\) on Civilians, 1949 \(icrc.org\)](#)).

Resolutions on the United Nations Security Council: There have been numerous decisions made by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to deal with the Israel-Palestine conflict. Crimes against humanity are committed by violating these resolutions. Among them is UNSC Resolution 242 (1967), which demands that Israel withdraw its military forces from territory gained in the Six-Day War and prohibits any territorial changes brought about by war. ([Resolution 242 \(1967\) / \(un.org\)](#)).

International Humanitarian Law (IHL): The rules of war, which include the Geneva Conventions and customs that have developed over time, regulate how war should be waged while at the same time safeguarding those not involved in fighting. In the Israel-Palestine conflict attacks against civilians or civilian objects, excessive force proportionate response to hostile acts violations of IHL is committed when the force used is disproportionate, and there is collective punishment. ([The laws of war in a nutshell | International Committee of the Red Cross \(icrc.org\)](#)).

International human rights law requires compliance with both Israel and the Palestinian authorities to respect the dignity of every individual irrespective of their race, ethnicity or nationality; thus making it binding to both of them. Some examples of human rights violations during the Israeli/Palestinian conflict

are arbitrary detention, torture, restriction of movement and discrimination against people because they are citizens or belong to certain nationalities. ([HR_in_armed_conflict.pdf \(ohchr.org\)](#)).

In the Israel-Palestine conflict, the violations of customary international law include pruning civilians and civilian objects, use of disproportionate force as well as unwarranted military involvements that leads to damage of property. ([Customary law | ICRC](#)).

Conclusion of Israel-Palestine Conflict:

In summary, the disagreement between Palestine and Israel is very deep-rooted and can be understood as one that is multifaceted because it is complex due to different historical, religious, territorial and geopolitical aspects. The consequence over the years has been huge pain both for Israelis and Arabs which have led to continuous violent incidents among other recurrent misfortunes. If the struggle goes on, it is very important to note that the people concerned agree to this side's lawful frustrations and wants, and also they engage themselves in authentic dialogues, reconciliation moves as well as compromised agreements. To bring back normalcy to the conflict, courageous and decisive leaders must emerge who seriously commit themselves to justice, equality and mutual respect among all the other people whose freedom and honour have been interfered with. According to me, peace between Israelis and Palestinians is crucial not only because it is right but also because the region's stability and economic progress depend on it. To achieve this goal, both sides must deal with some unpleasant facts. There must also be certain concessions that may cause suffering to one group while benefiting the other. Consequently, a common purpose for the future with consideration towards Israelis as well as Palestinians is necessary in which they can coexist closely harmoniously and with honour. The only way to achieve this is through real conversations where everyone listens; then there is mutual comprehension as well as readiness for living together in peace.