

Israel–Palestine Conflict: Historical Roots and the 2023 Gaza War

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Abstract

International Environment presently is marked by various conflicts of varied nature of these one of the most complicated conflicts in contemporary international relations is the Israel–Palestine conflict. It all started in the late 1800s and early 1900s when two competing national movements Zionism and Arab Palestinian nationalism appeared in the Palestinian territory. After Israel was established and there were considerable discord among Israel and its Arab neighbors, the conflict grew more intense. The nature of this conflict is peculiar as asymmetric conflicts involving non-state entities most notably Hamas in the Gaza Strip replaced interstate conflicts over time. The paper explores the political changes during the British Mandate era, the significant Arab–Israeli wars that influenced regional geopolitics and the most recent escalation symbolized by the 2023 Gaza war through the retrospective analysis of the origins of the Israel–Palestine conflict. The paper also tries to examine why this strife has not resolved and if any viable solution to this conflict can be suggested to restore peace in the region.

Keywords: *Israel–Palestine conflict, Arab–Israeli wars, Gaza war 2023, Middle East politics, territorial dispute*

Introduction

The intricate interactions between ancient civilizations, religious customs and transitional political landscape that have defined the region over thousands of years are at the centre of the chronic relationship between Israel and Palestine. The region that used to be called Palestine is now in the eastern Mediterranean. Its strategic location at the junction of Asia, Africa and Europe makes it an important centre for trade, migration and imperial goals. Over the years, many empires have ruled it and left behind layers of political and cultural legacies. These empires include the Egyptians, Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines and Ottomans. The area is crucial to the three main monotheistic religions like Islam, Christianity and Judaism. Jews think of it as their original homeland and the place of the old kingdoms of Israel and Judah. Christians claimed that this is the place where Jesus Christ lived and preached. Muslims consider it the third holiest city in Islam because it has holy sites like the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. This overlapping religious significance has had an impact on both spiritual veneration and ongoing conflict.

Over the time, the Israel–Palestine dispute became one of the most important and divisive issues in world politics. For almost a hundred years, the area had seen cycles of violence, conflict and diplomatic talks. The problem is not only a geographical one but also one of conflicting historical accounts, national identities and religious significance. The World has also been monitoring closely on Israel–Palestine conflict after the 1800s and finally in 1948 Israel came into existence with the declaration of UN General Assembly which proclaimed for two nations i.e. Israel and Palestine but unfortunately Palestine still today has not recognised as nation by many nations. (Szydzisz, 2016: 147). Many people think of the war between Israel and the so-called Palestinian Authority (PA) as

just a fight between two rival nationalisms or even between two states or one state and a quasi-state that are thought of as two almost equal entities which is not at all correct. In the last few decades, the war has involved a state and a para- or quasi-state like the PA or the Palestine Liberation Organization. There have traditionally been two nationalisms fighting for power. This was a fight between David and Goliath ¹ not a fight between equals. (Khalidi, 2014:317).

Historical Background of Israel and Palestine

The territory has been influenced for about thousands of years by ancient civilizations, religious customs and political changes all of which have a deep impression on the historical relationship between Israel and Palestine. The region which is known as Palestine is located in the eastern Mediterranean and has seen many empires, civilizations and faiths. This place is very significant for Abrahamic faiths like Judaism, Christianity and Islam as its geopolitical location. That's why Zionists begin their argument for a Jewish national home in Palestine by talking about the Jewish kingdoms that were there in biblical times. As stated in the Bible and archaeological evidence Jews invaded and settled in Palestine which the Bible calls the region of Canaan in the thirteenth century BCE. Prior to Christian era Moses gave the Israelites a way to run their government and then he led them from Egypt to the borders of their country. Then under Joshua's leadership they started a long military battle slowly taking over the area and making it their own.

By the era of Judges in the twelfth century BCE, the Jews settled themselves in ancient Palestine and controlled a large belt of land on each side of the Jordan River. The hub of Hebrew life was growing in the first century of the Christian era (CE) before the expulsion of Jews from the region which was committed by the Romans. The belief of Jewish people's is rooted in both their national history and promise of God that they would revisit to Eretz Yisrael which is considered as the ancient land of Israel by the Jews community. Classical religious Zionism has filled the hopes and prayers within Jews of believing that since the destruction of the Second Jewish Temple in Jerusalem done by the Romans and expelled the Jews from the nation was based on the idea that restoration of Israel was a part of God's plan. According to a contemporary Zionist, "The Jewish people have never stop to declare its right on the Land of Israel." The persistent, unrelenting demand which was a fundamental component of Jewish consciousness lies at the centre of Jewish history. (Tessler, 2020:63)

Palestinians on the other hand mentioned that they are the nation's indigenous people and their superior political rights to the land stem at least in part from their continuous residency in the disputed area. They claimed that they were descendants of the Canaanites and the Philistines who were the first people to live in the area and gave it its biblical name. People stated that the Canaanites came to the area around 3000 BCE because of this Palestinians declared that they own the country not the Jews. They argued that Jews could not suddenly show up again after being absent for almost two thousand years and convince the people who have lived in Palestine for all that time that the Jews were the rightful owners of the country, no matter what happened to them during and after biblical times or what they believed "in exile" after the biblical period was criticised by the Palestinians. Israel and Palestine both claimed they own these areas by giving their arguments. (Tessler, 2020:63).

The Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry was set up in 1946 before Israel became independent to look into the growing violence between Arabs and Jews in Palestine. The whole Arab world strongly condemned the effort to force Jewish immigration and settlement on the Arab world along with the eventual creation of a Jewish state in Palestine. The Arabs of Palestine were descended from the indigenous people who have lived there since the very beginning. They did not agree that it was right to force an indigenous population to accept foreign immigrants whose claim was based on a historical connection that effectively ended many centuries ago. (Tessler, 2020:64).

There are two prevalent misconceptions about the Israel Palestine conflict the first of these two myths shows that Arabs in Palestine who are against Zionism are doing so because they hate Jews because of their race. This is wholly false. The Arabs' animosity toward Zionism is a political response to a political danger rather than a racial issue. The Arab world was the only region free from anti-Semitism before political Zionism emerged in 1917. They had no political ambitions and did not claim a unique national status regardless of the Muslim majority tolerated them and recognized them as an integral part of the indigenous population. In actuality, Jews who were persecuted and killed in Europe often sought safety in the Middle East (Atiyah, 1946: 340–346). The second misconception about the Palestine issue is that it is a dispute between two sections of the country's native population that results from internal circumstances and natural evolution. Again, this is false.

Palestine was an important part of the Arab world prior to being an entirely Arab nations. In reality, it was just the southern part of Syria and had never been a separate political unit. In the north and across the Arab world its residents were indistinguishable from their Arab counterparts within a small Jewish enclave. Just like Jewish communities across the Arab world there were no political problems or national disputes there. There were also a small group of Jews who had become fully Arabized. There were only about 10,000 immigrants from different parts of Europe but they didn't pose a political threat because they came to the country as individuals with no political goals or plans to claim a unique national identity. At that time there were 600,000 Arabs and less than 50,000 Jews living in Palestine. The population who lived there gave evidence that Palestine was clearly an Arab country. (Atiyah, 1946: 340-346). For about hundreds of year Palestine and the Arab countries were part of the Ottoman Empire but this area did not form a single government. The province of Beirut included the northern parts of Nablus and Acre. Istanbul which was the capital of the Ottoman Empire had direct control over the Jerusalem area because Jerusalem and Bethlehem were important religious sites for Muslims, Christians and Jews all over the world. The Zionist movement led the foundation of Israel-Palestine conflict which started with the fled of Jews to Jerusalem to avoid persecution for the reason that they saw it as their holy land. (Beinin and Hajjar, 2014: 2).

What is Zoinism?

After the 1800s Zionism emerged as a contemporary political movement. The main idea of Zionism was the promise in the Bible that was made to Abraham and his family that the Jewish people should have a home in the country of Israel. This meant that Zionism was a group of people who should have their own country not just because they share the same religion or ethnicity but because they are a community. Zionism started because of anti-Semitism in Europe. Theodor Herzl who is known as the person who started Zionism stated that Jews needed their own country to be safe from anti-Semitism so that they would be able to make their own decisions. Jews and others from around the world started to support the idea of a state after the Holocaust of Jews in Europe. By the end of the century many Jews were leaving Russia and Eastern Europe because of attacks and other forms of bad treatment which made the conflict worse. Many Jews moved to Palestine to try to create a homeland while many others went to America. Zionism was a movement that many Jews around the world supported. It focused on creating a holy land for the Jewish people in the land of Palestine that is why people supported Zionism. But less than 10% of Palestinians were Jewish by 1917 (USIP, n.d. 8). But when European countries captured the region because of their strong interest in it they adopted the policy of 'divide and rule' which made the conflict more intense. They wanted to control it because of its key positioning (the Suez Canal) with the aim to protect its imperial interests and economic wealth, obstruct other nations and due to Ottoman weakness like corrupt government, weak economy and inadequate military it was called as 'sick man of Europe'. That's why European power found very easy to capture the region and they got the opportunity.

World Power Contradictory Promises

During first world war due to Ottoman Empire alliance with Germany which turned Britain and France against it resulting in Ottoman Empire lost the First World War. At that time Britain entered when Hussein McMahon the British High Commissioner in Egypt during World War I attempted to incite an Arab revolt against the Ottoman Empire which ruled over a sizable portion of the Arab world. In exchange McMahon (Britishers) pledged that the British government would back the independence of Syria, Iraq, Palestine and Transjordan. Along with this one more pact was sealed i.e. the Sykes-Picot Agreement of 1916 which was a secret agreement between Britain and France to split sovereignty of the Ottoman Empire's Arab regions. The Balfour Declaration was another promise to the Zionists made in 1917 by British Foreign Minister Lord Arthur Balfour that promised the creation of a Jewish national home in Palestine. (United States Institute of Peace, 2014: 8). These European powers promises that were contradicted to each other which resulted in the collapse of the Ottoman Empire in 1918 and then the League of Nations took over the administration of the Ottoman Empire. Britain and France two members of the League wanted to control the former Ottoman territories like colonies which called this control as "mandates". France controlled over the Syria and Lebanon and formed a separate state. Britain got Iraq, Israel, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and Jordan (Beinin & Hajjar, 2014: 2).

But the war in Europe caused a lot of Jews to come to Israel at a large scale. Between 1920 and 1921 Jews and Arabs started fighting as a result the Jewish National Fund started buying land from Arabs who were not living there anymore and they also made many locals to leave their homes. This made things very violent. In 1928 Jews and Muslims in Jerusalem argued on the Western Wall which considered very significance in their religion. What started as a non-religious and non-nation conflict became much bigger and one problem led to another problem. Even small misunderstandings caused a lot of conflict among the people living there. Extremist groups on both sides made things worse when they took advantages of the misunderstandings and this burn the charcoal in the conflict. (Tilovska-Kechedji, 2018: 121).

In September 1929 the British sent the Shaw Commission to find out why there were clashes between Arabs and Jews in Palestine. In March 1930 the report stated that the Arabs were worried about the Jewish immigration, land purchasing and these worries were the reason for the violence. The British then set up another commission i.e. the Hope Simpson Enquiry in May 1930 which focused on that the land settlement, immigration and development was possible in the region and they checked if the land and economy could support people but the report stated that Jewish immigration should be limited and the Passfield White Paper publication also suggested that Jewish immigration should be restricted in the region. (Sarsar, 2022: 24). Britishers were trying to balance the needs of both communities so that they could live without fighting.

In 1933 Nazi came into power in Germany this restricted the entries of the Jews in many nations of the World including Britain (United States Institute of Peace, 2014: 8). In 1936 conflict erupted again which leads to the death of many Jews, Arabs and Britishers. To bring the solution of the conflict Britishers restricted Jewish emigration and purchasing of land in Palestine but these rules didn't work for the Palestinians (Sarsar, 2022: 23). In November 1936 British made Peel Commission to find out the reason of the conflict and this was the first time in history that any commission suggested the partition to solve the problem which was recommended in July 1937 but Arab denied it. The Woodhead Commission also formed to figure out the Peel Commission plan in 1938 and recommended that it would not work in practical because of the administrative, political problems and economic issues. On May 17, 1939 White paper released by the Britishers in which they rejected the partition and the creation of Israel as a state (Sarsar, 2012: 24)

During 1939 and 1945 around 12,000 Palestinians and 30,000 Jews including women from both sides joined the British Army to fight against the Nazis. This brought people together for a short time due to which war mostly stopped between the British, Jews and Arabs but there were exceptions like the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem Haj Amin Al Husseini who supported Germany against the British in which one-third of the Jewish population was eliminated due to Holocaust during World War II. It made people around the world pro-Jewish state sentiments and also made them think that the Jews needed a place to live where they could protect themselves from these Holocaust but some Arabs saw the Holocaust was a problem of the Europeans to solve since it happened in Europe and Palestinians didn't want to give up their land for something that other people did. When second world war ended Britishers was not able to handle the situation in Palestine between 1945-1948 and finally Britishers gave Palestine charge to United Nation (Sarsar, 2022: 25)

In 1947 United Nations made a commission which recommended United Nations the two-state solution and finally on November 29, 1947 UNGA passed Resolution 181 which created two state ie Israel and Palestine in which Jews got 56% land because more Jews were expected to move there in the future but Arabs opposed by claiming that Jews made only 31% (589,341) of the population at that time. The Jews formed Israel officially on May 14, 1948. Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq declared war against Israel because they wouldn't let them to set up a Jewish state on the Palestinian land. However, Israel defeated the Arabs because it had more soldiers and was better prepared and armed. As a result, 15,000 people were killed and Israel took over 78% of Palestinian land. Jordan took control of the West Bank and Egypt took over the Gaza Strip. In other words the state of Palestine was born dead because of fighting between Arab governments and other countries (USLU, KARATAŞ, 2020: 111). As a result, the western part of the city which was mostly Jewish populated became part of the Jewish State. The eastern part which included the Old City became part of Transjordan. (Szydzisz, 2016: 148).

The Arab governments mainly supported the Palestine cause because Palestinians lacked an independent country or strong leaders. This made Palestine very weak and divided. Israel however got stronger during this time. It focused on bringing in people from Europe and the Middle East building its government and making its military stronger. It still had many border fights with its Arab neighbors to protect themselves from these fights Israel kept making its country stronger. On the other side the idea of Arab nationalism became popular from 1948 to 1956 under the leadership of Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt. The main aim was to unite countries against Israel and Western influence to support the rights of Palestinians. Nasser became the leader of Arab nationalism after the 1952 Egyptian Revolution. The revolution viewed Israel as an imperialist invention and pledged to free Palestine.

The Second Arab- Israel war

In July 1956 the Suez Crisis took place which was also called the second Arab Israel war which involved Egypt, Israel, France and Great Britain. Israel, Britain and France were really feared of losing control over the canal and oil resources because Egypt nationalised Suez Canal, in reaction Britain and France launched air and sea attacks on Egypt. At the time Israel invaded the Sinai Peninsula but as a result of war Egypt emerged triumphant with the retained control of the Suez Canal. This made Nasser's leadership even more stronger. The United Nations helped to resolve the war and stopped Israel's advancement. There were also a lot of international pressure to end the war. As a result British and French soldiers left Egypt which was perceived as a neocolonial operation in the fight. As a result, radicalism increased. The Suez Crisis was an event for the United States which changed things in the area. (Gherardini, 2024: 1-24). The Palestinian movement was mostly controlled by Arab governments especially Egypt but with the creation of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) in Cairo in 1964 during the Arab League Summit brought a change in Palestine condition. The PLO's main goal was to free Palestine through armed warfare and was to bring

Palestinians against Israeli oppression which could represent Palestinians globally. It also gained a lot of influence in global politics and became a voice for the Palestinians (Gherardini, 2024: 1-24).

The Third Arab- Israel War (Six-Day War in 1967)

On June 5, 1967 the Six-Day War began which is also called the third Arab-Israel war. During the war Israel took control of the Golan Heights from Syria, the West Bank from Jordan and the Sinai and Gaza Strip from Egypt and won easily within six days. Israel's victory in this war changed the map in the region. The United Nations Security Council passed the Resolution 242 that found these occupations of Israel were unlawful (USLU, KARATAŞ, 2020: 111). As a result, the Green Line² lost its significance which gave Israel more control over the territories it had taken. During 1964 and 1967 again tensions started between Arabs and Israel and this was a time when Arab people witnessed Arab nationalism. This made things worse between Israel and Arab. The defeat of Arab states had undermined the mission of liberating Palestine and many Arabs lost its faith in Pan- Arab unity and switch from Arab nationalism to Palestinian nationalism for resolving the Palestine question. This was from where the PLO primarily represented the Palestine cause.

The main goal of the PLO was to destroy Israel and that's the reason it changed its charter in 1968. The PLO was controlled by Yasser Arafat and his group called the Fatah Organization. Palestinian fighters were using Jordan to attack Israel. This caused tension between the Jordan government and the PLO. In 1970, King Hussein of Jordan gave order to army to remove the fighters from Jordan. This fight was called the Black September which turned into bloodshed in which many Palestinians died. In the end, the leaders of the PLO had to move their office from Jordan to Lebanon.

The Fourth Arab- Israel War (Yom Kippur War in 1973)

The Yom Kippur war started from 6 to 25 October, 1973 and also known by the various names like Arab-Israel War, the fourth Arab war, the October war or the Ramadan war. It was started by the Arab states like Egypt and Syria with a surprise attack on Israel during the holy day of Yom Kippur which was celebrated on the same day of the tenth day of Ramadan. This war was a reaction of the Arabs to regain its territories which was controlled by Israel in 1967 war. Israel also launched a counterattack and control many lands despite initial victory. Losing in the war Arabs felt humiliated. But on the other side PLO was acknowledged as the representatives of the Palestinian people by the Arab League in 1974 (Gherardini, 2024: 1-24). The status of PLO changed internationally when UN also recognised it in the same year and as a result Yasser Arafat the leader PLO got an opportunity to speak before UNGA which meant that the whole world was starting to accept the Palestinian cause. Thereafter getting Palestine representative many diplomatic efforts started to solve the conflict between Israel and Palestine but not got any solution whereas the Arab nations condemned these diplomatic efforts. But in 1976 Israel occupied thousands of hectare Palestine land in 1976 to build Jewish town. To show its aggression Palestine planned strikes and demonstrations all over the nation. But after two years in 1978 a ray of hope came to be seen when Egypt and Israel started peace negotiations with the help of US President Jimmy Carter resulting in signing of Camp David Accords on September 17, 1978 which was signed between the President of Egypt Anwar Sadat and the Prime Minister of Israel Menachem Begin. With the signing of Accord Sinai Peninsula was given back to Egypt from where it belonged and Israeli ships were allowed to use Suez Canal. (Gherardini, 2024; 1-24). This move of Egypt criticised by many Arab nations, viewed it as a betrayal of the Palestinian cause and a violation of United Arab solidarity against Israel. As a result Egypt expelled from the Arab league and most Arab countries cut diplomatic ties.

The Fifth Arab- Israel war (Israel and Lebanon war in 1982)

The Palestine Liberation Organization was operating from Lebanon Israel launched the Lebanon War in 1982 to drive it out. Yasser Arafat's PLO leadership had to flee from Lebanon and move to Tunis. Israel occupied southern Lebanon. This incident made Palestine issue more important in worldwide and after this peace talks were started between Israel and Palestine. For this Arafat travel with Israeli leaders but it was not liked by some hardline Palestinians but nothing came out from these talks which resulted in PLO's internal conflict and some of its moderate leaders were killed. A big event happened during the Intifada from 1987 to 1991 which showed the struggles of the people through peaceful protests like boycotts, strikes and demonstrations against Israeli forces. The Palestinian people wanted their country, freedom and control over their economy and politics. This protest helped a group called HAMAS to form which has its roots in the Muslim Brotherhoods Palestinian branch and became a major political and military force. (Gherardini, 2024:1-24).

The Palestinian issue was getting a lot of attention from people around the world. This meant that Israel was under a lot of pressure to talk to the side. Around the time the Palestinian issue was getting a lot of attention and a group called Hamas was formed in Gaza during the Intifada. There were two groups of Palestinians first one is Hamas which was a strong opponent of Israel and second one is Fatah which was a part of the PLO and PLO wanted to negotiate with Israel. The Palestinian issue and the protests led to some meetings like the Madrid Conference in 1991, the Oslo Accords in 1993. The Oslo Accords and the Madrid Conference tried to find a way to solve the problem between Israel and the Palestinians. (Gherardini, 2024:1-24). The PLO accepted Israel and Israel acknowledged the PLO and accepted it as the real voice of Palestine. Resulting, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin gave the Nobel Peace Prize to Yasser Arafat in 1994. This deal made right-wing in Israel and groups in Palestine such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Hamas considered this deal would mean Palestinians right to return back to the land where they came from. Two years after the deal made in 1995 Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was killed by a right-wing Jewish extremist because of Oslo Accord.

This meant that the agreement was in limbo (Gautam, 2023:182). Again the two nations reunited in Camp David in 2000. At this conference, no particular agreement was signed. From 2000 to 2005 the violence resumed due to Israeli President Ehud Barak's visit to the Temple Mount with a thousand soldiers which led to the onset of forceful expulsion which persisted until 2005 (Dr. Gautam, 2023:182). In 2005 the Palestinian House was divided after the election between the Mahmoud Abbas-led Fatah faction and Hamas which would control the legislature. Hamas were maintaining government over the Gaza Strip since the separation in 2007. The Gaza Strip is one of the world's most densely inhabited regions and is experiencing a severe, man-made socio-economic crisis and also called 'open air prison'³. (Lovatt, 2021:11). Mahmoud Abbas the president of the Palestinian Authority created a new cabinet in Ramallah (West Bank) which was promptly approved by the US and the EU. Gaza remained under the control of Hamas. The Gaza War (2008–2009) (campaign Cast Lead) was a massive military campaign that Israel initiated in Gaza in 2008–2009. Stopping rocket fire into southern Israel by Hamas and other armed groups was the stated goal. Strong worldwide condemnation resulted from the conflict's extensive destruction and high death toll in Gaza. Hostilities persisted despite brief ceasefires. Again, following an upsurge in rocket firing from Gaza and Israel launched Operation 'Pillar of Defense' against Hamas in 2012 sparking another round of combat. A truce mediated by Egypt put a stop to the roughly eight-day battle. Palestine took a new turn in 2012 when it was granted the UN status of "non-member observer state."

Conflicts erupted once again when Israel apprehended a large number of Hamas members in 2014 after three Jewish teens were kidnapped and killed in the West Bank. In response militants in Gaza launched missiles and at last Conflicts led to a peace deal with Egypt's mediation. In 2014, Fatah and Hamas formed a joint government. In 2020 there was a big shift because of the Abraham Accords

which changed in the Middle East diplomacy. Israel restored its relations with some countries like Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates. Many Palestinians thought that this deal weakened Arab support for the Palestine cause.

Hammas and Israel war in October 2023

However recent events like the war in Israel and Gaza and the Hamas attack on October 7, 2023 have shown how much force is being used against people. This includes hitting buildings, hospitals and neighborhoods on purpose. The Israeli war on Gaza and Hamas strikes are examples of this. (Domi, Lata, 2025:72). Israel reacted strongly with its military in the Gaza Strip after Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, 2023. The conflict is a problem that comes from years of occupation, blockade and failed peace talks. There are also issues with identity. Israel wanted to remove Hamas and wanted to show its deterrence. Hamas wanted to change the situation and make itself important again. The war quickly became a humanitarian crisis with widespread civilian casualties and displacement, polarizing the world and exposing the limits of international diplomacy. As of 2026, with sporadic ceasefires, tensions and concerns about hostages and no real political solution. The conflict is still not fully concluded. In an effort to end the conflict the United States also established the Gaza Board of Peace which was engaged in negotiations and a twenty-point program both of which were unsuccessful. The problem between Israel and Hamas is still not fixed. On the other side West Asia become a zone of contention between Iran on the one side and US and Israel on the other and is facing a new war which began in February 28, 2026. The United States and Israel started this war with airstrikes which targeted Iranian military and nuclear infrastructure resulting in a assassination of the Supreme Leader of Iran Ali Khamenei. This war has sidelined the Palestine problem and shifted global attention from Israel and Hamas war to Iran- Israel, USA war.

It has not been resolved yet

The conflict between Israel and Palestine has been going on for a long time. It is really hard to solve this problem because there are many issues involved. One of the factors for this conflict is that both Israelis and Palestinians want control over the places like Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip which asserts historical and political rights over the same regions. Palestinians want an independent state based on this land nevertheless control a sizeable portion of Palestine land. It is very hard to negotiate when both the nations don't even agree on what the border is. Jerusalem is a sensitive topic because it is a holy city for Christians, Muslims and Jews. Palestinians want East Jerusalem to be the capital of their country. Israel wanted to control Jerusalem as its capital. This makes it very hard to find a compromise. The conflict between Israel and Palestine is also affected by what's happening in the rest of the world. Many countries have interests in this area and they support different groups which makes it hard to achieve peace. Israelis and Palestinians do not trust each other. There has been a lot of violence and fighting over the years. Each side is not sure if the other side really wants to make peace. Israel claimed that it cannot have peace until the terrorist attacks stop completely. Many leaders have tried to solve this problem. Some of them like the Prime Minister of Israel Rabin a Nobel laureate was killed due to 1993 OSLO Accord where he tried to negotiate this agreement in secret in Norway and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1994. The Israel and Palestine conflict has continued and it is not been solved so far. A religious fanatic saw the OSLO Accords as a betrayal and killed Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in 1995. There are two main governing bodies in Palestine. A portion of the West Bank is governed by the Palestinian Authority and Gaza is under the hands of Fatah. It is challenging for Palestinians to demonstrate a cohesive leadership in peace talks due to this internal political split. The United States created a 20-point plan following the dispute on October 7, 2023 but it is still unsuccessful. The Board of Peace is still working to find a solution to this conflict but couldn't achieve success.

SOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT

A hybrid shared-sovereignty model in which Israel and a sovereign Palestine coexist with clearly defined borders but collaborate through robust joint institutions for security, water, trade and infrastructure ensuring mutual dependence rather than rivalry would be the most effective way to settle the Israel-Palestine conflict. With the aim of ensuring neutrality Jerusalem should be made an internationally protected shared capital with parity of access for all religions supervised with little assistance from the UN. In the hope to achieve a stable and long-lasting peace this political framework must be combined with economic integration (joint development zones) gradual demilitarization with shared security mechanisms and above all a long-term reconciliation process where both sides acknowledge historical suffering and create a shared narrative. This is because only when justice, security and mutual recognition are addressed together then only a stable and lasting peace emerge.

The actors will not be operating in a vacuum even though official Track 1 diplomacy⁴ is the predominant platform on which the discussions process will take place. In order to foster a peace process and maintain a long-lasting peace there are obviously gaps that Track 2 actors⁵ can fill independently in support of or in conjunction with Track 1. International players both official and informal should work to provide venues and forums that encourage discussion and idea sharing on peace and how to get it both inside and between the Israeli and Palestinian communities. (The Carter Center, 2003:11). The efforts should be made at international level to provide humanitarian aid to the people who are the victim of war and also take initiative for political mediation between these nations. And also work for the restoration of infrastructure and the establishment of favorable conditions for social stability and economic growth. This cannot be possible without global help. Along with this deployment of an international peacekeeping force can also support to resolve it. (Domi, Lata, 2025: 80)

To sum up, the history of Israel-Palestine relations reveals a protracted and deeply ingrained conflict shaped by colonial legacies, competing national identities, repeated wars and failed peace efforts. Each phase from early displacement and state formation to intifadas and recent escalations has intensified mistrust and hardened positions despite numerous negotiations, the fundamental issues of land, security, refugees and the status of Jerusalem remain unresolved, demonstrating that the conflict cannot be settled by force or short-term reconciliation but can be solved through constructive international intervention, infrastructure rebuilding, supporting rehabilitation and the creating conditions for economic development.

NOTES

1. Goliath is a giant warrior in the Bible who was defeated by David. In the context of Israel, "David vs. Goliath" symbolizes a smaller or weaker side overcoming a much stronger enemy.
2. It is the armistice line established in 1949 that serves as the de-facto border between the state of Israel and its neighbors specifically the territories that became the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.
3. Gaza is often called 'Open air prison' because of long term blockade imposed by the Israel and Egypt since 2007 that restricts the movement of over 2 million residents, goods and essential services.
4. Track 1 diplomacy refers to official, government-to-government negotiations conducted by authorized representatives such as diplomats, ministers, or heads of state. It involves formal discussions, treaties, and agreements between countries to resolve conflicts, manage relations, or promote cooperation.

5. Track 2 diplomacy refers to informal, non-official dialogue between non-government actors such as academics, experts, NGOs, or former officials. It aims to build trust, generate ideas, and ease tensions between countries, often supporting or preparing the ground for official (Track 1) diplomacy.

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