

Forum: United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

Issue #1: Measures to address the Arab-Israeli territorial disputes

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Introduction

Britain seized Palestine in World War One after the abolition of the Ottoman Empire, leading to tensions between its Jewish and Arab populations. Subsequently, Jerusalem was designated as an international city when Palestine was divided into Jewish and Arab governments in 1947, but the Arab side rejected the proposition. Bordering Arab nations' troops invaded in 1948, leading to the Al Nakba, or the "Catastrophe," which saw hundreds of thousands of Palestinians flee or be driven from their homes. Israel had authority of the

majority of the area by the time the conflict came to an end in a truce the following year. Israel also went on to seize control of East Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Syrian Golan Heights, Gaza, and the Egyptian Sinai Peninsula during a second war in 1967. In short, the Arab-Israeli conflict is one of the most complex and protracted conflicts in modern history, with roots stretching back over a century. The conflict has been characterized by a series of wars, border disputes, and acts of terrorism, and has caused immense suffering for both Israelis and Palestinians. Despite numerous attempts to resolve the conflict, including peace initiatives and negotiations, a final settlement has yet to be reached. The issue is highly contentious and has far-reaching implications for the Middle East and the wider international community. The following will provide an overview of the key historical events, actors, and current challenges related to the Arab-Israeli conflict, as well as possible avenues for member states to achieve a peaceful resolution in this committee.

Definition of Key Terms

Balfour Declaration: Declaration made by the British government that established a homeland for the Jewish People in Palestine during World War I.

British Mandate of Palestine(Mandatory Palestine): The name of the region that encompassed modern day Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza Strip when Britain was in control of it.

West Bank: The West Bank is a landlocked territory near the coast of the Mediterranean in Western Asia that forms the main bulk of the Palestinian territories.

Gaza Strip: Palestinian Exclave on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea.

Zionism: Nationalist movement that believes that the area where Palestine is located belongs to the Jewish people since it is the 'Land of Israel'.

Sinai Peninsula: Desert region between the Red Sea and the Mediterranean

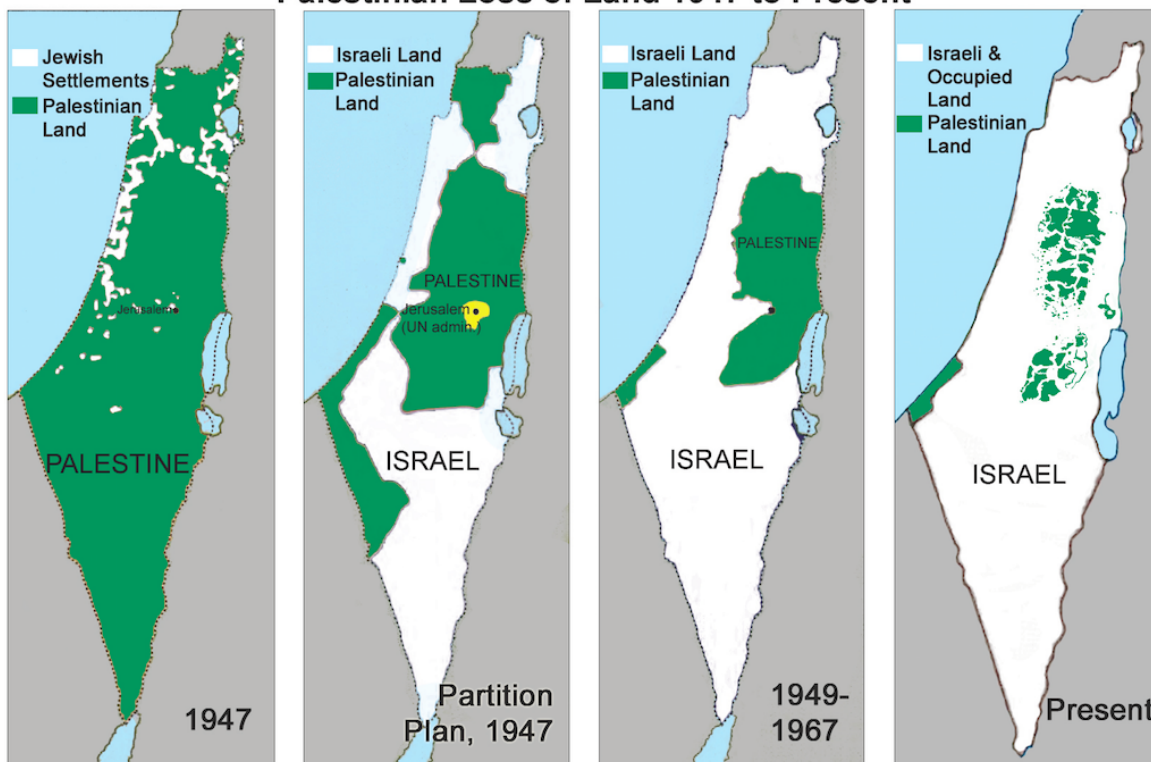
Sea.

Suez Canal Company: company formed by Ferdinand de Lesseps in 1858 to operate the concession of the Suez Canal, which the company built between 1859 and 1869.

OPEC: OPEC is a permanent intergovernmental organization of 13 oil-exporting developing nations that coordinates and unifies the petroleum policies of its Member Countries.

General Overview

Palestinian Loss of Land 1947 to Present



Historical Context Prior to World War 1

Territory considered by the Jewish people as historically theirs is also considered by the Pan-Arab movement as belonging to them. These are the roots of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and it dates back to the 19th century. The Ottoman Empire ruled the Middle East, including Palestine, for over 400 years prior to World War I. During the last years of their empire, the Ottomans began to promote their Turkish ethnic identity, claiming the superiority of Turks inside the empire, resulting in discrimination against the Arabs. During World War I, many Jews, and Arabs sided with the allies because of the prospect of freedom from the Ottoman Empire, which sparked the rise of Arab nationalism. Jewish communities from Europe and the Middle East started moving to Palestine in greater numbers in the late 19th century, where they bought land from the Ottoman landowners in the area. During World War I, Sir Henry McMahon, the British High Commissioner in Egypt, secretly corresponded with Husayn ibn 'Ali, the patriarch of the Hashemite family and Ottoman governor of Mecca and Medina. Husayn was persuaded by McMahon to lead an Arab uprising against the Ottoman Empire, which was fighting alongside Germany against Britain and France. Husayn's son Faysal successfully led the Arab rebellion against the Ottomans, which resulted in the British assuming control of a large portion of this region.

Balfour Declaration and British Mandate of Palestine

Palestine was taken over by Britain in 1917. The British government issued the Balfour Declaration, which stated that the government viewed favorably “the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people” but “that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine”. The Declaration was made because prominent government figures, including Prime Minister David Lloyd George, believed that Jewish support was necessary to win the war; yet, the announcement greatly alarmed the Arab world. Following the war, the region

was governed by the British as the British Mandate of Palestine. This region includes what is today Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. Following World War I tensions between the Jewish people and the Arabs escalated due to increased influx of Jews into Mandatory Palestine caused by various events such as the Franco-Syrian War and World War II. These tensions led to violent uprisings and riots by both sides of the conflict.

Partition of Palestine

After multiple diplomatic failures to solve the issue, the British turned to the newly founded United Nations for assistance. On May 15, 1947, the General Assembly established the UNSCOP, a body composed of members from eleven governments. None of the Great Powers were represented on the committee to keep it impartial. On September 3, 1947, the Committee reported to the General Assembly after five weeks of in-country research. The Report included both a majority and minority plan. The majority favored a Partition Plan with the Economic Union. The Independent State of Palestine was suggested by the minority. The Plan of Partition with the Economic Union was the one suggested for acceptance and execution in Resolution 181(II) of November 29, 1947, with only minor changes. The Resolution was passed by a vote of 33 to 13, with 10 abstentions. The six Arab UN member states voted against it.

First Arab-Israeli War

The Jewish People's Council assembled in the Tel Aviv Museum on May 14, 1948, the day the British Mandate over Palestine expired, and passed a declaration declaring the foundation of a Jewish state in Eretz Israel, to be known as the State of Israel. The World Zionist Organization's Executive Director, David Ben-Gurion, issued the announcement. The next day Egypt, Syria, Jordan,

Lebanon, and Iraq invaded Israel to support the Palestinian cause, this commenced the war. By December 1948, Israel had taken control of the vast majority of Mandate Palestine west of the Jordan River. Numerous Palestinians fled from what is now Israel in reaction to killings of Arab communities carried out by violent Jewish organizations such as the Irgun and the Lehi. The signing of the 1949 Armistice Agreements between Israel and its Arab neighbors ended the war.

Suez Crisis

Egypt blocked the Straits of Tiran to Israeli ships and blockaded the Gulf of Aqaba in 1956, in violation of the 1888 Constantinople Convention. Several people claimed that this was a breach of the 1949 Armistice Accords. Egypt seized the Suez Canal Company on July 26, 1956, and closed the channel to Israeli ships. On October 29, 1956, Israel invaded the Sinai Peninsula with British and French military assistance. During the Suez Crisis, Israel seized control of the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula. The United States and the United Nations quickly put pressure on it to agree to a cease-fire. Israel agreed to leave Egyptian land. Egypt committed to allow free shipping in the region and to demilitarize the Sinai Peninsula.

The Six Day War

Jordan and Egypt signed a mutual defense treaty on May 30, 1967. Egypt activated Sinai battalions, crossed UN boundaries, and massed on Israel's southern border. Israel started an attack on Egypt on June 5. In a surprise strike, the Israeli Air Force (IAF) destroyed the majority of the Egyptian Air Force, then turned east to destroy the Jordanian, Syrian, and Iraqi air forces. This strike was critical to Israel's success in the Six-Day War. By the end of the war, Israel

controlled the Sinai Peninsula, Gaza, the West Bank (including East Jerusalem), the Shebaa farms, and the Golan Heights. The war's outcomes continue to have an impact on the region's geopolitics to this day.

Yom Kippur War

On Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish calendar, Syria and Egypt launched a surprise attack on Israel on October 6, 1973. The Israeli military was caught off surprise and unprepared, and it took about three days for them to completely mobilize. This prompted other Arab powers to deploy reinforcements to Egypt and Syria. Furthermore, these Arab countries decided to impose an oil embargo on industrial nations such as the United States, Japan, and Western European countries. These OPEC countries raised the price of oil fourfold and used it as a political weapon against Israel. The Yom Kippur War allowed for an indirect confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union. The USSR threatened military involvement after Israel had changed the tide of the battle. On the 25th of October the US secured a ceasefire.

Oslo Peace Talks

In the middle of 1993, Israeli and Palestinian leaders met in Oslo, Norway, for peace talks. As a consequence, Israel and the PLO signed the Oslo Accords, also known as the Declaration of Principles or Oslo I, in September 1993. In side letters, Israel acknowledged the PLO as the legal representation of the Palestinian people, while the PLO acknowledged Israel's right to exist and denounced terrorism, bloodshed, and its intention to destroy Israel. In 1995, the Oslo II agreement was reached, outlining the separation of the West Bank into Zones A, B, and C. Area A was completely under Palestinian civilian authority, and Palestinians were also in charge of internal security. The Oslo accords

continue to be significant papers in Israeli-Palestinian relations. Since then the conflict has still not been resolved, there has been violent acts from both sides as well as the announcement that Palestinians would no longer be bound by the land divisions of the Oslo Accords by the Palestinian president.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views



Israel

Israel is one of the main contenders of this dispute, as it mostly concerns what they believe is their territory and the subsequent multi-faceted conflicts that have arisen as a result. Its involvement traces back to 1948 when the government declared its independence after British occupation in the region had expired. In response, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, and other Arab States launched a military campaign to try and invade the territory and control it. Although Israel was able to fend off its Arab neighbors, there continued to be sporadic instances of violence, which continuously increased tensions. This especially increased when the Israeli government began building residences in the West Bank, which is considered to be occupied by the Palestinian Authorities

and is thus considered by them to be a violation of international law. Lastly, the Israeli government imposed a blockade on the Gaza Strip and has launched many air strikes and ground incursions into this region, which has been controlled by Hamas, a militant group, since 2007. This has, in turn, resulted in ongoing protests and many Palestinian civilian casualties, a humanitarian crisis which has been condemned internationally by member states in the United Nations.

Palestine

Palestine and militant groups associated with its government have taken a range of actions over the years in response to Israel's occupation of Palestinian Territories. In 1964, for example, they established The Palestinian Liberation Organization (later formally recognized by the Arab League in 1974), or PLO, a group which has carried numerous attacks on civilians in Israel . This has led to many countries including the United States designating it as a terrorist organization. The PLO went on to create the Hamas militant group in 1987, which invaded and took control of the Gaza Strip in 2007. This group has been famously responsible for rocket attacks on Israeli territory and has been involved in many armed conflicts with the Israeli government. Nevertheless, the nation has tried to pursue diplomatic efforts to resolve the conflict, such as attempting to be recognized as a state by the United Nations and trying to initiate peace negotiations with the Israeli government. These, however, were quickly halted because of ongoing violence in the West Bank and the Israeli settlements in this territory, the deliberation over the status of Jerusalem, and the rights that they have deliberated to be given to Palestinian refugees. This has subsequently led to boycotts and sanctions being imposed by Palestinian Authorities on Israeli goods and companies.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom's involvement in the Arab-Israeli conflict can be traced back to the early 20th century. After the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, the League of Nations granted the United Kingdom a mandate to govern Palestine at the end of the First World War. Over the course of the mandate period, tensions grew between the Jewish and Arab communities over issues such as land ownership and immigration. In 1947, the United Kingdom, unable to resolve the conflict, referred the issue to the United Nations, which voted to partition Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states. The decision sparked violence and led to the first Arab-Israeli War in 1948. The United Kingdom's involvement in the conflict has been characterized by its support of a two-state solution and its role in the ongoing peace negotiations. Today, the United Kingdom continues to engage with stakeholders in the region in an effort to promote a lasting and peaceful resolution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

France

Particularly in the 20th century, France has played a significant role in the Arab-Israeli conflict. At the time of its major colonial expansion prior to 1948, for example, France controlled territories in the Middle East which included Syria and Lebanon. It was during this time that efforts to oppose Zionism and Jewish immigration to Palestine were supported by the French government through close relations with Arab leaders. Nevertheless, when the United Nations was creating the Plan for Palestine in 1947, France was one of its key supporters, and promoted the development of a dual Jewish and Arab state. To further encourage stability in this region, the government also helped to create the European Union's Mediterranean policy in the 1960s and 1970s. Then, in the 1980s, a summit in Paris was hosted by President François Mitterrand so that Israeli Prime Minister Simon Peres and King Hussein of Jordan could create a

bilateral peace treaty between their respective nations. Despite these later efforts to foster peace in the area, however, the French government is responsible for significant sales in military hardware to Israel during the 1950s and 1960s, which included goods like Mirage fighter jets and tanks. This shifted, however, into providing weapons to Arab states like Iraq and Libya in the 1970s to strengthen their international relations. Their most recent involvement was a failed international conference in 2016, which aimed to try and find a solution between the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but did not lead to any concrete results.

Lebanon

Lebanon was one of the many Arab nations that fought against Israeli independence in 1948. Subsequently, Lebanon was used as a base of operations by many Palestinian militants in the 1960s and 1970s. One of these groups was the Palestine Liberation organization, who fought against the Israeli government in the 1978 and 1982 Lebanon Wars. Another month-long conflict ensued in 2006 between Israel and the Lebanese Shia militant group Hezbollah, which resulted in over a thousand people losing their lives. There have also been smaller-scale cross-border attacks and clashes along the Israel-Lebanon border as a result of the site being one of frequent tensions between the two nations. Lastly, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has had major implications for the Lebanese government and its citizens, as not only have many Palestinians fled to the nation in the light of recent civilian attacks by the Israeli government, but the increased number of Palestinian refugee camps have caused protests and other civilian demonstrations in Lebanon in support of the Palestinians and their cause which call for greater efforts from the government to aid their neighboring Arab state.

Egypt

Egypt has fought in multiple wars against the Israeli government, both in defense of Palestine and in its own right. For example, in 1948, Egypt was one of many Arab nations that tried to prevent Israel from being established as an independent state. They also fought in the 1956 Suez Crisis conflict and in the 1967 Six-Days War. The latter incident resulted in Egypt losing the Sinai Peninsula to the Israeli government. Despite this violent history, Egypt was the first Arab nation to sign a peace treaty with Israel in 1978, a process which was mediated by the United States. This involved Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula, a major step towards establishing peace in the region. However, because many Arab nations viewed this as a betrayal of the Palestinian cause, it was not universally accepted by Arab states. Nevertheless, Egypt continued to try and foster peace in the region by hosting peace negotiations between Israel and Palestine and brokering efforts to establish ceasefires between the Israeli government and militant groups like Hamas in the Gaza region. To try and bolster its relationship with Israel, Egypt has even increased cooperation on security issues with the nation and established economic ties. The nation has also taken a stricter stance on military groups in the Sinai Peninsula, launching a large military campaign against ISIS affiliated militants in the region, for example.

Iraq

As well as being part of the Arab League, who fought against the independence of Israel in 1948, Iraq has been one of the most vocal opponents of Israel as a whole, calling for the destruction of the nation. The Mukhabarat, the intelligence agency in Iraq, famously provided Palestinian militants that were hostile to Israel, such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) with training weapons, and other forms of support in the 1960s and 1970s. This included the execution of high-profile terrorist attacks on

Israeli targets, like in the 1972 Munich Olympics massacre. Furthermore, in an attempt to destabilize the international coalition against Iraq and involve Israel in the 1991 Gulf War, the Iraqi government launched Scud missiles aimed at the Israeli state. Although its parliament most recently banned all trade and cooperation with Israel in 2014, the ousting of Saddam Hussein's government as of 2003 has diminished its involvement in the Arab-Israeli conflict and has instead focused its efforts on rebuilding and re-stabilizing its own government, economy, and society.

United States

The United States has been a major mediator in the Arab-Israeli conflicts, specifically in providing both military and diplomatic support to Israel. For example, the American government was involved in the Camp David Accords between Israel and Egypt in 1978 and the Oslo Accords between Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1993. In an attempt to have Israel maintain military superiority in the area, the United States has also been a significant provider of military aid and has used its veto power within the United Nations Security Council to prevent resolutions that sanction Israel from being ratified and passed. Despite its support for Israel being condemned by several Arab countries, the US government has also sought to promote the creation of a two-state solution between the Palestinians and the Israelis so that both nations can coexist. Although it has received a lot of criticism for its involvement, the United States has also been welcomed by many nations to be a part of peace negotiations between warring nations in the Middle East.

Russia

The Soviet Union provided military support to many Arab nations during the Cold War to counterbalance Western support for Israel at the time. Specifically, the government provided advanced weaponry and training to Syria and Egypt during the 1960s and 1970s that allowed said nations to challenge the Israeli military. They even went on to support the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), both Palestinian liberation groups, by supplying them with funding and training. Most recently, Russia has tried to reassert its influence in the Middle East by backing the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, a key ally of Iran and Hezbollah that famously denounces Israel and its authority. Nevertheless, Russian President Vladimir Putin has also met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on several occasions to discuss regional issues and participate in peace negotiations. It's most major international initiative aimed to solve the conflict, however, was in 2017, when the government hosted a summit in Sochi that brought representatives from the Syrian government, Syrian opposition groups, and Palestinian authorities together to discuss a two-state solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict, thus further proving its complex web of alliances and relationships that reflect the ongoing geopolitical tensions it is a part of within Middle Eastern deliberations.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
1948-1949	Israel establishes its independence after British rule over the territory expires, and manages to fend off the Arab League from preventing its liberation. The conflict results in 6,373 Israeli deaths and 10,000 Arab deaths.
1951-1955	Palestinians in the Gaza Strip organize an insurgency, a conflict

which once again results in an Israeli victory in fending off the attackers. The conflict results in 967 Israeli deaths and 5,000 Palestinian deaths.

1956

The Israelis invaded and occupied the Sinai Peninsula until March 1956. However, this invasion is denounced by international superpowers, resulting in a political victory for the Egyptian participants in the conflict. The armed encounter resulted in 231 Israeli deaths and 3,000 Egyptian deaths.

1967

Israel captures and Occupies the Gaza Strip and takes the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt, the West Bank from Jordan, and the Golan Heights from Syria during the Six-Days War, which resulted in the deaths of 776 Israelis and 18,300 Arabs.

1967-1970

The War of Attrition ends with the continuity of the stalemate between both sides as they both proclaim victory over each other. Despite the 1,424 Israeli deaths and 5,000 Egyptian deaths, the Israeli government continued to control the Sinai Peninsula.

1971-1982

Israel was successful in quelling Palestinian insurgency in South Lebanon and maintaining control over their newly-gained territories.

1973

The governments of Egypt and Israel establish a peace treaty whereby the Sinai Peninsula is returned to the Egyptians in return for mutual international recognition. Nevertheless, these Camp David Accords were repulsed by many members of the Arab League and were subsequently not recognized. This resulted in the Yom

- Kippur War which claimed the lives of 2,688 Israeli and 19,000 Arab lives.
- 1978 The Israeli government managed to expel Palestinian Liberation Organization from Southern Lebanon after the First South Lebanon conflict.
- 1982 The First Lebanon War claimed the lives of 1,216 Israeli and 20,825 Arab lives. Although the Israelis won in tactical terms, the Syrians managed to get a political advantage over Israeli authorities. The Palestinian Liberation Organization is then completely expelled from Lebanon.
- 1985-2000 The Hezbollah group managed to make the Israelis surrender from Southern Lebanon.
- 1987-1993 The First Palestinian intifada takes place, which causes 200 Israeli and 1,162 Palestinian deaths. Israel reigns victorious and suppresses all uprisings.
- 1991 Iraq targets rockets on Israel to try and provoke Israeli retaliation. Nevertheless, this effort failed and resulted in a massive strategic Iraqi failure.
- 2000-2004 The Al-Aqsa Intifada causes the deaths of 1,100 Israeli and 4,907 Palestinian deaths in an attempt by the group to overthrow the government. Nevertheless, the Israeli government managed to suppress the uprising.

The Operation, Summer Rains, was a series of battles between Palestinian militants and the Israeli Defense Forces. The latter tried to suppress the firing of Qassam rockets from Gaza into Negev, and ended in the seizing of Hamas rocket fire into Israel.

2006

The Second Lebanon War ends in a stalemate as both sides claim victory, although Lebanese casualties were a lot greater at 1,954 deaths in comparison to the only 164 Israeli deaths.

2008-2009

The Israelis managed to win the Gaza War and only lost 14 lives. Meanwhile, the Palestinians lost 1,434 soldiers.

2012

In November 2012, the Israel Defense forces launched an eight-day campaign named Operation Pillar of Defense which began with the killing of the chief of the Gaza Military Wing in the Hamas group, Ahmed Jabari, followed by numerous airstrikes. Both sides claimed their victory over the other, but the Israelis lost only 6 lives whilst the Palestinians lost 158.

2014

The 2014 Israel-Gaza conflict, also known as Operation Protective Edge by the government of Israel, caused the deaths of 73 Israelis and 153 Palestinians in an attempt to attack the Gaza Strip after three Israeli teenagers were kidnapped and murdered in the West Bank by Hamas-affiliated Palestinian militants.

2021

A major outbreak of violence between the Israelis and the Palestinians began in early May 2021 and was marked by protests, police riot control, rocket attacks on Israel by Hamas, and Israeli airstrikes on the Gaza Strip. The protests began in East Jerusalem in

anticipation over the decision to evict six Palestinian Families from Israel by the Israeli Supreme court, and the violent demonstrations resulted in the triggering of the subsequent events. The conflict continues in the present day.

UN involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

Throughout the long history of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the UN has attempted on multiple occasions to resolve the conflict and to this day is still trying to bring a solution. A very early and vital attempt to resolve the issue was in 1947 with the introduction of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine, this committee introduced the Plan of Partition with the Economic Union also known as resolution 181. The resolution recommended the creation of independent Arab and Jewish States and a Special International Regime for the city of Jerusalem.

In 1948 the Arab-Israeli war broke out, the Armistice Agreements had to be signed in order to bring this conflict to a resolution. These agreements were signed between Israel and Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria, and they consisted of armistice lines that divided the territory between the Arab and Israeli states. These lines however were not permanent, and the agreement was violated on numerous occasions.

Another relevant establishment of an entity was the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) in 1956 during the Suez Crisis. Their job was to supervise the ceasefire and that forces from Israel, Britain, and France withdrew from Egypt. UNEF was vital to the resolution of the Suez Crisis.

In 1978, the United States brokered the Camp David Accords between Egypt and Israel. These accords gave the Sinai Peninsula back to Egypt, while the Gaza Strip remained under the control of Israel. These accords were based on UN resolution 242 which called for Israel to withdraw from territories occupied during the war and for a just solution to the refugee problem.

In 2003 the United States, the European Union, Russia, and the United Nations launched the Road Map for Peace. This road map sought to resolve the Israeli-Palestine conflict, however, it was not successful. The road map reached a deadlock since requirements for its first phase were not fulfilled. By the end of 2003 Palestinian terrorism had not been prevented and Israel had not withdrawn from Palestinian territories they occupied in 2000.

In 2016, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2334, which called on Israel to stop settlement activity in the occupied Palestinian territories. According to the motion, Israel's settlement activity is a "flagrant violation" of international law and has "no legal validity." It insists that Israel cease such action and meet its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention as an occupying authority.

Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

Despite their innovative efforts to solve the Arab-Israeli conflicts, the five main solutions throughout history that have attempted to resolve the issue failed because of a variety of multifarious and diversified variables that were not considered during their development. The first of these was the United Nations Partition Plan of 1947, implemented by the United Nations to divide the "Holy Land" into separate Jewish and Arab states following the end of the Second World War. Not only was this plan rejected by Arab countries and resulted in the eruption of violence, but it also did not take into consideration the desires of the Palestinians. Under this accord, for example, they would have had to give up a

significant portion of their land, an agreement that was not in their favor.

The next effort to promote peace in the Middle East came in 1978 with the Camp David Accords. This document was a significant deliberation that incited peace between Egypt and Israel and their ratification by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin (during which President Jimmy Carter of the United States acted as a mediator) marked the first peace treaty between an Arab nation and Israel in 1979. Nevertheless, it only addressed the ownership of the Sinai Peninsula, and failed to address the Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, thus ignoring a major source of tension in the wider Arab-Israeli conflict. This led many Arab nations to reject this agreement and see it as a betrayal by the Egyptians to the Arab League.

In 1993, another effort was made to foster collaboration between the Israeli government and the Palestinian Liberation Organization through the Oslo Accords of 1993. This agreement was meant to formally create Palestine as a state and end conflict between the Arabs and their Israeli counterparts. However, these efforts were derailed by violence, political instability, and disputes over the details of the agreement, which is why it was never ratified and explains why the stalemate and ongoing violence between both parties continues into the present day.

The Quartet on the Middle East, a group consisting of the United States, the European Union, the United Nations, and Russia tried to resume peace negotiations with a proposal aptly named The Roadmap for Peace in 2003. Nevertheless, this plan was never implemented and efforts to implement fizzled out because of the widely held belief that it was too vague and did not provide a clear path towards establishing peace in the region. Furthermore, the Hamas militant group affiliated with Palestine famously did not accept this plan and continued their attacks against Israeli civilians.

The most recent set of documents that attempt to mediate deliberations of

peace between the Arabs and the Israelis were the 2020 Abraham Accords, a trilateral agreement signed between Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain in 2020. This agreement established and encouraged diplomatic relations between the nations and was seen as a major step towards regional peace and stability. Although the development of this international collaboration incited hope within the Middle East, it does not do anything to address the underlying Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which includes the status of the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and the displacement of Palestinian refugees. It is also widely condemned by Palestinian authorities for ignoring the rights and aspirations of the Palestinian People.

In general, it seems as though all previous attempts to resolve the ongoing Arab-Israeli conflicts have not been able to maintain peace in the region, which is why this conflict remains unsolved. The continuous acts of violence from either parties towards each other has caused immense pain and suffering on both fronts nonetheless, which is why a comprehensive and multifaceted solution must be found in order to ensure the safety of future generations hoping to flourish in the Middle East.

Possible Solutions

A possible solution to this issue is one that the UN already tried to implement in the past. That is the two-state solution, which involves the creation of two independent states, one for Palestinians and one for Israelis. A measure could be taken so that both sides live peacefully while respecting the borders. Not only is this the most feasible solution, but it is one that most governments support and endorse. A similar solution is the one-state solution, as the name implies the territories would all fall under the same state. This means that Israeli and Palestinian people would be under the same democratic government, this would advocate for human rights, however the distrust between both sides needs to be considered for this solution. This is because of the numerous

attempts in the past to take more territory by both sides. A more controversial approach is the state minus approach; this approach lets the State of Palestine have its own government, institutions, and economy, but it would be heavily dependent on Israel for security and defense. Israel would maintain control over the borders and airspace of the Palestinian state, as well as strategic areas such as the Jordan Valley. This allows for a Palestinian state to exist while giving military power to Israel to ease safety concerns. The problem with this solution is that there would still be a power imbalance. There are a lot of approaches that could be taken to resolve this conflict, however all of them require the cooperation of both parties in order to achieve peace.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are 17 interconnected goals that all countries in the United Nations agreed upon as of 2015, during the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals held in Paris. The aim of these goals is to promote a more viable and imperishable future that mitigates all the current social issues that plague the world and their subsequent involvement in the deteriorating state of society today. The most pertinent to the Arab-Israeli conflict, however, is SDG 16, which aims to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and to build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels. The resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict to be done by member-states in this committee is a direct attempt to mitigate the human rights violations and perpetuation of violence, instability, and insecurity in the region, thus undermining sustainable development. Because the conflict has made it almost impossible to organize effective institutions, it has also hindered the development of these departments to promote economic, social, and cultural growth among the nations involved, things which could only be achieved in a stable and nurturing environment. In

short, finding an ethical and viable solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and all its respective variables are essential to achieve sustainable development, peace, and justice, not only in the region, but for all individuals seeking a life of dignity through the pursuit of SDG 16.

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Appendix

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