

Forum: United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

Issue: Measures to address the endangerment of the innocent in the Israel and Palestine conflict.

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(Ahituv, Netta. "How to Solve the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, According to Psychology Research." Haaretz.com, Haaretz, 14 Dec. 2019,

[https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2019-12-14/ty-article-magazine/.premium/how-to-solve-the-israeli-palestinian-conflict-according-to-psychology-research/0000017f-e728-dea7-adff-f7fb5a7d0000.](https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2019-12-14/ty-article-magazine/.premium/how-to-solve-the-israeli-palestinian-conflict-according-to-psychology-research/0000017f-e728-dea7-adff-f7fb5a7d0000))

Guiding Questions As You Read

How does the Israeli and Palestine war affect the amount of refugees that arrive to your country, if so?

How could both religions find a proper solution? What would be your country's idea?

Where is the conflict happening? What territory is being fought?

Introduction

Key Terms

Jews
Arabs
Middle East
Gaza Strip

The Israeli and Palestine war is based on both, religious and territorial disputes between the known religious groups. Since the signing of the Treaty of Versailles, which gave Britain and France mandates to control several countries in the Middle East, there has been a dispute between two groups, the Zionist **Jews** against the **Arabs**. In 1920, Britain was responsible for controlling one side of the **Middle East** while France was responsible for the other, in order to restore peace on the Earth after the deadly first world war. However, as we know nowadays, Britain isn't present in the Middle East anymore, being responsible for this 100-year-long war between Israel and Palestine. Brawls have occurred thanks to the proclamation of Independence of Israel, in an area that the **Arabs** from Palestine, stated was their territory, generating the first fight for territory. Currently, the main dispute is in the **Gaza Strip**. The Gaza Strip is a small territory located in the Eastern Area of Israel. The issue is that Palestinians occupy

that area while Israel is trying to take that territory from them on a fear that if Gaza is under Palestinian control, Israeli neighboring towns could potentially be attacked. As expected, this war generates years of innocent deaths. According to the UNOCHA (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), 6298 people have died in this territorial dispute, 6,030 of them being all Palestinian and 268 Israeli. Not only have there been deaths but there is an estimate of around 143 thousand injuries, mostly being Palestine affected by the tear gas exploded by policemen and military. Several attempts to find a solution to this issue have been made but aren't successful as both groups never get into an agreement as both want the same land, but only one can have it.



Retrieved From:

<https://www.eccpalestine.org/position-paper-on-eu-policy-for-the-gaza-strip/>

Comprehension Question(s): Why is it important that countries implement protocols to prevent more innocent deaths? What are negative effects that this issue might have on different branches of your country, (ie: economy, refugees, etc)?

Definition of Key Terms

Gaza (Strip): A piece of land along the Mediterranean Sea, near the Sinai Peninsula. Very distinct due to its high population density, yet does not belong to a specific country. (<https://www.britannica.com/place/Gaza-Strip>)

Jerusalem: A very religiously significant (due to its appearance as *the* holy city in many religious preachings, which sometimes claim sovereignty) city in the Middle East, currently under the authority of Israel. (<https://www.britannica.com/place/Jerusalem>)

West Bank: An area of Palestine, west of the Jordan River, that was governed by the British in the past. (<https://www.britannica.com/place/West-Bank>)

Border(s): A line/restricted area that separates two countries (Merriam-Webster Definitions). (<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/border>)

Hamas: A Palestinian militant group. (<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Hamas>)

Militant: A person/group that is part of the war, and most likely supports an extreme viewpoint (Merriam-Webster Definitions)

General Overview

There are several reasons and conflicts that make this issue much more complex than what meets the eye. The dispute over the **Gaza** territory has its roots deeply engraved in the history of the countries that border it.

Beginning of The Conflict

After the Ottoman Empire, which ruled the **Gaza** section of the Middle East, was defeated in World War One, *British* Forces assumed control of Palestine. As the main control over the land, the international world tasked *Britain* with providing a home for Jews in Palestine, and tensions between the three states grew very rapidly. Because it was Jewish ancestors' land, they believed

Key Terms

Jewish
Arab
Palestine
Al-Nakba
Six-day-war
Refugees
International
Military/Militant
Compromise

Resea

they had a right to build their homes there, but Palestinian Arabs also claimed it and were opposed to welcoming the Israelis.

Fast Increase of the Jewish Population

Between the 1920s and 1940s, with several Jewish people seeking refuge from the tensions of the Second World War, the number of Jews arriving in the territory grew even faster than expected.

Resolution 181

In 1947, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly passed Resolution 181, calling for the division of the country of Palestine into both an Arab and Jewish country, leaving the city of **Jerusalem** as a separate city to be governed by an international organization. The plan was actually accepted by the international community but was rejected by the Arab side as they believed that they were being "invaded". This is due to their territory being divided with those who had never lived in the land before, they believed that the land was not rightfully theirs and they had intruded.

Al-Nakba

The *British* authority left in 1948, because they were unable to address the matter. Following, Jewish leaders declared the establishment of the state/country of Israel in Palestine lands. However, due to the already high tension and the previous conflicts, many Palestinians strongly disagreed with the creation of a state in their country. The result was a much larger conflict, involving the invasion of the military by other neighboring Arab countries. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were pushed out of their homes during the "Catastrophe," which they call **Al-Nakba**. This caused nearly 700,000 Palestinians to leave their homes as a cause of the conflict that quickly became a war. This created a refugee crisis that has still not been resolved (Beauchamp).

Unsurprisingly, Palestinians and Israelis seem to have completely different memories of the start of the Palestinian refugee issue. Palestinians frequently believe that there was an intentional Jewish attempt to remove Palestine (and the **Gaza** strip) of Arabs. On the other hand, Israelis blame spontaneous Arab immigration, other Arab armies, and/or unlucky military accidents. As a consequence of this specific event, there are more than 7 million Palestinian refugees (those who fled and their descendants) (Beauchamp).



(Farraj, Noor. "The Palestinian Nakba: What Happened in 1948 and Why It Still Matters." *Institute for Palestine Studies*, 1 Jan. 1970, <https://www.palestine-studies.org/en/node/1651256>.)

Six-Day-War

In 1967, Israel forcibly occupied **East Jerusalem** and the **West Bank**, as well as the majority of the Golan Heights (in Syria), **Gaza**, and the Sinai Peninsula (in Egypt), beginning another major conflict between the two main nations, this time involving more countries, dubbed the "**Six-day-war**". These countries are now home to the majority of Palestinian refugees and their descendants, but Israel has refused to allow

them to return to their homes, claiming that doing so would threaten Israel's existence as a Jewish state ("Arab-Israeli Wars.").

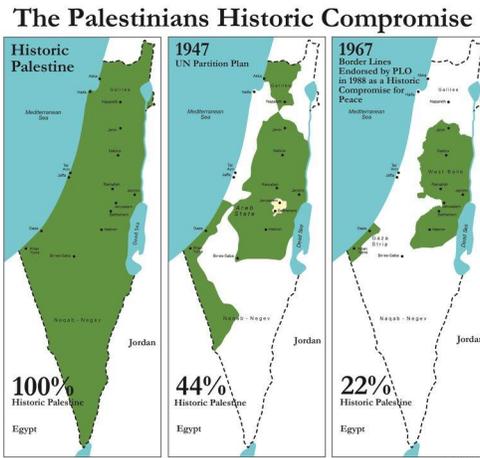
Current Situation

Currently, Israel is still in occupation of the West Bank and has currently been removed from **Gaza**. The country regards **Jerusalem** as its capital city and Palestine claims **East Jerusalem** as the capital of a future planned Palestinian state. Due to the very close distance between the two groups, the tension is often high in **East Jerusalem**, **Gaza**, and the **West Bank**. **Gaza** is presently governed by the Palestinian militant party, Hamas.

Meanwhile, Egypt and Israel manage **Gaza's** borders to prevent weapons from reaching **Hamas**. Palestinians in **Gaza** and the West Bank believe Israeli measures and restrictions are causing them pain. Israel claims it is just acting in self-defense against Palestinian violence ("Israel-Gaza Violence: The Conflict Explained.").

Current Conflict

Presently, the main problem with this conflict is that there are several conflicts the involved parties are not able to compromise on due to their different viewpoints. Those in charge are not willing to give up what they *want* in order to gain unified peace. These include: the issue of Palestinian refugees, the creation of states within countries, who should possess Jerusalem, and most tricky of all: what will happen to the millions of innocent people whose homes and lives were put in danger.



(Writer, Staff. "Mapping Apartheid: 6 Digital Initiatives Reclaiming the Palestinian Map.")

SceneArabia, 16 Mar. 2020,

[https://scenearabia.com/Life/Mapping-Apartheid-6-Digital-Initiatives-Reclaiming-the-Palestinian-Map?M=True.](https://scenearabia.com/Life/Mapping-Apartheid-6-Digital-Initiatives-Reclaiming-the-Palestinian-Map?M=True))

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

Palestine

Palestine and Israel share the spotlight of the disastrous war. From the Palestinian side, they have been affected in many aspects, being economically or to an extreme, socially. Since 2007, when Israel took over the Gaza Strip, Palestine's economy lost 16 billion dollars only relating to the loss of that territory. Consequently, Palestine was affected by the deterioration of its economy. In ten years (from 2007 to 2017), Palestinian poverty had risen 16%. All the way from those 10 years, the poverty line of Palestine went from 40% to 56%. Regarding the deaths, Palestine has lost around 6,000 people with this conflict. Another aspect that is also affected by this issue is the journalists that cover this dangerous war. In total, 19 journalists have been killed in the war. Out of the 19 deaths, 16 have been from Palestinian Journalists.

Israel

Israel's situation stands close to Palestine. Affected economically, socially, and specifically politically. From the 10th of May of 2021 up to the 21st of May, the battle with both countries was at its peak, where it was common for missile strikes to be bombarding cities in Israel and Palestine. Only on seven days, Israel lost around one billion shekels, which turns around \$368 million. Israel has also been affected by the battles between the wars. Around 268 people have already died from the brawl between countries, a smaller number compared to Palestine but extremely significant.

Egypt

Due to the proximity of the Egyptian territory to the Palestinian and Israeli territories, out of all Arab countries, Egypt has been one of the most involved. As Egypt and Palestine share the same religion and most customs, Egypt is of great support to Palestine. According to surveys made by the Doha Institute Organization, 15% of the Egyptian population support Israeli actions, while the other 85% of the population don't support the violation of human rights presented by the Israeli government. Not only that, but Egypt has made an estimated 500 million USD towards Palestinian aid. Egypt has also opened its crossings for Palestinians seeking medical aid around the Northern area of Egypt where it connects to Palestine. Although Egypt has shown support towards Palestine, there have been some moments where Egypt has abused their power toward Palestinian refugees. For example, on the 25th of September 2020, two fishermen were killed and one injured and detained when supposedly they were accused of trying to reach Egyptian waters.

European Union

Although being geographically far from the war, the European Union has made important but few actions toward supporting the innocent lives of those affected by the Israeli-Palestine war. The truth is that the EU is partly divided into two, some countries

support Israel, and some support Palestine. Due to that, it's tough to see any action from the EU as a group, however, some of its countries have been seen helping. When adding all aid given to mostly Palestinians since 1994, the number goes around the 10 billion euros mark.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event	Effects:
1941-1945: Holocaust	Due to the effect of the war, thousands of refugees fled Europe but wanted to establish a Jewish state in order to promote their religion. Israel was the chosen spot.	The population of Jews in Israel increased by a couple of hundred thousands.
1948-1949: Arab-Israeli war	The United Nations voted on a partition of the British mandate on the Middle East into an Arab state and a Jewish State, marking the first conflict between the countries. Several brawls between Jews attacking Arab towns and Arabs attacking Jewish towns, developed around the Middle East.	This first war shows how the hate between both has been seen before even countries were independent. The decision made by the United Nations votation led to fights between both religions as both felt unfairness as they wanted more territory than the other. This hate is carried until today after several decades, showing how important it is to solve this for once.

<p>1956: Suez Crisis</p>	<p>The battle of the Suez Crisis makes the Israelis invade Egypt's Sinai Peninsula after the targeting made by the elected Egyptian president, Gamal Abdel Nasser, which strongly supported Arab states. Being such, Israel is able to take three pivotal territories to ongoing conflicts, Gaza, Rafah and Al-Arish plus taking thousands of prisoners. British and French troops were also present during the Suez crisis, as the Suez Canal was taken care of and controlled by a French-British company until it was nationalized by Egypt's president. Thanks to the United Nations Emergency Force, Israel withdrew from the Suez Canal area.</p>	<p>This was the first official battle between Governmental organizations regarding attacks on territories and invasions of countries. Such a thing that even the UN had to take involvement to treat the case, which later on started again during the Six-Day War.</p>
<p>1967:Six-day war</p>	<p>The third battle between Israel and Arabs was due to a bombardment of Jewish villages. The bombardment</p>	<p>This battle demonstrated the force of the Israeli technology and strategic planning towards war-related issues. As of today, there is still superiority in</p>

was made by the Syrian Military. Unhappy with the situation, Israel rebutted Syria with the Israeli Air Force taking down six Syrian Air Force fighter jets. On the overlook, once again, Egyptian president Nasser, deployed military towards its borders with the Israeli territory. Egypt also signed a defense pact with Jordan which stated that both Arab countries would defend themselves from any Israeli attack. With the pact in mind, Israel attacked and staged an air assault against the Egyptian Air Force while it was on the ground, granting once again the victory for the Jews. This was named the Six-day war or the June war as it took place on six days of June.

technological advancement regarding warfare equipment.

1973:Yom
Kippur War

The fourth official battle recorded between Arabs ended with the diplomatic

Although Israel started defeated, the Israeli military took a major victory, being able to create proper strategic

relationship of Egypt and Israel. During a Jewish Holiday named Yom Kippur, Jordani and the Egyptian military invaded Israeli territory leaving Israeli territory heavily affected. Although heavily affected, the Israeli military makes its way through Jordan territory, encircling the Egyptian army that were left with no other option rather than surrender and leave the West bank area of the Suez canal for Israel. Later on, in May 1974, Israel finally signed a peace treaty with Egypt. Egypt would officially recognize Israel's independence and these countries would have their diplomatic relationships until the present day. (May 2022)

planning to attack Arab forces; Demonstrating once again its force of thinking ahead.

1982: Lebanon War	On June 5, 1982, Israel bombed Lebanon's capital, Beirut due to the rising tensions between the Israeli	This demonstrates the aggressive force of the Israeli military. Furthermore, the Lebanon War demonstrates the great hate
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Government and the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO). PLO had major strongholds in Beirut. The following day, Israeli forces invaded Lebanon up to getting to the outskirts of the capital. Israel withdrew its attack by total force in June 1985, taking three years to fully leave Lebanon's territory.

between both groups, Arabs, and Jews.

2006:
Second
Lebanon
War

In July 2006, the Palestinian political party and militia against the Israeli invasion group, Hezbohllah, killed a number of Israeli soldiers in form of pressure on Israel of realising Lebannese captures by Israeli Forces. Israel launched an offensive targeting Southern Lebanon to capture the several soldiers captured by the Hezbohllah. The war lasted 34 days leaving one thousand Lebanese dead and around one million

Although treaties are signed with other Arab countries, Israel has had major conflicts with other countries due to hate towards Israel. Israel isn't a victim though as they have also attacked several other countries due to its hate towards others. The Second Lebanon War demonstrates that to save a few and some territory, both, Arabs and Jews would do anything including killing thousands, to take the victory.

displaced.

UN involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties, and Events

Resolution 194

The United Nations (UN) has played a very vital role in the complex international diplomacy dispute between Israel and Palestine, especially through the creation and facilitation of conversations and treaties. However, many may argue that what it has done was not enough to help the innocent caught in the middle of the gunfight. By the end of 1948, the UN passed a resolution (Resolution 194) that established the right of refugees to return to their home countries and receive a recompense (whether monetary or social) for the damages (Tolsky, Molly).

UN Involvement

However, since the beginning of Israel's settlement, the UN was not part of the conversations happening at that time. UN peacekeepers were allowed insight into the Israeli-Egyptian border and the UN Refugee Works Agency was appointed to maintain a close relationship with the refugees as they returned home, nevertheless, there was little to no involvement of the UN in political decisions (Beauchamp). After the 1976 Israeli-Palestine war, the UN was even less involved in the conflicts occurring. The viewpoint of the UN changed quickly, and they regarded the Palestinians as refugees rather than a country whose people were invaded.

Resolution 242

Resolution 242 stated, "the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war and the need to work for a just and lasting peace in which every State in the area can live in security," which many believed was advocating and justifying the Israeli occupation. The resolution stated, "the withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict," a biased perspective largely affected by the United States' presence in the Security Council (Beauchamp).

Past International Action

As this has been a concerning issue for the past century, powerful countries have made attempts to deal with peace between both countries. On September 17, 1978, the first-ever treaty between an Israeli and any Arab state was signed. This treaty was called the Camp David Accords. Its name was given as this was signed in Camp David, Maryland, USA. Such a treaty was brokered by the at the time President of the United States, President Jimmy Carter. Israel's prime minister, Menachem Begin, and Egyptian president, Anwar Sadat were present to sign the treaty that would establish three main parts to the framework of Peace for the Middle East. The first goal was to achieve a Palestinian self Government in the West Bank and Gaza. The second objective was to create a framework of peace between Israel and Palestine. Finally, the last goal was to find a framework for peace between Israel and other Arab nations. Controversy arose after the signing of this treaty. It was so controversial that the signing of the Treaty led to the Egyptian president's death, killed by Islamic extremists.

Possible solutions

Most solutions for this issue have two main categories: one-state and two-state. A one-state solution is composed of one country where both Jews and Arabs would have the same rights and would live as citizens with equal rights. People who support this

solution generally believe that separating both parties would cause conflict and would be too hard, and setting borders would be far too complicated. In this solution, those that were harmed by the war, innocent people, would be forced to live among those that harmed them, which is why the solution received backlash from several people (Tolsky, Molly).

A two-state solution would simply consist of creating two states for two diverse peoples, Palestine and Israel. In this case, the Israel state would be constructed of a majority Jewish population and the Palestine state would be constructed of a Muslim Arab majority.

However, these are not the only solutions for this issue, especially because both of these solutions are not flexible and do not accommodate specific issues such as tensions that may arise between the populations and the homes of refugees and those that have been displaced due to the conflicts.

Another main issue to create a solution is addressing the Gaza Strip and Jerusalem, which have both been disputed by these peoples and is one of the main causes of the conflict. Addressing this specific area of the issue is very difficult as both regions are disputed due to religious purposes, something difficult to manage (Tolsky, Molly).

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)

This issue links to the “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions” goal as the Sustainable Development Goal aims to “promote all peaceful and inclusive society for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.” (United Nations) Having justice and peace around the Israel-Palestine borders is of major importance to those with threatened security. Furthermore, the conflict damages diplomatic relations between all Arab countries including Israel. By creating solutions to this issue peace and justice

would be recovered.

Appendix

Useful Links For Research

I. Links:

- A. <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/israel/palestine>
 - 1. The link above provides a general overview of the conflict presently, focusing on the views of both countries and the international views.
- B. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRYZiOuUnlU>
 - 1. A video that explains the conflict in Israel-Palestine in a general (throughout the years).
- C. www.heyalma.com/israel-guide/what-are-the-proposed-solutions-to-the-israeli-palestinian-conflict/&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1653340563150562&usg=AOvVaw0FJ3m54N6e6CdWTOsk8gbz
 - 1. Further explains some of the most feasible solutions for the issue and considers the cons of the solutions.
- D. <https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-44124396>
 - 1. Another overview on the topic, also includes more possible solutions and the main problems regarding both sides.

II. Tips

- A. **Make sure to keep an eye on the news!** This issue is rapidly developing, and although it has been occurring for a long time, new conflicts/resolutions may appear. It is recommended that you constantly check news sources that are **reliable** (The Guardian, BBC, New York Times, etc) to gather any new information that may pop up.

- B. **Make sure that you are prepared!** This issue is very controversial and packed with information, it is important that delegates are knowledgeable about the topic at hand. Keep a **binder** or an **online folder** where you can store any type of information.
- C. As mentioned before, make sure that you always **cite** your **reliable sources!** PANAMUN does not tolerate plagiarism and it is important to give credit where it is due.

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