

Research Article

Israel- Palestine Conflicts – An Overview

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Abstract: The Middle East is a region of rich cultural heritage yet is mired by several conflicts. Home to the origins of religions like Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, and several other minor religions. Encompassing most of what is referred to as the Arab world, it is a geopolitical hotspot. The conflict between Israel and Palestine, as seen in the declaration of the independence of Israel, has been as old as the history of independent India. The issue had many layers of conflict and sincere efforts to achieve a consensus and a peaceful settlement, especially in the last decade of the 20th century. The settlement of the war is essential for maintaining the peace and stability of the Middle East. The involvement of various international actors and the region's deep-rooted historical and religious significance further complicate the resolution process. The ongoing conflict not only affects the lives of those directly involved but also has broader implications for global security and stability. The major objectives of the present research paper are to study the Timeline of Major Israel-Palestine Conflicts and analyse the Spillover effects of the Israel-Ha war of 2023.

Keywords: Israel, Palestine, Middle East and Conflict

The Middle East is a region of rich cultural heritage yet is mired by several conflicts. Home to the origins of religions like Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, and several other minor religions. Encompassing most of what is referred to as the Arab world, it is a geopolitical hotspot. The Middle East comprises several ethnicities, topographies, languages, and several other intricacies, making for a robust study. Such a sophisticated and complex history also led to several hostilities there by the degradation of economic stability and political security and has created essentially a power vacuum, paving the path for the entry of major international powers in this region and adding further complexities to a pre-existing blend of enmities.

The conflict between Israel and Palestine, as seen in the declaration of the independence of Israel, has been as old as the history of independent India. The issue had many layers of conflict as well as sincere efforts to achieve a consensus and a peaceful settlement, especially in the last decade of the 20th century. Despite all such efforts, the conflict has never ceased to exist and instead has triggered the latest provocations in the region. The settlement of the war is essential for maintaining the peace and stability of the Middle East. The involvement of various international actors and the deep-rooted historical and religious significance of the region

further complicate the resolution process. The ongoing conflict not only affects the lives of those directly involved but also has broader implications for global security and stability.

There are a number of important tactics to bring about peace, but ending wars is a difficult and varied task. These include the following: disarmament and demilitarisation, cultural and social initiatives, economic development, education and awareness, building institutions, diplomacy and negotiation, international mediation, and education. International mediation involves impartial third parties, whereas diplomacy and negotiation use discussion and compromise to address the root causes of conflict. Stability is encouraged and conflict motivations are lessened by economic development. Public attitudes can be influenced, and support for conflict can decline, through education and awareness of the negative effects of war and the positive effects of peace. Creating robust institutions can aid in the peaceful resolution of disputes and keep them from turning into full-fledged wars. Humanitarian assistance and support reduce suffering and establish a foundation for efforts towards peace. By reducing the quantity of weapons and armed forces, demilitarisation lowers the likelihood of conflict and fosters trust. Cultural and social projects work to build mutual understanding and cross divides in order to promote cultural interchange.

Leaders can be persuaded to put peace before war by using a variety of tactics. These include grassroots movements, cultural and social initiatives, public advocacy, diplomatic engagement, economic incentives, education, international cooperation, recognition, and rewards. While diplomatic engagement can assist leaders in realising the advantages of peaceful negotiations, public advocacy has the power to sway decision-makers. Another strong argument for peace can come from financial incentives. Public opinion can be changed by educating people about the advantages and disadvantages of war, and more resources can be provided through international cooperation. Creating powerful grassroots movements has the power to unite people and promote harmony. Advocate groups, international law, transparency, sanctions, national legal system strengthening, truth and reconciliation commissions, international cooperation, and public pressure are some of the tools used to hold leaders responsible for their actions during conflicts. These techniques establish a strong accountability framework, discouraging similar transgressions in the future and guaranteeing victims' justice.

The study looks into the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with a particular emphasis on the UN peace plan. It uses qualitative research methods and an explanatory research design to comprehend the factors influencing the conflict and the parties' perspectives on peace. The study makes use of the zero-sum two-person game theory to analyse the participants' win-win or loss-loss mindset. Terrorist organisations have multiplied and violence and wars have escalated both globally and in the Middle East. The United Nations should reconsider its peace initiatives and devise a comprehensive plan that includes adequate implementation strategies and financial provisions to address settlement, Jerusalem's status, border, security, and refugee concerns (Norman and Lowe, 2023).

Objectives of the Present Study:

1. To study the Timeline of Major Israel-Palestine Conflicts
2. To analyse the Spillover effects of the Israel - Hamas war of 2023

Study of Methodology:

This study is qualitative in nature used a secondary method of data collection. Qualitative research is a type of social science research that collects and works with non-numerical data and that seeks to interpret meaning from these data that help understand social life through the

study of targeted populations or places. Basically, data collection was through secondary sources. The sources include textbooks, journal articles, government documents, periodicals, and internet materials. Data for analysis exist in qualitative form. We carried out the three complementary steps of qualitative data analysis i.e. data processing, data analysis and data interpretation.

Review of Literature:

According to historian Rashid Khalidi (2020), in his work "The Hundred Years War on Palestine" provides a powerful analysis of the current asymmetry in the conflict. Rashid Khalidi's settler-colonialist analysis of the Israeli-Palestinian issue highlights decades of bad faith negotiations by the US, Israel, and Britain as well as the numerous shortcomings of the Palestinian leadership that have brought us to this dire situation.

Jayant Prasad and S. Samuel C. Rajiv (2020), describes their contribution to "India and Israel: The Making of a Strategic Partnership", is a book by describes India and Israel's strategic partnership, forged in mutual complementarities, has evolved into a strategic partnership in 2017. The relationship has been steered forward despite challenges, with policymakers, military leaders, and academics contributing to its growth. The relationship has been influenced by Israel's increasing engagement with India's federal polity, the de-hyphenation of India-Israel ties from India's relationship with Palestine, and the role of US, non-state and sub-state actors.

According to Ussama Makdisi (2019), in his book "The Age of Coexistence" talks of a system, before the contemporary emergence of the ethno-nationalist aspiration. Palestine was the native land of what Makdisi refers to as the "ecumenical frame," an indigenous system of religious tolerance. This provides us with a valuable, practical tool to consider our future coexistence.

Given Dov Waxman (2019), "The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict" is a detailed account of origins of the conflict and the subsequent events shaping the region, the text presents a diverse array of Israeli and Palestinian viewpoints, demonstrating that there is no singular view of the conflict. The dynamic perspectives presented in this book are realistic in nature thereby creating a comprehensive understanding of the ground reality.

Timeline of Major Israel-Palestine Conflicts

1. 1948 Arab-Israeli War (November 1947 – July 1949):

Started was a Civil war between Jewish and Arab militaries. When the mandate period in Palestine was ending, but was eventually turned into a regular warfare after the establishment of Israel on May 14 1948 and the intervention of several neighbouring armies of Arab nations. The Second and Final Stage of this conflict was the 1948 Arab-Israeli War (also called the First Arab-Israeli War), which came after the civil war in Mandatory Palestine. With the Israeli Declaration of Independence on May 14, 1948, the British Mandate for Palestine ending at midnight, and the arrival of a military coalition of Arab states into the Mandatory Palestine on May 15, 1948, the civil war transformed as a war between distinct states. The series of Armistice Agreements with several neighbouring nations in the year 1949, established the Green Line, officially put an end to the war.

2. Palestinian Fedayeen (infiltrators) insurgency (1950s–1960s):

Palestinian infiltration attacks and reprisal operations carried out by the Israel Defence Forces were on the constant rise during the 1950s and 1960s. Israel and Palestinian militants primarily based in the Gaza Strip, were involved in the armed cross-border conflict known as the Palestinian Fedayeen insurgency. It peaked between 1949 and 1956 and was nominally

controlled by the All-Palestine Protectorate. An Egyptian declared Palestinian client-state that served as the hub of Palestinian fedayeen activity. The conflict witnessed 99 complaints from Israel regarding Palestinian infiltration both armed and civilian, along with 30 complaints of Jordanian armed infiltrators into the Israel territory. During the conflict, which petered out after the 1956 Suez War, hundreds of people died.

3. Suez Crisis (October 1956):

A military attack on Egypt by Britain, France, and Israel, also referred to as the Tripartite Aggression, with the objective of regaining control of the Suez Canal which was nationalised by the then President of Egypt, Gamal Abdel Nasser. Israel saw an opportunity to fortify its southern border and destabilise Egypt a state perceived by Israel as hostile and dangerous. Israel desired to reopen the Straits of Tiran, which led to the Gulf of Aqaba, to promote Israeli shipping and connectivity with the global economy.

The Israeli armed forces conducted Operation Kadesh for the capture of the Sinai Peninsula and to control the Suez Canal, which involved the heavy use of air superiority. The All-Palestine Government was forced into exile and the Gaza Strip was briefly occupied by Israel as a result of the 1956 Suez Crisis; however, Israeli withdrawal allowed the government to return.

The Palestinian national movement suffered when Egypt fully abandoned the All-Palestine Government in 1959 and allowed it to be formally merged into the United Arab Republic. The Gaza Strip became a de facto military occupation when it was placed under the command of the Egyptian military administrator. But Yasser Arafat founded a new organisation in 1964: the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). It received a seat in the Arab League and the backing of most of the governments in soon after.

4. Six-Day War (June 1967):

Poor relations between Israel and its Arab neighbours, who had been abiding by the 1949 Armistice Agreements signed at the end of the First Arab-Israeli War, led to the outbreak of military hostilities. Previously, in 1956, regional tensions over the Straits of Tiran intensified in what became known as the Suez Crisis.

Israel invaded Egypt because the Egyptian government had closed marine passageways to Israeli shipping. This invasion led to the reopening of the Straits of Tiran to Israel and the UN Emergency Force's (UNEF) deployment along the border between Egypt and Israel. Tensions dangerously escalated in the months before the Six-Day War broke out in June 1967.

Israel maintained its post-1956 stance that another Egyptian closure of the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping would undoubtedly constitute a casus belli. Gamal Abdel Nasser, the President of Egypt, declared in May 1967 that Israeli ships would once more not be allowed through the Straits of Tiran. He then ordered the immediate evacuation of every UNEF employee and organised the Egyptian military into defensive lines along the Israeli border. Israel had taken control of the Golan Heights in Syria, the West Bank that Jordan had annexed, the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt, and the Gaza Strip that Egypt had occupied at the end of hostilities. Long-term effects would follow the Six-Day War's forced relocation of civilian populations, which included between 280000 and 325000 Palestinians and 100,000 Syrians fleeing or being driven from the West Bank and the Golan Heights, respectively.

After Israel's victory, Nasser resigned in humiliation, but he was later restored after numerous demonstrations throughout Egypt. Egypt closed the Suez Canal after the war, which lasted until 1975. This had an impact on oil supplies to Europe via the Suez Canal, which ultimately caused the energy and oil crises of the 1970s and 1973. Israel and several of its Arab neighbours Egypt,

Jordan, and Syria fight the Six-Day War. Israel wins a decisive victory: it suffers seven hundred casualties; its adversaries suffer nearly twenty thousand. Israel emerges with control of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip—areas inhabited primarily by Palestinians—as well as all of East Jerusalem. Israel also takes control of Syria's Golan Heights and the Sinai Peninsula, which is part of Egypt. Israel will stay in the Sinai Peninsula until April 1982.

5. War of Attrition (1967–1970):

A limited war was fought between the Israeli military and forces of the Egyptian Republic, the USSR, Jordan, Syria, and the Palestine Liberation Organization from 1967 to 1970.

6. The Yom Kippur War (1973):

Another Arab-Israeli war, known by various names as the Yom Kippur War, the Ramadan War, and the October War, is fought when Egypt and Syria attempt to retake the Israeli-occupied Sinai Peninsula and Golan Heights. Cold War tensions spike as the Soviet Union aids Egypt and Syria and the United States aids Israel. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries begins an oil embargo on countries that support Israel, and the price of oil skyrockets. The fighting ends after an UN-sponsored cease-fire (negotiated by the United States and the Soviet Union) takes hold. The UN Security Council passed Resolution 338, which calls for implementing UN Security Council Resolution 242.

(The Resolution 242 calls for Israeli “withdrawal ... from territories occupied in the recent conflict” and for the termination of “states of belligerency and respect for and acknowledgement of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of every state in the area and the right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries.” The resolution establishes the concept of land for peace.)

7. First Intifada (1987–1993):

A Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation in the Palestinian Territories. An Israeli driver kills four Palestinians in a car accident that sparks the first intifada, or uprising, against Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza. The image of Palestinians throwing rocks at Israeli tanks becomes the enduring image of the intifada. Over the next six years, roughly 200 Israelis and 1,300 Palestinians are killed. A Palestinian cleric named Sheikh Ahmed Yassin established the militant group Hamas as an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood. Hamas endorses jihad as a way to regain territory for Muslims; the United States designated Hamas a foreign terrorist organization in 1997.

8. Second Intifada (2000–2005):

Another major uprising by Palestinians against Israeli occupation. Israeli politicians, including Ariel Sharon, a controversial retired Israeli general, visit the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif. The Palestinians view the visit as an effort to change the status quo at the holy site. The ensuing demonstrations turn violent, marking the beginning of a second intifada. It will last until 2005 and be markedly more violent than the first intifada. Four thousand Palestinians and one thousand Israelis die.

9. Operation Cast Lead:

The conflict in the Gaza Strip started in December 2008 and came to an end with a unilateral ceasefire in January 2009. Over 46,000 homes were destroyed, over 100,000 people were left homeless, and 1,166–1,417 Palestinians and 13 Israelis lost their lives as a result of the conflict. In November 2009, the IDF raided Deir al-Balah, central Gaza, killing several Hamas militants, ending a six-month ceasefire between Israel and Hamas. While Hamas saw the raid as a breach

of the ceasefire, Israel claimed it was a pre-emptive strike. There was no success in trying to extend the truce. Israel launched Operation Cast Lead on December 27 in an effort to halt rocket fire. The first round of airstrikes hit police stations, military installations, and political and administrative buildings in Khan Yunis, Rafah, and Gaza. In retaliation, Palestinian groups fired rockets. As per international law, the community at large views indiscriminate attacks on civilians and civilian structures as unlawful.

10. Operation Pillar of Defence:

Operation Pillar of Defence was an eight-day campaign in the Gaza Strip, which is governed by Hamas. It started on November 14, 2012, when an Israeli airstrike killed Ahmed Jabari, the head of Hamas's Gaza military wing. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict began with a series of mutual attacks, including the launch of over 100 rockets at Israel, an attack by Gaza militants on an Israeli military patrol jeep within Israeli borders, and an explosion caused by improvised explosive devices (IEDs). The Israeli government claimed the aim of the military operation was to halt rocket attacks against civilian targets originating from the Gaza Strip and disrupt the capabilities of militant organizations. Palestinians blamed the Israeli government for the upsurge in violence, accusing the IDF of attacks on Gazan civilians in the days leading up to the operation.

During the operation, the IDF claimed to have struck more than 1,500 sites in the Gaza Strip, including rocket launchpads, weapon depots, government facilities, and apartment blocks. According to a UNHCR report, 174 Palestinians were killed and hundreds were wounded, with approximately 350-700 families displaced. Some Palestinian casualties were caused by misfired Palestinian rockets landing inside the Gaza Strip. Eight Palestinians were executed by members of the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades for alleged collaboration with Israel.

During the operation, Hamas, the al-Qassam Brigades, and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad intensified their rocket attacks on Israeli cities and towns, firing over 1,456 rockets into Israel and an additional 142 which fell inside Gaza itself. Palestinian militant groups used weapons including Iranian-made Fajr-5, Russian-made Grad rockets, Qassams, and mortars.

By the end of the operation, six Israelis had been killed, two hundred forty were injured, and more than two hundred had been treated for anxiety by Magen David Adom, an Israeli medical organization. The United Nations Security Council held an emergency session on the situation but did not reach a decision. After days of negotiations, a ceasefire mediated by Egypt was announced on 21 November. Both sides claimed victory, with Israel claiming it had achieved its aim of crippling Hamas's rocket-launching ability, while Hamas stated that Israel's option of invading Gaza had ended.

11. Operation Protective Edge:

Israel began Operation Pillar of Defence in the Gaza Strip on November 14, 2012. A phase of reciprocal Israeli-Palestinian responsive attacks preceded the operation. The operation started, according to the Israeli government, in response to more than 100 rockets being fired at Israel in 24 hours and an IED-caused explosion that happened close to Israeli soldiers on the Israeli side of a tunnel that went beneath the Israeli West Bank barrier.

According to the Israeli government, the military operation's objectives were to stop rocket attacks from the Gaza Strip against civilian targets and to impair the capacity of extremist groups. The Israeli government was held accountable by the Palestinians for the increase in violence, as they claimed that the IDF had attacked Gazan civilians in the days preceding the operation. They blamed the rocket attacks on the blockade of the Gaza Strip and the occupation

of the West Bank, which included East Jerusalem. One week later, on November 21, Egypt mediated a cease-fire agreement containing the following terms:

- ② Israel should halt all air, sea, and land hostilities in the Gaza Strip, including incursions and person-targeting.
- ② All Palestinian factions will cease all acts of hostility against Israel from the Gaza Strip, including border attacks and rocket assaults.
- ② Israel should stop limiting the movement of its citizens and refraining from targeting those living in border areas. The crossings should be opened to allow for the easier movement of people and goods. The implementation procedures should be handled 24 hours after the ceasefire begins.

12. 2021 Israel-Palestine flareup:

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict began on 10 May 2021, with protests and police riot control, rocket attacks on Israel by Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), and Israeli airstrikes in the Gaza Strip. The crisis began on 6 May when Palestinians protested over an anticipated decision of the Supreme Court of Israel on the eviction of six Palestinian families in the East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Sheikh Jarrah. On 7 May, Palestinians threw stones at Israeli police forces, who stormed the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound using tear gas, rubber bullets, and stun grenades.

The violence coincided with Qadr Night (8 May) and Jerusalem Day (9-10 May), an Israeli national holiday. The confrontations occurred ahead of a planned Jerusalem Day parade known as the Dance of Flags by far-right Jewish nationalists, which was later cancelled. More than 600 people were injured, mostly Palestinians, drawing international condemnation. Israel's Supreme Court ruling on evictions from Sheikh Jarrah was then delayed for 30 days as Avichai Mandelblit, the former attorney general of Israel, sought to reduce tensions.

On 10 May, Hamas gave Israel an ultimatum to withdraw its security forces from both the Temple Mount complex and Sheikh Jarrah by 6 p.m. When the ultimatum expired without a response, both Hamas and PIJ launched rockets from the Gaza Strip into Israel, some of which hit Israeli residences and a school. Israel then began a campaign of airstrikes against Gaza, destroying 94 buildings in Gaza, including 461 housing and commercial units. As of 19 May, at least 72,000 Palestinians have been displaced.

13. Israel-Hamas war (2023):

The most recent conflict between Israel and Hamas, which started on October 7th. This armed confrontation has witnessed a large scale of destruction and loss of human life unlike any in the recent past. This is the most significant military engagement in the region since the Yom Kippur War. Although the initial reactions of the world were mostly condemnation of the acts of Hamas, the retaliation of Israel and the subsequent loss of civilian life and property in the Gaza Strip has brought in increased levels of support, sympathy and solidarity with the people of Palestine all around the globe.

Spillover Effects of The Israel -Hamas War Of 2023:

Shipping vessels travelling between Europe and Asia pass through the Red Sea, which serves as a transit route from the Mediterranean to the Arabian Sea through the Suez Canal. According to The Guardian, the Bab-El-Mandeb-Red Sea route accounts for 12% of total world trade.

The Suez Canal was established in 1869 to connect the Mediterranean and Red Seas. Previously, shipping vessels travelled around the African continent via the Cape of Good Hope, which is a route that is being utilised again to avoid the Houthis.

Following the Houthi attacks, traffic in the Suez Canal has dropped by 42%, according to a report released in January by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

The Red Sea disruptions have raised freight costs by 25–30%, according to a report by credit ratings agency Ind-Ra. The impact on agriculture and textiles could be greater, and the working capital cycle in international trade is expected to deteriorate by 15 to 20 days.

As freight rates rise owing to longer routes and higher gasoline prices, global economies may see higher inflation. -Oil prices have risen dramatically, and attacks have begun to scare customers about price increases, but oil output has not decreased, suggesting that this may be a transitory situation and that once resolved, oil prices will stabilise.

Oil:

Impact limited so far but energy-market turmoil could intensify food insecurity.

“The latest conflict in the Middle East comes on the heels of the biggest shock to commodity markets since the 1970s—Russia’s war with Ukraine,” said Indermit Gill, the World Bank’s Chief Economist and Senior Vice President for Development Economics. “That had disruptive effects on the global economy that persist to this day. Policymakers will need to be vigilant. If the conflict were to escalate, the global economy would face a dual energy shock for the first time in decades—not just from the war in Ukraine but also from the Middle East.”

“Higher oil prices, if sustained, inevitably mean higher food prices,” said Ayhan Kose, the World Bank’s Deputy Chief Economist and Director of the Prospects Group. “If a severe oil-price shock materializes, it would push up food price inflation that has already been elevated in many developing countries. At the end of 2022, more than 700 million people—nearly a tenth of the global population—were undernourished. An escalation of the latest conflict would intensify food insecurity, not only within the region but also across the world.”

Qatar Energy, which is the world's second-largest exporter of liquefied natural gas, has decided to stop sending tankers via the Red Sea. This decision was taken due to the recent attacks on the main East-West trade route, which several other companies are also avoiding. These attacks have made it increasingly dangerous to reach the Suez Canal.

It is worth noting that about 12% of global shipping traffic passes through the Suez Canal, and 4%-8% of worldwide LNG cargoes were transported through it in 2023. Moreover, according to analytics firm Vortexa, the Red Sea witnessed the transportation of as much as 8.2 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil and oil products during the January-November period of 2023.

Conclusion:

Securitisation under a narrative of ontological vulnerability is evident in Jerusalem's Old City dispute. Israel faces existential dangers from conflicts between Islamic, Jewish, Hebrew, and Zionist identities as well as border issues with its neighbours. Thus, Jerusalem becomes a survival concern for the international community. Yet, securitisation frames the geography of Jerusalem as a security concern that demands military and institutional action rather than initiatives to lessen tensions, sidelining social and political issues. The perceived challenges to a unified Israeli identity and the militarization of Israeli activities aim to give a sense of security through isolated group identity rather than minimising violence and inter-group confrontations.

The unresolved geographical status of Jerusalem, the impending conflicts and humanitarian crises that continuously erupt between both parties, have affected the recognition of Palestine as an independent entity. Regardless of Palestine's observer status in the United Nations, and its recognition by Arab states, until the conflicting subject of Jerusalem is resolved, and peace established between both governments, the status of Palestine as a sovereign nation will remain on hold. Past external mediation and intervention have only heightened the velocity of the conflict over Jerusalem. Thus, this paper concludes that no nation, no international organisation can effectively create a lasting settlement over the status of Jerusalem except Israeli and Palestinian authorities. It is therefore greatly their responsibility to ensure that a lasting stable peace is actualised in the region.

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