***STUDENT***

*The multilayered Lebanon conflict has seen various actors and initiatives aimed at mitigating and resolving it. Though the conflict persists, many tools and mechanisms were critical in attempting to fix it through comprehensive foreign efforts. These complex challenges include expressions of solidarity and international conferences to support Lebanon following the 2020 Beirut explosions, emphasizing the importance of UN Security Council's (UNSC) resolutions, particularly Resolution 1701, and calling for its thorough implementation. Measures such as urgent reforms within Lebanon, support from the international community, control of Lebanese territory, and encouraging national dialogue are crucial elements.*

*Additionally, there is a focus on respecting the Blue Line, commending the Tripartite Mechanism's role, ensuring the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon's (UNIFIL's) security, supporting the Lebanese Armed Forces, promoting gender equality in peacekeeping, regular reviews of UNIFIL's operations, extending UNIFIL's mandate, seeking a permanent ceasefire, effective deployment of Lebanese Armed Forces, and enhancing naval capabilities with international support; all of which are mechanisms that collectively aspire to secure regional peace, protect UNIFIL personnel, and strengthen Lebanon's security and territorial integrity (Kelsen, 2017; United Nations, 2022).*

*While the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has not been directly involved in resolving the Lebanon conflict, it can potentially play a role in managing border disputes or violations of international law, with both parties willingly accepting the ICJ's jurisdiction, which can be a significant challenge (Khattab, 2017). Additionally, the Arab League has served as a diplomatic tool to mitigate the Lebanon conflict, including mediating talks between different Lebanese factions. These initiatives have fostered political dialogue and reconciliation within the country (Masters & Sergie, 2023). Despite these legal norms and mechanisms, the Lebanon conflict remains unresolved, and the situation remains fragile. Using legal tools has faced significant challenges, including the reluctance of various parties to fully commit to peaceful resolutions, ongoing regional power dynamics, and the complex sectarian nature of Lebanese politics.*

*Although legal tools and mechanisms have a purpose in addressing specific aspects of the Lebanon conflict, a comprehensive resolution will require a more significant commitment from all involved parties, regional and international actors, and a focus on addressing the root causes of the conflict through a national dialogue to promote inclusivity and consensus-building on unfavorable issues, encouraging and supporting political reforms within Lebanon for improved governance and stability, as legal tools alone may insufficient, and a broader diplomatic and political strategy is necessary for lasting peace in Lebanon (Kelsen, 2017; United et al.; United Nations, 2022).*

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*Dr. Hoban,*

*According to Cox and Van Nostrand's (2023) argument on restorative justice, there are higher chances of obtaining more guilty verdicts in prosecutions of human rights crimes. However, in the context of Lebanon, environmental volatility may hinder such initiatives, as societal fractures persist, necessitating careful considerations and dialogues at all levels.  
However, the restoration tools may help diminish social conflicts while improving community healing. However, current legal measures may align differently from restorative justice ones if they supersede accountability and justice. Furthermore, the country's complex terrain may be problematic when implementing restorative justice since there is no guarantee of equal justice due to the divisiveness of the people, making it challenging to agree on a common framework. The profound lack of trust may lead to biases. However, collective healing would be the first step towards a restorative justice mechanism for a more resilient future.*

*Kind Regards,*

*[name]*

*Hi [name],*

*In the complex arena of international conflict resolution, particularly in Lebanon, the United Nations plays a vital role through its General Assembly and Security Council, facilitating dialogue and mediation among member states. This process involves navigating the blurred lines between domestic and international issues, balancing state sovereignty, and utilizing UN Security Council resolutions (1559, 1701, and 1680) to address critical matters like foreign force withdrawal and militia disarmament. However, as you've stated, the extension of the UNIFIL mandate further demonstrates a commitment to regional peace and strategic conflict prevention through mediation and legally binding outcomes. The recent US-facilitated maritime boundary agreement between Israel and Lebanon exemplifies the effectiveness of mediation in achieving significant steps toward regional stability. These efforts highlight the importance of combining legal mechanisms and mediation to address the legalities and the political and social distinctions of conflicts, particularly in Lebanon's intricate sectarian and political environment.*

*Thank you for sharing your well-detailed analysis of the Lebanon conflict.*

*[name]*

**CHATGPT**  
Initial Post:  
Overall Score: 68/70  
Your analysis of the legal tools and mechanisms related to the Lebanon conflict is thorough and insightful. You've considered various aspects, demonstrating a nuanced understanding.  
Reference Utilization: You've provided more than one reference in the current APA format, supporting your analysis with relevant and credible sources. There is evident engagement with the assigned readings and external research, enhancing the credibility of your discussion. Sentences are clear and well-structured, contributing to the overall coherence of your post. While you mention legal tools and mechanisms, ensure a more explicit connection between each tool discussed and its application or relevance to your identified Lebanon conflict. Provide more specifics on how these tools were utilized in the context of your conflict. Expand on ICJ and Arab League: For the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the Arab League, consider expanding on how they could play a role in the resolution or mitigation of the Lebanon conflict. Provide more details on potential actions or recommendations from these entities. Your acknowledgment of challenges is crucial. However, consider exploring each challenge in more detail, emphasizing its impact on the effectiveness of legal tools in resolving the conflict .Further emphasize the root causes of the conflict and discuss how legal tools could address or contribute to addressing these root causes.  
In summary, your post is well-researched and articulated. The suggested improvements aim to enhance the specificity and depth of your analysis. Keep up the excellent work!  
  
Response to Classmates: Overall Score: 30/30  
Response to Classmate 1::  
Effective Analysis: Your response demonstrates a thoughtful analysis of Cox and Van Nostrand's argument on restorative justice and its applicability to Lebanon's context. You effectively apply the concepts discussed in the course to the specific challenges faced by Lebanon, showcasing a strong understanding of the material. Your writing is clear and concise, making it easy for the reader to follow your argument. Consider providing specific examples or cases that illustrate the challenges you mention. This would enhance the depth of your analysis and provide concrete instances to support your points.  
  
Response to Classmate 2:  
Your response offers a comprehensive analysis of the United Nations' role in international conflict resolution, specifically in Lebanon, and effectively connects it to recent events. You incorporate relevant sources and resolutions (1559, 1701, and 1680), strengthening the credibility of your argument. Your response is well-structured and clear, making it easy for the reader to follow your analysis. Consider concluding your response by inviting your classmate to share their thoughts or asking a follow-up question. This can foster additional engagement and discussion.  
  
Overall, your responses are strong, well-articulated, and contribute significantly to the discussion. Keep up the excellent work!"  
Source: ChatGPT (20223 Retrieved from ttps://chat.openai.com/

***STUDENT***

*Class,*

*In 1964 the United Nations (UN) passed Resolution 186, entitled "The Cyprus Question." It calls for an end to hostilities on the island. It also calls for the government of a then-unified Cyprus and the governments of Turkey and Greece to work to control violent elements amongst their respective ethnic populations. It also calls for those three governments to work with the government of the United Kingdom to bring about a peaceful resolution. The United Kingdom, which had recently released control of the island to the newly formed Cyprus government, was directed by the United Nations to act as the mediator in the conflict. It also established the first UN peacekeeping mission on the island (UN, 1964). Earlier this year, The United Nations passed resolution 2674, which extends the peacekeeping mandate of the forces in Cyprus (UN, 2023b). Resolution 186 in 1964 was a failed legal attempt, as evidenced by the fact that violence continued to build on the island, culminating in the invasion of Cyprus by Turkey in 1974. Today, most people don't think about the conflict in Cyprus very often. Still, in 1974, it was such a pressing issue that half of the Security Council resolutions involved the conflict in Cyprus (UN, 2023a). The resolution that did the most to mitigate the violence was Security Council Resolution 353. Resolution 353 expanded UN peacekeeping forces following the Turkish victory in Northern Cyprus (UN, 1974). Resolution 186 cites the UN charter as an attempt to maintain peace. As discussed in chapter 10, "Regulation of Force and Realization of Peace," from this week's reading*

*"All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use, of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations" (UN, 1945).*

*Legal tools failed to mitigate the crisis. What was needed was a robust and well-armed security force created in 1974 with resolution 353 (UN, 1974). Legal tools only work if both parties agree to abide by the decision reached by the appointed authority or if one side is forced to comply by the threat or an act of violence.*

*Throughout the last 50 years, many of the peace talks and attempts at reunification have focused primarily on Turkish and Greek security concerns and have not focused on the Right to Return of refugee populations from both ethnic groups (Loizides & Anotoniades, 2009). In 1998, the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) ruled in favor of a Greek Cypriot woman, Tiriana Loizidou, who was driven out of Northern Cyprus during the conflict. She first filed the case with the ECHR in 1974. In 2003, the Turkish government paid her the settlement reached by the court. A Turkish foreign minister claimed that even though the ruling was incorrect, they would comply with the court's order (BBC, 2003).*

*BBC. (2003, December 2). World | Europe | Turkey compensates cyprus refugee. BBC News. http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/3257880.stm*

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[name]

*An example of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) being able to work with India and Pakistan in conflict resolution is the case of an Indian national named Jadhav. Mr. Jadhav was arrested in Pakistan and sentenced to death for espionage, terrorism, and sabotage (Kattan, 2020). In 2017, India filed a complaint against Pakistan in the ICJ, claiming that Pakistan did not inform Mr. Jadhav of his rights and that Pakistan had denied India the ability to meet with and advise their nationals. These rights are detailed under the Vienna Convention. The court found that the Islamic Republic of Pakistan did violate international law. Following the decision, Pakistan allowed India to meet with Mr. Jadhav. Mr. Jadhav is still on death row in Pakistan, but his rights as an Indian national are now being respected (Kattan, 2020).*

*In cases like the one of Mr. Jadhav that are of little importance on the international stage, I believe legal tools in institutions such as the ICJ serve an essential function. However, it should be noted that if Pakistan had refused to allow India to provide legal counsel to Mr. Jadhav, there would be nothing the ICJ could do about it. If an international body or court provided A sweeping proclamation to the Kashmir question, I do not believe either side would respect the court's findings. Would love to hear what you think.*

*I've also provided links to the ICJ's notes on the case of Mr. Jadhav if anyone's interested.*[*https://www.icj-cij.org/case/168Links to an external site.*](https://www.icj-cij.org/case/168)[*https://www.icj-cij.org/node/105828Links to an external site.*](https://www.icj-cij.org/node/105828)

*[name],*

*Third-party mediations and conciliations like the ones you've discussed have been used successfully in other conflicts with Israel in the past. The Camp David Accords in 1978 used The United States under President Jimmy Carter as the mediator and successfully negotiated peace between Egypt and Israel. More recently, the Abraham Accords normalizing relations between Israel, Bahrain, and The United Arab Emirates, followed later by Morocco and Sudan, was mediated by the United States under President Donald Trump. In the Camp David Accords and the Abraham Accords, both sides of the negotiation were nation-states that had an interest in finding a way to make peace. Both sides wanted to secure their territory or had an economic interest in normalizing trade. The issue with dealing with a terrorist organization like Hamas is that their stated goal is the eradication of the Jewish State. Hamas has also continuously violated international law and just yesterday broke the ceasefire agreement. Do you believe that any negotiated peace with the genocidal terrorist organization can be trusted?*

***CHATGPT***Total Score: 90/100  
Initial Post: Overall Score: 66/70  
Your analysis of the legal tools and mechanisms related to the Cyprus conflict is well-detailed, providing historical context and specific resolutions. You've appropriately used more than one reference in the current APA format, supporting your analysis with relevant sources. You've provided a historical overview of relevant Security Council resolutions, which adds depth to your analysis. Sentences are clear and effectively convey your ideas. While your post is insightful, consider improving the overall cohesion by connecting the historical overview of resolutions more explicitly to the discussion on legal tools. Ensure a seamless flow between historical events and their impact on the effectiveness of legal tools. You briefly mention Resolution 2674 in the introduction, but its impact is not explored in detail. Consider discussing how this recent resolution contributes to conflict resolution or peacekeeping efforts in Cyprus.: Explicitly highlight what you've learned or gained in understanding through this analysis. Connect your insights to the broader context of conflict resolution or international relations. Reiterate and reinforce your main points in the conclusion, summarizing the key aspects discussed and emphasizing their significance. In summary, your analysis is strong, but enhancing cohesion, exploring recent resolutions, emphasizing learning, and reinforcing key points in the conclusion will further strengthen your post. Keep up the excellent work!  
  
Response to Classmates: Overall Score: 24/30  
Classmate 1:  
The response effectively discusses the Jadhav case, providing a clear overview of the situation.  
The inclusion of the ICJ's notes and a relevant academic reference (Kattan, 2020) adds credibility to the response. The response could benefit from a deeper analysis of the implications and limitations of the ICJ's role in resolving conflicts. It would be helpful to acknowledge potential criticisms or counterarguments regarding the ICJ's effectiveness in high-stakes international disputes.  
  
Classmate #2:  
The response demonstrates an understanding of historical examples of third-party mediations in the Israel-Arab conflict. Bringing up recent events, such as the violation of the ceasefire by Hamas, adds currency and relevance to the discussion. The question at the end introduces a strong opinion about Hamas being a "genocidal terrorist organization," which may limit the potential for a balanced and nuanced discussion.  
Encourage the inclusion of academic or authoritative sources to support the statements made about Hamas, international law violations, and the recent ceasefire breach.  
  
Both responses provide valuable contributions to the discussion, incorporating real-world examples and relevant references. Encourage deeper analysis and consideration of counterarguments to enrich the responses further. Additionally, for Classmate #2, suggest maintaining a more neutral tone and supporting strong statements with authoritative sources to enhance the credibility of the response.  
Source: ChatGPT (20223 Retrieved from ttps://chat.openai.com/  
Delete comment: As promised, I am providing all students with AI-Enhanced feedback from ChatGPT on this assignment. I will post my personalized instructor feedback, just as I have been providing for your assignments throughout the course tomorrow. I will then also post my grade for this assignment in the gradebook. My hope is that after you have reviewed this feedback, you will take some time to reflect on your experiences and engage in a conversation with me about it. I'm looking forward to reading your posts and discussing your progress with you. "Grading and Feedback Total Score: 24/70 Initial Post: Overall Score: 66/70 Your analysis of the legal tools and mechanisms related to the Cyprus conflict is well-detailed, providing historical context and specific resolutions. You've appropriately used more than one reference in the current APA format, supporting your analysis with relevant sources. You've provided a historical overview of relevant Security Council resolutions, which adds depth to your analysis. Sentences are clear and effectively convey your ideas. While your post is insightful, consider improving the overall cohesion by connecting the historical overview of resolutions more explicitly to the discussion on legal tools. Ensure a seamless flow between historical events and their impact on the effectiveness of legal tools. You briefly mention Resolution 2674 in the introduction, but its impact is not explored in detail. Consider discussing how this recent resolution contributes to conflict resolution or peacekeeping efforts in Cyprus.: Explicitly highlight what you've learned or gained in understanding through this analysis. Connect your insights to the broader context of conflict resolution or international relations. Reiterate and reinforce your main points in the conclusion, summarizing the key aspects discussed and emphasizing their significance. In summary, your analysis is strong, but enhancing cohesion, exploring recent resolutions, emphasizing learning, and reinforcing key points in the conclusion will further strengthen your post. Keep up the excellent work! Response to Classmates: Overall Score: 24/30 Classmate 1: The response effectively discusses the Jadhav case, providing a clear overview of the situation. The inclusion of the ICJ's notes and a relevant academic reference (Kattan, 2020) adds credibility to the response. The response could benefit from a deeper analysis of the implications and limitations of the ICJ's role in resolving conflicts. It would be helpful to acknowledge potential criticisms or counterarguments regarding the ICJ's effectiveness in high-stakes international disputes. Classmate #2: The response demonstrates an understanding of historical examples of third-party mediations in the Israel-Arab conflict. Bringing up recent events, such as the violation of the ceasefire by Hamas, adds currency and relevance to the discussion. The question at the end introduces a strong opinion about Hamas being a "genocidal terrorist organization," which may limit the potential for a balanced and nuanced discussion. Encourage the inclusion of academic or authoritative sources to support the statements made about Hamas, international law violations, and the recent ceasefire breach. Both responses provide valuable contributions to the discussion, incorporating real-world examples and relevant references. Encourage deeper analysis and consideration of counterarguments to enrich the responses further. Additionally, for Classmate #2, suggest maintaining a more neutral tone and supporting strong statements with authoritative sources to enhance the credibility of the response. Source: ChatGPT (20223 Retrieved from ttps://chat.openai.com/

***STUDENT***

*There have been numerous legal tools and mechanisms employed in an attempt to resolve the ongoing conflict in Israel-Palestine. Some of the laws that are applicable at the most tactile level of the conflict involve alleged war crimes committed by both factions and the Geneva Convention. On 7 October, the Palestinian armed group Hamas launched thousands of rockets into Israel and breached through the perimeter fence of Gaza. While doing so, the terror group killed and captured hundreds of Israeli civilians and military forces (UN, 2023). Many of us have seen media footage or read the stories of Hamas fighters infiltrating Israel via paragliders and murdering or kidnapping unarmed civilians at a music concert. In retaliation to the attacks, the Israeli military declared a state of war and began striking at targets in the Gaza Strip, including residential buildings and healthcare facilities (UN, 2023). Since the recent regional uptick in violence has begun, there have been thousands of people killed, and more than one million people have been displaced (UN, 2023). Many areas of Gaza have been decimated and are practically uninhabitable.*

*Between 7 and 12 October 2023, Israeli forces conducted air bombardments, which devastated entire neighborhoods and, in some areas, killed entire families (Amnesty International, 2023). In cases like this, Israeli attacks violated international humanitarian law, most notably by failing to take feasible precautions to spare civilians. An overarching theme of conflicts internationally is jus in bello or the laws of war—the rules commonly referred to today as the law of armed conflict (LOAC) or international humanitarian law (Pohlman, 2019). Both belligerents have struggled militarily and diplomatically to target and attack righteous targets. Per the LOAC, the distinction between civilians and combatants is critical for ‘just war’. “Combatants can be targeted based on their status as combatants, while civilians are only targetable based on their conduct, that is, if they “directly participate in hostilities”, (Pohlman, 2019).*

*Israel specifically has been under immense scrutiny due to the amount of civilian casualties in the Gaza Strip. The conflict in Israel-Palestine is a suitable example of when a law-abiding state actor is confronted with hybrid warfare tactics (i.e. the use of proxy forces, combined kinetic and non-kinetic attacks, guerilla warfare, etc.) When a law-abiding state is faced with an unethical and asymmetrical national threat, they are essentially pigeonholed/legally required to operate under compliance with the rule of law and public morality (Mosquera et. al., 2019).*

*Another key legal aspect of this conflict pertains to the recently extended cease-fire between Israel and Hamas (Goldenberg, et. al., 2023). In brief summary, the recent 4-day ceasefire was initiated on 23 November, but was extended multiple days following a mutually agreed desire to continue in the exchange of Israeli hostages for Hamas-affiliated prisoners. The negotiations for this event originated from mediation efforts facilitated by the U.S., Israel, Palestine, and the government of Qatar. The achievement of this ceasefire relied heavily on the prenegotiation of a peace process, often termed “talks about talks (Yeini, 2020). This dialogue typically involves how to get everyone to the negotiating table with an agreed-upon agenda.*

*If continued peace talks and hostage/prisoner exchanges increase in frequency, there is the possibility for more sustainable peace negotiations. The impactful damage caused to both parties will undoubtedly leave a lasting impression and legacy of violence that must be addressed via retribution reconciliation or both (Cox & Van Nostrand, 2022).  
  
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*Amnesty International. (2023). Damning evidence of war crimes as israeli attacks wipe out entire families in gaza.*[*https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/10/damning-evidence-of-war-crimes-as-israeli-attacks-wipe-out-entire-families-in-gaza/Links to an external site.*](https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/10/damning-evidence-of-war-crimes-as-israeli-attacks-wipe-out-entire-families-in-gaza/)

*Associated Press, Goldenberg, T., Magdy, S. & Jeffery, J. (2023). Israel and hamas agree to extend truce for two more days, and to free more hostages and prisoners.*[*https://apnews.com/article/israel-hamas-war-news-11-27-2023-852065d35c4643f4c874fb5993313b13Links to an external site.*](https://apnews.com/article/israel-hamas-war-news-11-27-2023-852065d35c4643f4c874fb5993313b13)

*Cox, J. M., & Van Nostrand, R. D. (2023). Wielding the Gavel or Balancing the Scales? Domestic Legal Systems and Post-Conflict Justice. Journal of Conflict Resolution, 67(1), 122-149.*[*https://doi-org.ezproxy.libproxy.db.erau.edu/10.1177/00220027221110581Links to an external site.*](https://doi-org.ezproxy.libproxy.db.erau.edu/10.1177/00220027221110581)

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*Hi [name],*

*The means by which Israel attacks and defends against Hamas is a highly contentious topic throughout the international community. Unlike Hamas, Israel undoubtedly faces a moral dilemma when adhering to the laws of armed conflict because the targeting methodology for the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) strictly forbids them from intentionally targeting civilians (Merriam, 2023). Israel is not a member of the 1977 Additional Protocol I (AP I) to the 1949 Geneva Conventions that outlined treaty-based targeting rules for member parties. This could serve as a benefit by allowing IDF troops to launch attacks without being hindered by overly strict rules of engagement. However, the IDF’s targeting rules still parallel those customary in international law (Merriam, 2023).*

*In contrast, as you mentioned, Hamas has been known to hide amongst and below civilian populations and infrastructure while conducting military operations (NATO, 2014). There is a strategic logic behind Hamas’ use of human shields. The first of two components is based on the awareness of Israel’s desire to mitigate collateral damage/civilian casualties. Hamas has a powerful weapon in the form of leveraging international law against Israel. This is commonly referred to as lawfare. The term “lawfare” has no actual fixed definition but has come to be generally understood as the“use or misuse of law as a substitute for traditional military means to achieve military objectives (Stephens, 2011). If the IDF uses lethal force and causes an increase in civilian casualties, Hamas can and has used these events as an instrument of lawfare (NATO, 2014). Hamas would be in a position to accuse Israel of committing war crimes, which could result in the imposition of sanctions on Israel and lessened backing from Western states (NATO, 2014).*

*The podcast below provided a phenomenal insight into the lessons learned so far in Israel’s fight against Hamas. Here, a former Commander of U.S. Central Command General Votel and Dr. Cohen, Director of RAND's Strategy and Doctrine Program discuss intricacies related to the current conflict. I’m hesitant to delve into specific tactics that can or should be employed by Israel and its allies. Unfortunately, it is safe to assume that Israel’s pursuit of Hamas in the Gaza Strip and opposition throughout the region will be marked by the use of subterranean warfare, urban fighting, high amounts of collateral damage, and potentially increased foreign engagement.*

*IW Lessons from Gaza: Lawfare, Humanitarian Crises, and Urban Combat*

[*https://irregularwarfare.org/podcasts/iw-lessons-from-gaza-lawfare-humanitarian-crises-and-urban-combat/Links to an external site.*](https://irregularwarfare.org/podcasts/iw-lessons-from-gaza-lawfare-humanitarian-crises-and-urban-combat/)

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*Hi [name],  
  
I appreciate your in-depth review of the legal considerations involving Lebanon's conflicts with neighboring states/factions. An aspect of your research that piqued my interest was the 2022 maritime boundary agreement that Israel and Lebanon reached in October of last year. The Israel–Lebanon Maritime Boundary Agreement was the product of more than ten years of negotiations across three administrations: Israel, Lebanon and the United States (United States Institute of Peace [USIP], 2023).  
At its core, the agreement creates economic and energy development opportunities between both nations and, with an optimistic mindset, could offer a channel for further healing for the previous hostile countries. The agreement has proven to be an admirable example of conflict resolution, proving that practical, mutually beneficial agreements are more desirable over long-term hostilities (USIP, 2023). I also applaud your pointing out that this agreement could grow into land-border relations between the two countries.*

*I listened to some of the below podcast with Amos Hochstein as the guest speaker. Amos was the primary mediator of the Israel-Lebanon agreement and is currently the U.S. special presidential coordinator for global infrastructure and energy security. Sometimes, I think nations are more likely to agree upon economics and energy before reaching agreements based on ideologies or religion.   
(Pod link HERE*[*https://www.usip.org/events/negotiating-israel-lebanon-maritime-bordersLinks to an external site.*](https://www.usip.org/events/negotiating-israel-lebanon-maritime-borders)*)   
  
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*Hi [name],  
  
I appreciate your detailed review of the humanitarian law agreements surrounding the 2023 Israel-Hamas War. A myriad of nuances are involved in this conflict's tactical, operational, and strategic levels, and for me to propose a single best strategy would be ineffective. The strategic approach for future Israeli operations should prioritize a.) effectively engaging Hamas combatants and civilians in direct support of military operations, b.) minimizing casualties on both sides of the conflict (civilian and combatant), and c.) denying Hamas logistically. Hamas fighters would be in a tight spot if they were completely cut off from receiving intelligence updates, fuel, food/water, medical supplies, etc. In short, the most beneficial strategy for either side to pursue should be reconciliation via mediation between Hamas and Israeli leaders in Doha, Qatar.  
The military tactics can be as high-paced and precise as the IDF wants, but at the end of the day, military operations do very little to quell ideological motivations.   
  
The podcast below had a great segment where this conflict's' end state was discussed. The two guests also delved into specifics I wish I could effectively summarize here before midnight EST.*

*Irregular Warfare Lessons from Gaza: Lawfare, Humanitarian Crises, and Urban Combat*[*https://irregularwarfare.org/podcasts/iw-lessons-from-gaza-lawfare-humanitarian-crises-and-urban-combat/Links to an external site.*](https://irregularwarfare.org/podcasts/iw-lessons-from-gaza-lawfare-humanitarian-crises-and-urban-combat/)

**CHATGPT**

Grading and Feedback Total Score: 98/100  
Initial Post: Overall Score: 68/70  
The post thoroughly addresses the discussion prompts, offering a comprehensive overview of legal tools and mechanisms used in the Israel-Palestine conflict. You show a strong analysis of the topic, demonstrating a deep understanding of the conflict dynamics and the role of legal tools. Engages with the text effectively, referencing relevant external sources to support key points. The post is well-structured, with clear sentences and correct spelling and grammar. While you provide a wealth of information on the legal aspects of the conflict, there could be more emphasis on personal reflection or analysis of how these legal tools have impacted the conflict resolution process. The discussion of the cease-fire and peace talks is insightful, but it could be strengthened by exploring potential challenges or criticisms related to the effectiveness of such negotiations. Consider the use of additional diverse sources to enhance the depth of the analysis. This will contribute to a more well-rounded understanding of the conflict and the role of legal mechanisms. Overall, it's an excellent post with detailed analysis and well-supported arguments. The suggested improvements aim to enhance the depth and nuance of the analysis.  
  
Responses to Classmates: Overall Score: 30/30  
Both responses are well-detailed, providing a comprehensive analysis of the legal aspects of the Israel-Palestine conflict and the Israel-Hamas war. You demonstrate a solid understanding of the complexities surrounding the use of legal tools in conflict resolution, referencing relevant external sources to support their claims. Proper APA formatting is maintained, including accurate citations and references, contributing to the academic quality of the responses.  
  
While you provide a rich analysis of the legal aspects, they could enhance the responses by incorporating additional perspectives or counterarguments to foster a more well-rounded discussion. Please consider broader implications of legal tools, such as their effectiveness in achieving lasting peace or addressing root causes of the conflicts.  
Overall, you produced excellent responses that fulfill the assignment requirements. The suggested improvements aim to further enrich the depth and complexity of the discussions.

***STUDENT***

*The United Nations Security Council voted to pass a resolution on November 15th to call for the immediate release of any hostage being held by Hamas and to increase and extended humanitarian corridors to help save and protect more civilian lives (United Nations 2023). Out of the 15 council members who voted on resolution 2712, nine voted in favor, zero against it, and three abstained from voting, which were the United States, United Kingdom, and Russia. Israel believes that this resolution is detached from reality and stated security councils have no sway with terrorists, so they are willing to do whatever it takes for their country to accomplish its goals. Israels representative, Mr. Miller went on further and stated that the war would end immediately if Hamas laid down their arms, handover all their hostages unharmed, and turn themselves. This didn’t help to resolve the conflict, but it is allowing for much needed aid, especially medical supplies, fuel and clean drinking water to get to the civilians of Gaza who are stuck in the middle of Hamas and Israels conflict. There has been no other legal tools or mechanisms that have been used and successfully worked in mitigating or resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. President Biden has had a two-state solution plan for peace between Israel and Palestine for years. Due to failed peace talks, logistical issues, Israel expanding their settlements, recurring armed clashes, and the most recent Hamas attack on the Israeli music festival in October has dwindled support and made this plan next to impossible to accomplish (Treisman 2023).*

*One suggestion that came from this week's reading that could help with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is using conciliation, which is a dispute method that combines elements of enquiry and mediation (Yeini 2020). Conciliation uses third parties to investigate a dispute between two parties and present them with formal proposals for a possible solution to be decided on. The conciliation commission is made up of experts with no political affiliation and will have to investigate the facts and submit non-binding proposals for a solution to the parties. By having experts who have no political affiliation, it will help ensure a fair investigation and proposals and avoid any future arguments of one party saying they got the unfair end of the deal. Another article from this week's reading discussed the importance of domestic legal systems and post-conflict justice. It mentions that the Middle Eastern countries approach is to focus more on community interests, repairing relationships, and maintaining honor and unity (Cox & Nostrand 2022). This should be a method looked into once a peace deal is agreed upon, the Palestinians will appreciate this approach more than what Western countries may want them to do, ensuring a higher chance of peace being maintained.*

*Cox, J. M., & Van Nostrand, R. D. (2022). Wielding the Gavel or Balancing the Scales? Domestic Legal Systems and Post-Conflict Justice. Journal of Conflict Resolution, 67(1), 002200272211105. https://doi.org/10.1177/00220027221110581*

*Treisman, R. (2023, October 27). Biden wants a two-state solution for Israeli-Palestinian peace. Is it still possible? NPR. https://www.npr.org/2023/10/27/1208694837/two-state-solution-israeli-palestinian-conflict#:~:text=The%20two%2Dstate%20solution%20calls*

*United Nations. (2023b, November 15). Israel-Palestine crisis: Security Council calls for urgent, extended humanitarian pauses in Gaza | UN News. News.un.org. https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/11/1143632*

*Yeini, S., Rosenzweig, I., Ben-Gal, M., Rosenberg, R., Neufeld, R., Reches, D., Megiddo, T., Konarek, K., Kadar, J., Shlomo, O., & Ben, R. (n.d.). Promoting Peace in International Law: Bringing States to the Mediation Table. https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5daf8b1ab45413657badbc03/t/5f5aa9d63e6bd6578773c445/1599777238424/%28g%29+Aviv+%2858-3%29.pdf*

*[name]*

*I find it surprising that Pakistan and India aren't more willing to let Kashmir gain self-determination. Instead, they continue to waste troops, resources, and money on it to see who gains control. Instead of fighting for who controls the contested region, they could refocus those resources, money, and manpower back into their economies. Pakistan's poverty rate rose from 34.2% to 39.4%, putting it as the lowest per capita income country in South Asia. They also have the highest number of out-of-school children in the world. So by refocusing energy and resources back into their economy, improving their citizens' lives. India's economy is not much better off and could really use the money and resources to improve their citizens' living conditions. India not having to put soldiers at the border to contest with Pakistan would also help relieve pressure on being spread too thin since they also have to worry about China. They could refocus their military efforts almost completely on the border that they share with China, further shoring up their defenses in the Galwan Valley where border clashes have been taking place (Markey & Scobell 2023). Would you bring these issues to these two and see if that would help them come to the table to make an agreement?*

*Markey, D., & Scobell, A. (2023, October 19). Three Things to Know About China-India Tensions. United States Institute of Peace. https://www.usip.org/publications/2023/10/three-things-know-about-china-india-tensions*

*[name]*

*Unfortunately, in war, innocent people always get caught in the middle and suffer by either getting injured or die. Having previosuly worked with the United States Navys F-18 fighter jets, I know that jets are capable of almost pin point accuracy if they are using guided bombs and missiles. But the pilots rely on intel and are told where they need to strike precisely, not just have free reign and blow up anything they deem a target. Unfortunately, that intel can be wrong or old, and the target has moved onto a new area or civilians were mistaken to be the target. Hamas is also known to hide amongst civilians since they know Israel isn't out to kill civilians, so they might hesitate on attacking. If Israel does attack and civilains get injured or killed, Hamas will turn around and use it as footage or picture proof that they do not care who they harm and are willing to let innocent civilians die U.S. Department of State 2023). In turn, this makes Israel look bad in the worlds eyes, including allied nations governments, causing the loss of support. What would you adivse Israel to do when it comes to trying to take out enemy targets?*

*Israel-Hamas Conflict: Latest Updates. (2023, October 7). United States Department of State. https://www.state.gov/israel-hamas-conflict-latest-updates/*

**CHATGPT**

Total Score: 98/100  
Initial Post: 65/70  
Comprehensive Discussion: You provide a comprehensive overview of the UN Security Council resolution related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, incorporating relevant details such as voting outcomes and Israeli perspectives. The incorporation of readings from the module is evident, particularly the mention of conciliation as a potential tool and the discussion on domestic legal systems and post-conflict justice. The post is well-organized, with clear and concise sentences. It adheres to APA formatting guidelines, and there are no significant issues with spelling or grammar. You also delve into the challenges and failures of President Biden's two-state solution, providing a nuanced understanding of the complexities surrounding peace talks. While the post provides a good overview, it could benefit from a deeper analysis of the effectiveness of the UN Security Council resolution. Please consider to critically evaluate the impact of the resolution on the conflict dynamics. The discussion could be enriched by considering alternative viewpoints on the effectiveness of the UN resolution. Please consider exploring alternative perspectives or criticisms regarding the UN resolution. This will add nuance to the analysis and demonstrate a more comprehensive understanding of the conflict.  
  
Overall, the post demonstrates a solid understanding of the conflict and relevant concepts, but refining the depth of analysis and considering alternative perspectives would enhance its overall quality.  
  
Responses to Classmates: Overall Score: 28/30  
The response engages with the peer's perspective on the Kashmir issue and provides a thoughtful suggestion about refocusing resources. The reference to Markey and Scobell (2023) is a good addition to support the argument. While the response is generally well-constructed, it could benefit from a more explicit connection between the economic challenges mentioned and the need for resolving the Kashmir issue. Consider exploring alternative solutions or diplomatic approaches that could facilitate dialogue between Pakistan and India, moving beyond just resource refocusing.  
  
Response to Classmate #2:  
The response demonstrates a good understanding of the complexities in conflict situations, specifically the Israel-Hamas conflict.  
Reference to the U.S. Department of State (2023) adds credibility to the information presented. The response could further elaborate on diplomatic or strategic measures Israel could take to minimize civilian casualties, going beyond the current analysis of the situation.  
It would be helpful to acknowledge the broader geopolitical context of the Israel-Hamas conflict for a more comprehensive discussion.  
Both responses are well-written, addressing the peers' points effectively. Encourage the inclusion of more diverse sources or perspectives to strengthen the arguments.  
The APA format is generally adhered to, but ensure that in-text citations are consistently placed and formatted according to APA guidelines. Overall, the responses are insightful and contribute meaningfully to the discussion.

***STUDENT***

As Cox and Van Nostrand (2022) note, the law is a fundamental aspect of society intended to establish the rules, govern everyday actions, and organize how people live together. A society could not adequately function without a system of laws to help foster citizens' acceptance of norms and expectations and shape how people think about their actions as right or wrong under the law (Cox & Van Nostrand, 2022). This is important when bringing justice to a society undergoing changes or challenges (Cox & Van Nostrand, 2022). However, in the case of the Central African Republic (CAR), the country faces extremely weak institutional capacities, corruption, underserved populations, poor infrastructure, and a fragile government, leading to a vicious cycle (Caus, 2021). If a country's legal system is not strong, it cannot properly address conflicts or bring justice to people who have been hurt (Caus, 2021). A lack of rule of law, or a weak legal system, is connected to various issues like poverty, corruption, economic and political instability, and ongoing conflicts (Caus, 2021). Those in charge must be held accountable and make the necessary decisions to punish or allow reconciliation (Cox & Van Nostrand, 2022). Unfortunately, in the CAR, the legal system was already vulnerable, and the violence exacerbated the issue (Caus, 2021). The conflict damaged official buildings like courts and destroyed criminal records, and there were not enough trained people to handle legal matters (Caus, 2021). This means that offenders of serious crimes and human rights violations often do not face any consequences (Caus, 2021). This lack of punishment made them more confident to keep doing bad things and made people lose trust in the justice system and the government (Caus, 2021). Caus (2021) recognizes that reinforcing the rule of law is vital to stabilization and recovery.

The CAR's history, as highlighted by the International Crisis Group (2017), is marked by numerous attempts at political mediation. Unfortunately, the agreements stemming from these efforts have yet to be effectively implemented, facing challenges such as corruption, instability, and armed groups (International Crisis Group, 2017). The United Nations (UN) member countries utilize forums like the Security Council (UNSC) to address conflicts through talking, diplomacy, mediation, and finding solutions together (Onuma, 2017). Despite the UN's commitment to the shared interests of the global community, some countries resist UN involvement in their internal matters (Onuma, 2017). Over time, the line between problems within a country and those affecting the world has become less pronounced, enabling the UN to step in using different methods, such as making decisions and taking strong actions (Onuma, 2017).

In 2013, the UNSC passed Resolution 2127, allowing the African-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic (MISCA) to be deployed for security restoration and civilian protection (Security Council Report, n.d.). The resolution additionally empowered the French forces in the CAR to take any required actions to support MISCA  (Security Council Report, n.d.). It also asked the Secretary-General to create an international commission of inquiry and instituted an arms embargo, sanctions committee, and a group of experts (Security Council Report, n.d.). Resolution 2149 in 2014 established the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) to replace MISCA and deal with the worsening situation (Security Council Report, n.d.). Since the end of 2016, various international and regional actors and international organizations have initiated parallel mediation endeavors (International Crisis Group, 2017). The African Union (AU) and neighboring countries of the CAR, including Angola and Chad, consolidated their individual initiatives and jointly commenced mediation in early 2017 (International Crisis Group, 2017). The catholic community Sant'Egidio also joined the mediation efforts, organizing meetings with armed groups in Rome that culminated in a political peace agreement for the CAR signed in June 2017 (International Crisis Group, 2017). However, the agreement faced renewed violence on the ground shortly afterward and failed to resolve the conflict (International Crisis Group, 2017).

The 2019 Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation (APPR-RCA) in the CAR aimed to address the issue of impunity and discipline the people who commit serious crimes (Caus, 2021). Preceding the agreement, the AU and the UN spearheaded peace talks with support from the Economic Community of Central African States (Caus, 2021). This collaborative effort spanned a year and involved consultations with armed groups, civil society, and CAR's government to establish a shared understanding of the issues and grievances and define the terms for a dialogue (Murray & Sullivan, 2019). The U.S., the European Union (EU), and Russia supported the preparations for these talks (Murray & Sullivan, 2019). Yeini (2020) notes that mediation is like having a neutral referee or third party involved in discussions between conflicting sides. This third party can be a country, an international organization, or even a private person (Yeini, 2020). This third-party mediation can make things more equal and result in a fairer agreement, especially when one group is much stronger than the other (Yeini, 2020). In this case, the AU played a crucial role in facilitating the negotiations for over 18 months and mediating the agreement (Murray & Sullivan, 2019). The political agreement was signed by the CAR government and 14 armed groups (Murray & Sullivan, 2019). However, recurrent violations and the ongoing dominance of armed groups in significant parts of the country have caused the agreement to have inconsistent results (Caus, 2021).

The UNSC has played a role in strengthening the country's government, especially in security, justice, and policing, to combat impunity for serious crimes (Caus, 2021). Since its establishment, various resolutions have extended the MINUSCA and authorized the use of all means to provide operational support to the mission, with the most recent continuing the mission until November 2024, when the UNSC adopted Resolution 2709 (Security Council Report, n.d.; United Nations Security Council [UNSC], 2023). The renewal of the mission aims to enhance the development of political, security, and institutional conditions that foster national reconciliation and lasting peace (UNSC, 2023). The resolution calls on the mission to prioritize the protection of civilians, support the government, assist in peacekeeping and upholding ceasefires and the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation, and protect UN personnel (UNSC, 2023). MINUSCA is also authorized to assist with local elections, protect human rights, aid former fighters in reintegrating into society, help take away weapons, facilitate national and international justice efforts, fight against impunity, and support the rule of law (UNSC, 2023).

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Hello [name],

Thank you for your overview of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions. The UN has been involved in mediating the Cyprus conflict since the 1960s, with the goal of reunification, but efforts have stalled since the breakdown of talks in 2017 (Ungar & Göksel, 2023). Mediation typically involves a neutral third party helping conflicting parties reach a mutually acceptable agreement (Onuma, 2017). In this context, a new envoy, if appointed, would serve as a mediator, facilitating dialogue, building trust, and guiding the parties toward a resolution. As Yeini (2020) indicated, mediation offers a gentle push for states to engage in dialogue, moving us closer to global peace.

According to Yeini (2020), having the Secretary-General lead mediation is the preferable default option. While it does not claim to be a miraculous solution for bringing uncooperative states to the negotiating table, it can benefit states genuinely interested in resolving issues but facing challenges (Yeini, 2020). Making mediation the default method, with the Secretary-General as the mediator, can help states overcome the initial hurdle of starting the peacebuilding process (Yeini, 2020). Yeini (2020) suggests this is especially relevant for states with a history of hostility; involving a third party becomes crucial for effective negotiations. In such cases, mediation allows the mediator to convey ideas between parties, preserve their dignity, propose creative solutions, and provide external motivations for resolving conflicts (Yeini, 2020). In situations where states have persistent conflicts or significant differences, the involvement of a third party, like a mediator, becomes essential for successful conflict resolution (Yeini, 2020).

According to Ungar and Göksel (2023), the post of the senior UN official in reunification talks has been vacant for almost two years, contributing to deteriorating relations between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. Ungar and Göksel (2023) propose that the Secretary-General designate an envoy tasked with formulating a roadmap containing substantial incentives to encourage the return of Greek and Turkish Cypriots to the negotiating table. Unfortunately, three main obstacles hinder the appointment of a new envoy, including substantive disagreements over terms of reference, a debate over the envoy's job title, and a fundamental lack of trust between the two sides (Ungar & Göksel, 2023). The distrust between the parties adds complexity, with Greek Cypriots eager to restart negotiations sooner while Turkish Cypriots are skeptical that a renewed process will yield different outcomes (Ungar & Göksel, 2023). Ungar and Göksel (2023) mention that both sides have reasons to make concessions and return to the negotiating table, with Greek Cypriots concerned about Ankara's influence and Turkish Cypriots seeking an equal footing in talks. The idea of a European Union (EU) envoy for Cyprus has been proposed. However, it faces challenges, as the Turkish Cypriots and Turkey are unlikely to accept an EU representative as an impartial mediator (Ungar & Göksel, 2023). Ungar and Göksel (2023) suggest that the EU could support the process by providing technical assistance aligning any agreement with the EU acquis.

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Hi [name],

Follow-up question. How might the proposal of an EU envoy be navigated to enhance the negotiation process, considering the challenges and the skepticism towards an EU representative?

Hello [name],

I appreciate your thoughts on this conflict. Laws provide a framework, but effective peacekeeping and conflict resolution demand a multifaceted understanding that addresses the root causes, engages with diverse stakeholders, and fosters sustainable solutions. According to Onuma (2017), countries and parties involved in disputes often engage in discussions and negotiations rather than resort to formal legal actions (Onuma, 2017). This is important in recognizing that international law plays a crucial role in legal proceedings and the broader context of diplomatic negotiations and conflict resolution (Onuma, 2017). Even when legal actions are not pursued, international law can still influence and guide the discussions, agreements, and resolutions that emerge from diplomatic processes (Onuma, 2017). Regarding the Israel-Palestine conflict, this concept is highly relevant. While there have been legal aspects and international resolutions related to the conflict, a significant portion of the efforts to find a resolution have been through diplomatic channels, negotiations, and peace talks.

Conciliation is a way to settle disputes by having a third party investigate the problem and suggest solutions (Yeini, 2020). This third party, a conciliation commission, comprises unbiased experts (Yeini, 2020). The goal is for the conflicting parties to accept the suggestions based on good arguments and a willingness to end their dispute. Yeini (2020) notes that although conciliation is mentioned in international treaties, it has not been used much in real-life disputes. Yeini (2020) recognizes negotiation as an alternative that is more accessible, as it does not require complex procedures (Yeini, 2020). It relies on the negotiators' skills to find solutions and communicate effectively without a third party guiding the talks (Yeini, 2020). The choice between negotiation and mediation depends on accessibility and the parties' communication ability (Yeini, 2020).

Minges (2023) acknowledges that the fundamental desires for freedom, liberation, dignity, and security persist among Palestinians and Israelis. Unfortunately, the lesson that military solutions are ineffective and unsuitable for long-term resolutions has not been fully absorbed (Minges, 2023). Minges (2023) acknowledges that international laws and norms explicitly prohibit the targeting of civilians, hospitals, and schools, yet the Israeli offensive in Gaza has violated these principles. The central argument is that escalating destruction in Gaza undermines the prospects for future security and peace (Minges, 2023). Continuing the bombardment of civilians and homes cannot be justified as a military strategy, as it fails to yield any military advantage against Hamas fighters, militant groups, or weaponry (Minges, 2023). Minges (2023) notes that these actions can potentially destroy any future engagement with Palestinians.

Unfortunately, in the case of the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict, the current situation marked by a brittle truce and subsequent end to a brief respite highlights the ongoing complexity of the conflict. Despite the breakdown of the week-long truce and the resumption of hostilities, negotiations between Israel and Hamas persisted through intermediaries (Marquardt et al., 2023). The discussions focused on the potential release of hostages from Gaza (Marquardt et al., 2023). The Israel Defense Forces stated it would continue combat operations, accusing Hamas of violating the truce by launching rockets toward Israeli territory (Marquardt et al., 2023). Since the restart of military operations, a total of 178 people have been killed (Marquardt et al., 2023). However, Marquardt et al. (2023) recognize ongoing efforts to reinstate the truce. Discussions actively involve Israel, Hamas, Qatar, the US, and Egypt, with a particular emphasis on exploring the release of the remaining women hostages (Marquardt et al., 2023). What steps or conditions need to be met for the discussions to yield meaningful results and contribute to a lasting resolution of the Israel-Palestine conflict?

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**CHATGPT**

Overall score 90/100  
Overall Score: 65 points  
Your post provides a comprehensive analysis of the legal tools and mechanisms used in the context of the Central African Republic (CAR) conflict. You effectively draw on scholarly articles, reports, and external sources to support your points. Your post is well-organized and easy to follow. You present your arguments in a clear and concise manner, allowing readers to grasp the complexities of the conflict and the legal tools employed. While you mention that the 2019 Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation (APPR-RCA) aimed to address impunity, provide a more in-depth analysis of the results and challenges faced in implementing this agreement. How successful has it been, and what obstacles remain?  
While your use of scholarly articles and reports is commendable, consider incorporating additional perspectives, possibly from experts or practitioners directly involved in the conflict resolution efforts in CAR. Your post would benefit from a concise conclusion summarizing the key points and highlighting the overall effectiveness of the legal tools in mitigating the CAR conflict. With some additional analysis and diversification of sources, it can become an even more robust contribution to the discussion.  
  
Responses to peers: 25/30  
The response is well-structured, addressing the key points related to the UN's mediation efforts in Cyprus. The use of references to Ungar & Göksel (2023) and Yeini (2020) enhances the credibility of the response. The student demonstrates a clear understanding of the obstacles hindering the appointment of a new envoy and the complexities in the Cyprus conflict. It would be beneficial to integrate more diverse sources to provide a broader perspective on the issue. While the response is comprehensive, a brief conclusion summarizing the main points and potentially suggesting a personal viewpoint could enhance the overall response.  
Strengths:  
  
The response # 2 shows a deep understanding of the complexities of the Israel-Palestine conflict, integrating information from Onuma (2017), Yeini (2020), and Minges (2023).  
The incorporation of recent events, such as the breakdown of the truce and ongoing negotiations, adds real-time relevance to the discussion. Similar to Response #1, diversifying sources could strengthen the overall argument.  
Consider providing a brief conclusion that summarizes key points and possibly offers a personal perspective on the ongoing conflict.  
Overall, both responses are strong, demonstrating a solid grasp of the subject matter and effectively incorporating relevant references. The areas for improvement are minor and focus on further broadening the range of sources and potentially adding personal reflections."

***STUDENT***

*In the late twentieth century, multilateral diplomacy gained significance, particularly within international organizations like the United Nations (UN) (Onuma, 2017). The UN, acknowledged as the most universal and legitimate institution, hosts essential forums such as the UN General Assembly and Security Council (UNSC), facilitating member states to exchange information and viewpoints on global relations (Onuma, 2017). Member states utilize these platforms to address conflicts through negotiation, diplomacy, and mediation, often resulting in UN resolutions (Onuma, 2017).**Despite the UN's commitment to the shared interests of the international community, some states resist UN involvement in their internal affairs. Over time, the line between domestic and international issues has blurred, allowing the UN to intervene through various means, including resolutions and coercive actions (Onuma, 2017). The Security Council, authorized to use force if necessary, plays a pivotal role in conflict resolution (Onuma, 2017). The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) operates under Chapter VI of the UN Charter, allowing the use of force primarily for self-defense (Humud, 2022).*

*Addressing conflicts in Lebanon involves legal tools like UNSC resolutions (Humud, 2022). A significant resolution, UNSC Resolution 1559 in 2004, called for the withdrawal of foreign forces and disarmament of militias, specifically addressing the presence of Syrian forces in Lebanon (Humud, 2022). UNSC Resolution 1701 was instrumental in the aftermath of the 2006 Lebanon War, urging a cessation of hostilities and emphasizing Lebanon's sovereignty (Humud, 2022). Additionally, UNSC Resolution 1680 in 2006 reaffirmed Resolution 1559, expressing concern about ongoing violence and urging the full implementation of its provisions (Humud, 2022). Implementing these legal instruments involves diplomatic efforts, negotiations, and international cooperation (Humud, 2022). Stakeholders, including the involved parties and the global community, engage in dialogue to encourage resolution compliance. In Lebanon, realizing these resolutions necessitates collaboration from the Lebanese government, regional actors, and international organizations like the UN (Humud, 2022).*

*In August 2023, the UNSC extended the UNIFIL mandate until August 31, 2024, through Resolution 2695 (United Nations [UN], 2023). Emphasizing UNIFIL's crucial role in maintaining peace along the Blue Line, addressing violations, and averting further escalation, the resolution urges Lebanon to bolster its naval capabilities, aiming to diminish UNIFIL's Maritime Taskforce and transfer responsibilities to the Lebanese Armed Forces (UN, 2023). This resolution condemns Blue Line violations, urging compliance with international law and cooperation with the UN (UN, 2023). The Council reaffirms UNIFIL's independence, encourages progress towards a permanent ceasefire, and acknowledges various countries' perspectives during discussions (UN, 2023). Lebanon calls for attention to its concerns, regretting the resolution's partial address and advocating a focus on stability and security under Chapter VI (UN, 2023).*

*While not strictly a legal tool, mediation involves a neutral third party actively participating in negotiations between conflicting parties (Yeini, 2020). This mediator can suggest solutions and comment on the positions of the parties, which can lead to agreements, regulations, or laws that become legally binding (Yeini, 2020). Mediators can be entities like states, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), or private individuals (Yeini, 2020). While the UNSC can mediate conflicts upon request, often, third-party states voluntarily take on this role, mainly when dealing with unequal forces (Yeini, 2020). Third-party mediation can create a sense of equality, leading to a fairer resolution than direct negotiations between significantly unequal parties (Yeini, 2020).*

*The recently negotiated maritime boundary agreement between Israel and Lebanon is significant amid ongoing Middle East tensions (Ross, 2022). Facilitated by the United States, the agreement has lessened the risk of conflict between the two nations, which, despite being technically at war, now share a common interest in natural gas extraction, fostering regional stability (Ross, 2022). Without this agreement, the potential for conflict would have risen due to Hezbollah's threats and Israel's security concerns (Ross, 2022). The deal addresses conflicting claims over natural gas resources, particularly in the Qana field, establishing a framework for cooperation. While it does not promise immediate peace, it signifies a move toward normalization (Ross, 2022). Despite critics arguing that Israel made concessions, the Israeli security establishment backs the agreement, viewing it as vital for reducing the risk of war and potentially stabilizing Lebanon by generating much-needed revenue (Ross, 2022). Ross (2022) recognizes that this deal was only possible due to American mediation efforts, which helped further Israel, Lebanon, and American interests.*

***References***

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*Onuma, Y. (2017). International law in a transcivilizational world. Cambridge University Press.*

*Ross, D. (2022, October 17). When there’s good news about the Middle East, we should take note. The Hill.*[*https://thehill.com/opinion/international/3691995-when-theres-good-news-about-the-middle-east-we-should-take-note/Links to an external site.*](https://thehill.com/opinion/international/3691995-when-theres-good-news-about-the-middle-east-we-should-take-note/)

*United Nations. (2023, August 31). Adopting Resolution 2695 (2023), security council extends the United Nations interim force mandate in Lebanon for one year. [Press release].*[*https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15400.doc.htmLinks to an external site.*](https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15400.doc.htm)

*Yeini, S. A. (2020). Promoting peace in international law: Bringing states to the mediation table. The Columbia Journal of Transnational Law, 58(3).*[*https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5daf8b1ab45413657badbc03/t/5f5aa9d63e6bd6578773c445/1599777238424/%28g%29+Aviv+%2858-3%29.pdfLinks to an external site.*](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5daf8b1ab45413657badbc03/t/5f5aa9d63e6bd6578773c445/1599777238424/%28g%29+Aviv+%2858-3%29.pdf)

*[name],*

*I appreciate your concise but thorough overview of the Israel-Palestine conflict. In relation to Hamas's actions, Scheffer (2023) explores legal tools applicable to non-state actors, referencing provisions from the Geneva Conventions and the Rome Statute. The article emphasizes states' legal obligations when in conflict with such actors and examines Israel's rights in self-defense (Scheffer, 2023). Recommendations are provided for Israel to adhere to international humanitarian law, particularly in minimizing civilian casualties. Various legal tools derived from international humanitarian law and agreements are discussed, focusing on Hamas (Scheffer, 2023). These tools include Common Article 3 of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, Article 51 of the Geneva Conventions’ Protocol I, and Articles 7 and 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) (Scheffer, 2023). Additionally, the obligations under Article 75 of Protocol I of the Geneva Conventions and Article 51 of the United Nations Charter are highlighted (Scheffer, 2023). Scheffer (2023) outlines specific standards that should be met, including avoiding starvation as a weapon, minimizing civilian casualties, and allowing the return of displaced civilians.  Scheffer (2023) also addresses Israel's legal right to use force to rescue hostages, emphasizing the criteria such actions must meet under customary international law (Scheffer, 2023).*

*Cox and Van Nostrand (2022) discuss restorative justice as a potential strategy to reduce the likelihood of conflict recurrence in post-conflict settings. The article emphasizes that decisions regarding post-conflict justice are constrained by the uncertainties and volatility of the post-conflict environment (Cox & Van Nostrand, 2022). Cox and Van Nostrand suggest that policymakers' decisions are likely influenced by a desire to maintain control amid instability, considering the legal institutions that may shape the nature and scope of post-conflict justice. It is important to acknowledge that international law extends beyond legal judgments, encompassing diverse functions in various conflict resolution forums. These roles involve facilitating communication between conflicting parties, substantiating arguments, offering a legal viewpoint on issues, and guaranteeing the execution of conflict resolutions (Onuma, 2017). Although international law can aid conflict resolution, its universal and unwavering characteristics may pose challenges (Onuma, 2017). Historical disagreements, such as the Israel-Palestine conflict, are deeply embedded in the past, which may question the appropriateness of resolving disputes through contemporary international law. Given the intricate and evolving nature of the Israel-Palestine conflict, especially the recent development regarding the restart of military operations, what strategy would be beneficial moving forward?*

***References***

*Cox, J. M., & Van Nostrand, R. D. (2022). Wielding the gavel or balancing the scales? Domestic legal systems and post-conflict justice. The Journal of Conflict Resolution, 67(1), 122–149.*[*https://doi.org/10.1177/00220027221110581Links to an external site.*](https://doi.org/10.1177/00220027221110581)

*Onuma, Y. (2017). International law in a transcivilizational world. Cambridge University Press.*

*Scheffer, D. J. (2023, October 19). What international law has to say about the Israel-Hamas War. Council on Foreign Relations.*[*https://www.cfr.org/article/what-international-law-has-say-about-israel-hamas-warLinks to an external site.*](https://www.cfr.org/article/what-international-law-has-say-about-israel-hamas-war)

*[name],*

*I appreciate you highlighting specific United Nations (UN) resolutions pertinent to this conflict. Onuma (2017) recognizes that international law plays a vital role in promoting cooperation among states and preventing conflicts, especially war outbreaks. It operates through mechanisms like the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and diplomatic negotiations (Onuma, 2017). In the modern era, international law should extend its focus beyond traditional notions of the peaceful settlement of international disputes, addressing diverse areas, including conflicts involving non-state actors and human rights issues (Onuma, 2017). A more flexible and functional approach is essential to move away from old state-centric and judicial-centric thinking (Onuma, 2017). Onuma (2017) acknowledges that conflicts are inherent among people, including nations, due to differences in interests, values, and perceptions.*

*Yeini (2020) mentions positive peace concepts using warmth and stability spectrums. This classifies peace from cold to normal to warm (Yeini, 2020). India-Pakistan, lacking a formal Kashmir peace agreement, is in cold peace, like a continuous ceasefire, making it insecure (Yeini, 2020). The stability spectrum categorizes peace into stable or minimal war probability, conditional, relying on deterrence, and precarious, with temporary cessation with dissatisfaction (Yeini, 2020). The Kashmir conflict has been deemed unstable, with force remaining a means of change (Yeini, 2020). Yeini (2020) stresses interstate collaboration for stable peace. While formal peace agreements are challenging, they benefit by addressing the conflict's root causes. However, many conflicts, like India-Pakistan over Kashmir, often remain unsettled, resulting in inherently unstable peace (Yeini, 2020).*

*Since 1972, India has generally avoided third-party involvement in the Kashmir issue, while Pakistan has sought to internationalize it, primarily through United Nations Security Council (UNSC) actions (Kronstadt, 2020). In 2019, India made significant legal changes in the Jammu and Kashmir region, ending its special status and dividing the state (Kronstadt, 2020). This move faced criticism for using force and questionable legal arguments (Kronstadt, 2020). The international community, including Pakistan, China, and the UN, viewed the region as disputed. The U.S. advocated for settling the Kashmir issue through negotiations, expressing concerns about human rights abuses and regional instability (Kronstadt, 2020). Kronstadt (2020) discusses the UN Secretary-General's call for maximum restraint and expression of concern about the human rights situation in the Indian-administered Kashmir. The Secretary-General emphasized that the UN's position in the region is governed by the Charter and applicable Security Council resolutions (Kronstadt, 2020). Kronstadt (2020) also mentions Beijing's support for Pakistan's request for UN involvement, leading to informal consultations among UN Security Council members. Out of the various diplomatic, economic, and legal tools we have discussed, which do you feel can be the most effective in resolving the India-Pakistan conflict?*

***References***

*Kronstadt, K. A. (2020, January 13). Kashmir: Background, recent developments, and U.S. policy. Congressional Research Service.*[*https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R45877Links to an external site.*](https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R45877)

*Onuma, Y. (2017). International law in a transcivilizational world. Cambridge University Press.*

*Yeini, S. A. (2020). Promoting peace in international law: Bringing states to the mediation table. The Columbia Journal of Transnational Law, 58(3).*[*https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5daf8b1ab45413657badbc03/t/5f5aa9d63e6bd6578773c445/1599777238424/%28g%29+Aviv+%2858-3%29.pdfLinks to an external site.*](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5daf8b1ab45413657badbc03/t/5f5aa9d63e6bd6578773c445/1599777238424/%28g%29+Aviv+%2858-3%29.pdf)

*Hi [name],*

*I appreciate you sharing the podcast. You made an interesting point about reaching agreements based on economic rather than ideological or religious aspects. Thank you for your thoughtful post.*

**CHATGPT**

Overall score: 91/100  
Initial Post: Overall Score: 65/70  
The initial post comprehensively addresses the discussion prompts, providing a strong analysis of the topic. The student demonstrates a clear understanding of the role of legal tools, particularly UNSC resolutions, in mitigating conflicts. Correct spelling and grammar are maintained throughout the post. The post could benefit from a bit more critical analysis of the effectiveness of the legal tools discussed  
The student could expand on the role of other stakeholders beyond the UN, such as regional actors, in implementing and enforcing these legal tools. It would be helpful to explicitly tie the content back to the student's identified conflict with a UN Peacekeeping mission, providing a more direct link to the assignment instructions. In summary, the post is well-executed and aligns closely with the assignment instructions and rubric. To enhance the analysis, the student is encouraged to delve deeper into the challenges or limitations of the legal tools discussed and to consider alternative conflict resolution mechanisms. Additionally, reinforcing the direct connection to the student's identified conflict would further strengthen the post.  
  
Overall Score: 26/30  
The response is well-structured and follows APA formatting for citations. The student effectively integrates relevant sources (Scheffer, Cox & Van Nostrand, Onuma) to support their claims.  
The student critically analyzes the legal tools applicable to non-state actors in the Israel-Hamas conflict. While the use of sources is commendable, the student might improve by providing brief summaries or analyses of the sources to strengthen their argument.  
Consider offering a more explicit personal opinion or viewpoint to make the response more engaging.  
  
Both responses are well-researched and demonstrate a strong understanding of the topics discussed. To further improve, the student should aim for more direct engagement with classmates, provide concise summaries or analyses of sources, and consider offering more explicit personal opinions or viewpoints to enhance the depth of their responses."

***STUDENT***

*The India-Pakistan conflict garners concern on an international level, capturing the need for strong legal reform implementation. Balance is required between domestic legal reform and international legal reform. Domestic legal systems, as it relates to post-conflict justice, contributes to peace and stability within communities which have experienced war or severe conflict ( Cox, & Van Nostrand, 2022). Concerning the Kashmir region, India and Pakistan continue to assert dominance over the topic of legal reform within the area. In particular, India has expressed with fortitude that it interprets the region of Jammu and Kashmir as an extension of India. Pakistan has offered to take steps towards the further development of peace talks, but only if India makes the first initiative towards such action (Gunawan et. al., 2021). The United Nations (UN) has been involved, with a large portion of intervention serving as a direct response to repeated human rights violations within the area. In the year 2016, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights attempted to access the Jammu and Kasmir region so that legal and diplomatic presence could be established, allowing the local population to feel represented. India and Pakistan turned down this motive and request (Gunawan et. al., 2021).*

*Inspired by UN Resolution 1514, 1948 and Article 1, 2 and 55 of the UN Charter, the right to every state in terms of an established self-determination holds true in modern day society. It represents the basis of human rights and is supported by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) as jus cogens, which requires formal adherence (Gunawan et. al., 2021). These serve as examples of legal tools, as they represent international intent to support legal reform within the Kashmir region. The international goal to support Kashmir through a transition of self-determination discovery, as a region, society and area of land is ongoing (Gunawan et. al., 2021).*

***Evaluate how actors utilized these legal tools and how specifically they used these tools and any related mechanisms with the aim of resolving your conflict.***

*An example of how the legal tools have been implemented largely includes Kashmir’s attempts to reign as a sovereign state, with the support of the ICJ. This is initiated through stabilizing Kashmir across social, economic, and infrastructural elements (Gunawan et. al., 2021). Additionally,*

*Legal tools which apply to the India-Pakistan conflict revolve around the ICJ helping Kashmir to gain status of self-determination, with support from UN Resolution 1514, 1948 and Article 1, 2 and 55 of the UN Charter, for example. The issue that exists in modern times involves India and Pakistan’s reluctance to support the UN and ICJ with the implementation of legal reform within Kashmir. Where Pakistan has previously gave sign of subtle willingness to conform, they assert the stance that India must comply first. This continues to place Kashmir in an uncomfortable position, one where human rights violations continue to occur. The recommendation presented is for Pakistan and India to come to an agreement to fully support Kashmir’s right to gain self-determination, as supported by the UN Resolution 1514 and 1948. In the meantime, the Security Council holds the right to hold India and Pakistan accountable and apply pressure, through partnership with the ICJ.*

*References*

*Cox, J. M., & Van Nostrand, R. D. (2022). Wielding the Gavel or Balancing the Scales? Domestic Legal Systems and Post-Conflict Justice. Sage Journals, 67(1). https://doi.org/10.1177/00220027221110581*

*Gunawan, Y., Melinda, A. C., Putri, D. N. C. K., Rosidi, S., Sienda, R. M. (2021). Pakistan-India Conflict and The Right of Self-Determination of Kashmir. Diponegoro Law Review, 6(1). https://ejournal.undip.ac.id/index.php/dlr/article/view/29297/19272*

*Hi [name],*

*I respect the research that you provide towards mediation, as you suggest that it is more of a legal aid, compared to a legal tool. Additionally, within the research that you share, mediation is further addressed by exploring the role that it played throughout Europe during the nineteenth century. A close look at the minimal impact of war during this period, despite heavy presence of great powers during this time, reveals that leaders, philosophers, and professionals who appeared in the legal realm held contrasting impressions on how international peace and reform should be implemented. Despite this finding, one area that officials could agree on involved the belief that no matter the manner behind which it should be implemented, international peace should remain a priority, as tranquility is essential for promoting success in other areas of socio economics (Yeini, 2020). Thank you for sharing your research on this topic, as it relates to the importance of mediation in support of legal tools used during conflict.*

*Reference*

*Yeini, S. A. (2020). Promoting Peace in International Law: Bringing States to the Mediation Table. Columbia Journal of Transnational Law, 58(3), 632-635. https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5daf8b1ab45413657badbc03/t/5f5aa9d63e6bd6578773c445/1599777238424/%28g%29+Aviv+%2858-3%29.pdf*

*Hi [name],*

*I respect your research and find the area of prisoner exchanges to be of profound importance when discussing legal tools and conflict. Specifically, I feel that prisoner exchanges offer benefits in the areas of enhanced trust and communication with other states on a global scale. Additionally, the legal construct that lies beneath the inner workings of prisoner exchanges is complex, requiring patience and cohesion. A recent prisoner exchange includes the release of seven American prisoners from a prison in Iran in September of this year. Peace talks and negotiations contributed to the success of this prisoner exchange (Chambers et al., 2023).*

*One area where legal implications reign heavily on the topic of prisoner exchanges involves the potential consequences that are suffered on the back end, after the prison exchange has been successfully accomplished. For example, in the aftermath of this particular prisoner exchange, the Biden administration was publicly criticized for having conducted a prisoner exchange with Iran, which is publicly known to sponsor terrorism (Chambers et al., 2023). This provides a modern-day example of how legal tools are a crucial component towards conflict, or tensions that arise from activities relating to prisoner exchanges. Thank you for your research provided in support of this topic.*

*Reference*

*Chambers, F., Collins, M., Hjelmgaard, K., Meyer, J. (2023). Iran frees 5 Americans in prisoner exchange. USA Today. https://go.gale.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA765854083&sid=googleScholar&v=2.1&it=r&linkaccess=abs&issn=07347456&p=AONE&sw=w&aty=sso%3A+shibboleth&enforceAuth=true&linkSource=delayedAuthFullText&oweAuth=true&userGroupName=embry*

**CHATGPT**

"Grading and Feedback  
Overall score: 85/100  
Initial Post:  
Overall Score: 64/70  
You have successfully addressed the discussion prompts, providing a comprehensive analysis of the legal tools involved in the India-Pakistan conflict over Kashmir. The inclusion of relevant references adds credibility to the post. The feedback provided aims to encourage the student to further enhance the analysis by exploring specific actions taken by India and Pakistan and addressing potential challenges in the implementation of legal tools. While the analysis is strong, the student could further elaborate on the specific actions taken by India and Pakistan in response to the legal tools, such as any official statements or diplomatic moves.  
It would be beneficial to discuss any potential challenges or obstacles faced in implementing the legal tools, as this would provide a more nuanced understanding of the conflict dynamics. Additionally, a concise conclusion would help tie together the main points and highlight the importance of these legal mechanisms in conflict resolution.  
  
  
Overall Score: 21/30  
Your response demonstrates a clear understanding of the peer's research on mediation and its historical context, providing a concise summary of the key points.  
You appropriately acknowledge and appreciate the research shared by your peer, contributing positively to the overall discussion.  
The reference provided is correctly formatted in APA style. While you reference the importance of mediation in supporting legal tools during conflict, you could further enhance your response by drawing connections to other relevant literature or contrasting viewpoints. Expanding on the implications of differing perspectives on international peace could add depth to your analysis. Ensure that your response meets the required word count (150 words). You might consider elaborating on how mediation aligns with or challenges traditional legal tools in addressing conflict.  
Overall, both responses demonstrate a solid understanding of the peers' contributions, but additional depth and exploration of related literature would enhance the analyses. Additionally, meeting the minimum word count requirements is crucial for providing a more thorough response."