

# GAZA STRIP

The Gaza Strip, sandwiched between Israel and Egypt, has been a recurring flashpoint in the Israel-Palestinian conflict for decades. The continuing conflict in the holy land between **Jewish Zionists** in Israel and **Muslim Hamas** in Palestine.



# Israel's boundaries today

- Palestinian civil control
- Built-up Palestinian area



# Peace building on Palestine

- The theory says we need to address the cause of conflict, peace management and then conflict resolution.
- To understand the conflict, brief background of the conflict is introduced.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_mBBGp7Pwnw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_mBBGp7Pwnw)



# Two parties in conflict

## Palestine

- **Hamas** (Muslim Palestinian movements) controls the Gaza Strip and is considered a terrorist group against Israel and the U.S. But while there is no Israeli military presence inside Gaza anymore, the effective control of Gaza's sea, air and borders is under Israeli control.

## Israel

- **Zionism** is the worldwide Jewish movement that resulted in the establishment of the state of Israel.

# Background of the conflict

- Britain took control of this area known as “Palestine” after the ruler of that part of the Middle East, the Ottoman Empire, was defeated in WW1.
- The land was inhabited by a Jewish minority (Zionist/Israeli) and Arab majority ( Hamas/Muslim Palestinian).
- Tensions between the two parties grew when the international community gave Britain the task of establishing a "national home" in Palestine for Jewish people.
- For Jews, it was their ancestral home, but Palestinian Arabs also claimed the land and opposed the move.

# Background of the conflict

- Between the 1920s and 1940s, the number of Jews arriving there grew, with many fleeing from persecution in Europe and seeking a homeland after the Holocaust of WWII.
- Violence between Jews and Arabs, and against British rule, also grew.
- In 1947, the UN voted for Palestine to be split into separate Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem becoming an international city.
- That plan was accepted by Jewish leaders but rejected by the Arab side and never implemented.

# Background of the conflict

- After the War, Jewish people wanted their own country. They were given a large part of Palestine, which they considered their traditional home but the Arabs who already lived there and in neighbouring countries felt that was unfair and didn't accept the new country.
- In 1948, unable to solve the problem, British rulers left and Jewish leaders declared the creation of the state of Israel. Many Palestinians objected and a war followed. Troops from neighbouring Arab countries invaded. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians fled or were forced out of their homes. By the time the fighting ended in a ceasefire the following year, Israel controlled most of the territory. Gaza was controlled by Egypt and another area, the West Bank, by Jordan. They contained thousands of Palestinians who fled what was now the new Jewish home, Israel.

# Background of the conflict

- But then, in 1967, after another war, Israel occupied these Palestinian areas and Israeli troops stayed there for years. Israelis hoped they might exchange the land they won for Arab countries recognising Israel's right to exist and an end to the fighting.
- During the 1948 and 1967 wars, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians left, or were forced out of, their homes and moved to neighbouring countries to become refugees.
- More than 4.6 million Palestinians are refugees and their descendants, many living in camps in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. They get help from the United Nations.



# Background of the conflict

- Israel finally left Gaza in 2005 but soon after, a group called Hamas won elections and took control there. Much of the world calls Hamas a terrorist organisation. It refuses to recognise Israel as a country and wants Palestinians to be able to return to their old home - and will use violence to achieve its aims.
- Since then, Israel has held Gaza under a blockade, which means it controls its borders and limits who can get in and out

# Life in GAZA

- Life for the many of the 1.5 million Palestinians who live in the Gaza Strip is difficult.
- Israel controls its coastline and all the entry and exit crossings into Israel. There is another crossing point into Egypt. There is no working airport. Because access is so restricted, not many goods get into or out of Gaza. Food is allowed in, but aid agencies say families are not eating as much meat or fresh vegetables and fruit as they used to. There are often power cuts.
- Large numbers of people are unemployed because businesses can get very few of their products out of Gaza to sell, and people don't have much money to buy things.

# Problems

- There are a number of issues which Israel and the Palestinians cannot agree on.

1) Palestinian refugees, whether Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank should stay or be removed, whether the two sides should share Jerusalem, and - perhaps most tricky of all - whether a Palestinian state should be created alongside Israel.

- Peace talks have been taking place on and off for more than 25 years, but so far have not solved the conflict.

# Problems

## 2) A sensitive Issue - Jerusalem

- Israel claims the whole of Jerusalem as its capital, while the Palestinians claim East Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state. The US is one of only a handful of countries to recognise Israel's claim to the whole of the city.
- In the past 50 years Israel has built settlements in these areas, where more than 600,000 Jews now live.
- Palestinians say these are illegal under international law and are obstacles to peace, but Israel denies this.

# What happening now 2021

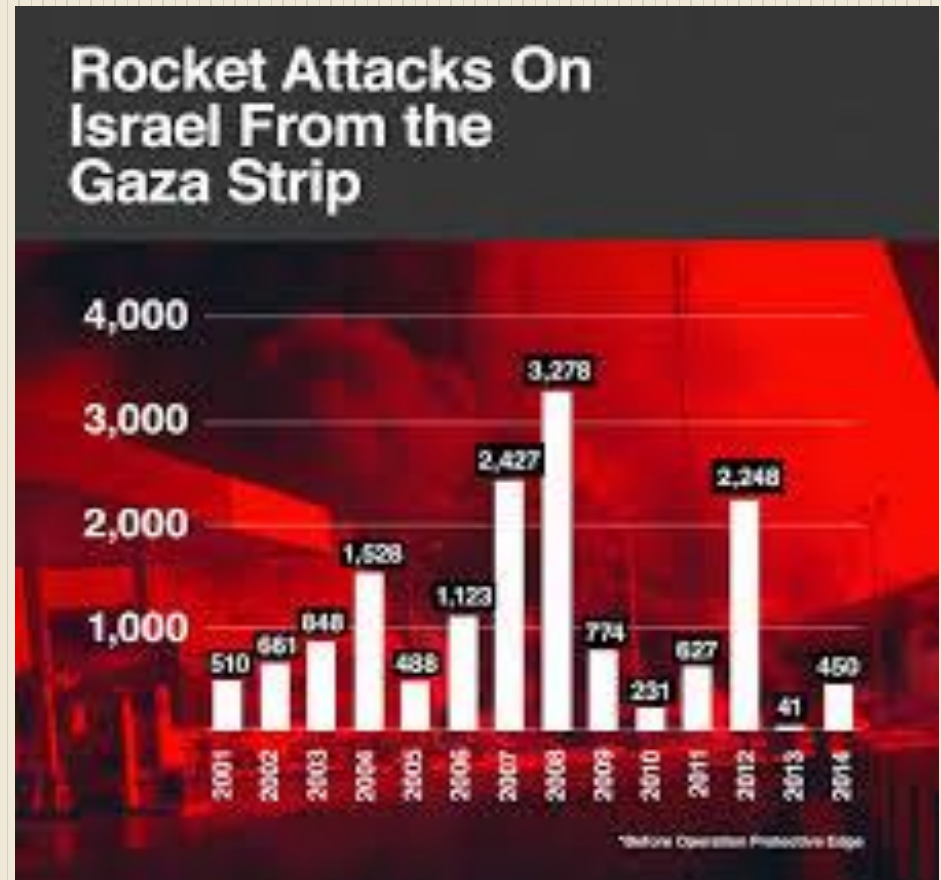
- Tensions are often high between Israel and Palestinians living in East Jerusalem, Gaza and the West Bank.
- Gaza is ruled by a Palestinian militant group called Hamas, which has fought Israel many times. Israel and Egypt tightly control Gaza's borders to stop weapons getting to Hamas.
- Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank say they're suffering because of Israeli actions and restrictions. Israel say it is only acting to protect itself from Palestinian violence.
- Things have escalated since the start of the holy Muslim month of Ramadan in mid-April 2021, with nightly clashes between police and Palestinians.
- The threatened eviction of some Palestinian families in East Jerusalem has also caused rising anger.

# Morality in the conflict

- Because there was never a peace agreement - each side blamed the other - there were more wars and fighting in the decades which followed.
- The importance of **justice** and **transparency** in dialogue which are missing in this conflict.
- In the textbook Qasim Rashid, the writer of this article, is a Muslim and a human right lawyer. The highlight is that we need to understand the cause of conflict for **peacebuilding** so we must come to study these 9 facts presented here.

# Fact 1

- Hamas rockets must stop.
  - No more Hamas violence
  - No Israeli death or injury



## Fact 2

The conflict is older than Hamas. Hamas is the symptom of the conflict, not the root cause.

\*\* study the previous slides “why are they fighting?”





# Fact 3

- If Muslims want peace in Palestine, then they must unite peace worldwide.
  - Muslim majority nations should lead by example of Muslims leaders and establish peace with each other.
  - “How can you demand Israel treat Palestine with peace and justice if you cannot even establish it among yourself?”



# Fact 4

- Peace cannot exist without justice.
- Muslim leaders take more ownership over their youth, and Israel and Palestine must be accountable to justice. Then, we can have peace.



# Fact 5

- Palestine was a haven for Jewish refugees before the creation of Israel
  - This is the place for over 700,000 Jewish refugees after WW I and Israel's creation was imposed in Palestine by UN.



# Fact 6

Since Israel was created by UN, they must live by UN

- After World War II, the newly formed United Nations (which then had less developing countries as members) recommended the partition of Palestine into two states and the internationalization of Jerusalem. The minority Jewish people received the majority of the land.
- Since UN decision was valid upon Israel's creation, they must be also valid now and Israel must remain justice accordingly.

# Fact 7

- All blood are equal. All human life is equal.
- No more Zero-sum game.



# Fact 8

- Both side committed war crimes and must be held accountable accordingly.
  - Palestine elected Hamas. Then, Firing rockets are crimes. Hamas must stop this actions. There is nothing to do with peace.
  - Israel must be accountable for UN and international law. The use of human shields is a crime war. They must stop this action.

# Fact 9

- USA must play fair and so must Muslim leadership
  - USA hold UN veto power. This can take Israel side.
  - Muslim world must recognize the right of Israel to exist.





# Conclusion

- This is a land war not the religion war. Peace is what we need to ensure human dignity.
- Peace exists with justice when we recognize the history facts.

