

FREE PALESTINE



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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that **Uniza Khadpolkar, Siddhi Palshetkar, Alvira Nadaf, Prathamesh Pabe, Md.Shifan Nagarji** students of **Computer Science Engineering (AIML)** have successfully completed the non-technical project on **Free Palestine** under the guidance of **Prof. Satyawan Suresh Mane** during the academic year 2023-2024 in partial fulfillment of **Business Communication and Ethics** Termwork examination under the Faculty of **Engineering and Technology** of University of Mumbai.

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Abstract

This report delves into the complex and longstanding conflict between Israel and Palestine, a conflict that has deeply influenced the geopolitical landscape of the Middle East and has significant implications for international relations. It begins with an overview of the conflict's historical context, tracing the roots of the dispute to the establishment of Israel in 1948 and the resultant displacement of Palestinians.

The report examines the key players and stakeholders involved, including Israel, Palestine, neighboring countries, and international actors, highlighting their respective positions and interests. It also explores the contested territories of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem, discussing issues of settlements, borders, and sovereignty.

Further, the report addresses the impact of the conflict on human rights and humanitarian conditions, particularly for Palestinian civilians who face displacement, casualties, and restricted access to basic services. The challenges of previous peace efforts, such as the Oslo Accords and the Camp David Summit, are analyzed to understand why they have not resulted in lasting peace.

The report provides an update on the current situation and recent developments, including recent clashes and the implications of the Abraham Accords on regional dynamics. In the final section, the report evaluates the feasibility of a two-state solution and discusses the challenges that lie ahead in achieving a sustainable resolution.

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Introduction

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a protracted and deeply rooted struggle, stands as one of the most enduring and contentious geopolitical disputes in modern history. Emerging from the complexities of historical claims, national identities, and geopolitical strategies, the conflict has been characterized by its profound impact on the lives of millions. This report delves into the intricate web of historical context, key players, and territorial disputes that have shaped the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It examines the human toll and humanitarian crises resulting from ongoing hostilities, as well as the various peace efforts and their limitations. By analyzing current developments and exploring potential solutions, this report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the conflict's past, present, and future, shedding light on the path towards a resolution in one of the most volatile regions of the world.

CHAPTER 2

Historical Background

Explore the origins of the conflict, including events leading up to the establishment of Israel in 1948.

Historical context that led to the establishment of Israel in 1948. Here's a concise timeline:

2.1 1897: First Zionist Congress

- a. Theodor Herzl and other leaders founded the Zionist movement, advocating for a Jewish homeland in Palestine due to widespread antisemitism and persecution in Europe.
- b. The First Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland, marked the birth of modern political Zionism.

2.2 1917: The Balfour Declaration

- 2.2.1 British Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour expressed support for a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine.
- 2.2.2 This recognition by a major international power shaped competing national claims in the region.

2.3 1920: League of Nations Mandate

- 2.3.1 Britain administered Palestine after World War I, initially to protect Jewish communities.
- 2.3.2 The Haganah, a Jewish defense organization, emerged during this period.

2.4 1948: State of Israel Proclaimed

- 2.4.1 On May 14, 1948, the Jews secured control of their U.N.-allocated share of Palestine, and Israel was proclaimed as Britain withdrew its mandate.

Discuss the displacement of Palestinians during the creation of Israel.

2.5 1947 UN Partition Plan:

- 2.5.1 The United Nations proposed a partition plan in 1947, dividing Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states.

2.5.2 The plan was accepted by Jewish leaders but rejected by Arab leaders, leading to tensions and violence.

2.6 Civil War and Expulsions:

2.6.1 As tensions escalated, civil war erupted between Jewish and Arab communities.

2.6.2 During this period, Jewish paramilitary groups (such as the Haganah and Irgun) carried out attacks on Arab villages, leading to displacement.

2.6.3 Some Palestinians fled due to fear, while others were forcibly expelled.

2.7 1948 Arab-Israeli War:

2.7.1 Following Israel's declaration of independence in May 1948, neighboring Arab states invaded.

2.7.2 The war resulted in further displacement, with Palestinian villages often caught in the crossfire.

2.7.3 Many Palestinians fled to neighboring countries, seeking safety.

2.8 Nakba ("Catastrophe"):

2.8.1 The term "Nakba" refers to the Palestinian catastrophe of 1948.

2.8.2 Hundreds of Palestinian villages were depopulated, and refugees faced hardships in camps.

2.9 Legacy and Ongoing Conflict:

2.9.1 The displacement of Palestinians remains a central issue in the Israeli- Palestinian conflict.

2.9.2 Millions of Palestinian refugees and their descendants still seek the right of return to their ancestral homes.

CHAPTER 3

3.1 Key Players and Stakeholders

Describe the major parties involved: Israel, Palestine, neighboring countries, and international actors.



Image Credits: Google

Israel: Israel is a country in the Middle East, established in 1948. It shares borders with Egypt and Jordan, and its borders with Syria (via the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights), Lebanon (via the Blue Line), and the Palestinian territories (Israeli-occupied land largely recognized as part of the de jure State of Palestine) remain contested.



Image Credits: Google

Palestine: The Palestinian territories include the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The Palestinian Authority governs parts of the West Bank, while Hamas controls Gaza. The conflict between Israel and Palestine has deep historical roots and revolves around issues like land, borders, and sovereignty.

3.3 Neighboring Countries:

3.2.1 Egypt: Egypt shares a border with Gaza (controlled by Hamas). Egypt has been involved in mediation efforts and humanitarian assistance during conflicts.

3.2.2 Jordan: Jordan has had a peace treaty with Israel since 1994. It has a significant Palestinian population and plays a role in diplomatic efforts.

3.2.3 Lebanon: Lebanon shares a border with Israel. It has been affected by past conflicts and hosts Palestinian refugees.

Syria: The Israeli-occupied Golan Heights border Syria. The Syrian civil war has also impacted the region.

3.4 International Actors:

- a. United Nations: The UN has called for peace and humanitarian aid during conflicts. The Secretary-General expressed distress over the situation in Gaza.
- b. Arab League: The Arab League convenes to discuss efforts to stop Israeli aggression on Gaza. However, its role remains limited due to fragmented Arab governments.
- c. China: China supports a two-state solution based on pre-1967 borders and has expressed concern over the conflict. It aims to facilitate peace talks.
- d. Other Global Actors: Russia, India, Turkey, and the U.S. are also engaged with developments in the Middle East and the crisis in Israel and Gaza.

CHAPTER 4

Territorial Disputes

Territorial Disputes: West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem

Historical Context

The core of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict lies in the contested territories of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem. These areas were captured by Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War from Jordan (West Bank) and Egypt (Gaza Strip).

4.1 Contested Territories :

- 4.1.1 West Bank: This mountainous region, located between Israel and Jordan, has been under Israeli occupation since 1967. It is home to a significant Palestinian population and has been a focal point of conflict due to Israeli settlements and the ongoing dispute over its final status.
- 4.1.2 Gaza Strip: A narrow coastal enclave bordering Israel and Egypt, Gaza has been under Israeli blockade since Hamas, a militant Islamist group, seized control in 2007. The territory faces severe humanitarian challenges due to the blockade, internal divisions, and frequent hostilities.
- 4.1.3 East Jerusalem: Historically part of Jordan, East Jerusalem was captured by Israel in 1967 and later annexed, a move not recognized by the international community. It houses significant religious and cultural sites for both Israelis and Palestinians, making it a highly contested area.

4.2 Settlements, Borders, and Sovereignty:

- 4.2.1 Settlements: Israeli settlements in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, are a major point of contention. The international community considers these settlements illegal under international law, as they are built on occupied territory. Israel disputes this claim, arguing that the territories are disputed and not occupied.
- 4.2.2 Borders: The precise borders of a future Palestinian state remain a significant obstacle to peace. Israel and Palestinians have different proposals for the border, with Israel advocating for a land swap to maintain

large settlement blocs, while Palestinians seek a return to the pre-1967 borders.

- 4.2.3 Sovereignty: The issue of sovereignty over the contested territories is central to the conflict. Israel claims sovereignty over the entire Jerusalem, while Palestinians aspire to establish a capital in East Jerusalem. The West Bank and Gaza Strip are also claimed by both parties, with Palestinians seeking full independence and control over these territories.

4.3 Key Issues and Implications :

The territorial disputes between Israel and Palestinians have far-reaching implications for regional stability, international law, and human rights. Key issues include:

- 4.3.1 Security: The presence of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and the ongoing conflict have led to a complex security situation. Both Israel and Palestinians face threats from militant groups, and the issue of security arrangements for a future Palestinian state remains a major challenge.
- 4.3.2 Human Rights: The occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip has raised concerns about human rights abuses, including restrictions on movement, access to resources, and the treatment of Palestinians.
- 4.3.3 International Law: The status of the occupied territories under international law is a complex issue with implications for the rights of Palestinians and the legitimacy of Israeli actions.
- 4.3.4 Peace Process: Resolving the territorial disputes is essential for achieving a lasting peace between Israel and Palestinians. However, the deep-rooted historical, political, and religious divisions between the two sides have made progress on this issue extremely difficult.

The conflict over the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem continues to be one of the most intractable challenges to peace in the Middle East. Finding a just and lasting solution that addresses the legitimate aspirations of both Israelis and Palestinians will require significant diplomatic efforts and a willingness to compromise on both sides.

CHAPTER 5

Human Rights and Humanitarian Impact

According to the United States Department of State and international, Palestinian and Israeli human rights organizations, there have been credible reports of human rights violations committed against Palestinians by Israel, some amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Reports of human rights violations against Palestinians by Israel include reports of illegal or random killings, random or unwarranted detention (both of Palestinians in Israel and the occupied territories) restrictions on Palestinians residing in Jerusalem including random or illegal interference with privacy, family, and home, considerable interference with the freedom of peaceful assembly and association, limiting and occasionally restricting access to the Al- Aqsa Mosque compound, random or illegal interference with privacy, punishment of family members for alleged offenses by a relative, restrictions on freedom of expression and media including censorship, illegal routine harassment of nongovernmental organizations, unlawful exercise of physical force or intimidation and threats of violence against Palestinians, targeted killings of Palestinians, and labor rights abuses against Palestinian workers. In addition, human rights organizations have described the state of Israel as an apartheid regime.

Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip has been described as a form of collective punishment and a serious violation of international humanitarian law. Israel's military campaigns in the Gaza Strip include Operation Cast Lead which was described by the UN Fact Finding Mission as a "a deliberately disproportionate attack designed to punish, humiliate and terrorize a civilian population, radically diminish its local economic capacity both to work and to provide for itself, and to force upon it an ever increasing sense of dependency and vulnerability."

Israel has also long been accused of illegally harvesting organs of Palestinians. The first evidence of illegal organ harvesting of Palestinians dates back to the early 1990s. Israel has admitted that Israeli pathologists harvested organs from

dead Palestinians without the consent of their families, and the first Israeli heart transplant was in fact a stolen Palestinian's organ. Some Israeli physicians have spoken against illegal organ harvesting of Palestinians that is performed without family approval.

CHAPTER 6

Peace Efforts and Failed Agreements

Explore past peace negotiations, agreements, and their outcomes.

6.1 1967: UN Resolution 242

In 1967, Israel fought Egypt, Syria, and Jordan in the Six-Day War, a brief but intense conflict over water, land, and Palestine. Israel defeated the three Arab states, capturing Gaza, the West Bank, the Sinai Peninsula, parts of East Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights.



Image Credit: <https://www.gettyimages.fi>

Following the conflict, the UN adopted Resolution 242, which calls on Arab countries to recognize Israel's right to "live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force," as well as for Israel to withdraw from "territories occupied" in the conflict — essentially, to revert to its pre-1967 borders, a provision that Israel has since resisted.

Israel, Egypt, and Jordan all came to accept the resolution, ushering in temporary peace between them. Egypt and Jordan recognized Israel's existence

and ceased direct hostilities with the country, though Israel didn't uphold its part of the deal, never fully reverting to its pre-1967 borders — a choice that led to the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

Still, achieving buy-in from Arab nations that were once hostile to Israel was a significant step toward opening formal Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations. The resolution was later affirmed in 1973 in UN Resolution 338, which, along with resolution 242, served as the foundation of peace talks in the region for decades to come.

6.2 1978: Camp David Accords

The Camp David Accords established long-lasting (but cold) peace between Egypt and Israel, and also had a significant impact on the trajectory of Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations.

The Accords, brokered by then-US President Jimmy Carter, came after a ceasefire in the 1973 Yom Kippur War, in which Egypt and Syria fought Israel, hoping to regain territory lost in previous conflicts. As part of the deal, Egypt and Israel agreed to refrain from use of force to resolve their disputes, and Israel agreed to a path toward returning the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt. (Syria signed a separate disengagement agreement with Israel.)

Israel and Egypt also addressed the fate of Palestinians: They reiterated their commitment to UN Resolutions 242 and 338. Both countries called for Palestinians to participate in future negotiations, “full autonomy” for people in the West Bank and Gaza, a provisional government in those territories supported by Israeli security forces, and negotiations to determine Palestinians' final status within five years. Palestinians were not formally invited to participate in the talks because the US refused to deal with the Palestine Liberation Organization, an umbrella group for Palestinian nationalists, so long as they refused to acknowledge Israel's right to exist and to renounce terrorism.

Essentially, the Accords successfully kept war from breaking out between Israel and Egypt. But in the view of Carter and others critical of the deal's limitations, the agreement also removed incentives Israel may have had to pursue peace with the Palestinians, setting the stage for the next few decades of difficulties.

1988: Amid the First Intifada, Arafat acknowledges Israel's right to exist

In 1987, Palestinian frustrations had reached a boiling point following Israel's invasion of Lebanon to root out the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) presence there, the construction of new Israeli settlements, and increased repression by Israeli security forces in the West Bank and Gaza. Palestinians staged their first intifada , Arabic for "shaking off," engaging in nonviolent mass protests that often turned into violent clashes with Israeli security forces. It was amid this fighting that Hamas rose in prominence, initially committing to a nonviolent strategy alongside the PLO to facilitate peace talks.



newarab.com

With the intifada unfolding, PLO leader Yasser Arafat, known as the father of Palestinian nationalism, made an announcement that paved the way for direct negotiations with the Israelis.

"We accept two states, the Palestine state and the Jewish state of Israel," he said. Though the initial reception from the US and Israel was icy, it was a significant capitulation. The PLO was still widely regarded as a terrorist group, including by the US , following the announcement. But it would begin to take a more active role in determining the future of the Palestinians.

6.3 1993: Oslo

The year 1993 marked a breakthrough that established the modern peace process as we know it. The PLO and Israel entered secret negotiations — facilitated by Norwegian politicians through a think tank in Oslo — at a moment when both felt backed into a corner. Israel was facing increasing international pressure to engage in peace talks following its violent clampdowns on Palestinian protesters in the intifada. And the PLO was weakened after supporting Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein before his defeat by US and international forces in the First Gulf War. The fall of the Soviet Union had also reduced Cold War tensions in the Middle East that had previously made peacemaking difficult. The secret talks allowed the negotiators to discuss difficult issues without fear of political blowback. After some progress had been made, the Israelis elevated them to official, public negotiations in Oslo. Then-US President Bill Clinton had a limited role in the negotiations, but held a formal signing ceremony for the so-called Oslo Accords on the White House lawn in Washington, DC, in 1993, in which Rabin and Arafat famously shook hands.



<https://jcpa.org/>

PLO leader *Yasser Arafat* speaks with Prime Minister *Yitzhak Rabin* and Israeli Foreign Minister *Shimon Peres* in Norway after receiving their Nobel Peace Prizes for the progress made in the Oslo agreement. Yaakov Saar/GPO/Getty Images

The Accords allowed Palestinians to self-governing the West Bank and Gaza and established the Palestinian Authority as the government of those areas. Israel agreed to withdraw its security forces from Gaza and “redeploy” those located in the West Bank in phases. In exchange, the PLO formally recognized the state of Israel and the right of its citizens to live in peace, accepting the language of UN Resolution 242. “To this day Palestinians refer to their acquiescence to 242 as their historic compromise, the moment they accepted partition,” Mitchell and Sachar write.

Critically, the PLO failed to limit Israel’s continued military presence in Gaza and the West Bank in key ways. The agreement provided no timeline for Israel’s withdrawal from Gaza and gave Israelis exclusive jurisdiction over their settlements in the occupied territories. At this time, the settler population there exceeded 280,000 and would increase by almost 70,000 in the following five years.

Meanwhile, the Palestinians were left to manage their own affairs, including administering security and public services, relieving Israel of “formal responsibility for the living conditions and welfare of the territories’ rapidly increasing population, still completely dominated by Israeli forces,” Carter writes.

The Accords also established a five-year interim period in which the thornier issues of the conflict were meant to be resolved once and for all: the fate of a Palestinian state and its borders, whether Palestinian refugees would be able to return to Israel or the Palestinian territories or be compensated, what would happen to Israeli settlers and Jerusalem, and water usage. But that would never come to be.

6.4 1995: Oslo II

Oslo II built on the momentum of the first Oslo agreement, which was received positively by both Palestinians and Israelis. In September 1995, Rabin and Arafat convened to sign a second agreement in DC that divided the West Bank into three zones, labeled Areas A, B, and C, keeping Gaza continuous. The hope was that, eventually, the Palestinian state would be formed in these areas.

The newly created Palestinian Authority (PA) was given full control over Area A, which encompassed the Palestinian cities of Ramallah, Jenin, Nablus, and Bethlehem. In Area B, which spans a dense zone around those Area A cities, the Palestinian Authority was to have civil jurisdiction in partnership with Israel, which would administer security. Area C, which represented most of the West Bank (and encompassed all of the settlements that Israel had built since it captured the territory in 1967) was to be administered entirely by Israel. Israel was still permitted to collect taxes from the many Palestinians living anywhere in the West Bank and Gaza if they worked in Israel, which it would then distribute to the PA. The Israelis had agreed to withdraw from most of Gaza ahead of Oslo II. Rabin also agreed that Israel would withdraw from Areas A and B within three months of the signing of the agreement, and would negotiate further withdrawals in the five-year interim period established in the first Oslo agreement.



<https://www.vox.com/>

Radicals on both sides sought to prevent both Oslo I and II's implementation. Rabin, who had become the face of the peace movement in Israel, was assassinated by a Jewish extremist who opposed the Accords just months later. A period of heightened attacks by Hamas followed. Public support for the peace process eroded, leading to Netanyahu's election as prime minister in 1996. He opposed the Oslo Accords, arguing they only encouraged attacks like those Hamas was launching at the time, and that Israel needed to take a hard line against the Palestinians. He also distrusted the PLO's Arafat, a feeling that was mutual.

Discuss obstacles to achieving lasting peace. For 16ueled16ne

Intermittent discussions are held by various parties and proposals put forward in an attempt to resolve the ongoing Israeli–Palestinian conflict through a peace process. Since the 1970s, there has been a parallel effort made to find terms

upon which peace can be agreed to in both the Arab–Israeli conflict and in the Palestinian–Israeli conflict. Notably the Camp David Accords between Egypt and Israel, which included discussions on plans for “Palestinian autonomy”, but did not include any Palestinian representatives. The autonomy plan would not be implemented, but its stipulations would to a large extent be represented in the Oslo Accords.

Despite the failure of the peace process to produce a final agreement, the international consensus has for decades supported a two-state solution to the conflict, based on United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 and 338. This includes the establishment of an independent Palestinian state under the pre-1967 borders including East Jerusalem and a just resolution to the refugee question based on the Palestinian right of return (in accordance with United Nations General Assembly Resolution 194). This is in contrast to the current situation under the interim agreement of the Oslo Accords in which the Palestinian territories are fragmented under Israeli military control and the Palestinian National Authority has only partial self-rule in Area A of the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip. A final settlement as stipulated by the Oslo Accords has yet to be reached.

CHAPTER 7

7.1 Current Situation and Recent Developments

Tensions between Israel and Palestine have increased during 2023. The violence has fueled speculation that another ‘intifada’ could be imminent. Intifada refers to two previous uprisings in 1978 and 2000 by Palestinians against Israel. Examples of recent violence include:

16 January 2023: Israeli forces were reported to have killed a Palestinian boy in the West Bank. Media reports said Israel Defense Forces troops had opened fire in response to having rocks, Molotov cocktails and improvised explosive devices thrown at them. The Palestinian Ministry of Education condemned the killing.

27 January 2023: Palestinian officials reported that nine Palestinians were killed during an Israeli military raid in Jenin, a town in the West Bank. The Israeli military said the purpose of the raid was to arrest Palestinian Islamic Jihad “terror operatives” who they said were planning major attacks. The Palestinian Authority accused Israel of a “massacre” and announced it had ended coordination with the Israeli government on security matters. On the same day, seven Israelis were killed outside a synagogue in east Jerusalem. Local media reportedly identified the attacker as a 13-year-old Palestinian boy. In response, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel would deploy forces and introduce additional security measures to “act against terrorism”.

22 February 2023: Palestinian officials reported that at least 10 Palestinians were killed and more than 100 injured during an Israeli raid in Nablus. The Palestinian Authority described the raid as “state terrorism and a dangerous escalation of the conflict”. The Israel Defense Forces said the reason for the raid was to stem the spate of attacks against Israelis. The Israeli military said it had “upgraded” its operation after its troops were shot at by Palestinian gunmen.

23 February 2023: Following the Nablus raid, Palestinian militants and Israel Defense Forces exchanged rocket fire in the Gaza Strip. The Israeli military were reported to have carried out air strikes in response to Palestinian militants firing rockets at southern Israel. Both Hamas—the Palestinian militant group that

controls the Gaza Strip—and another militant group, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, were reported to have issued threats of retaliation.

26 February 2023: A Palestinian gunman was reported to have killed two Israeli settler brothers in Hawara, a town in the northern West Bank. Israeli settlers were then said to have set cars and homes on fire in Palestinian villages in retaliation. Dozens of people were reported to have been wounded, and an Israeli American killed. In a statement, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the Israel Defense Forces was investigating the incident and urged the public not to take the law into their own hands.

7.2 The role of regional and international actors.

7.2.1 The Arab League

The Arab League's foreign ministers will meet on Wednesday in an emergency summit.

The extraordinary session was requested by the Palestinian delegation, the League's statement said. Assistant Secretary-General Hossam Zaki said the ministers would discuss Arab efforts to "stop the Israeli aggression" on Gaza. The possible outcomes of tomorrow's meeting remain unclear. Zweiri says the Arab League has no role to play. "It's a reflection of the fragmented Arab governments. It has no tools."

7.2.2 China

Beijing expressed deep concern over the escalation of conflict and called for "calm". Observers have wondered if China will try to promote itself as a regional peacemaker after it successfully brokered a rapprochement between Iran and Saudi Arabia. In April, the country's then-foreign minister, Qin Gang, told the Israeli and Palestinian foreign ministers that China was ready to facilitate efforts towards peace talks. China supports a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, based on pre-1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as the capital of a sovereign Palestinian state. It has also advocated for international development assistance for Palestinians.

7.2.3 Egypt

Cairo has acted as a mediator between Israel and Palestinian groups in previous conflicts but Zweiri says it will try to distance itself from the escalating situation in Gaza. "They [Egypt] want to distance themselves from what is happening because ... Egypt is going to elections," he said.

7.2.4 Europe

The leaders of many European nations including France and Germany condemned the Hamas attacks and have shown solidarity with Israel. The European Union foreign ministers are scheduled to hold an extraordinary meeting on Tuesday afternoon to discuss the war. The EU's initial response to the conflict was to announce the immediate suspension of development aid for Palestinians. Later it said it would be reviewing the assistance, not suspending it. Spain's Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Alvarez said such a move was unacceptable and cooperation must continue. "We cannot confuse Hamas, which is on the European Union's list of terrorist groups, with the Palestinian population, the Palestinian Authority, or the United Nations organizations present on the ground," he told Spanish radio station Cadena SER on Tuesday morning.

7.2.5 Iran

Iran's possible role in mediation remains unclear. Its Supreme Leader Ali Hosseini Khamenei said on Tuesday: "We of course defend Palestinians. We kiss the forehead and arms of the brave fighters and youths of Palestine, yes it's true." "But those who say non-Palestinians were behind what was done... They do not know Palestinians well. They have underestimated the nation of Palestine. That is their mistake."

7.2.6 Qatar

The Gulf nation is known for its mediation efforts in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and its ongoing assistance to Gaza, which has been under Israeli siege for 16 years. "Our priorities are to end the bloodshed, release the prisoners and make sure the conflict is contained with no regional spillover," foreign ministry

spokesperson Majed al-Ansari told Reuters. However, an Israeli official told Reuters: "There are no negotiations underway."

7.2.7 Russia

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said creating a Palestinian state was the "most reliable" solution for peace in Israel and that fighting alone would not ensure security.

7.2.8 Turkey

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called on both Hamas fighters and Israeli armed forces to stop the violence and offered to mediate. If peace talks are to start, Zweiri believes Turkey and Qatar will both have an active role. "I'm assuming this because they both have communications with Hamas and Israel, and we have to look at who is capable of being able to talk to both sides."

UN agencies

As part of earlier mediation efforts, weeks before the Saturday attack, the UN was engaged in diplomacy to try to prevent new armed confrontations between Israel and Hamas. UN Middle East peace envoy Tor Wennesland met Hamas officials in Gaza and posted on X: "The United Nations is talking to and working with all concerned to improve the lives of people in Gaza, particularly the most vulnerable."

7.2.9 The United States

Israel's closest ally has promised "rock solid and unwavering" support to Israel and said it would send munitions as it moved its military ships and aircraft closer to it. Al Jazeera's senior correspondent John Hendren, reporting from Washington, DC, said talks of diplomacy and of a two-state solution are on hold for now. Washington has said it wants a future Palestinian state, but it has failed to convince Israel, to which it gives \$3bn in annual military aid, to honor the agreements it signed with the Palestinians. Settlement expansion on Palestinian lands and settler violence have increased, particularly under the extreme right-wing government Netanyahu heads. Zweiri said the US reaction has been shocking. "They [the US] are basically allowing Israel to do what they want in Gaza."

CHAPTER 8

Possible Solutions and Future Prospects

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been a focal point of international diplomacy for decades. Various solutions have been proposed, each with its own set of challenges and prospects.

8.1 Two-State Solution

8.1.1 Overview

The two-state solution envisions an independent State of Palestine coexisting peacefully alongside the State of Israel. The concept is grounded in the idea of establishing borders based on pre-1967 lines with mutually agreed land swaps, allowing for the creation of a sovereign Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

8.1.2 Prospects

- a. International Support: Widely supported by the international community, including the United Nations and many countries.
- b. Precedents: Past negotiations (e.g., Oslo Accords) and peace proposals have laid some groundwork for a two-state framework.
- c. Mutual Recognition: Offers a compromise that recognizes the legitimacy of both Israeli and Palestinian national aspirations.

8.1.3 Challenges

- a. Settlement Expansion: Continued Israeli settlement activity in the West Bank complicates the delineation of borders and undermines trust.
- b. Jerusalem: The status of Jerusalem remains a deeply contentious issue, with both sides claiming it as their capital.
- c. Political Fragmentation: Palestinian political fragmentation between factions like Fatah and Hamas poses challenges for unified negotiations and governance.

8.2 One-State Solution

8.2.1 Overview

The one-state solution proposes a single state encompassing Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza Strip, where all inhabitants would have equal rights, regardless of ethnicity or religion.

8.2.2 Prospects

- a. Potential for Equality: Could address issues of inequality and discrimination by offering equal citizenship rights.
- b. Unified Governance: Might simplify administration and reduce conflicts over borders.

8.2.3 Challenges

- a. Demographic Concerns: Both sides have deep-seated fears about demographic changes affecting national identity and political power.
- b. Political Feasibility: Difficult to reconcile with existing political structures and demands for self-determination from both Israelis and Palestinians.
- c. Security Concerns: Security issues and potential resistance from factions with divergent goals could destabilize the region.

8.3 Confederation Models

8.3.1 Overview

Confederation models involve a looser arrangement where two or more entities (e.g., Israel and Palestine) retain substantial autonomy while cooperating on shared issues like security, economy, and infrastructure.

8.3.2 Prospects

- a. Flexible Arrangements: Could allow for a balance between sovereignty and cooperation.
- b. Shared Resources: Provides a framework for joint management of resources and infrastructure.

8.3.3 Challenges

- a. Complex Implementation: Requires intricate agreements and mutual trust, which are currently lacking.

- b. Political Will: Both sides would need to commit to a high level of cooperation and compromise.

8.3.4 Other Alternatives

International Trusteeship: Involves placing the territories under international administration temporarily to oversee the transition to peace and self-determination.

8.3.5 Prospects

- a. Neutral Oversight: Could provide a neutral platform for conflict resolution and transitional governance.
- b. International Support: Might garner support from the international community to ensure fair administration.



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8.3.4 Challenges

- a. Sovereignty Issues: Resistance from both sides to external control over their lands and destinies.
- b. Transitional Risks: The interim period could exacerbate tensions rather than resolving them.

8.4 Challenges and Prospects for Peace

8.4.1 Challenges

- a. Historical Grievances: Long-standing historical grievances and mistrust complicate negotiations and reconciliation efforts.
- b. Political Instability: Domestic political instability on both sides can hinder progress and effective governance.
- c. International Dynamics: Regional and global geopolitical interests influence the conflict and complicate the pursuit of a resolution.

8.4.2 Prospects

- a. Grassroots Efforts: Increasing grassroots movements and dialogues promote understanding and cooperation at the community level.
- b. Diplomatic Initiatives: Ongoing international efforts and peace processes offer hope for mediated solutions and breakthroughs.

Conclusion

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict remains one of the most challenging and enduring conflicts in modern history. The two-state solution, one-state solution, and various alternative models each have their own sets of advantages and obstacles. The urgency of finding a peaceful resolution cannot be overstated, as continued conflict exacerbates suffering and instability in the region. Achieving peace will require bold leadership, innovative solutions, and sustained commitment from all parties involved. It is imperative that the international community continues to support efforts for dialogue and reconciliation, working towards a future where both Israelis and Palestinians can coexist in peace and security.

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