



JAMUN 2025
UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

BACKGROUND GUIDE

Agenda: Deliberation on Strengthening Peace Dialogues and Conflict-Prevention Mechanisms to Avert Global Escalation with a Special Emphasis on Regional Conflict.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Greetings Delegates,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) at JAMUN 2025. This council is convened to address a matter of critical global importance: "*Deliberation on Strengthening Peace Dialogues and Conflict-Prevention Mechanisms to Avert Global Escalation with a Special Emphasis on Regional Conflicts.*" As the principal UN body tasked with maintaining international peace, the UNSC addresses issues of the highest gravity. We expect all delegates to approach these proceedings with the focus and seriousness this council demands.

Success in this committee will be contingent upon your commitment to the core principles of diplomacy, respect, humanity, critical thinking, and teamwork. As this is a double-delegation committee, effective and consistent coordination with your partner is essential to representing your assigned nation's policies with a unified voice.

You must adhere strictly to your country's foreign policy, especially when forming alliances. The provided background guide should be considered a foundational document, not the extent of your required preparation. You are expected to conduct extensive independent research to gain a comprehensive understanding of the agenda and your country's position.

Please be advised that the use of AI should be limited (if used at all) to initial information gathering. Your core arguments, proposed solutions, and diplomatic initiatives must be the product of your own critical analysis. AI may not be cited as a source (as mentioned ahead in this BG), and your performance will be evaluated on your unique ideas, not on automated summaries.

The Executive Board is here to guide you. Don't hesitate to reach out if you need any help. Our contact information is mentioned below. It is essential to note that delegate performance will not be evaluated solely on the recitation of facts. Rather, the evaluation will focus on your ability to apply research to craft innovative policies, engage in effective negotiation, and build viable solutions. That is the true measure of diplomacy and the essential spirit of the Model United Nations.

We wish you all the best and look forward to a fruitful MUN...

Best Regards,
The Executive Board

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9582263350

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COMMITTEE INTRODUCTION

The Security Council is the principal decision-making body of the United Nations, entrusted with the crucial responsibility of maintaining international peace and security. It is composed of 15 member states, 5 of which hold permanent status: the United Kingdom, the United States, France, Russia, and China. These five permanent members, known as the P5, have the distinctive authority of veto, which allows them to block the adoption of any substantive resolution but not procedural votes. In addition to the 15 members, other states may participate in Security Council meetings as Observers, allowing them to follow discussions and contribute insights, although without voting rights.

The Security Council derives its authority from the United Nations Charter, which acts as the organisation's foundational constitution. Its mandate is unique among UN bodies because it grants the Council the power to make legally binding decisions for all member states, as outlined in Chapters 5, 6, and 7 of the Charter. Article 24(1) explicitly assigns the Council "primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security," highlighting its central role in addressing global crises and safeguarding stability.

In fulfilling this mandate, the Council is expected to prioritise diplomatic and peaceful methods, including dialogue, negotiation, and compromise. However, achieving peace is often complex and requires flexibility, particularly when disputes escalate or parties are unwilling to cooperate. In such cases, the Security Council has a spectrum of tools at its disposal. It can authorise investigations, mediate disputes, appoint special envoys, or deploy peacekeeping missions to maintain order on the ground. When conflicts intensify, the Council may impose economic sanctions, enforce blockades, or take other measures to compel compliance and protect civilians. The choice of intervention depends on the scale, severity, and nature of the conflict, and it is the responsibility of member states and delegates to determine the most effective course of action.

Ultimately, the Security Council serves as the guardian of global peace and stability. Its unique combination of diplomatic authority and legal power allows it to respond to both immediate crises and long-term threats to international security. By balancing negotiation, mediation, and enforcement, the Council ensures that conflicts are managed constructively and that nations are held accountable for actions that threaten the collective well-being of the international community. The effectiveness of the Security Council relies not only on its structure and powers but also on the willingness of member states to engage in cooperation, compromise, and proactive diplomacy, making it an indispensable pillar of the United Nations.

GUIDE TO RESEARCH

Whenever you begin your research, first try to understand what the agenda means and what your role in the committee will be. In this case, start by learning what peace dialogues, conflict prevention, and regional conflicts are, and how they connect to global security. Once you are clear about these terms, move on to understanding how the United Nations Security Council works and what powers it has to maintain peace.

Write down the agenda somewhere and try to break it into smaller ideas. As you do this, you will begin to notice different aspects of the topic, such as why regional conflicts occur, how they can grow into global problems, and what can be done to prevent them. Begin your research by reading about ongoing and past regional conflicts around the world and how the UN or other international organisations tried to solve them.

While reading, note down the main challenges that countries face in peacebuilding, such as lack of trust, weak communication, or political interests. You can then think of ways to strengthen dialogue, improve early warning systems, and encourage cooperation between nations.

Next, explore what actions have already been taken by the UN, regional groups, and other organisations to prevent conflicts. Look into official reports, especially those written by the UN Bodies, to understand what progress has been made and what still needs improvement. These reports will help you learn about real steps taken by the international community.

Once you understand the global efforts, study a few case studies of regional conflicts, such as in the Middle East, Russia-Ukraine, or the Indo-Pak. Try to find what went wrong, what could have been done differently, and how future peace talks can be made more effective.

By the end of your research, you should be able to explain what the main issues are, what has already been done to solve them, and what new ideas you can propose as a delegate.

The goal is to understand the agenda deeply and to think of practical ways to strengthen peace dialogues and prevent conflicts from growing into larger crises.

Please refer to the proofs & evidences section to understand which sources can be cited as proofs in the committee.

VALID PROOFS & EVIDENCES IN THE COMMITTEE

Evidence or proof will be accepted as credible in the committee from the following sources:

1. News Sources:

1.1 REUTERS Any Reuters' article which makes mention of the fact stated or is in contradiction of the fact being stated by another delegate in council can be used to substantiate arguments in the committee.

1.2 State-operated News Agencies These reports can be used in support of or against the state that owns the News Agency. These reports, if credible or substantial enough, can be used in support of or against any country; however, in such a situation, they can be denied by any other country on the council. Some examples are RIA Novosti (Russia), IRNA (Iran), Xinhua News Agency (PRC), BBC News (UK), and Al-Jazeera (Qatar)

2. Government Reports:

These reports can be used in a similar way to the State Operated News Agencies reports and can, in all circumstances, be denied by another country. However, a nuance is that a report that is being denied by a certain country can still be accepted by the Executive Board as credible information. Some examples are,

2.1 Government Websites like the State Department of the United States of America

2.2 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of various nations, like India (mea.gov.in/)

2.3 Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Reports

2.4 Multilateral Organisations like the NATO (nato.int) and ASEAN (aseansec.org)

3. UN Reports: All UN Reports are considered credible information or evidence

4. UN Bodies: like the UNGA (un.org/en/ga/) or UNSC (un.org/securitycouncil)

5. UN-affiliated bodies: like the International Atomic Energy Agency (iaea.org), World Bank (worldbank.org), International Committee of the Red Cross (icrc.org), etc.

Under no circumstances would sources like Wikipedia, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch or newspapers like the Guardian, Times of India, etc. would be accepted as PROOF/EVIDENCE. However, they can be used for a better understanding of any issue or, on rare occasions, be brought up in debate if the information given in such sources is in line with the beliefs of a government. NO AI CAN BE USED AS PROOF/EVIDENCE.

INTRODUCTION

The agenda, “*Deliberation on Strengthening Peace Dialogues and Conflict-Prevention Mechanisms to Avert Global Escalation with a Special Emphasis on Regional Conflicts*,” emphasises the growing importance of diplomacy and preventive measures in maintaining global stability. As regional disputes increasingly influence international relations, the need for effective peace dialogues and robust conflict-prevention frameworks has never been greater.

Conflicts are sparking all over the globe, be it the Indo-Pak conflict, the Russia-Ukraine war, the Middle East crisis, or the China-Taiwan tensions. These disputes, though regional in nature, have far-reaching consequences that affect global peace, trade, and humanitarian stability. The interconnected nature of today’s world means that no conflict remains isolated for long; economic sanctions, refugee crises, and energy shortages often spill across borders, pulling other nations into the ripple effects. In such a situation, strengthening diplomatic channels and early intervention mechanisms becomes essential to prevent escalation.

Peace dialogues serve as the foundation of diplomacy. They allow conflicting nations to communicate, negotiate, and rebuild trust before tensions reach a breaking point. However, peace talks often collapse due to political mistrust, power struggles, or a lack of international support. The Security Council, as the primary body responsible for maintaining peace and security, plays a vital role in bridging these gaps. Its responsibility extends beyond responding to crises; it must ensure that the right systems are in place to prevent them in the first place.

Conflict-prevention mechanisms include mediation, peacekeeping operations, sanctions, and confidence-building measures. Yet, their success depends largely on the willingness of nations to cooperate and respect international law. The Council must therefore focus on creating stronger, more adaptable frameworks that can respond swiftly to emerging threats. This involves improving coordination between regional organisations, empowering diplomatic missions, and encouraging transparent communication between states.

At the same time, addressing the root causes of conflict, such as economic inequality, ethnic divisions, and resource competition, remains essential. Without tackling these underlying issues, peace efforts often remain temporary. The agenda encourages delegates to look beyond immediate political solutions and explore long-term strategies that promote stability and sustainable development in fragile regions.

In discussing this agenda, the United Nations Security Council aims to reaffirm its commitment to proactive diplomacy and peaceful conflict resolution. It seeks to develop methods that strengthen early-warning systems, enhance trust among nations, and ensure that disputes are settled through dialogue rather than warfare. The focus on regional conflicts serves as a reminder that peace at the global level can only be achieved when stability is ensured at the local level.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The concept of peace dialogues and conflict-prevention mechanisms has been central to international diplomacy since the establishment of the United Nations in 1945. The devastation of the Second World War led to the creation of the UN and its Security Council, with the primary goal of preventing future global conflicts through collective security and dialogue. Over the decades, the Security Council has evolved from merely responding to wars to actively working toward conflict prevention, mediation, and peacebuilding.

During the Cold War era (1947–1991), the global order was dominated by ideological tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union. Although large-scale war was avoided, numerous regional conflicts emerged in Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Africa, often as indirect confrontations between the two superpowers. The Security Council's ability to intervene was limited due to frequent use of the veto, but these events highlighted the importance of diplomatic negotiation and preventive engagement. This period also saw the development of early peacekeeping missions, such as those in the Suez Canal (1956) and the Congo (1960), marking the beginning of the UN's role in active conflict management.

After the end of the Cold War, the 1990s witnessed a shift in the global security environment. Ethnic and regional conflicts in the Balkans, Rwanda, and Somalia revealed new challenges that could not be contained through military deterrence alone. The international community recognised that early warning systems, preventive diplomacy, and post-conflict peacebuilding were essential to ensuring lasting peace. The Agenda for Peace (1992), introduced by then Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, formally established a framework for preventive diplomacy and peacebuilding — concepts that form the core of today's agenda.

In the 21st century, the rise of globalisation and interdependence has made regional conflicts increasingly complex and interconnected. The Middle Eastern Crisis, the China-Taiwan Conflict, the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and ongoing Indo-Pak tensions have shown how local disputes can trigger global instability, affecting energy security, trade routes, and humanitarian conditions. These crises have emphasised the need for multilateral cooperation and renewed peace dialogues. This background guide now covers 4 case studies, covering 4 modern high tension zones from around the globe, namely, India & Pakistan, Russia & Ukraine, China & Taiwan and the Middle Eastern Conflict.

CASE STUDY I: INDIA-PAKISTAN CONFLICT

OVERVIEW:

The India-Pakistan conflict is centred around the disputed region of **Jammu and Kashmir**, where the UN has monitored ceasefires since 1949. Multiple wars have been fought by the two states over the course of 79 years, while maintaining a fragile **Line of Control (LoC)** established after the **Simla Agreement of 1971-1972**.

The UN has conducted many military observations as part of **UNMOGIP** (UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan). The Security Council has also repeatedly called for ceasefires and de-escalation, while the Simla Agreement framework prohibits unilateral change to the Line of Control.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

The princely state of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), majority Muslim but ruled by a Hindu Maharaja Hari Singh, initially wanted independence but chose to **accede to India** in October 1947 after Pakistan-backed **tribal militias** invaded.

Kashmir is located at a geostrategically important point. J&K borders China and Pakistan, making it strategically significant for regional security. The area's water resources, especially the Indus River basin, are vital to both nations' agriculture and industry.

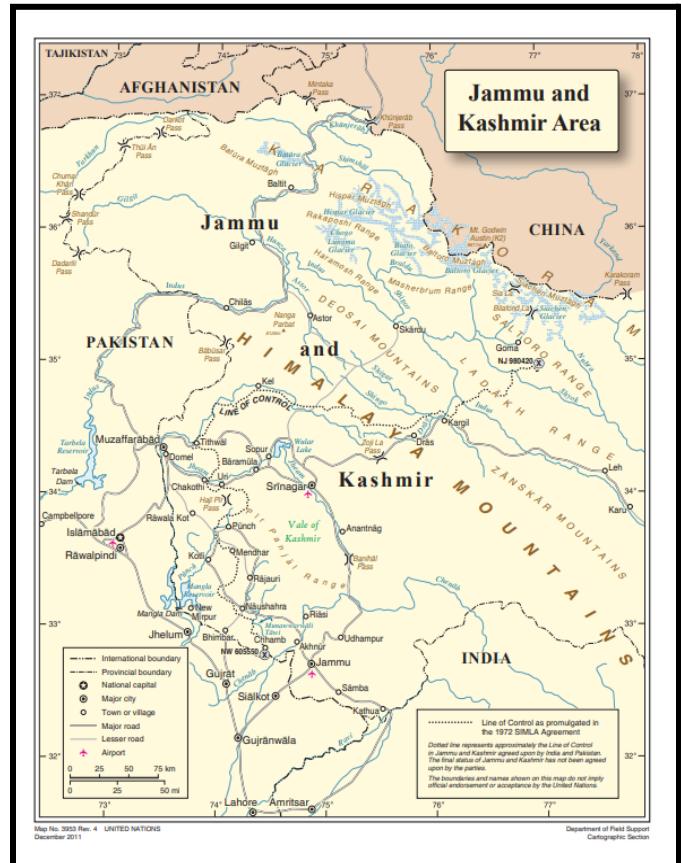
The UN Security Council established the **UN Commission for India and Pakistan** through Resolutions 39 and 47 in 1948 to promote peace and propose steps towards a **plebiscite** (a vote by the people of Kashmir on the issue) under UN auspices.

During the 1965 Indo-Pakistani war, the Security Council adopted Resolutions 209-215 calling for a ceasefire, strengthening observer missions, and coordinated withdrawals; the UN set up UNIPOM (UN India-Pakistan Observation Mission) temporarily to supervise ceasefire observance along the India-Pakistan border outside Kashmir.

INDO-PAKISTANI WARS:

1. First Indo-Pak War (1947–1948)

Pakistan-backed tribal militias invaded Kashmir after the Maharaja's accession to India. Ended with a UN-mediated ceasefire line dividing Kashmir; Pakistan controls about 37% (Azad Kashmir or Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK)), and India the remainder.



2. Second Indo-Pak War (1965)

Initiated by Pakistan's **Operation Gibraltar**, aiming to incite insurgency among the people of Kashmir. However, this operation was a failure and directly caused the war. The war spanned over Kashmir and along the international border. Both countries withdrew to pre-war status, solidifying the LoC.

3. Third Indo-Pak War (1971)

Began over **East Pakistan's** civil war and subsequent Indian intervention. The swift 13-day war resulted in the creation of **Bangladesh**, a major geopolitical shift. Indian and Pakistani forces fought on the western front (including Kashmir). On December 17, 1971 ceasefire reinstated the LoC. Pakistan's western border changed drastically post-war.

4. Kargil Conflict (1999)

Pakistani troops and militants crossed into the Indian-controlled Kargil sector. India launched Operation Vijay and recaptured key peaks after intense mountain warfare for 2 months. Led to the diplomatic isolation of Pakistan for its violation of the LoC.



KEY AGREEMENTS:

- 1. Karachi Agreement (July 1949):** India and Pakistan agreed to a ceasefire line in Kashmir to be supervised by UN military observers; this line was the basis for UN monitoring before 1971-72.
- 2. Simla Agreement (July 1972):** India and Pakistan committed to settle differences by peaceful bilateral means, converted the 17 December 1971 ceasefire line into the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir, and agreed neither side would unilaterally alter it.

RECENT INDO-PAK CONFLICTS AND OPERATIONS:

- 1. Pulwama Attack and Balakot Strikes (2019):** Suicide bombing in Pulwama killed 40 Indian paramilitary personnel. India responded with bombings in Balakot, leading to aerial dogfights and bombing.
- 2. Operation Sindoor (May 2025):** Indian military operation targeting terrorist camps in Pakistan-administered Kashmir after attacks in Pahalgam on Indian civilians

CASE STUDY II: RUSSIA UKRAINE CONFLICT

The **Russia-Ukraine war** did not start suddenly, it developed over years of political tension and power struggles. It is one of the **most important conflicts** of the 21st century, showing the challenges of modern warfare like **cyberattacks, drone strikes, and global involvement**. Beyond the battlefield, the war has inflicted immense human and **infrastructural damage** in Ukraine and triggered **profound repercussions** for international peace, security, and diplomatic relations.



BACKGROUND & TIMELINE:

The situation escalated dramatically in 2014 following the **Euromaidan protests**, a wave of mass demonstrations demanding closer integration with Europe and the removal of the pro-Russian President **Viktor Yanukovych**. Yanukovych fled the country, prompting Russia to **annex Crimea in March 2014**.

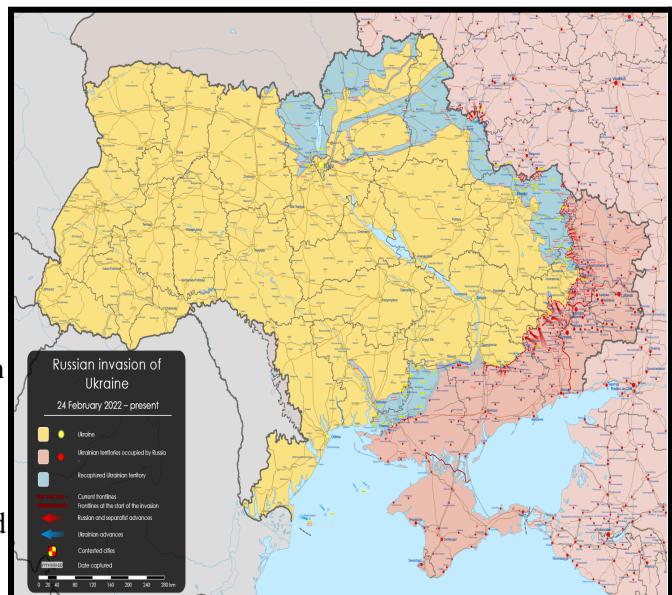
This annexation was widely condemned as a **violation of international law**. Concurrently, Russia supported separatist movements in the **Donbas** region of Eastern Ukraine, igniting armed clashes that led to over 14,000 deaths. After years of tension, Russia built up troops near Ukraine in 2021, demanding that Ukraine not join NATO. Over the years, **political instability, corruption, and contested national identity** fueled tensions domestically.

In late 2021, Russia amassed more than **100,000 troops** near Ukraine's borders, issuing demands that Ukraine refrain from joining NATO and effectively surrender its Western alignment. Despite international diplomatic efforts, including appeals from the UN, EU, and the United States, **negotiations failed to prevent escalation**.

MILITARY OPERATIONS:

On **February 24, 2022**, Russia launched a full-scale invasion, the **biggest military attack** in Europe since World War II — targeting **Kyiv, Kharkiv, Mariupol, and other key areas**. Ukrainian resistance forced Russia to **withdraw** from northern Ukraine by April 2022 and focus on Donbas. Russian tactics involved combined **arms operations, long-range missile strikes**, and attempts to **encircle** Ukrainian forces.

By **April 2022**, Russian forces withdrew from northern Ukraine after facing stiff resistance, refocusing their operations on the Donbas region. One notable event was the **sinking of the Russian Black Sea Fleet flagship Moskva**, a severe naval loss that demonstrated Ukraine's ability to strike significant Russian assets.



From **2022 to 2023**, Ukraine launched multiple **counteroffensives**, regaining significant portions of Kharkiv, Kherson, and surrounding areas.

By **2025**, the conflict intensified further. In **June 2025**, Russia conducted its largest airstrike campaign of the war, deploying over **537 aerial weapons** targeting energy, transportation, and military infrastructure. Ukraine responded with “**Spider’s Web**”, a sophisticated drone campaign that reportedly destroyed over **40 Russian warplanes in Siberia**, highlighting the evolving role of unmanned aerial technology in modern warfare.

INTERNATIONAL INVOLVEMENT:

The Russia–Ukraine war has become a **focal point of global geopolitics**. Ukraine has received extensive support from the **United States, NATO allies, and the European Union**, including advanced weaponry, intelligence, training, and financial aid. Russia, in turn, has received assistance from **China** (non-lethal aid and diplomatic support), Iran (drones and military equipment), **North Korea** (missile and artillery support), and **Belarus** (logistics, troop movements, and equipment).

IMPACT:

The war has triggered one of Europe’s **largest humanitarian crises** since World War II. Millions of civilians have been **displaced** internally or forced to flee abroad, while hospitals, schools, and infrastructure have been heavily damaged. Critical **industries**, including agriculture and energy, have suffered **severe disruptions, affecting global food and energy security**. The human cost, combined with economic instability, underscores the far-reaching **consequences of regional conflicts on global stability**.

CONCLUSION:

The Russia-Ukraine war shows how **local conflicts** can grow into **global crises**. It highlights the UN Security Council’s role in promoting **peace talks, conflict prevention, and international cooperation**. A comprehensive understanding of this conflict including its historical roots, military operations, international alliances, and humanitarian effects—is essential for building **sustainable peace, preventing further escalation, and strengthening global security frameworks**.

CASE STUDY III: REGIONAL VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

A. ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT

1. FORMATION OF A JEWISH STATE

In 1947, after World War II, the United Nations agreed to divide Palestine into **separate Arab and Jewish states**. The Jewish state in the present day is known as Israel. At that time, none of the neighbouring Arab countries supported this resolution as they felt it was unjust to the Arab population. Jerusalem was proclaimed to be an international city- away from the direct supervision of either **Israel or any of the Arab states**. In 1948, the day after Israel declared its independence, it was attacked by the armies of five surrounding Arab nations- **Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan**. Israel survived as a sovereign nation after the war. It expanded its territory so rapidly that now, it controlled most of the territory. Treaties led to Egypt occupying the **Gaza strip**, Jordan occupying the **West Bank** and **East Jerusalem**, and Israel occupying **West Jerusalem**.

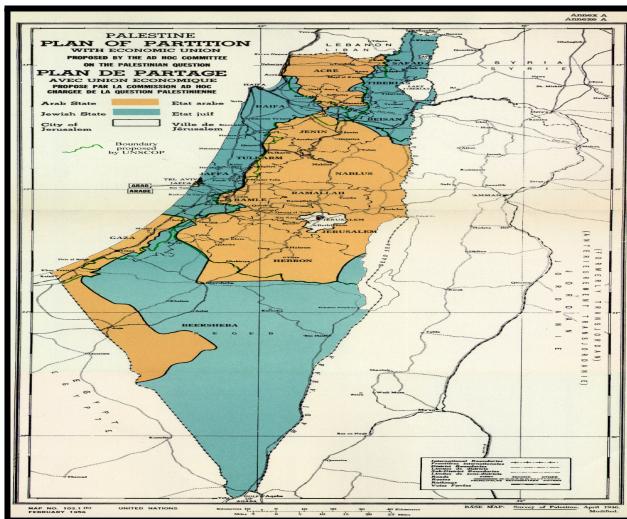


Figure 3.1- UN proposed Partition Plan of Palestine, 1947



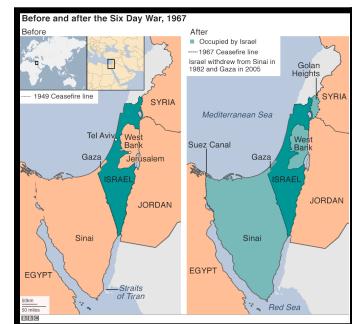
Figure 3.2- Israel after Arab-Israeli war

2. SIX DAY WAR, 1967

Israel launched pre-emptive strikes and **captured the Sinai Peninsula, Gaza Strip, West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Golan Heights** within six days, nearly tripling its territory. The war displaced many Arabs and intensified Israeli–Palestinian tensions, later leading to the **Yom Kippur War (1973)** and **Camp David Accords (1978)**.

3. OSLO ACCORDS (1993-1995)

The **Oslo Accords (1993–1995)** marked the first direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), establishing a semi-autonomous Palestinian Authority to govern parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The peace process aimed toward a two-state solution but collapsed due to continued violence, Israeli settlement expansion, and **the 1995 assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin**.



4. TEMPORARY DISENGAGEMENT OF ISRAEL FROM GAZA (2005)

Ariel Sharon, the former Prime Minister of Israel, announced an **Israel “disengagement” plan for Gaza** that involved the complete unilateral withdrawal of Israeli settlements and military forces. The objective of this action was to reduce tensions in the region, however, this allowed **Hamas to seize power in Palestine**. Hamas won **democratic elections** in Palestine in 2007 and formed the government. **No democratic election has taken place in Palestine since then.**

5. REPEATED CONFLICTS IN GAZA (2008 ONWARDS)

Numerous conflicts in Gaza (2008, 2012, 2014, 2021) have further fueled the tensions between Israel and Palestine.

CURRENT GEOPOLITICAL SITUATION:

On **October 7, 2023**, Hamas launched an unprecedented multi-front attack on Israel with rockets, armed infiltration, and hostage-taking, which resulted in the death of more than **1200 Israeli civilians**. Israel swiftly responded by declaring war on Hamas: It launched massive airstrikes across Gaza and imposed a total blockade- marking the beginning of a prolonged war. Over the next two years, the war led to widespread humanitarian suffering, with immense civilian losses and infrastructure damage, **especially in Gaza**. Other than Hamas, **Hezbollah in Lebanon and Houthis in Yemen** have carried out attacks against Israel, heightening fears of a wider regional war. They are believed to be **proxy groups of Iran**: proxy groups are organizations which indirectly act on the behalf of another nation.

Iran's affiliations with these organizations are widely recognized and Iran and Israel have had hostile relations ever since the Iranian Revolution, which installed the Shi'ite regime in Iran. The United States has remained Israel's principal ally, with the USA providing Israel aid upwards of **20 billion dollars**. Both Israel and the USA did not promote the dangerously growing nuclear facilities in Iran, which led to the two nations collaborating for **Operation Midnight Hammer**, destroying Iranian nuclear facilities in Natanz, Fordow and Isfahan.

B. ISRAEL-IRAN CONFLICT

Before 1979, Iran and Israel were close allies, maintaining strong diplomatic, economic, and military ties under the Shah's rule. The **1979 Iranian Revolution** ended relations completely, as **Ayatollah Khomeini's** regime adopted an anti-Israel stance and began supporting groups like **Hezbollah and Hamas**. From the **1980s onward**, both nations clashed indirectly through **proxy conflicts in Lebanon, Syria, and Gaza, amid Iran's growing regional influence**. In the **2000s and 2010s**, Israeli tensions over the Iranian nuclear programme rose. **Stuxnet cyberattack (2010) and assassinations of Iranian nuclear scientists (2010–2012)** followed to limit development in **Natanz, Arak, Fordow and Isfahan**. In the **2020s**, Iran expanded nuclear activity and support to Hezbollah and Hamas, heightening Israeli concerns.

TIMELINE OF THE CURRENT GEOPOLITICAL SITUATION:

- **In November 2020**, Iran's leading nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh was assassinated near Absard. The attack, widely linked to Israel, was seen as an attempt to slow Iran's nuclear program.
- **In April 2021**, a major explosion hit Iran's Natanz nuclear facility, damaging uranium centrifuges. Iran blamed Israel, which further worsened relations between the two countries.
- **On October 7, 2023**, Hamas launched a large-scale attack on Israel, killing over 1,200 people. Iran and Hezbollah expressed support for Hamas, and tensions between Israel and Iran grew even more serious.
- **On April 1, 2024**, Israel struck the Iranian consulate in Damascus, killing senior Iranian Revolutionary Guard commanders. Iran promised to retaliate strongly.
- **On April 14, 2024**, Iran fired around 300 missiles and drones at Israel in a direct attack. Most were intercepted by Israel and its allies, but this marked a major escalation.
- **On April 19, 2024**, Israel carried out limited airstrikes near Isfahan in Iran, targeting air defense systems. This was seen as a warning rather than a full retaliation.
- **On July 31, 2024**, Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh was killed in Tehran, in an operation widely attributed to Israel. This deepened Iran's anger and instability in the region.
- **In June 2025**, Israel launched "**Operation Rising Lion**" - a large-scale strike on Iranian nuclear and military sites including Natanz and Isfahan, representing the highest point of open confrontation between the two nations.
- This involved the United States and Israel collaborating for "**Operation Midnight Hammer**", which involved the United States using B-2 Stealth Bombers to eliminate Iranian nuclear facilities.

NOTE:

1. **The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)** aimed to reduce nuclear tensions between Israel and Iran, however collapsed due to the lack of commitment and **withdrawal of major players like the United States**.

CASE STUDY IV: CHINA TAIWAN CONFLICT

OVERVIEW:

The China-Taiwan dispute is a longstanding sovereignty standoff with major global implications. After the Chinese Civil War ended in 1949, the Communist Party established the **People's Republic of China (PRC)** on the mainland, while the defeated Nationalists founded the **Republic of China (ROC)** in Taiwan. Both sides initially claimed to represent all of China, but Taiwan evolved into a vibrant democracy asserting its self-governance, whereas Beijing insists on eventual reunification under its **One-China Principle**.

Tensions have escalated in recent years, as China regularly conducts military exercises and air and sea incursions near Taiwan, viewing any signs of Taiwanese independence as **unacceptable**. In response, Taiwan has **strengthened its defenses** and expanded international partnerships particularly with the **United States**, which supports Taiwan's security but avoids formal recognition. Taiwan holds a crucial position in the global semiconductor industry, meaning a conflict could disrupt supply chains **worldwide**, hurt **economic stability**, and create **humanitarian risks** for millions of people.



BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:

The origins of the China-Taiwan conflict trace back to the **Chinese Civil War (1927-1950)** between the **Communist Party of China** and the **Nationalist Party (Kuomintang)**. After the Communist victory in 1949, the Nationalist government retreated to Taiwan and established the **Republic of China (ROC)**, while the Communist Party proclaimed the **People's Republic of China (PRC)** on the mainland. This created a situation where two governments claimed to represent legitimate authority over all of China. For decades, both sides maintained the position that there was "one China," though they disagreed on which government held legitimate sovereignty.

CURRENT TENSIONS:

Cross-strait relations have significantly deteriorated since 2016, when Taiwan elected **President Tsai Ing-wen** from the pro-sovereignty **Democratic Progressive Party**. Beijing cut off official communications after Tsai refused to accept the 1992 Consensus (an understanding that both sides belong to "one China" but with different interpretations).

Tensions intensified further in 2024 with the election of President **Lai Ching-te**, whom China views as a **separatist**. China has dramatically increased military pressure on Taiwan, with Chinese military aircraft crossing the median line of the Taiwan Strait rising from 953 sorties in 2021 to over 3,000 in 2024. In May 2024, just days after President Lai's inauguration, China launched its **largest military exercises** in years, involving dozens of warplanes and naval vessels surrounding Taiwan.



Taiwan has responded by strengthening its defense capabilities, increasing its 2024 defense budget to nearly **US\$19 billion**, focusing on asymmetric warfare, including anti-ship missiles, drones, and coastal defense systems. While no open warfare has occurred experts warn that any miscalculation could have severe regional and global consequences, including disruption of 40% of global trade passing through East Asia and critical impacts on the semiconductor supply chain.

INTERNATIONAL INVOLVEMENT:

The China–Taiwan conflict has drawn significant international attention, involving both major powers and regional actors due to its strategic and economic implications. The **United States supports Taiwan** by supplying defensive weapons and helping it prepare for possible attacks, without officially recognising Taiwan as an independent country. This approach aims to keep peace by deterring China from using force while avoiding a direct military commitment.. Other democracies, including **Japan, Australia, and members of the European Union**, have stressed the importance of maintaining peace, stability, and freedom of navigation in the **Indo-Pacific**, calling for restraint and constructive dialogue between both sides.



Conversely, **China** receives **backing** from **Russia, North Korea, and Pakistan**, who affirm its claim over Taiwan and oppose what they perceive as foreign interference in China's internal affairs. Existing frameworks for cross-strait dialogue, such as the **1992 Consensus**, have largely **collapsed**, leaving official communication channels frozen.

CONCLUSION:

The **China–Taiwan** conflict remains one of the **most sensitive** and potentially **destabilizing** disputes in the **Indo-Pacific**, with significant implications for global security, trade, and **regional stability**. Rising **military activity, cyber threats, and geopolitical maneuvering** have heightened the risk of **escalation**, making proactive engagement essential. Resolving this crisis requires a **multilateral approach**, emphasizing **diplomatic dialogue**, confidence-building measures, and the establishment of effective **conflict-prevention mechanisms**. The international community, particularly the UN and regional actors, must work **collaboratively to ensure restraint, uphold international law, and promote sustainable peace** across the Taiwan Strait.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. How can the United Nations prevent the escalation of regional conflicts?
2. What measures can be taken to make peace dialogues more effective, inclusive, and sustainable in the long term?
3. In what ways can the Security Council promote cooperation among conflicting nations while respecting their sovereignty?
4. How can the international community address the root causes of regional instability to ensure lasting peace?
5. How can the Security Council facilitate constructive dialogue and confidence-building measures between countries to prevent escalation in sensitive regions such as Kashmir?
6. What strategies can the Council employ to ensure compliance with ceasefires, support humanitarian aid, and promote negotiations for regional conflicts?
7. What measures can the Council take to strengthen multilateral mediation, address humanitarian challenges, and promote long-term regional stability?
8. How can the Security Council encourage peaceful resolution and deter unilateral military action while respecting the sovereignty and security concerns of all parties involved?