

**Forum:** The Fourth General Assembly

**Issue:** Measures to mitigate the risks posed by the Israel-Palestine war to their neighboring countries and the rest of the world

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## Introduction

On the 14th of May 1948 Israel decided to split off from Palestine and become an independent state. This marked the start of one of the largest ongoing conflicts in history. For over 6 decades conflict has plagued Israel, Palestine, and its surrounding region. The conflict began way back in the 1920s when the Jews fought with Arabs for control over land. This eventually led to Israel being established as an independent state separated from Palestine by the Jews. The United Nations recognized Israel as a country on May 11th, 1949. The primary cause for Israel's creation was due to the fact that the Jews wanted to create a state for themselves which was in Palestinian territory. The United Nations created a plan to give Israel and Palestine each some land however this plan failed. From then on Israel flourished into the nation that it is today. However, conflict still plagues this region. Ever since 1948, there have been over 65000 casualties due to this conflict and just over 31000 fatalities. Every day this number grows due to regular attacks in the bordering regions of Israel and Palestine.

Currently, Palestine is not recognized as a member state in the United Nations however, it has been given the special status of “nonmember observer state”. Palestine is not recognized as a country in the United Nations due to the fact that the Security Council is unable to make the unanimous decision to recognize Palestine.

## **Definition of Key Terms**

### **Conflict**

The definition of conflict is a disagreement or clash of interests. In this case, the conflict would generally regard economic and political views. A conflict can be on a variety of scales, depending on the significance and urgency of the situation. It is then up to the parties involved to resolve the matter at hand, which is sometimes not completed.

### **Independent state (sovereign state)**

An independent or sovereign state is a nation that forms its own laws and regulations, and operates its own affairs without interference or direct input from other states. The state does not owe control to any other countries and is completely self-reliant.

### **Jews**

Jews are a religious group of individuals that have formed a community, following the beliefs of Judaism. Their origins trace back to the dated Hebrew people of Israel to Abraham. Judaism is a monotheistic religion - essentially believing that there is only one God. Additionally, they follow the belief that God communicates through a number of Prophets; their message focuses on rewarding the good deeds and punishing the sins.

### **Non-Member observer state**

A member state is a nation that has active voting rights, and can propose resolutions in the United Nations; A non-member state is an opposite. The observer status is given to a non-member state, allowing them to have an interest in Intergovernmental organizations. They have extremely limited participation, lacking the ability to vote or propose resolutions, but are able to look over the decisions.

## **Gaza strip**

Palstinian territory stretching along the Mediterranean sea, bordering Egypt and separated from the West bank by Israel. The area was known for being a site of violence and tensions between competing populations.

## **NSA (Non State Actor)**

A non state actor refers to an individual or an organization which is not linked any any country or state but has major influence over the people of a certain country or state.

## **PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization)**

The PLO or the Palestine Liberation Organization is an organization that was founded in 1964 with the sole purpose of establishing arab unity in the region of former Palestine which is now modern day Israel.

## **Mandatory Palestine**

League of Nations mandate for Britain's administration over Palestine and Transjordan territories after their concession from the Ottoman empire at the end of World War I, since 1918. The Mandate established Palestine as a national homeground for Jewish people, after which the land's acquisition was fought over through both the Palestine-Arab and Jew nationalist movements. Mandatory Palestine lasted until 1948, when it was abolished at the hand of a passed UN resolution to give rise to Palestine's partition.

## **Key Issues**

### **Arab-Israeli Wars creating tension in the region**

Since the creation of Israel in 1948 there has been multiple conflicts between Arab states and Israel over land in the region. There have been 6 Arab-Israeli wars in history

1948–49, 1956, 1967, 1973, 1982, and 2006. Countries such as Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, and Israel have been involved in these conflicts. The first Arab-Israeli war was initiated by the Arabs in order to prevent the creation of a Jewish state however, the other wars were initiated due to conflicts on land. Israel was trying to occupy the land that was rightfully theirs based on the partition plan created by the UN. However, Israel went past these boundaries and the Arabs retaliated. Due to these reasons, there were many Arab-Israeli wars.

### East Jerusalem

East Jerusalem has been a highly fought-over region by Israel and Jordan. In 1948 at the start of the first Arab-Israeli war, East Jerusalem was an area occupied by Jordan while the western part of the city was held by Israel. While Jerusalem was supposed to be a separate international city based on the 1947 partition plan by the United Nations, in 1949 the armistice agreements meant that Jerusalem would be split with Jordan taking control of the western part and Israel taking control of the eastern part. However, in 1967 in the third Arab-Israeli war East Jerusalem was annexed by Israel and in 1980 the Jerusalem Law declared that Jerusalem was the capital of Israel giving Israel legal control over the area. Since then many groups have tried to contest this area however they all remain unsuccessful. 138 out of 193 member states of the United Nations consider East Jerusalem to be the future capital state of Palestine. Jerusalem has been a major conflict zone with many claims of sovereignty over the city and even parts of certain holy sites.

### Sinai

In 1973 there was a conflict between Israel and a coalition of Arab states led by Egypt and Syria over the region of Sinai. Israel wanted to capture this area as it would give them a major strategic advantage over the numerous Arab countries that they were in conflict with. This was due to the fact that Sinai was the region that connected Egypt to the east. Occupying this region meant that Egypt was

separated from people in the east. This provided Israel with a great strategic advantage during the wall.

### Golan Heights

Golan heights is a mountain range that borders Lebanon Israel and Jordan and was legally owned by Syria. However, in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war Golan Heights was seized by Israel from Syria. In 1973 Syria made an attempt to reclaim Golan Heights however, they were unsuccessful in doing so. Israel seized this area in order to ensure security as it acted as a buffer zone between Israel and a very unstable Syria. In 1974 Syria and Israel signed an armistice indicating that they would not fight over the region. In 2000 Israel and Syria had diplomatic talks in order to create an agreement to return Golan Heights to Syria however the nations could not reach a consensus. In 2018 the United States officially recognized the Golan heights as a part of Israel backing Israel's sovereignty over the area. Due to this, there is still a lot of tension in the area.

### Security

Israel, Palestine, and their surrounding countries have been plagued with conflict for many decades. While this conflict is caused primarily due to the Israel-Palestine conflict countries in the region around it have instigated numerous conflicts. These conflicts create a lack of stability and security in the region causing millions of people to be under threat. Other than the physical safety of people being compromised, there is a lack of water in the region leading to a lack of water security. In turn, this has caused a decrease in living standards for people in the region and it has also caused dehydration. In 2022 alone Israel launched 25 missiles at Syria.

### Water Security

According to statistics 97% of the water in the Gaza strip is undrinkable and below health standards. This has caused a major water shortage in the Gaza strip.

Statistics also show that the average person in Palestine uses 84.2 liters of water a day which is below the global average of 101.5 liters of water a day. This is due to the lack of water in the region. The lack of water is caused due to a wide variety of reasons including the fact that Israel controls most of Palestine's water supply. Israel supplies the Gaza strip with water which is not enough to support its citizens. Israel then passed a law stating that Palestinians can not construct any new water installations without obtaining a permit from the Israeli military. These permits are almost impossible to obtain hence Palestinians need to resort to old wells and pumps. This law also prevents them from deepening any wells and installing new water pumps to extract water from the earth. Palestinians have also been denied access to fresh water springs and the Jordan river. Even the rainwater along the Gaza strip is strictly controlled by Israel. However, Israel has made it possible for Palestinians who are willing to pay large sums of money to obtain water. Due to this, most people do not have access to clean water causing dehydration in the region.

### Safety and Stability

The Israel Palestine conflict has persisted on for over 7 decades bringing instability and violence to the region. This has caused mass casualties and structural damage in the area. Every year there is violence between people of the PLO and Israelis armed forces as a result of rioting civilians in the region. This is due to the failure of Israel to follow the original partition plan where Israel would not occupy West Bank and the Gaza strip. However, the illegal occupation of these areas by Israel have caused rebel groups to spark up revolting against the Israeli armed forces. One group in specific Hamas has revolted against Israel especially in the areas of West bank and the Gaza strip. Hamas is Palestinian Sunni Islamic organization who have a social service wing and a military wing. The military wing of the group has taken credit for numerous attacks on Israel. In 2007 Hamas occupied the area of Gaza and became the defacto leader of the area representing the Palestinian people. Since then Hamas has had conflicts on multiple occasions

with the Israeli armed forces causing instability in the region of the West Bank and its surrounding regions.

### **Human Right Violations**

In the last few decades as Israel gained more power over the region the nation boosted its apartheid regime against the defenseless Palestinian people showing a disregard to international laws. Israelis armed forces also violated human rights by further expanding into Palestinian territory (West Bank and Gaza) by using violence as a tool to achieve this. As a result Israel is also guilty of brutalisation of children, torture, forcible transfers. These war crimes are all part of Israel's growing apartheid regime. However, Palestinians have also breached human rights. The PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) has been accused of using houses to smuggle arms and ammunition, the usage of civilians as human shields and illegal factories to produce arms and ammunition.

### **Major Parties Involved and Their Views**

#### **Israel**

Israel's military forces regularly conduct missions in the Israel-Palestine border regions causing fatalities to Palestinian civilians. Israel justifies these operations by saying that they are exercising justified law enforcement against refugees who are protesting and creating havoc at the border. Israel claims that its capital is Jerusalem while Palestine claims that its capital is west Jerusalem hence Israel has a conflict with Palestine. Additionally, Israel heavily restricts the movement of people from the Gaza strip and West Bank which are both Palestine-occupied territories. Israel has also occupied parts of

the Gaza strip along with East Jerusalem since 1967 illegally. Israel believes that this land is rightfully theirs as there are significant religious sights in this location which they claim.

## Palestine

Palestine has been the epicenter of violence caused by the Israel-Palestinian conflict. Palestine as a state was never happy that Israel became an independent state however when Israel illegally occupied the west bank and Gaza Palestine was enraged. Israel was never meant to occupy these areas and Jerusalem was supposed to be an international territory that no state claimed ownership of as it was a significant area for multiple religions including Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. After Israel illegally occupied these areas Palestinians tried to riot back however, this was ineffective as Israel's military forces stopped these riots. Since then numerous groups have formed in the Gaza strip and west bank by Palestinians in order to fight off Israel's armed forces. Palestine believes that they have the right to claim ownership of Gaza, the West Bank, and Jerusalem. Palestine also condemns Israel's use of force to mitigate riots as they cause mass casualties to civilians who are trying to voice their opinion.

## Egypt

After Israel became an independent state like most Arab countries Egypt expressed its support for Palestine by refusing to recognize Israel as an independent state until 1979. Since then Egypt engaged in 4 wars with Israel causing mass casualties. These wars were a result of many reasons some of them being disagreements over the Suez Canal and over the region formally known as Sinai. Since then Egypt has built diplomatic relations with Israel and the nations work together in order to mitigate security issues in the region.

## Lebanon

Like Egypt and other Arab countries Lebanon supports Palestine in this conflict and is against Israel. Israel and Lebanon have engaged in multiple conflicts with the first one

occurring in 1982. This conflict occurred due to Palestinians raiding Israel through Lebanon. Israel condemned this and urged Lebanon to take action against these Palestinians however, Lebanon failed to do so. Due to this Israel began retaliating by conducting raids into Lebanon. Ever since then Lebanon and Israel have had multiple wars with the most recent one being in 2006. However, since then the conflict between Lebanon and Israel has severely abated.

### **Jordan**

While Jordan was not heavily involved in the conflict the nation was involved in the third Arab-Israeli war which occurred in 1967 and lasted for 6 days. Jordan and Israel were conflicting over east Jerusalem when Israel decided to try to capture it. Israel was successful and captured east Jerusalem from Jordan. However, after this in 1994 Israel and Jordan signed the Israel-Jordan peace treaty normalizing relations between the two nations.

### **Syria**

In 1967 during the third Arab-Israeli war Israel was trying to capture the Golan Heights from Syria and was successful in doing so. Since then Syria and Israel have continued to have conflict. Syria has still not recognized Israel as a state and does not accept an Israeli passport as an authorized document. Israel and Syria continue to attack each other with some of the most recent ones being in 2022. Israel has carried out 25 missile strikes in 2022 alone causing large amounts of damage to Syria and its population.

### **The United States**

While the United States has not been part of the conflict since the beginning of the past few decades the United States expressed its concern over the region by providing humanitarian aid and even attempting to resolve the issue. In 1993 the Oslo Accords were signed in the white house by members of state from Israel and PLO( Palestinian Liberation Organization). These records were a pair of agreements that were aimed at

mitigating the conflict and ultimately ensuring peace in the region. The ratification of the records had numerous outcomes including the creation of Palestinian National Authority and the recognition of Israel by the PLO and the recognition by Israel of the PLO.

**Development of Issue/Timeline**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>29/11/1947</b>	Creation of United Nations Partition plan for Palestine	On the 19th of November 1947 prior to the formation of Israel the British Mandated the territory of Palestine into 2 independent states as a result of the unresolvable quarrel between Jewish and Arab people. This plan was followed in order to ensure the countries were split up right.
<b>14/05/1948</b>	Creation of Israel	On the 14th of May 1948 Israel was created by the head of Jewish state David Ben Gurion. This marked the start of an ever lasting conflict
<b>1948-1949</b>	The first Arab Israeli war	This was the first Arab Israeli war which was fought as a result of the creation of Israel.

		750,000 Palestinians were displaced after this war and the region was split into 3 areas. Israel, West Bank and Gaza.
<b>1956</b>	The second Arab Israeli war (the Suez crisis)	This was the second Arab Israeli war which was fought due to growing tensions between Egypt and Israel. Israel wanted to occupy the area of Sinai as it would give them strategic advantage in the region. Additionally, they wanted to abdiccate the president of Egypt at the time Gamal Abdel Nasser.
<b>1967</b>	Third Arab Israeli war ( The 6 day war)	This was the third time the Arabs and Israel had a war. This time it was Israel against a coolition of arab states (Jordan, Syria and Egypt) all with the aim of claiming back land from Israel. Egypt tried to get back Sinai while Jordan had a series of border disputes with Israel. Syria was part of the attack as a result of Israel

		launching 4 back to back missiles into Syria before this.
<b>1973</b>	The fourth Arab Israeli war Yom Kippur war	After the Arabs loss in 1967 they launched a surprise attack during Ramadan of 1973 to try and get their land and position lost during the previous war. This was seen as a step by the arabs to try and instigate negotiations to start over the areas of Gaza, West bank and Sinai. This was devastating to the region causing thousands of people to loose their houses and move to refugee camps. Many Palestinians were killed with miles of structure destroyed.
<b>1982</b>	5th Arab Israeli war (the Lebanon war)	In 1982 Israel invaded the south of Lebanon as retaliation against the attempted assasination of the Israeli ambassador to England. Israel attacked PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) sites across Lebanon and the PLO responded by launching

		missiles back into Israel. While the Lebanese people were not involved in the war at all their land was being used in order to fight the war between Israel and the PLO
<b>1982</b>	Israel returns Sinai to Egypt	With discussions for this beginning in 1979 where a peace treaty was signed between Israel and Egypt the nations discussed and came to the conclusion that if Egypt formally recognized Israel as a state and acknowledged their sovereignty then Israel would return once Egyptian Sinai back to Egypt. This deal went through and in 1982 Sinai was officially returned to Egypt giving Egypt full control over the region surrounding the Suez canal.
<b>2006</b>	This was the 6th Arab Israeli war ( 2nd Israel Lebanese war)	In 2006 Hezbollah an Islamic Lebanese party crossed the border of Lebanon into Israel and conducted several raids. They fired missiles and bombs

		<p>into several Israeli cities and even attacked Israeli patrols. Israel responded back by conducting several raids into Lebanon and launching missiles and bombs into Lebanese cities. There were mass casualties as a result of this conflict.</p>
<p><b>06-12-2017</b></p>	<p>The United States Recognition of Israels capital city</p>	<p>On the 6th of December 2017 United States president mr. Donald Trump stated that the US recognizes Jersualem as the capital city of Israel. This marked an important moment as no country previously had ever acknowledges Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Jerusalem was always highly conflicted for.</p>

**Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue**

**United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine**

Prior to Israel's formation, in 1947, the United Nations proposed the partition of the British Mandate territory of Palestine into two independent States as a result of unending and seemingly unresolvable quarrel between the Jewish and Arab populations. The British Mandate had invited swells of Jewish immigration after the establishment of the Balfour Declaration of 1917 that rendered Palestine a national home for Jewish

people. Not well received, the Arab population demanded independence, leading to an onset of violence from both sides competing for the land that they believed to be under their respective administrations. After tensions rose during the Arab revolt, the UK turned to support from the UN which eventually passed resolution 181 (II). Palestine was partitioned into three states

### **The Oslo Accords**

On September 13 of 1993, the Israeli Prime Minister and Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Negotiator signed a Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, often referred to as the “Oslo Accord,” at the White House. There was an agreement from both parties that a Palestinian Authority would be established and, over a 5 year-period, assume governing responsibilities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This would then be followed by talks being held regarding the permanent status of issues of borders, refugees, and Jerusalem. In order for this to be implemented, US President Bill Clinton’s administration would invest time and resources to assist Israel and Palestine, although it did not play a significant role in actually creating the accord. However, when Clinton left office, the peace process came to a halt, and further Israeli-Palestinian violence ensued.

### **Possible Solutions**

#### **One State Solution**

In the past Israel and Palestine were originally going to follow a plan which would create 2 states and leave the city of Jerusalem a territory which was accessible to all as it was a significant sight for Judaism, Christianity and Islam. However, this plan failed as while the Jewish state did accept the proposition the Arab state rejected it as they believed it was an unfair division of the land. After this the Arab state went into war with the Jewish state. Hence it would not be viable to implement a 2 state solution again. However, a one state solution which would involve creating 1 democratic secular state may be more achievable . This would

be viable as currently creating 2 states is just too difficult as the populations of Israel and Palestine live intertwined in the same geographical area hence the one state solution would ensure that everyone would be safe in the land that they are in and the fight over Jerusalem does not continue. The 1 state solution would immensely aid in mitigating the situation in Israel and Palestine. It would help bring security and stability to the region improving the quality of life for many. It would also mean that both Jews and Muslims can visit Jerusalem which is a place of cultural significance for them. Additionally, the thousands of refugees who have been displaced can find homes and groups such as Hamas will no longer need to operate bringing security to the countries around Israel and Palestine. While this solution does have a few flaws concerning the acceptance of Palestinians into society and the fact that the Jews will become a minority, if this was to occur it is the only solution which would bring peace to the region after decades of conflict.

### **Peace treaty between Israel and Palestine through international organization**

In the past the Oslo accords were ratified as an attempt to get Israel and Palestine to stop their conflict. However, the Oslo accords failed due to a wide variety of reasons with the main one being the fact that Israel and Palestine believe that the Oslo accords did not meet their expectations. Based on the Oslo accords it was expected that the expansion of Israeli settlements into Gaza and West bank would be halted however this was not the case. Additionally, Palestine expected to control just over 90% of the Gaza strip and West bank. They also had the expectation that they would be aided in the economic development as thousands of Palestinians were under the poverty line. Israel's main expectation was the fact that they would be able to ensure the safety and security of Israel. For many years Palestinian rebel groups conducted attacks on Israel and if Palestine was to get control over West bank and Gaza Israel feared that these attacks would be amplified. In order to address these concerns the Oslo accord mentioned that the PLO would acknowledge Hamas and Islamic Jihad as NSA (non state actor) groups allowing the PLO to fight these groups alongside Israeli forces. The Oslo

accords failed to meet these expectations. Due to this another proposed solution is the creation of a new peace treaty with similar agreements to the Oslo agreement and in order to ensure that the expectations of the agreement are met the international community alongside the United Nations should ensure that this agreement undergoes efficiently and correctly. The agreement should be made through the United Nations in order to ensure that expectations are met. This solution would bring peace and stability to the region whilst also aiding the economic development of the region.

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## **Appendix**

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