

Understanding The Layers: Israel- Palestine Struggle

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Date of Submission: 08-07-2024

Date of Acceptance: 18-07-2024

I. Historical Background-

Situation Before World War-

Palestine was a part of the Ottoman Empire, which had dominated the area for centuries, prior to World War I. Palestine had a diverse population, mostly Arab Muslims, but there were also modest Jewish and other minority communities, Arab Christians, and other groups. Palestine had a predominantly agrarian economy, with agriculture serving as the backbone of the national income. Along with other agricultural goods, the region produced citrus fruits, cereals, and olives. Trade routes allowed for the flow of goods and cultures between Palestine and its neighbours. The Ottoman Empire exercised political authority over Palestine by imposing centralized rule over the region. On the other hand, nationalist movements—such as Jewish Zionism and Palestinian Arab nationalism—rose to prominence in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The foundation for upcoming tensions and confrontations over conflicting national aspirations and rights to the land was created by these groups.

The social and cultural fabric of Palestinian society was comprised of an intricate web of customs, religious rituals, and traditions. Most Palestinians were rural residents, although large metropolitan locations such as Jerusalem, Jaffa, and Haifa were centres of commerce, culture, and religious significance.

Situation During World War 1-

Palestine became a major battleground during World War I when the Ottoman Empire, which ruled the area, sided with the Central Powers. The British Empire started the Sinai and Palestine Campaign in an effort to undermine Ottoman authority and safeguard its strategic objectives. With General Allenby's invasion of Jerusalem in 1917–1918, this campaign resulted in the British occupation of Palestine. Daily life was disrupted, the economy suffered, and there were population displacements as a result of the war, which paved the way for political reorganizations following the conflict and the League of Nations' ultimate mandate system.

Situation After World War 1-

Palestine saw tremendous transformations following World War I as a result of the Ottoman Empire's collapse and the British occupation that followed under the mandate system. The Balfour Declaration (1917), which guaranteed the Jewish people a national home, encouraged more Jewish settlers to immigrate to the area once it came under British authority. Growing hostilities between the Arab and Jewish communities occurred during this time, setting the stage for later confrontations in Palestine for national sovereignty, identity, and land.

UN Resolution Of 1948-

The partition proposal for Palestine was put forth by the United Nations in Resolution 181, which was adopted on November 29, 1947. This resolution proposed the creation of distinct Jewish and Arab states in Palestine, designating Jerusalem as a *corpus separatum*—a separate entity—that would be subject to international supervision. The concept sought to reconcile the conflicting national aspirations of Palestinian Arabs and Jews. Arab and Jewish authorities, respectively, opposed and approved of the partition proposal, which sparked hostilities and eventually determined how the Israeli-Palestinian conflict developed.

Creation Of State Of Israel-

The establishment of the State of Israel in 1948 signified a turning point in Middle Eastern history and the fulfilment of Jewish dreams for autonomy in their ancestral territory. Following over two millennia of exile, Jewish sovereignty in the Land of Israel was proclaimed once again on May 14, 1948, by David Ben-Gurion, the head of the Jewish Agency. With the British colonial forces about to leave, tensions between the Arab and Jewish communities in Palestine were rising around the time of the proclamation of independence. The 1947 UN partition plan called for the partition of Palestine into Jewish and Arab governments, but the Arab rejection of

the plan and the ensuing military intervention between them resulted in a full-scale conflict between the newly established state of Israel and its Arab neighbours. Israeli forces defeated the Arab armies who were assaulting them, even though they were outnumbered and outgunned, and they succeeded in extending their territory beyond the lines specified by the UN partition plan. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were forced to flee their homes as a result of the establishment of the State of Israel, which set the stage for decades of hostilities between Israelis and Palestinians.

Palestinian Displacement And Refugee Crisis-

The 1948 Arab Israeli War and the establishment of the State of Israel led to the Palestinian displacement and refugee crisis, which is widely known as the Nakba (catastrophe) in Palestinian history. Approximately 700,000 Palestinians were driven from their homes during the conflict and sought safety in neighbouring Arab nations or as internally displaced people within Palestine.

The demographic, political, and humanitarian landscapes of the region were shaped by the significant and long-lasting impacts of the Palestinian displacement. A combination of Israeli policies, military actions, and limitations caused many Palestinians to lose their homes, lands, and means of subsistence, and prevented them from ever being able to return. In order to offer food, shelter, healthcare, education, and other humanitarian aid to Palestinian refugees, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) was founded in 1949. But even after several decades, the Palestinian refugee community still has to deal with socioeconomic difficulties, political exclusion, and an unsettled legal situation.

One of the biggest unresolved issues in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the Palestinian refugee dilemma, which represents the Palestinian people's ongoing experience of displacement and dispossession. Every genuine peace agreement between Israelis and Palestinians must include efforts to meet the needs and rights of Palestinian refugees, including their right of return or compensation.

Occupations Of Palestinian Territories-

One of the main and most divisive topics in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory. Israel acquired control of the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights, the Sinai Peninsula, and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, after the 1967 Six-Day War. Israel has kept control of the other areas even though it eventually left Sinai as part of a peace deal with Egypt.

Both the Palestinian people and the larger dynamics of the conflict have been significantly impacted by the occupation of the Palestinian territories:

Israel placed limits on Palestinians' freedom of movement, access to resources, and enjoyment of civil liberties when it established military authority over the occupied territories. Roadblocks, hurdles, and checkpoints impede economic activity and freedom of movement, which fuels Palestinian discontent and frustration.

Expansion of Settlements: Israel has allowed Jewish settlements, which are illegal according to international law, to be built and expanded in the occupied areas. These settlements undermine the chances for a cohesive and functional Palestinian state by dividing Palestinian territory and communities and erecting military outposts and related infrastructure.

Israeli authorities have seized Palestinian land in order to build settlements, military zones, nature reserves, and separation barriers. They have also carried out demolitions of Palestinian land. Israeli authorities often destroy Palestinian houses and buildings, including schools and agricultural facilities, uprooting families and ruining livelihoods.

Jerusalem: After the Six-Day War, Israel seized East Jerusalem; however, the international community did not acknowledge this move. In addition to facing prejudice, having their residency revoked, and having their homes demolished, Palestinians in East Jerusalem also experience changes in the city's demographic and cultural makeup due to settlement growth and Judaization initiatives.

Gaza Blockade: Israel still controls the borders, airspace, and marine access to the Gaza Strip even after it withdrew its settlers and armed forces from the area in 2005. In coordination with Egypt, the blockade of Gaza limits the flow of commodities and people, worsening the humanitarian situation and fuelling sporadic spikes in violence.

Period Of Trouble Waters-

There have been multiple instances in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict's history of increased tension, violence, and large-scale demonstrations known as intifadas. The Palestinians' important periods of discontent and resistance against Israeli occupation and policies are embodied in these intifadas. There are two primary intifadas:

1st INTEFADA (UPRISING/REVOLT) – 1987- 1993

The First Intifada, commonly referred to as the "stone intifada," started in the Gaza Strip in December 1987 and swiftly extended to the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Palestinians participated in large-scale demonstrations, strikes, and acts of civil disobedience, such as hurling stones at Israeli soldiers, as a result of their discontent with Israeli occupation, limitations, and settlement growth. The Israeli-Palestinian relationship underwent a sea change with the outbreak of the First Intifada, which prompted greater international attention and measures to address Palestinian grievances. In the end, the intifada aided in the Oslo peace process, which resulted in the 1993 signing of the Oslo Accords and the creation of the Palestinian Authority.

2nd INTEFADA (2000-2005)

The "Al-Aqsa Intifada," or Second Intifada, broke out in September 2000 as a result of Israeli opposition leader Ariel Sharon's visit to Jerusalem's Temple Mount, a place of great religious significance for both Muslims and Jews. Israeli military operations and crackdowns in reaction to a wave of suicide bombings, shootings, and other terrorist incidents by Palestinian militant groups targeting Israeli civilians defined the intifada. There were thousands of fatalities and injuries on both sides, as well as extensive damage, as a result of the Second Intifada, which marked a dramatic increase in violence. After the negotiations at the 2000 Camp David Summit broke down and violence broke out, attempts to restart the peace process stalled for years.

Three Major Arab-Israel War-

- 1ST Arab Israeli war took place in 1948 when Arabic state got united like Syria, Iraq, Egypt and Jordan. they form alliance and make a war against Israel.
- In 1967, 6 days war started which was fought between Arab and Israel. after war Israel captures west bank from Jordan, east Jerusalem from Jordan, Gaza from Egypt and Golan Heights from Syria.
- In 1973, 3rd Arab Israel conflict occur known as yon Kippur war.

Peace Process And Oslo Accords-

The Oslo Accords, which were signed in the 1990s, were a historic attempt to use mutual recognition and negotiation to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Oslo Accords set in motion a peace process that sought to resolve major issues such borders, security, settlements, Jerusalem, and refugee rights in order to reach a comprehensive peace accord and create an independent state of Palestine alongside Israel.

Background:

A series of secret talks between Israeli and Palestinian representatives, assisted by Norway, resulted in the Oslo Accords. The Oslo I Accord of 1993 and the Oslo II Accord of 1995, which provided a framework for interim self-government arrangements in some of the occupied regions and set a procedure for further negotiations on final status problems, were the products of the talks and marked the conclusion of the negotiations.

Key Components Of Oslo Accords:

- 1)Interim Self-Government:** The Oslo Accords created three administrative regions, Areas A, B, and C, with differing levels of Palestinian autonomy, dividing the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israel maintained overall security control, while the Palestinian Authority (PA) was created to administer territories with a Palestinian majority.
- 2)Security Cooperation:** To fight terrorism and uphold public order in the areas under Palestinian authority, the agreements included provisions for Israel and the PA to work together on security matters. To address shared security concerns, systems for joint Israeli-Palestinian security coordination were formed.
- 3)Economic Development:** The Oslo Accords supported initiatives for economic cooperation and development, including as trade agreements, investment plans, and infrastructure projects, with the goal of raising living conditions and stimulating the Palestinian territories' economy.
- 4)Phased negotiations** were outlined in the Oslo Accords to resolve issues related to final status, including as borders, settlements, Jerusalem, refugees, and security arrangements.

However, advancement on these matters required mutual consent and was subject to reevaluation and periodic reviews.

II. Challenges And Limitations-

Even though the Oslo Accords were first greeted with optimism, the peace process suffered a number of difficulties and major roadblocks that reduced its efficacy and ultimately caused it to stagnate:

- 1)Violence and Terrorism:** Suicide bombings, shootings, and skirmishes between Israeli security forces and Palestinian militants were among the acts of violence that plagued the peace process. These violent acts

shattered mutual confidence and derailed peace talks between the parties.

- 2) **Settlement Expansion:** In spite of promises made in the Oslo Accords to halt settlement activity, Israeli settlement development and expansion in the occupied territories proceeded uninterrupted. As settlements grew, Palestinian dissatisfaction increased and questions about Israel's commitment to a two-state solution were raised. Jerusalem: Conflicts regarding Jerusalem's status, especially in relation to the city's sacred sites, have arisen as a significant barrier to achieving a comprehensive peace deal. Jerusalem is claimed as the capital by both Israel and the Palestinians and attempts to settle the dispute have been rife with disagreement and controversy.
- 3) **Rights of Refugees:** The Oslo Accords postponed resolving the Palestinian refugee problem, including the right of return for descendants of those who were uprooted during the 1948 Arab Israeli War. The negotiations broke down in part because this fundamental issue was not addressed, which increased Palestinian discontent.
- 4) **Political Leadership:** Efforts to advance the peace process and secure a final deal were hindered by changes in the political leadership of both the Israeli and Palestinian parties as well as domestic political pressures and rivalries. The pursuit of peace was hampered by the lack of a strong and dedicated leadership.

Legacy And Prospects For The Future:

The Oslo Accords were a major attempt to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through diplomacy and discussions, notwithstanding their flaws. Even though the peace process has stagnated recently, future peace attempts and conversations will still be built upon the structure and guiding principles set forth by the Oslo Accords. A fair and long-lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians will need the continuation of substantive talks, adherence to international law and pertinent UN decisions, and a dedication to mutual recognition, coexistence, and compromise. The legacy of the Oslo Accords emphasizes the significance of ongoing diplomatic engagement and dialogue in resolving the conflict's underlying causes and constructing a better future, even though the path to peace is still difficult.

Rule Of Hamas-

Many nations and international organizations, including Israel, the US, the EU, Canada, and others, have classified Hamas as a terrorist organization. It was established in 1987 and is mostly active in the Gaza Strip, where it regulates and manages a range of facets of daily life for civilians. With the declared objective of creating an Islamic state in ancient Palestine, which includes modern-day Israel, Hamas grew to become a significant political and terrorist group. It has resisted Israel militarily with suicide bombs, rocket assaults, and other acts of violence that have killed civilians and caused extensive damage. Apart from its armed operations, Hamas also manages Gaza's intricate system of government and offers social services, charitable organizations, schools, and clinics. But authoritarianism, violations of human rights, and limitations on political opposition and free speech have been hallmarks of its rule. The ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which has seen sporadic escalations of violence and tensions between Hamas and Israel, has been exacerbated by Hamas's authority over Gaza. Prospects for peace in the region are further complicated by the fact that attempts to bring Hamas and the Palestinian Authority, which rules the West Bank, together have mainly failed.

Operation Protective Edge-

Israel conducted Operation Protective Edge, a military operation against Hamas in the Gaza Strip, in July 2014. The operation was prompted by the discovery of Hamas infiltration tunnels leading into Israel and a marked increase in rocket strikes by Hamas militants directed towards Israeli population centres.

Operation Protective Edge's main goals were to stop missile fire into Israel, undermine Hamas' tunnel network, and weaken the organization's military capabilities. The Israeli Air Force conducted massive attacks on Hamas infrastructure, rocket launch sites, weapons stores, and militant strongholds in Gaza as part of the operation. Israel launched ground operations into Gaza in addition to airstrikes with the intention of finding and demolishing Hamas tunnels.

Both sides suffered heavy losses as a result of the ground operation, including Palestinian civilians trapped in the crossfire.

50 days passed during Operation Protective Edge, during which time Gaza suffered extensive damage and suffered heavy casualties. Over 2,100 Palestinians, many of them civilians, were reportedly murdered, and many more were injured, according to Palestinian reports. 73 Israeli citizens and troops lost their lives in the conflict. International human rights organizations denounced the operation, which also caused controversy due to claims that Israel used excessive force and the large number of civilian deaths in Gaza. Concerns were also expressed on Gaza's humanitarian situation, particularly regarding the availability of necessities like food, water, and medical treatment, all of which were negatively impacted by the fighting.

On August 26, 2014, a cease-fire mediated by Egypt brought an end to Operation Protective Edge. The Israeli blockade of Gaza and other unresolved concern contributed to the conflict and made the region

susceptible to further escalation of violence, even though the truce momentarily stopped hostilities.

India's Stand On Israel Palestine Conflict-

- India has diplomatic ties to both the Palestinian Authority and Israel and has actively worked to encourage communication, discussion, and peace between the two groups. The Middle East peace process and the two-state solution are two international initiatives that India has supported in an effort to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- India has continuously backed the Palestinian cause and the rights of the Palestinian people, including the creation of an independent and sovereign Palestinian state based on the pre-1967 boundaries with East Jerusalem as its capital, as well as their right to self-determination and statehood. India has shown support for the hopes of peace, security, and prosperity held by the Palestinian people.
- India has given the Palestinian territories financial, humanitarian, and capacity-building support in addition to other forms of development assistance. India has implemented several initiatives in Palestine with the goal of fostering people-to-people interactions, infrastructural development, education, healthcare, and socioeconomic advancement.
- India has continuously backed UN resolutions and initiatives that address the Israeli- Palestinian conflict. These include resolutions that uphold Palestinian rights, denounce Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, and demand a fair and comprehensive peace agreement based on pertinent UN resolutions and international law.

International Response- Europe, The Us, And The G7 In Reaction-

In order to facilitate the delivery of aid, the G7 (the US, Japan, Canada, UK, Germany, France, Italy, and the EU) supports "humanitarian pauses and corridors." It condemned the "rise in extremist settler violence against Palestinians" in the West Bank and demanded the full release of the hostages. To act as a deterrent against Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Houthis in Yemen, and militias linked with Iran in Syria and Iraq, the United States has sent more military forces to the Middle East. A number of sanctions have also been announced by the US against these organizations. In addition, the US and the EU have declared plans to send more humanitarian aid to Gaza.

Uk Response-

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak condemned the Hamas attack on October 7. He has supported Israel's right to self-defense, stated that Israel needs to take action to safeguard Gaza's civilian population, and stated that the UK will use diplomacy to ensure the delivery of humanitarian relief and stop the situation from getting worse. Leaders of the Middle East have met with the Prime Minister and both the current and former Foreign Secretaries to discuss de-escalation, assistance, and hostage-taking.

China

Beijing expressed its "deep concern" over the sharp escalation in violence between Israel and the Palestinians over the weekend and urged all parties to exercise "calm." Beijing's foreign ministry stated that it "calls on all parties concerned to remain calm and exercise restraint, cease fire immediately, protect civilians, and prevent further deterioration of the situation." Beijing is "deeply concerned about the current escalation of tension and violence between Palestine and Israel."¹

Iran

According to Iran's foreign ministry, the attacks carried out by Hamas, an ally, demonstrate the Palestinians' growing self-assurance in the face of Israel's oppression.

Potential Effect Of Israel- Palestine War-

- The conflict may have an impact on the Middle Eastern countries and their trading partners by disrupting trade and the world's supply of crude oil.
- West Asia supplies more than 20% of the world's crude oil, and the region's conflicts might cause prices to soar to as high as USD 150 per barrel.
- If Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates do not support Iran, oil shipments could still encounter difficulties getting through the Strait of Hormuz, a 48 -kilometer shipping channel that around 25% of the world's oil production passes through.