

## **Israel-Hamas Conflict And The Middle East Politics**

by

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### **Abstract**

Israel and Palestine Hamas war since it started on 7 October 2023 is making the Middle East politics unstable. Both sides have recorded casualties as they continue to launch counter offensives. It has created more challenges that set hurdles and complicate the traditional political, religious and territorial tensions in the region. It is worse because Iran, Hezbollah, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Turkey are involved, doing things to make things worse. Using secondary data sources like books, journals, dailies, periodicals, and internet materials, and relying on Miller, Mowrer, Sear, Dollard and Doob (1939) Frustration-Aggression (F.A.) theory, this study examined what started the war and how it has affected Middle Eastern politics. The study's main finding is that Israel-Hamas conflict changes oil prices, trade routes and the mood of investors outside of the Middle East. The study also finds out that the war makes it harder for Arab and Western countries to work together diplomatically. The Abraham Accords and lack of aid in Gaza made the conflict in the West Bank even worse. The study therefore recommends that there should be diplomatic framework that takes into account the complex regional and global parts of the conflict. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and other important players should support fair negotiations to ensure that peace effort and economic strategies work in Middle East.

**KEYWORDS: Israel, Palestine, Hamas, War, Conflict, Middle East, Politics.**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

The main state actors associated with Middle Eastern politics are the United States, Russia, China, and a few Western European nations. The realpolitik and overwhelming might of these major nations enabled many of the confrontations that occurred during and after the Cold War era (CWE), which was concluded in 1991 with the dissolution of the Soviet Union. The fact that Cold War adversaries, the United States of America (USA) and the erstwhile Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR) made weaponry easily accessible exacerbates this issue in the Middle East and elsewhere in the world. These weapons are then utilised by autocrats and in wars across the world to crush political opponents. Extremist organisations that support Islamic jihadist

militancy in the Middle East and other regions of the world currently possess these weapons (Oluka, 2023).

Previous studies have doubted the claim that there is official support to Hamas, a popular Palestinian resistance group formed by the Middle Eastern countries against the Israel. Reportedly, the key governments have been supplying Hamas fighters with weapons, without any resistance. Israel which is mostly affected is geographically located at the eastern side of the Mediterranean Sea, Jordan on the east, Egypt on the southwest, the Mediterranean Sea on the west and Lebanon and Syria on the north. Israel is situated in Southern Levant in the Middle East today. Due to the geographical positioning between Europe, Asia, and Africa, Israel is a very important geopolitical location to the Arab and Islamic world. Israel mainly inhabits Palestinian territories, Gaza Strip in the southwest and the west bank in the east. It shares its eastern border with the Dead Sea as well as a small stretch of shore on the Red Sea at the lowest point of its southern boundary. It has its capital in Jerusalem (Akram, Michael, Michael & Iain, 2010).

The armed Hamas group, which is one of the branches of the international Al-Qaeda terrorist network, was primarily responsible for the attacks on Israel. The Bible claims that the Jewish people originated in Israel. Their cultural, social, and national backgrounds are described in the Bible. Israel has always existed, despite the fact that majority of the Jews were evicted from their homes thousands of years ago. Among the Arab countries, Israel, a Jewish nation in the Middle East, appears to be at a disadvantage. The establishment of Israel led to the recovery of the lost freedom of the Jews in 1948. The permanent members (P5) of the UN Security Council are aimed at resolving the Israel-Palestine conflict leaving the Gaza Strip in ruins and taking many lives. Nevertheless, they have not gone to an extreme in their intervention. After the outbreak of the war between the state of Israel and Hamas, the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) charged Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with war crimes and crimes against humanity in May 2024. In the recent past, the United Kingdom (UK) government has dropped its plans to appeal against the arrest order of the Prime minister by the ICC. Because these powerful figures are known to have engaged in the most atrocious war crimes, genocide, and infringement of human rights and dignity with no repercussions from their local government, the ICC prosecutor sought arrest warrants on Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant and Hamas leaders Mohammed Deif and YahyaSinwar (Eliahu & Williams, 2024).

The question of whether the ICC can have jurisdiction over Israeli nationals in circumstances where the Palestinian authority cannot, was left open by the Oslo Accord, a peace deal signed in 1993 (Adams & Whannel, 2024). In the Israel-Hamas conflict, it was crucial that the ICC investigate and prosecute all war criminals and potential genocide perpetrators. However, the UK government attempted to thwart the ICC prosecutor's efforts by contesting the court's rulings on Mohammed Deif, Benjamin Netanyahu, Yoav Gallant, and Yahya Sinwar. Realpolitik involving the UK, and non-state actors such as the UNSC, the ICC, and other significant actors in the conflict is exemplified by this development. Many people worldwide believe that the 1987-founded Hamas is connected to the military organisation described by many observers as "Palestinian dissidents," which has recently grown to be a significant security threat in the Middle East (Ebrahim, 2023). In addition to causing significant harm in Israel, Hamas associated with the Muslim Brotherhood, a Sunni Islamist organisation founded in Egypt in the late 1920s has continued to propagate the same ideologies as in the case of other Islamic terrorist organisations in the Middle East and beyond.

There is further proof that Hamas has a link with the infamous Islamic organisation, "al-Qaeda" because of its ties to Iran. The Arabic term for "Islamic Resistance Movement," "Harakat Al-Mugawama Al-Islamiyya," is frequently referred to as "Hamas." Like other Palestinian political groups and factions, the party claims that Israel is an invading army. Freeing Palestinian lands seized by what Hamas considers an unlawful State is the group's main objective and cause of conflict with Israel. The Israeli government on its side has adopted more aggressive measures to safeguard individuals and property within its borders due to Hamas' continued attacks on Israel (Ebrahim, 2023). Many people have been prompted by the attacks to wonder why Israel and Hamas are waging the conflict and why it is becoming worse. Although past researches have covered the historical and political as well as humanitarian issues in the Israel-Hamas conflict, one of the remaining gaps is the role that world super powers play in the intensification and the solution of the conflict. Minor focus has been paid to how the conflicting interests of international community influence the direction of peace activities and humanitarian interventions. Also, there is a need to further conceptualise the theoretical ground of the concept of global environment in terms of realpolitik, military power and international law in conflict areas such as Gaza.

The paper will add value to the global political theory because it critically examines how regional conflicts, international law, and the geopolitical policies of superpowers relate. It also deals with the multifaceted nature of the Israel-Hamas conflict focusing on the role of outside players and the effects on international stability. The analysis will address the gap in the literature of the overall effect of such geopolitical tensions on Middle Eastern politics and world security.

### **Nature of the Problem**

Even outside the region, the Israel-Palestine-Hamas conflict is undoubtedly contributing to the instability of Middle Eastern affairs. The conflict has deteriorated since Hamas began launching coordinated attacks on Israel on October 7, 2023, with both sides reporting high death tolls. Counter offensives are being launched on the West Bank and Gaza Strip as the war continues. Numerous residences have sustained damages, and various types of fatalities have been documented. Even though Israel has the right to defend itself against threats, both inside and outside the country, such as Hamas attacks from Palestine, the United States and many of its European allies have harshly criticized Israel's treatment of Palestinians. The Muslim world, particularly the "Axis of Resistance," has expressed solidarity with the Palestinians and attributed the increase in violence against Israel to the annexation of Palestinian territory (Berman, 2023; Gould-Davis, 2023; BBC News, 2025).

This conflict between the two Middle Eastern nations is unwarranted, according to experts throughout the world, but Israel has the right to handle Hamas and requests from ultra-Orthodox Jews within its own borders that jeopardize national unity. The benefits that the growing orthodox majority enjoys are being resisted by the secular majority as a result of the war. Many Israelis fear that theocracy will grow as a result of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's contentious judicial reforms, which according to observers may fundamentally alter the way the courts operate and give the religious right significant authority. As the entire community watches in akimbo, several Palestinian factions are increasingly banding together to support Hamas' onslaught on Israel. By providing safe havens to terrorist organisations and enabling both state and non-state actors to engage in terrorist actions, many nations in the region encouraged state-sponsored terrorism (Gould-Davis, 2023). As a result, Hamas fighters now represent an even

bigger threat to Israel and regional security. The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on October 27, 2023, urging an end to the conflict in the area, and urgent and continuous humanitarian assistance. There were twelve (12) votes in favour of this resolution, fourteen (14) votes against it, and forty-four (44) abstentions, which constitute a problem. In regards to the current confrontation between Israel and Hamas, this resolution appears to be the highest action taken by the UNSC. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu proclaimed a state of war and mobilized 360,000 army reserves in response to the historic Hamas militant attacks on October 7, 2023 (Gould-Davis, 2023).

Alterman (2023) claims that during the early stages of the conflict, at least 150 Israelis were taken captive and more than 1,200 were slain. The most significant event for Israelis since 1948, when the Arab-Israeli war began, was the repeated strikes by the Hamas militant group against Israel, which murdered hundreds of Israeli soldiers and civilians, according to a 2023 article by Ebrahim. Hamas forces have mastered the art of fighting Israel on their own territory, despite Israel's superior and more advanced weaponry. The inability of President Mahmoud Abbas and the Palestinian leadership in the West Bank to defuse the situation between Israel and Hamas or secure sufficient support from Middle Eastern nations to put an end to the conflict is one of the main issues with it. Over 1,000 Palestinians have been killed and numerous buildings destroyed by Israeli government actions in the Gaza Strip, including thousands of airstrikes and a blockade, according to Zafra and McClure (2024). Hoffman (2023) stated that Israel may wish to eliminate the security threat posed by Hamas, a Palestinian Sunni Islamist political and military wing that has controlled the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip region since 2007. It is anticipated that Hamas' activities in the Gaza Strip since 2007 may attract new adversaries to Israel, including Al-Qaeda and Hezbollah. Hamas is able to conceal its military preparations from Israel despite Israel having one of the most sophisticated intelligence services in the world. This implies that other Arab nations support and shield Hamas, yet, the UNSC and other international security organisations have done very little to address this threat to the Middle East. The Israeli military's desire to increase counterterrorism operations in order to drive out Hamas militants who are hiding in Palestinian areas of Gaza, particularly at the Southern Rafah and Kerem Shalom crossings, which are crucial for humanitarian efforts in Gaza, is a major factor in this conflict (Hoffman, 2023).

In addition to the assault on Gaza, the conflict between Israel and Hamas is seriously harming the global economy. The cost of food and energy is increasing as the conflict goes on. The Israel-Hamas conflict has exacerbated the conflict in Lebanon, the attack on Iran's nuclear facilities, the economic crisis in Europe, the deteriorating regional ties, and the Middle East's food shortage issue. The conflict between Russia and Ukraine and the Syrian crisis combined to complicate the security risks to the expansion of the world economy. Additionally, they jeopardize the reliance and globalisation inherent in contemporary state relations. Western involvement with Israel has an impact on economic relations, raises the price of crude oil globally, and reduces industrial efficiency (Abdulkareem & Yoganandham, 2023:154). Global security difficulties are made more complex by other persistent Middle Eastern security concerns, particularly propagations of transnational terrorism. The political and economic development of the sub region is also threatened by the fighting in Southern Gaza and the Rafah crossing into Egypt. The effects of the war are also being felt by the entire world, particularly by Israel and Palestine's allies, yet, the UN and NATO seem to have done very little to end the conflict.

The extension of the effect of the Israel-Hamas conflict to other parts of the world is a problem, and has raised several questions. As Glantz (2023) observed "the international community, particularly the United States and European allies, found it more difficult to support Ukraine's defence forces against Russia as a result of the Israel-Hamas conflict." Since the beginning of the Israel-Hamas conflict, inter-states dependence has been seriously threatened. The Middle East situation is exacerbated by the Arab States' backing of Hamas and the conflict against Israel. According to James (1995), new issues in the Arab world are undoubtedly replacing the classic issues that existed throughout the CWE, such as the persistent animosity toward Jewish States, particularly Egypt. The Middle Eastern nations fear that attacks could occur at any time, even from distant adversaries employing aircraft, missiles, and other covert means. This study therefore interrogates the limitations of earlier comments concerning the actual causes of the conflict between Israel and Palestinian Hamas fighters, the conflict's effects on global economic development, effects on Middle East regional politics, and the degree to which the UNSC can assist in resolving this dispute. A limited scrutiny of the stakes of Hezbollah, Iran, and other regional state-actors in the conflict also created a gap in literature, which this study seeks to review.

## **Objectives of the Study**

The general objective of this study is examination of effects of Israel-Hamas conflict in the Middle Eastern politics. And the specific objectives are to:

1. Find out the root causes of Israeli-Hamas conflict.
2. Determine the extent to which the politics of the world shapes the Israel-Hamas conflict.
3. Analyse the interests of Hezbollah, Iran, and other state-actors in the region.
4. Discuss the impact of the conflict on the politics of the Middle East region and the global economy.
5. Discuss how the UNSC can assume actions to address and alleviate the impacts of the Israeli-Hamas war in the Middle East and beyond.

## **Research Questions**

The following questions are raised to provide direction to this study:

- i. What are the root causes of the Israel and Hamas conflict?
- ii. How has global politics influenced the Israel and Hamas conflict?
- iii. What are the interests of Hezbollah, Iran and regional state-actors in the Israel-Hamas conflict?
- iv. What are the impacts of the Israel-Hamas conflict on the Middle Eastern politics and global economic development?
- v. How can the UNSC address and alleviate the effects of Israeli-Hamas conflict in the Middle East and beyond?

## **Method of Study**

For this study, the historical research design was used because of its consistency. Researchers can better understand “what happened, why it happened, and how it affected things today” by using information about historical events (Greenwood, 2012). Researchers gain better understanding of current events by conducting historical or analytical research. Making it simpler to collect valuable data or information with minimal effort, time, and financial resources is the aim (Kothari, 2009; Kothari & Garg, 2019). In addition to helping the researcher collect

data and obtain essential information from the body of existing literature, the qualitative research method is crucial to this study because it allowed the researchers to examine current events using evidence from several sources. It is effective with approaches that describe, explain, and explore phenomena under investigation (Yin, 2013). As a result, the study's data came from secondary sources, notably: published journal articles, newspapers, textbooks, periodicals, daily publications, official government records, and pre-existing websites. According to Gupta and Gupta (2010), secondary data are documents that are derived from pre-existing records rather than being created by the researcher. Research in the humanities and social sciences has found great value in secondary sources.

## **II. The Concept of Conflict**

The word “conflict” in English is derived from the Latin word “confligere,” meaning “to strike or attack.” According to another school of thinking, it is derived from the Latin term “conflitus,” which means “collision or clash.” It is currently employed everywhere, even in public and private settings, and at the slightest hint of problems. Every dispute has a fundamental reason, and they typically start when two or more parties believe that the demands or actions of another party are endangering their interests or wishes. People frequently fantasize about violent confrontation and other painful experiences that leave them feeling helpless and terrified when they are at odds with one another. The worst situation is when it incites violence, which could put lives in danger and exacerbate the issues of others. Mild disputes to full-scale war between two or more nation-states are examples of conflict (Educational Index, 2024). Conflict takes on numerous forms, and as there are also different literary works with varied conceptions of it (Rice, 2006). Gibbons (2007), for example, defines a conflict situation as one in which the parties are unable to resolve their differences amicably. Different definitions result from the fact that the term “conflict” can be interpreted as either positive or negative.

Ramsbotham, Woodhouse and Miall (2005) conceive it as something that occurs outside of a community, and odd occurrences in interpersonal interactions. Conflicts typically begin as minor annoyances that, if ignored, could escalate into full-fledged altercations, with war being the worst possible conclusion. Disagreements over little matters lead to conflict. Understanding the immediate source of the conflict and lowering its severity through talk and mediation—strategies



used to handle undesirable conflict outcomes are good approaches to stop it from getting worse and jeopardizing peace, security, or the current order (Amason, 1996). Folger, Poole and Stutman (2018) suggest that spouses who are interdependent and aren't getting along often chat to one other when they are fighting. Mismatch makes it possible for someone else to intervene and break up a conflict.

According to Cupach, Canary and Spitzberg (2010), conflict can arise between people even when they are attempting to accomplish seemingly incompatible goals. It can arise when people believe they cannot achieve their objectives together; claim Pfelsch and Rohloff (2000). Oluyemi-Kusa (2005) opines that the likelihood of a fatal conflict increases with the number of states involved in an international problem. For Donelson (2018), conflict arises when people have radically divergent expectations, values, interests, and viewpoints. Therefore, disagreements, inconsistencies, and tensions that arise when individuals or group actions or views are totally rejected by others are what define conflict. Gerhard (2004) describes it as a group of individuals with conflicting interests that rely on one another to accomplish their common objectives. It is a stressful situation that arises when two or more people cannot agree on anything regarding a good, according to Frank (1994). It involves acts that don't match up with wants, needs, or obligations (Michael, 1992). Fundamentally, conflict consists of both conventional and military war, which can harm people, communities, or the advancement, security, and peace of a nation.

### **Theoretical Framework**

The Frustration-Aggression (F.A.) Theory is used in this paper to understand the conflict between Israel and Hamas since the theory explains the psychological mechanisms involved in the origin of aggression and violence. The Frustration-Aggression Hypothesis is a product of the classical research conducted by Dollard, Doob, Miller, Mowrer and Sear (1939), who hypothesised that frustration (the prevention of goal-directed action) inevitably, leads to aggression. Miller and colleagues (1941) later developed this suggestion and Berkowitz (1962, 1969), improved it, pointing out that frustration is a reaction to aggression specifically when people or groups feel that their desires are blocked by outside influences. The theory has been applied to shed light on violent responses like terrorism, civil unrest and armed conflict. Gurr

(1970), a leading advocate of the Frustration-Aggression hypothesis, argues that persons or groups that fail to acquire desired results normally turn to violence. Aggression is a form of frustration of unachieved objectives, and in particular, identity, territorial, and political autonomy.

To Palestinians, the decades of frustrations due to the ongoing occupation of their ancestral lands especially in Gaza and West Bank is one of the main causes of aggression and resistance movements like Hamas which sees its struggle as a way of repossessing its territory. On the other hand, Israel sees the threat of Hamas and similar organisations as something that should be counter-aggressive to the security of the state. The relationship between frustration and aggression is always recorded in empirical studies. According to Berkowitz (1962), aggressive behaviour is often the consequence of deprivation of the basic rights or self-determination, a tendency that can be traced in the Israel-Hamas conflict. The attacks by Hamas can therefore be seen as the frustrations of the Palestinians over national demands that have not been met. On the same note, the excessive countermeasure that Israel has taken may be described as defensive measure to the existential threats that they see in the activities of Hamas.

The Frustration-Aggression theory is also based on the associated concept of relative deprivation that states that people who feel disadvantaged in comparison with others are prone to violent conduct (Gurr, 1970). The seemingly disproportionate distribution of resources, power and land in the Israel-Hamas case is a source of animosity and warrants aggression. As such, the hatred between these groups is informed by decades of frustration due to political, economical, and territorial loss. However, the Frustration-Aggression theory has some considerable weaknesses when used to examine more complex socio-political disputes. Although it is a good psychological approach, it can also be simplified to the complexity of the Israel-Hamas war. The modern political psychology puts an emphasis on ideological, cultural, and digital warfare aspects that the Frustration-Aggression model does not address in its entirety. In the contemporary geopolitical arena, there is the added complexity of digital media, social movements, and ideological zeal, especially when enhanced by such products as social media, to the forces behind such groups as Hamas and Israeli state.

Additionally, the theory can overlook such crucial variables as the power imbalance, historical resentment, and foreign interests (e.g., state sponsorship of violence). The Frustration-

Aggression theory fails to capture the political, economic, and strategic contexts in which both state and non-state actors operate in the region because it focuses on predicting internal psychological processes. Ethically, this psychological focus creates the danger of overlooking normative limits of aggression (including those inherent in Just War Theory (Walzer, 1977), which makes a distinction between *jus ad bellum* (just cause to go to war, legitimate authority, and reasonable chances to succeed) and *jus in bello* (just conduct in war, focusing on proportionality and discrimination to protect civilians). The actions of Hamas on 7 October 2023 in Israel-Hamas broke the principles of *jus in bello* by targeting civilians indiscriminately, and the measures implemented by Israel in response to the attack breached the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and the Geneva Conventions (1949, Common Article 3, and Additional Protocol 1) in particular, by causing excessive civilian casualties and failing to provide humanitarian access. These theories emphasise the moral necessity to restrain aggression in frustration caused by frustration, which exposes the lack of control as a root of violence and degradation of human dignity.

In order to build a more detailed picture of the conflict between Israel and Hamas, this paper includes some other theoretical frameworks, such as Realism and Relative Deprivation Theory, which deal with the power relations and international politics, and the topic of global security. Realism, as such, predicts the anarchic international system and the strategic interests of states; therefore, Israel can also be discussed concerning the needs of national security and the survival instincts. In the meantime, the Relative Deprivation theory is a development of the Frustration-Aggression theory that may offer an explanation of the socio-political motivation behind the resistance of Hamas which focuses on the injustices and deprivation that Palestinians experienced as compared to the Israeli people. In contrast to these schools of thought, there is a Rawlsian justice system (Rawls, 1971) that would provide an ethical perspective of relative deprivation using the veil of ignorance whereby just institutions would help to apportion resources and territories without discrimination and thus would possibly help to alleviate Palestinian complaints over land and self-determination and preserve the Israeli right to self-defence. This normative response questions selective humanitarianism of realpolitik, which is reflected in U.S. vetoes of UNSC resolutions on Gaza aid, by endorsing non-selectivity in international action and putting the least-privileged at the fore without favour to influential allies.

Lastly, despite the Frustration-Aggression theory being a powerful theory in explaining the violent aspects of Israel-Hamas conflict, the theory is not devoid of its shortcomings. In this respect, the theory should be supplemented with the auxiliary theoretical paradigms to be able to explain the complex interaction between psychological, political, and socio-economic determinants in the modern conflicts in a comprehensive manner. Furthermore, the relevance of the Frustration-Aggression model to the conflicts of the digital era, in which the ideological mobilisation and media-driven interaction is playing a central role deserves additional consideration and possible redefinition. To increase ethical responsibility, realisable frameworks may include a multi-stakeholder ethical protocol of international intervention based on the mechanisms of the International Humanitarian Law enforcement that include the complementarity principle of the ICC as stipulated in the Rome Statute (1998) that imposes accountability of the war crimes not only on states but also on non-state actors. Such a model would operationalise proportionality evaluations by having independent monitoring bodies, e.g. United Nations fact-finding missions, and would enhance accountability using hybrid tribunals and hence confidence in the peace-building processes by means of integrating psychological understanding of frustration with enforceable ethical norms that protect civilians and guide diplomatic solutions.

### **III. Result and Discussion**

#### **Underlying Causes of the Conflict between Israel and Hamas**

The Middle East is generally structured around several powers that are involved in cooperation, rivalry and conflict, depending on the issue areas such as ideology, security, energy, among others. There is the Iran led axis of resistance with allies which include Syria, Hezbollah, Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and Houthi Movement in Yemen, and the other Iraqi Shiite militias. There is also the Saudi led alignment or bloc largely composed of Sunni-majority Gulf monarchies, originally aligned with the United States, with a focus on countering Iranian influence and promoting economic stability in the region. There are also Israel and Turkey presence. Israel's primary concern is the security threats from Iran and its proxies (Hezbollah and Hamas), which resulted to a defined security cooperation agreements (The Abraham Accords) with United Arab Emirate (UAE), Bahrain, and Morocco. There is also the extreme

powers influence in the region such as USA, China and Russia, which has led to greater regional autonomy as well as fluid alliances. However, the main drivers of influence include the Iran-Saudi rivalry, the Israel-Palestinian conflict, the interference of external powers, internal political instability, especially in Syria and Iraq, and energy politics (Eduard, 2017).

Additionally, the Israel-Hamas war was fuelled by the complex web of political, ideological, and historical factors in the region. This war, which began in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, includes territorial conflicts, issues with Gaza's governance, and the more general Israeli-Palestinian statehood dispute. The dispute recently intensified, exposing long-standing annoyances and unsolved issues. Arab-Israeli animosity began when Israel was founded in 1948, uprooting the Palestinian population. Palestinians view the "Nakba" (catastrophe) that resulted in the forcible deportation of about 750,000 Palestinians as loss and displacement, while Israelis commemorate the creation of the State of Israel as a revitalization of their country. These accounts characterise Israel as a Jewish State and the independence movement in Palestine. The 1967 Six-Day War drastically altered the economic and geographic landscape of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and raised a number of issues that have recently led to a spike in hostilities. Israel overcame a coalition of Arab countries, including Syria, Jordan, and Egypt, in a span of six days (Morris, 2004, Gelvin, 2014).

Israel's military occupation of these regions deprived Palestinians of their freedom of expression, economic opportunity, and mobility. It intensified the already intense hostility and despair of the Palestinian people. Israeli settlements gradually grew during the following decades, undermining Palestinian aspirations for a cohesive Palestinian State. Palestinians interpreted this move as a conscious attempt to bolster Israeli control over the regions. The settlement project changed the West Bank's demographics by giving Israeli settlers access to land and resources that Palestinians were losing ground to. Tensions in the area increased as a result of the military occupation of Gaza and the West Bank. Hamas, which has its roots in Islamic and Palestinian nationalism, rejected Israel's legitimacy in 1987 (Roy, 1999; Gelvin, 2014). The founders and supporters of Hamas understood this as a fight for Palestine's "liberation." Hamas gained momentum by presenting itself as a more resolute and rights-abiding Palestinian organisation than its adversaries, and it capitalised on the widespread discontent with Israeli policy to replace the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which some Palestinians perceived as being too

accommodative. Hamas's place as a key factor in the protracted Middle East war was cemented by its ideological stance and violent tendencies. The colonial dynamic created by Israel's direct military presence and settlement expansion, which subjugates and controls Palestinian territory and its inhabitants to this day, is the main reason why Palestinian authorities have established counter forces (Tamari, 2009; Brynen, 2022).

Masalha (2012) and Khalidi (2020) expressed the opinion that the Nakba marked the beginning of a long period of displacement and dispossession following the 1967 Six-Day War, in which Israel took control of the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem. It is the prolonged Israeli occupation and settlement construction that radicalized Hamas, which sees itself as battling an occupying force. Makdisi (2008) concurred that the Palestinian community in the area cannot tolerate Israel's policies, especially the "settler-colonial" element. The political and territorial conflicts between Fatah and Hamas, which have sharply split Palestinian society and made it challenging to forge a unified national front, also played a role. The inability "Oslo Accords" to establish a two-state solution also led to divergent opinions and responses, which in turn sparked this division. The West Bank-based Palestinian Authority (PA) led by Fatah has supported diplomatic solutions with Israel and worked toward peace on several occasions, according to Gelvin (2014) and Brynen (2022). However, many Palestinians lost faith in these talks because they were unable to obtain any true sovereignty or halt the expansionism of settler Israelis in areas considered to be Palestine's territories. Hamas, which was initially established in 1987 during the first Intifada (a revolt or resistance movement composed of Islamist groups), questioned Israel's legitimacy and advocated for "armed resistance" against Israeli control, according to Brown (2010).

By continuously defending Palestinian national rights and providing funds for social amenities, Hamas was able to increase its support in Gaza, where it had already made a name for itself as Israel's fiercest adversary. Widespread dissatisfaction with the Palestinian Authority's (PA) alleged corruption and ineptitude was reflected in Hamas' electoral triumph in 2006. A bloody clash between Hamas and Fatah took place in 2007 (Brown, 2010). Hamas's assertion is that armed action is the only way to break the blockade in Gaza and West Bank. This assertion gained credibility due to the group's popularity in these areas (Roy, 1999). Yet, it was challenging for the Palestinians to deal with Israel as a single entity because of the fragmented

leadership that followed this division, claim Shikaki (2006) and Milton-Edwards and Farrell (2010). Hamas' objective against Israel is strengthened and hostility is increased by the many civilian casualties, destroyed infrastructure, and worsening living conditions in Gaza (CFR, 2024). Giving these circumstances, Hamas militants who portrayed themselves as defenders of Palestinian rights in Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and as a resistant group against Israeli and Egyptian restrictions gain legitimacy and continued to propagate Hamas and Palestinian objectives.

### **Global Politics and the Israel-Hamas Conflict**

International pressures, transnational alliances, and influence of regional organisations dramatically intensified the Israel-Hamas conflict which started in October 2023. The conflict undeniably constitutes one of the major issues in contemporary world politics. The objectives and ideologies of the different actors involved are advanced by this complex web of influence, which includes diplomatic efforts, military assistance, economic sanctions, and strategic alliances. The interventions are basically in accordance with long-term aims rather than only addressing the immediate problem. Important global actors include China's ambition to become a stabilising power, Iran's aspirations to counterbalance Israel's dominance, and the U.S's strategic objective of preserving its regional influence. Although it clearly limited its involvement in the Israel-Hamas conflict, international organisations such as the UN consider humanitarian and peacekeeping considerations at every stage of the conflict to mitigate the impact of violence on civilian populations. Because these actions are viewed through the lens of past injustices and grievances, the United States' military assistance to Israel not only improves its operational capabilities but also incites animosity among Arab governments and citizens. To maintain regional stability and prevent a humanitarian disaster, a number of organisations, notably the European Union (EU), have called for humanitarian corridors and ceasefires. Instead of reducing Middle East volatility, national interests and regional rivalries make the conflicts in the region worse (House of Commons Library, 2023).

United States has consistently supported Israel, condemned Hamas quickly, and retained a significant amount of influence throughout the history of the Israel-Hamas conflict and other Middle Eastern issues. The administration of President Joe Biden moved troops to the Eastern

Mediterranean on 7 October 2023, and placed air and naval assets there to deter potential strikes by groups like Iran and Hezbollah in an effort to keep the situation from getting worse (House of Commons Library, 2023). U.S. also increased its military and financial assistance to Israel to underline its long-term commitment to Israeli security, and to directly pressure Hamas to end the conflict (CSIS, 2023). This use of military force is an example of a fundamental principle of U.S. strategy in the Middle East: ensuring Israel's safety in order to promote regional stability. Scholars have examined the effects of U.S support in great detail, highlighting both its stabilising and destabilising effects. Many claim that the U.S steadfast support for Israel creates a power vacuum in the region, which benefits Israel's military tactics and makes it more challenging to reach diplomatic agreements (Alterman, 2023).

Many argued that U.S interest in the Middle East stems solely from its desire to keep control of the region's huge oil market. The 1928 group agreement, better known as "the Red Line Agreement", a deal negotiated between some Americans, British and French companies concerning the oil resources within the territories that were formerly the comprised of the Ottoman Empire within the Middle East, traced to the initial formation of the Turkish Petroleum Company (TPC) in 1912 was a factor (Fitzgerald, 1991; Morton, 2013; U.S. Department of State, 2025). While Hussein (2023) worried about how U.S stance could further damage its ties with Arab allies and make anti-American feeling even more widespread, particularly among Palestinian activists, Freilich (2023) argues that U.S involvement was to help deal with regional threats and maintain international counterterrorism standards. This is because U.S sees Hamas's actions as calling for a forceful retaliation. This perspective draws attention to the complex interrelationship between U.S foreign policy pursuit of regional stability and national security objectives. Washington DC has demonstrated that it shares Israel's objectives, particularly with regard to security. U.S first demanded that Hamas inmates be released before beginning peace negotiations, demonstrating its backing for Israel's military objectives in the Middle East. U.S. officials shifted their position and started advocating for "humanitarian pauses" to enable the delivery of critical aid to the civilian population in Gaza as the humanitarian situation there deteriorated. Washington DC was able to assist its strategic ally and maintain its moral authority on the international scene by employing a balanced strategy that offers Israel unshakable support while also exercising caution in its humanitarian endeavours (IISS, 2023).



In addition to taking the initiative to end the conflict between Israel and Hamas, the EU swiftly condemned the Hamas attacks and supported Israel's right to self-defence on 7 October 2023. The European Union (EU) also emphasized the significance of respecting the norms of proportionality and civilian protection in order to highlight its dual commitment to security and human rights. This position is consistent with the EU's long-standing emphasis on peaceful conflict resolution (House of Commons Library, 2023). However, there are significant internal policy disparities between Israel and Palestine that lie behind the EU's united position. Two powerful nations, France and Germany, have demonstrated their unwavering support for Israel's security by maintaining regional harmony and averting an escalation through the use of their limited military capabilities. This aligns with a broader European objective to prevent instability in adjacent areas and challenges to European security interests as a result of spill over (CSIS, 2023).

Meanwhile, a number of EU members such as Sweden, Spain and Ireland have defended Palestinian rights and statehood, urging the bloc to take more aggressive action against what they perceive to be Israeli abuses, which is a show of their support for Palestine's statehood. China and Russia are demonstrating what could be called "strategic empathy" when they publicly endorse regional perspectives in an effort to bolster their own influence. The actions of China and Russia may be viewed as illustrations of this changing power dynamic in a multi-polar world, where regional conflicts such as the one between Israel and Palestinian Hamas provide a stage for more significant geopolitical conflicts. Adding conflicting objectives could worsen an already unstable situation and reduce the likelihood of a cohesive peace strategy in the Middle East. These complicated webs of alliances, hostilities and strategic interests of state-actors in the Middle East have exacerbated the Israel-Hamas conflict, which is a true reflection of a display of global politics. A complex backdrop that includes the actions of the USA and the EU, the diplomatic ploys of Arab Nations and Iran's antagonistic stance may prolong the crisis.

IISS (2023) and Slater (2023) claimed that the U.S.'s stance on the Israel-Hamas conflict demonstrates how humanitarian principles are applied selectively based on U.S. geopolitical ties. Gordon (2023) opines that the administration of incumbent President Donald John Trump is being pragmatic by attempting to address Israel's particular security needs while preventing the conflict from turning into a regional disaster. This is a prime example of the challenges the

United States faces in trying to integrate security and humanitarian considerations into its Middle East policy. Given how much its regional policy depends on its security partnership with Israel, the United States' stance to the Israel-Hamas conflict may be pragmatic, but ethically questionable because serious ethical concerns about giving unrestricted support in a conflict where one side is at a disadvantage is a problem, considering also the enormous number of civilian deaths in Gaza.

### **Stake of Hezbollah, Iran, and Other State Actors in the Conflict**

The Israel-Hamas crisis has emerged a centre of interest in the larger Middle East geopolitics, attracting various state and non-state actors whose interests are different and at the same time interconnected. The key to solving the complexities of the current conflict understands the dynamics of these actors and how their interests come into conflict or intersect. Israel in particular is at the centre stage as the key actor state whose national security interests are influenced by both historical and contemporary issues. The main issue that Israel is concerned about is the existential threat of Hamas and other Palestinian militant groups that consider Israel as an occupational force and want to regain Palestinian territories. Israeli government and specifically, the government led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have become very hard-line and in most cases, the government has been using military operations to destroy Hamas operatives, and also to ensure that future attacks are thwarted. This has seen Israel rely on military supremacy, intelligence, and alliances especially with the United States and some of the Gulf States, to offset the influence of Hamas (Katzman, 2024).

Even though Israel has been criticised by the international community, especially the European countries and human rights groups, its defence policy has been inflexible and committed to the safety of its people, and the deterrence of the increasing influence of Hamas in Gaza. On the Palestinian front, Hamas, the governing party in the Gaza Strip, is also an influential non-state actor in the conflict. Hamas was established in 1987, and it has become a powerful political and military organisation, the ideological foundation of which is the struggle against Israeli occupation. The aims of Hamas, as they are spelt in its charter, are to liberate Palestinian territories and create an Islamic state. Such extreme position frequently places it in conflict with other moderate groups such as the Palestinian Authority (PA) in the West Bank who believe in

the two-state solution. Nevertheless, Hamas is also widely supported by the Palestinian people, especially in Gaza, where its military capabilities and social initiatives have established its rightfulness (Ebrahim, 2023).

Another important player in the regional politics and conflict is Iran. Iran being a key participant in the so-called Axis of Resistance has been the biggest financial and military contributor to Hamas, supplying it with arms, training, and political support (Bahadori-Jahromi, 2023). The reasons behind the involvement of Iran are because the country is pursuing its greater geopolitical agenda of curbing Israeli influence in the area and to enforce its dominance in the Arab world. Iran sees the Israel-Palestine conflict as one of the main fronts in its struggle against Israel and the United States, and its assistance to Hamas is part of a bigger agenda to establish alliances with other militant factions, including the Hezbollah in Lebanon and other Iraqi militia groups. This partnership does not only make Iran more influential in the region but also complicates the work of the international peace, because the Iranian support of Hamas is first of all a direct opposition to the peace efforts of the U.S., the Abraham Accords (Suleiman, 2024).

The Hezbollah, a Shiite militant organisation in Lebanon is also important in this conflict. Although Hezbollah did not participate directly in the October 7, 2023 Hamas attack, the fact that Hezbollah supported Hamas in political and military aspects is evident. The Hezbollah under the leadership of Hassan Nasrallah is a firm opponent of the Israeli policies and has been supplying Hamas with the necessary resources such as training and strategic advice. The participation of Hezbollah is a component of a broader campaign to stay in a unified front against Israeli domination of the region, making it a central actor in the broader Palestinian liberation movement (IISS, 2023a). This partnership between Iran, Hezbollah and Hamas has established a powerful axis which has threatened the regional superiority of Israel and has made the peace process difficult with the changes in regional alliances. Other regional players like Saudi Arabia and Egypt also have serious roles in the conflict, though with more complicated and at times conflicting interests. Most of the time, Saudi Arabia has supported the idea of a two-state solution, which grants Palestinians sovereignty and create a Palestinian state and Israel (Katzman, 2024).

Nevertheless, recent changes in Saudi foreign policy, especially its efforts to normalise relations with Israel under the 'Abraham Accords' have made its position more complicated. Though adhering to their Palestinian rights, Saudi Arabia is also determined to arrange itself with the Western powers, such as the U.S., against the increasing presence of Iran in the region. Egypt is both a peacemaker and a major participant in the conflict. Being the neighbouring state of Gaza, Egypt has played an active role in brokering ceasefires between Israel and Hamas, using its power of the Rafah border crossing to bring in humanitarian aid and block the military movement of Hamas. However, Egypt looks at the connexion of Hamas to the Egyptian Muslim brotherhood with suspicion and this has an impact on its conduct in the conflict. Although Egypt has criticised Israeli activities in Gaza, it is also worried about the security threat that Hamas poses to its national security, especially the likelihood of radicalism spreading to Sinai Peninsula (Middle East Monitor, 2023). Qatar too has played an influential role in backing Hamas financially and politically and this has enabled it to have influence in the Palestinian territories. The involvement of Qatar in the war can be associated with its overall regional ambitions of augmenting its power in the Middle East, which is frequently achieved through alliances with Islamist groups. Qatar has become an important contributor to Palestinian politics and regional diplomacy on the whole due to its support of Hamas and its readiness to intervene in the Israel-Palestine peace process (Al Jazeera, 2023).

Lastly, Turkey, through President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has emerged as an outspoken critic of Israeli policies, especially when it comes to Palestine. Although Turkey has official diplomatic relations with Israel, Erdoğan has used the conflict as the platform to bolster its position in the Arab and Muslim world, as someone defending Israelis, the Palestinian rights. This plan is consistent with the geopolitical goals of Turkey in general to establish itself as a regional power and counter Israeli and Western influence (Middle East Eye, 2023). The historical, ideological, and political factors that influence the interests of these actors often intersect and conflict, which also leads to the continuation of the conflict and the further complications of the process of establishing a peaceful state. Instances have seen: The UN has issued a number of resolutions to the two parties to stop hostilities with limited success. The withdrawal of Israel in regions occupied in the Six-Day War is a resolution 242 (1967) request that has not been fulfilled yet due to the security reasons of Israel and the sovereignty of Palestine that has hindered a meaningful progress. There was also the Oslo Accords (1993) which was a historic move towards the two-

state solution, which was continuously sabotaged by Hamas, the organisation that denies the legitimacy of Israel. The U.S and the European Union have found it very difficult to broker peace negotiations due to the presence of Hamas and the security fears of Israel. Finally was the U.S. policy shift which has swerved between taking sides with Israel and trying to mediate the peace between Israel and Palestine. An example is the Biden administration that has reiterated its firm support of Israel but demanded a two state solution, but has been unable to find a compromise between the demands of Israel (Middle East Eye, 2023). A complex of mutually supportive actors determines the conflict with different geopolitical and ideological goals. The interests of these actors tend to overlap and interfere, which results in a dynamic and complicated situation, which has been the reason to prolong the conflict and to complicate the process of peace.

### **Israel-Hamas Conflict and Middle East Regional Relations**

These changes in the geopolitical environment and political alliances spawned by the Israel-Hamas conflict have had an enormous implication on regional relations in the Middle East. The pre-existing hostilities have only been aggravated with the October 2023 Hamas attack that killed over 1,400 Israelis, worsening humanitarian crises and leading to counter-alignments across the region. As a result, the balance of power has been distorted, governmental systems of Arab countries have been transformed, and the involvement of the world powers in the Middle East has intensified. The conventional security structures have been upset and the interstate cooperation that was only in its infancy of development has been put on ice. Though some states have backed out their support of Palestinian rights, others have re-examined their alliances to be more in line with Israel. Abraham Accords of 2020 was a landmark in Arab diplomacy with formal diplomatic relations between Israel and various Arab countries, such as Bahrain, Morocco, Sudan, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) (Middle East Monitor, 2023). With the increased scrutiny of Palestinian concerns brought about by the Israel-Hamas conflict, the Arab nations are reconsidering the Accords, and the former concern that normalisation with Israel should be made conditional by the achievement of Palestinian statehood is proving to be a challenge. Saudi Arabia is one of the most interested parties that are currently under pressure to change its position regarding the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, after its gradual opening towards Israel (Al-Ahram Weekly, 2023).

Egypt has increased its diplomatic intervention between Israeli and Palestinian groups due to the fear that instability in Gaza will spread to its borders. The intensified Israeli military actions, airstrikes and ground attacks, have worsened the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and triggered demonstrations in the rest of the Arab world. Egypt has also stepped up its pressure to have the international intervention and the need to end hostilities in Gaza. The country is putting the regional security above ideological alliances with Israel, which is consolidating its role in the Arab-Israeli relations (Al-Ahram Weekly, 2023). On the other hand, Iran tried to disrupt the security of Israel and create an anti-Israeli and anti-Western image in the Middle East by proving that its proxy network in the region could interact with Israel directly. In October 2023, Iran won a tactical battle by assisting Hamas with strategic and intellectual resources and developing an anti-Israeli alliance that could have weakened the Israeli role in the region. Iran takes a stand against 'Abraham Accords' and considers them to be a political ploy aimed at enhancing the Israeli influence in the region at the cost of Palestinian desires. Iran is therefore sponsoring Palestinian groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad to advance its main agenda of creating unrest in regions that are dominated by Israel and its allies. The changing regional power balance especially the Saudi Arabia and UAE one pose a threat to the U.S. sponsored security efforts (Middle East Eye, 2023; Al Jazeera, 2023).

Turkey has always taken a strong position in support of Hamas, which is strongly against the occupation of Palestinian territories by Israel. Turkey under President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has been a champion of the Palestinian rights, and has on some occasions condemned the Israeli actions in Gaza as a tactic to strengthen its influence in the Muslim world. Although Turkey has formal diplomatic ties with Israel, the government led by Erdo has made very strong denunciations against military activities by Israel in Gaza. Turkey has attempted to project itself as an activist of Palestinian rights and Islamic unity in the region; this stance has escalated its conflict with Israel and put it in line with other regional powers like Iran and Qatar against Israeli policy. The Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which is a violent Kurdish group that Turkey backs in Syria, is incompatible with the interests of both the Syrian regime and Israel in the area. However, the common ground between Turkey and Israel is to limit the influence of Iran in the area, which makes their relations more complex (The Middle East Monitor, 2023).

Qatar involvement in Israel Hamas conflict is unique because it has been a supporter of Hamas as well as an intervening entity in the larger Palestinian issues. The small Gulf state has greatly enabled Hamas to communicate with other regional actors in that it has acted as a political sponsor as well as financier of the infrastructure of Gaza. With the help of its financial capabilities and diplomatic influence, Qatar has been sending humanitarian aid to Gaza and is accused by its neighbours of aiding Hamas. Qatar has condemned the Israeli military activities perceiving it as an insult to the Palestinian rights. The support of the Palestinian causes, secret relations with the Jewish state and invitations of Hamas officials have complicated relations between Qatar and Israel. The ultimate goal of Qatar is the expansion of its regional presence, in particular, in the face of competition with Saudi Arabia and the UAE (Al Jazeera, 2023). Russia and the United States have reacted to the Israel-Hamas conflict by influencing its course. The US has been a long term supporter and ally of Israel both in diplomacy and military services which have created conflicts with various Arabian and Muslim majority states as it attempts to broker a cease fire whilst strongly supporting Israel despite the losses of Palestinians. This stand puts the U.S. in a dangerous position because they put more consideration in the security of Israel rather than alliances with key Arab allies and promoting peace in the region. On the contrary, Russia has been using the war to increase its presence in the Middle East. Established relationships with Iran and Syria and connexions with Israel and other Arab countries will give Russia a chance to become a counter to the U.S. hegemony in the area. Moscow is seeking diplomatic options that would take advantage of the changing circumstances, consequently extending its influence in a world that is becoming more and more dominated by U.S. interests (Syria News, 2023).

In addition to direct political and military impacts, the Israel-Hamas dispute has an enormous impact on the global environment in general, politically, economically, and ecologically. The destabilisation of the region affects energy markets directly, in particular, the export of oil and gas in the Gulf, which remains the key to energy security in the world (World Energy Outlook, 2024). The long-term unpredictability in the region is a threat of causing energy crises, inflation, and trade upheavals that will go beyond the Middle East. Moreover, the devastation in Gaza and the adjacent regions creates significant environmental issues, such as degradation of the environment, waste management, and disposal of arable land, which hamper humanitarian efforts to restore the situation (UNEP, 2024). On a bigger scale, the persistence of instability leads to climate migration and environmental insecurity since the population displaced by the conflict

imposes further burden on the available resources of the adjacent states like Egypt, Lebanon, and Jordan (Brookings, 2024; UNDP, 2025; UNHCR, 2025). These dynamics explain the reason why the global environment concept is not confined to the political aspect only but also to the social and ecological aspects, which connect the human security, allocation of resources and environmental sustainability as it concerns the Middle East politics and security. The Israel-Hamas war and its after-effects of Arab-Israeli connexions, regional relations, proxy wars, and international interventions therefore have a long-term implication to the future of the Middle East and international peace and security. These environmental and regional problems are all composing the geopolitical and ecological path of the 21st century, as global peace and security continue to evolve.

### **Israel-Hamas Conflict and Global Economic Development**

The long-running conflict between Israel and Hamas has a significant negative impact on global economy, particularly in the wake of Hamas' unexpected attack on Israeli settlements in October 2023. This battle so far has far-reaching effects on trade, oil prices, and geopolitical stability outside the Middle East. Energy markets, trade disruptions, investor sentiment, and long-term economic repercussions are just a few of the ways that the intricate network of military operations, economic sanctions, and regional instability affect both developed and developing nations. Because the Middle East play crucial role in production and export of oil, the Israel-Hamas conflict has had a significant impact on global energy markets. Since the region supplies one-third of the world's oil, the risk of the protracted battle increases the volatility of oil export routes, especially the Strait of Hormuz, which transports about 20% of the world's oil. Concerns about energy security have historically focused on this narrow channel since past events have demonstrated its susceptibility to regional instability (International Energy Agency, IEA, 2023). This vital maritime route might be blocked by regional powers like Iran if the conflict between Israel and its neighbours continues. Such disruptions would result in a cascade of price increases and additional strain on energy-importing nations and the market overall.

Goldman (2023) claims that oil prices hit a record high in October 2023, demonstrating how the market responded to shifts in Middle Eastern geopolitics. As fuel prices continue to increase, energy-dependent businesses and industries around the world are suffering. This is due to the



fact that operating costs in the oil industry frequently rise. The conflict has raised concerns about the future stability of energy markets and has affected prices both immediately and over time. This is especially relevant giving the potential for escalating hostilities between Saudi Arabia and Iran and other regional nations. Despite their disagreements, the states frequently influence regional politics and use their dominance in oil production to affect global affairs. If the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) alters production levels to stabilise or profit from high prices, it could lead to increase in regional tensions or outright confrontations, which could have serious global repercussions (Goldman, 2023). These strategic changes may put poor countries in a more precarious position, as their economies are already susceptible to shocks from inflation and oil prices. Additionally, it has a multiplier effect on the transportation and manufacturing sectors, affecting nations with low energy supplies that rely more heavily on imported oil. In low-income nations in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, rising gas prices exacerbate economic inequality and impede economic growth. Because money would have to be pulled away from essential services to pay for the rising cost of electricity, a persistent increase in energy prices could limit the growth of these economies in poverty. The conflict between Israel and Hamas has increased concerns that inflation may spread globally and make the pandemic's recovery even more challenging for already struggling economies (World Bank, 2023; Petroleum Economist, 2023).

The conflict also affects the global industrial giants that rely on the ports, transportation networks, and airspace in the Middle East. This is due to the fact that the Port of Haifa and other Israeli ports that are crucial to the movement of several commodities are situated along significant trade routes that connect Europe, Asia, and Africa. Despite not being a significant hub for international trade, Israel's transportation infrastructure, which includes vast rail and highway networks, affects the dynamics of regional trade (World Bank, 2023; UNCTAD, 2023). When these infrastructures are closed or delayed because to the Israel-Hamas conflict, a major delay in freight could result in bottlenecks along related commerce routes. This is particularly significant in the electronics, automotive, and textile sectors, where Israel serves as a middleman for trade between Asian producers and European consumers. Trade routes between Europe and Asia have been under increased strain since the war began in 2023, which has led to issues with global supply networks. The supply of essential commodities for consumer goods, semi-finished goods, and raw materials is negatively impacted by the anticipated delay in Middle Eastern

insecurity concerns. As companies in North America, Europe, and Asia move logistics to avoid high-risk zones by using longer routes, shipping delays and higher costs are becoming more frequent (WTO, 2022). The conflict between Israel and Hamas compounds the trend effect of this development and the global rise in the cost of living, particularly in the Middle East and low-income countries of Africa and Asia.

### **UN Security Council and Israel-Hamas Conflict**

The UNSC effectively used its humanitarian mandate and diplomatic authority to mediate the Israel-Hamas conflict. It has attempted to lower the level of immediate violence, facilitate the delivery of essential humanitarian supplies, and provide the framework for a feasible political solution through its multiple resolutions, and declarations, and partnerships with humanitarian organisations. UNSC actions aim to address the urgent humanitarian situation in Gaza as well as to promote stability in the Middle East despite long-standing political tensions, territorial conflicts, and historical grievances (DW, 2023; United Nations Press, 2023). The operations of the UNSC are limited by the member states' differing reactions to the crisis between Israel and Hamas. This raised questions about the Council's actions. Prominent Council members including the United States, Russia, and China typically exhibit symptoms of disagreement when it comes to peace initiatives and striking a balance between security and humanitarian issues. Some observers have criticised the Council's efficacy and impartiality, citing its difficulties in adopting unanimous decisions and implementing those decisions (IISS, 2023c; United Nations Press, 2023). De-escalation initiatives, a ceasefire, and the facilitation of humanitarian aid are among the priorities listed in recent UNSC resolutions. In December 2023, after three unsuccessful attempts due to vetoes by the USA, the Council issued a historic resolution urging the unrestricted supply of humanitarian aid to Gaza and the establishment of conditions conducive to a prolonged cessation of hostilities. Instead of demanding an immediate halt to the conflict, the resolution, which was backed by the UAE and other powerful UNSC members, attempted to address both humanitarian concerns and the complicated political situation (DW, 2023; United Nations Press, 2023).

Washington DC which is a major UNSC member and ally of Israel supported the emergency assistance request but abstained from voting on it. This event was seen as a geopolitical move by

Washington DC to maintain its long-standing partnership with Israel. The UNSC's Resolution 2334 of 2016, which urges Israel to cease settling on occupied Palestinian land, is frequently referenced in support of these claims. Israel's current actions go against the spirit of Resolution 2334, which is worsening the humanitarian situation in Palestinian land and complicating peace negotiations. The Council's responded forcefully to the severe humanitarian crisis in Gaza by restoring basic essentials like food, housing, and medical treatment as well as reducing the continuous bloodshed. It has repeatedly emphasized the importance of secured and unobstructed humanitarian corridors to provide life-saving aid to individuals in immediate need. The main issue is that relief efforts have been hampered, which has made the already dire circumstances for Gaza's residents much worse (UN Press, 2023).

The UAE suggested a humanitarian ceasefire proposal to allow aid to continue, with the support of other UNSC members, including major European and Arab countries. However, there are still many challenges to be addressed in its implementation. The establishment of reliable corridors has been hampered by political opposition from certain member states, particularly those associated with Israel, as well as practical difficulties in ensuring the security of aid convoys and aid workers. The United States' refusal to vote on the most recent resolution pertaining to humanitarian supplies is a significant event that demonstrates the complexities of the UNSC's stance on the issue. The abstention demonstrates a conscious effort to find a middle ground between defending the sovereignty of all participating nations including Israel, and promoting humanitarian aid (DW, 2023). This demonstrates how challenging it is for the Council to address Gaza's humanitarian problems without endorsing a certain political group. However, attempts to establish reliable humanitarian corridors in Gaza demonstrate how the power dynamics of the Council, specifically the influence of veto-wielding members like the USA and Russia, typically preclude any meaningful engagement. One of the main objectives of international diplomacy is to prioritise humanitarian concerns and human rights without interfering with nation-states' political autonomy. The international community cannot achieve long-term stability by depending only on temporary ceasefires to allow humanitarian supplies. These approaches might only offer short-term respite in the absence of a comprehensive and long-lasting peace agreement, ignoring the fundamental causes of the Israel-Hamas' conflict.

## **Conclusion**

When the Israel-Hamas conflict is viewed through the prism of Frustration-Aggression theory, one can see how deeply-rooted frustrations, which are fuelled by the disposessions of territories, inequities in resources, and the sense of deprivation, continue to create a cycle of aggression, thus, turning psychological grievances into a long-term geopolitical violence. The central hypothesis of the theory is supported by empirical evidence since the escalation that began on 7 October 2023, including the retaliatory actions of Hamas and the defensive measures of Israel, is fuelled by unfulfilled hopes of self-determination and security, which are enhanced by the relative deprivation, and thus, the spiral of escalation can be said to be self-perpetuating and cannot be resolved unilaterally. This synthesis further develops an insight into the conflict by showing not just reactive behaviours but also a dynamic interaction where historical injustices (e.g., the Nakba and settlement expansion) intersect with contemporary realpolitik, and thus cause disproportionate civilian injury and loss of international trust. An amicable resolution is still out of reach in the midst of the old-time enmity and the overlapping interests of local forces like Iran and Hezbollah and international forces like the United States and the European Union.

However, according to Frustration-Aggression theory, by directing frustrations to positive sources by distributing resources evenly and mediating in an unbiased manner, the certainty of aggression may be reduced, and Israelis and Palestinians will be able to negotiate based on mutual acknowledgment, and not on existential fear. The ripple effect of the conflict on the global economy, in the form of unstable oil markets and supply chains, only further cement the concept of interdependence and makes it necessary to re-evaluate energy strategies that go beyond the volatility of the Middle East. Finally, the development of a holistic framework that will meet urgent humanitarian needs with structural change in occupation and governance is a possible way of achieving sustainable peace, and thus redefining conflict resolution in an interconnected world by combining psychological understanding with geopolitical approach. Policy responses in the future should focus on interventions that mitigate the source of frustration, including multilateral peace-education programmes aimed at humanising the other and depolarising ideologies, which may be implemented by UN-led programmes in schools and communities in Gaza, the West Bank and Israeli communities. The agendas of research can explore the amplifying nature of social media in escalating the narrative of relative deprivation, questioning the perpetuating nature of algorithmic echo chambers to perpetuate aggression and suggesting regulatory frameworks to digital diplomacy. Moreover, grassroots diplomacy

frameworks, which enable civil society networks to hold cross-border conversations, may experiment with scalable alternatives to conventional agreements, which would offer empirical evidence on de-escalation in hybrid war zones and inform adaptive policies that would apply to similar international hot spots.

## **Recommendations**

The study's conclusions lead to the following recommendations:

1. Promoting peace and ensuring that cooperative peace measures are implemented in Middle Eastern regions that are in danger should be the main focus of the UNSC and other important actors.
2. A reform-oriented strategy should be implemented to address all the issues brought about by veto rights that hindered the UNSC from acting decisively on important issues. More specifically, passing resolutions that allows the Council's veto power to be temporarily suspended for humanitarian efforts should be encouraged, because this might enhance the Council's ability to conduct peacekeeping operations and solidify its reputation as an unbiased arbitrator of international conflicts.
3. Major countries like the USA and the EU should embrace diplomatic strategies that prioritise fair interaction with Israeli and Palestinian leaders. This necessitates a change in focus from solely providing military assistance or acting independently, to focusing on just conflict resolution and human rights-based diplomacy.
4. Any successful peace plan should include important Middle Eastern players like Saudi Arabia, Iran, Turkey, and Egypt in order to weaken the organisations causing tensions between the Israelis and Palestinians.
5. Governments and multinational corporations should focus on bolstering supply chain resilience, and diversification initiatives by safeguarding supply chains and stabilising global markets, given the conflict's economic impact on international trade, particularly in energy and crucial items.
6. National governments, as well as international organisations and agencies involved in resolving the Israel-Hamas conflict should prioritise international support aimed at improving public infrastructure, creating jobs, and aiding refugees.

7. Economic support for countries affected by the Israel-Hamas conflict, especially Egypt and Jordan should be established in order to lessen the economic difficulties that exacerbate tensions within the regions.
8. Because of the frequent disruptions caused by the Israel-Hamas war, countries that import oil should expedite efforts to lessen their need on Middle Eastern oil for energy stability.

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