

The Israel-Hamas Conflict in Lieu of Global Politics and its Practical Implications for Third World Countries

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Abstract

After many years, the Israel-Hamas conflict is still one of the most complicated and hotly contested conflicts in world affairs. With its roots in historical, territorial, and religious issues, the Israel-Hamas conflict is a major international issue. It has an effect not only on the Middle East but also on other parts of the world. A comprehension of the conflict's consequences for developing nations is crucial, given its capacity to impact global power relations, international law, and humanitarian issues. Geopolitical conflicts have centered on the Israel-Hamas conflict. The result of this conflict is important to a number of global powers, including the US, Russia, and regional players like Iran. As they look for allies and resources, third-world countries may be impacted directly or indirectly by the policies and actions of these strong nations. Important considerations about the application and interpretation of international law are brought up by the Israel-Hamas conflict. This dispute revolves around issues like the right to self-determination, the status of occupied territory, and the safety of civilians during armed conflict. These legal disputes have the potential to influence third world countries' sovereignty and establish precedents. There are serious humanitarian concerns as a result of the ongoing fighting, especially in the Gaza Strip. The suffering of citizens, the need for humanitarian relief, and the need for displacement highlight the most significant difficulties that third-world nations may have in times of instability and conflict. The resolution of the conflict could have an impact on Middle Eastern regional stability by influencing neighboring nations' policies and behaviors. Trade shocks, geopolitical realignments, and refugee inflows can all have a cascading effect on third-world countries. It emphasizes how important it is to have a thorough grasp of the complex effects of this protracted conflict on international conventions, the political climate around the world, and the welfare of marginalized communities in developing countries.

Key words: Israel-Hamas, Global Politics, Third World Countries, Uganda

Introduction

The Israel-Hamas conflict primarily takes place in the Middle East, specifically in the Israel-Palestine region, and its direct impact on Africa is unlimited. However, it's essential to recognize that global events, including the Israel-Hamas conflict, can have indirect consequences on various regions, including Africa. To understand these indirect effects, we need to consider how the conflict might influence African nations or issues.

Method : This study is a literature review that aims to synthesize and integrate findings from existing research on Israel-Hamas Conflict in Lieu of Global Politics and its Practical Implications for Third World Countries. By reviewing literature from books and articles from top journals, the study identifies key relationship conflict which has seemed global and what this implies for global politics. The historical trajectory of conflict is explored as well as the present developments therein are given hint. The study's value therefore is to analyse the Israel Hamas conflict in lieu of global conflict and its practical implications for the world especially third world countries.

The Conflict in Historical Context: The Israel-Hamas conflict has had deep historical roots dating back to the late 19th century when Jewish immigrants began settling in Palestine, which was then part of the Ottoman Empire. The conflict intensified in the mid-20th century, leading to the establishment of Israel in 1948 and several wars and confrontations between Israel and various Palestinian groups, including Hamas, a Palestinian political and militant organization founded in 1987.

The Israel-Hamas conflict is a long and complex history of political, ideological, and territorial disputes. This can be sectioned as below:

Early Roots and the Israeli War of Independence (1948)¹: The conflict's origins can be traced back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries when Jewish immigrants began settling in Palestine, then part of the Ottoman Empire. After World War I, the League of Nations granted Britain a mandate to govern Palestine. The UN's 1947 partition plan led to the establishment of Israel in 1948, resulting in the first Arab-Israeli war. In other instances, it has been reported that the roots of the conflict can be traced back to the late 19th century with the Zionist movement and the Arab resistance to Jewish immigration in Palestine. In 1947, the United Nations proposed a partition plan for Palestine, which recommended the establishment of separate Jewish and Arab states and an international administration for Jerusalem. **(UN, United Nations General Assembly Resolution 181, November 29, 1947).**

¹ The 1948 Arab-Israeli War, sometimes referred to as the 1948 Palestine War or the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, was a crucial conflict that developed in response to the United Nations' partition plan for Palestine. The conflict started on May 15, 1948, the day after Israel proclaimed its independence. Up until the signing of the armistice negotiations in March 1949, the conflict continued.

Following the declaration of Israeli independence, neighbouring Arab states, including Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Iraq initiated military interventions. In 1948, five Arab states (Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq) intervened in the conflict in response to the declaration of Israeli statehood." (Alan Dowty:2007) The war was characterized by intense fighting, including battles over key cities like Jerusalem, Haifa, and Tel Aviv. The fighting raged for almost a year. The war involved extensive battles in cities such as Jerusalem, Haifa, and Tel Aviv." (Anita Shapira:2003) . The war ended with a series of armistice agreements signed between Israel and its neighbouring Arab states in early 1949. On May 14, 1948, David Ben-Gurion, the head of the Jewish Agency, proclaimed the establishment of the State of Israel, which was followed by the withdrawal of the British authorities from Palestine. On May 14, 1948, David Ben-Gurion declared the establishment of a Jewish state in Eretz-Israel, to be known as the State of Israel. As reported in the Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel, Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Formation of Hamas (1987)²: Hamas, or the Islamic Resistance Movement, was founded in 1987 during the First Intifada (Palestinian uprising) against Israeli rule. Hamas was established as a political and militant organization with the goal of resisting Israeli occupation and achieving Palestinian self-determination. Its formation and subsequent evolution have had a significant impact on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the broader Middle East. The late 1980s marked a tumultuous period in the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories. The Palestinian population was frustrated by years of Israeli rule, and the Arab-Israeli conflict had been ongoing for decades. Various Palestinian factions, including the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), had been engaged in resistance efforts, both politically and militarily, against the Israeli occupation. However, there was a sense among some Palestinians that the existing leadership, including the PLO, was not doing enough to address their grievances.

² The Palestinian political and militant group Hamas, originally known as the Islamic Resistance Movement, was founded in 1987 during the First Intifada, a Palestinian revolt against Israeli occupation.

This was attributed to a number of Factors that accounted for its Formation. one of these was Israeli Occupation:³ The Palestinian territories, including the West Bank and Gaza Strip, had been under Israeli military occupation since the Six-Day War in 1967. This occupation had led to widespread frustration and anger among Palestinians, particularly the younger generation who had grown up under Israeli rule.

Another event was the Occupation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem⁴:

In June 1967, Israel captured the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, during the Six-Day War. This has been widely recognized as an occupation. UN Security Council Resolution 242 (1967) called for the withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied during the conflict.

A key event to this development is the Occupation of the Gaza Strip. Similarly, Israel captured the Gaza Strip in 1967. This area was also considered occupied, and calls for its withdrawal have been made by various international actors. The occupation of the Gaza Strip can be traced back to the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, also known as the War of Independence or Nakba. This conflict resulted in the establishment of the State of Israel and the displacement of a significant number of Palestinian Arabs. The Gaza Strip, along with the West Bank, came under Egyptian administration following the war. However, Israel occupied the Gaza Strip in the 1967 Six-Day War. The 1967 Six-Day War was a pivotal moment in the history of the Gaza Strip. In this war, Israel gained control of the Gaza Strip, along with the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights. This occupation has continued, with Israel retaining a significant military and administrative presence in the Gaza Strip. The international community largely considers the Israeli presence in the Gaza Strip as an occupation. This perspective is based on international law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, which outlines the protection of civilians in times of armed conflict. Israel, as

³ The term "Israeli occupation" describes Israel's management and control of some of the lands it seized in the 1967 Six-Day War. The West Bank, East Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights are among the in dispute territories. An important and divisive topic in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been the occupation.

⁴ Israel seized control of the West Bank and East Jerusalem during the 1967 Six-Day War. Prior to that, they were a part of Jordan, and before that, they were governed by the British. Since 1967, Israel has maintained military authority over the West Bank and East Jerusalem, which is largely acknowledged by the international community as an occupation. Israeli colonies in the West Bank, military checkpoints, and the imposition of Israeli law on the region are all examples of this domination. Additionally, Israeli settlements have been built in the West Bank. Due to their violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which forbids the transfer of a civilian population from an occupying force into the land it occupies, these settlements are regarded as unlawful under international law.

the occupying power, is responsible for the welfare and rights of the population in the Gaza Strip.

The United Nations (UN) and many countries, including the United States, the European Union, and others, have recognized this occupation and called for a resolution based on the principles of the two-state solution and the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel. Israel has implemented a blockade on the Gaza Strip since 2007, following the electoral victory of Hamas, an organization considered a terrorist group by Israel, the United States, and the European Union. This blockade has had severe economic, social, and humanitarian consequences for the people of Gaza. It's important to note that in 2005, Israel unilaterally withdrew all its settlers and military forces from the Gaza Strip as part of the Israeli Disengagement Plan. However, Israel continued to control access to Gaza, including its borders, airspace, and coastal waters, effectively maintaining a form of control over the territory.

Considering the Golan Heights, Israel captured these from Syria during the same war, and this region has also been the subject of international dispute. UN Security Council Resolution 242 called for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from this area as well. The Golan Heights is a region with a complicated history and political significance, located in the Middle East, near the borders of Israel, Syria, and Jordan. The status of the Golan Heights has been a contentious issue in the Israeli-Arab conflict. The Golan Heights was part of the French Mandate of Syria during the early 20th century. Following the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, it came under Syrian control. However, it was captured by Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War.

Because of the above, the international community, as represented by the United Nations, largely considered the Golan Heights to be occupied territory. This view was based on UN Security Council resolutions, notably UN Security Council Resolution 242, which called for Israel to withdraw from territories occupied during the 1967 war, including the Golan Heights. To this was Israeli Annexation when in 1981, Israel formally annexed the Golan Heights. This move was widely condemned by the international community, which does not recognize the annexation as legitimate. The United Nations passed Resolution 497, which declared Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights "null and void." This posed a lot of security concerns and Israel argued that the Golan Heights provided a vital buffer against

potential threats from Syria. It has also pointed to the importance of the region for its water resources. These security concerns have been central to Israel's position on the Golan Heights. Syria maintains that the Golan Heights should be returned to its sovereignty, and this view is supported by most countries and international organizations, including the United Nations.

Due to the above, this called for international consensus between the different key players in international politics. The United Nations, European Union, and many countries, including the United States, have referred to these territories as occupied. This is documented in various UN resolutions and statements from international bodies and governments. **(UN Security Council Resolution 242)**. A case in point is the Geneva Conventions. The occupation is subject to the Fourth Geneva Convention⁵ (1949), which governs the treatment of civilians in times of armed conflict. The Convention establishes that the occupying power has certain responsibilities to ensure the well-being and safety of the civilian population. The primary purpose of the Fourth Geneva Convention is to establish legal norms and protections for civilians who are not taking part in hostilities during armed conflicts. Its core principle is to ensure that civilians are treated with humanity, and it seeks to mitigate the suffering and harm experienced by non-combatants caught in the midst of war. The convention explicitly prohibits acts of violence, intimidation, and reprisals against civilians. It outlaws practices such as deportation, hostage-taking, and collective punishment. Civilians must be protected from harm and treated with respect and dignity. The convention sets forth rules for the humane treatment of wounded, sick, and shipwrecked persons, including provisions for medical care, protection from harm, and the recognition of distinctive emblem.

With all this, the result has been an Ongoing and unending Conflict between the Israeli and Palestinian. The occupation of these territories has been a central issue in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Palestinians view the occupation as a violation of their rights and sovereignty. Israel, on the other hand, has taken various positions regarding the status and future of these territories, including establishing settlements in the West

⁵ Officially known as the "Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War," the Fourth Geneva Convention is one of the four agreements that were ratified in 1949. It is a fundamental component of international humanitarian law and is essential to protecting civilians' rights and welfare in times of armed conflict.

Bank, which are considered illegal under international law. This led to numerous Peace Processes and Negotiations.⁶ The occupation has been a major obstacle to peace negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians. Various peace initiatives and negotiations, such as the Oslo Accords, the Camp David Summit, and the Annapolis Conference, have sought to address the issues arising from the occupation. The success and failure of these talks has been pegged to the intervention of international actors.

A key in the efforts of this conflict was the Oslo Accords (1993-1995). Oslo I also branded as The Declaration of Principles (DOP) was signed on the White House Lawn in Washington, D.C. on September 13, 1993. It was a framework for future negotiations. The DOP established a plan for a two-state solution, with Israel and Palestine coexisting side by side. Oslo II or the Interim Agreement was signed on September 28, 1995. It provided for the division of the West Bank into three administrative regions: Areas A, B, and C. It also outlined the withdrawal of Israeli forces from major Palestinian cities and established the Palestinian Authority (PA). The Wye River Memorandum was signed in 1998 and served as an interim agreement that further outlined the implementation of the Oslo Accords. It addressed issues such as security arrangements and land transfers. The Camp David Summit in July 2000, under the administration of U.S. President Bill Clinton, aimed to resolve the final status issues, such as borders, Jerusalem, refugees, and settlements. The summit, however, did not lead to a final agreement. Despite the initial promise of the Oslo Accords, the peace process encountered numerous obstacles and breakdowns over the years. Issues related to security, settlements, the status of Jerusalem, and the rights of Palestinian refugees have remained unresolved

The Oslo Accords, signed in 1993, marked a significant breakthrough in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. The agreements were brokered in secret negotiations in Oslo, Norway, between the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel. The Accords established the Palestinian Authority and outlined a phased process for Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

⁶ These processes have been gradual but continuous however, there has not been much positive results derived from these negotiations and this explains why the war continues till today.

Camp David Summit (2000)⁷: The Camp David Summit in 2000, hosted by President Bill Clinton, brought together Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat. The Camp David Summit aimed to address the core issues at the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including the borders of a future Palestinian state, the status of Jerusalem, the right of return for Palestinian refugees, and security arrangements. The summit discussions revolved around the concept of a two-state solution, with the goal of establishing an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel. Both parties acknowledged the need for a two-state solution, but the negotiations focused on the specifics. The issue of Jerusalem was a major point of contention. Palestinians sought sovereignty over East Jerusalem, including the Old City, which is of great religious significance to both Jews and Muslims. Israel, on the other hand, insisted on retaining control over the entire city.

Disputes over the borders of a future Palestinian state were also a significant obstacle. The negotiations involved discussions about territorial exchanges and the boundaries of the Palestinian entity. The issue of the right of return for Palestinian refugees and their descendants to their pre-1948 homes in what is now Israel was a deeply contentious matter. The Palestinians insisted on the right of return, while Israel vehemently opposed it. Ensuring the security of Israel and the safety of its citizens was a top priority for the Israeli delegation. Security arrangements, including demilitarization of a future Palestinian state, were discussed. After nearly two weeks of intense negotiations, the Camp David Summit concluded without a final agreement. The summit exposed the deep divisions between the two sides on the core issues, and both parties blamed each other for the breakdown of talks.

The failure of the Camp David Summit was followed by a significant escalation of violence, including the outbreak of the Second Intifada (Palestinian uprising) in late 2000, which resulted in a prolonged period of conflict and suffering for both Israelis and Palestinians. It's important to note that while the Camp David Summit did not lead to a final agreement, it did help to clarify the positions of the two parties on the

⁷ A final accord to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian issue was the goal of the high-stakes diplomatic gathering known as the 2000 Camp David Summit between the leaders of Israel and the Palestinians. From July 11 to July 24, 2000, the summit was held at the presidential retreat Camp David in Maryland, USA. It was sponsored by former US President Bill Clinton and marked a turning point in the continuing Middle East peace process.

core issues and laid the groundwork for subsequent peace negotiations, including the Taba Summit in 2001. Despite the challenges, the Camp David Summit remains a pivotal event in the ongoing efforts to achieve a comprehensive Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement. The negotiations aimed to address the core issues of the conflict, including borders, the status of Jerusalem, and the rights of Palestinian refugees. However, the summit ended without a final agreement.

The Second Intifada (2000-2005)⁸: Following the failure of the Camp David Summit, the Second Intifada, a violent Palestinian uprising, erupted. It led to significant loss of life and increased tension between Israelis and Palestinians, making negotiations more challenging. The Second Intifada began with widespread protests, demonstrations, and clashes between Palestinian demonstrators and Israeli security forces in the West Bank and Gaza Strip following Ariel Sharon's visit to the Temple Mount. The Israeli government declared a state of emergency and deployed the military to quell the protests. The use of live ammunition by Israeli forces led to fatalities among Palestinians. The conflict escalated, with both sides engaged in acts of violence. Palestinian suicide bombings and shootings, as well as Israeli military operations, became common. The Israeli military conducted numerous incursions into Palestinian territories, including reoccupying parts of the West Bank. These operations aimed to disrupt and dismantle Palestinian militant groups. International efforts to mediate and resolve the conflict, such as the Mitchell Report and the Tenet Plan, were largely unsuccessful in ending the violence. In response to suicide bombings, Israel began constructing a barrier in the West Bank to separate Israeli and Palestinian areas. Palestinians referred to it as the "Apartheid Wall."

Israeli forces laid siege to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, where Palestinian militants had sought refuge. The stand-off ended with the removal of the militants. In 2003, a ceasefire, known as the Hudna, was brokered by Palestinian factions and Israel. However, the ceasefire was short-lived, and violence continued. In 2005, Israel

⁸ The Palestinian-Israeli conflict worsened during the Second Intifada, commonly referred to as the Al-Aqsa Intifada, which started in September 2000 and lasted until 2005. This bloody insurrection had underlying roots and was characterized by a sequence of incidents and clashes between Israelis and Palestinians. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict, unresolved political concerns, and a general feeling of anger and hopelessness among Palestinians were some of the root reasons of this. The visit of opposition leader Ariel Sharon to Jerusalem's Temple Mount, a place of great religious significance for both Muslims and Jews, served as the initial impetus for the revolt. Palestinians perceived this visit as provocative.

unilaterally withdrew from the Gaza Strip, dismantling settlements and evacuating Israeli civilians. This was seen as a major development, but it did not lead to a comprehensive peace agreement. The Second Intifada resulted in significant casualties and suffering on both sides. Thousands of Palestinians and hundreds of Israelis were killed, with many more injured. It also caused extensive damage to infrastructure, homes, and livelihoods in the Palestinian territories. The Second Intifada did not result in a comprehensive resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. While the violence eventually subsided, the underlying issues and disputes remained largely unresolved, and the conflict continues to this day. The result of the conflict has been heavy economic and social hardships. Palestinians in the occupied territories faced economic difficulties, including high unemployment and poverty rates. These hardships contributed to a sense of hopelessness and dissatisfaction among the conflict parties.

The real outcome of this was the rise of religious identity. The First Intifada saw a resurgence in Islamic identity and sentiment among Palestinians. Local mosques and religious leaders played an active role in galvanizing communities to resist Israeli occupation. This created room for PLO's Political Stalemate: The PLO, led by Yasser Arafat, was head quartered in Tunisia at the time and was seen as being distant from the daily struggles of Palestinians in the occupied territories. Some believed that the PLO's political approach was ineffective. Regarding the formation and leadership of Hamas, the debate is real however there seems to be an agreement that Hamas was officially founded in December 1987, although its roots can be traced back to earlier Islamic organizations in the Palestinian territories. It was founded primarily by Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, Sheikh Abdul Aziz Rantisi, and Mohammed Taha, along with other key religious and political figures. Hamas emerged as a multifaceted organization with both political and military wings. Its charter, published in 1988, outlined its goals, which included the liberation of all of historic Palestine and the establishment of an Islamic state. Hamas's military wing, the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, carried out acts of resistance and armed struggle against Israeli forces and civilians.

Another key step was the disengagement from Gaza (2005)⁹: In 2005, Israel unilaterally withdrew from the Gaza Strip, dismantling settlements and evacuating Jewish settlers. However, this move did not lead to peace and was followed by increased rocket attacks from Gaza into Israel. The disengagement from Gaza, also known as the Gaza Disengagement Plan or the "Hitnatkut" in Hebrew, was a unilateral withdrawal of Israeli settlers and troops from the Gaza Strip, as well as a portion of the northern West Bank, in 2005. The plan was implemented by the government of then-Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. The disengagement plan had several motivations. It was seen as a way to improve Israeli security, reduce the financial and security burden of protecting Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip, and potentially revive the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. The disengagement plan was initiated in 2004 and involved the evacuation of all Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip and four settlements in the northern West Bank. The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) played a significant role in implementing the plan, ensuring a relatively smooth evacuation of the settlers. The international community had mixed reactions to the disengagement plan. The United States generally supported the move, while the Palestinian Authority welcomed the withdrawal but expressed concerns about the impact on the peace process. Some Israelis opposed the plan, viewing it as a unilateral action without sufficient coordination with the Palestinians.

The above was followed by the Hamas Taking Over of Gaza in 2007. In 2007, after a brief and violent conflict with Fatah, Hamas seized control of the Gaza Strip, while Fatah continued to govern the West Bank. This division further complicated efforts to negotiate a unified Palestinian leadership. Hamas won the Palestinian legislative elections in January 2006. This victory gave Hamas control of the Palestinian Legislative Council, which led to political tensions between Hamas and its rival, Fatah, the political party of the Palestinian Authority. Tensions between Fatah, led by President Mahmoud Abbas, and Hamas continued to rise throughout 2006. Disputes over security forces, control of the Palestinian Authority, and relations with Israel contributed to the growing conflict. The situation escalated into violence, with armed clashes between Fatah and Hamas supporters. In June 2007, the conflict reached a

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critical point when Hamas took control of the Gaza Strip. The exact circumstances and triggers for the takeover are a subject of historical debate, but it effectively resulted in Hamas controlling Gaza while Fatah maintained control over the West Bank.

Hamas won the Palestinian legislative elections in January 2006. The international community, including Israel and the United States, designated Hamas as a terrorist organization. Fatah, a rival Palestinian political party, had controlled the Palestinian Authority prior to the elections. Tensions between Fatah and Hamas escalated in the aftermath of the elections due to disputes over power-sharing and control of the Palestinian Authority. These tensions eventually led to violence and armed clashes. On June 7, 2007, Hamas launched a military offensive in Gaza, culminating in a violent takeover of the Gaza Strip. This event was characterized by significant violence and internal conflict, resulting in numerous casualties. The international community, including Israel and the United States, largely viewed this takeover as a coup. The Palestinian territories were effectively divided into two separate entities, with the West Bank controlled by Fatah and the Gaza Strip controlled by Hamas.

This situation led to what was called the Gaza wars. The conflict between Israel and Hamas escalated into multiple wars:

Operation Cast Lead (2008-2009)¹⁰: This three-week war resulted in significant civilian casualties in Gaza and extensive damage to infrastructure. The conflict began on December 27, 2008, when Israel launched a military operation in response to ongoing rocket attacks from Gaza. Israel cited the need to protect its citizens and stop rocket attacks. The conflict resulted in hundreds of Palestinian and Israeli casualties, including many civilian casualties. The international community called for a ceasefire, and the conflict ended with a ceasefire brokered by Egypt.

¹⁰ The Gaza War, sometimes referred to as Operation Cast Lead, was a military confrontation between Israel and the Palestinian militant organization Hamas that occurred in the Gaza Strip between December 27, 2008, and January 18, 2009. Israel started the war by going on the offensive in reaction to a rise in rocket launches into southern Israel by Palestinian terrorists originating in Gaza. Operation Cast Lead's declared goals were to debilitate Hamas's military capabilities and put an end to rocket assaults into Israel. One of the world's most densely inhabited areas, the Gaza Strip, suffered severe infrastructure damage and a heavy death toll as a result of the fighting. During the operation, the Israeli forces invaded Gaza from the ground and carried out airstrikes and artillery fire.

Operation Pillar of Defense (2012): A week-long conflict marked by air strikes and rocket attacks. This conflict began on November 14, 2012, following an escalation of rocket attacks from Gaza into Israel. Israel launched a military operation to stop the attacks. Both Palestinians and Israelis suffered casualties during the conflict. International calls for a ceasefire led to a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas. The conflict drew widespread international attention and condemnation due to the high civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure, particularly in Gaza. The United Nations and various human rights organizations accused both sides of committing war crimes during the conflict.

A ceasefire was brokered by international mediators in January 2009, bringing an end to the major hostilities. However, tensions in the region persisted, and the conflict did not bring about a lasting resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict or the situation in Gaza. Subsequent conflicts, such as Operation Pillar of Defense in 2012 and Operation Protective Edge in 2014, further exacerbated the situation.

Operation Protective Edge (2014)¹¹: The longest and deadliest conflict since the establishment of Hamas in 1987, lasting 50 days and resulting in significant civilian casualties and destruction in Gaza. The conflict began on July 8, 2014, after an increase in rocket fire from Gaza. Israel launched a military operation to halt the rocket attacks and target Hamas infrastructure. The conflict lasted for 50 days, ending on August 26, 2014. The conflict began with Israeli airstrikes targeting Hamas and other militant groups in Gaza. The IDF later launched a ground invasion into Gaza with the goal of locating and destroying tunnels used by militants to infiltrate Israel. The operation resulted in a significant number of civilian casualties in Gaza, including many children. This led to widespread international concern and condemnation.

Throughout the operation, Palestinian militants fired rockets from Gaza into southern Israel, prompting Israeli airstrikes in response. Iron Dome, an Israeli missile defense system, intercepted many of the rockets, reducing casualties on the Israeli side. The conflict exacerbated an already dire humanitarian situation in Gaza, with damaged

¹¹ The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) carried out Operation Protective Edge, a military operation in the Gaza Strip during the summer of 2014. The operation was started in response to a spike in rocket assaults into southern Israel from Gaza and the finding of cross-border tunnels used by militants as a means of infiltration. With the completion of Operation Cast Lead in 2008–2009 and Operation Pillar of Defense in 2012, it was the third significant confrontation between Israel and Hamas, the militant Palestinian organization in charge of Gaza.

infrastructure, limited access to basic services, and a shortage of essential supplies. After weeks of hostilities and international pressure, a ceasefire agreement was brokered by Egypt in late August 2014. The ceasefire brought an end to the major hostilities, but sporadic violence and tensions continued. The conflict drew widespread international attention and criticism, with various countries and international organizations calling for a peaceful resolution and humanitarian assistance to Gaza. The consequences of Operation Protective Edge continue to affect the region, including the political dynamics between Israel and Hamas and the humanitarian situation in Gaza. It also further complicated efforts to achieve a lasting resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Ongoing Tensions and Ceasefires: Periodic clashes and skirmishes continued between Israel and Hamas throughout the years, with ceasefires brokered by Egypt, Qatar, and the United Nations. A reflection of this was the annexation Plan (2020). In 2020, the Israeli government proposed annexing parts of the West Bank, which drew international condemnation and sparked fears of further instability in the region.

That aside, the causation of the war has been a contested one as the causes of the Israel-Hamas conflict are complex and multifaceted. Key factors include:

Territorial Disputes: At the heart of the conflict is a dispute over land and sovereignty. Both Israelis and Palestinians claim historical rights to the same territory. One of the main territorial disputes centers on the Gaza Strip. Hamas, an Islamist Palestinian organization, took control of Gaza in 2007 after winning Palestinian legislative elections and later ousting its rival, Fatah, from the territory. Israel maintains a blockade of Gaza, controlling access to its borders, airspace, and waters. Hamas, which does not recognize Israel's right to exist, and Israel have conflicting claims regarding the territorial boundaries of a future Palestinian state. Hamas seeks a Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders, including the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza.¹²

¹² One of the main territorial disputes centers on the Gaza Strip. Hamas, an Islamist Palestinian organization, took control of Gaza in 2007 after winning Palestinian legislative elections and later ousting its rival, Fatah, from the territory. Israel maintains a blockade of Gaza, controlling access to its borders, airspace, and waters. Hamas, which does not recognize Israel's right to exist, and Israel have conflicting claims regarding the territorial boundaries of a future Palestinian state. Hamas seeks a

The presence and expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, have been a major point of contention. Hamas, along with the Palestinian Authority, opposes Israeli settlements and sees them as an obstacle to a two-state solution. The status of Jerusalem, particularly East Jerusalem, is a significant territorial issue. Hamas, like many Palestinians, seeks East Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state, while Israel considers Jerusalem its undivided capital.

Religious and Ethnic Tensions: The conflict is intertwined with religious and ethnic factors, as both Israelis and Palestinians have strong cultural and religious connections to the region. One of the main territorial disputes centers on the Gaza Strip. Hamas, an Islamist Palestinian organization, took control of Gaza in 2007 after winning Palestinian legislative elections and later ousting its rival, Fatah, from the territory. Israel maintains a blockade of Gaza, controlling access to its borders, airspace, and waters. Jerusalem holds religious significance for both Muslims and Jews. The Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem is one of the third holiest sites in Islam, and the Western Wall is a sacred site in Judaism. Disputes over access and control of these religious sites have fueled tensions. Palestinians, including those in Gaza where Hamas holds authority, identify as an Arab people. Their sense of ethnic identity is closely tied to their historical presence in the region, including the territories now claimed by Israel. Israel defines itself as a Jewish state, where Jewish identity and ethnicity are intertwined. This has led to concerns among Arab citizens of Israel about potential discrimination. The displacement of Palestinians during the creation of Israel in 1948 and subsequent conflicts remains a contentious issue. The right of return for Palestinian refugees and their descendants is a central point of dispute and has ethnic and religious dimensions.

There has also been a number of political and national Aspirations: Palestinians, including Hamas, seek self-determination and a sovereign state, while Israel seeks security and recognition. One of these is security concerns. Israel cites security

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concerns due to rocket attacks and threats from groups like Hamas as a primary reason for its military actions.

Having elaborated on the history of the conflict, it's also due justice to examine the effects on Africa: The Israel-Hamas conflict has several indirect effects on Africa:

These impacts can be grouped into different categories. One of them is diplomatic and Political Impact. African nations are often involved in international organizations and diplomacy, and they may take positions on the Israel-Hamas conflict. The conflict can influence African nations' foreign policy and diplomatic relations.

Diplomatic Alliances and Support: African nations often take positions on the Israel-Hamas conflict in alignment with international diplomatic alliances. Some African countries support Israel, citing shared interests in security, technology, or economic cooperation, while others support the Palestinian cause, reflecting solidarity with the struggle for self-determination. These diplomatic stances can influence relationships between African countries and Middle Eastern nations, impacting trade, aid, and diplomatic cooperation.

Radicalization and Extremism: The Israel-Hamas conflict, along with other conflicts in the Middle East, can contribute to radicalization and extremism in Africa. It serves as a rallying point for extremist groups, leading to security challenges in some African regions. These groups may exploit the conflict to recruit and incite violence.

Refugee Crisis: The conflict can result in the displacement of Palestinians and, to a lesser extent, Israelis. Some refugees may seek asylum in African countries, creating challenges related to humanitarian aid, integration, and resource allocation. This places a strain on the host countries' resources and infrastructure. However, it's important to note that the Palestinian refugee situation is primarily addressed by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), both of which focus on providing assistance and protection to Palestinian refugees in the Middle East and do not typically deal with large-scale refugee flows to Africa.

Humanitarian Concerns: Africa is home to various international organizations and NGOs involved in humanitarian efforts. These organizations may redirect their

resources and focus toward addressing the humanitarian fallout of the Israel-Hamas conflict, affecting their capacity to respond to other crises on the continent.

Pan-African Solidarity: Some African countries view the Israel-Hamas conflict through the lens of pan-African solidarity. They see parallels between the Palestinian struggle for statehood and their own historical struggles against colonialism and apartheid. This can influence their diplomatic positions and partnerships.

Trade and Economic Implications: African nations may face economic repercussions due to their stance on the Israel-Hamas conflict. For example, some Middle Eastern nations, including Israel and its allies, are significant trade partners and investors in Africa. Diplomatic tensions related to the conflict could disrupt economic relations.

Peacekeeping and Mediation Efforts: African nations often play key roles in international peacekeeping and mediation efforts. The Israel-Hamas conflict may divert resources and diplomatic energy away from addressing African conflicts, as countries and organizations prioritize mediating or monitoring the Middle Eastern conflict.

Ideological Influence: The Israel-Hamas conflict may resonate with some African groups or individuals who have similar grievances or ideological connections. It can serve as a source of inspiration or solidarity for certain movements. This has been reflected in a number of ways.

Solidarity Movements: The conflict serves as a focal point for solidarity movements in Africa, with some groups expressing support for the Palestinian cause. This solidarity often reflects anti-imperialist and anti-colonial ideologies, drawing parallels between the Palestinian struggle and Africa's own history of colonialism and liberation.

Religious and Identity Factors: The Israel-Hamas conflict can influence the ideological and political positions of religious and ethnic communities in Africa. For example, some African Muslim communities may feel a strong religious or identity-based connection to the Palestinian cause, shaping their ideological perspectives. The conflict can also be viewed through the lens of pan-Africanism, a movement that advocates unity and solidarity among African nations and the diaspora. Some see parallels between the struggle for Palestinian statehood and the historical struggles of

African nations against colonialism and apartheid, reinforcing an ideological connection.

There are also cases of anti-Imperialism: The conflict can be framed within an anti-imperialist narrative in which Western powers are seen as supporting Israel. African nations with a history of colonialism may be ideologically aligned with the narrative of resisting Western influence and hegemony.

Additionally, there is international Relations and Diplomacy: African countries, like many nations, take ideological positions on the Israel-Hamas conflict as part of their foreign policy. This can be influenced by ideological considerations related to international relations and diplomacy. The same conflict has had an influence on Local Conflicts: The conflict's ideological underpinnings may influence the dynamics of local conflicts and insurgencies in Africa. It can serve as a source of inspiration for certain groups or individuals who perceive similarities between their own struggles and that of the Palestinians.

Arms Trade and Foreign Aid¹³: Some African countries receive military assistance or foreign aid from Israel or other nations involved in the Israel-Hamas conflict. These relationships can be influenced by the ongoing tensions in the Middle East.

It's important to note that the impact of the Israel-Hamas conflict on Africa varies by nation and context. While it may have limited direct implications, the broader geopolitical repercussions and humanitarian aspects of the conflict can indirectly affect African countries and regions. The conflict may divert attention and resources away from monitoring arms flows in other regions, potentially making it easier for arms to be diverted to Africa for various conflicts and insurgencies.

Foreign Aid and Assistance: The Israeli-Palestinian conflict often attracts international attention and humanitarian aid. African countries can be recipients of foreign aid, and assistance may be diverted to support Palestinian or Israeli causes. For instance, international aid organizations might divert resources from Africa to the

¹³ Some countries involved in the Israel-Hamas conflict, as well as countries supporting either side, are major players in the global arms trade. They may provide arms and military equipment to their allies, often in the form of foreign military aid. The conflict can lead to increased arms sales and transfers, both directly and indirectly through these allies.

Middle East during periods of heightened conflict. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI): African countries may receive foreign direct investment from Israel or Arab countries. FDI can create jobs, boost infrastructure, and stimulate economic growth. Investment decisions may be influenced by political considerations and the economic interests of foreign governments.

The same is true with investment and Business Relations: African countries may engage in trade and investment with Israel or Palestinian territories. Economic decisions can be influenced by political considerations and global business dynamics. For example, some African nations might have preferential economic relationships with Israel due to shared interests in agriculture, technology, or security, while others might align more closely with Arab nations that support the Palestinian cause.

Peacekeeping Missions: African countries often contribute troops to peacekeeping missions in conflict zones, including the Middle East. For instance, African nations may participate in United Nations peacekeeping operations in the region. These deployments can impact a country's military budget and international reputation, which can have economic consequences.

In conclusion, the Israel-Hamas conflict, though primarily situated in the Middle East, holds significance for Africa on various fronts. The conflict has ideological, diplomatic, and political implications for African nations and their engagement with the wider world. It influences alliances, solidarity movements, and foreign policy decisions, shaping Africa's stance in the global arena. Hamas is designated as a terrorist organization by several countries and international bodies, including the United States, the European Union, Israel, Canada, and Japan, among others. It is important to note that the designation of Hamas as a terrorist organization is based on its history of violence, including attacks targeting civilians and its stated goal of eliminating Israel. While African countries are often distant from the physical conflict zone, the Israel-Hamas conflict's ripple effects are felt across the continent, underlining the interconnectedness of international politics and regional dynamics. It remains a subject of importance in African discourse, reflecting the continent's engagement with broader global issues.

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