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How do you see ongoing Israel-Gaza conflict? What are its implications on regional and global power politics.

1) Introduction

The conflicts between Israel and Gaza started with the Hamas's intrusion into Israel from at least 13 points. 8 intrusions were carried out through land borders, 4 through sea and 1 by paratroopers. Around 1400 Israelis were killed, more than 200 were taken hostage. This ambush by Gaza Hamas on Israel sparked a full-fledged invasion on Gaza by Israel.

2) Israel's Initial Reaction - state of shock

i) This intrusion from Hamas into Israel was both shocking and horrifying for ~~Gaza~~^{Israel}. As it was for the first time since 1973 that such a huge number of fighters crossed the border and carried out assault. Reportedly the fighters numbered around 2000.

ii) The other cause of shock was failure of Israeli intelligence agency Mossad

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which is one of the best and most well-equipped intelligence agencies in the world.

ii) The failure of Iron Dome, Israel's Technological Marvel - was also a cause of shock for Israelis as the thousands of rockets fired by Hamas tested out and exposed the deficiencies of Iron Dome.

3) Israel's Unproportionately Brutal Reaction

After the events on 7th of October 2023 Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu declared that Israel was in ^{the} state of war. Manifestation of Israeli brutality are as under:

a) Blanket Aerial Bombardment

Israel started its campaign by indiscriminate aerial bombardment.

It spared none. According to The Economist more than 15% of city's buildings were devastated due to such air strikes.

b) Ground Invasion

After heavy bombardment Israel gave ultimatum ~~to~~^{to} Gazans to leave

city as it prepared for ground invasion. As it wanted an operation clean-up against Hamas. ~~As~~ Hamas is 'safe' in underground tunnels from bombardment.

b) Targetting Hospitals and Refugee camps

Israel did not spare refugees and patients too, from its wrath:

i) Al-Ahliya Hospital was targetted resulting in more than 400 casualties according to Gaza's Health Ministry.

ii) Al-Shifa hospital of Gaza was also surrounded by Israeli tanks. Israelis claimed the hospital to be above the Hamas' underground headquarters.

4) Loss of Life and Infrastructure in Gaza and Humanity in Crisis.

1) 7 million Gazans are forced to leave their houses. whereabouts of many are not palestinians known. more than 14000 have died.

ii) Electricity supply and other amenities are not available to refugees

Regional consequences - on Politics

i) Blow to Saudi-Israel normalization process

As the two countries were closing towards normalization, Netanyahu in his address to United Nation's General Assembly mentioned the newly proposed economic corridor in G-20 summit. Such corridor will involve cooperation between KSA and Israel. However, the recent conflict has disrupted this normalization. Odds suggest that this normalization process will not be restored in near future. According to an article written by former Egyptian diplomat Hesham Yousef, in a publication from United Nations States Institute of Peace, the normalization process has been suspended.

ii) Weakening of Palestine Government in Western Bank

In Western Bank, Palestinian Authority holds power, and it is globally acknowledged as Palestinian government. Recent conflict has exposed the authority of ~~seen~~ Palestinian Authority as this conflict has ~~been~~ portrayed Hamas as the symbol of resistance against Israel. It seems

that the two stakeholders in this situation are Hamas and Israel, and Palestinian Authority is neglected even by international media.

iii) Win-Win Situation for Iran in the region.

As Arab countries and Israel were getting closer the situation for Iran in the region was becoming grim. As both parties consider Iran a threat. This conflict has halted any progress of such nature. Secondly, Iran's support to Hamas has earned it respect from Muslims across the globe, as Arab countries have not been able to do any thing noteworthy in this regard.

iv) Chaos in Middle-East Exacerbated

Middle-East, a region which is facing many troubles for quite some times, is once again caught in a new conflict. Conflict in Syria and Yemen has already taken a serious toll on the region. Conflict involving Israel and Palestine has further deteriorated the situation. Crisis does not seem to be ending soon for Arab countries.

6) Impacts on Global Politics

i) Setback to American ~~Inter~~ Attempt to regain its influence in the region

As in recent years America's own influence was diminishing in the region due to Kashoggi's killing and KSA's growing relations with China. Biden attempted to restore USA's influence by offering a deal that would substantiate as a result of normalization between Saudi Arabia and Israel. Such conflict has shattered hopes of ~~see~~ USA to reclaim its authority in region.

ii) Ukraine getting neglected: blessing for Russia

As before this conflict western government and media were focusing on Ukraine, this conflict has stolen that coverage and attention from Ukraine. Western governments were busy in devising strategies, and announcing aids for Ukraine, western media was busy ~~on~~ in its forecasts on 'Putin's end'. However, after this conflict commenced, it seems that Ukraine is being neglected and it is high time for Russia to change its fortunes in this war.

iii) OIC and UN- All talk but no action

The two of the biggest international forums have failed to force Israel towards an unconditional ceasefire. Although leaders from both forums have issued statements, condemning Israel's brutalities against the people of Gaza, but they have not been able to adopt such measure that could force Israel towards peaceful measures. This may result in people and states resorting to conflict instead of seeking peaceful solution.

iv) Opportunity for china to strengthen its Role in Middle-East

The discrimination by Western leaders against Palestine, has opened the doors for china to play its part in bringing peace to the region. China has shown neutrality, and it also enjoys ties with all major players of the conflict: Iran, Saudi Arabia and Israel. This provides china the opportunity to perform mediation among the parties involved in conflict.

v) Western Democracies Ignore Democratic values for Israel

As the democratic system is based on the will of people, democ-

-acy is strengthened when the will of populace is reflected in decisions of a government. In this case, however, the governments whose prime focus is to uphold democratic values are ^{going} against the democratic values. Huge protests have erupted in Washington, London and Paris. Publica has shown its disgust against Israeli atrocities committed against Palestinians. But, the regimes are hell bent on supporting Israel in achieving its heinous designs.

Similarly, an article in The Economist magazine reported that Mr Biden was facing a slump in his popularity, due to his stance in this conflict. So democratic values have been ignored by ~~the west~~

2) Conclusion

The conflict between Israel and Hamas has far reaching consequences. On one hand it has maintained the status quo: stalemate in normalization process between KSA and Israel. On the other hand it has brought changes in global ~~the~~ politics, effects of which will last for long period of time. For instance behaviour of western powers ^{has} ~~have~~ opened gates for China to increase its influence in the energy region. The biggest concession, however, should be immediate and unconditional ceasefire