

# QUESTION NO:06

Israel as a democratic state, two state, or apartheid state or ethnic cleansing are four major options with Israel to deal with Palestine. Analyze the statement.

I

## Introduction:

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is one of the most enduring and complex geopolitical disputes of the modern era, involving deep-seated historical grievances, territorial disputes, and questions of national identity. In analyzing Israel's approach to resolving its relationship with Palestine, four primary perspectives emerge. Maintaining its identity as a democratic state, pursuing a two state solution or adopting policies that could be characterized as apartheid or ethnic cleansing. Each of these perspectives offers a different lens through which understand the



conflict and its potential resolution. Understanding these perspectives is crucial for comprehending the broader implications of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and exploring potential pathways to peace and reconciliation. Each perspective reveals different facets of the disputes, influencing both local realities and international diplomatic efforts.

## ISRAEL AS A DEMOCRATIC STATES

Israel position itself as a nation committed to democratic principles, including equal rights and political participation for all its citizens. This perspective highlights the challenges and contradiction in applying democratic values consistently, particularly when it comes to treatment of Palestinians living under Israeli control.



## Key aspects of democratic states

### Political participation

In a democratic state, all citizens should have equal rights to participation in the political process. In Israel, Arab-Isralis (who are citizens of Israel) have right to vote and run for office. They are represented in the Knesset (Israeli parliament) and hold positions in various government and public institutions. Unlike Israel, which illegally occupied the Palestinian man in the west bank and Gaza, if Israel recognized as democratic state should give equal political participation to Palestinian as well.

### Legal protections

Democratic states are expected to protect the right of all individual under the law. This includes ensuring non-discrimination and equality before



the law. Israeli law then guarantees civil rights and liberties for all citizens, while the people of Arab Israeli Palestinian Israelis, Israeli Palestinians and Palestinians Citizen of Israel hold Israeli citizenship and have the right to vote, but they face discrimination in legal proceedings.

## Challenges

While Israel has democratic institutions, the situation for Palestinians living under Israeli control in the West Bank and Gaza is different. These territories are governed by a mix of military and Palestinian Authority regulations, which complicates the applications of democratic principles uniformly.

## Contemporary Examples:

Arabs -  
Israelis' participation in the Unsettled and their involvement



in Israeli civil society illustrate the democratic elements of Israeli state. However, the disparity between the rights of Arabs - Israelis and Palestinians in occupied territories highlight the limitation of this democratic model in practice.

## TWO - STATE SOLUTION:

Envisions a peaceful resolution through the establishment of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel. This approach aims to address the national aspirations of both Israelis and Palestinians and has received broad international support. However, its implementation has been fraught with challenges including disagreement over borders, security, and the status of Jerusalem.

## Key aspects of Two-State Solution

### Negotiated Settlements

This solution involves complex negotiations to address major issues such as borders, the status of Jerusalem, security arrangements, and the rights of refugees. It seeks to create a viable Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, living peacefully alongside Israel.

### Security Guarantees:

Both states must ensure the security of each other's borders, requiring mutual recognition and agreement to prevent terrorism and conflict.



## Territorial Boundaries:

Finalizing borders, especially concerning Jerusalem, settlements and the 1967 borders, remains a significant challenge.

## Explanation:

The two-state solution is the most widely supported framework internationally. It aims to address the national aspirations of both Jews and Palestinians allowing them to coexist peacefully. However, the ongoing expansion of Israeli settlements and political divisions among Palestinians have complicated the realization of this solution.

## Implications:

If successfully implemented the two-state solution could bring lasting peace and stability to the region. However, continued settlement



activity and lack of political consensus may render this solution increasingly difficult to achieve.

## APARTHEID STATES

An Apartheid State refers to a government that enforces policies of racial segregation, discrimination and oppression, similar to the content of Israel-Palestine it refers to the separate and unequal treatment of Palestinians, particularly in the occupied territories. This includes restrictions on movements, access to resources and political rights as well as the establishment and settlements and expropriations of land.



# Key aspects of Apartheid State

## Segregation:

In an apartheid-like scenario, Palestinians and Israelis would live under different legal systems and have unequal access to resources, movement and political rights.

## Control of Resources

The control of lands, water, and economic resources would be disproportionately in favor of Israelis, with Palestinians facing restrictions.

## International Perceptions

Being labeled as an apartheid state would severely damage Israel's reputation and could lead to international sanctions and isolations.



## Explanation:

Some critics argue that Israel's control over the West Bank and Gaza, coupled with differential treatment of Palestinians, resembles apartheid. This includes restricted movement for Palestinians, limited access to resources and the ongoing expansion of Israeli settlement.

## Implication:

If Israel continues on this path, it risks being viewed as an apartheid state, leading to international condemnation and potential sanctions. Such a label would challenge Israel's identity as a democracy and harm its global standing.



# ETHNIC CLEANSING:

Ethnic cleansing is the systematic and deliberate removal of an ethnic, religious or cultural group from a particular area by a powerful group. In the Israeli - Palestinian conflict, the term ethnic clearing is used by some critics to describe actions taken by removing Palestinians from certain areas to ensure a Jewish majority. This includes policies and actions such as demolition of Palestinian homes, forced evictions, restrictions on building permits, and military operations that result in the displacement of Palestinians.



## Key aspects of ethnic cleansing

### Forced Displacement

This involved the systematic removal of Palestinians from certain areas, either through direct forces or policies that make it impossible for them to remain.

### Demographic Engineering

The goal would be to ensure a Jewish majority in contested areas by reducing or eliminating the Palestinian population.

### International Repercussions

Such actions would be met with severe international backlash including possible charges of crime against humanity and increased conflict.



## Explanations

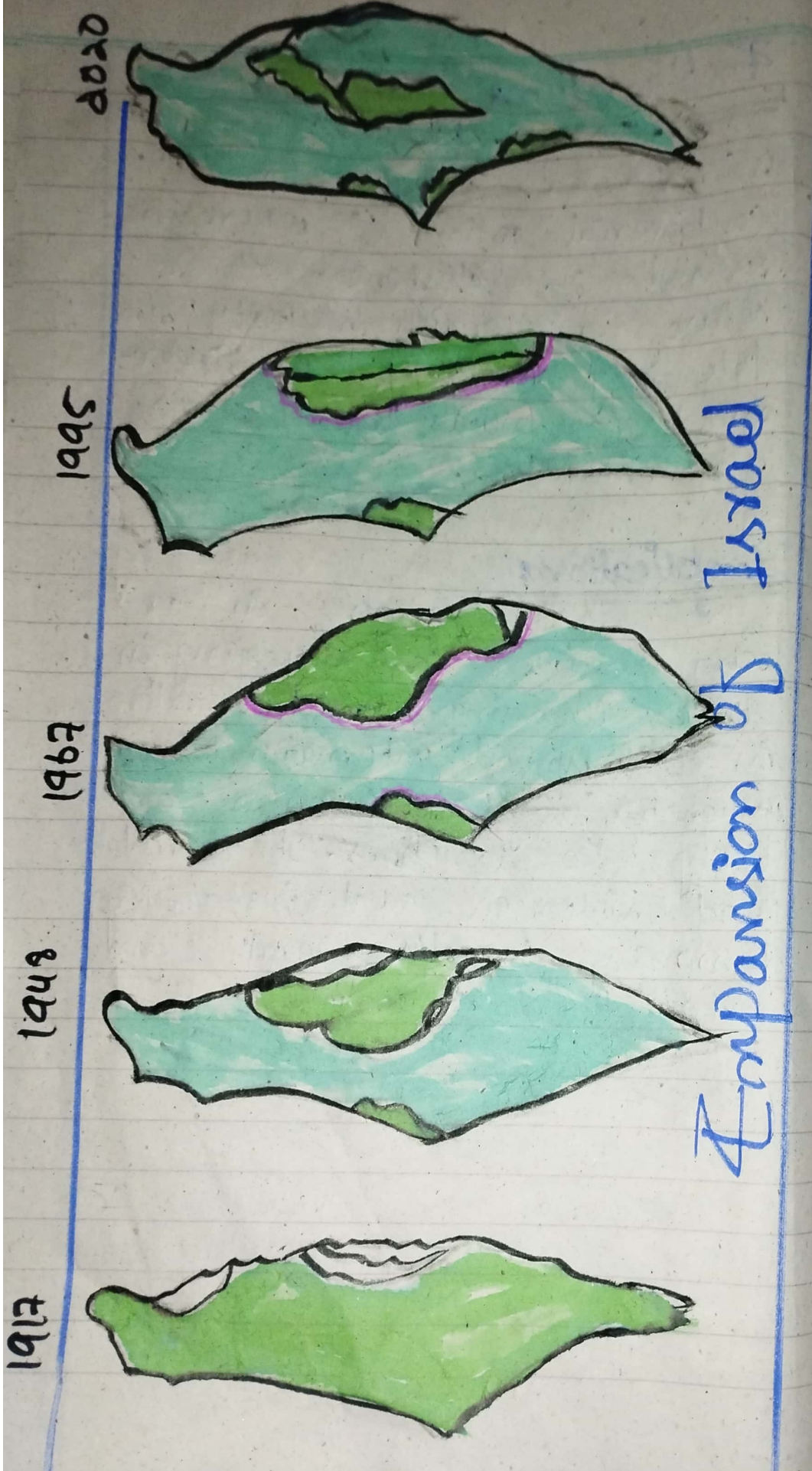
Ethnic Cleaning is the most extreme and controversial option. It refers to removal of Palestinians to secure a Jewish majority, potentially through forced displacement or policies that lead to mass migration.

## Implications

Engaging in or being perceived as engaging in ethnic cleaning would result in widespread international condemnation, legal consequences and likely severe sanctions. It would lead violence and instability damaging Israel's moral and international standing.



■ Palestine  
■ Israel  
□ → under Israeli occupations



# Conclusion:

Israel's approach to the Palestinian issue present four starkly different options, each with profound implications. Maintaining its identity as a democratic state requires extending equal rights to all including Palestinians, but doing so, could challenge the Jewish character of the state. The two-state solution offers a path to peace and international acceptance but it increasingly political fragmentation. Continuation of current policies risks of Israel being labeled as an apartheid state damaging its global standing and leading to potential isolation. The most extreme options, actions that could be perceived as ethnic cleansing, would provoke severe international condemnation and legal repercussions further destabilizing the region and tarnish Israel's moral and diplomatic reputation. Ultimately, the path Israel chooses will define its further identity and relationship with Palestinians and the world.