

Past Paper Question

(2024)

Palestine conflict is a long-standing one on the UN table. Discuss its recent escalation since October 2023 and critically assess the big powers' reaction to it.

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INTRODUCTION:

The Palestinian Conflict has its roots in the Balfour Declaration according to which, Palestine's land was to be divided between the Muslims and the Jews. More land was to be allotted to Jews which brought the Muslim world and Jews towards an unending war. The effects can be seen today. Hamas and Palestine, Israel have been indulged in war. ~~The~~ Netanyahu wants the entire Palestine while Hamas considered Israel as a state which has been set up by Western countries. On October, 7, 2023, Middle East ~~has been~~ ^{became} an area of chaos and instability.



Jerusalem
Gaza under
International
Control

Gaza/Palestine
Control

Israeli
Control

Escalation of the Palestinian Conflict:

The conflict has taken a huge rise since October 7, 2023, and led to casualties on both sides. It started after Hamas attacked Israel by firing rockets toward her. In response, Israel escalated the conflict by killing a huge number of Palestinians.

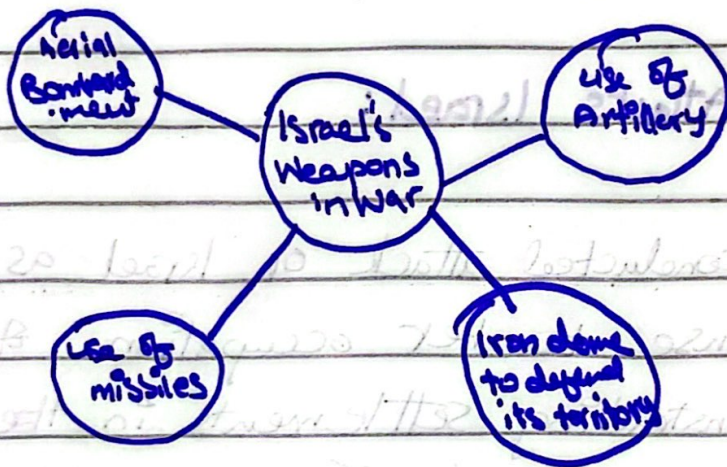
1) Hamas Attacks Israel:

Hamas conducted attack on Israel as a response to her occupation of and constructing settlements in the West Bank. Hamas's 2000 Soldiers (paratroopers) entered Israeli territory and fired a number of rockets toward Israel. Israel could not detect these rockets on time, presenting a failure of its so called "robust" intelligence system. Hamas killed 14000 Israelis and took 250 people as hostages. Hence, the war continues till date and there are chances of the war.

Widening up.

5) Israel's Attack on Hamas: (Israel's Reign of Terror)

Israel has conducted unprecedented level of attack on Hamas as well as the innocent civilians. It has used the following to inflict serious damage on Israel: Hamas & Gaza:

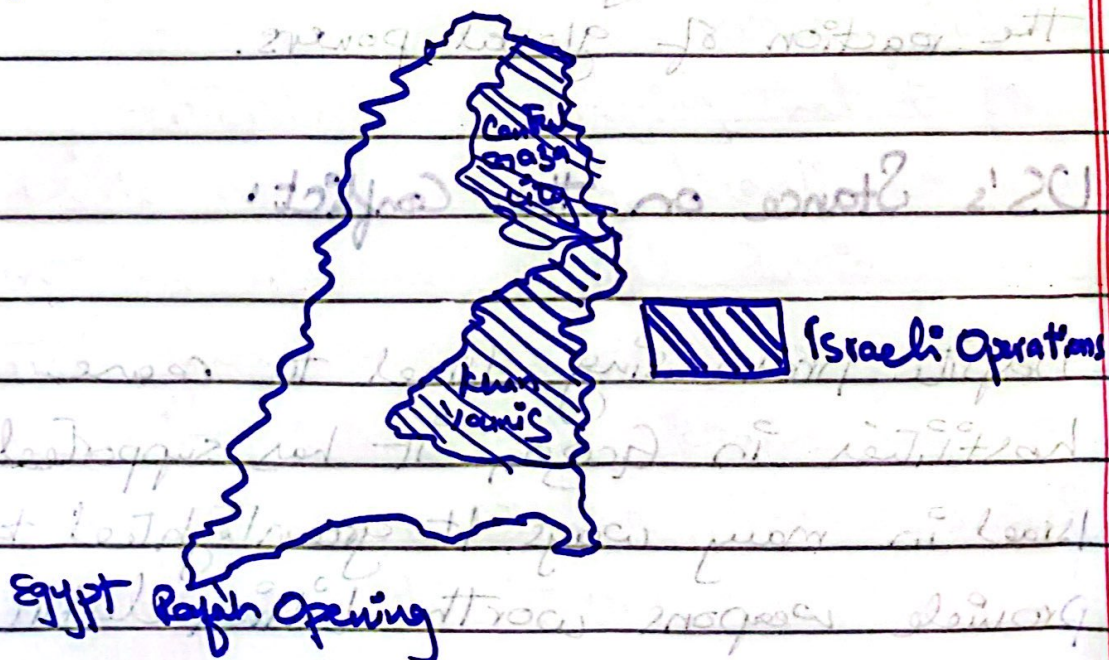


Netanyahu and its war cabinet has been accused of following its genocidal objectives in the war. It has repeatedly threatened Hamas on taking more severe action against it. It has advanced toward the Southern Gaza and completely annihilated Central Gaza and Northern Gaza. These actions

have invited global criticism against Israel and its strongest ally, the United States.

Merciless Attacks on Palestinian People:

Sadly, the Palestinian people have been affected the most in this war. Israel has killed around 40,000 Palestinians while injuring around 100,000 people. Moreover, it Tel Aviv has stopped the flow of water across Gaza making them prone to diseases and malnutrition.



Israel has also conducted cruelty against the hostages. They have been

Sexually assaulted and been kept in horrendous places Gaza is in a very bad state and there is a need of urgent ceasefire.

Reaction of Global Powers:

Global powers have reacted in a different way. US on one hand, seems to be under immense pressure of its people as well under the international community. On the other hand, Russia and China are the beneficiaries of this war. Following detail would explain the reaction of global powers.

US's Stance on the Conflict:

Despite pressuring Israel to cease hostilities in Gaza, it has supported Israel in many ways. It greenlighted to provide weapons worth billion dollars to Tel-Aviv and opposed Palestine's permanent membership in the United Nations. It has acknowledged the Two-State

Resolution but fails to stop Israel from her genocide and war crimes. This has unveiled US's hypocrisy as it condemns human rights violation around the world but fails to condemn and stop Israel from her crimes.

Russia: The Beneficiary:

Despite being a friend to the entire Middle East, Russia seems to have supported "Two-State Resolution" in case of Gaza & P. Israeli. In addition, more than the conflict, it has tried to further its geopolitical interest in Ukraine by criticising US, saying that it is US is not condemning Israeli war crimes but has always pointed Russia out.

This gives Russia an leverage to fulfil its interest in Ukraine as it US's stance on Ukraine has softened a little due to its own hypocrisy in case of Israel.

China: The Real Winner:

As US has been supporting Israel, China seems to be on the other side of the table. It has supported Gaza and said that US has failed to stop US Israel from its war crimes. Furthermore, China supported two state solution to the problem and as a result, its image ^{has degraded} and influence in the region has increased. In addition to Iran-Saudi Arabia rapprochement, China's stance on Palestinian conflict makes China, the real winner of the game.

Conclusion:

Therefore, to avoid a larger war in Middle East, there is a need to of ceasefire. Once again, US can show its power by pressuring Israel by punishing it slightly through reduced military and financial support as its support is the driving force of Tel Aviv's

attack on Palestinians. US should try to
elevate its image in the region which
was once on its peak during the
early late 90's. This would increase
the Arab world's trust in US's
policies in Middle East.