

# Gaza Conflict and its fallout in the region

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Palestinians in Gaza <sup>have</sup> been living in a miserable state since very long. About 2.1 million people <sup>has</sup> been confined to an area of 365 km<sup>2</sup> area since 2007.

The recent escalation between Hamas and Israeli Defence Force (IDF) has further aggravated the misery of Palestinians in Gaza. Elaborating the fact, the recent Gaza war has multitude of ramifications on the middle East and world.

The first and foremost being the genocide and humanitarian crisis inflicted upon the people of Gaza. In addition, rising tensions in the Middle East, like spreading war to other Middle Eastern states, and increasing instability in the Middle East also comes into the list of war effects in Gaza.

Further, halting normalization of relations between Saudi Arabia and Israel is also one of the effects of war in Gaza. Moving ahead, the ramifications of war are not only confined to Middle East, but it also has effects on the whole globe.

Initially, the war in Gaza has potential of disrupting supply chains ~~since~~ and cause inflation since middle East is the oil hub for the whole world. In addition, major geopolitical shifts are associated with war in Gaza.

such as China's increasing influence, deteriorating Arab-US relations, strengthening Iran, Syria, and Russia alliances. Moreover, the war will

bring major benefits for authoritarian bloc since western focus will divert from the Ukraine war, and South China Sea dispute.

Having discussed implications, there are some

pragmatic steps which could prove as a major potential solution to the conflict. First one being forging consensus between world powers, carrying out decision the orders issued by ICJ and ICC. Finally, a two state solution is the most viable solution to the current Israel-Palestine conflict.

Starting the discussion with an overview of recent escalation between Hamas and IDF. First, Hamas, an organization declared as terrorist by Israel, attacked on 7 October 2023. The operation was named as "Operation Al Aqsa Flood" by Hamas. Hamas pulverised the border walls and landed troops by motorbikes and gliders. Further, they also took hundreds of hostages. In response to that, Israel launched a barbaric assault on the Gaza. They indiscriminately killed Palestinians and blocked any line of communication to Gaza. The response operation has been named as "Operation Iron Sword" by Tel Aviv. Since these events, Israel has been killing Palestinians causing more and more casualties. These are the main events that has culminated to today's full fledged Gaza war.

After having discussed the events that led to the war, now lending full attention to the implications of war. The first and foremost implication which the war has caused is the eruption of humanitarian crisis. Since, all the communication and

supply lines to Gaza has been disrupted, there has been dire scarcity of water, electricity, food, and other necessities of life. Further, destroying the hospitals, and not letting any humanitarian aid inside Gaza, Israel has caused eruption of diseases in Gaza. In addition, people has been living in tents under open sky since Israel has been constantly razing building with air bombardments. Hence, these barbaric adventures of Israel has deprived Palestinians of basic human needs, and inflicting one of the worst humanitarian crisis of the history.

Another implication associated with the Gaza war is the continuous indiscriminate killing of civilians. Since October 7 attacks, Israel has retaliated and has been bombarding the land of Gaza killing tens of thousands of people in the name of self defence. Further, it has been reported that most of the killed population has been women and children. Apart from that thousands of people have been injured. According to a report issued by Palestinian Health Authority, about 40000 people has been killed during recent Israeli adventure in Gaza. In short, Israel has been increasing plight of Palestinians by carrying out the current genocidal campaign in Gaza.

Moving ahead, apart from killing, Israel has been destroying the infrastructure of Gaza. To illustrate the fact, more than 80% of Gaza has been turned into rubble. Israel has been bombarding homes, offices, schools, hospitals, and business places, causing huge economic losses to the Palestinians. For instance, the world bank and UN joint report says that about 18.5 B USD worth infrastructure has been destroyed by Israeli forces. Furthermore, there has been 26 m tonnes of rubble piled up in Gaza which will take years to remove. Hence apart from mass killing the indiscriminate bombardment of infrastructure is one more implication of war in Gaza.

Apart from depressing implications of war in Gaza, its implications has also spread to the other states of the middle east. To elaborate the fact, Iran who has been a staunch enemy of Israel and advocate of Palestinian cause has taken stern actions against Israel. Iran has taken action against Israel by mobilizing its proxies Hezbollah and Houthis in Lebanon and Yemen. In addition Iran also had direct confrontations with Israel in recent times. In this way, Israel has been engaged in war on multiple fronts. As a result, in addition to war in Gaza, the conflict has been taking the whole Middle East under its umbrella.

It has been speculated that one of the major reasons behind the Hamas attack was growing normalization between the Arabs and Israel. By increasing barbaric aggression of Israel the normalization of ties between Saudi Arabia and Israel has come to halt. Saudi Arabia has been constantly criticizing Israel's genocide while Israel has been stubborn in its campaign in Gaza. Therefore Saudi Arabia has halted its process of normalization with Israel. It can be demonstrated from Muhammad Bin Salman's interview <sup>with</sup> Fox news in which he vehemently declared that normalization processes were going on but recent Israeli campaign has grounded it to halt. Hence, it might be considered a moral victory for Hamas that it had successfully sabotaged the normalization of ties between Saudi Arabia and Israel.

In addition, the Gaza conflict has exacerbated instability in the Middle Eastern region. To start with, the barbaric Israeli adventure has started a new war in already war-ridden region. In addition, the involvement of global powers for their geostrategic interest has made the Middle East the new playground for the great power competition. Moreover, the non-state actors' involvement like Hezbollah and Houthis

are presenting menace to the stability in the Middle East. Thus, the conflict in Gaza has fuelled the factors which cause instability.

After long discussion over implications of war over Middle East, it can be concluded that it can also spread its repercussion towards whole globe. ~~Therefore, further discussion about global implications will be carried on.~~

To begin with, the first implication of Gaza conflict over whole globe is the disruption of supply chain. Red Sea, which is the main transit route for global trade has been under threat of war. Houthis has been bombarding trade ships in the region, thus paving the way for full scale conflict in the sea. Conflict in the red sea will cause disruption in trade which could cause inflation all around the globe. Especially, the oil disruption of oil trade and its inflation could cause energy crisis all around the globe.

A report issued by Bloomberg Economics states that the oil prices can soar up to 150 dollar per barrel. Thus, the conflict in the red sea can cause disturbances to the global trade and global energy supply.

Moving further, the war in Gaza is causing deterioration of relationships between Saudi Arabia and US. The US who has been a staunchest ally of Israel



has been providing unconditional support to it. Further, if the US is showing coldness towards the plight in Gaza, therefore, Saudi Arabia has been observed to distance itself from the US. Saudi Arabia being vocal about assault in Gaza has been feeling discontented with the US cold behaviour. Moreover, Saudi Arabia forging ties with Tehran and China furthered the deterioration of relationship between US and Saudi Arabia. Therefore, US has been losing an ally in the middle East following its support to Israel.

Adding to deteriorating US Arab relations, China is forging relationship with Arab. This event could be termed as a major geopolitical shift in contemporary global landscape. China who has been a global rival to US is taking full advantage of eroding US influence in the region. To elaborate, China has been filling the vacuum left by US and solidifying its footprints in the region. Further, contrary to US, China is projecting itself as a global peacemaker rather than fuelling war. For instance, the recent deal between Iran and KSA plus Hamas and Fateh is a clear depiction of Chinese strategies of increasing influence in the region. Hence, the major beneficiary of diminishing US influence is China who is further projecting its role as a global power and global peacemaker.

Moving ahead, the conflicts in Gaza has strengthened Russia-Syria-Iran alliance. The stance of Russia over the war coincides with the stance of Syria and Iran. In addition, the diverging gulf between Russia and Israel furthers the alliance. Moreover, the long standing enmity of all three states with us, and their collective the US support to Israel and its long standing enmity with these three states bring them further increase closeness among them. To conclude, the Gaza conflict and the stance of these three states over it have brought them more closer.

Apart from strengthening alliances, the authoritarian bloc led by Russia and China might feel itself at one more advantage that is decreased US focus on Ukraine and South China sea. The US who has been supporting Israel in its this war has now divided attention towards Ukraine and South China sea. Elaborating the fact, that China and Russia who are engaged in South China sea and Ukraine against US interests can take much more stringent measures to subjugate them.

Therefore, the authoritarian bloc might feel at ease because of less US resistance in their concerned region.

The implications caused by Gaza war are grave as discussed. Therefore, to further prevent the implications, some steps need to be taken. Some of them are discussed as follows

Starting with, there is deficiency of consensus among global powers.

Global powers despite their enmities should put them aside and work together to end this war and mitigate its widespread implication.

Adding to that, the global powers must not veto any resolutions that may pave a way towards peace and the betterment of people of Gaza.

Hence, the role of global powers is paramount in solving this issue.

Another step which should be taken is that the ruling of ICJ and ICC should be followed. ICJ has ruled against Israel where it has mentioned that any such campaign should be stopped which come under genocide.

Moreover, ICC has issued an arrest warrant against Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and its defence minister Yoav Gallant. Therefore, these two should be arrested to further the peace process.

Similarly, the last and most important of all is that Palestinians should be given right to self determination for instance a free state of Palestine should be declared according to pre 1967 borders

This would be at once for all solution to the misery of Palestinians. Hence two state solution is the most viable solution of all.

To recapitulate the discussion, Gaza war has widespread fall out on the middle East and the whole world. These all implications have been discussed one by one. For illustration, Gaza war has caused misery to Palestinians, destroyed the infrastructure of Gaza. Further, it has spread to other parts of the middle east.

Moreover, Gaza war has disturbed the peace in the region, and has halted the normalization process between Saudi Arab and Israel. Similarly the war also has a spectrum of effect over entire world. First one of them is the disruption of supply chain and inflation, deterioration of Arab-Is relations and Chinese growing influence.

In addition, the US divided attention over three wars, and strengthening of Russian alliance with Iran and Syria also comes under its implications. Similarly, some pragmatic steps are also discussed which could be potential solution for the conflict.

After all the discussion it can be deduced that Gaza war has inflicted unimaginable damage over Palestinian civilians. Further it has also caused some major geopolitical shifts. In order to prevail peace global community must come out and work together to make the peace prevail. However, the question arises, Will they?