

Q:2 Palestine conflict is a long-standing one on the United Nations table. Discuss its recent escalation since October 2023 and critically assess the implications of this conflict in the region specifically and in the global politics generally.

1- Introduction: Israel - Palestine conflict and Its Implications:

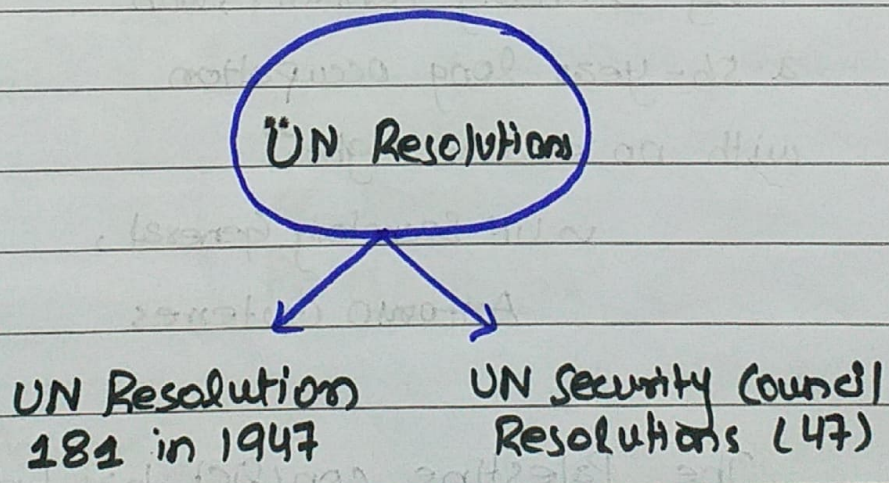
"The most recent flare-up of violence does not come in a vacuum but grows out of a long-standing conflict, with a 56-year long occupation with no end in sight"

UN Secretary General,
Antonio Guterres

The Palestine conflict has been started since the immigration of Jews in Palestine. However, the recent massacre of Palestinians has caused due to the 17 years long siege on Gaza

and normalization of Arab countries' ties with Israel. It led to the genocide of Palestinians. The escalation of conflicts has led to the wider conflagration in the region, having spill over effects on Lebanon, Iran and Yemen. Moreover, it is reshaping the geo-political dynamics with changing positions of great powers in global politics.

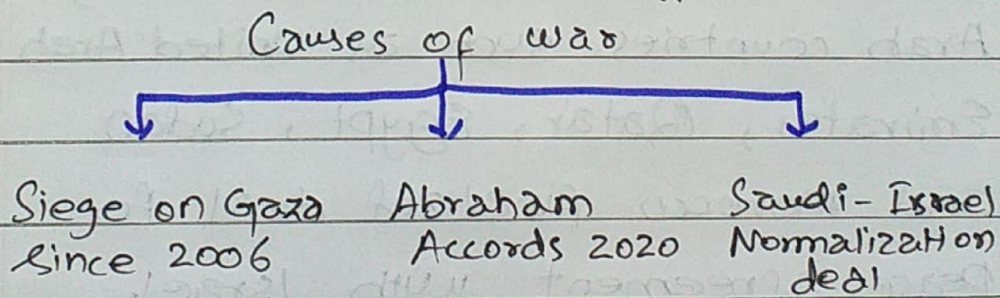
2. Jews Immigration To Palestine After Nazism: United Nations Resolutions:



After World War II, the rise of Nazism compelled millions of Jews migration to Palestine. These numbers rose from 6% to 30%

after this migration. After that UN passed Resolution 181 to resolve Palestine issue. It mandated 55% territory to jews, 45% to Palestinians and joint control on Jerusalem. Since then, several wars have been fought between Israel and Palestine. Many UN security council resolutions calling for a ceasefire could not resolve this issue.

3. Waging War Between Israel and Palestine Since October 7, 2023: A Critical Analysis:



3a) Blockade on Gaza by Israel: Gaza

is concentration camp:

After second intifada from 2002 to 2005, Israel imposed siege

on Gaza and started Operation Break the wave. It worsened the security situation in Palestine. Nearly daily raids occurred by Israel military. It fuelled resentment among Palestinians, which triggered the war.

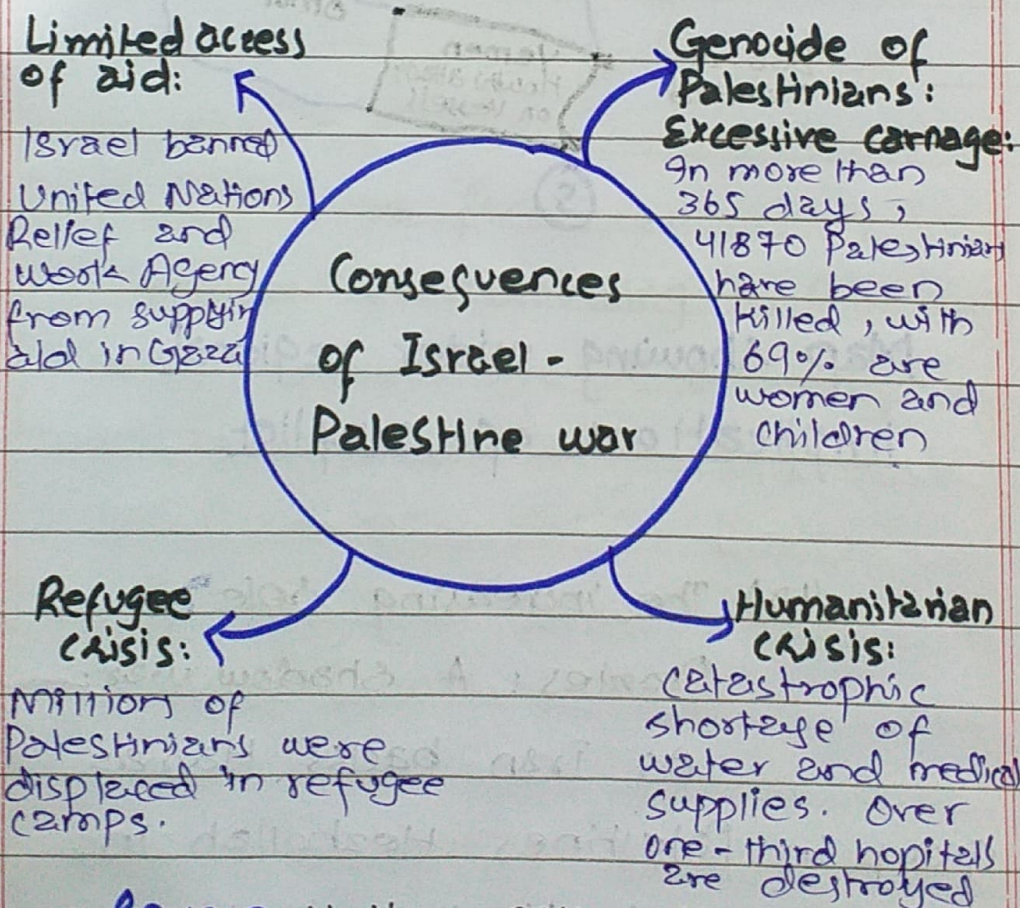
3b) Abraham Accords 2020 exacerbated apprehensions about Palestinian cause might sweep under the carpet. US drive for the peace deal of Arab countries with Tel Aviv and recognition of Israel further ignited the fire of conflicts. Many Arab countries such as United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Egypt, Sudan and Morocco finalized deal for peace agreement with Israel.

3c) Saudi-Israel Normalization deal to diversify security ties:
The agreement between

Saudi Arabia and Israel for bilateral defense ties fuelled conflict. Saudi Arabia wants to expand its influence in the region and to contain Iran.

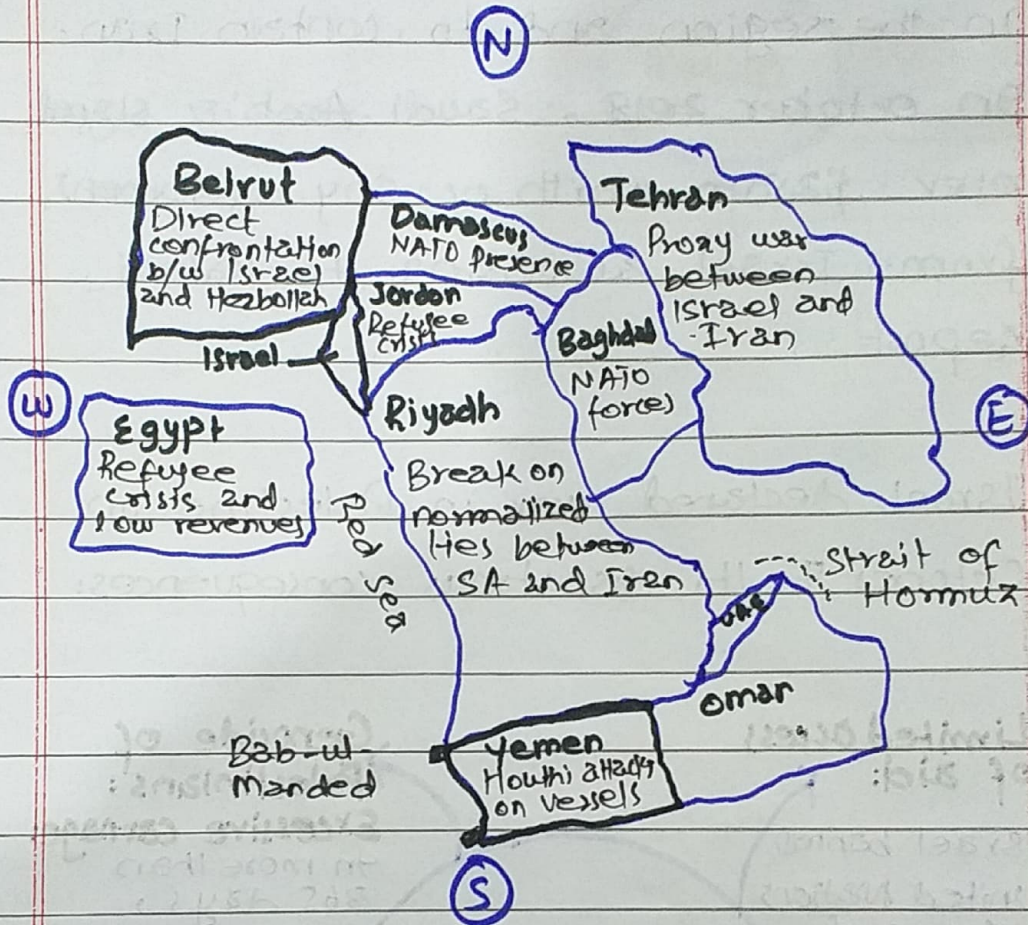
In October 2018, Saudi Arabia signed over \$250m worth of spy equipment from Israel according to Kaleej report.

3d) Israel declared war in Palestine on October 7: Its disastrous consequences:



Source: Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

4- The Spill Over Impacts Of Conflict In The Region:



Map showing wider regional implications of conflict

4a) The increasing role of
 Promises: A shadow war:
 As Iran backs Hamas
 group in Palestine, Hezbollah in
 Lebanon and Houthis in Yemen,

The escalation of direct war between Iran and Israel will push Lebanon and Yemen to wage war against Israel. Its flagrant example is pager attacks in Lebanon in which 11 Hezbollah operatives and civilians were killed. Moreover, Iran also fired missiles on Israel as a retaliation to Lebanon attacks.

4b) Increasing expenditures on security: Arms race:

The Middle Eastern countries have increased funds allocation to increase arms. According to Bloomberg Economics, Middle East security expenditures rose by 9%, which is 4.2% of their GDP. It reflects that security dilemma has created due to this war.

4c) Disruption of trade due to Houthis control on

strategic maritime chokepoints

The control of Houthis on Bab-ul-mandab and their attacks on merchant vessels and cargo ships have disrupted key maritime routes, posing a growing threat to the international economy.

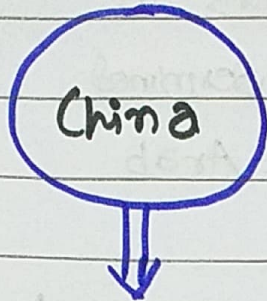
As Bab-ul-mandab connects Arabian sea and Red Sea, which is responsible for 40% of Asia-Europe trade and 12% global trade, its disruption stalls trade.

4d) Break on Iran-Saudi

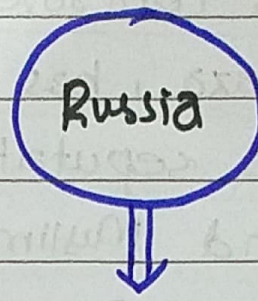
Normalization:

Saudi Arabia wants normal ties with Israel while Iran opposes it. Therefore, the escalation of conflicts will dismantle ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran. The rapprochement deal between SA and Iran, which was brokered by China in 2023, went futile.

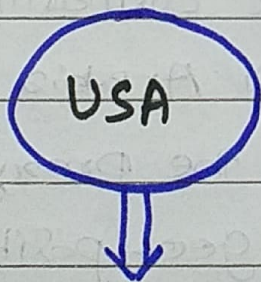
5- Implications of war on Changing Geo-political Dynamics:



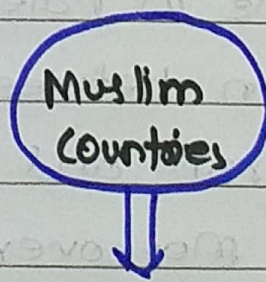
China is using the conflict to gain sympathy of Global South against the apartheid of USA. It is an opportunity for China to expand its economic ties in middle East as China has strong ties with both Iran and Saudi Arabia.



The war has shifted global attention from Russia-Ukraine war to Palestine war. Therefore, Russia has strengthened its ties with Iran. Its economic ties will further expand, which will counter US sanction on Russia.



The emboldened support of USA to Israel has undermined its global image. The war has diverted its attention from Indo-Pacific containment policy of China.



Although Muslim countries have rebuked Israel's targeting of civilians, they are not leveraging their economy against Israel.

"The United States' unwavering support for Israel, even during its controversial actions in Gaza, has often undermined its reputation in the Arab and Muslim world"

↳ John J. Mearsheime and Stephen M. Walt "The Israel Lobby and US Foreign Policy"

6- Conclusion:

The Arab countries' desire to normalize ties with Israel provoked war, which sparked complete genocide in Palestine. It dismantled relation between Saudi Arabia and Iran and led to the proxy war. Moreover, the geo-political dynamics are also changing, with China's soft image is enhancing throughout the world. On the other hand, USA's negative image is portrayed.
