

# Iran - Israel

## Question :-

what are the root causes of the recent Iranian attack on Israel, what impacts has this escalation had on regional stability and international relations, and what diplomatic or strategic solutions could effectively reduce tensions and foster long-term peace in the Middle East?

## Answer

### 1. Introduction:

#### The Israel-Iran Conflict - An Enduring Rivalry

The Israel-Iran relationship is one of the most complex and long-standing hostilities in the Middle East, marked by ideological, geopolitical, and religious tensions. The recent attack by Iranian-backed groups on Israel is a stark reminder of the fragile security in the region, and the potential repercussions for global stability.



“The situation in the middle East cannot afford further escalations. Each act of aggressions has the potential to spiral beyond control, threatening international peace and security.”

[António Guterres, UN Secretary-General.]

## 2.0 Historical Background :

From Allies  
to Adversaries

Prior to the 1979 Iranian Revolution, Iran and Israel shared relatively friendly relations, with Iran even recognizing Israel and establishing strong economic and military ties. However, after the revolution, Iran's new Islamic Republic adopted a staunchly anti-Israel stance, considering the country a symbol of Western influence and opposing its treatment of Palestinians. Since then, Iran has positioned itself as a defender of Palestine. This ideological shift laid the groundwork for decades of hostility.



### 3. The Recent Attack: A Dangerous Escalation

On 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024, Iran launched a volley of ballistic missiles at Israel, retaliating against Israel's military campaign targeting Tehran's Hezbollah allies in Lebanon and the recent assassination of both Hezbollah's leader and a senior Hamas figure. This latest aggression reflects the Iranian government's ongoing commitment to challenging Israel's regional influence. As political theorist Kenneth Waltz observed,

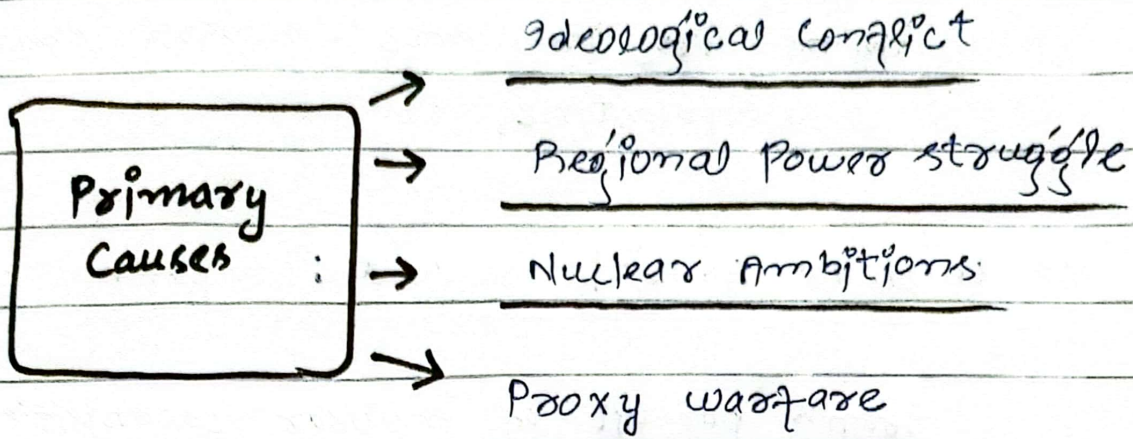
“In international politics, the worst outcome is not the most likely one”

yet the Middle East remains fraught with potential for a larger-scale conflict.



4.

## Causes of the Recent Escalation



### a. Ideological Conflicts : The Role of the Islamic Republic's Identity

Iran's Islamic Republic was founded on principles opposing western influence, and Israel represents what Iran perceives as a western stronghold in the region. This ideological opposition fuels Iran's commitment to challenging Israel.

### b. Regional Power Struggle :-

Iran seeks to establish itself as the dominant power



in the middle East, and Israel is seen as a primary obstacle to this goal. By supporting groups hostile to Israel, Iran strengthens its influence across Lebanon, Syria and Palestine.

## 60 Nuclear Ambitions and Deterrence :-

Iran's pursuit of nuclear capabilities, seen as a direct threat by Israel, has intensified hostilities. Israel views a nuclear-armed Iran as an existential risk, heightening preemptive and defensive actions.

## 61 Proxy Warfare through Regional

### Alliances :-

Iran's alliances with Hezbollah, Hamas, and other groups offer indirect means to challenge Israel, avoiding direct conflict while keeping Israel's defenses strained and its attention divided.



## 5. Impacts of the Conflict

The impacts of the conflict on regional and international stability are as follows :

### a. Risk of Regional Conflict Expansion :-

With every escalation, there is an increased risk of a full-scale regional war. Each incident draws in neighbouring countries and threatens to spiral into a broader conflict, destabilizing the entire middle East.

### b. Economic Consequences :-

The Israel-Iran conflict impacts global oil markets and supply chains, leading to fluctuations in energy prices and causing economic uncertainty across both developed and developing nations.

### c. Social Instability :-

Civilians in both



countries experience significant psychological stress from the threat of attacks, with ongoing trauma contributing to social instability and polarization within communities.

## d. Disruption of Diplomatic Relations

### Worldwide :-

The conflict complicates international relations, with superpowers such as the U.S., Russia, and China each taking strategic stances that can influence regional alliances and heighten geopolitical tensions.

## e. Influence on Domestic Policies :-

Leaders in both Israel and Iran use the conflict to rally domestic support, shaping public opinion and national policy, which can lead to increased militarization and reduced support for peaceful negotiations.



## 6. Possible solutions for Long

### Term Peace

#### a. Diplomatic Engagement :-

A renewed focus on diplomacy is essential to prevent further violence. As the Dalai Lama once said, "Peace means solving these differences through peaceful means"

#### b. Reinstating the JCPOA (Iran Nuclear Deal)

A revised Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) could curb Iran's nuclear ambitions, potentially easing Israel's security concerns and creating a foundation for de-escalation.

#### c. Leveraging Neutral Nations

##### as mediators :-

Countries with balanced relationships with both Israel-Iran, such as Oman or Qatar, could serve as impartial mediators to foster dialogue.



and diplomatic engagement between the two.

## d. Economic Interdependence as a Peacebuilding Strategy :-

Encouraging economic ties and interdependence could deter conflict by making peaceful relations mutually beneficial, reflecting the historical trend that economically connected regions are less likely to engage in war.

## e. Promoting People-People and Cultural Exchanges

Educational and cultural exchanges could bridge ideological divides, fostering understanding and empathy among future generations who may prioritize peace over conflict.

## f. Strengthening Humanitarian

### Assistance for affected Population

Providing aid and resources to civilians



affected by the conflict can build goodwill on both sides, reducing suffering, and increase popular support for peaceful resolutions.

## 7. Conclusion

The Israel - Arab conflict presents a challenging path to achieving lasting peace, given the deep-seated historical and ideological factors involved. Yet, as Winston Churchill wisely observed

“It is always better to jaw-jaw than to war-war.”

Through committed diplomatic efforts, increased cultural understanding, there is potential to reduce hostilities and pave the way for a more stable Middle East.