

## 'Role of Media in Israel-Palestine Conflict'

### Outline.

#### 1. Introduction

##### 1.1 Thesis Statement

#### 2. Positive role of media in Israel Palestine conflict.

##### 2.1 Internalisation of Israel Palestine conflict.

- a) Boycott movements across Middle East, Asia, Europe.
- b) International court of justice case against Israel by South Africa (evidence: pictures, videos)
- c) Increased Awareness through X, Youtube and Instagram.

##### 2.2 Exposed Israeli genocide.

- a) Isolation of Israel in the global arena.
- b) Increased condemnation from western allies
- c) Brewing opposition within Israel.

##### 2.3 Fosters International peace efforts to restore ~~peace~~ <sup>order</sup>.

- a) Coverage of Flotilla ships to Gaza push other non state actors to follow.
- b) Constant reporting of protests in London, UK and Rome shape and build momentum.
- c) Highlights the recognition of Palestine as a state by key western allies of Israel (UK, France, Australia) constantly to assist other states to follow.

### 3. Negative role of media in Israel Palestine Conflict

#### 3.1 Mainstream media inclination towards Israeli narrative

- a) Biased reporting by media outlets such as BBC, CNN and Fox News.
- b) Euphemistic Language used in newspaper such as The Washington Post, The New York Times, Wall Street Journal.

#### 3.2 Exaggeration of October 7<sup>th</sup> to defend Israeli actions

- a) Justifies hospital bombing to target Hamas
- b) Frame deliberate targetting of children as human shield used by Hamas.
- c) Blockage of Direct Aid to Gaza portrayed as necessary to prevent another October 7<sup>th</sup>

#### 3.3 Controlled Social media sites

- a) Censoring GrokAI on anti Israel content
- b) Removal of Youtube documentaries depicting Israeli genocide.
- c) Blocking and restricting active palestinians and as well as pro-palestine activists.

### 4. Impacts of media in Israel Palestine conflict

- a) Unprecedented attention to the conflict
- b) Debates in all spectrums of media revolve around possible solutions. Undertaken
- c) More Awareness and more practical efforts to resolve the crises.

### 5. Conclusion.

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# The Essay

World War II could have been avoided if there was no radio. Hitler's Germany and Mussolini's Italy used media as a tool for propaganda and steered the public opinion towards hatred for the neighboring countries. The constant propaganda fed to radio and media channels by Nazi Propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels not only convinced the German populace that they belonged to the superior <sup>race</sup> aryan people but also that they were humiliated by internal factors during World War I. In such a way, Hitler convinced everyone that communists and Jews were the reason behind Germany's downfall from prestige. What happened next was brutal targeting of them, leaving estimatedly 6-8 million people dead. It was a watershed event in the human history not because of how exceptionally media was utilized to achieve their goals. This single event of history highlights how powerful media is. With the advent of different other media channels, people have become more prone to new information that would either be propaganda, fake news or a genuine reporting of an incident. Thus, media holds a far greater <sup>influence</sup> responsibility in today's conflicts. The Israel-Palestine conflict has been one of the significant events in modern human history that has cost hundreds of thousands of lives. Media, whether print, electronic, has played an active and a dual role in

Shaping the destiny of the conflict. On the positive side, media has internalised the conflict, exposed the Israeli genocide, Fostered International efforts to restore order. On the negative side, the mainstream media has inclined more towards Israeli narrative, exaggerated the October 7<sup>th</sup> 2023 event to justify Israeli actions, and Online social media sites have controlled the anti-Israel narrative. Nevertheless, the impact of media has been significant and has made itself an indispensable player in the conflict.

Media has internationalized the Israel-Palestine conflict. The conflict no longer lies within the territorial boundaries of Israel and Palestine. Other states have begun to respond to the boiling conflict that ~~has~~ caused incredible damage to peace in the region. Boycott movements have been started <sup>a response</sup> in different parts of the world. People across the Middle East ~~region~~, Asia, Europe no longer buy Israeli products but rather opt for other ones. They are also targetting multinational companies who have been complicit in <sup>aiding</sup> the Israeli genocide. These include different brands of Unilever, P&G and others. Media has been significant in getting the message across region. From middle east to Asia to Europe, people are being influenced by the online narrative and thus are reshaping their ~~consum~~ product preferences. These boycott movements have become more organised.

Overtime, inspiring others to join in. Moreover, media has also been used as a weapon <sup>against</sup> Israel in the International court of Justice by South Africa, who alongside attaching pictures and videos of brutal killing by the Israeli soldiers, has demanded that Israel should be made to pay for her actions. It has come as an ~~st~~ International ~~embarras~~ embarrassment for Israel. The media has also increased awareness through X, Youtube, Instagram and Facebook. Uncensored pictures, videos as well as live videos and debates has brought significant information on ground-realities, debunking fake reports. All of these events have turned the conflict into a global issue.

Media has also exposed the Israeli genocide. The different social media platforms have ~~be~~ dissected the Israeli narrative that there is no genocide happening in Palestine. This has led to increased condemnation from the western allies, who ~~were~~ unequivocally supported Israel previously. The countries include United Kingdom, France, Canada and Australia. Their condemnation not only highlights the respective governments disapproval of the Israeli actions but also represent the public sentiment that has been shaped by media coverage of the conflict. Such events have put pressure on Israel to

reconsider its actions. They have Israel isolated in the world. The media images and videos continue to ~~make~~ weaken the Israeli narrative internationally. Moreover, opposition to Israeli government's plan in Gaza is also brewing within Israel. The media platforms such as Times of Israel ~~newspaper~~ have continuously ~~highlighted~~ given coverage to the protest occurring in different streets of Tel Aviv. This shows the world that Israeli govt is also losing support within. Similarly, another newspaper based in Israel, Haaretz, reported the disappointment <sup>one</sup> of the protestors in Tel Aviv felt over what the govt was doing in Gaza. They vowed to not vote for such parties again. This highlights that the political support is ~~at~~ also slipping away for the government. Therefore, the media has not only exposed the opposition to the genocide carried out by Israel internationally but also depicted the significant challenges and opposition the govt is facing within from its own people.

The media has fostered international efforts to promote peace ~~in the region~~ and restore order in the region. It has come to be seen as a ~~major~~ platform that is putting effort and pushing everybody else to bring a stop to the conflict. It has provided significant coverage to the Flotilla ships, loaded with aid, to Gaza. Appreciating the role these initiatives sought to

plays, media has pushed other states to join in the efforts <sup>too</sup> to remove the Aid and food blockade. It ~~was~~ <sup>is</sup> due to media coverage that Italy <sup>had</sup> decided to place one of its navy ship with the Flotilla ships to protect them from being attacked by Israeli navy. Not only Italy, the Greece media put pressure onto ~~its~~ <sup>its</sup> government to join in the efforts to save the world from a humanitarian catastrophe. Greece government, as a result, decided to deploy several navy ships for protection of the ships loaded with Aid headed to Gaza. This implies that media coverage of the efforts put in by ~~some~~ <sup>other</sup> countries ~~and~~ <sup>different</sup> ~~also~~ put pressure on ~~other~~ states and non state actors, compelling them to join in. Apart from this, media's constant reporting of Gaza conflict led to protests erupting in different capitals of European nations. For example. there was a massive London protest recorded on social media sites, whose spill over <sup>effect</sup> led to protests and demonstrations in other cities of United Kingdom too. Similarly, it also had an effect in Rome, Italy. People were furious over the exacerbating situation in Gaza by seeing ~~through~~ <sup>the</sup> the horrible pictures and videos on social media. This ultimately led them to storm different supermarkets and towns as well as local civil administration.

buildings. What such incidents highlight is that the media is actively reshaping the perception of <sup>the</sup> general populace against Israeli actions in Gaza. The momentum picked up by the protests around European capitals and the growing sense of unease looking at the images coming out have made western governments one by one come forward in support of a Two state solution for Palestine-Israel conflict. Countries such as France, Britain, Australia have done it in the 80<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly, while other states <sup>are</sup> feeling the moral and international pressure building up as more and more information comes out ~~from~~ from Gaza.

On the other hand, the role of media has also been observed in negative light. The inclination of mainstream media towards Israeli narrative has caused significant disruption ~~of~~ <sup>in</sup> conveying the actual reality. It has blurred the lines between who is the aggressor and who is the victim. Major mainstream media channels such as the BBC, CNN, Fox news have toned down the harsh ~~long~~ criticism on Israeli actions and has presented the events as both sides are on equal footing with equal strength to take on the ~~way~~ other. The prominent journalists who work there are observed to view the 'genocide' as a 'conflict'. By attaching this conflict label, they essentially ~~dismiss~~ or overlook the Palestinian sufferings. This

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Sort of reporting not only suppresses voice of the victims but presents the other side as victims. Public opinion is thus shaped against the reality. It further radicalizes the suppressed and oppressed population who resort to more violent means to take revenge. Apart from the role of mainstream TV media, the print media has also been complicit in disregarding ~~the~~ and misreporting the genocide. ~~The~~ Famous newspapers such as The Washington Post, New York Times, and Wall Street have multiple times used words that serve to portray a rather different <sup>story</sup> and often not capturing the true reality on grounds. The euphemistic use of words here in newspaper, like in TV, also serves to further shape public opinion against the oppressed.

Moreover, the media's negative role has also been observed in how it justifies the inhumane activities Israeli officials, specially the Israeli Defense Forces, carry out. Post-October 7<sup>th</sup> incident, Israel has continuously bombed places in Gaza which even have been prohibited ~~to~~ in a full fledged war between states. Palestine ~~it~~ ~~has~~ has no army. It only has a resistance group, who tries to repel the IDF forces. Israel, with its advance missile technology, bombs hospital, saying that Hamas had been hiding there beneath it. Media buys this narrative and justifies it by ~~then~~ accusing Hamas of using the hospital as a shelter. There is no accountability of how much truth is in IDF's ~~is~~

claim. Media plays its role/part  $\uparrow$  in ~~farthering~~ the inhumane actions by constantly bringing up the October 7<sup>th</sup> 2023 attack on Israel by Hamas. Apart from hospital Israel targets civilians in ~~super~~ streets, markets and other public places and feed the media with the information that they were Hamas members who assisted in carrying out Oct 7<sup>th</sup> incident. Media thus adopts it shapes their story around it. The public opinion is affected adversely by such reporting. Israel has also been blocking Aid on the pretext that these Aids would be stolen by Hamas members who would carry out another Oct 7<sup>th</sup> incident. The media, just as it defended other inhumane Israeli actions against Palestinians, ~~it~~ justified the Aid blockade in the context of Israel exercising its right to self defence. The exaggeration of Oct 7<sup>th</sup> thus adds to another criticism of media's biasness.

Furthermore, the social media sites are being ~~being~~ continuously controlled to ~~the~~ ensure that the voices of those who stand by the victim are suppressed. Those who remain uninformed in this matter, thus get a rather different and often contradicting depiction of the ground realities which ultimately makes them derive a false opinion. There are numerous social media sites which have been targeted for bringing out the matter and facts to the public. One of them is the GorkaAI 

on X. In the recent past few days, this AI tool has assisted people in understanding what the Issue is in Gaza. It has also answered questions of those X users who have just come to ~~hear~~ hear about this topic. However, it got restricted and became inactive when significant criticism rose on it from the pro-Israeli factions or peoples on X. The AI messaging bot no longer responded to questions that indirectly or directly criticised Israel. It even ignored them sometimes. Similar was the case with Youtube documentaries and short videos. Several of them were removed that sought to educate people how Israel came to occupy the land from 1947 to now. Palestinian activists such as Motaz Azaiza and pro-palestinian cause activists had their Instagram and Youtube handles taken off by the sites authorities for going out the community guidelines. Such incidents fully capture how social media sites are being controlled to only further and promote one way of the story.

Nevertheless, media has played a crucial role bringing an unprecedented attention to the Palestine-Israel conflict. No conflict in recent past has gathered as much attention as has this conflict. Regardless of the negative and positive role of media, the Israel-palestine conflict has become a

global issue where debates have started to go on it. From middle east to Asia to Europe to North and South America, it is due to media that the conflict is getting this much attention. The attention also derives in various perspectives to resolve the conflict from different experts. More and more solutions come up to somehow end the conflict. Such awareness would ultimately be beneficial in securing a solution for the conflict and bringing peace in the region. Media's role thus becomes crucial in initiating efforts to bring this matter to an end.

To conclude, media's role was significant in 20th century during the two World Wars and it still is significant now. ~~No more~~ The positive or negative use of media will ultimately determine the end result of this conflict. It thus implies that media has a big responsibility and is a major stakeholders in this conflict.

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