

The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict:

Introduction:

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is one of the most significant geopolitical crises of the modern era. Rooted in historical, religious, and political disputes, the conflict has resulted in multiple wars, mass displacement, and severe humanitarian crises.

Since the creation of Israel in 1948, tensions between Israel and Palestinians have escalated due to territorial claims, settlement expansions, and military confrontations. Today, Gaza remains a war zone, the West Bank is under Israeli occupation, and international law is continuously violated. This conflict is also a key focus of global diplomacy, with the United Nations (UN), the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and the International Criminal Court (ICC) involved in legal proceedings.

Date: _____

1. The Gaza Strip: A Humanitarian Crisis

The Gaza Strip is a 365-square-kilometer Palestinian territory bordering Israel and Egypt - It is one of the world's most densely populated areas, with 2.3 million Palestinians - Since Hamas took control in 2007, Israel has imposed a blockade, leading to severe shortages of essential supplies.

Key Issues in Gaza

- 1- Israeli Blockade: Since 2007 Israel has restricted access to food, water, medicine, and fuel, leading to economic collapse and humanitarian crises.
- 2- Inlans and Israeli Military Operations:
 - 2008-09 (Operation Cast Lead):
1,400 + Palestinians killed.
 - 2012 (Operation Pillar of Defense):
168 Palestinians killed.
 - 2014 (Operation Protective Edge):
2,200 + Palestinians killed.

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- 2021 (Operation Guardian of the Walls): 256 Palestinians killed.
- 2023-24 War: Over 30,000 Palestinians killed (Latest reports).

3. Infrastructure Destruction:

Continuous airstrikes have destroyed hospitals, schools, power stations, and refugee camps.

- 4- UN Reports: The World Food Programme (WFP) warns that 80% of Gaza's population relies on humanitarian aid.

International Legal Proceedings On Gaza

- > South Africa's ICJ Case (Dec 2023): Filed against Israel for genocide, leading to a ruling in Jan 2024 that Israel must prevent further war crimes.

- > ICC Investigation: Ongoing probe into Israeli and Hamas war crimes.

2- Israel: A Regional Power with Global Support

Date: _____

Israel's Establishment and Expansion

- 1948: Israel declared independence; 750,000 Palestinians were displaced (Nakba).
- 1967 (Six-Day War): Israel occupied the West Bank, Gaza, East Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights.
- Modern-day Israel: Controls 78% of historic Palestine, with 700,000+ settlers in the West Bank.

Israel's Strategic Goals

1. Maintaining Military Superiority:
Backed by \$3.8 billion annual U.S. aid and the Iron Dome missile system.
2. Expansion Through Settlements:
Establishing illegal Jewish settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.
3. Recognition of Jerusalem: Israel claims it as its "eternal capital", despite international rejection.

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3- Jewish Zionism: The Ideological Basis of Israeli Expansion

What is Zionism?

- Zionism is a Jewish nationalist movement advocating for a Jewish homeland in Palestine. It was founded by Theodor Herzl in 1897.
- The Balfour Declaration (1917) facilitated Jewish migration to Palestine, leading to Israeli statehood in 1948.

Criticism of Zionism

- Many argue that Zionism has resulted in ethnic cleansing, apartheid policies, and expansionism.
- Some Jewish groups oppose Zionism, believing a Jewish state should be divinely ordained.

4- Expansion of The Jewish State

Israel has expanded its Territory through:

- Occupation of Palestinian land (1948 to 1967).

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- Illegal settlements: Over 300 settlements have been built in the West Bank.
- Planned Annexation of 30% of the West Bank.

These actions violate UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 2334, which call for Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories.

5. Destruction of Muslim Worship places & Temple Construction plans

Al-Aqsa Mosque Attacks

- Israeli forces frequently storm Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest site in Islam.
- Jewish extremist groups advocate demolishing Al-Aqsa to rebuild the Third Jewish Temple.

Destruction of Palestinian Religious Sites

- Israeli authorities have demolished mosques, churches, and Islamic cemeteries in occupied territories.

6. Ethnic Cleansing & Genocide Accusations

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• Ethnic Cleansing: The forced expulsion of Palestinians from their homes continues, particularly in East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

• Genocide Accusations:

South Africa's ICJ case (Dec 2023):

Accuses Israel of genocide in Gaza.

ICJ Ruling (Jan 2024): Found plausible evidence of genocide and ordered Israel to prevent further war crimes.

7 Other Crimes in Gaza

Israeli Other Crimes

• Targeting of Civilians: Israeli airstrikes have hit hospitals, schools, and refugee camps.

→ Use of Illegal Weapons: Reports suggest Israel has used white phosphorus in civilian areas.

→ Mass Killings: Over 30,000 Palestinian deaths (2023-24 conflict).

ICC Investigation

→ The International Criminal Court (ICC) is investigating war crimes by Israel and Hamas.

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8 U.S Response: A Key Israeli Ally

→ The U.S provides Israel with \$3.8 billion annually in military aid.

→ UN Vetoes: The US has blocked multiple UN resolutions condemning Israel.

→ Biden Administration: Supports Israel but faces internal pressure for a ceasefire.

9. Response of The Muslim Ummah

- Turkey, Iran, and Malaysia strongly condemned Israeli aggression.

- Saudi Arabia and UAE maintain diplomatic ties but face public criticism.

- Mass Protests: Millions protested in Pakistan, Egypt, Indonesia, and Europe.

10. Two-State Solution or Apartheid State?

Two-State Solution (Oslo Accords 1993):

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- Calls for an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel.
- Undermined by Israeli settlement expansion.

Apartheid Allegations

- Human Rights Watch (2021) and Amnesty International (2022) report that Israel operates an apartheid regime by restricting Palestinian rights.

Conclusion: Future Prospects of The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

1- Gaza's Humanitarian Crisis: Without an end to Israeli airstrikes, the crisis will worsen.

2- Legal Consequences: The ICJ and ICC rulings could pressure Israel into accountability.

3- U.S. Policy Shift: Growing public opposition in the US could impact future aid to Israel.

4- Muslim World's Role: The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) may push for stronger actions.

5- Two-State Solution vs. Apartheid: Israel's expansion policies make a one-state apartheid system more likely.