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Critically evaluate the chances of continuation & expansion of Hamas-Israel war across the region.

1) INTRODUCTION:-

The Israel-Hamas war which is also known as Gaza war is the Arab fifth war of the Gaza-Israel conflict since 2008 and the most significant military engagement in the region since the Yom Kippur war. Since the declaration of war on Oct 7, 2023, it has worried global think tanks on the fear of its engaged global think tanks on the topic that what are the chances of continuation and expansion of this war across the region. This discussion will critically examine the chances of continuation and expansion of Hamas-Israel war across the region. Firstly, the factors that increase the chances of <sup>continuation</sup> expansion of this war across the region are direct confrontation from the between Israel and Iran if the proxies of Iran further exacerbate its operations against Israel and if Israel operation against the Iran proxies endangers Iran's National interests. In addition to this, the Direct confrontation of Iran and Israel can lead to a chain reaction which can involve all the Arab states like Egypt, Iraq, Qatar, Lebanon, Yemen, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. However, there are also factors that are reducing the chances of continuation

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and expansion over region like International pressure to deescalate, fear of Isolation from Iran's side and it's overall detrimental for the interest of Nations and region.

## 2. chances of continuation and expansion of war across the Region:-

There are chances of continuation of Israel-Palestinian war with chances of expansion of this war all across the region, the detail of which is mentioned below:-

### 1. Chances of Direct Iran - Israel confrontation:-

There are chances that Israel war on Gaza can lead to direct confrontation with Iran. Iran is an authoritarian regime who aims to establish its influence all over the region, due to which it has increased its proxies network which are in countries like Lebanon, Iraq, Gaza, and Yemen who are attacking launching attack on Israel and US bases, if these attacks exacerbate it can lead to direct attack confrontation between these two Iran and Israel. Furthermore, if Iran feels recently Israel has assassinated Ismail Haniya in Iran which resulted in direct retaliation from Iran. Moreover, if Iran feels like that Israel and USA are harming its interests in the region there are chances that Iran in order to protect its interest can enter into direct war with Israel.



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## (2) Egypt's involvements

Egypt economy is hurting because of decrease in income/revenue from Suez canal transit fees due to Youti rebel attacks in the Red Sea. Moreover, influx of refugees caused to crisis in Egypt further hurting its economy. We have recently observed that in retaliatory strikes launched by Iran Egypt along with Jordan, Saudi Arabia and UAE protected Israel. This shows that Egypt has high chances of involvement in case of any exercise that harms its interest National interest and will most probably fight on the side of Israel.

(3) Iraq:- In Iraq Iran is having a significant influence in Iraq and Iran's proxies in the form of popular mobilization forces and other Shiite militant groups who have been attacking US bases in Iraq. In case Iran gets into direct confrontation with Israel there are high chances that Iraq will also intervene.

(4) Qatar:- Iran is having a major influence in Qatar as it helped protect the government of Bashar-al-Assad during the civil war of 2011. In case Iran gets into direct confrontation with Israel, Qatar will be left with no choice but to participate in this regional war.

(c) Fear of United States - United States unlimited support towards Israel will discourage any escalation from the side of Arab states. Thus, United States support for Israel will reduce the chances of regional spillover.

(d) Harm the interest of all the nations:- National interests and geopolitical interest will stop any expansion of this conflict as it will harm all the nations and will destabilize the region. This will be harmful for Saudi Arabia's vision 2030, Egypt's economy and for the economies of all the other Arab nations. Moreover, Israel wants to keep its primary focus on Ham and in gaining full control over the territories of Gaza, any further war will regional states will divert its focus from this cause.

(e) Arabs fear of repeating the history:- Arabs states are hesitant in taking any military actions due to the previous failure of 1967 and 1973 wars which resulted in significant losses for Arab states and adverse repercussions for Palestine.

3) Conclusion:- To summarise our above mentioned discussion it is evident that in case of Direct Iran and Israel confrontation all the nations will be caught in the fire of this conflict but there are less chances of this because of international pressure for de-escalation, Iran's fear of isolation and United States' biased support for Israel.



Moreover, the conflict is harmful for the economic and security interest of all the Arab nations.

In And last but not the least few repeating the similar outcomes as that of 1948, 1967 and 1973 wars are all reducing the chances of continuation and expansion of his war in the region.