

## G.K (II) Current Affairs.

Q Gaza Human crises....?

Ans: Introduction:

The Gaza crisis has a long and complex history, spanning over a century. Here is a detailed note on the key events that happened and led to the current situation.

### Early History (1917-1948):

Gaza was part of the Ottoman empire, then became a British mandate territory after World War I. After that, Jewish immigration to Palestine increased, leading to tensions among Arab populations. The United Nations proposed the 1947 partition plan, dividing Palestine into Jewish and Arab states, with Gaza allocated to the Arab state.

### Establishment of Israel and Refugee crisis (1948-1967):

Israel declared independence in 1948, leading to the Arab-Israeli

conflict. Gaza was occupied by Egypt, and hundreds of thousands of Palestinians fled; or were forced to leave their homes, becoming refugees. The Gaza strip became a hub for Palestinian nationalism and resistance.

### Israeli Occupation (1967-Present)

Israeli captured Gaza from Egypt in the 1967 six-Day War and has maintained military occupation since. Settlements and military infrastructure was established, leading to land confiscation and restrictions on Palestinian movement. The Palestinian national movement intensified, with various factions emerging, including Hamas.

### Oslo Accords and Palestinian Authority (1993-2007):

The Oslo Accords aimed to establish a framework of peace, leading to creation of the Palestinian

authority (P.A). Gaza was a key area of focus, with the PA assuming administrative control. However, the peace process stalled, and Israel maintained significant control over Gaza's borders, airspace, and resources.

### Hamas rise and Israeli Blockade: (2007-Present)

Hamas won the 2006 Palestinian legislative elections and took control of Gaza in 2007. Israel imposed a blockade on Gaza, restricting goods and movement, citing security concerns. Multiple conflicts have occurred, including 'Operation Cast Lead' (2008-2009), Operation Pillar of Defence (2012), and Operation Protective Edge (2014).

### Recent Developments (2018-present):

The Great March of Return protests began in 2018, with Palestinians demanding an end to the blockade and right of return. Gaza's

humanitarian situation has deteriorated, with high unemployment, poverty and limited access to basic services like electricity and water. The USA recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital in 2017, sparking widespread international condemnation. The international criminal court launched a war crimes investigation into alleged Israeli crimes in Gaza in 2020. However, USA, often considered as champion of human rights, has been criticized for its perceived silence on the issue.

### Reasons for U.S. silence:

#### 1) Strong diplomatic ties with Israel:

The US has a long-standing strategic alliance with Israel, based on shared interests, security concerns, and historical ties. This relationship can make it difficult for the US to publicly criticize Israel's actions.

#### 2) Strategic interests in the region:

The US has strategic interests

in the middle East, including maintaining stability, ensuring the free flow of oil, and countering extremist groups. The US may prioritize these interests over human rights concerns.

#### iv) **Fear of being seen as biased against Israel:**

The US has been historically a strong supporter of Israel, and some politicians may be hesitant to criticize Israel's actions due to concerns about being perceived as biased or anti-Israel.

#### **Impact on US relations with the Muslim world:**

##### i) **Eroding trust:**

The US may be seen as hypocritical on human rights issues, leading to a loss of credibility and trust among Muslims majority countries. This can damage diplomatic relationships and hinder cooperation on other issues.

##### ii) **Perceived complicity:**

The US may be viewed as complicit in Israel's actions, further straining

relations with Muslim nations. This perception can fuel anti-American sentiment and extremism.

### iii) Increased anti-American sentiment:

The perception of US in action may fuel anti-American sentiment and extremism in the region, potentially leading to increased violence and instability.

### iv) Diplomatic fallout:

Muslim-majority countries may reevaluate their diplomatic relationships with the US, potentially leading to:

- Reduced cooperation on counter-terrorism efforts.
- Decreased economic investment and trade.
- Increased cooperation with other global powers such as China or Russia.

### v) Loss of moral authority:

The US may be seen as abandoning its values and principles, damaging its reputation as a champion of human rights and democracy. This

can undermine US leadership and influence globally.

### Conclusion:

By acknowledging and addressing these impacts, the US can work towards rebuilding trust, promoting a more balanced approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and upholding its values of human rights and Justice.

Q4 Critically evaluate the drop scene  
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Ans: The on-going Russia-Ukraine war is a complex and fluid situation, making it challenging to predict outcome.

### Background:

Ukraine has long played a crucial role in global security, and the conflict is seen as renewed rivalry of the major world powers. Ukraine was a vital part of Soviet Union during the coldwar, and its decision to leave in 1991

contributed to the collapse of the Soviet Union. Following independence, Ukraine attempted to establish itself as a sovereign state and forge connections with western organizations such as the EU and NATO. Ukraine became the battleground in 2014 when Russia seized Crimea and began supporting separatists in the Donbas area. Russia's takeover of Crimea was the first time a European state had taken land from another since World War II. Between 2014 and 2021, more than 14000 people died in the Donbas war, making it Europe's bloodiest conflict since the Balkan Wars of 1990s. Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, aiming to overthrow the Government of Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who was aligned with the west. The invasion was seen as a significant turning point for European security and a miscalculation by Russian



President Vladimir Putin. The conflict has resulted in widespread humanitarian crises, and many fear that Russia may use nuclear power as weapons.

### Current Situation:

Russia has been supporting separatist groups in eastern Ukraine since 2014, leading to an on-going conflict in the Donbas region. In February 2022, Russia launched a large-scale invasion of Ukraine, which has resulted in significant fighting and humanitarian crises. Ukraine has received support from the international community including NATO in the form of military aid and diplomatic support.

### NATO's Involvement:

NATO has been providing military aid to Ukraine, including weapons and training, to help the country defend itself against Russian aggression. NATO has also been

strengthening its military presence in Eastern Europe, particularly in Poland and the Baltic states, to deter further Russian aggression. However, NATO has been cautious not to directly engage in the conflict, to avoid escalating the situation and to maintain a diplomatic solution.

### Russia's Involvement:

Russia has been using its military might to try to gain control over Ukraine territory, particularly in East and South. Russia has also been using disinformation and propaganda campaigns to influence public opinion and undermine Ukraine's Government. Russia's ultimate goal is to maintain control over Ukraine and prevent it from joining NATO and the EU.

### Dominance in Ukraine:

In the short term, Russia's military might and current control over some Ukrainian territory give it an

advantage. However, Ukraine's determination to resist Russian aggression, combined with NATO's support, could lead to a stalemate or even a Ukraine counter-offensive. In long-term, NATO's support and Ukraine's resilience could lead to a negotiated settlement that favours Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

### Conclusion:

The outcome of the Russian-Ukraine war is uncertain and dependent on various factors, including the effectiveness of NATO's support, Russia's military strategy, and the diplomatic efforts of the international community. While Russia has an advantage in terms of military might, Ukraine's determination and NATO's support could lead to a negotiated settlement that favours Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. A diplomatic solution is needed.

which addresses the underlying issues driving the conflict is crucial to preventing further escalation and promoting regional stability.