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MOCK EXAM # 01

(ENGLISH ESSAY)

"THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT:  
DAVID VS GOLIATH"

Outlines:

1- Introduction

- Brief overview of Israel-Palestine conflict
- Importance and complications of conflict

2- Historical Background

- Early history: Pre-20<sup>th</sup> century context
- British mandate period and Balfour Declaration
- Partition Plan of 1947 and creation of Israel
- Palestinian displacement and creation of refugee crisis

3- Key Events and Phases

- 1948 war of Independence (Nakba)
- Suez Crisis (1956) and Six-Day war (1967)
- First and Second Intifadas (1987, 2000)
- Gaza wars and conflicts in recent decades.



#### 4- Underlying Causes:

- Territorial disputes: Borders, settlements and land ownership
- Security concerns: Terrorism, military operations and defense
- Nationalism and identity: Jewish statehood vs. Palestinian statehood
- Religious and cultural significance: Jerusalem and Holy sites

#### 5- Major Stakeholders:

- Israel: Government policies, military actions and settlements
- Palestinians: Nationalist movements, political movements, governance challenges
- International community: Role of UN, US, EU and regional actors (Arab League)

#### 6- International Perspectives:

- UN resolution and peace perspective
- US involvement and diplomatic efforts
- European Union and humanitarian aid
- Arab states' influence

#### 7- Challenges to Resolution

#### 8- Prospects for Peace and Resolution

#### 9- Conclusion.



The Israel-Palestine conflict stands as one of most enduring and deeply entrenched disputes in modern history, making a continuous source of tension and instability in Middle East. Rooted in a complex web of historical grievances, territorial disputes and conflicting national aspirations, this conflict has defied numerous attempts at resolution and has far-reaching implications for regional and global stability.

## Historical Background:

The roots of conflict can be traced back to early 20<sup>th</sup> century, with collapse of Ottoman Empire and subsequent British mandate in Palestine. The Balfour Declaration of 1917, which endorsed establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine, set the stage for increased Jewish immigration and Arab resistance. The 1947 UN Partition Plan aimed to divide Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states, leading to the establishment of state of Israel in 1948 and displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians - a pivotal event known as Nakba,



## Key Events and Phases:

The conflict has witnessed numerous wars and uprisings, including 1948 war of Independence, the Six-Day War in 1967 resulting in Israeli occupation of East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza Strip and subsequent intifadas (uprisings) in 1987 and 2000, marked by violent confrontations and mass protests. Ongoing military operations in Gaza and recurrent cycles of violence have perpetuated suffering and deepened animosities on both sides.

## Underlying Causes:

Territorial disputes over land, borders and settlements remain central to conflict, exacerbated by competing claims to Jerusalem - significant to both Jews and Muslims as a religious and cultural center. Security concerns stemming from terrorism and military operations have further fueled mutual distrust and perpetuated cycles of retaliation, complicating efforts at peacebuilding and reconciliation.



## Major Stakeholders:

The primary stakeholders include State of Israel, asserting its right to security and self-determination and the Palestinian people, advocating for statehood and the right of return for refugees. The international community, represented by UN, US, European Union and Arab states, plays a crucial role in mediating negotiation and providing humanitarian aid to alleviate suffering of civilians affected by conflicts.

## International Perspectives:

Efforts at mediation and peace negotiations have been ongoing for decades, with UN proposing resolutions for a two-state solution based on pre-1967 borders. The United States has historically played a key role as a mediator, though its approach has shifted under different administrations. The European Union has emphasized diplomacy, economic aid, and support for Palestinian state-building efforts, while Arab states have shown solidarity with Palestinian cause but vary in their degrees



of engagement and support.

## Challenges to Resolution:

The road to peace remains fraught with challenges, including political deadlock, entrenched nationalism, and influence of extremist groups opposed to compromise. Humanitarian crisis, exacerbated by poverty, unemployment and restricted access to basic services, continue to rise tensions and undermine efforts at reconciliation. Geopolitical dynamics, including regional rivalries and external influences from countries such as Iran and Saudi Arabia, further complicate prospects for peace.

## Prospects for Peace and Resolution:

Despite these challenges, opportunities for peace persist, primarily through a negotiated two-state solution that addresses the legitimate aspirations of both Israelis and Palestinians for security, self-determination and sovereignty. Such a solution would require renewed commitment



to dialogue, mutual recognition, and compromise on issues such as borders, settlements and status of Jerusalem. International mediation efforts, grassroots initiatives and civil society movements advocating for coexistence and reconciliation offer hope for a sustainable and just resolution to conflict.

### Conclusion:

In conclusion, the Israel-Palestine conflict remains a defining issue in geopolitics of Middle East, characterized by its historical complexity, deep-seated grievances, and far-reaching consequences. While path to peace is fraught with challenges, the imperatives for dialogue, compromise and international cooperation cannot be overstated. Only through concerted efforts at reconciliation and a shared commitment to justice and coexistence can aspiration of both Israelis and Palestinians for a secure and prosperous future be realized.