

# Essay:

## The Israel-Palestine

### Conflict: David VS Goliath

---

#### Outline

#### 1. Introduction

- a. Hook statement
- b. Explanation of the "David VS Goliath" analogy.
- c. Thesis Statement: Achieving peace in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict hinges on addressing historical grievances, ensuring mutual security, and upholding international principles of Justice and self-determination.

#### 2. Historical Context:

- A. Origin of the conflict
- B. Key historical milestones:
  - a. Balfour Declaration (1917)
  - b. United Nation Partition plan (1947)

- c. Arab-Israeli wars (1948, 1967, 1973)
- d. Oslo Accords (1993-95)

### 3. Power Dynamics

#### Military Capabilities

- a. Israel's military: Strength and support from allies (eg US)
- b. Palestinian armed groups (e.g. Hamas, Islamic Jihad)

### 4. Failure of Israel Defence System

### 5. Netanyahu wanted another 9/11

### 6. Palestinian tunnel warfare in the Gaza strip

### 7. Humanitarian Impact

- a. Living conditions in Gaza and WB
- b. Casualties and human rights violation
- c. Psychological and social impact on both population

### 8. Efforts of Peace

a. Camp David Accords

b. Role of international organization  
Recent escalations and ceasefires

## 8. Conclusion

### The Essay

"The excessive use of force creates legitimacy problems, and force without legitimacy leads to defiance, not submission" by Malcolm Gladwell. When a power employs too much force, it loses legitimacy in the eyes of the people. In the Israel-Palestine conflict, Israel's heavy-handed tactics cause Palestinians to resist more, not submit. The biblical story of David and Goliath is often used to describe the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Prior to Six-Day War, Israel was described by many in the

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is an ongoing military and political conflict about land and self-determination within the territory of the former mandatory Palestine. The conflict has its origins in the rise of Zionism in Europe and the arrival of Jewish settlers to Ottoman Palestine in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. When the British Mandate was granted in 1919, British rule began in Palestine. This period was filled with conflicts and violence. The Arab population, who made up the majority, strongly opposed the Jewish settlers' claim to their land. Some Arabs launched aggressive attacks against Jewish people, targeting their homes and businesses and earned the title Goliath. The Jewish community felt that the British authorities were not providing

protection, so they formed local defence groups called the Haganah to safeguard their communities. As time went on, the Haganah transformed into a paramilitary organization, offering military training and acquiring weapons from Europe.

The Zionist movement garnered the support of an imperial power in 1917 Balfour Declaration issued by Britain, which promised to support the creation of a "Jewish homeland in Palestine". Increasing Jewish Immigration led to tensions between Jews and Arabs which grew into intercommunal conflict. In 1936, an Arab revolt erupted demanding independence, which the British suppressed. The 1947 United Nation Partition Plan for Palestine triggered the 1948 Palestine war, which saw the expulsion and flight of most Palestinian Arabs.

In the 1967 Six-Day war, Israel occupied the West Bank and the Gaza strip. The conflict has claimed many casualties mostly Palestinian since its inception. Progress towards a negotiated solution between the Israel govt and the Palestinian Liberation organization (PLO) was made with the OSLO Accords of 1993-1995. The majority of recent peace efforts have been centered around the two-state solution. Hamas and Israel have fought five wars, the most recent of which began in Oct 2023 and is ongoing as of July 2024.

Israel has one of the world's most powerful militaries, bolstered by more than \$3.8bn of military aid a year from the US. Israel operates a vast military apparatus. According to the International Institute for

Strategic Studies (IISS) Military Balance 2023, Israel has 169,500 active military personnel in the army, navy and paramilitary. A further 465,000 constitute its reserve forces, while 8,000 form part of its paramilitary. Some 300,000 Israeli soldiers are now stationed near the Gaza strip. Israel is also believed to hold unclear capabilities, according to the IISS, which states that the country possesses Jericho missiles and air craft capable of carrying nuclear warheads. The United States has firmly backed Israel in its war against Hamas and sent its closest ally in the Middle East guided-missile carriers and F-35 fighters as well as other military equipment. Maintaining Israel's regional military hegemony is a core element of the United States' Middle East policy.

This has been achieved by US funding and an increasing Israeli military arsenal. Israel is the most significant recipient of US foreign aid, having received some \$263bn between 1946 and 2023.

The Palestinian Territories, embroiled in a long-standing conflict with Israel, have seen the rise of various Palestinian resistance groups that have formed a significant part of their military power. While these groups lack the resources, infrastructure, and conventional armies of nation-states, they have displayed resilience and determination in their struggle for self-determination. Palestinian militant groups, including Hamas and Islamic Jihad, have fewer manpower resources compared to the Israeli army. Hamas, with reported fighters ranging from 10,000 to nearly

40,000, has acquired arms and weapons, including drones, anti-tank missiles, and rockets. Unlike Israel, Palestinians lack an indigenous defence industry, relying on external sources for military equipment. The Palestinian Authority's security forces, created under the Oslo Peace Accords, don't play a military role and have approximately 83,000 personnel. Palestinian groups receive support from countries like Iran and Syria for weaponry.

It was in 1973, that Israel border was over-whelmingly crossed, by Egypt. By then it was Egyptian tanks but recently it was by Hamas fighters (non state actor). The Iron Dome that is the air defence system of Israel significantly failed to intercept majority of them missiles fired by the Hamas.

According to IDF, The Iron Dome is a part of Israel's defence system. It is designed to shoot down incoming rockets. Developed between 2007 & 2011, The dome has a success rate of 95.6%. This system was installed on the border with Lebanon to counter the attack of Hezbollah & the border with Gaza to counter the attack of Hamas. Whereas, Hamas fired more than 5000 missiles, while the Iron Dome couldn't intercept more than 50% of the mortars, which successfully hit the targets. The border of Israel with Gaza called to be the most protected and technology equipped & well-constructed wall having concrete base on more than 3m under the ground. Hamas bulldozers not only bulldozed the wall but also the camera system installed were intercepted. The Iran based drones used by the fighters. This provide Hamas fighters to enter into Israel.

territories & inflict losses in Israel in magnitude. It was an outright intelligence failure of Mosad, the intelligence agency of Israel. Every export and import into Gaza are made through the two crossings; on the border with Israel. This entry & exist strongly monitored by Israel. There is a ban on the entry of cement, steel etc into Gaza. The question here is that, how come Hamas made a such big entry of weapon in Gaza. Even more surprising is the fact that Hamas continue the training for more than 6 months to execute its plan. It is beyond comprehension how such a big activity could be intercepted by intelligence agency of Israel.

A vast network of underground tunnels used for smuggling and warfare exists in the Gaza Strip. This

This infrastructure runs throughout the Gaza strip and towards Egypt and Israel, and has been developed by Hamas and other Palestinian military organizations to facilitate the storing and shielding of weapons; the gathering and moving of fighters, including for training and communication purposes; the launching of offensive attacks against Israel; and the transportation of Israeli hostages. On several occasions, Palestinian militants have also used this tunnel network, which is colloquially referred to as the Gaza metro, to infiltrate Israel and Egypt while masking their presence and activities within the Gaza strip itself. According to Iranian military officer Hassan Hassanzadeh, who commands the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps from Tehran, the Gaza

Strip's tunnels run for more than 500 kilometres throughout the territory.

Netanyahu wanted another 9/11; Hezbollah on one hand & Hamas on the other hand have been the two major headaches for Tel Aviv. Netanyahu always wanted to neutralize Hamas both politically & military. This was not possible without the ground invasion of Gaza by Israeli troops. This couldn't have happened without projecting Israel as a victim & Hamas as a terrorist organization. It is highly surprising that such a big activity couldn't be detected by the intelligence agency of Israel. In spite of the fact that Egypt repeatedly warns Israel of something bigger planned by Hamas against Israel. Furthermore, Israel assessed every member of UN security council to support its resolution of attacking Hamas in Gaza.

under self defence. Though the idea  
oppose by china & Russia but Israel  
clearly reveals its intentions that  
it wants a ground invasion of  
Gaza. The military strategy of  
Israel clearly signifies its intentions.  
Whenever a force plans to make  
forward advancement, it first  
heavily bombards the area through  
its jet bombers & artillery. The  
next phase is the entry of tanks  
into the area. Infantry or the  
ground force enters in the last.  
Same strategy was adopted,  
it has dropped down more bombs  
on Gaza than US dropped on Iraq  
in 2003 or on Japan in 1940s. Is-  
raeli tanks are seen in every  
part of North Gaza.

The world experienced  
many deadliest wars like WW1,  
World War 2, Iran-Iraq war,  
Ukraine war, numerous Arab-  
Israel wars but this attack

of Israel on Gaza has crossed every limits. Israel has dropped down more bombs on the narrow strip of Gaza since Oct 7, 2023 as US dropped on Iraq in 2003 and Japan in 1940s. Israeli and American surface weapons have killed 37,000 people in Gaza, whereas, 10,000 people are buried under the rubble and about 40,000 Palestinians are injured. Electricity, water supply, food and fuel supply remained suspended in the area. More than 40 days, any kind of food, medicine, and other aid was not allowed to enter in Gaza as Israel was not ready to ceasefire or even for humanitarian pauses. According to The Integrated Food Security Phase classification (IPC), "that half the population is struggling with catastrophic hunger and famine is imminent in

northern parts of Gaza. This turned the world largest open-air prison into a hell. Netanyahu and his govt - have been involved in the heinous war crimes. The losses and trauma from the war are taking a heavily toll on the mental health and well being of children of Gaza and Israel - with long term effects on their development. Psychological care is crucial to avert long-term trauma.

The ultimate goal of the Camp David Accords was to establish a framework for peace in the Middle East by formalizing Arab recognition of Israel's right to exist, developing a procedure for the withdrawal of Israeli forces and citizens from the so-called "Occupied Territories" of the West Bank and taking steps to safeguard Israel's security.

The UN Security Council has called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. It is the first time the (US) council has called for a ceasefire since the war began in October after several failed attempts. In an unusually strong rebuke, a statement from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said the US had "abandoned" its previous position which had directly linked a ceasefire to a hostage release.

In conclusion, the Israel-Palestine conflict, often depicted as a David vs Goliath struggle, presents a multifaceted and deeply rooted challenge that defies simplistic interpretations. The evident asymmetry in power and resources, with Israel holding significant military and economic advantages, contrasts sharply with the resilience and persistent

aspirations of the Palestinian people for self-determination and justice. This enduring conflict is a testament to the intricate interplay of historical grievances, territorial disputes, and deeply ingrained cultural narratives. Achieving a sustainable resolution requires acknowledging the legitimate aspirations of both Israeli and Palestinians, fostering dialogue, and pursuing equitable solutions that honor the humanity and rights of all involved. Only through such an inclusive and empathetic approach can the path towards peace and coexistence be realized.

---