Israel-Palestine Conflict: A Retrospective Analysis from Origins to the Present Day and Prospects for the Future

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Abstract

This article examines the conflict between Israel and Palestine, one of the most complex and sensitive issues in modern history, through a retrospective analysis focused on historical sources, political dynamics, and the influence of international factors. For nearly 8 decades, this conflict has caused great international tensions and has sparked intense debates on international law and interventions to resolve it. The article focuses on the most influential events starting from the Ottoman Empire period, the beginnings of Jewish immigration, and the historical, political, and social developments that have led to the shaping of the current conflict. Key points include the declaration of the state of Israel, the Arab-Israeli wars, the Palestinian intifadas, and peace efforts such as the Oslo Accords. The period after 2000 is particularly addressed, analyzing the division between Hamas and Fatah, the successive conflicts in the Gaza Strip, and the deepening humanitarian crisis. The article aims to analyze the role of the international community and international law mechanisms in the efforts to resolve this conflict. Emphasis is placed on the role of the international community, highlighting the US support for Israel, the diplomatic efforts of the European Union and the contribution of international organizations to peace processes and the protection of human rights. Through a retrospective and comparative analysis, the complexity of the factors that fuel the conflict and the major challenges that hinder the possibilities for achieving lasting peace are highlighted. Through the analysis of historical, legal and political sources, this article aims to provide a deeper understanding of the nature of the conflict and to identify the main challenges and opportunities for achieving a lasting solution. In conclusion, it is emphasized that military conflicts and partial agreements have failed to provide a complete solution. Only a comprehensive process, which respects the right to self-determination and guarantees security for both peoples, can bring about lasting peace. The article suggests possibilities for a new international engagement and more effective diplomacy that could bring about a "long-term solution" accepted by both sides.

Keywords: *Israel, Palestine, Zionism, Arab-Israeli war, diplomacy, international law*

1. Introduction

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is one of the most complex, intricate and longest-running conflicts in modern history. The origins of the conflict can be traced back to the colonial period. Under the British Mandate, it deepened into a war that affected millions of lives. For almost a century, this situation has had major consequences for politics, economics and society in the Middle East and beyond (Gelvin J. L., 2020). This conflict, which has become a "Gordian knot", has witnessed the involvement of various stakeholders, shaping Middle Eastern politics and significantly influencing the system of international relations in different eras. Despite being presented as a dispute between two peoples over the division of land possessions with each other, in our opinion, the conflict between Israel and Palestine is the product of the combination of national, religious, historical and geopolitical interests *(The First Write, 2025)*.

At its core, the conflict is characterized by systematic practices of a colonial nature by Israel, which aim to displace the Palestinian population, which has fueled a spirit of resistance *(The First Write, 2025)*. Recent events, starting with the Hamas attacks on 7 October 2023 and the Israeli attack on Gaza, which have demonstrated the disproportionate use of force against civilians and included the deliberate targeting of hospitals, public buildings and civilian residential areas, must be understood in the context of the long and complex history of the conflict *(Elmali, 2024)*.

This paper will focus on historical factors, the influence of major powers, changes in Israeli and Palestinian societies, as well as peace efforts and the challenges that have accompanied them. Only by knowing history can we understand the complexity of the present and the possibilities for a future with all its reflections.

The purpose of the paper is to provide a retrospective analysis of the conflict's journey from its origins to the present day and the prospects for peace for the future. By examining key historical events, political decisions, and military developments, we will aim to understand not only what happened, but also why it happened and how it affects the future of the region and the world at large *(The First Write, 2025)*. It also addresses recent political, social, and humanitarian dynamics in the region.

The importance of this study lies in examining the origins and dynamics of the conflict over the years, the actions taken by the main actors such as Israel, the Palestinian Authority and other groups involved. Another aspect of interest is the analysis of the role of international interventions and peace efforts including the contribution of the United Nations, the United States, the European Union and the Arab League.

The analysis of these aspects serves to create a deeper picture of the current challenges and to suggest possible options for a sustainable long-term solution between the two parties. An important element in the paper is the treatment of the legal aspect of the role of the International Criminal Court in addressing war crimes and establishing justice for the civilian population (Duffy & Pinzauti, 2023). In summary, the purpose of all the aspects presented is to enable the understanding of the conflict between Israel and Palestine as well as to suggest possible ways in which to analyze future scenarios as they may affect the conflict resolution process. The conflict involves a number of complex issues between the two parties including the claim of territories, refugee rights, the status of Jerusalem and the security of the civilian population.

2. Methodology of the Study

This paper has been carried out using a qualitative methodology, accompanied by historical analysis and critical study of primary and secondary sources. A chronological order has been followed to present the key points that shape the conflict from the period of the Ottoman Empire to the present day, highlighting the main developments and factors of the conflict. In function of this, historical documents, international resolutions, political statements and analyses of various international scholars and organizations have been analyzed in order to reflect the events as clearly as possible.

In this way, it is important to use an interdisciplinary approach to provide a complete explanation of the conflict with concepts from history, political science, international relations and human rights studies. Among other things, the methodological approach has been built based on comparative and analytical principles. Different phases of the conflict have been compared, in order to identify the positions, divisions of the parties and the role of external factors. While through the critical approach, it was intended to highlight the influence of political, ideological and geopolitical interests on the way the conflict was treated and perceived.

2.1 Origin of the conflict: Jewish immigration from the Ottoman Empire to the British mandate

The various contradictions between Israel and Palestine have a dramatic way of fighting over the historical, political, cultural, religious, territorial claims put forward by each side. At its core it has been and continues to be a conflict that fights and fights over competing claims for territory and the right to self-determination within the territory of Palestine. In order to keep the conflict in touch, it is a matter of analyzing the historical reality in Palestine before the birth of nationalist and nationalist movements in Europe (Segal, 2019).

During the Ottoman Empire (1516-1917), Palestine was a peripheral province, with a diverse ethnic population, but with a Muslim majority (Biger, 2008). The Jews were settled in small groups in some of the cities of the time such as: Jerusalem, Safad, Hebron, Tiberias etc., without conflicts with their Arab neighbors. The end of the 19th century was characterized by the birth of modern European nationalisms, making them vital currents for their goals (Gelvin J. L., 2020). During this period, The Zionist Movement was born, which is considered the starting point of the Israel-Palestine conflict. The political aspect of Zionism was created by the movement's pioneer, the Austrian-Jewish activist Theodor Herzl, whose ideological vision, marked by strong nationalist features, centered on the creation and consolidation of a Jewish state in their ancestral homeland located in the region of Palestine*(Britanica, 2024)*. Due to historical developments in the ancient period, they lost their territories and were scattered in different areas of the globe without having a state of their own *(Britanica, 2024)*.

In addition to the creation of a state, Zionism saw the need for the mass migration of Jews from Europe and other parts of the world to Palestine, in order to constitute a majority population in relation to the palestinians. The first waves of Jewish immigrants began in the late 1880s and increased significantly over time. Jews led by Zionists bought land from Arab owners, often non-local residents, and began to establish agricultural colonies (Biger, 2008). This began to cause tensions with Palestinian villagers who were losing their lands or felt threatened by the growing presence of settlers. In the Zionist view, Jews are first and foremost a people, a nation, not a religion, and as such, like other nations, deserve their own homeland and state sovereignty (Hänel, 2023). In response, Arab states opposed the Zionist aims due to fears of displacement and territorial expropriation (Morris, 2008).The establishment of a Jewish state gained significant momentum during World War I, particularly in 1917, when British forces occupied Palestine after the defeat of the Ottoman Empire (Smith, Hadfield, & Dunne, 2012). Thus, the Zionist movement scored its first victory with the support of a power of the time, which pledged to create a "national home" in Palestine *(Le Monde, 2023)*with what is known as the Balfour Declaration.

This declaration, issued by the British government on 2 November 1917, was a decisive step in international support for the Zionist movement and had major consequences for the development of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Although the British administered Palestine for a short period from 1916 to 1937, its influence was substantial. The British were more involved than any other foreign power in the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine and in the definition of its borders. But on the other hand, they also stated that the rights of the Palestinian Arabs already living there should be protected (Biger, 2008), not defining the status of the Arab population, which represented the majority.

In early 1920, the League of Nations formally placed Palestine under British mandate, granting Britain legal authority to administer the territory.During this time, Zionists tried to argue at the Paris Peace Conference the need for the creation of a Jewish state, where 15 million Jews scattered in different parts of the globe would gather. The territory where the proposed borders for the Jewish state of 1919 would extend, continues to be considered today as the legitimate border - the "Promised Land" by Israel (Biger, 2008). Alongside these efforts, the Zionists encouraged increased Jewish immigration to Palestine, which was followed by increased intercommunal tensions between Jews and Arabs (Khalidi, 2020). It is worth noting that during the late Ottoman period and the beginning of the British Mandate, Zionists and Arabs did not absolutely hate each other. They were people with varying levels of fears, aspirations, and commitments to their communities, people influenced by a variety of external forces (Stein, 1991). However, Arab nationalism or Pan-Arabism had begun to develop (Britannica, 2020).The Arab population began to see Jewish immigration not only as an economic phenomenon, but also as a political and cultural threat. The course of events would further deepen this division. Between 1920 and 1933, the number of Jews arriving doubled, as a result of Zionist volunteerism encouraged by the British authorities *(Le Monde, 2023)*. Tensions quickly escalated. Revolts and armed conflicts, such as the Great Arab Revolt of 1936–1939, were a sign of Palestinian resistance to continued Jewish immigration and British colonial policies (Gelvin J. L., 2020).

Efforts to boost Jewish immigration to Palestine were also influenced by an agreement between the Zionist Movement and the Nazi regime in 1933 *(Le Monde, 2023)*. Little known, the Haavara agreement or treaty enabled the transfer of Jewish immigrants to Palestine at a time when anti-Semitism was just beginning to take root in Germany and

beyond. Approximately 50,000 Jews immigrated to Palestine under this agreement between 1933 and 1939.The Jewish Agency facilitated the transfer of both people and capital to British Mandate Palestine, enabling Jewish immigrants to recover the value of their assets, held in escrow accounts in Germany, through an arrangement that exchanged those funds for exported German goods *(Le Monde, 2023)*. For Nolte (2008) the signing of the Haavara Treaty by the Nazis favored the Jewish colonization of Palestine more than any other state.

However, it should be emphasized that the final impetus for the creation of the state of Israel came as a result of anti-Semitism and the mass extermination of Jews by Nazi Germany before and during World War II. The murder of six million Jews brought about an increased demand for a safe haven, which led to the growth of the Jewish population to 630,000 inhabitants, a little more than 30% of the population, by 1947. In this context, the circumstances faced by the Jewish population effectively compelled widespread acceptance of the Zionist doctrine among Jews, while the movement gained broad international support as a result of the unimaginable suffering endured by the Jewish people (Smith, Hadfield, & Dunne, 2012; Duroselle & Kaspi, 2011). Another influential factor was the increase in violence between Jews and Arabs, executions carried out by Israeli groups, and opposition to British policies. Since no solution was being reached, the situation prompted the British to hand over the Israeli-Palestinian question to the United Nations in late 1948 (Duroselle & Kaspi, 2011; Gelvin J. L., 2020).

3. UN Intervention and the Creation of the State of Israel (1947-1949)

The General Assembly decided to establish a commission of inquiry, with representatives from 11 countries, which issued a report aimed at providing a solution to the problem.In 29 November 1947, based on the commission's recommendations, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution No. 181 with 33 votes in favor, 13 against and 10 abstentions*(Duroselle & Kaspi, 2011)*. This allowed the implementation of the plan to partition the state of Palestine into an Arab state and a new Israeli state, and to grant Jerusalem international status(Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2024). The British mandate would end in 2 years, when both these states would become independent (Duroselle & Kaspi, 2011). Despite the fact that this decision was opposed by Palestine and neighboring Arab states, their demands were not taken into account, leading not only to the outbreak of war, but also to the start of a conflict that continues to this day (Morris, 2008). From this moment on, the conflict begins to expand beyond the clash between Israelis and Palestinians, including several Arab states, which formed the Arab League (Duroselle & Kaspi, 2011). With the entry of these new regional actors into play, we will now refer to these developments as the Arab-Israeli war or wars.

The creation of the state of Israel became a reality on May 14, 1948, when the leader of the World Zionist Organization (WZO), David Ben-Gurion, who would later become Israel's first prime minister, declared independence.The Jews justified the creation of their state based on historical arguments related to the territory they sought.However, the Palestinian population, possessing a centuries-old presence and claim, firmly opposed this course of action.*(BBC, 2025)*. None of the Arab states supported it. They argued that the plan gave the Jews more land, even though their population was smaller(Duroselle & Kaspi, 2011). Immediately after the Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel, the Arab League decided to intervene immediately in former British Palestine, starting the First Arab-Israeli War. By the end of the fighting, the military forces of Egypt, Iraq, Transjordan (Jordan), and Lebanon were defeated by the Israel Defense Forces. During this conflict, Israel lobbied for military aid as well as political support from the West (Biger, 2008). The war resulted in the signing of armistice agreements in 1949 with Israel retaining most of the territory formerly under the former British mandate, and even gaining more land than the UN plan had envisaged. Jordan occupied and later annexed the West Bank of Palestine, while Egypt took the Gaza Strip, where a form of government influenced by the former Mufti of Jerusalem, Hajj Amin al-Hussein, operated. The Palestinian population was the most affected, with nearly 750,000 inhabitants expelled or displaced from territories now controlled by Israel(Baum, 2005; Duroselle & Kaspi, 2011; Gelvin J. L., 2020). The origin of the conflict between Israel and Palestine lies in competing claims to a shared homeland, a narrow strip of land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, a territory which both Palestinians and Israelis consider as their own.This clash constitutes the essence of the disagreement between them. However, other important factors such as geopolitical interests, religious belief, cultural identity, etc. have been added to the conflict, which have significantly influenced its escalation and continuation. Another feature is the sense of victimization, a common, or rather permanent element in the narratives of both sides in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, where each side perceives itself as a victim of historical injustices and ongoing violence (Gelvin J. , 2020). Their interpretations have a basis in the civilian and innocent population, but political and religious overtones always distract them from the truth. Victimization has been widely used as a tool to legitimize political and military actions.

3.1 Arab-Israeli Wars and Territorial Expansion (1950-1980)

The declaration of Israeli independence accelerated clashes with Arab countries beyond the territorial framework of Palestine. The foreign policy of Arab countries focused on the dangers and challenges that the existence of the new state of Israel could bring to the legitimacy and security of their political regimes. Although the state of Israel was recognized by most of the world's states, the surrounding Arab states refused to recognize and accept its sovereignty. The Arab League reacted by imposing a diplomatic and economic boycott on the new state immediately after the war. Another reason that Arab states used to justify their position was the problem of Palestinian refugees, considered a direct consequence of the creation of the Israeli state(Gelvin J. , 2020).

It should be noted that tensions in the Middle East developed under the influence of the confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union, within the framework of the Cold War. The importance of the Middle East in the diplomatic field began to increase mainly after 1953. The strategic position of the countries of the Middle East and especially the oil reserves of the Arab countries, are the target of rivalry between the two blocs. The United States intervened through political assistance and indirect alliances, while the Soviet Union exerted influence through continuous support for several countries in the region, sometimes as an ally of Israel or its opponent depending on the circumstances (Duroselle & Kaspi, 2011).Both sides aimed to expand their influence in this key area of the globe, significantly influencing the development and deepening of regional conflicts.

The 1948 war reinforced among Israelis the belief that the threat from their Arab neighbors would always be present. This climate of uncertainty and distrust would play a key role in how both sides would shape their attitudes and reactions in the conflicts that followed. The Arabs believe that Israel aims to establish the borders conceived by the Zionists in 1919, by “conquering” the territories through diplomacy or war (Biger, 2008). But the prevailing view is that Israel is trying to exploit every opportunity to expand its territory. According to this view, this explains the wars waged between them, in which Israel tried to regain “lost territories.”

From the Israeli perspective, wars are a reaction to attacks, to strengthen defensive capabilities by creating a secure line of defense from enemies (Biger, 2008). Also, in the escalation of the conflict between them was the regional leadership, where often the motives of the clashes between them were not the issue of Palestine, but the desire to oppose Israel at all costs. After the war of independence, the region entered a rather depressive period of armed conflicts and political tensions between several Arab states and Israel (Gelvin J. L., 2020). Some of the major wars that shape the basis of Arab-Israeli disputes include:

- **Suez Crisis (1956)**

The Second Arab-Israeli War was sparked by Egyptian President Nasser Hussein's decision to nationalize the Suez Canal Company, an Arab nationalist movement aimed at dealing a blow to Western imperialism at the time. During the Suez Crisis, the French, British, and Israelis worked together against Egypt as three allies. To ease tensions, the United States and the Soviet Union intervened diplomatically, forcing the three allies to withdraw. The Gaza Strip was then placed under the authority of an Egyptian military administrator, making it a de facto military occupation. In 1964, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was founded by Yasser Arafat, which institutionalized the Palestinian movement. The PLO initially adopted armed struggle, but later shifted its orientation toward a diplomatic solution (Duroselle & Kaspi, 2011). It immediately gained the support of most Arab League governments (Smith, Hadfield, & Dunne, 2012). Following the Suez Crisis, Egypt, Jordan, and Syria signed mutual defense pacts in anticipation of a possible mobilization of Israeli troops*(Global Conflict Tracker, 2025)*.

- **Six-Day War (1967)**

The third Arab-Israeli war began as a result of disputes between the parties and Arab nationalist sentiment.The conflict involved Israel, Egypt, Syria, and Jordan, and was initiated when Israel, anticipating a potential assault from Egypt and Syria, carried out a preemptive strike on the Egyptian air force.By the end of the conflict, Israel had seized the Sinai Peninsula and Gaza Strip from Egypt, the majority of the Golan Heights from Syria, and East Jerusalem along with the West Bank from Jordan. As a result, approximately one million Palestinians residing in the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem fell under Israeli control. The Six-Day War not only redrew the geopolitical boundaries of the Middle East but also had profound and lasting consequences for the Palestinian population *(BBC, 2025)*. Meanwhile, the PLO lost its bases in Jordan and most Palestinians were displaced to southern Lebanon *(Middle East Research and Information Project, 2025)*. Although the UN adopted Resolution 242 on the withdrawal from the occupied territories, Israel did not implement the decisions stemming from it (Biger, 2008; UN, 2024). Even international pressure from countries such as the Soviet Union and France did not bring results (Duroselle & Kaspi, 2011). The Israeli occupation of these territories has persisted to the present day, remaining a central issue in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

- **Yom Kippur War (1973)**

In retaliation for the defeats in the Six-Day War, Egypt and Syria launched a surprise attack on Israel on the Jewish holy day. The goal was to retake the Golan Heights and Sinai. After a successful Arab start, Israel regained the advantage and achieved victory (Smith, Hadfield, & Dunne, 2012). The Fourth Arab-Israeli War did not result in significant gains for Egypt, Israel, or Syria, as it allowed Egypt and Syria to negotiate over previously ceded territory. The conclusion of the Yom Kippur War marked the end of the second phase, in which Israel expanded its territory only through war (Biger, 2008). In 1979, representatives from Egypt and Israel signed the Camp David Accords, a peace treaty that ended the thirty-year conflict between Egypt and Israel (Swygart, 2023).While Israel returned the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt as part of the 1979 peace treaty, it unilaterally annexed East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, incorporating them into its territory, a move that remains unrecognized by the majority of the international community *(BBC, 2025)*. Although the Camp David Accords improved relations between Israel and its neighbors, the issue of Palestinian self-determination and self-government remained unresolved*(Global Conflict Tracker, 2025)*.

- **Israel's Invasion of Lebanon (1982-2000)**

To drive out the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and secure its northern border, Israel invaded Lebanon from 1982 to 2000. This occurred after an assassination attempt on one of its diplomats by Palestinians. Initial results for Israel were successful.Most of the Palestinian militants were defeated within a few weeks, as Beirut was occupied and the PLO headquarters were evacuated to Tunisia by Yasser Arafat(Smith, Hadfield, & Dunne, 2012).

- **Iraq attacks Israel (1991)**

The conflict with Israel also involved the regime of Saddam Hussein, who attacked Israel with 39 missiles to provoke its reaction*(The Medialine, 2024)*. The confrontation between them had no further implications.

3.2 The Palestine Liberation Movement and the Intifadas

By the late 1980s, the Palestinian liberation movements had taken on a more organized character. The first civil uprising, known as the Intifada, which broke out in 1987 in response to the ongoing Israeli occupation and violence, was followed by the Second Intifada in 2000, for similar reasons. Both uprisings were led by Palestinian youth and represent important phases of social resistance against the systematic occupation of Gaza and the West Bank. These developments influenced the connection of international awareness to the issue of Palestine and attracted the attention of world public opinion *(Elmali, 2024)*. During this period, Israel tended to defend its interests through diplomacy, avoiding direct war with its opponents.

The First Intifada (1987-1993) began with Palestinian protests following Israel's occupation of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.For Elmali*(2024)* the uprising fueled a collective desire for self-determination. The author further explains that the aim of the uprising was to draw international attention to the Palestinian cause.Also, during the Second Intifada, these objectives were similarly embraced.These events attracted the attention of international powers. In order to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, in 1993, the international community brokered the signing of the Oslo Accords, which aimed to create a form of limited Palestinian governance in the West Bank and Gaza*(Global Conflict Tracker, 2025)*. The agreement aimed to relocate the PLO to the West Bank and Gaza Strip and transform it into the Palestinian National Authority.

The peace process faced significant opposition from radical Islamic elements of Palestinian society such as Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, or from the Israelis, Kach and Kahane (Council on Foreign Relations, 2020). In 1995, the Oslo II Agreement expanded the first agreement, adding provisions mandating Israel's complete withdrawal from 6 cities and 450 towns in the West Bank *(Global Conflict Tracker, 2025)*. This agreement caused protests in Israel that culminated in the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Rabin by a far-right exponent (Jonathan, 2020). this significantly affected the peace process and caused instability(Sela, 2002).

The visit of then Israeli opposition leader Ariel Sharon to the Al-Aqsa Mosque was the catalyst for **the Second Intifada (2000–2005)** *(Global Conflict Tracker, 2025)*. Following this visit, non-violent Palestinian demonstrations erupted, but Israeli forces responded with violence. For approximately five years, the Israeli Zionist narrative framed its actions as "self-defense" against escalating security threats. The Israeli side held that the Palestinians were responsible for disrupting the peace climate fostered by the Oslo and Camp David processes *(Elmali, 2024)*. In 2002, the Israeli government approved the construction of a barrier wall around the West Bank in response, despite objections raised by the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court *(Global Conflict Tracker, 2025)*.

3.3 Hamas and Fatah: Their Role in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

For Gelvin (2020), nationalisms such as Zionism and Palestinian nationalism have played a role and lie at the core of the conflict. Although each nationalism attempts to present itself to the world as a monolithic bloc, defining the conflict in these terms is simplistic, as no movement is homogeneous. Within them, there are profound class, gender, ideological, and generational differences. Their agendas change depending on the situation and do not adhere strictly to their program.

Hamas and Fatah are the two main Palestinian political and militant organizations, each with different ideologies, goals, and methods regarding the Palestinian issue (Tahhan, 2017). The power struggle between them sparked factionalism among Palestinians, which flared when Hamas won the Palestinian Authority parliamentary elections in 2006, toppling the long-ruling Fatah party. As a result, Hamas, by then known as a political and militant movement inspired by the Palestinian Muslim Brotherhood,took control of the Gaza Strip *(Global Conflict Tracker, 2025)*. **Hamas** is an extremist Islamist organization affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood. Its ideology is rooted in political Islam, aiming to establish an Islamic state in historic Palestine, including the state of Israel. Hamas has controlled the Gaza Strip since 2007, maintaining a militant stance against Israel. Following Hamas's electoral victory, the United States, the European Union, and other Western actors refused to recognize the outcome, citing Hamas's designation as a terrorist organization since the late 1990s. The power struggle between Hamas and Fatah soon escalated into violent clashes after Hamas seized control of the Gaza Strip. Between 2006 and 2011, multiple attempts at peace negotiations failed, marked by intermittent conflict and political deadlock, until both factions reached a reconciliation agreement. This paved the way for the formation of a unity government in 2014, in which Fatah agreed to share governance with Hamas*(Global Conflict Tracker, 2025)*.

Fatah, a movement with a nationalist and secular character, was founded by Yasser Arafat and other figures interested in the Palestinian cause. Fatah seeks to create a Palestinian state in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem and has recognized Israel's right to exist. Historically involved in armed conflict, Fatah has since engaged in diplomatic and political efforts, advocating a two-state solution. It is not designated a terrorist organization. Fatah dominates the Palestinian Authority (PA), which governs parts of the West Bank. The PA engages in diplomacy and negotiations with Israel and the international community, focusing on state-building and institutional development in Palestine.

These fundamental differences have led to significant conflicts and divisions between the two groups, most notably the violent split in 2007 when Hamas seized control of Gaza from Fatah.In 2005, Hamas entered Palestinian politics as a political party, competing in local elections and the following year in parliamentary elections, defeating Fatah. The struggle for Palestinian internal politics was between Hamas and Fatah, which erupted in the Battle of Gaza in 2007 (Erlanger, 2006). In late 2008, tensions between Israel and Hamas intensified when Israel initiated a military operation in Gaza, leading to thousands of civilian casualties and causing extensive damage estimated in the billions of dollars.In February 2009, an internationally brokered ceasefire was signed between the parties, although sporadic incidents of violence continued. In 2011, an attempt by the Palestinian Authority to gain UN membership as a fully sovereign state failed (Human Rights Watch, 2012). In November 2012, the Palestinian representation at the UN was elevated to a non-member observer state and the title of its mission was changed from “Palestine (represented by the PLO)” to “State of Palestine”*(United Nations News, 2025)*.

In mid-2014, clashes in the Palestinian territories increased tensions between Israel and Hamas with rocket attacks and retaliation from both sides. The fighting ended with an Egyptian-brokered ceasefire, after thousands of people were killed. In 2015, President Abbas declared that the Palestinians would no longer respect the territorial divisions created by the Oslo Accords *(VOX, 2025)*. The situation worsened in 2018, after Palestinian protests on the Gaza border were met with violence by the Israeli army, resulting in over 180 deaths and thousands of injuries (Human Rights Watch, 2012). Clashes returned later, deepening the Fatah–Hamas divide, with Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah party controlling the Palestinian Authority from the West Bank and Hamas ruling the Gaza Strip de facto *(Global Conflict Tracker, 2025)*. President Trump reacted to these events, changing the US approach to the conflict, cutting aid to Palestinian refugees, moving the embassy to Jerusalem and brokering the Abraham Accords with several Arab states, rejected by the Palestinians. Following the expulsion of Palestinians from East Jerusalem in May 2021, violent protests and riots erupted, resulting in the deaths of 250 Palestinians and 13 Israelis, with nearly 2,000 injured. The number of displaced Palestinians rose to 72,000.In December 2022, a far-right government was formed in Israel under Prime Minister Netanyahu, composed of two ultra-Orthodox parties and three far-right factions *(Global Conflict Tracker, 2025)*.The coalition government prioritized the expansion and development of Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, adopting a harsh and confrontational stance towards the Palestinian population.

4. The Evolutions of Isreael-Hamas War: From Attacks to Casefire (October 2023-April 2025)

Following the 2014 war and the 2021 crisis, Hamas took the step of planning an attact against Israel after the return to power of Benjamin Netanyahu, whose formation of a far-right government further exacerbated tensions between Palestine and Israel (Deeb, 2023).The Israel-Hamas conflict reached a critical point on October 7, 2023, when Hamas militant groups launched a unecpected attack on southern Israel from Gaza Strip, causing significabt civilian and military casualties and taking hostages. On that same day, the senios military commander of Hamas Al-Qassam Brigades declared: “We annouce a military operation against the Israel occupations, which comes in response to the ongoing Israel crimes against the Palestian people and violations at the Al-Aqsa Mosque”(Legal Action Worldwide, 2023). In response, Israel declared a state of war and launched a wide-scale aerial and ground offensive targeting Gaza, with the stated objective of dismantling Hamas infrastructure and restoring security control in the region. During October and November 2023, Israel forces advances into the Gaza Strip, triggering a severe humanitarian crisis, including the disruption of cummunications and significant obstacles to the delivery of humanitarian aid. In November, a seven day truce and hostage exchange agreement was reached, however, hostilities resumed shortly thereafter. International pressure for a permanent ceasefire intensified throughout December and Januarym as civilian casualties continued to rise. Netherless, negotiations stalled as a Israel insisted on continuing operations, while Hamas demandes a complete cessation of hostilities (CNN, 2024). In February 2024, Israel annonced its intention to expand military operations into Rafah, a key Hamas stronghold, promting serious concerns over the potential increase in civilian casualties. This move led to diplomatic tensions with the United States, which threatened to halt military support unless Israel implemented measures to protect civilians. In the following months, Israel forces proposed the creation of so called “humanitarian zones” to facilitate the evacuation of civilians within Gaza. On March 25, for the first time since the outbreak of the war, the United States (U.S.) refrained from vetoing a United Nations Security Council resolution calling for an immediate caesefire(BBC, 2024). Ceasefire negotiations made some progress in early 2024, but interrupted on May 5, when Hamas attacked Israel forces along a major humanitarian aid corridor, leading to the closure of humanitarian crossing from Israel. Under international pressure, Hamas accepted a proposal for a permanent ceasefire, but Israel rejected it, insisting on continuig military operations. In January, 2025, a temporary ceasefire agreement was reached, including the exchange of hostages and prisoners, yet tensions remained high, and sporadic violence and a worsening humanitaruan crisis in Gaza. In March, with the ceasefire in place, Israel proposed a new plan to extend the first phase of the ceasefire, which was rejected by Hamas. (Krauss, 2025).

During the period of February to April 2025, the situation in Gaza has escalated with an intensification of military violence and a deepening humanitarian crisis as a result of continued Israel airstrikes, leading to a rising number of civilian casualties. Under these conditions, international actors have increased pressure for a ceasefire, especially from international organizations (Human Rights Watch, 2025). The conflict has also affected the wider region, with Israel launching a ground offensive in Lebanon following clashes with Hezbollah, while Iran backed groups have attacked military forces in Iraq and Syria. The situation remains tense, with the risk of renewes fighting if a new agreement is not reached. Despite diplomatic effertos, a sustainable solution to the conflict remains elusive, reflecting the complexity of Israel-Palestinian relations and the challenges of achieving peace in the region (Borger & Tantesh, 2025).

4.1 The Middle East Riviera: Trump’s Proposal for Gaza and the Risk of a Conflict Resolutions

The article "How Trump Can Remake the Middle East" by Dennis Ross brings a predictive analytical approach to how President Trump's return to power could affect the conflict. (Dennis, 2025). According to the analysis presented, Trump could exert pressure on Israel to end the war while taking a hardline approach toward Iran and Saudi Arabia, conditioning this stance on the cessation of hostilities and the reconstruction of Gaza. Ross suggest that Trump would likely combine economic sactions with military threats to achieve these goals. Trump’s re-election brought a new American approach to the Israel-Palestianian conflict. In a public statement, President Trump proposed that the U.S. take control of and administer Gaza. He also unveiled a reconstruction plan to transform the Gaza Strip into the ‘Middle East Riviera’ (Zvogbo, 2025). This proposal was met with strong opposition from Palestian factions, human rights organizations, and various global actors, who viewed it as a direct form of ethnic cleansig and a violation of international humanitarian law (Human Rights Watch, 2025). Regional actors such as Saudi Arabia categorically rejected the plan, arguing that the conflict can only end with the establishment of an independent Palestian state. Trump’s proposal has been widely analyzed as an attempt to shift traditional U.S. foreign policy and undermine efforts toward a two state solution (Aboudouh, 2025).

According to several analysts, this proposal is considered unfeasible. However, its implementation largely depends on the level of resistance from the parties involved in the conflict, as well as from regional and global actors. A study by Arab Center for Research and Policy Studiues offers an analysis suggesting that a potential countermeasure to this proposal could lie in the role of regional actors. Specifically, it proposes the intervention and encirclement of Gaza by Egypt and Arab states through the provision of humanitarian aid and shelter for civilians, thus creating conditions for ending the war and assisting the Palestinian side in establishing an authority to manage the situation, seek reparations from Israel, and put an end to external interference in the region's future (Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, 2025) Meanwhile, another study, "The Geopolitical Implications of Trump's Gaza Relocations Proposal: A Call for Action", by author Asad Ullah, presents a different analysis focused on international law. Ullah argues that the implementation of such a project would lead to further destabilization in the Middle East and undermine the moral legitimacy of the U.S. on the international stage. He compares the proposal to a modern form of colonization and forced displacement, aimed at erasing Palestinian identitu and autonomy (Ullah, 2025). Trump's re-elections as President of U.S. introduced a new and polarizing approach to the Israel-Palestinian conflict. Rather than promoting a balanced strategy based on dialogue and support for a two-state solution, Trump advanced a new discourse and political vision marked by a dangerous and legally contentious unilateralism. Specifically, the symbolic framing of Gaza as the 'Middle East Riviera' reflects a foreign policy rooted in the dominance of power and economic interest, offered as substitutes for the fundamental right of people. This approach not only ignores the historical and cultural reality on the ground, but also envisions Gaza as a development zone without regard for the existence and right to self-determination of the Palestinians living there. From both a legal and moral standpoint, the proposal undermines international humanitarian law, as it entails a modern form of ethnic cleansing. Many scholars consider this ove to have serious geopolitical and destabilizing consequences, not only for the U.S. in the international arena, but in the Middle East region.Moreover, it is incresingly viewed as a political and media-driven maneuver rather than a genuine strategy for peace. The true intentions behind Trump's foreign policy remain subject to debate, as the proposal clearly favors Israel interest over international law. In summary, Trump's efforts to reshape the Middle East throught economic dominance and a unilateral vision are incompatible with the complex realities of the region and risk further escalating the conflict and deepening global polarozation(Center for Preventive Action, 2025).

4.2 The Israel-Gaza Conflict under International Law

In order to present a critical analysis of the Israel-Palestine conflict and its implications for International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights law, it is important to consider the protracted and complex nature of this conflict. The conflict that began in 2025 is considered a serious escalation of violence with massive attacks. As previously described above, the attacks between the two parties have violated fundamental principles of international humanitarian law, which require a clear distinction between civilians and combatants and a prohibition on attacks on civilian property and infrastructure(Legal Action Worldwide, 2023). One of the mos concerning aspects is that according to Human Rights Watch, both sides have used dehumanizing rhetoric against each other, increasing violence and attacks on the civilian population. The lack of accountability remains problematic. Hamas actions using rockets against Israel civilians can be considered war crimes under the Rome Statute. But on the other hand, Israel attacks on Gaza, including the boombing civilian structures such as hospitals and schools, represent serious violations of international law, as the indiscriminately targeting civilians and cuasing devastating harm to the Palestinian population (Shamala, 2024). This conflict has highlighted significant legal and ethical issues, particularly statements of severla senior Israel state figures who used the term 'human animal' towards the Palestinians. These statements raised concerns about the transformation of the conflict into a potential a form of genocide. This phenomenon is being analyzed by many analysts and experts for the prevention of mass crimes, where the dehumanization of the enemy can lead to further violations of human rights (Saul, 2025). An important development that has further fueled concerns about violations of international law is the amendment of Israel legislation concerning detainees form Gaza. These changes involve the "Unlawful Combatants Law", adopted after the October 7, 2023 attack, which expanded the power for detention without charges and significantly limited the procedural rights to have legal protection. These measures have been critized by international law jurist as incompatible with the Geneva Conventions, as they contradict the principles of protecting detainees during armed conflicts and pave the way for further abuses.

The most worrying situation currently in Gaza is the humanitarian aid blockade.The creation of such blockades is in violation of international humanitarian law and a serious violation of human rights. By cutting off vital resources for civilians, Israel is exacerbating a humanitarian crisis that has long-term effects on the survivors (Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, 2025). From critical perspective, both sides are committing violations, but violations of

international humanitarian law should not be ignored and justified with the argument of 'self-defense' in the context of military operations (Gunawan, Pangestu, Hardiyanti, & Genovés, 2025). As violence continues to escalate, prospects for resolution through diplomacy and dialogue appear increasingly distant. This situation is an alarm bell, which is calling for immediate intervention by the international community to ensure that both parties respect human rights and the principles of international humanitarian law (Duffy & Pinzauti, 2023).

In conclusion, the conflict has tested the foundations of international humanitarian and human rights law by prompting a regression in their implementation. The disproportionate acts of violence against civilians and the use of dehumanizing language indicate a marked lack of accountability and a faildes climate of impunity. Article 8 of the Rome Statute has been violated by Hamas against Israeli civilians.On the other hand, attempts to justiffy Israel interventions on the basis of the principle of self-defence do not exempt it from the obligation to implement the principles of the Geneva Conventions. The use of terms such as 'human animals' by senior Israel state officials has raised concerns about inciting violence and acts thas could be categorized as genocide under the Convention on the Prevention of Genocide. In this situation, effective intervention by international institutions such as the International Criminal Court and the UN Security Council should not be limited to political appeals, but to concrete investigative and punitive actions. Otherwise, there is a risk of further escalation of the conflict, and the legitimacy of the international legal order as a guarantor of global peaces and justices will be fundamentally challenged.

5. The Future and Possible Scenarios of the Israel-Palestine Conflict

The conflict between Israel and Palestine has remained uninterrupted since the declaration of Israel's independence in 1948, with a series of unsuccessful attempts over the years to find a peaceful solution. Despite the fact that various international actors have proposed numerous peace plan, the reality has continued to be marked by persistent tensions, violence, and humanitarian crises (Shlaim, 2020). Most recently, the ongoing conflict has further aggravated the situation by placing new barriers to reaching a lasting agreement. Beyond the historical and legal analyses thas have been developed on the conflict, its future remains dependet on a range of scenarios influenced by local, regional, and international actors. In this context, it is essential to analyze possible scenarios to promote a peaceful future. This analytical perspective will help provide a cleares understanding the future between the two countries (The International Crisis Group, 2025).

One of the mos debated proposals over the years has been the one-state solution, which envisions the creation of a single state in the current territory of Israel, the West Bank, Gaza, and the Golan Heights. This proposal has encountered resistance from both sides due to historical, political and identity based differences. The creation of a joint state has further fueled the instability and continuation of the conflict according to various critics. Meanwhile, the two-state solution is viewed by many actors as one the most viable alternatives (Indyk, 2024). This implies the creation of an independent Palestinian state, with borders determined on the basis of 1967 and with Jerusalem as a shared or divided capital. This initiative has received support from numeroues international documents, such as UN resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative, but its implementation has been hampered by a lack of trust, Israel pressure and divisions within the Palestinian leadership itself.

According to an analysis by the Arab Reform Initiative, several post Gaza conflict trajectories are outlined. One of the mos pessimistic scenarios is the prolongation of instability where the confluct will continue, deepening the humanitarian crisis, destroying infrastructure and eliminating any possibilitu of sustainable negotiations.Another scenario is the continuation of Palestinian political fragmentation between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority, which could lead to the emergence of a consolidated governance structure through new forms of political representation. Additional proposed scenarios include international intervention in the form of political mediation, humanitarian assistance, and the establishment of an international peacekeeping presence. The gola of international intervention is to gradually stabilize the situation, starting with the infrastructure rehabilitation of infrastructure and the creation of conditions for economix development and social stability (The Arab Reform Initiative, 2023).

A detailed analysis by the Carnegei Endowment for International Peace examines several scenarios related to the institutional menagement of Gaza after end of the war. According to their analysis, one scenario involves the stablishment of a local civil administration under Israel security control, which would be responsible for facilitating ai and preventing violence. Another alternative suggests the creation of tribal committees, which would serve as an informal governance structure to stabilize the post war situation. One of the most controversial options is the temporary menagement of the crisis by an international coalition in cooperation with NATO or a similar multilateral actor. This option would aim to stabilize the situation, coordinate humanitarian aid, and establish a transitional Palestinian governance framework. If

these scenarios fail, Gaza is likely to remain under the control of armed militias, continuing informal governance and prolonged armed confrontation with Israel (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2024). The conflict is not just a territorial or political issue, but a reality with an ideological approach and the construction of a narrative denying the existence of the parties. Among all the proposed pathways, the two states solution remains, at least theoretically, the mos valuable option, but practically it appears increasingly remote in the absence of an international architecture that ensures justice, security, and sustainable coexistence. In this regard a phased approach international intervention, internal reform, and diplomatic pressure represents one of the few realistic routes toward lasting peacer (Owda, 2024). Beyond the theories of security and proposed international interventions, what is evident is thas an equal and comprehensive approach for both parties is missing. The key to stability in the region lies in the construction of a new political architecture that prioritizes the lives, security and rights of the peoples before the strategic or geopolitical interests of various actors. The international community such as the UN, the EU, the US and regional actors such as Egypt, Turkey and others should not focus only the aspect of managing humanitarian crises, but on promoting the peace process where the Palestinian are not treated as objects of humanitarian aid, but as subjects of the right to self-determination (The Arab Reform Initiative, 2023). In this context, the analysis of the point the conflict has reaches, the solution should have political humanism at its core and not only strategic interest, giving priority to the contruction of sustainable and acceptable insititutions for both parties.str

6. Conclusions

A retrospective analysis of the Israel-Palestine conflict reveals that its roots are linked to historical developments of acolonial, nationalist, religious and territorial nature, which have produced a deep division between the two peoples. Over the years, the evolutions of the conflict has affected not only the internal interest of the parties, but also of international actors,who have largely been guided by strategic interest rather than the principles of international law. In conclusion, this study which provides a detailed analysis of the recent conflicts between Israle and Palestine with a focus on ecamining various future scenarios and their potential implications allows us to draw several key conclusions:

Firstly, the Israel-Palestinian conflict remains one of the most complex conflicts in the world, involving historical, political, and social dimensions. However, the root cause of the conflict lies in the contested clasim to a 'homeland', namely the homeland of Palestinian Arabs. This territorial dispute lies at the heart of the disagreement between Palestinians and Israel Jews. It is not inherently a religious or cultural conflict, although those dimensions are present. The instability in relations between the two parties and the intensity of violence have triggered a deep humanitarian crisis, primarily affecting civilian popultions. Both sides have undertaken actions that have harmed civilians, particularky through indiscriminate attacks, destruction of infrastructure and obstruction of humanitarian aid, especially in Gaza, where the humanitarian crisis has significantly worsened.

Secondly, international intervention has played an important, though often insufficient, role throughout the course of the conflict. Despite various peace initiatives, efforts to achieve a lasting resolution have yielded limited success. The involvement of international actors such as the United Nations, the United States, the European Union and the Arab League has not led to a comprehensive solution to end the conflict.Nevertheless, their role remainss vital, especially in post-conflict reconstruction of Gaza and the provision of humaniatarian assistance during and after hostilities.

Thirdly, the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict has further deepened internal political fragmentation within Palestine. The internal rift between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority has further complicated the negotiation process for achieving a ceasefire with Israel and the international community.

Finally, a lasting resolution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict can only be achieved through the recognition of Palestine as a fully sovereign state by Israel, and through the signing of a comprehensive peace agreement that addresses the core issues dividing the two parties. Such an agreement mund encompass both urgent humanitarian needs and offer a long-term political solution. Palestine, with the support of Arab Nation and the international community, must be allowed to determine its own preferred form of governance. This implies that not external actor, including Israel, has the right to dictate these decision, which belong solely to a sovereign state. However, should the conflict persist and the humanitarian situation continue to deteriorate, Palestinians may be forced to accept any solution that ends the violence and allows a return to their lands.

Resolving this complex conflict requires a comprehensive approach and commitment, which takes into account the rights and needs of both parties without distinction. Achieving sustainable peace demands the construction of a constructive and reciprocal dialogue between the parties. From a critival perspective, this article argues that international approaches to resolving the conflict have been one-sided, fragmented, and lacking in accountabilitu, thereby

exacerbating the conflict over time. Recent proposals, such as President Trump's plan for controlling Gaza and "reviving its economy", reflect new discourses rooted in power dynamics and economic incentives, rather than solutions based on peoples right to self-determination. Looking ahead, it is eseential that any solution to the conflict be grounded in the priciple of self-determination, the respect of human rights, and the foundation of an inclusive peace framework involving local, regional, international and global actors. The two-state solution remains the mos just and sustainable theoretical option, but its implementation requires the development of a new international architecture, one tha ensures not only security and stability, but also transutional justice and institutional reconstruction. Only such an inclysive and multidimensional approach can bring an end to the violence and lay the foundation for long-term stability in the region.

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