

# Causes and Consequences of Israel Palestine War

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## Abstract

The war between Israel and Palestine is among the longest-lasting and most intricate geopolitical conflicts of the contemporary period. The dispute, which has its roots in a history of conflicting claims to land and national identity, has resulted in decades of violence, evictions, and political impasse. This study offers a thorough analysis of the Israel-Palestine conflict, emphasizing significant historical occurrences, underlying factors, and current dynamics influencing the conflict. The research follows the rise of rival nationalisms and the 1948 establishment of the State of Israel, starting with the early Zionist movement and the British Mandate era. It looks at the uprooting of Arab Palestinians, the Arab Israeli wars that followed, and the occupation of Palestinian lands, such as the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Furthermore, the study explores the intricacies of religious, cultural, and geopolitical elements that intensify hostilities between Israelis and Palestinians. This research attempts to give a comprehensive view of the Israel-Palestine conflict using an interdisciplinary approach based on political science, historical analysis, and international relations theory. The research aims to provide insight into the historical foundations and current expressions of this ongoing struggle to support educated discourse and attempts to find a fair and durable settlement.

**Keywords:** Israel-Palestine conflict, national identity, displacement, geopolitical disputes, Palestinian territories, West Bank, Gaza Strip, religious tensions, international relations, resolution.

## 1. INTRODUCTION:

The Israeli occupation of what was once known as Palestine continues to be a topic of intense discussion, particularly over the legitimacy of their forced relocation of the Palestinian people and their recognition of the right of return for Palestinian refugees. Furthermore, unlike every other country in the world, the Israelis refuse to provide the Palestinians the right to a formal system of administration over a certain region. The situation is extremely complex since there are extreme divides even amongst the Israeli and Palestinian populations, which makes it difficult to make choices and to follow through on them. As a result, the discussions are continuing both inside and beyond the region. This and several more contentious issues will be covered in this research paper. The parties to the conflict have been subjected to several UN resolutions and precedents from international law, but they have continuously been disregarded by the combatants. To determine the current situation and what lies ahead for both sides as well as the area, this report will examine some of the conflict narratives and the variety of successful and unsuccessful solutions that have been offered from both inside and outside of Israel. On January 7, Israel announced that it had almost destroyed Hamas' military capability in northern Gaza and was now focusing on the central and

southern parts of the area. Since Israel began its assault campaign, more than two million Palestinians, or over 85% of Gaza's population, have fled their homes. Due to attacks on medical institutions and a lack of basic supplies, there are now just nine hospitals that are open for business, all of which are in the south. Not only are civilian deaths increasing, but the World Health Organization has issued a warning about the spread of sickness. In the meantime, the US is practicing shuttle diplomacy considering the simmering tensions in the region. Israel has killed Hezbollah members in Lebanon and increased its attacks against sites in Syria that it says are linked to Iran.

## **2. CAUSES OF THE CONFLICT:**

It all started with a series of isolated but connected events in East Jerusalem that quickly gained momentum, escalated, militarized, and spread, escalating sites of friction that had been simmering for years. One such occasion occurred on April 13, the first day of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, near the Damascus Gate entry to Jerusalem's Old City. Israeli officials had barred East Jerusalem residents from gathering on the gate's stairs and had cordoned off the area. For many of the Palestinian residents of the Old City, Damascus Gate serves as a social hub and a venue for civic and cultural activities. Palestinian youth, who had no connection to political parties or any other overarching objective, began nightly protests after seeing the installation of metal barricades as a provocation. In response, ultra-nationalist Jews marched through the heart of Jerusalem in the direction of the Damascus Gate within a few days while shouting, "death to Arabs." The anger that these marches caused among Palestinians spread to Jordan's neighbour, the West Bank, while terrorist organizations in Gaza fired scores of missiles into Israel. While ultra-nationalist Israeli Jews walked the streets of Jerusalem attacking Arabs, Palestinians recorded attacks on Jews and shared them on social media to garner sympathy and support. On April 25, Israeli forces removed the barriers in East Jerusalem after a violent conflict that lasted over twelve days. Subsequently, a second catalyst materialized in the shape of mounting public indignation over an Israeli Supreme Court decision - later postponed - over the scheduled relocation of four Palestinian families from Sheikh Jarrah, an East Jerusalem neighbourhood that links the Old City and the West Bank. The lawsuit had spent years winding down through the Israeli legal system to reach its highest court. To protest the expulsions, which were a part of an ongoing sweep of at least 27 other houses, local Palestinians organized daily iftar sit-ins. Due to these, ultra-nationalist Jews became aware of them and on May 10th, they invaded Sheikh Jarrah with recently elected Knesset member Itamar Ben Gvir in tow, intent on causing disruption and occasionally attacking peaceful protestors. Hundreds of people were hurt as Israeli police used stun grenades, skunk water, and sponge bullets. After that, police beat many Palestinians as they were being detained. Arrests and tensions persist to this day. Mahmoud Abbas, the president of the Palestinian Authority (PA), decided on April 29 to "indefinitely postpone" the 22 May parliamentary elections in the occupied Palestinian territories, which further heightened tensions at this time. Abbas probably believed that his shattered Fatah movement would do badly in the elections, but he gave Israeli promises that inhabitants of East Jerusalem would not be allowed to vote as the reason for the postponement. Throughout April, Israeli officials had been interfering with East Jerusalem's election campaign and detaining Palestinian leaders and their backers. Palestinians of every political persuasion were incensed by the detentions because they feared that they would be prevented from trying to modernize their national institutions via democratic means, as foreign players had been pressuring them to do. By far the most dangerous trigger was the fourth one. At the Al-Aqsa Mosque within the walled Old City on May 7, Israeli police engaged in combat with young Palestinians and physically assaulted worshippers, causing several

injuries. The mosque, which is the third-holiest place for Muslims after Mecca and Medina, had its gates locked by police as well. Even in cases where such limitations are implemented in reaction to violent protests, they almost invariably result in additional escalation. The situation was made worse by the police on May 8, when they prevented busloads of Palestinian people from entering Jerusalem. This prevented thousands of Muslims from praying on the holiest night of Ramadan, Laylat al-Qadr, at Al-Aqsa. That same evening, Israeli troops attacked Muslim worshippers at the Holy Esplanade, also known as the Temple Mount or Haram al-Sharif. The Israeli soldiers broke into the compound the next day, hitting worshippers inside the mosque with tear gas canisters and shock grenades. Many Palestinians were imprisoned and numerous more were injured. The keys to the mosque's main gates were taken by Israeli forces during a second raid on May 10. The events of that May 10th fell on the same day as Jerusalem Day, observed by Israelis in remembrance of the 1967 conflict that they believe brought East Jerusalem—including the Old City—back together with West Jerusalem. Palestinians living in East Jerusalem had objected to Jewish ultra-nationalists' intentions to march through the Old City and toward Al-Aqsa earlier that day. Israeli officials rerouted the march in response to pressure from across the world, including the United States, to stop more violence. The armed branch of Hamas, the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, condemned Israel for its actions against Palestinians in Jerusalem the same day in response to what had happened there. Two weeks prior, armed Palestinian factions had been threatening to retaliate for the intensifications taking place in Jerusalem. The Joint Chamber of Palestinian Resistance Factions in the Gaza Strip issued a directive on May 10th, stating that Israel was to remove its soldiers from Al-Aqsa and Sheikh Jarrah by 6 p.m. local time and free all the individuals it had imprisoned during these events. A few days following the cut-off, Hamas launched several missiles in the direction of Jerusalem. In retaliation, Israeli troops attacked Gaza with airstrikes, killing 28 people in the first few hours, nine of them were children. and threatening to launch a day-long, extended counterattack that would include a ground assault.

### **3. CONSEQUENCES OF THE CONFLICT:**

#### **Humanitarian Crisis: Displacement and Refugees**

The Israel-Palestine conflict has led to a protracted humanitarian crisis, characterized by widespread displacement, dispossession, and the plight of refugees. Since the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were forcibly displaced from their homes, resulting in the creation of one of the largest refugee populations in the world. The

Palestinian refugee diaspora, scattered across the Middle East and beyond, continues to endure precarious living conditions, restricted access to basic services, and limited opportunities for education and employment. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) plays a critical role in providing humanitarian assistance and essential services to Palestinian refugees, but chronic funding shortages and political pressures have strained its capacity to address the needs of this vulnerable population. Similarly, Israeli communities living near conflict zones, particularly in southern Israel near the Gaza Strip, face constant threats from rocket attacks, incursions, and security concerns. The psychological toll of living under the shadow of violence and insecurity exacerbates trauma and stress, especially among children and vulnerable populations.

#### **Socio-Economic Impacts on Palestinian and Israeli Societies**

The Israel-Palestine conflict has had profound socio-economic impacts on both Palestinian and Israeli

societies, exacerbating poverty, inequality, and socio-economic disparities. The prolonged military occupation of the Palestinian territories, coupled with restrictions on movement, trade, and access to resources, has stifled economic growth, hampered development, and perpetuated dependence on international aid. Palestinian communities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip face high levels of unemployment, poverty, and food insecurity, exacerbated by the blockade of Gaza and the closure of border crossings. The lack of infrastructure, investment, and economic opportunities hinders the prospects for sustainable development and exacerbates social tensions and instability. In Israel, the conflict has also taken a toll on the economy, diverting resources towards defence spending, security infrastructure, and military operations. The cost of maintaining the occupation, including the construction and maintenance of settlements, checkpoints, and security barriers, imposes a heavy financial burden on the Israeli government and taxpayers.

### **Regional Instability and Geopolitical Dynamics**

The Israel-Palestine conflict has far-reaching implications for regional stability and geopolitical dynamics in the Middle East. The unresolved nature of the conflict contributes to regional tensions, fosters radicalization and extremism, and fuels inter-state rivalries and proxy conflicts.

Neighbouring Arab states, particularly those with large Palestinian populations, such as Jordan and Lebanon, grapple with the spill over effects of the conflict, including security threats, refugee influxes, and social unrest. The influx of Palestinian refugees into neighbouring countries strains resources and exacerbates social and economic tensions, contributing to political instability and fragility. Moreover, the Israel-Palestine conflict intersects with broader regional issues, including the Israeli-Arab conflict, the Iran-Israel rivalry, and the Sunni-Shia divide. Geopolitical rivalries between regional powers, such as Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey, further complicate efforts to resolve the conflict and promote regional cooperation and peacebuilding initiatives.

### **Psychological and Emotional Toll on Individuals and Communities**

The Israel-Palestine conflict exacts a profound psychological and emotional toll on individuals and communities, perpetuating cycles of trauma, fear, and distrust. The experience of living under occupation, facing violence and displacement, and witnessing the loss of loved ones takes a heavy toll on mental health and well-being, leading to high rates of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and anxiety. Children growing up in conflict-affected areas are particularly vulnerable to the psychological effects of violence and insecurity, with long-lasting implications for their cognitive development, emotional resilience, and social integration. The normalization of violence and the absence of safe spaces exacerbate feelings of helplessness, hopelessness, and despair among young people, perpetuating cycles of intergenerational trauma and conflict.

### **Implications for Peace building Efforts and Conflict Resolution**

The consequences of the Israel-Palestine conflict underscore the urgent need for sustained peacebuilding efforts and comprehensive conflict resolution mechanisms. Addressing the humanitarian crisis, socio-economic disparities, and regional instability requires a multi-dimensional approach that addresses the root causes of the conflict, promotes dialogue and reconciliation, and fosters mutual understanding and trust between Israelis and Palestinians. International actors, including the United Nations, European Union, and regional organizations, play a crucial role in supporting peacebuilding initiatives, facilitating

negotiations, and providing humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected populations. Civil society organizations, grassroots movements, and religious leaders also play a vital role in promoting peace, fostering inter-community dialogue, and challenging extremist narratives that perpetuate violence and division.

#### 4. CONCLUSION:

The Israel-Palestine conflict is a complex and multifaceted issue with deep-seated historical, political, religious, and socio-economic roots. The conflict is driven by competing claims to land and resources, particularly in Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. Religious narratives and cultural identities play a profound role in shaping the conflict, with Jerusalem serving as a symbol of shared heritage and contested sovereignty for Jews, Christians, and Muslims alike. Nationalist aspirations and the quest for self-determination are fundamental drivers of the conflict, reflecting competing visions of statehood, sovereignty, and identity. External factors, including international interests and interventions, have significantly influenced the dynamics of the conflict, shaping diplomatic initiatives, peace negotiations, and military interventions. Political dynamics also play a significant role in the conflict's trajectory, with fragmented leadership and governance challenges hindering efforts to reach a comprehensive peace settlement. Policy recommendations include renewed efforts to resume meaningful negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians, facilitated by third-party mediators like the United States, European Union, and regional actors. Concrete steps should be taken to address core issues of contention, such as borders, settlements, Jerusalem, and refugees, through negotiated agreements and confidence-building measures. Immediate action is needed to alleviate the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including lifting the blockade, providing essential humanitarian aid, and restoring basic services and infrastructure. Future research will explore gender perspectives, environmental impacts, media and narratives, and transitional justice mechanisms. By implementing these recommendations and pursuing avenues for future research, we can contribute to a deeper understanding of the conflict and foster conditions conducive to lasting peace and prosperity for all.

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