

Peace, Justice and Strong Institution: A Case Study of Israel Palestine Conflict

Surbhi Vashishtha¹, Siddharth Kapoor²

^{1,2}Student, Department of Economics, Dyal Singh College, Delhi University

Abstract

The main aim of this paper is to find out whether the wars, particularly the Israel-Palestine war, have impacted the 16th SDG or not. Our study found out that this goal is under fire as the globe is witnessing a steep rise in armed conflicts, be it in the European region or West Asia which is always riddled with violence and wars. We have collected data on various indices and indicators like the Happiness Index, GDP per capita, and the Hunger Index to show how the war has hampered the targets set by the 16th SDG and other SDGs as well and also compared it with data of similar war-torn countries like Libya, Iraq, and Afghanistan to conclude how war impacts various parameters of the country. Our research also found that this war has left its imprint on society, the economy, and on diplomatic relations. This has severely impacted many goals set up in both the regions and across the globe as well. For example, trade relations between India and Israel have been severely impacted, the Humanitarian crisis is also a major issue in the war-torn area of Palestine where bombs are continuously bombarded on hospitals, refugee camps, etc. The War has also resulted in regional tensions between US and Yemeni forces and has resulted in more violence. We also highlighted the importance of the UN in aiding the development of war-torn regions and nations and also focus on their failure to protect innocent people which is a setback to justice. The main issue lies in the misuse of veto powers of the permanent members; it is used by countries to suit their own motives and thus a resolution could not be reached for a cease-fire or humanitarian aid. We set out with a theory that “The UN (a strong institution) is powerful and successful enough to stop wars and promote peace,” we will provide several instances to help ascertain whether this theory is correct or not.

Keywords: Israel-Palestine War, SDGs, UN, peace, justice

INTRODUCTION

One of the key goals established by the United Nations in 2015 is the 16th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) which focuses on “Peace, Justice and Strong institutions” and aims to provide and promote peaceful and inclusive societies, providing justice and building an accountable and inclusive institution at all levels. Its central idea is to foster peace and social cohesion within societies. It recognises that sustainable goals go beyond achieving economic goals and income equality and that a harmonious world is required to reap all the benefits of the goals established. The backbone of achieving these goals and objectives is the establishment of effective and responsible institutions that uphold the laws of the country, the rights of the people and ensure access to justice to people even to the poor and marginalised people. An accountable

institution ensures minimal corruption and puts forward the goal and ideas of the development of their country and people rather than individual self.

But as the world is rapidly approaching the 2030 mark, it is imperative to know where we stand in terms of achieving our SDGs, this goal has been marred by constant threats of instability, violence, and even wars across the globe. The most recent example is of Israel-Palestine conflict which has its share of history but recently in October of 2023, the violence caused by this conflict has become rampant with continuous bombardment on schools, and hospitals, cutting off aid for the region and capturing or killing of innocent civilians including children.

The study's research objectives are to present facts and figures of various economic and social indicators and show how the war has impacted the aims of not only the 16th SDG but rest of the SDGs as well. We found that the economies of both the regions are impacted, with a huge amount spent on weaponry and missiles instead of being used to improve the quality of life of the people, the war has also resulted in a massive amount of unemployment in both the regions with large number of people displaced from their homes as well. Moreover, this conflict has a spillover effect across the globe which has incited violence in other regions like increased tensions between US and Yeminis forces. It has also resulted in diplomatic tensions and changed trade relations between countries.

An intricate analysis of economic and social indicators of various other war-torn countries like Afghanistan, Libya, and Iraq, helps find possible links and correlations between the battle-fuelled regions and how it affects the country. Afghanistan, Libya, and Iraq all had their fair share of violence and instability in the region whether that was due to unstable governance or control by the foreign powers all of which has resulted in years of hardship, economic slump, and inequalities in the region. We took indicators like GDP per capita to show the decline or minimal growth of the economy during the wars and used the Hunger Index to show how civilians were impacted by the war. The Happiness Index was used to show the increasing injustices during the war and how different aspects of the war impacted the lives of people.

In our research we also used government effectiveness estimates which combine various factors like political freedom, quality of policies, and credibility of government, to show the importance of good governance and policies for a strong economic foundation of a country and how good effective policies are needed for strong economic recovery, it also highlights the need for international cooperation and the role of UN for development of a country towards the right path. It also highlights, given the global implications of the Israel-Palestine Conflict, the role of the United Nations in promoting peace and giving justice and the problems associated with conflict resolution. The UNSC is a global institution that aims to ensure international peace, but its role has been seriously questioned lately, with no solution to restoring peace or providing humanitarian aid in the Israel-Palestine region, the pressure to resolve this conflict to push on with the 2030 goal is of utmost importance. The misuse of veto powers by the few permanent members of the UNSC is the biggest reason for unresolved violence and crisis in various regions. The research endeavours to provide a conclusion on whether the UN is a strong enough institution to help achieve stability in the region by providing various instances of past wars and the role of the UN in establishing peace and justice in the region.

In conclusion, the Israel-Palestine conflict exhibits a multifaceted nature, encompassing a range of complexities and dimensions and focussing on the future of the two countries based on prior experiences of similar war-torn countries. The findings provide a comprehensive understanding concerning the impact

on different Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the role of government and UN as strong institutions in advancing peace and justice.

Research Method

The comprehensive analysis of the Israel-Palestine Conflict dynamics was meticulously conducted through a robust and multifaceted research methodology. The primary aim of the research is to reflect the significance of the 16th SDG (PEACE, JUSTICE, AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS) by considering the current Israel-Palestine conflict. We considered it to be the most appropriate topic which can help us to bring out our central theme of the paper. We undertook an extensive literature survey to have a vast realm of knowledge about the topic. Online articles, blogs, and published papers were our major sources of data collection. They helped us to understand the societal, economic, and political impacts of the conflict. We also gave importance to the articles published with respect to other wars and conflicts, majorly in the Middle East and the European region. The one common idea that we formed after studying papers was that the 16th SDG comes at stake once the conflict starts. We assumed that the Israel-Palestine conflict would also result in similar disruptions by understanding the papers we considered apart from our chosen conflict. We made this assumption because since the conflict started, we do not have any worldwide published index by reliable authorities that can give us a clear idea of the conflict's impacts. The study's research objectives were distinctly and clearly defined to guide the investigation and ensure a targeted exploration. Thus, the objective of this paper will serve as a roadmap, articulating the specific areas within the political, economic, and social domains that would be subject to scrutiny.

We opted for the hybrid approach comprising quantitative and qualitative studies to scrutinize our topic. To bring out the war's impact on rest 16 SDGs we took several indices and indicators into consideration. We recognized that numerical data can help us in the most effective way to make our point clear. Finding the relevant data was the most daunting task. We turned to the official sites of the World Bank, WHO, UNDP, WEF, and UN, to get the required statistics. The collected data underwent meticulous calculation and categorization, forming the bedrock for the subsequent analysis. We considered the Happiness Index, GDP per capita, and the Hunger Index, to bring out the impact of conflict and several economic and societal parameters. Also taking these indices into account helped us to understand the impact of the 16th SDG on the 1st and 2nd SDG (i.e., No Poverty and No Hunger respectively) in particular and on the rest of the SDGs in general. In this research, we took 3 countries, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya, in addition to Israel-Palestine because of their relatively similar history of conflict and governance. All the regions were under constant threat of violence or conflict. And, We analysed the pre-war and post war statistics of these conflict-ridden countries. "Comparison Test" gave authenticity to our study that we can observe similar disruptions in terms of society and economy in Israel and Palestine as they were reflected in the indices of the rest of the war-torn countries.

We also considered the Government Effectiveness Index to bring out the significance of credible government and policies which are needed not only to form a strong economic base for the country but also its need during the development and rebuilding of the country post-war scenario, this study also highlighted the importance of collaborating with UN and other world institutions for economic recovery of the conflict riddled regions and countries.

We came up with an innovative idea to conduct a hypothesis testing but without numbers. We approached this method to reflect the importance of strong institutions to maintain peace, justice, and the rule of law. Through the testing, we aimed to test the inclusivity and accountability of the institution. In our study, we

have chosen the United Nations as the strong institution. We set up a null, which was a statement rather being any statistic, and to test it we went back to history wherein the UN came into being. We have primarily taken into consideration the role of the UN in terms of solving conflicts.

Findings

Sustainable goals are intercorrelated. Change or fluctuation in any goal leads to its significant impact on the rest 16 goals as well. The existence of Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions is highly necessary to ascertain the accomplishment of equality, prosperity, dignity, satiety, and security. Disturbance in peace (16th SDG) impairs all the remaining goals. Disturbance can be due to a war, conflict, political instability, or insurgency. This goal is badly disturbed in Israel and Palestine due to the ongoing conflict. The political institutions of the two countries are reluctant to settle down, hence the strong institutions of Israel and Palestine are disarrayed. Not so before into the past we have several examples of countries where they experienced similar conditions. Afghanistan was under instability and war-like conditions for decades. It experienced major fragility from 2001 to 2021. Iraq had years of violence and hardship when it was invaded by the US from 2003-11. The Libyan civil war of 2014-20 was the outcome of “the Arab Spring” and the tensions emerged due to elections.

The impact of disruptions was clear in global indexes. The countries faced a decline in GDP per capita, Hunger Index, and Happiness Index during instability. Gross domestic product is the value of all the goods and services produced in a country in a given period (usually 1 year). If the total value (GDP) is divided by the population of the country, we get GDP per capita also known as per capita income. GDP per capita is one of the best indicators to estimate the economic well-being, development level, and standard of living of any country. The hunger index is a tool designed to comprehensively measure and track hunger at global, regional, and national levels. And the Happiness Index ranks countries based on the subjective well-being and happiness of their citizens. There is a positive relation between GDP per capita and the Happiness Index, and there exists a negative relation between the Hunger Score and the Happiness Score. Therefore, we found them as the best benchmark to set comparison among the countries in our research.

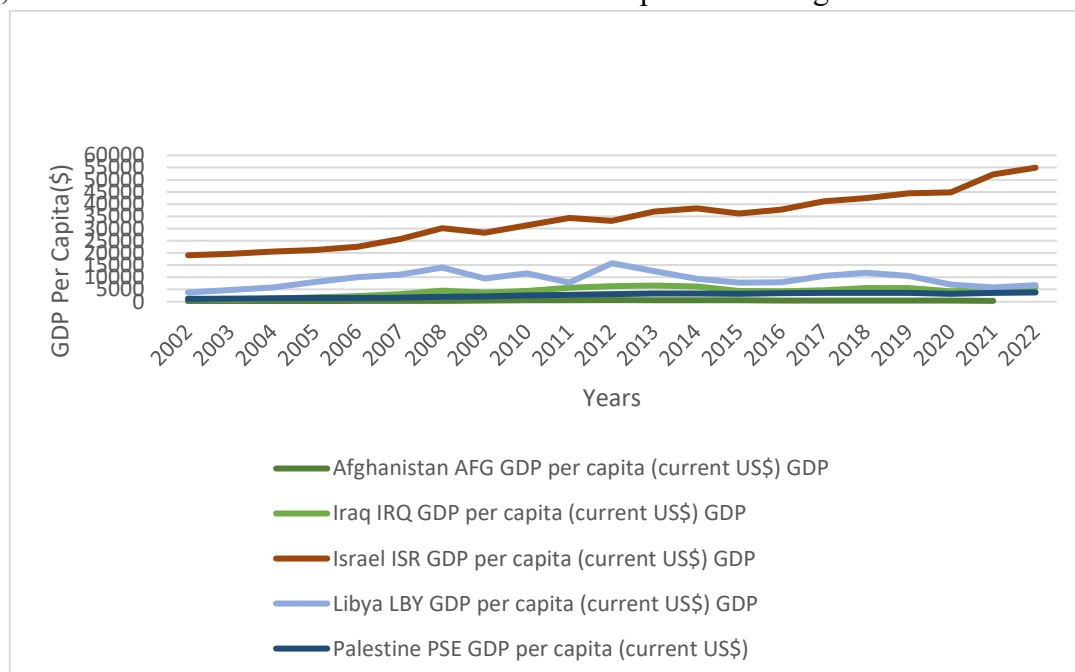


Figure 1: GDP Per Capita (2002-2022)

Table 1: Average Growth rate of GDP Per Capita (2002-2022)

| Country | All over (in %) | War (in %) | No war (in %) |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| Afghanistan | 4.54922012 | 4.54922012 | - |
| Libya | 6.87182131 | -2.44272716 | 12.0911623 |
| Iraq | 10.3748402 | 29.8230226 | -2.02745692 |

Figure 2: Hunger Score (2001-2020)

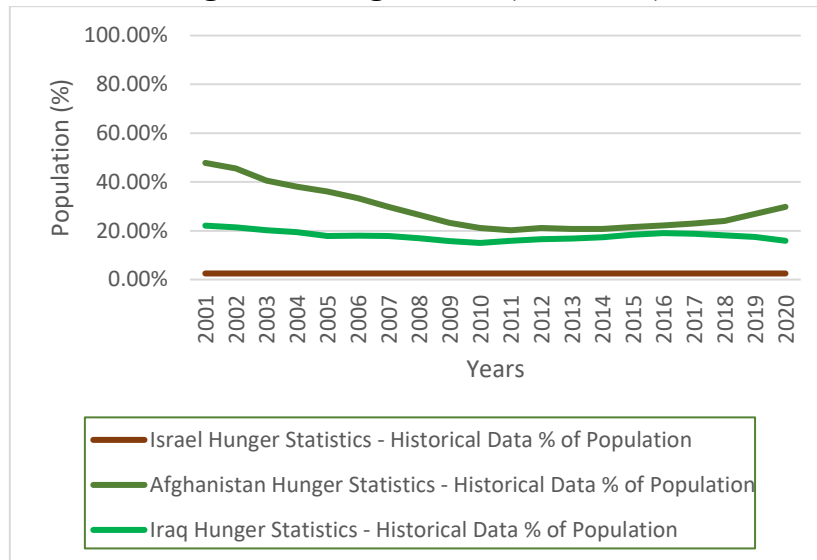


Table 2: Average Hunger Score (2001-2020)

| Country | All over (in %) | War (in %) | No war (in %) |
|-------------|-----------------|------------|---------------|
| Afghanistan | 28.62 | 28.62 | - |
| Iraq | 17.95 | 17.44 | 17.95 |

Figure 3: Happiness Score (2013-2022)

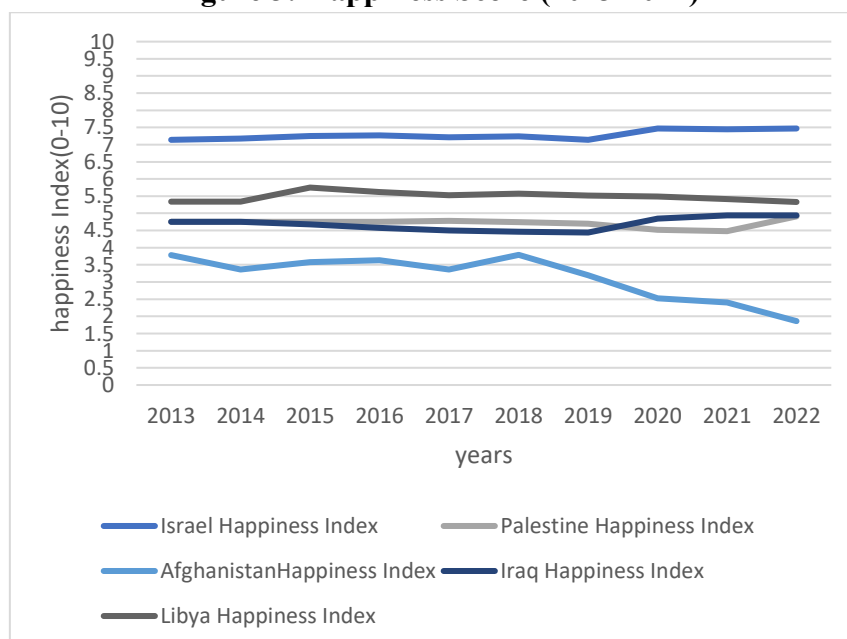


Table 3: Average Happiness Score (2013-2022)

| Country | All over | war | No war |
|-------------|----------|-------|--------|
| Afghanistan | 3.148 | 3.148 | - |
| Libya | 5.49 | 5.54 | 5.36 |
| Iraq | 4.689 | - | 4.689 |

The overall growth rate of average GDP per capita in the countries represents a positive trend in the economy (Figure 1). The negative growth rate of Libya (Table 1) during the war represents its hostile effect. The war could have disrupted the infrastructure and hence the manufacturing sector. As the war ended the economy revived and had a positive effect. On the other hand, Iraq's economy saw tremendous growth during the war (Table 1). The reason lies in several hidden aspects. Iraq received massive foreign aid for its stabilization and reconstruction after the fall of Saddam Hussein. The global oil prices rose, and hence the economy. Hence, Iraq's economy has negative impacts post-war. The opposite growth in Libya and Iraq represents the contradiction of the impact of war on the economy. But the common idea that we can conclude is that WAR HAS A NEGATIVE INFLUENCE ON THE ECONOMY. The impacts can be quick or can take years to come into being. The war shatters the economy and further the GDP per capita, ultimately leading to increases in the percentage of people below the poverty line.

Several aggressive repercussions of war in Afghanistan lead to approx. 29% of the population dwell in hunger. The hunger index of Iraq also stands true with its negative GDP per capita growth post-war. This sets out the negative relation between the two (Figure 2, Table 2).

Libya reached its maximum happiness score in 2015, but since then a moderate significant decline has been observed. The credit may go to the war. Never until 2015 did Libya achieve a 5.75 score, rather in 2022 it settled down to the score at which it was a decade earlier. Similarly, Afghanistan's score degraded radically during the war period. According to the Happiness Index, Afghanistan's poor performance is primarily attributable to its low life expectancy rate and low GDP per capita (Figure 3, Table 3).

Apart from the direct impacts of the war on poverty (SDG 1) and hunger (SDG 2), it also has its indirect effects. The war leads to a disturbance in GDP. The fluctuation in the economy increases the disparities within the country, hence inequality rises (SDG 10). The bombardments, explosions, and military activity have a direct and indirect effect on climate change (SDG 13). The life below water (SDG 14) and The life on land (SDG 15) get tangled. Hence, it is highly necessary to restore and protect the 16th goal in a country. We can conclude that Israel and Palestine may also suffer from similar downtrodden post-war effects. The countries have been at continuous war for the last 4 months. Over 28,000 people (26,751 Palestinian and 1,410 Israeli) have been killed in the war, including 85 journalists.

As of December 2023, a United Nations-backed report states that the entire 2.3 million population of Gaza is facing crisis levels of hunger and the risk of famine. This is the highest share of a population facing high food insecurity that has ever been classified by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) anywhere in the world.

"Hundreds of thousands are crammed into overcrowded shelters and hospitals, with food and water running out." (WFP claims)

Also, according to the report, The number of places where WFP and partners can safely provide life-saving assistance is shrinking rapidly, putting hundreds of thousands at risk of being cut off from any form of relief. Therefore, Palestine highly suffers to cope with SDG 2 due to the war.

The UNDP and ESCWA jointly published a report – "The Gaza War" on 8th November 2023, which claims to have a drastic negative impact on GDP, poverty, and unemployment. The report says that poverty

could rise by 45.3% and GDP would fall by 12.2% if the war continued for three months. About 61% and 24% of the employment has been lost in Gaza and the West Bank respectively as of November'23. The assessment calculates the HDI is expected to be set back by 16 Years (2007 level of 0.674) in the most intense impact scenario.

Therefore, it's not wrong to state that Israel and Palestine will also fall back in their socio and economic factors in coming indexes and reports.

Are our strong institutions really “strong”

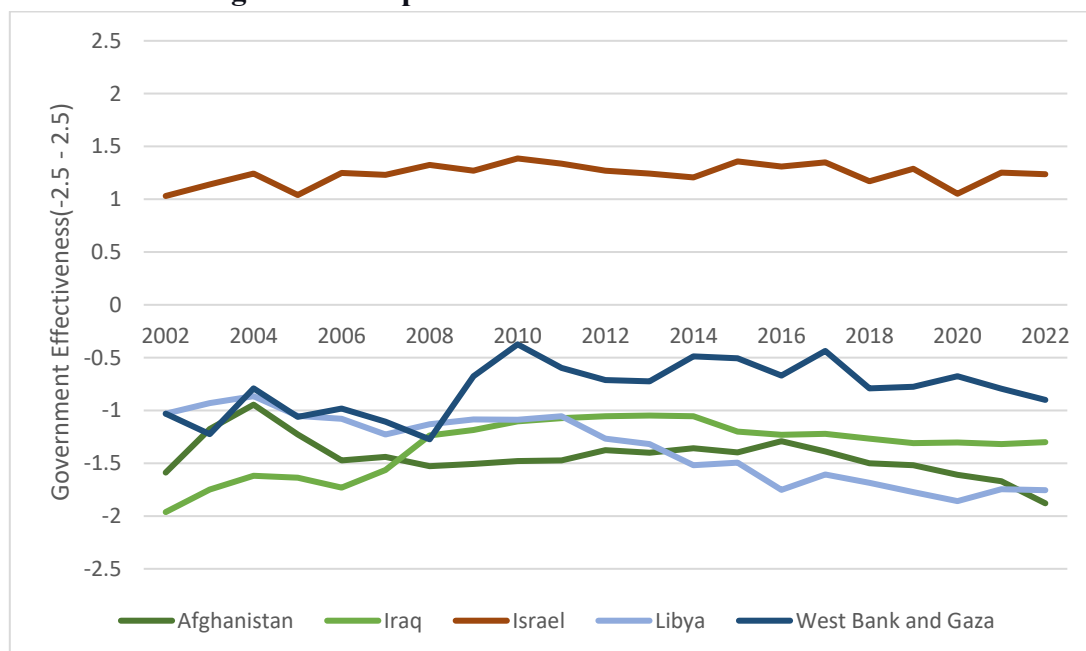
An institute is a governing body that represents the interests of the people and make policies and upholds the rules of law which protects, advances, and promotes the needs and aspirations of the people. It is a body that is accountable for all the decisions and indecisions taken by it and tries to ensure corruption-free working. On a small scale, a school or university administration is an example of an institution, on a wider global scale, the governments of various countries and the UN is an institution. The existence of a strong institution highlights qualities like resilience, sound governance, global cooperation, and clear vision which makes it effective and influential.

We are setting out the importance of such institutions on domestic and international level by considering the effectiveness of the particular government and the UN individually.

Government effectiveness

Government effectiveness is an estimate that ranges from -2.5(least effective) to 2.5(most effective) and catches information on the quality of government services, quality of policy formulation, and credibility of government. By focusing on this index, it can help us determine the relationship between a strong credible government and the economic and social conditions of the country.

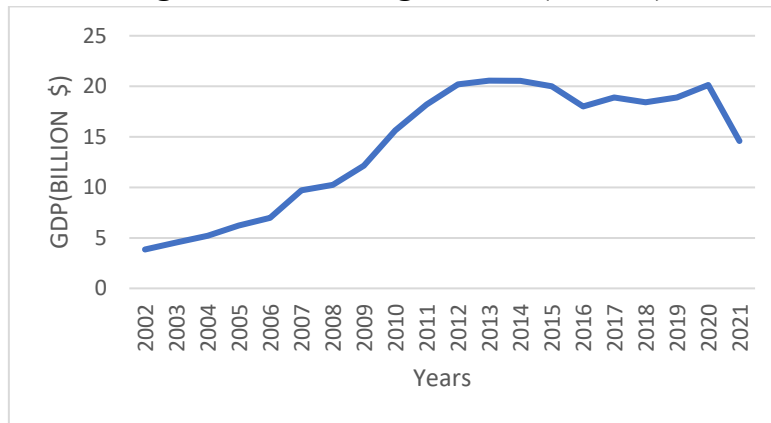
Figure 4: Comparison of Government Effectiveness



Findings: Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya all have negative government effectiveness showing a lack of a strong or credible institution in the countries. This has led to adverse effects on various social and economic indicators. The lack of credibility of the government either for the people or internationally,

combined with the unstable environment of the region paints a grim image of the development of these countries. This can be seen by looking at the GDP of these countries over the years.

Figure 5:GDP of Afghanistan (2002-21)

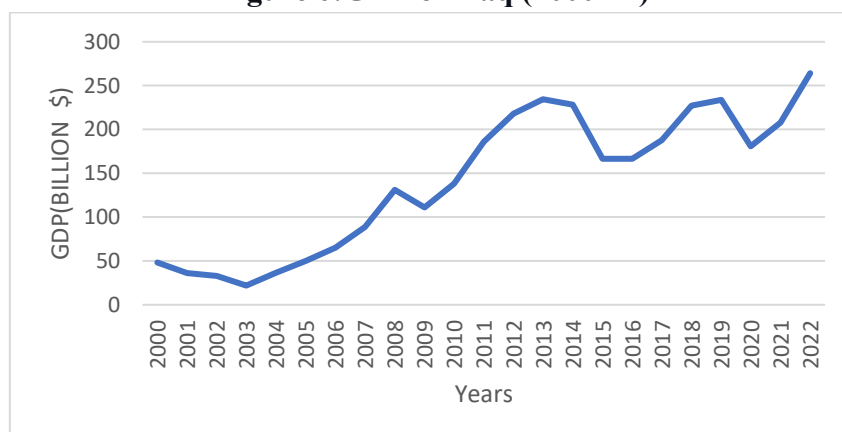


Afghanistan is a hotbed of global conflict which makes it one of the most unstable region across the globe. This region has been identified as the haven for most international terror organisations.

The recent annexation by the Taliban as the government of Afghanistan already shows its negative impacts with the GDP of the country falling from \$20.14B in 2020 to \$14.58B, which is a fall of almost 30%. This unparalleled shock has kept Afghanistan among the poorest countries in the world. The lack of support and identification of the New Afghan Government makes matters worse for the country which was already under severe economic hardships. Many other economic indicators show a similar downward trend or at least no signs of improvement and restrictive policies of the Taliban. According to the UNDP report, “some of the indicators of the country which showed positive growth was largely possible due to humanitarian aid,” but the restrictive policy introduction curtailing the rights of women may lead to reduced aid from international agencies. However, there are certain positives as well, the overall inflation has reduced from 18.2% in July 2022 to 5% in December 2022, and there are also signs of reduced corruption in the government as indicated by the Corruption Perceptions Index.

For the development of Afghanistan, it is crucial to reduce corruption and improve the government's effectiveness, it is important to form the right policies so that different sectors of the economy can contribute to the improvement of the country and in improving the various social indicators, collaboration with international organizations and nations is crucial.

Figure 6:GDP of Iraq (2000-22)

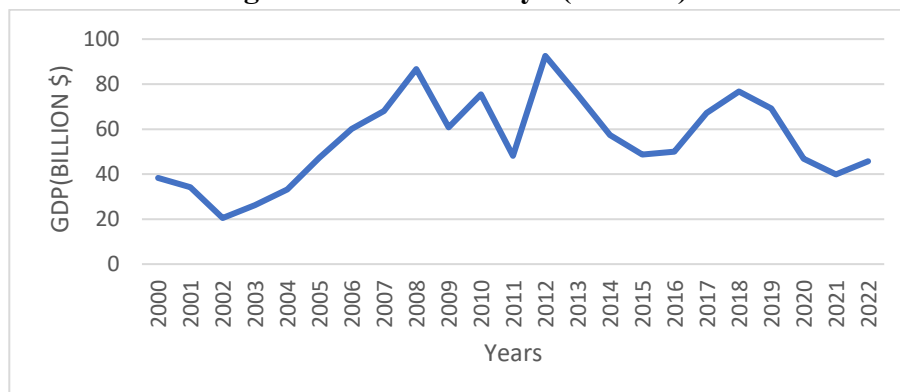


The instability of the region of Iraq can be seen by the volatility in the GDP graph of Iraq. There is a significant improvement of the country over the years but the impact of the volatile region as well its surroundings has severely impacted the economy of the Iraqi nation. The government's effectiveness has shown little to no signs of improvement in recent years.

This is mostly due to corruption and the influence of foreign powers like Iran on the politics of Iraq. War and conflicts both with the US and the aftermath of frequent wars with ISIS have made it difficult for the stable development of the country. The country faces a variety of social issues like food and water scarcity and poor education of the people; minorities are also under threat of discrimination and lack of proper representation. Inflation has also increased to an average of 6.6% in 2023.

The potential for the development of Iraq is very high with having large reserves of oil and a young population combining this with good policies of the government and international collaboration, the economic and social indicators can have a positive trend. In recent years the economy has stabilized with GDP increasing from \$207 B to \$264.18 B, an increase of almost 30%. However, the growth could be limited due to economic constraints and regional instability, good governance with improvement in government effectiveness is vital for the stable growth of the country.

Figure 7: GDP for Libya (2000-22)



Libya, similar to Iraq is a region of extreme volatility. It can be seen from the unstable graph of the GDP of Libya, with an increase in GDP, there has always periods of extreme decline in GDP.

The complex ethnic and tribal ideologies have made Libya a hotspot of conflicts and instability. A series of protests called the Arab Spring in 2011 also had severe impacts on the region. The conflicts between local armed forces, and jihadis also made the region very unstable and the lack of a strong government made it difficult to control the conflict. The external influence of countries like Russia, and UAE which support different groups and ideologies in politics is another reason for frequent civil clashes in the country.

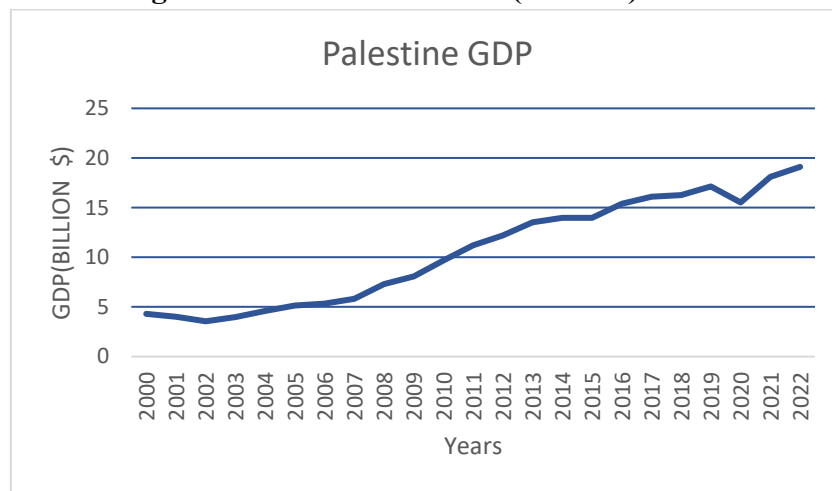
All of this has contributed to poor economic and social development of the country, according to the National Institution for Human Rights in Libya (NIHRL) poverty in Libya has increased to 40% in 2023, and GDP per capita was also continuously declining.

There are signs of some improving economic indicators, inflation has reduced to 4.3% down from 9.9% in 2020, and in recent years GDP growth has also shown a positive trend. For a stable development, the role of government is crucial, the government must reduce corruption and improve their effectiveness by making better, credible policies. Libya has enormous potential for growth because of its young population and is situated in a strategic location that aids in the trade of oil and natural gas which is abundant in Libya.

Collaborating with UNDP can also help in improving the social indicators even further and peace initiatives in the region.

In conclusion, we can see the importance of government effectiveness in improving the economic situation of a country. All the 3 countries above had negative government effectiveness for all the years with slight improvements and also had poor economy. The negative government effectiveness indicator could be used to show the shortcomings of the government system in a country and their shortcomings in policy formulation. Despite of improvements in several indicators like GDP, the lack of government support and good policies prevents the regions from developing.

Figure 8: GDP for Palestine (2000-22)

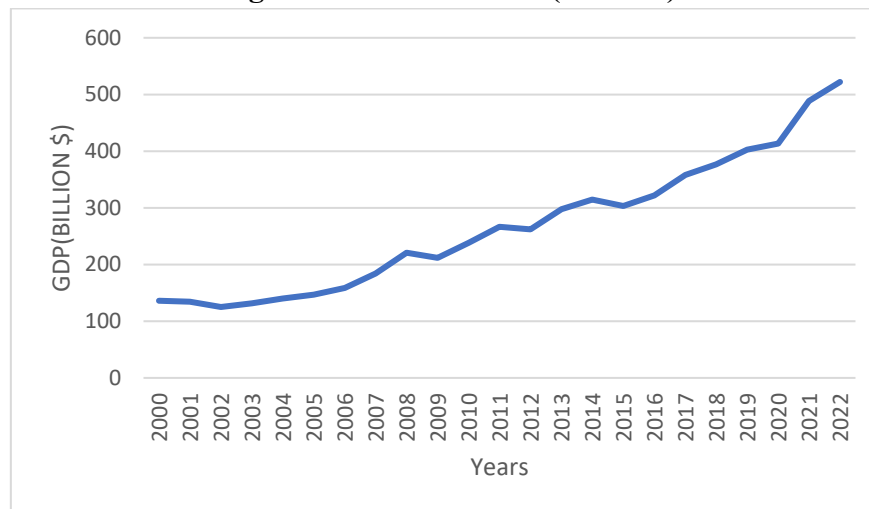


Similar patterns can be observed in Palestine which is at war with Israel and historically was an unstable region. The government in Palestine is faced with several challenges due to the history of Palestine and also the control of region by different groups like Hamas or Fateh leads to administrative inefficiencies. The war also put severe constraints on resources available to the government and the destruction of infrastructure like hospitals and schools affects many people and worsens the social indicators for the country.

We can observe that GDP has increased at a slow but steady rate with small bumps in some years. Overall, we can say that the GDP of the economy has increased over the years.

But just as was the case for Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya frequent conflicts and international pressure affect the quality and effectiveness of policy making. The war with Israel may result in a change in the governance of the nation or some local forces may start their war as was the case in all three countries where ideological differences all resulted in fights between local militias. Overall, the future of Palestine and its people is uncertain, at the current rate of destruction due to war, one thing is clear, that is the suffering of innocent people. International organizations need to play a crucial role in mediating the war to prevent a humanitarian crisis and help in the development of the region of Palestine. Future growth could be stimulated with international aid and cooperation just as was the case in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya.

Figure 9: GDP of Israel (2000-22)



The economy of Israel has shown remarkable resilience especially for a region surrounded by conflicts. The GDP has grown steadily over years with little dips in some periods.

This can be attributed to the strong economic foundations of the country due to good and effective policies of the government. It is shown by positive and increasing value in government effective estimator. This proves the importance of strong policies of the government even under uncertain conditions in the Middle East region. The less corruption in government is also reflected in the value of the indicator. But fighting wars could have an impact on the economy. Escalation in war may result in the killing or suffering of the people of Israel also, therefore international organisations and world government need to help negotiate peace in the region.

UN as a strong institution

The United Nations (UN) is a global body that was created on October 24, 1945, it replaced the previous global institution called The League of Nations due to its ineffectiveness in preventing wars and subsequent failure to prevent World War 2. The UN was created to maintain international peace, develop friendly relations among nations, international cooperation, and harmonize the actions of nations, the main goal was to prevent future conflicts and encourage global cooperation. It also collects and disseminates information about various economic and social indicators that is available on its official website which is accessible to the public.

The UN has six main bodies:

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)- It is the primary body of the UN where countries are provided a platform to discuss issues of international importance.

United Nations Security Council (UNSC)- It is responsible for maintaining international peace and security and consists of 15 nations including 5 permanent member nations -USA, UK, Russia, France, and China, which have access to veto powers.

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)- It focuses on economic development, equality, social progress, and human rights and coordinates the activities of various departments of the UN.

Secretariat- The secretariat is the executive body of the UN and plays an important role in setting up the agendas and day-to-day operations of various bodies of the UN.

International Court of Justice – It is the main judicial body of the UN and helps in settling legal disputes between nations and also provides legal advice to other bodies and departments of the UN.

United Nations Trusteeship Council – It was established to help ensure that trust territories that is the territories taken from nations that were defeated in World War 2, worked to promote the best interests of their people and international peace and security. It ceased its operations in 1994 after completing its mandate.

With 193 member nations, the UN has identified itself as a global institution having been involved in a plethora of initiatives ranging from economic and peace initiatives to issues like poverty, global warming, human rights abuse, etc. It provides a platform to collaborate with the global economies and grow collectively. It also plays a crucial role in ensuring accountability of the nations and being active in penalizing or sanctioning the nations if certain rules are broken.

Due to the UN's importance on global scale, it plays a major role in preventing wars and ensuring peace and stability in the regions. Some instances are:

2006 Lebanon war - It was a 34-day conflict between Israeli Defence forces and the Hezbollah in Lebanon. It was started due to the killings and kidnapping of Israeli soldiers by the Iran-backed Hezbollah. The UN played a major role in ensuring stability in the region by brokering a ceasefire negotiation, it also provided humanitarian aid to the civilians affected by the war. They also deployed the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to ensure neither party broke the ceasefire code and to prevent the resumption of another large-scale war.

First Ivorian War- The war was between the government of Cote d'Ivoire and the domestic terrorist forces. The region faced severe economic challenges and the ideology and corruption of the government led to ethical clashes. The UN played a major role in setting up peace initiatives for the nation in the form of the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI). Its main aim was to ensure agreement to peace policy and ending the civilian war.

Mozambique Civil War- The war was caused due to different ideologies of the government bodies. Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO) which was the ruling party in Mozambique wanted to establish a one-party system and another party like Mozambican National Resistance (RENAMO) and several small parties that rejected this regime. This led to a brutal war which led to the deaths of millions of people and destroyed the basic infrastructure of the country. The UN formed UN Operations in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) whose primary objective was peace negotiations and sign The General Peace Agreement. They also monitored the ceasefire between the parties and also assisted in the reconstruction of crucial infrastructure of Mozambique.

Despite its successes in many avenues, the UN has also faced a lot of criticism due to its inefficiency and delays in decision-making especially for conflict resolution, the misuse of veto powers by the permanent members to suit their motives is another big unresolved limitation that has led to many conflicts and deaths of innocent civilians. Some instances of UN failures to prevent war are:

Indonesia-Malaysia Confrontation (1963-1966)- This conflict is also known as Konfrontasi which was an armed battle between Indonesia and Malaysia and occurred due to Indonesia's opposition to the formation of Malaysia. The war led to both military and civil casualties in thousands and the war was over after a leadership change in Indonesia when President Sukarno and its supporting party Indonesian Communist Party (PKI) was overthrown by an anti-communist General Suharto. Peace talks were initiated between the two regions where the formation of Malaysia was formally accepted.

The role of the UN was limited in this conflict with limited intervention; however, it can be said that a lethargic response may have resulted in the delay in peaceful initiatives between the two countries, loss of military, and ultimately caused the overall instability in the region.

Six-Day War (1967)- It is also known as the Arab-Israeli War or the June War. It was a short but violent between Israel and the Arab Coalition comprising Egypt, Syria, and Jordan. Israeli forces launched a strike against Egypt and were successful in capturing the Sinai Peninsula, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and the Golan Heights. It marks the beginning of long violent conflicts between Israel and Palestine.

The UN accepted the demands of Egypt to remove the UN peacekeeping force from the Gaza strip, although the UN warned about the consequences of breaking the armistice, however, it was largely ignored by Egypt and they created a blockade on Israeli and other nation's ships in the Gulf of Aqaba, this was the starting point of increasing tensions between the two regions which eventually led to a bloody conflict. A strong response from the UN could have prevented this war and the eventual bloodshed.

Bangladesh Liberation War- This war is also known as the Bangladesh War of Independence and was an armed conflict between East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) and West Pakistan (present-day Pakistan), there was high tension between the two regions due to cultural, economic, and political differences. West Pakistan launched an attack on East Pakistan resulting in a genocide. East Pakistan along with support from its neighbours like India was able to gain independence and form the nation of Bangladesh, after a long-drawn-out conflict of almost 9 months when the Western Pakistani army surrendered.

The UN played a multifaceted role in the war as they provided humanitarian aid to the Bangladeshi (East Pakistan) refugees, and their security council made proposals for a ceasefire but was vetoed by the USSR. This highlights an important limitation of UN authority, especially during times of war. The misuse of the veto powers by the permanent members often constrains or delay the initiatives or plans formed to bring harmony and peace in the region.

Lebanese Civil War-The war spurred due to the tensions between two religious groups and lasted for almost 15 years (1975-90). UN initiated its peacekeeping efforts by grounding its United Nations interim force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The role of the force was criticized on many grounds. It was believed that it majorly focused on withdrawing Israeli forces from southern Lebanon rather than working on the wider grounds of the war. Also, the division within UNSC was quite visible. Vetoes and abstentions also played a role. In one instance, The US vetoed the resolution to condemn Israel's invasion and even participated in the joint military conflict later in the early 1980s. UNIFIL failed to implement many ceasefire agreements, such as the Cairo and the Riyadh agreements of 1976 and 1977 respectively.

Soviet Afghan War -UNGA passed a resolution on 14th January 1980 named "Resolution ES-6/2", under its emergency session called "Uniting for peace". However, the resolution faced limitations to enforcement mechanisms. Also, due to the Cold War politics, the UNSC couldn't agree on stronger measures. Soviet Union, being the permanent member always vetoed any agreement against it. Thus, the UNSC always struggled to reach a consensus. Proposals for sanctions against the Soviet Union also faced a Soviet veto, highlighting the limitations of the UNSC in acting against powerful member states. The humanitarian aid fell short of the massive refugee crisis and civilian suffering caused by the war. UN was also majorly condemned because, it specifically focused on the Soviet withdrawal without addressing the internal Afghan political issues that fuelled the conflict, contributing to its continuation even after the Soviet departure.

Rwandan genocide 1994-The tensions started initially as an ethnic conflict between Tutsis and Hutu, but gradually it escalated as a protracted conflict. The UN Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) was deployed as the peacekeeping force but it was not meant to completely intervene in the full-blown genocide. The warnings were believed to be ignored by the force and there was a drastic reduction of troops from 2700 to 270 before the genocide began. The international community, including the UNSC,

was reluctant to intervene in Rwanda due to various factors, including a lack of clear information, concerns about escalation, and Cold War anxieties. The UN also delayed; the conflict being recognized as the genocide. As a result, over 8,00,000 people were killed in the genocide, mainly Tutsis and moderate Hutus. The UN's inability to intervene effectively contributed to this tragic loss of life.

Iraq War (2003-11)-The suspicion of the presence of Weapons for mass destruction (WMDs) bore the seeds of conflicts and tensions. The threat from WMDs culminated with the Sept 11 attacks, Hussein's history of using chemical weapons and geopolitical interests fuelled the conflict and the further US invasion. It was seen that several key UNSC members like France and Germany criticized the US-led invasion, thus undermining the UN's image as a unified body. Similar divisions within the UNSC led to the failure of resolution 1441. The UN's post-invasion role was restricted to humanitarian aid and reconstruction efforts, with limited influence on political and security matters controlled by the US-led coalition. thus, again reflecting the dominance of superpower in the global body. The UN relied on faulty intelligence to determine the presence of WMDs and its credibility and effectiveness in addressing the conflict was severely strained when no evidence regarding WMDs was found.

Instability in Afghanistan (2021)-The Doha agreement of 2020 between the Taliban and the US led to the withdrawal of US troops from Afghan territory. The onset of the Taliban regime followed by the departure of the troops led to unstable conditions in the country. With the fall of Kabul UN drew down its personnel, limiting its participation in monitoring the situation and engaging with key actors. Also, the UN failed to negotiate with the Taliban on the matter of women's rights and power sharing. This instance was a major setback to the UN's reputation. As the UN intercepted for a short duration, it did not bring the conclusions to break the deep-rooted poverty and ethnic tensions.

In conclusion, the UN has been identified as a global organization that takes part in many international projects whether that is related to economic recovery and cooperation or social projects to reduce injustices like gender equality awareness programs, sustainable development goals (SDGs), or vaccine drive and awareness. It also allows world leaders to provide solutions and increase global harmony and cooperation. The various bodies and departments of the UN work in tandem to ensure efficient functioning and focus on different goals, aspects, and problems. Even though they have garnered much praise for their continuous work, they also have received lots of criticism and backlash over the years. The instances of war provided in this research highlight various problems and limitations faced in solving conflicts. In many cases, we can see similar problems being highlighted like misuse of veto powers whether it was used to prevent peace negotiations or to hold a nation accountable for its actions. Even the current Israel-Palestine war has similar problems, with nations misusing their veto powers for example, the US vetoed the resolution of a ceasefire between the two nations on the pretext of justice for innocent civilians of Israel after a ghastly attack by Hamas "terrorists," the delay in conflict resolution has led to loss of lives of hundreds of thousands of people. We can see that many reforms are needed in this area to improve the efficiency of peace resolutions and hold nations liable for their actions to make the UN more powerful, accountable, and a strong institution that can accomplish its aims.

Limitations

Due to the gaps in the GDP data obtained from the World Bank, we could not rely on the data of before 2002. There was the unavailability of data on Afghanistan from 1982 to 2001, although Libya's and Iraq's data was available, we were limited to harness it, due to Afghanistan's. This abstained us from taking the prior war periods of the countries into consideration. If we had taken earlier years, the GDP and hunger

averages could have represented more precise situations as with larger samples, the "randomness" from individual data points averages out, making the sample average closer to the true population average. Also, we faced the issue of gathering up the poverty index of the countries hence we have to estimate it indirectly from GDP per capita. In a chain, GDP per capita has its limitations. It ignores income distribution within the society. It is simply an average and doesn't tell us how wealth is distributed within a society. Hence it weakened the proof to compare inequality generated in the society during war times. Secondly, it ignores the component of goods produced, which means the production of wartime goods like guns and bombs also increases GDP ignoring the fact its negative externalities and no welfare for the people.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the research summarises the multifaceted nature of war and the myriad of challenges it poses to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. Not only does the war affect the 16th SDG that is related to peace but also the various other SDGs like 1st, 2nd, 10th, 13th, 14th, and 15th which are synonymous with the goals of poverty, hunger, inequality, climate change, life below water and life on land respectively.

By focusing not only on the ongoing war between Israel and Palestine but also on 3 other countries Afghanistan, Libya, and Iraq, we form a relationship between the countries due to their similar unstable environment. It helped in forming a stronger prediction for the future of Israel and Palestine. Using indicators like GDP per capita, Hunger index, and Happiness index we found the impacts of war on various indicators and how it also affects and delays the achievement of SDGs in those countries.

Using the government effectiveness estimates, we were able to find a relation between the past performance of countries and able to discover the importance of effective government policies and international organizations like the UN for restoring the economies of war-torn nations.

We also highlighted the issue with the UN primarily in the area of conflict resolution and peace initiatives. Through many instances of war both where the UN was successful and unsuccessful, this research was able to accomplish to focus on the crux of the issue which is misuse of veto powers.

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