

**VVPMUN'24**  
**UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL**  
**BACKGROUND GUIDE**



**UNSC**  
Security Council

**Agenda: The Israel-Palestine Conflict**

## **Letter from the Executive Board**

Greetings delegates,

We are delighted to welcome you to the United Nations Security Council ( UNSC ) at VVPMUN 2024, where we are committed to ensuring a smooth and efficient committee flow during the three days of conference. As the executive board, we are excited to see you represent your respective nations and work together to develop resolutions and form a consensus addressing the conflict that we will be deliberating upon. As a delegate, You'll be required to negotiation prowess, diplomacy, critical thinking abilities, and knowledge of global affairs to the ultimate test. You'll have your hands full tackling moderated caucuses during formal sessions to handling the rest of the committee during the chaotic unmoderated caucuses.

In order to provide you a solid grasp of the agenda and to help you get started on your conference research, we have put together this background guide. It is imperative that you do not use this background guide as your only source of information for the duration of the conference's research. It is advised that you use this Background guide to gain a foundational understanding before expanding your knowledge on your own through independent study, which will be helpful during the conference.

Since the UNSC usually entails the most elite delegates amongst the delegates who attend the conference, the Executive Board will remain rigid in terms of the Rules of Procedure, and will also further refrain from interrupting the flow of debate, thus handing the responsibility of deciding the flow of committee is in your hands, the delegates.

We encourage you to approach this conference not as a Competition, but as a Learning experience that will help you gain new connections, learn invaluable concepts, and further understand the world of international relations better. Lastly, if you have any queries, don't hesitate to contact the Executive Board through email.

Goodluck, and Godspeed.

*Shloak Gupta, Co - Chairperson*

*BS Chetan Swaroop Reddy, Co – Chairperson.*

# Rules of Procedure

## Motions

### Roll Call

At the beginning of each Session and upon the Motion to begin Roll call, Chairpersons shall call in an alphabetical order on all Member States in order to state their status of attendance. Member States may reply “present” or “present and voting”. Representatives stating just “present and voting” shall have no right to abstain from any vote on any substantial voting procedure, and a delegate who votes “present” may abstain from voting.

Note: Voting stance can be changed from “Present” to “Present and Voting” the next time Roll Call is being done in the next session/day. However, It can't be changed from “Present and Voting” to “Present”.

How to raise it: The delegate of [portfolio] raises a motion to begin a roll call.

### General Speaker's List (GSL )

Procedurally, After a Roll call, initially in the session, You start with the General Speaker's List where delegates will be recognised to give a 90 second (The time limit can be altered by a Motion to Change the Speaker's Time) speech entailing the delegate's stance, and what they propose to do for the rest of the committee session, and sometimes if time permits, an initial solution may be briefed about too.

Furthermore, If three consecutive motion's fail, The committee will procedurally be reverting back to the General Speaker's List due to the committee's lack of clarity on how to proceed with the flow of debate. Moreover, The delegates, if permitted by the Executive board, can speak in the GSL innumerable times.

Note: The General Speaker's list is non-exhaustive, thus there is no ending to the list and speakers can always be recognised under the Executive Board's discretion.

How to raise it: The delegate of [portfolio] raises a motion to establish the general speakers' List.

### Moderated Caucus

A Moderated caucus is aimed to facilitate and accelerate the discussion on the agenda deemed as essential and critical for the topic on agenda, through discussion on a specific topic under the agenda and when the committee is in formal session. The motion for the moderated caucus can be introduced by any of the delegates once the Floor is open for Points and Motions, Usually three motions will be recognised before voting upon them. The delegate shall specify the total time of the Motion, individual speaker's

time for each of the delegates (not exceeding the speaker's time set for the general Speaker's List) and the purpose of the Motion.

How to raise it: The delegate of [portfolio] raises a motion to move into a Moderated Caucus on "topic" for the time period of "x" minutes allotting "x" minute per speaker.

Note: The Total time for a Moderated Caucus can't exceed 20 minutes.

As a Moderated Caucus is limited to the number of delegates recognised to speak, a delegate who is not recognised may send in a substantive chit ( Which will be explained later ).

### Unmoderated Caucus

An Unmoderated Caucus is an informal form of debate, during which delegates are able to freely discuss all issues with other delegates, lobby for their interests, resolve difficult questions about the topic on the agenda, make blocs and create working papers and resolutions. Here, delegates are allowed to move around the venue, and talk to any delegate. However, It is usually under an Executive Board member's supervision.

How to raise it: The delegate of [portfolio] raises a motion to move into an unmoderated Caucus for the time period of "x" minutes.

Note: The total time period for an Unmoderated Caucus can't be for more than 30 minutes, however, another motion may be raised to extend the Unmoderated caucus.

### Yields:

During a GSL, if a delegate has any remaining time, They can yield this time in any one of the following manner:

1. Yield to POINT OF INFORMATION / Questions - If the delegate is open to questions, it is at the discretion of the Chairpersons to grant this right to any delegate willing to pose an inquiry to the delegate within the remaining time allocated to the delegate *regarding the speech*. The delegate who yielded his time to questions can refuse to answer any of them at his discretion.
2. Yield to another delegate - the remaining time will be offered to another delegate as allotted by the former speaker. The delegate who was yielded the time must've priorly agreed for this arrangement and should be willing to speak right after the delegate yields the time. *The Remaining time can't be used when the delegate is giving his speech*.
3. Yield to the Executive Board: If there is remaining time left, but the delegate is not wishing to answer any questions or give his allocated time to another delegate, he /she can yield his time back to the Chairpersons, who will proceed with another delegate on the Speaker's List/ wishing to speak afterwards. Moreover, the Chairpersons can decide to ask questions, or may decide to use the time for questions / points of information.

4. Yield to Comments: If there remaining time left, it can be yielded to comments where other delegates in the committee, if recognised, will be commenting on the delegates speech. ( *However, The Executive Board will be prohibiting these yields in this conference* ).

### **Points:**

1. Point of Parliamentary Enquiry: This point is raised by a delegate to clarify anything regarding the rules of procedure or to know the status of the committee. Such Points may not interrupt speakers and can be introduced only when the Floor is open for Points.

How to raise it? : The delegate of “your allocated country” raises a point of a parliamentary enquiry.

Example: Point of Parliamentary Enquiry, The Delegate of India would like to know who the next speaker on the list is?

2. Point of Personal Privilege: - A delegate may raise the Point of Personal Privilege in case of whichever kind of personal discomfort which prevents him from full participation in the debate. Such things can be for example audibility of other speakers, switching of air conditioning etc. A Point of Personal Privilege can interrupt a speaker only in the case of bad audibility.

How to raise it? : The delegate of “your allocated country” raises a point of personal privilege

3. Point of Information: This point can be raised when the speaker yield’s time to POIs / Questions, and is usually to ask a question pertaining to the given speech. Therefore, POIs can *only be asked during the General Speaker’s List*.
4. Point of Order: There are two types of point of orders; Factual Inaccuracy, and Logical Fallacy. These points are used when there are irregularities, invalid points, and factually wrong aspects in a speech.
  - a. Point of Order, Factual Inaccuracy: Used when there is something in the speech that is factually incorrect according to information from sources that are considered valid. I.e. Delhi is not the Capital of the USA, it is the capital of India.
  - b. Point of Order, Logical Fallacy: Used when something in the speech doesn’t logically make sense, or when the delegate is contradicting themselves.

These points must be framed in a very specific manner, if not, they will not be accepted:

How to raise: “Point of Order, *Type of POO*, The Delegate mentioned *Verbatim*, however “x”.

Note: POOs usually carry a good weightage, thus it should be raised in the above manner strictly with the exact verbatim. Moreover, POOs are *only accepted during Moderated Caucuses*.

### **Substantive Chit:**

Substantive chits can only be sent by delegates when they're not recognised to speak in a moderated caucus and want to convey something that is imperative and has not already been mentioned. The following format shall be used:

*Substantive Chit:*

*To: Executive Board*

*From: Delegate of [portfolio]*

- *These points must include substantive nature*
- *And should not be a speech.*

### **Right to Reply:**

Delegate, whose country's national integrity or sovereignty has been contested and violated, may require Right of Reply. A chit entailing why a delegate wants to raise a right to reply must firstly be sent to the executive board, after which, the Executive board will call in the Secretary General, and both the delegates in question will be allotted a specific amount of time to justify themselves. After which, a procedural voting will begin where the delegate who loses the right to reply will be gagged for a specific period of time decided by the Secretary General.

### **Resolution**

A resolution or reso, contains all the solutions that the committee wants to introduce in the form of a formal document that will be discussed and put to vote in front of the committee. If passed, this acts as a set of suggestions and recommendations to those who agree with it on the issue at hand.

**Sponsors** are those who have majorly written the resolution, whose countries must agree with every clause, and who would be answering the questions based on the resolution. The number of sponsors is usually kept between 2 and 4, this will be informed to the committee on the day of the conference.

**Signatories** are those who would like to see the resolution discussed in front of the committee. A signatory does not necessarily agree with the resolution, just wants to see it be debated. A delegate can be a signatory to more than one resolution. Resolutions must have at least 1/3rd of the committee's strength as signatories to be able to present them to the committee.

**An amendment to a resolution** is in the form of an edit, addition, or deletion to the resolution that has been presented to the committee. This is usually sent to the chairs after the resolution has been discussed and through a motion, the committee is in an amendment session. If more than 1/3rd the number of a resolution's total number of operative clauses are accepted as amendments, the resolution will be scrapped. When an amendment is presented to the chairs, the sponsors of the resolution will be given the option to either accept it as **friendly or unfriendly**. A friendly amendment is automatically accepted, and the content that was aimed to be changed, added or deleted is done as such. An unfriendly amendment

means that the committee will vote, to decide whether or not the change shall be made. This is done through a simple majority vote.

- 1) (To introduce Resolution) the delegate of “your allotted country” would like to raise a motion to introduce \*RESOLUTION NAME\*
- 2) (Amendments) the delegate of “your allotted country” would like to raise a motion to move into the amendment session for \*RESOLUTION NAME\*
- 3) (To vote on the resolution) the delegate of “your allotted country” would like to raise a motion to table the\*RESOLUTION NAME\* for the voting procedure.

### **Resolution Format**

(Name of resolution)

Sponsors:

Signatories:

Topic: XYZ

Committee name,

(Preambulatory Clauses)

1. Every preambulatory clause ends with a comma (,)

(Operative clauses)

1. Every Operative clause ends with a semicolon (;)

2. Every sub-clause to a resolution should end with a comma (,) till and unless it is the last sub-clause to the main clause, it shall end with a semicolon (;)

3. Every main clause before starting with a sub-clause should have a colon (:)

4. Full stop at the end of the resolution.

### **Voting**

Voting is of 2 types, procedural and substantive. Procedural voting requires a simple majority, which is set at 50%+1 of committee strength. For example, if a committee has 100 people, the simple majority is set at 51 votes. Procedural Voting is used in cases such as voting upon motions. Substantive voting requires a 2/3rds majority. This is primarily used in voting upon a resolution. For example, if a committee has 100 members, the majority will be set at 67 votes.

### **Press Conference**

The questions may range from matters of foreign policy, the agenda itself or controversial actions by the respective nations of the delegates, with the intended purpose being to test the depth of the research and knowledge of the delegates

## Directives

From: Name of portfolio/ portfolios

To: Portfolios to whom the directive is being addressed to

Type: Individual or Joint (if more than one portfolios are involved)

Status: **Covert/Overt directive.** (Details of a covert directive will remain a secret. The delegate will know if the directive has passed or failed if it is incorporated in the committee through crisis updates. The name of the senders and the content will not be revealed to the committee.)

Objective: Briefly include the key message/purpose of the directive

Plan of Action: Explain in detail the exact actions, steps to be taken. Give precise and to-the point instructions.

Outcome: Briefly explain the immediate expected outcome of the directive.



## **Introduction**

The conflicted ownership and claim over the land that is known today as Israel and/or Palestine has been a contentious point between communities from times immemorial. The contention over this “Holy Land” has been one riddled not only with religious sentiment, but also several facets of international law. A conflict that began over a century ago and one that has developed into arguably the most polarising and intricate in modern history, is the highlight of the history of the Near East.

Almost all information about the ancient history of the region and the conflict therein comes from the 24 books of the Tanakh, also called the Hebrew Bible. This history dates back to around 1000 B.C., during the reign of the first King of a unified Kingdom of Israel, David. In 931 B.C., after the death of King Solomon, the son of David, the region saw disunity once again, with the northern “Israel” splitting away from the southern “Judah”. These kingdoms faced considerable opposition and hostility from the much larger Egyptian and Assyrian Empires to their South and North, respectively. In 722 B.C., the northern Kingdom of Israel fell to the Assyrian Empire and in 671 B.C., the capital of Judah, Jerusalem was besieged by the Assyrians who went on to conquer much of Egypt as well, over the next 30 or so years.

About a century later, the Assyrian capital of Nineveh fell to the Babylonians who would go on sack and destroy Jerusalem after a Jewish rebellion, in 587 B.C. less than half a decade later, in 539 B.C., Babylon is conquered by the Persian king, Cyrus. During the Persian rule of Jerusalem, Jewish culture grows and the Torah, i.e., the first five books of the Tanakh is written and in 516 B.C., the (Second) Temple of Solomon is rebuilt after its destruction in the Babylonian invasion of the city. Almost two centuries later, the Persian Empire fell to the great Macedonian king, Alexander and with it, so did Jerusalem. It is understood from the accounts of the historian Josephus, that the city welcomed the Greek king and spoke of a prophecy; the Prophecy of Daniel that showed God was in the great King’s favour. Following his death, the land was ruled by the Hellenic kingdoms of the Ptolemaic and Seleucid Dynasties, during which the Jews faced much oppression and opposition from the Greeks who even repurposed an altar at the Temple of Solomon and dedicated it to the worship of Zeus. In 160 B.C., a group of Jewish warriors called the Maccabees revolted against the desecration of their temple and in 129 B.C., after 14 years of autonomous rule, the region gained independence under the Hasmonean dynasty of the Maccabees. In 69 B.C., the Roman general Pompey sieged and

conquered what would become Judea, a client kingdom of Rome still under the rule of the Hasmoneans. But in 37 B.C., Herod, the former governor of Galilee was appointed King of the Jews by the Roman Senate following a struggle for power within the Hasmonean dynasty after the death of king Hyrcanus II. Judea was then declared a client state of the Roman Empire, which it remained until 6 A.D., when it was made a full province of the Empire. Roman (and later, Byzantine) Judea rebelled and revolted against Rome (and later, Constantinople) innumerable times and Roman responses were always more brutal than the last, with several sieges of the city being laid and many orders to exile what became known as the “Jewish diaspora” from their Holy Land being recorded in history.

Towards the end of the Eastern Roman Empire, the Jewish people sought to rid the area of Roman occupation and found an interesting ally in the Sasanian Empire under Khosrau II, who sieged and took Jerusalem from the Byzantines in 614 A.D. aided by the Jews led by Nehemiah ben Hushiel and Benjamin of Tiberias. Shortly after, both of them were killed in a Christian revolt against the Jews, triggering a short period of continuous conflict between the Byzantines and the Sasanian Persians. During most of this time, Jerusalem and Caesarea remained firmly in Byzantine hands, but much of the Levant was occupied.

In this time, a new religion, Islam, grew in the Arabian Peninsula and its followers, Muslims, became another threat to the weakening Sasanian Persians. In order to protect themselves from the invading Muslims, Emperor Heraclius and King Yazdegerd III entered into an alliance with the latter even marrying the former’s daughter. Despite their combined efforts, the Byzantine Christians were crushed at Yarmouk and the Persians defeated at al-Quadisiyya, just one month apart, in 636 A.D. A year later, Jerusalem surrendered to the Rashidun Caliph Umar. An in 651 A.D., the last Persian king, Yazdegerd III was killed and the region controlled by them fell to the Muslims. The following years saw a rapid expansion of the Muslim caliphate with the Byzantines being dealt several crushing defeats by the Rashidun Caliphate throughout Levant and Egypt. In 691 A.D., the Dome of the Rock was built where the Temple(s) of Solomon once stood.

Muslim rule over the area saw four caliphates over 435 years, the Rashidun, Umayyad, Abbasid and Fatmid, until the weakening Fatmid Caliphate fell to Aziz ibn-Uvaq, who later received support from the Seljuk Turks. This period saw fighting between the Fatmids, Seljuks as well as the Byzantine Christians, but control stayed rather firmly in Fatmid hands until 1099, when Pope

Urban's call for a Crusade in the Holy Land bore fruit and Jerusalem was under Crusader Rule for the better part of the next two centuries as a further eight Crusades were launched to aid the Latin Kingdoms established. During this time, Muslim sultanates from Egypt posed the greatest threat to Christian Jerusalem and the crusades focussed also on retaking what land was occupied by the Egyptian Ayyubid and later Mamluk Sultanates, especially after the Ayyubid victory in the 1187 siege by the great Sultan Salahuddin Ayyubi, which sent shockwaves throughout Christendom and led even to the death of Pope Urban III. Despite unrelenting efforts of the Christian kings of Europe to retake and secure the Holy Land, control over the region was never undisputed and between the several skirmishes between the Ayyubids and the Christian kings of Europe, a peace treaty was signed between the Sultan Malik el-Kamel and King Frederick II, the Holy Roman Emperor and King of Jerusalem in 1229, granting the Christians control over Bethlehem, Jerusalem and Nazareth for ten years in exchange for the peaceful treatment of Muslim pilgrims – the first ever formal agreement on the control and ownership of the Holy Land. The only other agreement of a similar kind is the 1192 Treaty of Jaffa between the Battle of Jaffa between Sultan Salahuddin Ayyubi and King Richard I of England. After the expiration of the treaty and the death of Sultan Malik el-Kamel, the Ayyubids sought the help of a Central Asian peoples who previously were vassals under the Seljuk Turks, the Kwarazmians. The Kwarazmians, as requested by the Ayyubids, sieged, sacked and destroyed Jerusalem in 1244; by the end of that decade, the Ayyubids re-conquered much of what they ceded in 1229.

The Ayyubids had control over the region for a short period thereafter until in 1250, the overthrow of the Ayyubid dynasty by the Qipchaq Turkic peoples who would become known as Mamluks, took place. The Mamluks were a fierce warrior dynasty who served as soldiers and slaves of their former rulers. Their prowess in the battlefield can be examined, for example, keeping in mind the Battle of Ayn Jalut, where the Mamluk army fought and defeated the mighty Horde of the Ilkhanate in a decisive defeat dealt to the Mongols, a force even the Crusader Armies refused to take on. But the Mamluk administration of the region too wasn't undisturbed. A couple of decades after the fall of the Ayyubids, a new power began to surface in Anatolia, the Ottomans.

Palestine and the Levant was under Mamluk rule for over two-and-a-half centuries until 1516, when the Ottoman Turks under Sultan Selim I defeated and replaced the Mamluk Empire of Sultan Al-Ashraf Al-Ghawri in the Battle of Marj Dabiq . Greater Syria, as the region was

alternatively called, remained under Ottoman rule for the next three centuries, until 1917. During this period, the region saw many developments including the reconstruction of the Jerusalem city walls by Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent in 1538, the sealing of the Golden Gate, by the Great Sultan, the Status Quo promulgated through a *firman* from Sultan Osman III in 1757 which prevented any and all changes made to the holy sites in Jerusalem and Bethlehem, the establishment of American, French, British, Russian and Austrian consulates in Jerusalem, the modernization of Ottoman Syria and the birth of Zionism.

The conflicts that the Council, in this next session shall look to examine and resolve comprehensively all have to do with the events following one very important announcement; a declaration from the then-Foreign Secretary (and former Prime Minister) of the United Kingdom, Arthur James Balfour, on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1917 affirming the Government's "view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people", in a letter addressed to one of the most influential Zionists of the time, Lord Lionel Rothschild who was also a very close friend of the soon-to-become first Prime Minister of the State of Israel. The letter, also referred to as the Balfour Declaration was the foundation for nearly all agreements/treaties relating to Israel.

Similar to the historic situation in the region, the current scenario also involves several conflicting claims and armed engagement of the parties involved on multiple occasions.

### **Definition of Key Terms Zionism**

It is the ideology that sought "to secure for the Jewish people a publicly recognized, legally assured homeland in Palestine". Begun by Theodor Herzl, the ideology developed into several subsections over the course of history, with the common goal of uniting all Jewish people keeping in mind the formation of a Jewish State.

### **Anti-Semitism**

As acknowledged by the European Agency for Fundamental Rights, "anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred towards Jews". The FRA also accepts that, "rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community

institutions and religious facilities”. As a definition adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, the Working Definition as it is also called, is the most widely accepted definition of antisemitism.

The EUFRA goes on to state how contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non- Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.

Examples of the ways in which antisemitism manifests itself with regard to the state of Israel taking into account the overall context could include:

- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for the actions of the state of Israel.

## **Pan-Arabism**

The ideology that all Arab people must unite to constitute a single Arab state that gave to them the land that was rightfully theirs. President Gamel Abdel Nasser championed this ideology and was a driving force in the formation of the United Arab Republic in 1958 which united Syria and Egypt into a single sovereign state.

## **Statehood**

The principal subjects of International Law and accepted as International Persons, a State was defined as “a community which consists of a territory and a population subject to an organised political authority” that is “characterized by sovereignty”, on 20th November 1991, in Opinion No. 1 of the Arbitration Commission of the European Conference on Yugoslavia.

The most widely accepted criteria for statehood are laid down by the 1933 Montevideo Convention on the Rights and Duties of States which mentions the following criteria as prerequisites for statehood:

- A permanent population
- A defined territory
- A government
- The capacity to enter into relations with other States

An important fact to note would be that while a permanent population and a defined territory, there is no specification of either the minimum number of inhabitants or any settled boundaries in international law. However, in the case of the latter, there must exist a consistent band of land that is controlled by the “state” in question.

## **Two-State Solution**

A two-state solution is suggestion that a solution to two conflicting claims over the same piece of land can be resolved by partially acknowledging both claims and dividing the disputed area between both parties of the conflict.

For example, the 1967 Allon plan to initially split parts of the West Bank with Palestine, and later refined into a plan to split the region with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan by retaining the Jordan Valley along with Gush Etzion, part of the Hebron foothills and East Jerusalem, while

offering the rest to Jordan, including the more populated areas like Jericho was the first suggestion of a two state solution from Israel in modern history.

### **One-State Solution**

The suggestion that a disputed territory can only, in the end, belong to one of the claimants in its entirety.

### **Mandate**

The League of Nations authorized “Mandatories”, i.e., States that would administer territories whose ownership and administration was in question after the War. These Mandatories were to administer the regions on behalf of the League as set out in article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations. The League classified them into three categories:

- Class A mandates covering territories that were considered to be ready to receive independence within a relatively short period of time. These territories were all in the Middle East: Iraq, Palestine, and Transjordan, administered by the UK; and Lebanon and Syria, administered by France,
- Class B mandates covering territories for which the granting of independence was a distant prospect. These territories were all in Africa: the Cameroons and Togoland, each of which was divided between British and French administration; Tanganyika, under British administration; and Ruanda-Urundi, under Belgian administration, and
- Class C mandates, which were granted over territories where there was virtually no prospect of self-government, let alone independence, was held out. These territories included South West Africa, administered by the Union of South Africa; New Guinea, administered by Australia; Western Samoa, administered by New Zealand; Nauru, administered by Australia under mandate of the British Empire; and certain Pacific islands, administered by Japan.

### **Background Information**

The situation in the Near East became more intricate than ever before following the Balfour Declaration of 1917. Considering also that Britain now exercised active control over the region from this moment onwards and that the Great War was towards its end, the region starts to see Western influence.

## Before Mandatory Palestine

Before the Balfour Declaration was made, several events were of significant importance; a series of exchanges between the Sharif of Mecca, Hussein bin Ali al-Hashimi and the British High Commissioner to Egypt, Sir Vincent Arthur Henry McMahon GCMG GCVO KCIE CSI KStJ, which became known as the Hussein-McMahon Correspondence, went on from July 1915 to March 1916. Through these letters, the British promised their recognition of an independent Arab state “the limits and boundaries” of which were as “proposed by the Sharif of Mecca” with exception of the region of Syria to the West of Hama, Damascus, Aleppo and Homs. The Sharif was supported by Arab nationalist groups as well, who pledged their support in exchange for the guarantee that Britain would recognize Arab independence in Ottoman Lands to the south of the 37<sup>th</sup> Parallel. Within this correspondence, the Sharif promised an Arab uprising against the Ottomans in July 1916 for which he sought £50,000 in gold plus weapons, ammunition and food from Britain in exchange for which, the United Kingdom guaranteed their support for an Arab Khalifate (Caliphate) under Hussein bin Ali. Following the correspondence, Sharif Hussein’s son Faisal led the Arab Revolt of 1916 assisted by the then Major T.E Lawrence, after which he declared himself as Malik al-Arab in October 1916 and was recognized as the King of Hejaz by France, UK, USA and Russia by December the same year.

Controversially, the United Kingdom entered into a secret pact which became known as the Sykes-Picot Agreement with France in parallel to the Correspondence. This agreement, between Sir Tatton Mark Sykes, a British diplomat and MP and François Georges-Picot, a French diplomat and politician, sought to divide the Ottoman Empire as spheres of influence between France and the United Kingdom such that Syria and other parts of Palestine which were promised by Britain to the Arabs (as per the Hussein-McMahon Correspondence) fell under the French sphere of influence (as per the Sykes-Picot Agreement). The Agreement remained a secret until November 1917, when they were published in the *Pravda* («Правда») after Russian claims to the Ottoman Empire were rejected by the West following the October Revolution. This confirmed to the entire world the claims of the World Zionist Organization, which in April the same year announced the existence of such an agreement. Immediately after, King Hussein sent letters to the British Government seeking explanations for both the Balfour Declaration and the Sykes-Picot Agreement. Commander David Hogarth of the Arab Bureau of British Intelligence sent a response to King Hussein’s request in January 1918 in which he stated that the intent of His Majesty’s Government was to support the aspirations of the Jews to return to Palestine and “to bring about the success of Zionism by friendship and co-operation



with the Arabs”, while reiterating his stand that “world Jewry” were indeed in favour of the Arab cause. In February the same year, Lieutenant Colonel J.R. Bassett wrote to King Hussein regarding the Sykes-Picot Agreement in which he mentioned how Britain and her allies were steadfastly in support of all peoples oppressed under Ottoman rule and that that “His Majesty's Government re-affirm their former pledge in regard to the liberation of the Arab people. His Majesty's Government have hitherto made it their policy to ensure that liberation, and it remains the policy they are determined unflinchingly to pursue by protecting such Arabs as are already liberated from all dangers and perils, and by assisting those who are still under the yoke of the tyrants to obtain their freedom”.

After the Battle of Haifa in September 1918, the British (with Indian Princely States) won a decisive victory over the Ottoman Empire and Austro-Hungary and moved onward towards the Ottoman capital of Constantinople. Constantinople was captured on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1918 and shortly after the Mudros Armistice was signed and the Ottoman Empire surrendered to the Allies. In January 1919, Crown Prince Faisal of Hejaz signed an agreement with Chaim Weizmann that agreed to recognize the Balfour Declaration and agree to all actions of the British to fulfil their obligations as per the document, but the agreement broke apart very soon due to the reservation made by Prince Faisal which applied as *clausula rebus sic stantibus*.

A year later, the Paris Peace Conference was convened and the Great War was formally ended with the conclusion of the Treaty of Versailles. King Hussein however refused to sign it stating that he ‘could never affix his name to a document that gave Palestine to the Jews and Syria to foreigners’, making reference to the fact that Syria was to be part of France’s sphere of influence as per the Sykes-Picot Agreement. Soon after, the Allies began discussions to form an international forum for cooperation and the maintenance of peace, the League of Nations.

Simultaneously, the Inter-Allied Commission on Mandates in Turkey was set up in 1919 which sought to determine the best course of action forwards with regards to the new administrative divisions of the Ottoman Empire.

### **Mandatory Palestine**

After the formation of the League of Nations in January 1920, the formulation of League of Nations Mandates took place at the Remo Conference, in April the same year. It was decided by the Supreme Court of the League of Nations that the Empire will be split into three Class A Mandatories, Mesopotamia, Syria and Palestine with Britain being the recognized Mandatory for the first and last and France being granted the Mandate over Syria. In July 1922, the Mandates

were approved by the Council of the League. The Mandates were granted based on the recommendations of the 1919 Inter-Allied Commission on Mandates in Turkey.

The document stated explicitly, “whereas recognition has thereby been given to the historical connection of the Jewish people with Palestine and the grounds for reconstituting their national home in that country”, translating the intent shown in the Balfour Declaration into action.

During this period, the boundaries of the area shifted several times as the French and the British negotiated their respective borders. In 1920, the two governments signed the Franco-British Convention on Certain Points Connected with the Mandates for Syria and the Lebanon, Palestine and Mesopotamia. Following the Cairo Conference in 1921, Britain decided to divide the Palestinian Mandate into two divisions along the Jordan River to the Gulf of Aqaba Line. The eastern portion was called Transjordan would be an Arab State overseen by the office of the High Commissioner for Palestine and the western region was to serve as the “national home of the Jews”. The British, subsequently installed the sons of King Hussein as Hashemite rulers in all their administrative divisions. The King’s second son Abdullah was made the King of Transjordan in April 1921 and his third son, Faisal was made King of Iraq (and later, King of Greater Syria) in August the same year. Ali bin Hussein, the oldest of King Hussein’s children was to take over as King of Hejaz and Grand Sharif of Mecca after his father.

In 1923, the Paulet-Newcombe Agreement was signed between France and Britain and the borders negotiated in 1920 were modified once again.

This period saw growing resentment among the Arabs for the Zionist cause and by extension all its supporters. With the start of the Second World War, there began a drastic increase in Jewish immigration to Palestine. Seeing the inability and disinterest of the British government to regulate this influx of immigrants from Europe, the Arab who sought to limit the number of Jews immigrating to the region took part in the Arab Revolt of 1936, which spanned three years. The British government however was quick to suppress the revolts with help from the Jewish militias like the Haganah and their own Jewish paramilitary forces.

The United Kingdom appointed the Palestinian Royal Commission headed by the 1st Earl Peel, GCSI, GBE, TD, PC, to identify the cause of the unrest and recommend measures to abate the violence. The Commission recommended separate Jewish and Arab states be formed and that a population exchange be undertaken to transfer the Jews to the Arab state formed and the Jews to Palestine. The Commission stated equivocally that the “national aspirations” of

the two communities were too different to constitute a single State where the two lived harmoniously.

The Revolt however, continued undeterred. In November 1938, the British Government issued a White Paper and limited the number of Jewish immigrants allowed into Palestine to 10,000 per year, for the next five years after which all immigration would be disallowed “unless the Arabs of Palestine are prepared to acquiesce in it”. From this point onwards, it can be observed that Britain didn’t receive concrete support from either the Zionists or the Arabs and this lack of confidence and increased dissent would eventually lead to the disintegration of the area, following the end of the British Mandate. Due to the British repression of the Arab Revolt, there resulted a fragmentation of the leadership and this unsteadiness would in the end translate into the failure of the Arabs in establishing an Arab state in Palestine.

To maintain Arab solidarity however, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Transjordan, Saudi Arabia and Syria formed the Arab League in March 1945. This organization would be a key player in the geopolitics of the region since its inception.

### **End of the British Mandate**

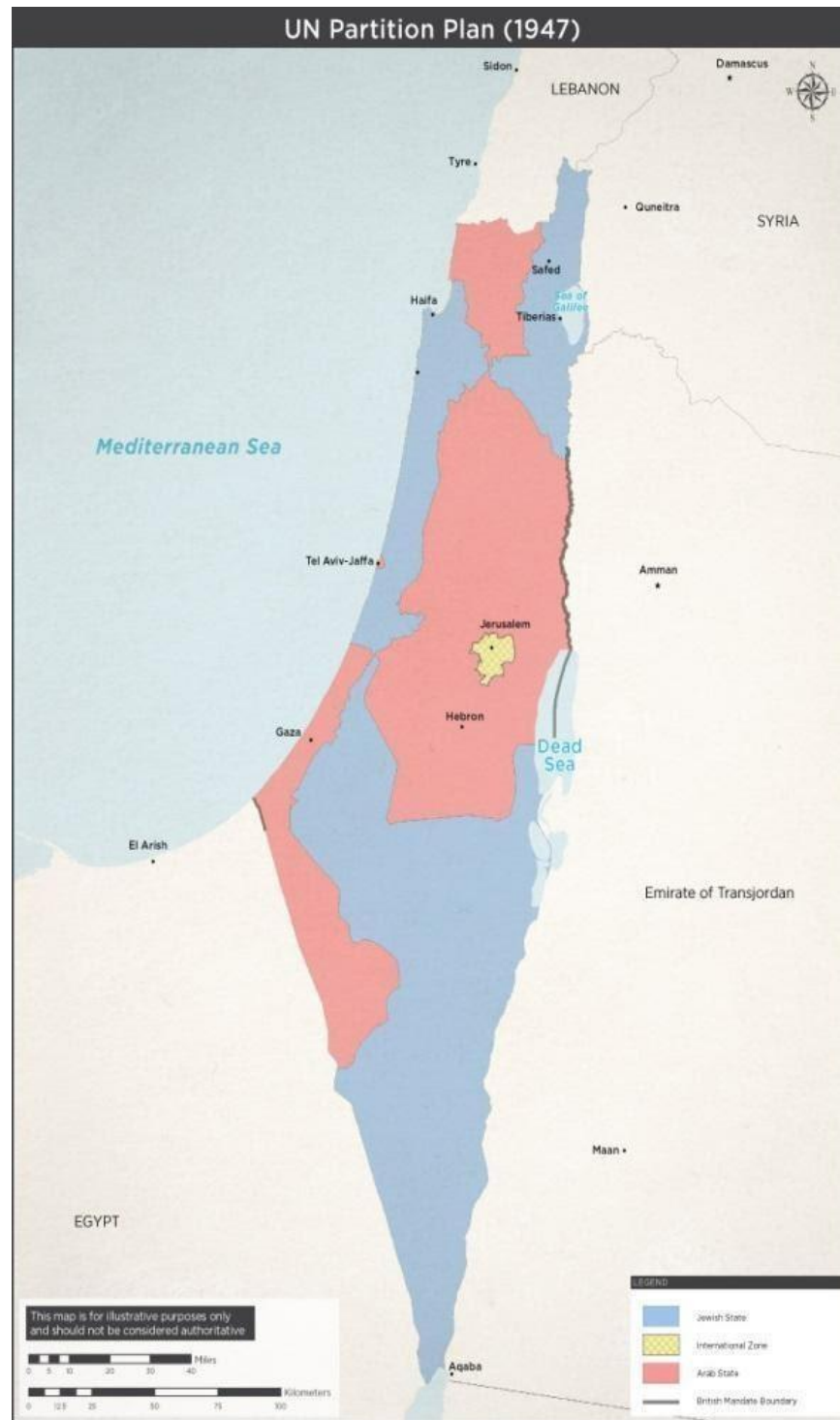
The end of the Second World War saw the formation of a new international body, the United Nations Organization. The UN, upon its formation and keeping in mind its aim to maintain world peace, recommended took up the question of Palestine and its involvement in the geopolitical situation of the Near East would go on to become instrumental in determining the future of the region.

At its seventieth plenary meeting on 1 May 1947, the General Assembly referred the following question to the First Committee for its consideration: “Constituting and instructing a Special Committee to prepare for the consideration of the question of Palestine at the second regular session”. The First Committee, devoted twelve meetings to the consideration of this question, and finally constituted the UN Special Committee on Palestine after its first Emergency Special Session on Palestine on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 1947.

### ***Partition Plan of 1947***

The United Nations General Assembly, after 40 meetings of the Special Committee on Palestine resolved in its Resolution 181 on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 1947 to recommend to “the Mandatory power”

Britain to relinquish its Mandate by 1<sup>st</sup> August, 1948. The General Assembly, in the same Resolution, adopted a Partition Plan that divided the area into Jewish and Arab states with Jerusalem being an international territory. The Partition Plan was endorsed very strongly by the Jewish representation. The Jewish Agency as well the World Zionist Organization approved of the plan. The Arabs however, opposed the plan just as vehemently.



**Figure 1: UN Partition Plan**

**([https://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=https%3A%2F%2Fmfa.gov.il%2FMFA%2FAboutIsrael%2FMaps%2FMaps%2FUN-Partition-Plan.jpg&imgrefurl=https%3A%2F%2Fmfa.gov.il%2Fmfa%2Faboutisrael%2Fmaps%2Fpages%2F1947%2520un%2520partition%2520plan.aspx&docid=WOm6ZReN-ZgNmM&tbnid=7MwNQvca3JLLBM%3A&vet=10ahUKEwifhYrw9\\_bmAhUXIbcAHe3kAYcQMwhqKAewAO..i&w=756&h=1106&bih=679&biw=1422&q=UN%20Partition%20pln&ved=0ahUKEwifhYrw9\\_bmAhUXIbcAHe3kAYcOMwhqKAewAO&iact=mrc&uact=8](https://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=https%3A%2F%2Fmfa.gov.il%2FMFA%2FAboutIsrael%2FMaps%2FMaps%2FUN-Partition-Plan.jpg&imgrefurl=https%3A%2F%2Fmfa.gov.il%2Fmfa%2Faboutisrael%2Fmaps%2Fpages%2F1947%2520un%2520partition%2520plan.aspx&docid=WOm6ZReN-ZgNmM&tbnid=7MwNQvca3JLLBM%3A&vet=10ahUKEwifhYrw9_bmAhUXIbcAHe3kAYcQMwhqKAewAO..i&w=756&h=1106&bih=679&biw=1422&q=UN%20Partition%20pln&ved=0ahUKEwifhYrw9_bmAhUXIbcAHe3kAYcOMwhqKAewAO&iact=mrc&uact=8))**

The Partition Plan outlined an economic union to be followed between the two states as well. By this time, the Kingdom of Iraq (in 1932), the Lebanese Republic (in 1943 from French Mandatory rule), the Syrian Republic (in 1946 from French Mandatory rule) and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (in 1946) had gained independence along with the Kingdom of Egypt (in 1922), leaving the British Mandate limited to Palestine.

In February 1948, Foreign Minister Ernest Bevin announced that Britain sought to relinquish its Mandate over Palestine completely and leave its future up to the newly formed United Nations Organization, ostensibly due to their inability to check the Palestinian Emergency, which was a period of civil unrest and rebellious insurgency in Palestine against the British Mandatory Government spearheaded by the Zionist paramilitary organization, Haganah and also the civil war that ensued between the Jews and Arab Liberation Army after the announcement of the UN Partition Plan.

It was the deepest regret of the Arab states that the question of statehood of Israel was discussed at the United Nations while the same for a Palestinian Arab State was never. It was the view of the Arab states that the notion of Israel was yet another colonial show of strength. They viewed it as a settler state that was being legitimized by the imperialist West.

### *First Arab-Israeli War*

Since its announcement, Zionist forces moved very quickly to secure all its territories as per the UN Partition Plan and systematically strengthened their position. One important incident from the region was the Israeli capture of Deir Yassin in April 1948. The Zionist Haganah forces sought to strengthen and secure the regions allotted to them as per the Partition Plan.

Subsequently, they engaged in operations to move Jewish populations from the Arab-designated areas to those under their own control and even provided aid to those under siege in Jerusalem. Pursuant thereto, Operation Nachshon was initiated which aimed at freeing up of the road to Jerusalem and one of the cities that they sought to secure on the way to Jerusalem was the mountain village of Deir (also spelled "Dayr") Yassin. Upon their arrival at the city, the

Zionist received stiff resistance and a battle which would last several hours ensued, at the end of which approximately 100 Arabs were killed by the Zionist forces (who lost over 40 of their own). This event came to be mischaracterized as a massacre of innocent civilians and the Arab High Committee under the Mufti of Jerusalem even called for intervention in Palestine by the neighbouring Arab countries as a response. Just four days after the reports from Deir Yassin were published, an Arab force ambushed a Jewish convoy on the way to Hadassah Hospital, killing 77 Jews, including doctors, nurses, patients, and the director of the hospital and another 23 people were injured. Several other attacks against Jews would be seen in the next few months.

Shortly after, in October 1947, the Secretary-General of the newly formed Arab League announced: “It will be a war of annihilation. It will be a momentous massacre in history that will be talked about like the massacres of the Mongols or the Crusades.” This rhetoric would very soon translate into action upon the elapse of the British Mandate.

On 14th May, 1948 the United Kingdom relinquished its Mandate for Palestine. On the same day, the State of Israel was proclaimed by the President of the World Zionist Organization and the Chairman of the Jewish Agency, David Ben Gurion, who would go on to become the first Prime Minister of Israel, with Chaim Weizmann as its first President. On the same day, the Zionist paramilitary groups were all united under the banner of the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF), the armed forces of the State of Israel.

On the very same day, 5 Arab states - Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon – declared war on the infant State of Israel and moved in towards the region. At the same time, an Arab aerial attack of Tel Aviv was resisted by the Israeli forces. Acting in solidarity with their Arab brothers, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia sent approximately 1000 troops fighting under Egyptian command to aid the war effort against Israel. Over the next 9-or-so months, what would become known as the Israeli War of Independence would be fought.

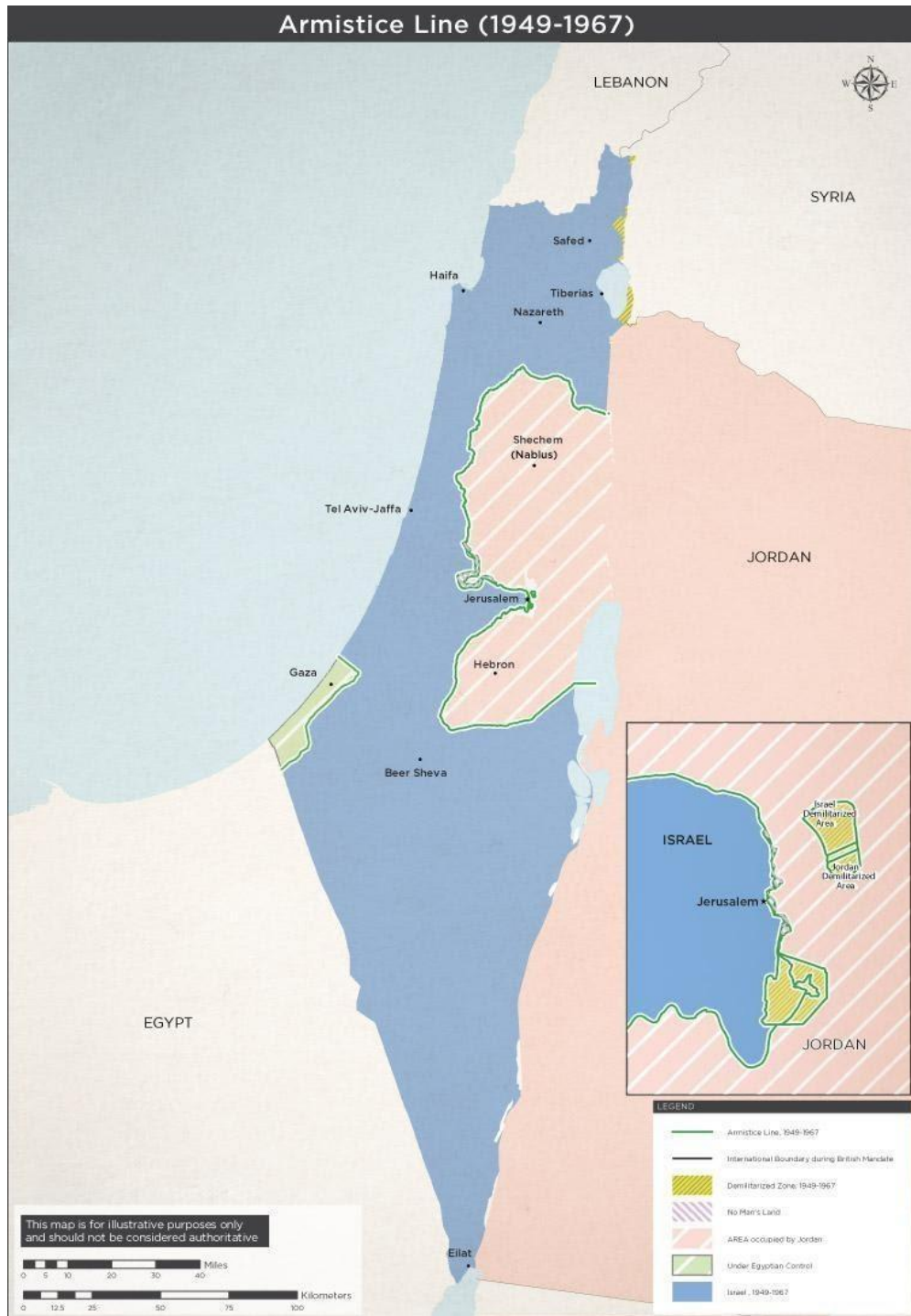
The Arab Legion, a British-trained regiment posted in Mandatory Palestine also entered the conflict and even fought against the Israeli forces to ensure their advance into the regions designated for the Arabs as per the Partition Plan was stopped, especially in East Jerusalem. As the conflict continued, Count Folke Bernadotte a United Nations mediator for Palestine brokered a ceasefire which was called the First Truce in June 1948 which was to last 28 days, from 11<sup>th</sup> June to 9<sup>th</sup> July, 1948.

Towards the end of this period, as it became increasingly evident that both sides would not look to extend the truce, Count Bernadotte proposed a solution wherein Galilee would be given to Israel and the Negev to the Arabs while Jerusalem remained an international region. Both sides rejected the plan and on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1948, hostilities continued.

After a few months of fighting, a second truce was implemented in October, one that would be less effective than even the first one, with both sides regularly violating the ceasefire. In November the same year, seeing the worsening situation, the United Nations Security Council through its Resolution 62 called upon all parties to the conflict to 'seek agreement by negotiations either directly or through the Acting Mediator' following the assassination of Count Bernadotte on 17<sup>th</sup> September, 1948 by extremist Israeli forces.

The conflict however would go on until Israel signed separate armistices with Egypt on 24<sup>th</sup> February, Lebanon on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, Transjordan on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, and finally Syria on 20<sup>th</sup> July, 1949. At the end of the Israeli War of Independence, Israel controlled 78% of Mandatory Palestine, over three times the amount that was decided as per the 1947 Partition Plan. The remaining areas were distributed between Egypt and Jordan which took the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank and East Jerusalem, respectively. The borders following the war would become known as the "Green Line" or the 1949 Armistice Lines.





**Figure 2: Armistice Lines**

<https://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=https%3A%2F%2Fmfa.gov.il%2FMFA%2FAbout%2FMaps%2FMaps%2FArmistice-Line-1949-1967.jpg&imgrefurl=https%3A%2F%2Fmfa.gov.il%2FMFA%2FAboutIsrael%2FMaps%2FPages%2F1949->

[1967%2520Armistice%2520Lines.aspx&docid=FD\\_PL764bqEKCM&tbnid=mItccCitVma7M  
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ViAqsQMwhaKAEwAQ&iact=mrc&uact=8\)](#)

Following this war, approximately 700,000 Palestinian Arabs were displaced (of which 150,000 became citizens of Israel) and nearly 1% of Israel's total population had been killed, the majority of which were soldiers (considering how by the end of the war, Israel had enlisted every sixth man into the IDF).

Following the Israeli victory that humiliated the combined forces of the Arab nations of the Near East, there emerged a new extremist outfit, the Fedayeen (which in colloquial Arabic meant, 'ones who give their lives for a cause'). These guerrilla fighters sought to attack Israel and establish a free Palestinian state in its place. Attacks on Israel by the Fedayeen began in 1952, when terrorist border incursions reached their height, with about 3,000 incidents of cross-border violence. Fedayeen attacks against Israel only grew by the year.

### *Suez Crisis*

In 1954, Gamel Abdel Nasser became the President of Egypt and with him came a strong anti- Israeli stance. A few months after being sworn into office, President Nasser entered into an agreement with Britain that secured the phased evacuation of British troops from the Suez base, the terms of which agreed to withdrawal of all troops within 20 months, and for Britain to hold the right to return for seven years.

President Nasser's Egypt showcased a very strong anti-Israeli stance as can be seen in an official communique to the public from the government, dated 31<sup>st</sup> August 1955, which read: "Egypt has decided to despatch its heroes, the disciples of Pharaoh and the sons of Islam, and they will clean the land of Palestine. That we have decided and that is our belief. There will be no peace on Israel's border because we demand vengeance, and vengeance is Israel's death. " In September the same year, a massive arms deal between Egypt and Czechoslovakia, a satellite state of the USSR was announced, further increasing tensions at a time when the USA and USSR were engaged in a Cold War.

In July 1956, President Nasser nationalised the Suez Canal Company and assumed complete control over the Suez Canal, in response to the British and French revocation of their commitment to fund the Aswan Dam. Subsequently, the passage of Israeli ships through the Canal was stopped, in blatant violation of Article I of the 1888 Constantinople Convention. Egypt further threatened to choke Europe's oil supply, two-thirds of which had to come through the canal. Egypt also blocked Israel's access to the Gulf of Aqaba from Sharm el-Sheikh which was Israel's only link to the sea.

The French and British, in response to the threat posed by Egypt decided to take action along with Israel in order to mitigate the crisis. This led to, on the invitation of the French, the signing of a secret pact called the Sevres Protocol, which would remain a secret until much after the war ended. The agreement was between France, Britain and Israel to begin a military campaign against Egypt and in the process depose President Gamel Abdel Nasser.

The Protocol planned an Israeli attack on Egypt and advance into the Sinai Peninsula towards the Canal Zone after which British and French would, considering this action to be a threat to both world peace as well as each of their interests, "issue" an ultimatum to both sides to withdraw from the canal zone. France and Britain expected Egypt to refuse the terms of the ultimatum after which they would use the refusal as a pretext to intervene militarily.

As per the plan, on 29<sup>th</sup> October 1956 Israeli troops moved past the Green Line and into the Sinai. Subsequently, the Mitla Pass was taken by the IDF following which the forces moved rapidly towards the Canal. Within 24 hours, the troops were within 30 miles of the Canal.

As agreed in the Protocol, France and Britain issued an ultimatum to both sides to withdraw from the Canal Zone on the 30<sup>th</sup> October and vetoed a UNSC Resolution sponsored by USSR calling for a ceasefire.

As predicted, Egypt refused to comply while Israel agreed, as per the Protocol. The British and the French conducted aerial raids targeted at the Egyptian Air Force. The IDF simultaneously moved into the Gaza Strip and upon destroying Fedayeen strongholds, moved southwards and proceeded to take the whole of the Sinai Peninsula. Within the week, the IDF had forced the Egyptians out of the Sinai, taken Sharm el-Sheikh and closed in on the Canal.

On 1<sup>st</sup> November 1956, upon the request of the United Nations Security Council as mentioned in UNSC Resolution 119, the first United Nations Emergency Special Session was convened. The Session concluded on the 10<sup>th</sup> of the same month and established a United Nations

Emergency Force to facilitate the withdrawal of French and British troops from the Canal Zone. The first UNEF troops arrived on 15<sup>th</sup> November and would remain there until later expelled by Egypt.

The Israeli forces battled the Egyptians for a week before the French and British forces arrived. But by 5<sup>th</sup> November, the Israelis had captured the Gaza Strip, Arish, the Hedgehog, and Mitla Pass, and Sharm el-Sheikh. The United States of America, in the opinion of many acting to prevent the Arabs from joining the Communist bloc The very next day, the United Kingdom announced that Port Said was in Allied hands. Shortly thereafter the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dag Hammarskjold announced that the Allies has accepted the terms of ceasefire; and while Israel agreed to end the fighting, they stood firmly against the deployment of any UNEF troops in their land. Israel also refused to hand over Gaza to Egypt but withdrew to their side of the Green Line and evacuated the Sinai.

Israel agreed to return the lands occupied and withdraw only on the assurance of the United States of America that the passage of Israeli vessels through the Suez Canal and the Straits of Tiran would be unobstructed and that Israel's right to self-defence would be recognized and supported by them (USA).

### *Six-Day War*

The 1960s were a time when the already high tensions rose to a point where it was no longer a question of if war would be waged, but simply when. Since the formation of the pan-Arab United Arab Republic which was a political union between Syria and Egypt, the anti-Semitic sentiment in the Middle East grew stronger.

Since the inception of the State of Israel, the "Egyptian Fedayeen" carried out relentless attacks against the state and the general rhetoric towards Israel from all its neighbours was one of hatred with speeches from President Nasser sounding among other things, like: "Our basic objective will be the destruction of Israel. The Arab people want to fight"

In 1959, Israel began its ambitious National Water Carrier Project that aimed at transporting water from the Sea of Galilee into other parts of Israel. The Arab League met in its first session between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> January, 1964 in Cairo to discuss the 'threat posed by Israel' and action to be taken noting the same. On 20<sup>th</sup> May 1964, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was created with the aim of establishing an Arab state in place of the State of Israel, and subsequently liberating Palestine.

It decided among other things, to divert the headwaters of the Jordan River considering Israel's plan to "grievously endanger the riparian rights of the Arabs with the object of realizing Zionist designs for expansion through immigration and Israel's plan to establish further centres of aggression against the security and progress of Arab countries" by diverting the course of (the tributaries of) the Jordan river. In November 1964, Syria began implementing this plan to divert the headwaters.

On 4<sup>th</sup> November 1966, Egypt signed a mutual defence pact with Syria. On the 19<sup>th</sup> of May 1967, acting on Soviet reports of Israeli troops mobilizing at the Syrian border, President Nasser ordered the removal of all UNEF soldiers and began moving into the Sinai. On 30<sup>th</sup> May 1967, with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and King Hussein then flew back to the Jordanian capital, Amman, accompanied by the chairman of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, Ahmed Shukairy. Further, the Straits of Tiran were once again closed to Israeli vessels. Despite Israel establishing previously that such action would be legitimate casus belli, and the United States' confirmation of the same, President Nasser called his entire reserve army to the Sinai and closed the Straits to Israel stating:

"We are ready for war... These waters are ours. War might be an opportunity for the Jews, for Israel, to test their strength against ours. The Israeli flag shall not go through the Gulf of Aqaba. Our sovereignty over the entrance to the Gulf cannot be disputed. If Israel wishes to threaten war, we tell her: You are welcome."

Israel viewed this as an act of aggression and on 5<sup>th</sup> June 1967, after multiple failed attempts by the UN to diffuse the situation, Israel acted preemptively to strike Egypt. Israel attacked Egyptian Air Force bases, crippling their air force. At the same time, the IDF moved into the Sinai. Jordan and Syria came to the aid of their fellow Arab ally and Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Lebanon, and Algeria sent aid to assist them as well.

Israeli air strikes immobilized the Syrian and Jordanian Air Forces too, on the very same day. Syria and Jordan responded by shelling Israel. At this time, the Israelis pushed into Egypt and through the course of the next four days, had occupied the whole of the Sinai as well as Gaza. Simultaneously, the IDF pursued the Jordanians and Syrians as well and managed to take East Jerusalem and the West Bank from the Jordanians by the 7<sup>th</sup>. In the next two days, Israel drove the Syrians out of the Golan Heights too.



**Figure 3: Israel after the Six Day War**

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[PbmAhUb63MBHSZ4DJYQMwhMKAawAA..i&w=756&h=1107&bih=679&biw=1422&q=Israel%20after%206%20day%20war&ved=0ahUKEwilmO7V-PbmAhUb63MBHSZ4DJYQMwhMKAawAA&iact=mrc&uact=8\)](#)

Under pressure from the United States of America and amid threats of intervention by the Soviet Union on behalf of the Arabs, Israeli agreed to an armistice with its neighbours, but kept all the occupied territory. On 10<sup>th</sup> June 1967, the Syrians returned to their bases. The following day, the belligerents agreed to a UN-sponsored ceasefire. The UNSC even called for an immediate withdrawal of all Israeli forces in its Resolution 242. Israel agreed to return all the areas it had occupied in return for recognition of its right to live in peace as well as assure no further aggression.

In September the same year, the Arab leaders met in Khartoum, Sudan and announced the “Khartoum Resolution” in which they pledged ‘no recognition of Israel, no negotiations with Israel and no peace with Israel’.

Israel established a military government for Gaza, the Sinai, the West Bank and the Golan Heights, and began construction of settlements and establishing cities and towns in occupied territory following its occupation of the region. As Israel began to construct their settlements in the Old City of Jerusalem and the West Bank, they received heavy criticism from the international community because these settlements were a direct violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention which stipulates under Article 49 that, “The Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of own civilian population into the territory it occupies.” Because Israel was occupying the West Bank and East Jerusalem, it defied the Convention by increasing settlement activity and allowing the settlement of 560,000 more into the lands, which consequently has led the removal of many Palestinians. Israel has made the claims that neither of these territories is occupied as they were deemed international territories and were never truly part of any independent or sovereign entity.

### *Yom Kippur War*

Even after the end of the Six-Day War, the region still saw hostile engagement. In 1969, Egypt began its War of Attrition against Israel and artillery fire and shelling became commonplace until August 1970. Tensions however continued to rise until eventually war broke out once again..

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of October 1973, the day of Yom Kippur, also called the Day of Atonement, the holiest day of the Jews, Egypt and Syria launched coordinated attacks against Israel along the Suez Canal and the Golan Heights respectively.

The Israelis were caught by surprise and the mobilization of their reserves couldn't be completed before zero hour. The Arab armies made considerable gains initially owing partly to the unpreparedness of the Israelis and mainly due to the aid they received from the Soviet Union by means of arms and ammunition.

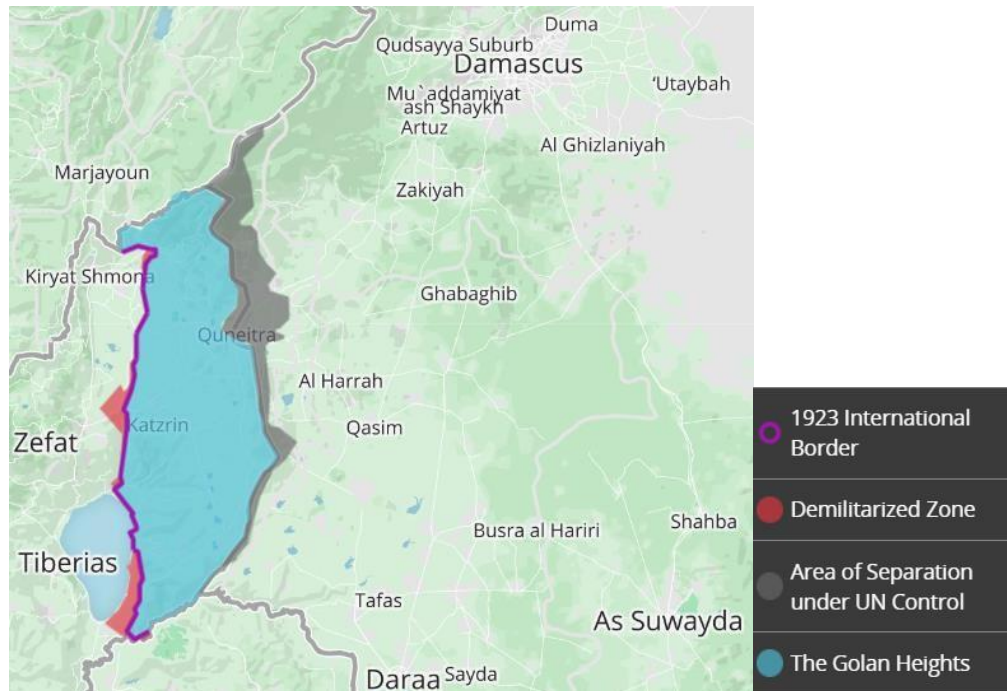
Egypt crossed the Israeli fortification along the Suez (the Bar Lev Line) and the Syrians successfully retook the Golan Heights and came within sight of the Sea of Galilee.

In response to the actions of the USSR, the United States began Operation Nickel Grass in support of their Jewish ally. The operation was to airlift weapons and war supplies to Israel within 32 days of its commencement and between 14<sup>th</sup> October and 14<sup>th</sup> November 1973, it achieved its goal.

In this time, the course of the war changed drastically. Israel, now prepared and equipped counterattacked swiftly and in a matter of a few days had reached within 100 kilometres of Cairo and less than 40 kilometres to Damascus.

Seeing this change in circumstances following the United States' pledge of support to Israel, all the Arab members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) initiated an embargo on the sale of oil to any nation that supported Israel.





**Figure 4: Israel-Syria Armistice Lines** (<https://ecf.org.il/issues/issue/174>)

Following much international pressure, the parties to the conflict agreed to a ceasefire as proposed in UNSC Resolution 338 on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 1973 which came into force two days later.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> January 1974, the Israel-Egypt Disengagement Agreement facilitating withdrawals by both countries' armed forces following the 1973 War was signed at 101km marker of the Cairo-Suez road. It involved the redeployment of Egyptian forces west of the Suez Canal, and Israeli forces east of it, with a buffer zone on both sides of the canal monitored by the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF).

Israel and Syria signed the Israel-Syria Disengagement Agreement in Geneva on 31<sup>st</sup> May, 1974 in which Israel agreed to withdraw from territories it held beyond the 1967 ceasefire lines. The agreement delineated two disengagement lines, with the buffer zone between them monitored by the newly-established United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF). It also contained provisions for a mutual exchange of POWs. The lines established in the agreement continue to serve as the *de facto* border between Israel and Syria.

In 1975, the Sinai II Agreement was signed between Egypt and Israel which reaffirmed that all disputes regarding the Sinai would be solved peacefully and not militarily.

### ***Camp David Accords***

On 19<sup>th</sup> November 1977, President Anwar Sadat made a historic and unprecedented visit to Israel. The next day, he addressed the Knesset saying, “I sincerely tell you that before us today lies the appropriate chance for peace, if we are really serious in our endeavours for peace. It is a chance that time cannot afford once again. It is a chance that, if lost or wasted, the plotter against it will bear the curse of humanity and the curse of history”.

September of the next year marked the historic Camp David Accords, where President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel met secretly in Camp David, Maryland at the end of which, in March 1979, the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty was signed. Israel returned all the land occupied in the Six-Day War in exchange for the complete recognition of Israel by Egypt and the establishment of diplomatic and commercial ties between the two countries.

The Egyptian President and Israeli Prime Minister shared the 1978 Nobel Peace Prize for their commitment to world peace and ended the conflict between their two states. This commitment to peace wasn't well received everywhere and on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1981 President Anwar Sadat was assassinated by Muslim extremists. In the same year, Israel undertook Operation Opera to conduct a strategic ariel raid over the Osirak nuclear reactor in Iraq before it becomes operational. The threat of nuclear warfare in the Middle East becomes as apparent as ever from this moment onwards. Despite this, Egypt formally established diplomatic relations with Israel in 1982.

### *Invasion of Lebanon*

At around the same time, the Israeli ambassador to the United Kingdom was shot in London and rushed immediately to hospital. The attempted assassination was carried out by a faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization which was based out of Beirut, Lebanon.

Three days later, “Operation Peace for Galilee” was launched which entailed a full-scale invasion of Lebanon. As part of the operation, IDF moved into Lebanon, besieged their capital and went as far as the Bekaa Valley, 90 kilometres to the northeast of Beirut. At this point, Syria entered the war on Lebanon's behalf. In the aerial battles that ensued thereafter, IAF shot down 25 Syrian warplanes and destroyed their Surface-to-Air Missile defence systems in the Bekaa Valley.

For the first time in its history, Israel had gone to war at a time when its very existence was not at stake. As Prime Minister Begin said, it was “A War of Choice”. Although the war began in self-

defence and as a retaliatory measure, Israel also took the initiative in actively pursuing other military and political objectives—to defeat the PLO militarily, but also to crush its military and political infrastructure throughout Southern Lebanon including its nerve centre in West Beirut.

In September 1982, US President Ronald Reagan presented to the world community a proposition to end the hostilities between Israel and the Palestinian rebels. The Reagan Plan as it was also called, called for an election to be held for a self-governing “Palestinian Authority”. It also called for a 5-year transitional period where the Israeli settlements were to remain unchanged. The initiative stated that the transitional period is to end with a permanent status agreement, neither establishing a Palestinian state nor allowing Israel to exercise permanent sovereignty or control over the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It supported a settlement based on the "territory for peace" principle and the creation of a Palestinian government in connection to Jordan.

In May 1983, Israel and Lebanon signed an agreement that laid down the framework for amicable bilateral relations, during the Lebanese Civil War. In the end, the faction that signed the agreement, the Christian faction was unable to ratify the agreement due to the toppling of their government in 1984.

In March the same year, two Jordanians and an Iraqi linked to Palestinian extremist Abu Nidal were convicted of the attempted murder.

### *The First Intifada*

The Intifada (translates roughly to “shaking off” in Arabic), was a period of insurgent rebellion on 9<sup>th</sup> December 1987 against Israel by Palestinian nationalists. The uprising would continue until late 1993, with great suffering by the Palestinians and considerable damage to Israel's international image. In the end, the Palestinians gained the recognition of the world community they had so long sought, but failed to get Israel to live up to its commitments. Shortly after the start of the Intifada began in December of 1987, the Muslim Brotherhood formed Harakat al- Muqawama al-Islamiya ( Hamas) in Palestine. In English, Hamas stands for the Islamic Resistance Movement, and the organization, under Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, sought to destroy Israel in favour of an Islamic society in the territories previously owned by Palestine.

The uprising was principally in response to an accident in the refugee encampment in Jabalya. An Israeli civilian truck driver lost control of his vehicle as he passed the Gaza enclave’s large refugee encampment of Jabaliya. The truck smashed into an oncoming automobile filled with

local Arabs, killing four of them. A Jewish salesman had been stabbed to death in Gaza two days earlier and the Arab sentiment was that the traffic collision had not been an accident.

There began widespread protests where the IDF were pelted with rocks and Molotov cocktails. The IDF responded with great force and suppressed the riots.

In the conflict that followed, from 1987 to 1991, over 1,000 Palestinians died, 20% of whom were under the age of 16. The violence, political suppression, and brutality that the Palestinians were subject to did not stop at mass killings, but also included widespread arrests. Israel's imprisonment tactics lent it to a position whereby it held the highest per capita prison population in the entire global community.

In 1991, the Madrid Conference was held to ease tensions and discuss the possibility of an autonomous Palestine. It was attended by representatives of all the Arab states, Israel, the United States of America and the Soviet Union. This was the first major step taken to end hostilities and paved the way for a direct dialogue between Israeli, Lebanese, Syrian and Jordanian-Palestinian delegations that would be held in Washington, D.C. in the years that followed and eventually culminated in the signing of the Oslo Accords.

The conflict ended with the signing of the Oslo Accords in September 1993. It was signed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, and witnessed by US President Bill Clinton. It called for a transitional period of five years following an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho areas, during which an interim, democratically- elected Palestinian self-government will be established in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. During the transitional period, negotiations would be held with the goal of reaching a permanent settlement based on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The agreement was followed by the 1994 Cairo Agreement, facilitating Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho and creation of the Palestinian Authority, and the 1995 Interim Agreement, transferring partial control over the West Bank and Gaza Strip to the Palestinian Authority, as per the Reagan Plan.

For their contributions to these accords and subsequently, their commitment to world peace Prime Minister Rabin of Israel and Yasser Arafat, the Chairman of the PLO shared the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize. This support however, wasn't universal. In 1995, Prime Minister Rabin was assassinated in the Kings of Israel Square (renamed in the same year as "Rabin Square") by a right-wing Israeli nationalist for his supposed surrender of sovereign Israeli territory to Palestine.

## *The Second Intifada*

Between 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> July 2000, US President Bill Clinton hosted Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel and the Chairman of the PLO, Yasser Arafat at Camp David to discuss the situation in the Middle East and arrive at an amicable solution to the same following the signing of the Oslo Accords. The talks broke down due to the two parties being unwilling to compromise on issues including the right of return of Israelis who immigrate to Palestine upon its creation, the threat to national security perceived by Israel and the sharing of territory in Jerusalem with special reference to the Temple Mount/Al Aqsa Mosque. The last of those issues would go on to become perhaps the most delicate of them all later the same year.

On 24<sup>th</sup> September 2000, the leader of the Likud Party and then-Leader of the Opposition, Ariel Sharon announced he would be leading a delegation of 6 individuals that would make a visit to the Al Aqsa Mosque in East Jerusalem. From when the plans were announced, concerns were raised about the act being possibly inflammatory towards Palestinians if perceived as a show of Israeli control over East and West Jerusalem. The Israeli Foreign Ministry contacted the head of the Palestinian Preventive Security Organization, Jibril Rajoub to voice their concerns and hear any that the Palestinians may have. It was agreed that should Mr. Sharon refrain from entering the Al Aqsa Mosque, his visit will go on uneventfully, after which the Israeli police allowed the visit to take place sending 1,500 policemen as the delegation's security detail just in case of violence breaking out.

On 28<sup>th</sup> September 2000, the delegation visited the Al Aqsa Mosque in the Old City of Jerusalem. Although none of the Israelis went into the mosque, their mere presence there was seen as deeply inflammatory by the Palestinian nationalists.

Protests broke out immediately and Abu Qteish, the ranking member of the Waqf Board called 'for all Palestinians to defend the Al Aqsa Mosque'. Protests broke out immediately. On the 29<sup>th</sup>, a Palestinian police officer participating in a joint security patrol with Israeli police opened fire and killed his Israeli counterpart in the West Bank town of Qalqilya, leading to the permanent suspension of all joint Israeli-Palestinian security patrols.

In the days that followed, the angry Palestinian protests attacked the Wailing Wall, crossing the border in the process. When heavy rocks began raining down from the compound on the Mount onto Jewish worshippers in the plaza below, the Israeli border guard contingent opened fire on the Palestinian rioters with rubber bullets, killing four and wounding more than 100 persons. The

second Intifada had been sparked with its first casualties. More than 1,100 Israelis and 5,500 Palestinians were killed in the engagement.

The IDF and IAF responded to the violence very strongly and suppressed the riots violently. According to the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, at least 4,973 Palestinian civilians were killed over the course of the Second Intifada. Among them were 1,262 children, 274 women, and 32 medical personnel attempting to administer aid to injured civilians. More than 10,000 children were wounded during the five years of violence, as reported by the Swiss-based Defence for Children International, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting child rights. Most of the deaths and injuries came as a result of air strikes against densely populated areas in the Gaza Strip and major land assaults on various West Bank cities, villages, and refugee camps. Israeli authorities also enforced an early curfew that prohibited Palestinians from even being outside of their own homes at certain points throughout the day and night.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2000, the United Nations Security Council convened for its 4205<sup>th</sup> (Night) Meeting. The meeting lasted just 4 minutes and adopted Resolution 1322 which condemned the provocation carried out at the Al Aqsa Mosque and Israel's excessive use of force against Palestinians. It further called for Israel, the occupying Power, to abide scrupulously by its legal obligations and its responsibilities under the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949. A year later, Prime Minister Barak resigned from office and Ariel Sharon, the leader of the Likud party, was elected Prime Minister.

In 2002, Israel began constructing a massive wall along the Green Line borders in the West Bank. By resolution ES-10/14, adopted on 8 December 2003 at its Tenth Emergency Special Session, the General Assembly decided to request the Court for an advisory opinion on what the legal ramifications of the construction of this wall would be. After recalling the customary principles laid down in Article 2, paragraph 4, of the United Nations Charter and in General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV), Hague Regulations of 1907, the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and holding that these were applicable in the Occupied Palestinian territories, the Court went on to consider the consequences of these violations, recalling Israel's obligation to respect the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and its obligations under humanitarian and human rights law. The Court stated that Israel must put an immediate end to the violation of its

international obligations by ceasing the works of construction of the wall and dismantling those parts of that structure situated within Occupied Palestinian Territory and repealing or rendering ineffective all legislative and regulatory acts adopted with a view to construction of the wall and establishment of its associated regime. Israel rejected the opinion and is yet to comply with the court's directions.

The conflict would go on unresolved until 2005, with the conclusion of the Sharm el-Sheikh Summit hosted by President Hosni Mubarakh of Egypt. The parties agreed to end hostilities and resume "full and meaningful negotiations." Subsequently, Israel relocated 15,000 Jewish citizens from Gaza in the same year.

### **Present Day**

The Arab-Israeli conflict has been simmering over a flame of instability for the better part of a century and the situation today while relatively peaceful, remains as complex as ever.

In March 2006, the Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiya won the elections to the Palestinian Legislative Council; an event that shocked most of the world, it led even to the Quartet Powers (USA, Russian Federation, EU and UN) rescinding their funding and support of the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority and adopted an alternative mechanism to send aid to the region in June the same year. The Quartet bypassed the Hamas-led Palestinian Government and send aid via the Fatah-backed President of Palestine, Mahmoud Abbas. This effectively created a political gridlock between the Legislative Council under Hamas control and the Office of the President, occupied by Fatah-backed Abbas.

From January 2006 to this day the two factions of the 'split' Palestinian Authority are at odds with one another further complicating and endangering the situation in Israel/Palestine. There was even a period of armed conflict between the two forces until June 2007, when President Abbas dissolved the Hamas-led government and declared a state of emergency, assuming control of Gaza and the West Bank by decree. Israel subsequently initiated a land, sea, and air blockade of Gaza and Egypt blockaded the border at Rafah as well, 'locking Palestine in'.

This effectively resulted in the conflict become tripartite between the Fatah-led Palestinian Authority controlling the West Bank, the Hamas (who rule the Gaza Strip) and the State of Israel. Hamas, a US State Department designated terrorist organization has been openly hostile

to Israel from its inception and upon assuming full control over Gaza, has been launching several attacks at Israel.

On 27<sup>th</sup> December 2008, Israel launched Operation Cast Lead, a 22-day assault of the Gaza Strip aimed at countering Hamas' ability to launch rockets into Israel by deposing it entirely. The conflict between Israel and Hamas would eventually take over 1,300 Palestinian and 13 Israeli lives. Due to the severely disproportionate loss of life, several independent groups conducted investigations into the conflict. The Human Rights Watch even accused Israel of being in violation of Article 147 of the Geneva Conventions Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Geneva IV Conventions, 1949) for having caused 'wanton destruction'.

In January of the next year, a ceasefire was reached and Israel withdrew fully from the Gaza Strip. The conflict between Hamas and Israel however would still go on.

In 2009, the United States of America openly endorsed a two-state solution and acknowledged both Israel and Palestine's right to exist. Israel subsequently announced their acceptance of the development and implementation of a Palestinian state so long as it was demilitarized, and the Palestinians recognized Israel as a Jewish state, and all refugees seeking to reside in Palestine (should it be formed) give up their right to return to Israel.

In 2010, Israel announced plans to construct 1600 settler homes in East Jerusalem, a move that attracted worldwide condemnation, even from the USA. The then Secretary-General of the United Nations declared the position of the UN as well as the Middle Eastern Quartet saying, "The world has condemned Israel's expansion plans in East Jerusalem. Let us be clear: all settlement activity is illegal anywhere in occupied territory, and this must stop."

In 2016, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2334, condemning the settlements and calling for Israel's compliance with the Geneva IV Conventions. Israel severed ties with 12 countries following the passing of this resolution in protest of their opposition to what Israel deemed wholly lawful action on their part.

For the first time yet, the United States of America abstained from a vote declaring Israeli settlements illegal, allowing the resolution to pass. This however would not go on to indicate US stance on the matter in any shape or form.

On 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018, the United States of America formally moved its Consulate to Jerusalem, following their recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. The move sparked several



reactions internationally. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation issued a statement on 7th December 2017, a day after the announcement of the recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital was made by US President Donald Trump. The Organization declared the event to be a provocation of Muslim sentiments, and expressed its deep regret of the same. The OIC reaffirmed its firm stance towards Jerusalem, considered as an integral part of the Palestinian territory occupied in 1967. It also stressed that 'this illegal decision will not give legitimacy to the Israeli occupation and will not change the reality of the city nor its history and identity' and reaffirmed its support for a two-state solution where Jerusalem would be the capital of an independent Palestinian state.

On 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018, Palestine initiated proceedings against USA against the relocation of their embassy to Jerusalem. As of November 2018, the Court has begun addressing written pleadings regarding their jurisdiction of the case and is yet to make a statement regarding the case itself.

### *2019 and 2020*

Israeli and Palestinian factions continued to clash, especially in the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip, as had become the common sight over the last century. Palestinian protesters reportedly threw Molotov cocktails, rocks, hurled projectiles and even flew makeshift glider kites carrying explosives into Israeli territory and even reportedly attacked soldiers. The Israeli forces responded to such threats with lethal force. It is estimated that approximately 190 Palestinian protesters were killed by Israeli forces in 2019.

Hamas continued its relentless attacks and fired over 1100 rockets into Israel in the same year and killed and injured several Israeli citizens. The IDF's counter actions have been criticised for their usage of excessive force, killing 252 and injuring over 25,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. The Hamas in the Gaza Strip have carried out 25 executions since they took control in Gaza in June 2007 following trials that lacked appropriate due process protections. Courts in Gaza have sentenced 125 people to death in this period, according to the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights.

On 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019, when the United States of America changed its original stance that the Israeli settlements in the West Bank were in contravention of international law, stating: "we will no longer recognize Israeli settlements as per se inconsistent with international law is based on the unique facts, history, and circumstances presented by the establishment of civilian

settlements in the West Bank.” The move was met with international criticism but welcomed wholeheartedly by Israel.

On 4<sup>th</sup> January 2020, the United States of America carried out an airstrike on the outskirts of Baghdad, in response to an attack on the US Embassy in Baghdad carried out on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January. In this attack, Major General Qassem Soleimani, commander of the Quds Force of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps was assassinated, among others.

The Quds Force (“Al Quds” is the Arabic word for Jerusalem, roughly meaning “the Holy One”) was established with the primary intention of retaking Jerusalem from Israel. Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu as early as August last year suspected Soleimani’s

Involvement in an attempted drone attack conducted against Israel from Syria. Soleimani’s rhetoric against Israel was known to be strong having stated previously that the “total destruction of Israel is no longer a political dream by a practical reality”. In light of all this, several political commentators suspect an Iranian attack against Israel in response to the US strike against Iran.

A major outbreak of violence in the ongoing Israeli–Palestinian conflict commenced on 10 May 2021, though disturbances took place earlier, and continued until a ceasefire came into effect on 21 May. It was marked by protests and police riot control, rocket attacks on Israel by Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), and Israeli airstrikes in the Gaza Strip. The crisis was triggered on 6 May, when Palestinians in East Jerusalem began protesting over an anticipated decision of the Supreme Court of Israel on the eviction of six Palestinian families in the neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah.

On 7 May, according to Israel's Channel 12, Palestinians threw stones at Israeli police forces, who then stormed the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound using tear gas, rubber bullets, and stun grenades. More than 600 people were injured, mostly Palestinians, drawing international condemnation. Israel's Supreme Court ruling on evictions from Sheikh Jarrah was then delayed for 30 days as Avichai Mandelblit, the erstwhile attorney general of Israel, sought to reduce tensions.

On the afternoon of 10 May, Hamas gave Israel an ultimatum to withdraw its security forces from both the Temple Mount complex and Sheikh Jarrah by 6 p.m. When the ultimatum expired without a response, both Hamas and PIJ launched rockets from the Gaza Strip into Israel; some

of these rockets hit Israeli residences and a school. Israel then began a campaign of airstrikes against Gaza. Calls for a ceasefire were first proposed on 13 May by Hamas, but rejected by Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu. On 18 May, France, along with Egypt and Jordan, announced the filing of a United Nations Security Council resolution for a ceasefire. Egypt mediated a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, which came into effect on 21 May 2021, ending 11 days of fighting in which both sides claimed victory. On 16 June 2021, incendiary balloons were launched from Gaza into Israel, which the Israeli Air Force responded to with multiple airstrikes in the Gaza Strip, resuming the fighting.

Israel launched its operation with a strike on a leader of the Islamic Jihad, and followed up on with another targeted strike on a second prominent leader. As per the Israeli army, militants in Gaza fired about 580 rockets toward Israel. Israel had intercepted many of them, with two of those shot down being fired toward Jerusalem. The U.N. Security Council scheduled an emergency meeting on the violence. China, which held the council presidency for August 2022, scheduled the session in response to a request from the United Arab Emirates, which represents Arab nations on the council, as well as China, France, Ireland and Norway.

Despite the efforts taken by multiple international agencies, the conflict still hasn't resolved itself. Violence continues to take place along the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israel's settlement activity continues, along with demolitions and evictions, while fiscal and political challenges threaten the Palestinian Authority's effectiveness in delivering public services. The West Bank and Gaza remain politically divided and the people of Palestine suffer under economic and movement restrictions linked with Israel's "closure regime", the nature of Hamas rule and the ever-present threat of violence.

The dire situation calls for delegates to address not just the status-quo but even the fundamental issues that aides the unending cycle of violent clashes. Unless firm actions are not taken by Israeli and Palestinian leaders, regional countries and the broader international community, these cycles of acute crisis, followed by short-term fixes will persist.

### **Major Countries and Organizations Involved Israel**

As the principal party to this conflict, Israel has played the most significant role in the conflict since its creation in 1948.

## **The Palestinian National Authority**

The Palestinian Authority is the recognized self-governing body of Palestinian territories, divided into 11 governorates in the West Bank and 5 in the Gaza Strip, with Ramallah as its administrative centre. The Fatah is the ruling party of the PA with Mahmoud Abbas as its leader.

## **Hamas**

Hamas is the governing authority of the Gaza Strip and a challenger of the Fatah Government as the sole administrators of the Palestinian National Authority. They are known for their extremely anti-Israel stance and have been designated as a terrorist outfit by the USA, Israel and the EU.

## **The Middle Eastern Quartet**

Established in 2002, the group consists of the USA, Russia, UN and EU. Its main goal is to serve as forum to permanently follow the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process. They have made several proposals to end the conflict and have brokered several peace agreements between the belligerent forces in the Middle East. They have worked closely with France, Britain, Egypt, Jordan and the Arab League as well.

## **Jordan**

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has been a very important player in the conflict in the Middle East since its independence. The Kingdom shares claim over the contentious West Bank and Old City of Jerusalem and has been a belligerent in nearly all the conflicts Israel has entered into.

## **Egypt**

Egypt has long been the *de facto* leader of the Arab alliance against Israel. Being the largest military force of all the Arab Nations and the only one of them to be recognized as Non-Aligned, Egypt has always been important in terms of the geopolitical situation in the Near East. Their control over the Suez Canal has been a very key part of the conflict in the Middle and Near East before.

## **Lebanon**

Lebanon has been an active belligerent in multiple conflicts between the Arabs and the Israelis. Their role in the geopolitical situation of the Near East though reducing is still very prominent.

## Iraq

Iraq, although not directly bordering Israel has had an active role in the situation in the Middle East, being an active ally of the Arab neighbours of Israel.

## Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
May 14, 1948	End of British Mandate State of Israel proclaimed
May 15, 1948	Israel invaded by five Arab states. Israel Defense Forces (IDF) established.  War of Independence (May 1948-July 1949).
1949	Armistice agreements signed with <u>Egypt</u> , <u>Jordan</u> , <u>Syria</u> , <u>Lebanon</u> . Jerusalem divided under Israeli and Jordanian rule. First Knesset (parliament) elected.  Israel admitted to United Nations as 59th member.
1954	Gamel Abdel Nasser becomes President of Egypt, negotiates complete withdrawal of British troops from the Canal.
1956	The Suez Canal is nationalised by Egypt; the Suez Crisis takes place and Israel undertakes Sinai Campaign.

1964	<p>National Water Carrier completed, bringing water from Lake Kinneret in the north to the semi-arid south.</p> <p>Palestine Liberation Organization is formed.</p>
1966	Egypt signs mutual defence pact with Syria
1967	Six-Day War; Jerusalem occupied fully by Israel. Khartoum Resolution adopted by Arab League.
1968-70	Egypt's War of Attrition against Israel
1973	Yom Kippur War
1974	Israeli withdrawal from all territories beyond the 1967 ceasefire line.
1977	Visit of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat to Jerusalem.
1978	<u>Camp David Accords</u> include framework for comprehensive peace in the Middle East and proposal for Palestinian self-government.
1979	<p><u>Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty</u> signed.</p> <p>Prime Minister Menachem Begin and President Anwar Sadat awarded Nobel Peace Prize.</p>
1981	<p>Anwar Sadat assassinated.</p> <p>Operation Opera conducted by Israel.</p>
1982	<p>Israel's three-stage withdrawal from Sinai Peninsula completed. Egypt establishes full diplomatic relations with Israel.</p> <p>Operation Peace for Galilee against the PLO in Lebanon is undertaken by Israel.</p>
1987	First Intifada takes place.

1993	<u>Declaration of Principles</u> on Interim Self-Government Arrangements for the Palestinians signed by Israel and PLO, as representative of the Palestinian people (Oslo Accords).
1994	Implementation of Palestinian self-government in <u>Gaza Strip and Jericho area</u> . <u>Israel-Jordan Peace Treaty</u> signed. Rabin, Peres, Arafat awarded <u>Nobel Peace Prize</u> .
1995	Broadened <u>Palestinian self-government</u> implemented in West Bank and Gaza Strip; first Palestinian Council elected with a Fatah majority.  Prime Minister Rabin assassinated.
1999	The Sharm el-Sheikh Memorandum is signed between Israel and the PLO.
2000	Talks between Israel and the PLO break down at Camp David.  Second Intifada initiated against Ariel Sharon's visit to the Temple Mount in East Jerusalem.  Israel withdraws from southern Lebanon.
2002	Israel launches <u>Operation Defensive Shield</u> in response to massive Palestinian terrorist attacks.  Israel begins building the wall along the Green Line in the West Bank.
2005	Israel carries out the <u>Disengagement Plan</u> , ending Israel's presence in the Gaza Strip.
2006	Hamas wins elections to the Palestinian Legislative Council.

	Split in the Palestinian Authority takes place with Fatah and Hamas at odds with one another.
2007	Israel declares Gaza " <u>hostile territory</u> " following Hamas violent takeover of Gaza Strip.
2008	Israel launches <u>Operation Cast Lead</u> in the Gaza Strip.
2017	USA shifts capital to Jerusalem and moves its embassy as well.
2018	Palestine initiates proceedings against USA at the ICJ against the relocation of their embassy to Jerusalem.
2019	USA announces its view that Israeli settlements in the West Bank are not in violation of international law.
2020	USA carries out air strikes in Iran in response to attacks on the US Embassy in Baghdad, Major General Quassem Soleimani of the Quds Force of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps is assassinated.

***2020 to the present day:***

The Israel-Palestine conflict has witnessed a series of events that have shaped the ongoing tensions in the region. The conflict has been marked by sporadic violence, diplomatic efforts, and the struggle for recognition and self-determination.

In 2020, the conflict saw periodic escalations in tensions, but it was in May 2021 that a significant escalation occurred. Clashes erupted in East Jerusalem, centered around the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood where Palestinian families were facing eviction. These events coincided with the Muslim holy month of Ramadan and led to clashes at the Al-Aqsa Mosque between Palestinian protesters and Israeli security forces. The situation quickly escalated into an 11-day conflict, during which both sides exchanged rocket fire and airstrikes. The violence resulted in a high number of civilian casualties, particularly in the Gaza Strip.

Efforts to broker a ceasefire were eventually successful, but the underlying issues remained unresolved. The conflict highlighted the deeply entrenched issues of settlements, land rights,



and the status of Jerusalem. It also underscored the challenges of addressing the humanitarian needs of Palestinians in Gaza, including reconstruction and access to essential services.

In the aftermath of the conflict, diplomatic efforts were made to address the root causes of the conflict and pave the way for a more stable future. However, the dynamics of the situation remained complex, with internal political changes on both sides and a lack of consensus among regional and international stakeholders.

Since the ceasefire, there have been periodic incidents of violence, including rocket attacks from Gaza and Israeli airstrikes in response. These incidents serve as reminders of the unresolved tensions and the potential for further escalation. Diplomatic initiatives, including those led by regional actors and international organizations, have aimed to promote dialogue and a peaceful resolution to the conflict. However, reaching a comprehensive agreement remains challenging due to the deep historical, cultural, and political divisions between the parties.

The conflict also intersects with larger regional dynamics, including shifting alliances and the influence of external powers. The issue of Palestinian statehood and the status of Jerusalem continue to be at the forefront of discussions, with different parties advocating for different approaches.

In summary, the Israel-Palestine conflict from 2020 to the present day has been characterized by periods of violence, diplomatic efforts, and the complex interplay of historical grievances and contemporary politics. The challenge of finding a lasting solution to the conflict persists, as both sides contend with deeply rooted issues and the aspirations of their respective communities.

### **Relevant UN Treaties, Resolutions and Events**

*Nota bene: The following are the important UNSC resolutions relating to the conflict in the Near East between Israel and the Arabs. Please note that this list is inclusive in nature yet not exhaustive and that there are several hundred resolutions adopted by UN bodies in relation to this conflict and that this list shows only what action was taken by the Security Council in the past.*

- The Palestinian Question, 5<sup>th</sup> March 1948(**S/RES/42**): Requested the recommendations of the UN Palestine Commission, established by UN General Assembly Resolution 181.
- The Palestinian Question, 1<sup>st</sup> April 1948 (**S/RES/43**): Requested a truce between the Jews and Arabs in Palestine.
- The Palestine Question, 1<sup>st</sup> April 1948 (**S/RES/44**): Called for the convention of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session of Palestine.
- The Palestine Question, 17<sup>th</sup> April 1948 (**S/RES/46**): Called upon all persons and organizations in Palestine to refrain from importing armed bands and fighting, weapons and war materials, refrain from any political activity which might prejudice the rights, claims, or position of either community and refrain from any action which will endanger the safety of the Holy Places in Palestine.
- Resolution of 23 April 1948, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1948 (**S/RES/48**): Established the Truce Commission for Palestine.
- Resolution of 22 May 1948, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1948 (**S/RES/49**): Called upon all parties to issue a ceasefire and directed the Truce Commission to report on the compliance of the Resolution and subsequent ceasefire.
- Resolution of 29 May 1948, 29<sup>th</sup> May 1948 (**S/RES/50**): Called for a four-week ceasefire covering Palestine, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Transjordan and Yemen.
- The Palestine Question, 7<sup>th</sup> July 1948 (**S/RES/53**): Addresses the telegram of the Mediator to all interested parties to prolong the truce period.
- The Palestinian Question, 15<sup>th</sup> July 1948 (**S/RES/54**): determined that the situation in Palestine constitutes a threat to the peace within the meaning of Article 39 of the Charter of the United Nations and ordered an unconditional ceasefire in Jerusalem. It also decided that the truce shall remain in force until a peace is achieved in Palestine.
- The Palestine Question, 18<sup>th</sup> September 1948 (**S/RES/57**): Addressed the assassination of Count Bernadotte, UN Mediator in Palestine.
- The Palestine Question, 4<sup>th</sup> November 1948 (**S/RES/61**): Decided that the Truce Commission would be in force until a peace was achieved in Palestine.
- The Palestine Question, 16<sup>th</sup> November 1948 (**S/RES/62**): Called for an armistice in all parts of Palestine.
- The Palestine Question, 29<sup>th</sup> December 1948 (**S/RES/66**): Called for an immediate ceasefire to be declared in Palestine following the Acting Mediator's reports of military engagement in Palestine.

- Resolution of 4 March 1949, 4<sup>th</sup> March 1949 (**S/RES/69**): Decided in its judgement that Israel was a peace loving state and recommended its admission into the United Nations.
- The Palestine Question, 11<sup>th</sup> August 1949 (**S/RES/73**): Noted with satisfaction the Armistice Agreements of 1949 and expressed its hope that the final settlement of all questions related to Palestine would conclude shortly.
- The Palestinian Question, 17<sup>th</sup> November 1950 (**S/RES/89**): Took into consideration the views expressed by the representatives of Egypt, Israel, Jordan and the Chief of Staff of the Truce Supervision Organization and addressed the Armistice Agreements and its implementation.
- The Palestine Question, 8<sup>th</sup> May 1951 (**S/RES/92**): Noted with concern the conflict at the demilitarized zone between Syria and Israel.
- The Palestine Question, 24<sup>th</sup> November 1953 (**S/RES/101**): Found that the retaliatory action at Qibya taken by Israeli armed forces constitute a violation of the ceasefire provisions of S/RES/54.
- The Palestine Question, 29<sup>th</sup> March 1955 (**S/RES/106**): Condemned the attack against Egyptian forces carried out by Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip as inconsistent with the agreements between Israel and Egypt.
- The Palestine Question, 8<sup>th</sup> September 1955 (**S/RES/109**): Noted the acceptance of an unconditional ceasefire as proposed by the Chief of Staff of the Truce Supervision Organization by both Israel and Egypt.
- The Palestine Question, 19<sup>th</sup> January 1956 (**S/RES/111**): 'condemns' Israel for raid on Syria.
- The Palestine Question, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1958 (**S/RES/127**): Recommended that Israel suspend its 'no-man's zone' in Jerusalem.
- The Palestine Question, 11<sup>th</sup> April 1961 (**S/RES/162**): Urged Israel to comply with UN decisions.
- The Palestine Question 9<sup>th</sup> April 1962 (**S/RES/171**): Determined flagrant violations by Israel in its attack on Syria.
- The Palestine Question, 25<sup>th</sup> November 1966 (**S/RES/228**): Censured Israel for its attack on Samu in the West Bank, then under Jordanian control.
- The Situation in the Middle East, 6<sup>th</sup> June 1967 (**S/RES/233**): Calls for the immediate cessation of all military activities in the Near East.
- The Situation in the Middle East, 7<sup>th</sup> June 1967 (**S/RES/234**): Demanded a ceasefire.

- The Situation in the Middle East, 9<sup>th</sup> June 1967 (**S/RES/235**): Confirmed the demand for a ceasefire.
- The Situation in the Middle East, 11<sup>th</sup> June 1967 (**S/RES/236**): Reaffirmed the demand for an immediate ceasefire.
- The Situation in the Middle East, 14<sup>th</sup> June 1967 (**S/RES/237**): Called on Israel to observe international humanitarian principles in treatment of prisoners of war and civilians in occupied areas.
- The Territories Occupied by Israel, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1967 (**S/RES/242**): Called on all parties to end territorial claims, respect sovereignty, and for Israel to withdraw from occupied territories. It affirmed that the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East should include the application of certain principles inter alia.
- The Situation in the Middle East, 24<sup>th</sup> March 1968 (**S/RES/248**): Condemned Israel for its massive attack on Karameh in Jordan.
- The Situation in the Middle East, 27<sup>th</sup> April 1968 (**S/RES/250**): Called upon Israel to refrain from holding military parade in Jerusalem.
- The Situation in the Middle East, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1968 (**S/RES/251**): Deeply deplored the Israeli military parade in Jerusalem in defiance of S/RES/250.
- The Situation in the Middle East, 21<sup>st</sup> May 1968 (**S/RES/252**): Considered all actions taken by Israel to change the status of Jerusalem to be invalid and called upon Israel to rescind all such measures, while deploring Israel's non-compliance of General Assembly Resolutions.
- The Situation in the Middle East, 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1968 (**S/RES/267**): Censured in the strongest terms all measures taken by Israel to change the status of Jerusalem.
- The Situation in the Middle East, 26<sup>th</sup> August 1968 (**S/RES/270**): Condemned the premeditated air attacks by Israel on villages in southern Lebanon.
- The Situation in the Middle East, 15<sup>th</sup> September 1968 (**S/RES/271**): Condemned Israel's failure to obey UN resolutions on Jerusalem and determined the necessity for Israel to desist all activities desecrating the Holy Al Aqsa Mosque.
- The Situation in the Middle East, 12<sup>th</sup> May 1970 (**S/RES/279**): Demanded the immediate withdrawal of all Israeli armed forces from Lebanese territory.
- Ceasefire in the Middle East, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1973 (**S/RES/338**): Called upon all parties to cease all firing and terminate all military activity within 12 hours of the adoption of the resolution and decided that, immediately and concurrently with the cease-fire,

negotiations shall start between the parties concerned under appropriate auspices aimed at establishing a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

- Ceasefire between Egypt and Israel, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1973 (**S/RES/339**): Confirmed S/RES/338 and dispatched UN Observers to the region of conflict.
- UN Emergency Force for the Middle East, 25<sup>th</sup> October 1973 (**S/RES/340**): Decided to set up the United Nations Emergency Force and subsequently increase the number of UN military observers on both sides.
- Territories Occupied by Israel, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1979 (**S/RES/446**): Called upon Israel to abide by the Fourth Geneva Conventions and desist in all measures that would change the legal status and geographic nature of all Arab territories since 1967, including Jerusalem.
- Territories Occupied by Israel, 20<sup>th</sup> August 1980 (**S/RES/478**): Censured in the strongest terms the enactment by Israel of the "basic law" on Jerusalem and the refusal to comply with relevant Security Council resolutions and refused to acknowledge any change in the status of Jerusalem as a result of its enactment.
- Territories Occupied by Israel, 20<sup>th</sup> December 1990 (**S/RES/681**): Deplored the deportation of Palestinians undertaken by Israel and urged Israel to accept the *de jure* applicability of the Geneva Conventions Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War.
- Territories Occupied by Israel, 18<sup>th</sup> March 1994 (**S/RES/904**): Addressed the massacre committed against Palestinian worshippers in the Mosque of Ibrahim in Hebron and while condemning the same, called for the implementation of the Declaration of Principles for the Self Government of Palestinians (Oslo Accords).
- The Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2000 (**S/RES/1332**): Condemned the acts of violence and excessive use of force by Israel and called for Israel to abide unscrupulously to the Fourth Geneva Conventions. It also called for the immediate cessation of hostilities and resumption of talks.
- The Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2002 (**S/RES/1397**): Reaffirmed their vision for two states, Israeli and Palestinian, co-existing while demanding an immediate cessation of violence.
- The Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2002 (**S/RES/1403**): Demanded the implementation of S/RES/1397 without delay.
- The Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2002 (**S/RES/1435**): Reiterated its demand for the complete cessation of all acts of

violence, demanded Israel to immediately cease all measures in and around Ramallah including the destruction of civilian and security infrastructure and called upon the Palestinian Authority to ensure that those responsible for terrorist attacks are brought to justice.

- The Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question, 19th November 2003 (**S/RES/1515**): Endorsed the Quartet Roadmap to a Permanent Two-State Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and called for all parties to honour their obligations to the Roadmap.
- The Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2004 (**S/RES/1544**): Condemned Israel for the killing of Palestinian civilians in the Rafah area and called on Israel to respect its obligations under international humanitarian law, and insists, in particular, on its obligation not to undertake demolition of homes contrary to that law.
- The Situation in the Middle East, 21<sup>st</sup> December 2005 (**S/RES/1648**): Decided to renew the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force for a period of 6 months.
- The Situation in the Middle East, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2006 (**S/RES/1701**): Called for the immediate cessation of all attacks by Hezbollah and the immediate cessation of all military operations by Israel.
- The Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2008 (**S/RES/1850**): Declared its support for the talks held at Annapolis.
- The Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2009 (**S/RES/1860**): Called for an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire, leading to the full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza.
- The Situation in the Middle East, 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2016 (**S/RES/2334**): Reaffirmed that the establishment by Israel of settlements in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, has no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation under international law and a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-State solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace.
- The Situation in the Middle East, 19<sup>th</sup> December 2019 (**S/RES/2503**): Called upon parties concerned to implement immediately its resolution 338 and cooperate with the UNDOF.

## Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

Over the course of the last few decades, there have been several attempts made to solve the issue relating to Israel and Palestine. These have been varied in their approach of the conflict as well as their plans to implement a “viable” solution. The fact that the conflict is still a reality today goes to show the complex nature of the geopolitical situation in the Near East and the rigidity of the ideologies of the belligerents and the mutual distrust among the parties involved.

The United Nations has taken several measures to solve the crisis. It must be noted that every ceasefire that has been accepted by any States in conflict in the Near East, have done so either after the UN has ordered the same or endorsed by the UN. The conflict today is centred more around Israel and Palestine (whom all the Arab neighbours of Israel have relinquished their claim over territory for) than Israel and its neighbouring states, as it was in the past. The role of Israel’s neighbours and particularly Egypt has lately been that of brokers of peace between Israeli and Palestinian forces. For example, the latest ceasefire between Hamas and Israel from March 2019, is one brokered by Egypt. This only goes to show the dynamic nature of the situation in the Middle East, where a country known for pledging ‘no peace, no recognition and no negotiation’ with its neighbour brokered ceasefires between its ally and that very neighbour, only a few decades later.

Despite all of these efforts to mitigate the crisis and address the immediate situations, a long-term solution agreeable to both sides of the conflict is one that remains to be seen to this day. With that said, one group that has been the most involved in attempting to find a long-term solution to the situation has been the Middle Eastern Quartet. One concern that the Quartet deals with today is Hamas’ openly stated hatred of the Trump Administration in the USA; Hamas even said after the US President’s peace plan was unveiled, that they would reject any and all plans floated by the administration. The Quartet has either collectively proposed solutions like the Roadmap or have individually taken steps to address the crisis. In this way, the Quartet members have been the most involved in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, having proposed nearly a dozen proposals, none of which have received support from both parties to the conflict.

Apart from the geopolitical predicament, another pressing concern is the refugee crisis that has emerged thereof. The United Nations has attempted to address this issue from the very beginning, with the formation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine in

1949 being an important step to check the situation. From its inception, the Agency has worked closely to address the condition of healthcare, education and relief services for persons whose normal place of residence was Palestine during the period 1 June 1946 to 15 May 1948, and who lost both home and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 conflict.

International tribunals too have been involved in the region. Importantly, the International Criminal Court has taken up a role more prominent than it had previously, with the Chief Prosecutor announcing in December 2019 that she sought to investigate into the alleged war crimes in the Palestinian territories. A key factor that must be taken into account however is the necessity for both the ICJ and the ICC to first establish jurisdiction over the conflict before discussing it; this essential element of international jurisprudence has become in the opinion of many, an obstacle to the swift mitigation of crises and hence one looked upon with much disfavour.

## **Possible Solutions**

### **Isratin**

This is a proposal for a bi-national state in the “Holy Land”. Proposed by Saif al-Islam Gaddafi, it seeks the establishment of a secular federal republic where there are 5 administrative divisions with Jerusalem being a city-state.

### **Elon Peace Plan**

The plan was drafted by the then-Tourism Minister of Israel, Benjamin Elon. It sought the annexation of West Bank and Gaza by Israel and the absorption of Palestinian refugees into the neighbouring Arab countries, mainly Jordan.

### **Allon Plan**

Made soon after the Six Day War, it aimed at partitioning the West Bank between Israel and Jordan and creating a State of Druz in between the Israeli and Jordanian portions of the West Bank.

### **Arab Peace Initiative**



The initiative involved the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Occupied Territories and a settlement to be paid in view of the Palestinian refugee problem by Israel, in exchange for the cessation of hostilities.

### **Israeli Peace Initiative**

It offered the withdrawal of Israeli troops from occupied territories, full civil rights to the Arab minority in Israel, partition of Israel along the Jewish-Arab lines such that the Jewish Quarter is under Israeli control leaving the Temple Mount under “God’s sovereignty” and relinquishing the rest to Jordan and the sacred Islamic places to be given to a Muslim Waqf to maintain in exchange for recognition by the Palestinian Authority and the complete cessation of hostilities.

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### Useful Links for Further Research

- I. <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/resolutions-0>
- II. <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2019/country-chapters/israel/palestine>
- III. <https://www.palestinianbasiclaw.org/>
- IV. <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-209986/>
- V. <https://m.knesset.gov.il/EN/activity/Pages/BasicLaws.aspx>
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- VII. <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/chronology/israelpalestine.php>
- VIII. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/libermans-peace-plan-calls-for-funding-arab-emigration/>
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