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Examining The Role of the United Nations in the Israel-Palestine Crisis: 2000-Date

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Abstract
The conflict in the Middle East is traceable to the Arab leader revolting against the Ottoman empire with the help of the British government. On the other side is the Jewish persecution and anti-Semitism against the Jewish people supported by Lord Arthur Balfour, the then-British minister to establish a Jewish national home in Palestine. This paper aims to examine the role of the United Nations in the Israel-Palestine crisis between 2000-2015. To further complicate issues in the Middle East. There was a deal between the French and British Empire to curve up the Arab provinces of the ottoman empire and divide control of the region and spoils of war.
Keywords: United Nations, Israel, Palestine, Crisis, Conflict

I. Introduction

The Middle East crisis is traceable to Ottoman and the Iranian Safavid dynasty in the 16th century (Hever, 2021). By the 17th century, the Ottoman Empire failed, and the balance of power shifted decisively in favour of the western world. The French Empire extended its influence into Syria and Lebanon, while the British Empire established effective control of the Persian Gulf (Piccone, 2016).

Towards the end of the 18th century, the persecution and anti-Semitism against the Jewish people in Europe gave birth to political movements and Zionism to establish a Jewish homeland in Palestine in the Middle East (Siegal, 2017).

Since the creation of the state of Israel in 1948, there have been crises in the Middle East between Israel and Palestine (Siegal, 2017). Some countries of the world have at one point or the other supported one of the parties, thereby leading to the escalation of the crisis. Furthermore, the main problem is that no one including the UN and its Security Council can stop the infringement of the Palestine people's rights.

Several peace processes took place but neither Israel nor Palestine was ready to compromise to achieve peace (Gabriel-Lee, 2017). The Middle East crisis has created concern in the minds of many people in different parts of the world, due to the loss of lives and property (Tropp & Jagerskog, 2006). Given the foregoing, this study investigates the role of the United Nations in the Israel-Palestine crisis.

II. Literature Review

2.1 Conceptual Review

Conflict is the pursuit of incompatible interests and goals by different groups; an inevitable product of cohabitation or coexistence of individuals, peoples, groups, and countries, struggling for limited values or resources against countless desires (Mentan, 2020).

Armed conflict is the resort to the use of force and armed violence in the pursuit of incompatible and interests and goals (Mahler, 2016). The worst forms of armed conflicts include mass murder and genocide against unarmed civilians (Kędziora, 2020).

2.2 Empirical Review

Mentan (2020) in his work, marginalizes the UN's fight for humanitarian agenda in the middle east where he explained that international crisis management in the Arabic world is provided with the reverse of the debating war and peace in the Middle East.

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Allegra and Maggor (2022) in search for peace shares that the agreement made publicly by the Jordanian side laid down rules of bilateral cooperation which call for a solution involving an exchange of land for peace and the acceptance of the condition.

Shukri et al (2022) assert that Palestine issues have become come one of the most controversial and political worlds. The modern-day Israel-Palestine conflict is neither based on a thousand-year-old historical or biblical conflict between the two states nor is it a historically deep-rooted religious struggle between Judaism and Israel.

Hever (2021), in the "Toward a Political Economy of Apartheid and Inequality in Israel/Palestine", explains that Palestine as a territory has experienced a curious history. Until world war, Palestine was part of the sprawling Ottoman empire.

After the war, Palestine came under the administration of Great Britain through an arrangement with the league of nations (Richter-Montpetit & Weber, 2017). In 1948 Israel established itself in part of Palestine territory, Egypt, and Jordan; and by 1988, Palatine reasserted itself as a state (Golding, 2019).

2.3 Review of Related Studies: Israel and Palestine Conflict

Matrix of Israel-Arab Crisis

Israel's "matrix of control" over the Occupied Palestinian Territories consists of three interlocking systems: military administration of much of the West Bank and incessant army and air force intrusions elsewhere (Appt, 2020). Also, are skeins of "facts on the ground," notably settlements in the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, alongside bypass roads connecting the settlements to Israel proper; and administrative measures like house demolitions and deportations (Appt, 2020).

Tabutin et al (2005) argued that unless this matrix was dismantled, the occupation would not be ended, and a two-state solution could not be achieved. Since then, the occupation has grown immeasurably stronger and more entrenched.

The First Confrontation: Independence War (1947-1949)

1948 (or First Arab-Israeli War) was the second and final stage of the 1947- 1949 Palestine war (Yitzhak, 2008). It formally began following the end of the British Mandate for Palestine at midnight on 14 May 1948; the Israeli Declaration of Independence had been issued earlier that day, and a military coalition of Arab states entered the territory of British Palestine in the morning of 15 May (Morris 2008).

The conflict triggered significant demographic change throughout the Middle East. Around 700,000 Palestinian Arabs fled or were expelled from their homes in the area that became Israel, and they became Palestinian refugees in what they refer to as Al-Nakba ("the catastrophe") (Milton-Edwards, 2008). In the three years following the war, about 700,000 Jews emigrated to Israel, many of whom had beer, expelled from their previous homelands in the Middle East (Morris 2008).

The Second Confrontation: Suez War (1956)

The Suez Crisis, or the Second Arab Israeli war, also called the tripartite aggression in the Arab world and Sinai War in Israel was an invasion of Egypt in late 1956 by Israel, followed by the United Kingdom and France (Dietl, 2008). The aims were to regain Western control of the Suez Canal and to remove Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser, who had just nationalized the canal (Azar, 1972).

After the fighting had started, political pressure from the United States, the Soviet Union and the United Nations led to a withdrawal by the three invaders (Smolansky, 1965). The episode humiliated the United Kingdom and France and strengthened Nasser. On 29 October, Israel invaded the Egyptian Sinai (Dietl, 2008).

The Third Confrontation: Six-Day War (June 1967)

The Six-Day War also known as the June War, 1967 Arab-Israeli War, or Third Arab-Israeli War, was fought between 5 and 10 June 1967 by Israel and the neighbouring states of Egypt (known at the time as the United Arab Republic), Jordan, and Syria (Goldstein, 2018). Relations between Israel and its neighbours were not fully normalised after the 1948 Arab-Israeli War (Golan, 2005).

In 1956 Israel invaded the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt with one of its objectives being the reopening of the Straits of Tiran Egypt has 1 blocked to Israeli shipping since 1950 (Bar-Noi, 2011). Israel was eventually forced to withdraw.

The 1973 October War

Throughout the early 1970s, the major focal point of Egypt, Jordan and Syria was persuading Israel to return to the 1949 armistice lines. Nevertheless, Israel declared that this was impossible for itself because of its security concerns (Simchen & Sacks, 1975).

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After Nasser's death, his successor Anwar Sadat tried to regain respect at home as well as before the world community. By restoring diplomatic relations with the U.S., he tried to have peace with Israel based on Resolution 242 (Dawisha, 1980).

The 1982 War in Lebanon

In the pursuit of an activist foreign policy led by Begin, Israel invaded Lebanon in 1978 to dislodge the PLO from its bases (Solomon et al., 2006). Following its invasion of Lebanon, it annexed East Jerusalem in 1980 and the Golan in 1981 (Solomon et al., 2006).

As a reaction to Israel's second invasion of Lebanon in 1982, militant nationalists and Islamic fundamentalists in Egypt came to the fore m the conflict with Israel (Eldad & Torem, 1990).

2000-2005: Al Aqsa Intifada

It is commonly referred to as the second intifada which was one of the most defining moments in the history of the Palestinian struggle against Israeli occupation (Eldad & Torem, 1990).

The popular uprising dubbed "Al-Aqsa Intifada" was sparked after right-wing Israel leader Ariel Sharon entered Al-Aqsa Mosque on 28 September 2000, accompanied by a large delegation (Schachter, 2010).

It was seen as a clear provocation to Palestinians who had become frustrated with failed peace talks and saw this as an intrusion on their holiest side (Ben-Eliezer, 2019).

First Gaza War (2006-2009)

After winning local elections against its political rival, Fatah, in 2006, Hamas gained complete control of Gaza in 2007 by confronting the Palestinian Authority and driving it out (Tsfati, Sheafer & Weimann, 2017).

The military wing of Hamas carried out this violent coup d'etat, and by 2008, this force had grown to approximately 15,000 fighters considered by many to be the "most organized and effective militia in the Palestinian territories (Heszlein-Lossius et al., 2018; Zeitzoff, 2018).

Second Gaza War (2012-2014)

The war began on the 9th of March 2012 in what the Israelis call operation returning echo in the Gaza strip. Since the operation cast led in November 2012, the war contained what the Israeli calls the operation pillar of defence (Benhamou, 2021).

The Israeli launched an attack on Haman's governed area of the Gaza strip. Combined with Israel, air strikes and grand bombardments and Palestinian rockets attack resulted in thousands of deaths of which the majority are Palestinians (Tivadar, 2021).

2018-2020 Gaza War

The wave of violence in the Israeli – Palestinian conflict and especially the occurrences on the Gaza border since March 2018 from a less covered point of view. The Palestinians' main tools of resistance during this wave of violence have been civilian protests (Cankara & Cankara, 2022).

They also launched explosive kites and balloons across the border causing massive damage to Israeli agriculture. By 11th November 2018, there was a serious clash between Israel and Palestinians, and the war continued systematically until 2021 (Griffiths, 2022).

2.4 Theoretical Framework

Dependency Theory

The most suitable theory for this study is the theory of constructivism, which considers the social theory of knowledge, implying that all concerned actors or players necessarily participate when a disagreement or a problem exists (Lisimba & Lisimba, 2020).

Analysis of the present and past situation between Palestine and Israel is very significant. The Israeli- Palestinian-Arab conflict is most favourably rationalized because of the presence of clear evidence of identity threat in this philosophy (Lisimba & Lisimba, 2020). Resolving will not be easy unless both conflicting parties discuss their significant issues and understand the other's wishes (Lisimba & Lisimba, 2020).

III. Role of United Nations in the Israel-Palestine Crisis: 2000-2015

3.1 International Diplomacy

The United Nations was both venue and a player in the complicated international diplomacy that led to the partition of Palestine in 1947 and the creation of the state of Israel in 1948 (Mentan, 2020).

By the end of that year, the UN General Assembly had passed Resolution 194, affirming the right of Palestinian refugees from the 1947-48 war to return to their homes and to receive compensation for their losses (Mentan, 2020).

When Israel joined the UN the following year, its membership (resolution 273) was contingent on its acceptance of the obligations

imposed by earlier resolutions, including 194 (Mentan, 2020).

3.2 Peacekeeping and Refugee Stability

UN peacekeepers were stationed on the Israeli-Egyptian borderland UNRWA, while the UN Refugee Works Agency was established to provide for the refugees until they would return home (Ben-Ze'ev & Gazit, 2018).

There was little involvement of the UN as an institution in political decision-making. That process was largely dominated by the Security Council's powerful permanent members (Ben-Ze'ev & Gazit, 2018).

3.3 Supply of Artilleries and Weapons

In 1966 the U.S. had begun providing Israel with new, advanced planes and missiles. Describing the new U.S. strategy in the Middle East, James Feron reported in New York Times (11 June 1966), that the "United States has concluded that it must rely on a local power — the deterrent of a friendly power — as a first line to stave off America's direct involvement" (Ben-Zvi, 2004).

Israel feels she fits this definition." The Cold War had come to the Middle East, and the UN was out of the loop. After 1967, the U.S. willingness to rely on Israel vastly expanded, and relations with the Arabs would be secondary to the emerging U.S.-Israeli alliance (Ben-Zvi, 2004).

IV. Conclusion

From the Israeli perspective, a key concern is a security. Findings from our study showed that there exists evidence of Palestinians having supported and expressed incitement against Israel, its motives, actions, and basic rights as a state Shukri et al (2022).

The key obstacle, therefore, remains the Israeli demand for security versus Palestinian claims for rights and statehood (Cankara & Cankara, 2022).

However, it is the Palestinians' resort to militancy that has made such conceptual clarity difficult to achieve. Nevertheless, there is a range of ulterior motives for Israel's denial of Palestinian statehood (Griffiths, 2022).

V. Recommendations

Many efforts have been employed by in finding a lasting solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict. Though some efforts paid off, others have failed. Thus, the recommendations from this present study may ensure lasting peace between Israel and Palestine (Arabs) if adopted.

i. Continuation of the two-state approach
ii. Adoption of multi-track diplomacy
iii. Adoption and granting of a concession.
iv. Minimized foreign powers' intervention.

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