



**Forum:** Security Council

**Topic:** The Question of Palestine

**Student Officer:** Irene Vogiatzoglou

**Position:** Deputy President

## PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

My name is Irene Vogiatzoglou and I am 16 years old. I am an IB1 student at Costeas-Geitonas School and I'll have the honor to serve as the Deputy President of the Security Council at the 3rd Model United Nations conference of the St. Catharines British School. This will constitute the 10th MUN Conference I will get to attend. I am looking forward to this session of SCMUN since every single MUN conference is a unique and unforgettable experience through which you gain valuable insight into global issues and ways to resolve them.

The Security Council is a very intriguing and challenging committee, which deals with a variety of issues that the modern world needs to encounter for the maintenance of international peace and security. This year's agenda and this year's conference theme are very promising and will definitely cause a fruitful debate and constructive discussion, as this topic is ongoing and the first topic in every newspaper or website.

Serving as your Deputy President, I aim to ensure that every delegate in the committee has acquired an in-depth understanding of the topic and is more than ready to debate and encourage the implementation of solutions to complex issues, always in adherence with your country's policy. This document will assist you in gaining a deep understanding of the topic, but should not be your only source of information.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at:

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I look forward to meeting you all!

Best Regards,

Irene Vogiatzoglou

\*Disclaimer

This document presents information about the conflict and the series of events until the 7th of November 2023



## TOPIC INTRODUCTION

In our exponentially developing world, where technological advancements and progress have become ordinary, it's disheartening to observe that many countries are still in conflict and war. The aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic inclined this issue, with approximately 73 countries experiencing a decline in peacefulness. This decline has caused mental and physical injuries, social divisions, problematic economies, environmental and educational concerns and many more. The Security Council strives to address these conflicts and security-related concerns peacefully, offering recommendations for resolution.

One of the most enduring and contentious conflicts is the ongoing dispute between Israel and Palestine, commonly referred to as the "Question of Palestine." The latest round of this enduring conflict, which started on the 7th of October 2023, has recorded more than 10,000 deaths in the first month. It traces its roots back to 1948 when Israel was established as an independent state and after a



major catastrophe, 'Nakba' happened. More specifically, it has remained a focal point of international diplomacy and tension due to its territorial disputes and complex historical background.

This year's conference's agenda, centred around the theme of 'Post-War Societies', St. Catharines MUN aims to examine and address the repercussions of conflicts and wars, while also exploring the underlying reasons behind these global challenges, with the conflict between Palestine and Israel being one of the longest-lasting and most controversial conflicts around the globe.

## DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

### West Bank

The West Bank is an "area of the former British-mandated (1920–47) territory of Palestine west of the Jordan River, claimed from 1949 to 1988 as part of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan but occupied from 1967 by Israel."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "West Bank". Encyclopedia Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/place/West-Bank>.



## Gaza Strip

It “is a 25-mile-long by 6-mile-wide enclave, bounded by the Mediterranean Sea to the west, Israel to the north and east and Egypt to the south. Gaza is one of two Palestinian territories.”<sup>2</sup>

## Suez Canal

The Suez Canal “is a human-made waterway that cuts north-south across the Isthmus of Suez in Egypt. The Suez Canal connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea, making it the shortest maritime route to Asia from Europe.”<sup>3</sup>

## Hamas

(founded in 1987) “in English, it means ‘Islamic Resistance Movement’, militant Palestinian nationalist and Islamist movement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip that is dedicated to the establishment of an independent Islamic state in historical Palestine.”<sup>4</sup>

## Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)

The PLO is a “political organization claiming to represent the world’s Palestinians—those Arabs, and their descendants, who lived in mandated Palestine before the creation of the State of Israel in 1948. It was formed in 1964 to centralize the leadership of various Palestinian groups.”<sup>5</sup>



## Jerusalem

Jerusalem is “the ancient city of the Middle East that since 1967 has been wholly under the rule of the State of Israel. Long an object of veneration and conflict, the holy city of Jerusalem has been governed, both as a provincial town and a national capital, by an

<sup>2</sup> Al-Kassab, Fatima. “What Is the Gaza Strip? Here’s What to Know.” NPR, 10 Oct. 2023, [www.npr.org/2023/10/10/1204873146/what-is-gaza-strip](https://www.npr.org/2023/10/10/1204873146/what-is-gaza-strip).

<sup>3</sup> Smith, Charles Gordon and Fisher, William B.. “Suez Canal”. Encyclopedia Britannica, 15 Sep. 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Suez-Canal>.

<sup>4</sup> Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. “Hamas”. Encyclopedia Britannica, 4 Nov. 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Hamas>.

<sup>5</sup> Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. “Palestine Liberation Organization”. Encyclopedia Britannica, 17 Oct. 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Palestine-Liberation-Organization>.



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extended series of dynasties and states.”<sup>6</sup> It is considered a holy pilgrimage of Christianity, Islam and Judaism, the place where Jesus Christ grew up, it is mentioned many times in the Bible and now it is internationally governed.

### Golan Heights or Golan Plateau

It “is a hilly area overlooking the upper Jordan River valley on the west. The area was part of extreme southwestern Syria until 1967 when it came under Israeli military occupation, and in December 1981 Israel unilaterally annexed the part of the Golan it held.”<sup>7</sup>

### Sinai Peninsula

The Sinai Peninsula is a "triangular peninsula linking Africa with Asia and occupying an area of 23,500 square miles (61,000 square km). Usually regarded as being geographically part of Asia, the Sinai Peninsula is the northeastern extremity of Egypt and adjoins Israel and the Gaza Strip on the east.”<sup>8</sup>

### Arab League

The Arab League was created to strengthen the political, cultural, economic, and social programs of its members, as well as to manage the disputes between third parties and its members. “regional organization of Arab states in the Middle East and parts of Africa, formed in Cairo on March 22, 1945, as an outgrowth of Pan-Arabism. The founding member states were Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Transjordan (now Jordan), Saudi Arabia, and Yemen. Other members are Libya (1953); Sudan(1956); Tunisia and Morocco (1958); Kuwait (1961); Algeria (1962); Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates (1971); Mauritania (1973); Somalia(1974); the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO; 1976); Djibouti (1977); and Comoros (1993).”<sup>9</sup>.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### Background of the conflict

Israel and Palestine had their differences from the early times. Before World War II the holy land and a part of the Middle East were ruled by the Ottoman Empire (the holy land

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<sup>6</sup> Gordon, Buzzy , Praver, Joshua , Dumper, Michael , Wasserstein, Bernard and Perowne, Stewart Henry. "Jerusalem". Encyclopedia Britannica, 4 Nov. 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Jerusalem>.

<sup>7</sup> Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Golan Heights". Encyclopedia Britannica, 14 Oct. 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Golan-Heights>.

<sup>8</sup> Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Sinai Peninsula". Encyclopedia Britannica, 30 Oct. 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Sinai-Peninsula>.

<sup>9</sup> Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Arab League". Encyclopedia Britannica, 11 Sep. 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Arab-League>.



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(today's Israel-Palestine land) was called unofficially "Palestine"). After WWI Palestine was ruled by Britain and was called the "British Mandate for Palestine". By the Balfour declaration in 1917 by the British Mandate, in 1923 the establishment of the Jewish national homeland in its territory went into effect. As a result, the first uprising of the Palestinians (Arab Revolt) happened, as the Palestinians had been living in the Palestinian territory for centuries and both Palestinians and Jews claimed that the land was theirs.

After World War II when 6 million Jews were killed, thousands of Jews migrated to Palestine to seek a home and better living conditions while the British Empire left Palestine. In 1947, the United Nations decided to Partition Palestine into two independent states, the Arab and the Jewish state, Jerusalem became an international zone. However, the Arabs didn't agree with this change, as the Jewish state had 56% of the land but 1/3 of the population, and violence began between the two states. At that time the Arab-Israeli war started. The Israelis fought against Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Syria and Palestine. The Israelis after the war ended up with 2/3 of Palestine, while the Gaza Strip was occupied by Egypt and the West Bank was occupied by Jordan. Thus, more than 750,000 Palestinians were expelled from their own land, this day of their moving was called "Nakba": the Catastrophe.

In June 1967, when the "Six-Day War" started Israel fought against Jordan, Syria, Palestine and Egypt. On June 10 when this brief war ended, Israel with its victory had occupied the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, the Golan Heights (a part of Syrian Territory) and the Sinai Peninsula (a part of Egyptian territory). The Palestinians were expelled from their homes and were forced to live in Gaza, West Bank and neighbouring countries. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was founded in 1964 to create a liberated Palestine in Israel. The PLO did continuous strikes on Israel from Jordan and Lebanon, while Israel was answering them with strikes and invasions as well.

In 1979, through a peace treaty, the Sinai Peninsula was returned to Egypt. Some years of conflict and terrorism from both Israel and Palestine passed. The "First Intifada" happened in 1987 resulting in hundreds of deaths between the Israelis and the Palestinians. The idea of two peace treaties was born. The "Oslo Accords" in Washington D.C., USA and in Taba, Egypt between the PLO and Israel. However, Israelis continued living in Palestinian territory and transferring their refugees there. "Second Intifada" was introduced with bomb attacks and more conflicts between the two states. Israel built a separation wall in 2000 in the West Bank, which restricted freedom of movement. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) decided that this wall was illegal and ordered to destroy it fully.

In 2005, the Israeli army and invaders left the Gaza Strip and in 2007 Hamas took over the Gaza Strip. Hamas was Palestine's resistance movement to Israel. Their goal was to clear (=kill every Israeli) the whole Palestine-Israel territory from Israelis. Later in 2012,

Palestine became a non-member of the serving state and the Security Council demanded that Israel stop illegal settlements in Palestinian territory, but they continued expanding. Until today no change has been made in the situation between the two states, but many UN resolutions have been created to find a solution. Lastly, on October 7th 2023 Hamas



launched 5,000 rockets at Israel and war began between the two states.

## Recent Conflict

On October 7th, 2023, Hamas launched a surprise attack on Israel killing around 1200 people<sup>10</sup> (on that day only) and around 240 hostages most of them being civilians. The date selected by Hamas to initiate the attacks was of major importance to the Jewish people as it marked the day of "Simchat Torah". The attack consisted of a rocket barrage towards Israel and subsequent incursions both by air and ground by Palestinian troops. These attacks were justified by Hamas under the pretense that Israeli's were desecrating the Al-Aqsa Mosque and were illegally occupying Palestinian territories. This led to the Israeli state dropping over 6000 bombs on different targets in the Gaza strip leading to the death of man civilians along with severe destruction on properties. Estimates of death tolls as of mid-November estimate around 13000 civilians dead<sup>11</sup> as a result of both Palestinian and Israeli attacks. As a result, there has been a widespread humanitarian crisis due to the blockage of food and humanitarian supplies to the Gaza strip by Israel and the collapse of the health system due to an overwhelming number of casualties and reduced supply of necessary supplies. Lastly, many international protests have been organized calling for a ceasefire to the war and the provision of humanitarian assistance to those in need. These calls have been backed by many international NGOs and the UN while a ceasefire has been rejected by Israel and the US.



<sup>10</sup> France. "Israel Social Security Data Reveals True Picture of Oct 7 Deaths." *France 24*, 15 Dec. 2023, [www.france24.com/en/live-news/20231215-israel-social-security-data-reveals-true-picture-of-oct-7-deaths](http://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20231215-israel-social-security-data-reveals-true-picture-of-oct-7-deaths).

<sup>11</sup> "Gaza: 'Unprecedented and Unparalleled' Civilian Death Toll: Guterres." *Palestine*, [palestine.un.org/en/253284-gaza-unprecedented-and-unparalleled-civilian-death-toll-guterres](http://palestine.un.org/en/253284-gaza-unprecedented-and-unparalleled-civilian-death-toll-guterres).



## Causes of the Israel-Palestine conflict

The Israel-Palestine conflict is a complex issue with multiple factors contributing to its nature. One significant factor is the territorial dispute, as both Israelis and Palestinians claim the same land, primarily in the region historically known as the Holy Land. This disagreement has led to clashes and disputes over borders, settlements, and tensions between the two sides in the Middle East. Religious differences also play a crucial role in the conflict, with both Israelis and Palestinians having strong religious connections to the region. Most of the Palestinians are Muslims and most of the Israelis are Jewish. This religious difference has fueled their conflict many times throughout history. Jerusalem, one of the oldest cities in the world, holds immense significance for Jews, Christians, and Muslims, and they both claim the land is theirs. However, both of the two religions have Abraham as their father, but even that cannot bond them. Additionally, the conflict is deeply connected with a history of colonization (such as the history of the "holy land", being under the Ottoman Empire for years and managed by the British mandate), displacement, and their national identities, which has resulted in a long-standing historical correlation that continues to shape the attitudes of both Israelis and Palestinians. The "holy land" was occupied for centuries by the Palestinians until 1917, when Palestine was established as a national home for the Jewish people. 1917 was the date that everything started when millions of Palestinians had to leave their houses behind, due to the settlement of Jewish people. More specifically, due to this arrangement, Israelis started living in the "holy land" and creating long-standing friendships as well as influencing the region there with their traditions and beliefs to the point where Israel had occupied the majority of the land, while Palestinians had just a part. The Palestinians now believe that this land was for centuries their land and the Israelis came, stole it from them and caused people to feel oppressed and like refugees in their own land, while the Israelis believe that as they have lived there for quite some time and the majority of the land is theirs, so the Palestinians should not claim the land. Moreover, factors like the differences in the main speaking language and their personal experiences have fueled this conflict. These factors combine to create a challenging conflict with no easy solution in sight.

## Outcomes of the Israel-Palestine conflict

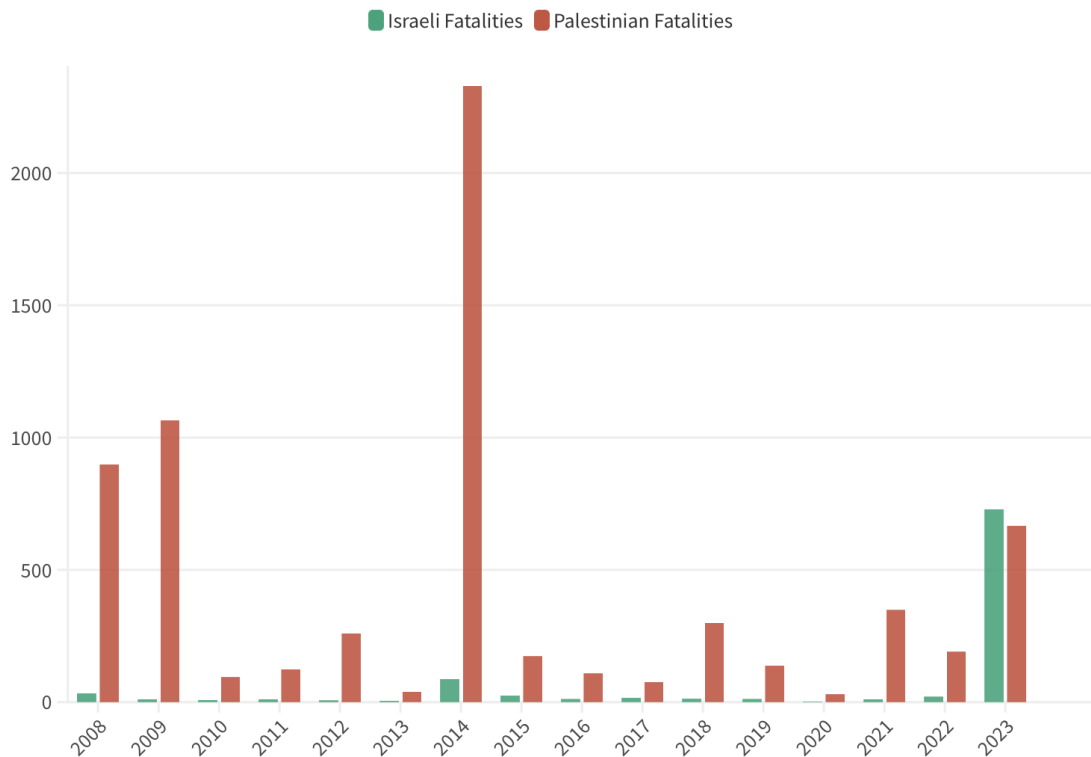
The Israel-Palestine conflict has produced a range of devastating outcomes that remain largely unresolved. Firstly, it has resulted in widespread economic and political instability impacting international relations, and global geopolitics, causing high unemployment rates, loss of infrastructure, worsened peace efforts and a diplomatic absence. Secondly, it has resulted in a humanitarian crisis with the suffering of countless individuals, with thousands of deaths, injuries, and widespread mental instability among the affected populations. The conflict has led to a significant increase in the number of refugees, many of whom live in atrocious conditions and lack access to basic necessities. The crowded living conditions in refugee camps have resulted in the transmission of many diseases, resulting in health risks and the absence of health care. Moreover, the loss of property and infrastructure has had a lasting economic impact on the region with many people living on the road and looking for a way to escape this nightmare. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has manifested in widespread violations of human rights for both Palestinians and Israelis. Fundamental rights, such as access to clean water, food, and a secure environment, have been compromised. The ongoing conflict has created a



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situation where basic human needs are often violated by persistent tensions. Furthermore, the cycle of violence and the state of conflict have a serious impact on the younger generation. Exposure to the realities of war through the media and direct experiences may cultivate a belief that resolving disputes through violence is not only acceptable but sometimes perceived as the only viable option. This perspective can cause a cycle of conflict and delay the development of a mindset that seeks peaceful and diplomatic solutions. This conflict has resulted in terrible outcomes, which need intense lookover and active assistance from surrounding countries and the United Nations.

### Israeli and Palestinian Deaths due to Conflict



Source: [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs](#)

Made with Flourish

Figure 1: Israeli and Palestinian Deaths due to the Conflict<sup>12</sup>

### TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date of the Event	Event
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<sup>12</sup> Figure 1: Israeli and Palestinian Deaths due to the Conflict, The Wire staff. "Chart: 6,407 Palestinians and 308 Israelis Killed in Violence in Last 15 Years." *The Wire*, 9 Oct. 2023, [thewire.in/world/chart-6407-palestinians-and-308-israelis-killed-in-violence-in-last-15-years](https://thewire.in/world/chart-6407-palestinians-and-308-israelis-killed-in-violence-in-last-15-years).





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July 28, 1914 - November 11, 1918	World War I
November 2, 1917	The British Mandate with the "Balfour Declaration", which established Palestine a national home for the Jews
1936-1939	First uprising of Palestinians (Arab Revolt)
September 1, 1939 - September 2, 1945	World War II
May 15, 1942	British empire left Palestine, the land was overwhelmed by Jews
November 29, 1947	UN Partition Plan for Palestine, internationalization proposal for Jerusalem and its surrounding area
May 14, 1948	Establishment of Israel as an Independent State
1948	Arab-Israeli War and "Nakba" (=Catastrophe)
5 - 10 June 1967	The "Six-Day War"
October 14, 1974	Recognition of PLO, as the representative of the Palestines
March 26, 1979	Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty
December 8, 1987 - September 13, 1993	"First Intifada" (=first uprising) (Palestinians Revolt)
October 30 - November 1, 1991	Peace Conference in Madrid
October 8, 1993	Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements (DOP or "Oslo Accord")
September 28, 2000 - February 8, 2005	Second "Intifada" (Palestinians Revolt) and separation wall in West Bank by Israelis



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January 21 - 27, 2001	Taba Summit
June 7, 2007 - June 15, 2007	Takeover of Gaza by Hamas
November 29, 2012	Palestine became a un non-member of serve state
October 7, 2023	Ongoing armed conflict between Israel and Palestine

## MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

### United States (USA)

The USA is the most involved country in the Israel-Palestine conflict. More specifically, the USA has played a major role in peace initiatives, and financial and military support. The USA has signed many resolutions of the UN trying to solve the issue between the two states. The Oslo Accord 1 was signed in Washington D.C. and was enforced by Bill Clinton, the 42nd President of the USA. Moreover, the USA has assisted by financial and humanitarian help, mainly to the Palestinians. Nowadays, the United States is providing \$100 million<sup>13</sup> in humanitarian assistance for the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank and President Biden continues sending messages of hope and support to the people there.



The day of the Peace Treaty. Bill Clinton is standing in the middle and on the side there is the Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat, PLO chairman and political leader in Palestine

### Russian Federation

Russia has also contributed to the resolution of the conflict with peace and diplomacy initiatives. Russia has signed multiple resolutions of the UN to resolve the issue, such as the "Arab Peace Initiative". Russia, China, the UN, Turkey, Qatar and Iran consider Hamas a political and social organization and not a terrorist organization as the US and the EU

<sup>13</sup> Ambassador Mark A. Green . "Humanitarian Assistance and West Bank/Gaza | Wilson Center." *Www.wilsoncenter.org*, 31 Oct. 2023, [www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/humanitarian-assistance-and-west-bank-gaza#:~:text=The%20United%20States%20has%20pledged](http://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/humanitarian-assistance-and-west-bank-gaza#:~:text=The%20United%20States%20has%20pledged).



do. Allegations were made that Russia has enforced Hamas with military equipment. Nowadays, Russia sends humanitarian and financial aid to Palestine.



### Egypt

Egypt has played a major role in the connection between the two states. Firstly, Egypt is a key member of the Arab League, which influenced the positions of Arabs in the Israel-Palestine conflict. Secondly, Egypt was one of the first Arab countries to officially accept Israel. Also, they signed the historic Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty in 1979. Egypt has assisted the Palestinians throughout the conflict with humanitarian aid and overcome this internal division by introducing Palestinian leadership.



### Jordan

Jordan's involvement in the relationship between the two countries is sufficient. Jordan has tried through diplomacy and dialogue to solve their internal issue. They hosted peace negotiations to resolve the conflict. Moreover, Jordan has assisted many Palestinian refugees and has helped them find a home. Jordan is also a member of the Arab League and supports the idea of a state solution in the holy land.



### United Nations (UN)

The United Nations through various committees has tried to solve this conflict throughout its history. The UN through the Security Council and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) has stayed by both Israel's and Palestine's side and assisted them by diplomacy, humanitarian aid and peace negotiations to resolve this issue. Also, the Security Council has created more than 130 resolutions for this conflict and still tries to resolve it. For example, the UN Security Council Resolution 242, in 1967, underlines the "inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war" and more specifically the withdrawal of Israelis from territories they occupied during the "Six-Day War". Moreover, the UN has assisted in providing food, medical assistance and humanitarian aid in multiple forms, through some specialised agencies, like "the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)". In addition, the UN has taken positions of political and peace mediator to solve the conflicts between the two parties. UN contributed by helping Palestine to enter the International Criminal Court (ICC) in 2015, by this the Palestinians



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can allege their concerns and the violation of their human rights, as well as their war crimes, by getting even closer to solving them.

### European Union (EU)

The European Union has helped both Israel and Palestine. Their position in this conflict is diplomatic. They believe that the best way to resolve this issue is to stop the war and enforce the two-state solution for Palestine and Israel where both states have to understand their rights and beliefs to live side-by-side peacefully. The EU has been one of the largest donors of Palestine, with humanitarian and financial aid. They support any peace initiatives and many UN resolutions. The EU actively supported the peace treaty, and Oslo Accords and established the European Commission Delegation to Jerusalem in 1996 to strengthen its influence in the region.



## RELEVANT UN TREATIES CONVENTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Admin, D. S. U. "General Assembly." Question of Palestine, 29 Nov. 2023, [www.un.org/unispal/data-collection/general-assembly/?wpv\\_view\\_count=237041&wpv\\_paged=89](https://www.un.org/unispal/data-collection/general-assembly/?wpv_view_count=237041&wpv_paged=89)



### 1. UN Security Council Resolution 1515 (2003)

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N03/621/85/PDF/N0362185.pdf?OpenElement>

They express their concern about the events in the Middle East and endorse the Quartet's Road Map for a Lasting Peace which outlines a series of steps leading to a two-state solution. The two-state solution was unsuccessful, as both parties claimed that the whole land was theirs and a part wasn't enough. Also, it is important to mention that this potential solution is very difficult to accomplish, as they haven't resolved yet their differences and their idea of living side by side is concerning, as they have a long and upsetting past of events and wars which has destroyed both populations.

### 2. UN General Assembly Resolution 194 (1948)

<https://www.un.org/unispal/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/ARES194III.pdf>

This treaty addresses the Palestinian refugee issue: the many events of uprising by the Palestinians, because of the territory disputes between the parties. Also, they discuss



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the right of return of refugees to their families. The protection of historical buildings in Palestine, as well as Jerusalem and the idea of Jerusalem being held under UN control.

### 3. Arab Peace Initiative (2002)

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2002/mar/28/israel7>

It is an Arab League proposal for the resolution of the Israel-Palestine conflict. Addressing territorial and Jerusalem-related issues. Finalizing the borders of each country. However, Israel had some concerns about it and didn't agree with it, so the negotiations didn't progress. The evolving political dynamics, some significant changes in the leadership, and the non-stop tensions between the parties in the region further complicated the initiative.

### 4. Oslo Accords (1993 and 1995)

<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1993-2000/oslo>

A series of decisions of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). "Israel accepted the PLO as the representative of the Palestinians, and the PLO renounce terrorism and recognized Israel's right to exist in peace. Both sides agreed that a Palestinian Authority (PA) would be established and assume governing responsibilities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip over five years. Then, permanent status talks on the issues of borders, refugees, and Jerusalem would be held." The Oslo Accords are considered some of the most successful negotiations between the two parties, however they failed on accomplishing a lasting resolution.

### 5. UN Security Council Resolution 242 (1967)

[https://peacemaker.un.org/sites/peacemaker.un.org/files/SCRes242\(1967\).pdf](https://peacemaker.un.org/sites/peacemaker.un.org/files/SCRes242(1967).pdf)

It issues the withdrawal of Israeli forces from territories occupied during the Six-Day War, as well as the acknowledgement of the right of all states in the region to finally live in peace. This negotiation didn't bring any prompt and quick resolution to the conflict, but it played a significant role in the diplomatic and peace efforts of the parties.

### 6. UN General Assembly Resolution 181 (1947)

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/NR0/038/88/PDF/NR003888.pdf?OpenElement>

Discusses the idea of a partition plan. The idea was to establish two separate states, the Jewish and Arab states in Palestine. This initiative is similar to the two-state solution. Also, they proposed an economic union between the two parties and the withdrawal of British forces from Palestine. The Jewish leadership chose to accept the partition plan, but the Arabs rejected it, as they claimed that this proposition violated their rights. However, this Resolution stayed significant in history and a very quick response of the international community towards foreign disputes.



## PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

### 1. Oslo Accords (1993 and 1995)

The Oslo Accords were 3 agreements between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). They discussed the territorial issues and their plan for the withdrawal of Israelis from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, as well as the establishment of the Palestinian Authority. Major assistance was provided by the USA and Norway, where they initiated and facilitated the Oslo Accords. Also, Egypt, the European Union, Russia, and Jordan supported the agreements. However, the peace process faced challenges and the conflict between the two states remained unresolved.

### 2. Camp David Summit (2000)

A diplomatic effort aiming to resolve the conflict between the two states. It took place in Maryland, USA. The U.S. President Bill Clinton, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and the Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat participated in the discussion. This effort addressed issues about Jerusalem, refugees, borders and violence between the two states. However, it is considered an unsuccessful attempt to reach a final decision and a peace agreement between the two states.

### 3. Annapolis Conference (2007)

A diplomatic effort aiming to accomplish peace between Israel and Palestine. It took place in Maryland, USA as well. The U.S. President George W. Bush, the Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and the Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas participated in this conference. This conference aimed to launch negotiations of Palestinian and Israeli borders, peace initiatives and worldwide support from the EU, the UN and Russia. However, the conference did not result in any final peace agreement as well, but it resulted in the restart of negotiations and agreements for the conflict between the two states.

### 4. Arab Peace Initiative (2002)

A proposal was introduced in 2002, in Beirut and endorsed in 2007, in Riyadh to resolve the conflict between Arab states and Israelis. It calls for the withdrawal of Israel from territories occupied in the 1967 "Six-Day War" and in return Arab states would offer Israel full normalization of diplomatic and economic relations. In this initiative, the member states of the Arab League and Israel participated.

### 5. Taba Summit (2001)

A conference of negotiations between Israel and Palestine. This conference aimed to continue the progress made in the Camp David Summit addressing the "final status" issues of the conflict. It is one of the last attempts to accomplish peace between the two states. However, the negotiations weren't successful.



## POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

### Two-state solution

The two-state solution is proposed by many organizations and countries such as the UN, the EU, and the USA. This idea was first introduced by the UN in 1947 and later on, every president of the USA agreed on it as well as the EU. The Israelis started increasing in population as Israel became a national home for the oppressed survivors and the next generations of WWII, thus it caused the immigration of many Palestinians from their homes, causing disruption and disorganization. The idea was to establish two different states: Israel and Palestine, where the Jews would be living in Israel and the Muslims would be living in Palestine. The goal is that both of them will respect each other's rights and beliefs and live side-by-side peacefully. However, this solution is difficult to accomplish as Palestine believes that every inch of the "holy land" is theirs as it was a century before and Israel believes that the land is theirs as the majority of the population is Israel.

### Education Enhancement

Children represent the future of Israel and Palestine. The next generation could change current affairs and introduce a peaceful environment between the two states. Education is the pillar to achieving peace and concord. It is essential to enrich the school environment with educators and curriculum from an early age that comprehensively delve into human rights and the importance of equality among all nations. The UN can propose the inclusion of a subject in schools dedicated to the conflict and its consequences. A close examination of the quality and content of children's education is needed. Children should be informed from an early age of their present realities and what their offspring will have to undergo in the future if they don't take action. However, this is difficult to apply, as the information passed to the children cannot be ensured, but restructuring and enhancing the main educational books in schools could assist in this potential solution.

### Informed and Educated citizens

Both of the two states should prioritize education and enlightenment of their citizens on the matter. Citizens must be equipped with knowledge about human rights, the importance of respecting other religions and beliefs, the potential consequences of their actions, and the laws that will be enforced if they invade someone else's territory. The citizens should be educated geographically to know their borders and the limits of their freedom. Also, each citizen should be educated historically to know the devastating outcomes of past invasions from both states. They should be informed that the aftermath of war affects both sides, everyone even the "winner", they will both have loss



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of life and property. This education should be conducted with the assistance and collaboration of the UN and the government through documentaries or mandatory workshops.

### Economic and Technological Development

Economic and technological development is vital to ensure that living conditions are suitable to start addressing their territorial disputes. Worsening in the socio-economic conditions contributes to the growth of religious radicalism, pushing a larger percentage of youth towards fanaticism, and religion-inspired politics. Economic and technological development not only enhances living standards but also provides valuable insights into the functioning of other nations and how other societies resolve their differences without resorting to violence. This development fosters open-mindedness and facilitates access to education, offering people the time and space for constructive dialogue.

### Ensuring the psychological well-being of the citizens

Promoting the psychological well-being of citizens is vital for fostering peace between nations. Psychological well-being entails improving everyday living conditions, enhancing cognitive abilities, and facilitating better decision-making. As citizens develop increased empathetic skills and gain a deeper respect for human life, they may find it easier to forgive themselves and others for past actions, ultimately reducing the likelihood of international territorial disputes. Achieving this goal can be accomplished through government-funded, free psychological therapy sessions and providing psychological education to religious leaders, such as priests and members of the church, given that places of worship often serve as significant community gathering points.

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