

Israel - Palestine Conflict: An Overview

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Abstract: A notable current event is the Israeli - Palestinian conflict. But this incident is not a new one. Since the Ottoman Empire was in power in the Middle East, various conflicts centered on Palestine have erupted. Jerusalem is one of the holiest places in Palestine. Muslims, Christians and Jews consider Jerusalem to be their holy place. Al - Aqsa Mosque is located in this Jerusalem. There have been clashes over this mosque at various times. Despite the fall of the Ottoman Empire in Palestine, the region came under British rule. Around 1917, around the time of the Balfour Declaration, Jews began to come to Palestine from Europe. While the number of Jews was small initially, this number began to increase around 1938. The way the United Nations divided the territory between Israel and Palestine was resolved only to exacerbate the problem. And the territorial issue was the main problem. Israeli forces begin to forcibly take over Palestinian land. This problem increased when Israel declared itself an independent country around 1948. The United States recognized Israel, but Middle Eastern countries did not. The Middle Eastern countries, being predominantly Muslim, did not view the situation of Jewish residents in Israel favorably. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of 2025 has waged a war with Palestine. Gaza is one of the parts of Palestine. There is a military organization called Hamas in Gaza. The Israeli army is currently engaged in a war or conflict with Hamas. Israeli forces are about to take over Gaza by force. From which this conflict is growing. Nearly 52, 000 people have been killed since the beginning of 2025 until the present.

Keywords: Israel, Palestine, Middle - east conflict, Gaza strip, PLO - Hamas, War, Jerusalem

1. Introduction

One of the most controversial events of our time is the Israeli - Palestinian conflict. Although there was initially no conflict between Israel and Palestine, the conflict gradually escalated. To understand the history of the current conflict, we have to go back several centuries. Palestine Area of the Eastern Mediterranean Region Comprising parts of modern Israel and the Palestinian territories of the Gaza Strip and the west bank. The capital of Palestine is Jerusalem and its official language is Arabic. On November 15, 1988, the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestine National Council declared Palestine is a nation - state. The Muslim community was initially the majority in this land of Palestine. But nowadays, due to various conflicts, they have become a minority. Palestine is also believed to be the original homeland of Muslims.

On the other hand, Israel is a country that gained independence on May 15, 1948. Israel officially the State of Israel is a country in West Asia. Situated in the Southern Levant of the Middle East, it shares borders with Lebanon and Syria to the north, Jordan to the east, Egypt to the southwest, and the Mediterranean Sea to the west. It occupies the Palestinian territories of the West Bank in the east and the Gaza Strip in the southwest. Currently, the majority group in Israel is Jewish. Israel is currently quite developed and has a population of about 10 million.

Antisemitism continued in Europe in the late 19th century. From this time on, Jews began to arrive in Palestine. Jews had no rights in Palestine at this time. By 1878, Palestine was governed as an independent state. At that time, Muslims, Christians and Jews lived there. At that time, the population of Palestine was 462, 465 people, Among them 96.8% were Arab muslim and Christians, and 3.2% were Jews. Then, as Jews were gradually expelled from Europe, they began to come to Palestine. Jews were forced to leave Europe and come to Palestine by ship in droves. Because Napoleon's extreme extermination of Jews in Europe. Jews began to build

their own homes in Palestine. They started buying land in Arabia. However, Britain and France provided financial aid to Jews to live in Palestine. There were several reasons behind this help. Britain and France helped the Jews to weaken the Arabs on Arab soil and to reduce the power of Egypt. Later, Jews began to trade and trade in the land of Palestine, considering it their own. It also began to forcibly take away land and homes from the people of Palestine.

European Union and Balfour Declaration:

The efforts of Jewish journalist Theodore Herzl in 1997 increased the influx of Jews from Europe to the land of Palestine. Because he appealed to the British government to create a specific settlement for the Jews. This is where Zionism's idea begins. Then it is said that Palestine is the suitable homeland for the Jews. Then the First World War began in 1914. At that time, Palestine was under the Ottoman Empire. There, the Ottoman Empire ruled over parts of the Middle East. In 1915, the British government promised Sharif Hussein, the ruler of Mecca, that if he helped Britain against the Ottoman Empire, he would be given the power to rule all of Arabia, including Palestine. Just a few years later, Britain made the same promise to France. Similarly, Britain cunningly promised the Jews living in Palestine that if the Jews fought for the British against the Ottoman Empire, they would create the dream state of Israel in the land of Palestine. In other words, giving different words to different powers is one of Britain's tricks. Then, when World War II ended in 1918, the Ottoman Empire collapsed as a result of the war, and British hegemony in Palestine continued. The British government began to build separate schools, colleges, and various educational institutions for Jews, Muslims, and Christians in the land of Palestine. However, after 1918, the Ottoman Caliphate's rule in Palestine ended and Britain kept an eye on Palestine.

In the following period, racism became more pronounced among Jews, Christians, and Muslims. And they started fighting each other. Under the terms of the Belford Defloration of 1917, a large number of Jews were deported

from England to Palestine in the 1930s. As a result, the number of Jews in Palestine continued to grow. The total population of Palestine before 1931 was 1,035,154. Of these, 81% were Arab Muslims and Christians, and 17% were Jewish. Then, when Adolf Hitler became Chancellor of Germany in 1933, he began to expel Jews from Europe. As a result, Jews began to come to Palestine, fearing for their lives. As a result, the number of Jews in Palestine increased abnormally. Thus, by 1938, the number of Jews in Palestine had increased to about 31 percent. Racial divisions between the two nations continue to persist.

UN declaration after Second World War:

The British government was unable to suppress the Israeli - Palestinian conflict in the Middle East. When World War II started in 1939, the Arab - Israeli conflict became unspeakable. However, after the end of World War II in 1945, the United States emerged as the most powerful country in the world. The United Nations was created at the initiative of the US government to establish peace throughout the world. The United Nations is tasked with resolving the Israeli - Palestinian conflict. The United Nations first created a territorial partition between the two countries to resolve the Israeli - Palestinian conflict. But it turns out that the problem was exacerbated rather than solved. Because the borders were divided haphazardly. As a result, border conflicts became more pronounced. Then, during this period, David Ben - Gurion suddenly declared Israel an independent state in 1948. As a result, Palestine expressed great anger and went to war. Around 1947, the United Nations gave 56% of the total territory of Palestine to Israel and 43% to Palestine. It was even ruled that Jerusalem would remain under the UN. Middle Eastern countries could not accept this UN decision.

Four war against Israel:

The Arab League was created in Cairo, the capital of Egypt, in late 1945. Seven countries formed this alliance: Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Yemen, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt. The purpose of this alliance was to promote the economic and cultural development of these countries. Another objective was to prevent the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine. However, in 1948, when Israel declared itself an independent country, the very next day, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and other countries attacked Israel. However, the Arab League lost this war. Because the Israeli army was much more skilled and numerous. In addition, Israel was helped at that time by some powerful countries such as the United States and Czechoslovakia. However, Israel's victory in this war surprised all Arab governments. Then, more League member states became embroiled in various conflicts. Everyone starts thinking about their own interests. After winning the war, Israel occupied 56% of Palestine as declared by the United Nations. In addition, several other parts of Palestine were occupied by Israeli forces. After that, 700,000 Palestinians were forced to leave their homeland and move to other areas.

Suez Crisis:

The Suez Crisis began in 1956. At this time, Britain, France, and Israel joined forces to attack Egypt. Gamal Abdel Nasser was the president of Egypt at this time. This war started over the Suez Canal. The distance to travel from Asia to Europe by sea used to be 10,500 nautical miles, but after the construction of the Suez Canal, the distance has been reduced

to only 400 nautical miles. Naturally, the Suez Canal became very important in establishing communications. It is estimated that 12% of the world's total goods, 10% of oil, and 8% of gas are transported through the Suez Canal. That is, it can be said why switches are very important in world trade. However, Egypt suffered a severe economic collapse while building the Suez Canal. Britain and France will take this opportunity to join forces to attack Egypt. However, after Gamal Abdel Nasser became president of Egypt around 1952, he began to reduce the dominance of Britain and France. Egypt also sank 7 large ships in the Suez Canal and completely closed the Suez Canal. This then had a massive negative impact on international trade. In this situation, the United Nations came to resolve the Suez problem and the transportation system resumed in 1957.

In 1967, another new conflict arose. This time Israel wants to change the course of the Jordan River. However, this time Syria prevented Israel. The result was the Israel - Syria war. Later, Egypt participated in the war on behalf of Syria, but Israel won the war. Israel won the war and occupied the Palestinian territories of Gaza, Sinai, the West Bank, and West Jerusalem. Israel also took on a large geographical size. Then in 1973, Israel occupied Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. In protest, Egypt and Syria waged war against Israel. However, the United States indirectly helps Israel. As a result, Middle Eastern countries stopped exporting oil to the United States. As a result, the United States began to fall behind economically. At this time, a US Secretary of State named Henry Kissinger introduced Shuttle diplomacy. Then, in order for the United States to be able to import and export oil from the Middle East, the United States tried to resolve the 1978 conflict between Israel and Egypt, and the Camp David Accord was signed. This agreement states that Egypt will be given back the Sinai Peninsula. As a result, Egypt continues to support Israel and trade with the United States. Then when Egypt recognized Israel, the entire world was a little surprised. Relations between all Muslim countries and Egypt deteriorated. Egypt was expelled from the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Al - Aqsa Mosque and Jerusalem:

Al - Aqsa Mosque, located in the heart of the Old City of Jerusalem. Al - Aqsa Mosque is the third holiest site for Muslims. Al - Aqsa Mosque is considered the holiest place in Islam after Mecca and Medina. It was built by Caliph Abdul Malik from Al - Aqsa Mosque, approximately in the 7th and 8th centuries. Similarly, the Al - Aqsa Mosque is equally important to Jews and Christians. Al - Aqsa is known to Jews as the Temple Mount. According to their belief, this was the place where Abraham brought his son Ishmael to be sacrificed. This is where their first and second places of worship were. Later, the Romans destroyed the Jewish synagogue and built a temple to the god Jupiter. In 1099, the Crusaders captured Jerusalem and turned al - Aqsa into a church. In this way, conflict arose between these three religions over Jerusalem. Conflicts have arisen at various times over the control of Jerusalem.

PLO and Hamas:

The Palestine liberation organisation or PLO was established in 1964 on Palestinian land. Yassin Arafat helped build the PLO. This PLO was formed against Israel. The PLO's goal

was to oust Israeli forces from Palestinian lands. However, Yassin Arafat understood that if the Israelis could not be driven out, he would return all the parts of Palestine that the Israelis had occupied during 1967. Fatah is a political wing of the PLO. Both of them have never recognized Israel as an independent country.

Gaza is a fragmented part of Palestine. The Mediterranean Sea on one side and the border of Israel on the other. Gaza is getting congested. Gaza is believed to be the world's largest open prison. The PLO or Fatah thought that if they fought against Israel, they might get back some of their former lands. However, a significant event occurred in Gaza territory in 1987. This time an Israeli car killed four Gazans. As a result, the residents of Gaza fought against the Israeli soldiers. Because they understand that Israeli soldiers have systematically attacked Palestinians. As a result, the Palestinian people started throwing stones at the Israeli soldiers. During this time, Hamas was formed in the Gaza Strip under the leadership of Ahmed Yassin and Abdel Aziz. Their aim was to oust Israeli soldiers from Palestinian soil and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. A few years later, PLO leader Yasser Arafat traveled to Norway and secretly signed an Oslo Accord. This agreement states that Israel will return the parts of Palestine it has occupied and in return the PLO will recognize Israel as an independent state. It worked as promised. Yasser Arafat and then Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for this incident. However, although the PLO declared Israel an independent state, Israel did not return the land to Palestine as per the terms. Then, as the Oslo Accords began to become public, there was a sharp conflict with Hamas and Fatah.

Every time elections were held between 2002 and 2010, there was a difference in public support between Hamas and Fatah. Hamas was radical. They were extremely opposed to the State of Israel. Fatah, on the other hand, was a liberal organization. They wanted to compromise and take back the land from Israel. However, while Fatah initially received more public support, Hamas later became more popular. Elections were held around 2006. Hamas won the Gaza Strip and Fatah won part of the West Bank. However, Hamas became more active in fighting against Israel. The public is increasingly supporting Hamas. Hamas wants to liberate the Gaza Strip first and then release all the Gazans who are being held captive. So Hamas continues to launch missiles against Israel as needed. On the other hand, Fatah has helped US foreign ministers to weaken Hamas. This is how Israeli troops clashed with Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

Middle East in Present Time:

The Ottoman Empire was once in power in the countries of the Middle East, but it has changed over time. Because the countries of the Middle East are Muslim communities, a picture of nationality emerges among them. However, countries have sometimes been victims of various wars among themselves. Israel is currently one of the most powerful countries in the Middle East. This state is quite advanced in military aspects as well as educational culture. Israel can be said to be the most technologically advanced country in the Middle East. However, the United States has helped Israel become stronger. The United States has indirectly supported Israel in all its wars since 1950. The

United States sells substantial amounts of military weapons to Israel. Because America thinks that the sooner the conflict begins in the middle of the day, the more advanced military weapons it will be able to export to America. However, a brief description of the recent attacks by Israeli soldiers on the Gaza Strip can be provided. Mohammad Deif is a Gazan. He received his higher education from Gaza Islamic University. He later established himself as Hamas's military leader. He joined Hamas in 1987. The wars that took place during his tenure were 2008 - 2009, 2012 and 2014. In addition, in May 2021, intense fighting broke out between Israel and Hamas. However, the reasons why Hamas has been constantly at war with Israel since 2024 are the Israeli occupation of West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This war was caused by the intervention of Jerusalem, conflicts over borders, the return of Palestinians, etc.

2. Conclusion

In conclusion, it can be said that the Israeli - Palestinian conflict has a long history. There has been a lot of bloodshed in Palestinian lands since 1980 until the present day. In the 21st century, Hamas has fought against the Israelis, centered in Gaza. Although Hamas has been fighting since 2024, the current Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has fiercely resisted Hamas and has completely wiped it out of the entire Gaza Strip. In 2024, Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa of the Palace of Justice appealed to various Muslim countries in the Middle East for help in restoring the rights of all Palestinians. Hamas, the largest Palestinian military force, is unable to stop the powerful Israel. Because Israel is backed by various powerful countries in the world. Israel has waged an all - out war to destroy Gaza since the beginning of 2025. More than 100,000 people have lost their lives in Palestine as of March - April 2025. Several Israeli soldiers have also died. Destroy Jerusalem, Gaza, and parts of Palestine since the beginning of 2025. However, one thing must be said that the UN has not been able to take any action to distance itself from the amount of indiscriminate killings that have taken place in Gaza. The United Nations could have taken swift action in this case. Even if Israel occupies Gaza, the seeds of this conflict in the Middle East will remain hidden for the foreseeable future. Because countries like Iran, Iraq, Türkiye, etc. will engage in a fight according to their own interests.

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