

# Futuristic Security Council (2040)

The Palestine Israel conflict, 2040



<b>Forum</b>	Futuristic United Nations Security Council
<b>Issue:</b>	The Palestine Israel Conflict, 2040
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## Introduction

The year is 2040. The Israel Palestine conflict has been a recurring topic since the first Arab-Israel war on May 15, 1948, taking hundreds of thousands of lives. Currently a war rages on between the militant group Hamas located in the Gaza strip and the country of Israel. The Israel-Palestine conflict is rooted in territorial, ethnic, and religious divisions that have long been present in the region. These deep-seated issues have been exacerbated over time, leading to an increasingly complex and entrenched struggle. As the conflict progresses, the divisions between Israeli and Palestinian people continue to widen, making resolution more challenging.

Despite numerous attempts made by the United Nations, and outsider member states such as the US, to solve these issues, none have seemed to successfully appeal to both the Zionist Jews and Palestinian Arabs. Being a complex issue with an intricate history, previous unsuccessful attempts have simply added to the intricacy of the situation. Forced displacement, denial of humanitarian access, destruction of infrastructure and livelihoods are consequences of conflict that are devastating and horrific for civilians impacted.



## Definition of Key Terms

### Zionism

An ideology and nationalist movement that strongly believes in the establishment of a Jewish nation of its own. Zionists also hold a strong belief that Judaism is a nationality as well as a religion.

### Arab

Arab refers to a person who identifies with the cultural, linguistic, and historical heritage associated with the Arab world. This includes individuals who speak Arabic as their native language and share cultural traits and traditions rooted in the Arabian Peninsula. Israeli citizens, residents of the occupied Palestinian area, and people living in exile who have this linguistic, geographic, and/or cultural affiliation are all considered to be Palestinian Arabs.

### British Mandate of Palestine

Mandatory Palestine was a geopolitical entity that existed between 1920 and 1948 in the region of Palestine under the terms of the League of Nations. It included the entire area of Israel as well as the Gaza strip and West bank.

### Intifada

An Arabic word for a rebellion or a resistance movement. It can be used to refer to an uprising against oppression literally meaning "Shake off". Often used to refer to the Palestinian uprisings against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The first intifada lasted from 1987 to 1993, and the second began in 2000.



## Two state solution

The two-state solution to the Israeli–Palestinian conflict proposes to resolve the conflict by establishing two nation states in former Mandatory Palestine.

## One state solution

The one-state solution is a proposed approach to resolving the Israeli–Palestinian conflict, according to which one state would be established between the River Jordan and the Mediterranean.

## General Overview

### Religious conflict

Religion plays a significant role in the Israel-Palestine conflict, deeply influencing the identities, narratives, and motivations of both sides. Jerusalem, a city sacred to Judaism, Islam, and Christianity, lies at the heart of the dispute, with key religious sites like the Western Wall, the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre becoming flashpoints for tension and violence. Religious ideologies often underpin the claims to the land, with Jewish historical and biblical connections to Israel juxtaposed against Islamic significance of Palestine as home to holy sites and the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Extremist factions on both sides leverage religious rhetoric to justify actions and policies, further inflaming the conflict. This religious dimension complicates efforts for peace, as compromise over sacred sites and theological claims remains difficult to achieve.

### Geographical factors

Israel's most populous and economically significant city is Tel Aviv, containing “more than



two-fifths of Israel's population" according to Britannica. Located along and between the Mediterranean coast and Judean Mountains, the coastal strip that contains Tel Aviv is extremely narrow, being only 14 km wide at its thinnest. This makes the area vulnerable to attacks from the West Bank which could split Israel into two, crippling it financially and territorially. This vulnerability contributes to the Israeli state's reluctance to allow for West Bank independence, especially due to the built animosity between Israelis and Palestinians. In order to reduce the chances of the creation of a Palestinian state in the West Bank, Israel has created area C, which is administered solely by Israel and houses roughly 400,000 Israeli settlers and constitutes about 61 percent of the West Bank territory. By encouraging the immigrations of Israeli citizens, it disperses Palestinians and decreases Palestinian strength in the West Bank.

### History of the Palestine Israeli Conflict

Originally, the area known as Palestine was under Ottoman control during 1516-1918. From 1881 to 1903 the first wave of Jewish immigrants started to arrive in the Arab majority area of Palestine due to mistreatment in Europe and due to Palestine's proximity to Jerusalem. This was known as the First Aliyah. After World War 1 and Ottoman loss, the area was placed under British rule. This lasted from 1920–1948.

On November 2nd, 1917, the British government issued the Balfour Declaration, relating to the encouragement for the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine in response to the Zionist movement. This encouraged the migration of Jews from Europe to Palestine post World War 1, causing an increase of 320,000 Jews in the Palestinian area meaning Jews rose from 9% to 27% of the total population. This increased tension between the local Arabs and Jews due to land disputes as many Arabs were evicted from their lands.

The rise of the NAZI party in Germany and thus persecution of Jews in the Holocaust from 1941 – 1945 in Europe meant that 18000 Jews fled from Europe to Palestine to seek refuge. The acts



of atrocities committed against Jews during this time galvanized much of the world into supporting a Jewish state, rallying support for the Zionist movement.

Following the end of World War 2, this support led the British empire, alongside the newly formed UN, to divide British Palestine into two separate states known as Israel and Palestine. This was meant to realize and grant the sovereign Jewish state promised in the Balfour Declaration, as well as provide independence for Palestinian Arabs in the area in order to end the conflicts growing between the two ethnic groups. Israeli's accepted this agreement, however Palestinians and surrounding Arab countries found the partitioning to be unequal and an attempt to take their rightful land. This led to the 1948 Arab–Israeli War.

Arab armies from Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Egypt declared war and aimed to unify Palestine and Israel into one Arabic state. This failed with Israel winning the war and annexing many parts of Palestine that were outside their borders originally formed by the UN plan leaving only the Gaza strip and West Bank. This caused a massive refugee crisis as Palestinians were expelled from their homes, further raising tensions.

In 1967, the 6 day war began with Egypt, Syria, and Jordan once again attacking Israel with the goal of uniting Palestine as an Arab state. This war was quickly won by Israel and resulted in the complete annexation of the Gaza strip, West Bank, Sinai peninsula and the Golan heights, with the latter two being returned to Egypt and Jordan in the Camp David accords and UN resolution 242. This lead to the formation of the Palestinian Organization army (PLO) which fought against Israeli rule.

Jewish settlers started to move into the West Bank and Gaza strip for political, religious and economic reasons. They were accompanied by armed guards and often displaced local Palestinian dwellers. This persecution and distrust culminated in the first Intifada. The Intifada was a sustained



series of protests, acts of civil disobedience and riots carried out by Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories and Israel. It resulted in 1,087 to 1,204 Palestinian casualties and 100 Israeli civilian and 60 Israeli soldier deaths. During this time, an organization called Hamas was founded in the Gaza strip with more extremist views regarding the destruction of Israel compared to the PLO.

To relieve tensions and take action directed towards peace, the prime minister of Israel Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Negotiator Mahmoud Abbas signed the Oslo accords. This established the Palestinian Authority, which allowed some degree of self-governance for Palestinians. Extremists on both sides opposed the signing of the treaty with Hamas committing acts of terrorism such as suicide bombings, and far right Israeli's holding protests. After the signing of the second Oslo accord, the prime minister Yitzhak Rabin is shot to death by a far right Israeli in Tel Aviv. The peace negotiations that follow end unsuccessfully.

On September 28, 2000 the second Intifada broke out, much more violent than the first. By its end on February 8, 2005 it had claimed more than 4,300 registered fatalities, and again the ratio of Palestinian to Israeli deaths was slightly more than 3 to 1. This caused a deep divide between Palestinians and Israelis as both thought of the prospect of peace as impossible. Politics in Israel shift right and the Israeli West Bank barrier is built, which cuts deep into Palestinian territory.

In September 2005, Israel withdrew occupation of the Gaza strip which lead Hamas to gain power and split from the Palestinian Authority. This led Israel to impose a strict blockade on Gaza on the grounds that Fatah and Palestinian Authority forces had fled the Strip and were no longer able to provide security on the Palestinian side.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2023 Hamas launched a land, sea, and air assault on Israel from the Gaza Strip killing 1,200 Israeli citizens and soldiers and taking 240 hostages. This lead Israel to declare itself in a state of war. Israel Defense Forces (IDF) conducted air strikes on the Gaza Strip, followed



weeks later by the incursion of ground troops and armored vehicles.

## Major Parties Involved

### Israel

Being one of the a key players in the Israel Palestine conflict, Israel has shown a desire to secure peace for its Jewish population, being the only Jewish majority country, as well an interest in securing Palestinian land as it's own. Facing conflict with Palestinian people and tensions with its Islamic neighbors, Israel faces a myriad of challenges with outside threats such as Hamas and the League of Arab States as well as internal problems with interethnic violence.

### Palestinian Authority (PA)

The Palestinian Authority, originally the PLO, partially controls the West Bank area of Palestine with Israel. Fulfilling governing duties in the area, Israel still mains security control. It has been declared as a sovereign state by 145 members of the UN and participates as a non-member observer state. Having made clear its intentions of being a sovereign nations, it has yet to overcome the grasp of Israel, still being mostly isolated by Israeli checkpoints and walls. Suffering decades of violence has had a significant influence on various social, economic, and environmental aspects of Palestine, harming countless livelihoods that need to be restored. Violence in the West Bank has risen since the war between Hamas and Israel.

### Hamas

Hamas is an acronym for Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiya ("Islamic Resistance Movement") that began in the late 1960s. Hamas is a militant group, often classified as terrorists, located in the Gaza strip. Gaza's religious significance and advantageous location at the intersection of Africa and





Asia has made it a fiercely disputed piece of land. Hamas is an extremist group whose main goal consist of unifying the former Mandate Palestine lands into a single Palestinian Arab state. This means the destruction of Israel.

### The United States of America

The United States of America has a long lasting, friendly relationship with Israel, being the first nation in the UN to recognize its sovereignty. It provides military and economic support to Israel while also advocating and providing aid for the citizens of Gaza. The president, Joe Biden, has advocated for a ceasefire between Israel and Palestine whilst proposing a two state solution. The USA does not recognize Palestine as a sovereign state, however it does recognize the PLO as the legitimate representative entity for the Palestinian people.

### The United Kingdom

The UK is often seen as the catalyst for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict due to its former colonization of the area, creation of the Balfour Declaration and poor partitioning of the Israel and Palestine states upon withdrawal. The UK has also not recognized Gaza or the West bank as sovereign states while providing military and diplomatic aid to Israel in the Hamas-Israeli conflict. However the UK states that it works on "political, commercial, security and economic interests between the UK and the Palestinian territories" and also provides humanitarian aid to people in Gaza.

### Egypt

Historically, Egypt and it's population have supported Palestinian independence, being one of the first countries to support the Palestinian Declaration of Independence and officially recognized Palestine on 15 November 1988. Bordering the Gaza strip, Egypt has constructed the Egypt–Gaza barrier, a steel border barrier constructed by Egypt along its 14 km (8.5 miles) border with the Gaza



Strip to prevent immigration. Egypt has also indicated the possibility of war between itself and Israel if large influxes of immigrants from the Gaza strip enter Egypt. Hamas has built a large network of tunnels that run into Egypt. Weapons from Iran are smuggled through the Egyptian tunnels into the Gaza strip for Hamas to use.

## Timeline of Key Events

Date	Description of event
29 <sup>th</sup> September 1923	British empire assumes control of Mandated Palestine
29 November 1947	UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 181 recommending the partition of Palestine into Jewish and Arab states
May 15, 1948	Arab–Israeli War begins with Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Egypt fighting against Israel with the goal of creating a unified Palestinian state. Israel wins and occupies parts of Palestine.
June 5, 1967	Six day war begins with Egypt, Syria, and Jordan attacking Israel with the same intention of creating a unified Palestinian state. Israel wins and occupies Gaza and the West Bank.
September 1, 1978	Camp David accords established peace between Israel and Egypt as well as the return of Sinai Peninsula back to Egypt
December 1, 1987	First Intifada with Palestinians staging an uprising, against Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza
September 13, 1993	Leader of the PLO, prime minister of Israel and the American president signed the Oslo accords which established the Palestinian Authority.



September 28, 2000	The second intifada occurs with thousands of people dying due to the violence involved
August 15, 2005	Israel begins a unilateral withdrawal of settlers and military forces from the Gaza Strip. The Israeli military remains in control of Gaza's borders
October 7, 2023	Hamas launched an unprecedented surprise attack on Israel, leading to an explosion of violence. According to Israeli media, the conflict's initial strikes led to at least 250 people killed and 1,500 injured

## UN involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

- United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, 22 November 1967
- United Nations Security Council Resolution 388, 22 October 1973
- International Conference on the Question of Palestine (ICQP)/ Declaration, 29 August to 7 September 1983
- Declaration of Principles on the Interim Self Government Arrangements (DOP or Oslo Accords), 13 September 1993
- Gaza Jericho Agreement, 4 May 1994
- Agreement on the Preparatory transfer of Powers and Responsibilities, 29 August 1994
- Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (Oslo II), 28 September 1995
- The Wye River Memorandum, 15-23 October 1998



- The Camp David Summit, 11 – 24 July 2000
- The Annapolis Conference, 27 November 2007
- United Nation Security Council Resolution 1860, 8 January 2009
- United Nation Security Council Resolution 2334, 23 December 2016
- United Nation Security Council Resolution 2735 ,10 June 2024

## Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

Most solutions regarding solving the Israel and Palestine conflict can be split into either one of two categories, one state or two state solutions. The one state solution focuses on the idea of combining Israeli and Palestinian land into one democratic state. In theory this would solve border disputes and foster unity and equality between Israeli and Palestinian people as they live under and are governed by one body. This idea garners support for its simplicity and seeming equality. However the one state solution goes against the Zionist movement that led to the creation of Israel and which is held by many Israeli people. Many Israelis view a one state solution as a reduction in their power and importance as it removes the only Israeli state in the world. To solve this issue some models have been created where Israel only annexes the West Bank and remains a Jewish and democratic state with a larger Arab minority. Others have suggested the annexation of the West Bank while keeping it as an autonomous region for Palestinians.

Two state solution proposes the creation of an Israeli state and Arabic majority state. The original partitioning of mandatory Palestine was a two state solution and was accepted by the Israelis but rejected by the Palestinians. Later the PLO accepted, in principle, the concept of a two-state solution after the 1982 Arab Summit. Hamas however does not accept this idea. The



two state solution is favored by the majority of nations involved in the Israel Palestine conflict.

Later in 2007, Israel, the PLO and the United States arranged a legal agreement on a two-state solution to be the base for negotiating towards peac



## Possible Solutions

To achieve a definitive solution between Israel and Palestine there needs to be grounds on which to communicate and willingness to negotiate. Due to the ongoing conflict between Hamas and Israel and Hamas' extremist ideology of destroying Israel, negotiation regarding the Gaza Strip is currently impossible. The Western Bank however remains under the partial control of the Palestinian Authority which accepts the idea of the two state solution. This leaves negotiation between the PA and Israel possible.

A frequently proposed idea is for Gaza and the West Bank to be recognized as an independent Palestinian state. This would leave Israel as a Jewish majority state while providing a place for Palestinians to live independently. When proposed in 2003 as part of the Geneva Initiative (Geneva Accord), the Israeli prime minister opposed this idea. Even now 65 percent of Jewish Israelis oppose the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. However a two state solution is likely the only way to resolve the conflict. Neither Israel, the PA or Hamas show any support for a one state solution were Israelis and Palestinians can coexist. This is due to the decades of conflict between each other that has culminated in hate and distrust towards either side, making it seem impossible for each other to live under one nation.

For a one state solution to thrive, the conflict in the Gaza strip needs to be resolved. Hamas also has to either find a way to negotiate or be removed as its ideology does not allow for any forms of peace. Border disputes also have to be settled with the issues of illegal Israeli settlers in the West Bank and Gaza and the Israeli West Bank barrier needing to be addressed. Even if two independent states are formed, maintaining peace between them would be a challenge.

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