

Committee: Special Political and Decolonization Committee (GA4)

Issue: The question of Palestine

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INTRODUCTION

Since the beginning of the 20th century, Palestine's issue has been a constant challenge for several nations as its autonomy, territory, sovereignty, policies, and UN status have been fluid or undetermined. Undeniably, the question of Palestine has created a controversial environment not only for the main parties involved (Israel and Palestine) but also for the diplomatic relations of multiple regions, particularly to the ones in the Arab League. The issues of Self-determination, National independence, Sovereignty, and political stability of Palestine have been ongoing and cannot be combated easily since most solutions will not be useful over time. Ultimately, such a controversial affair essentially has a political and territorial cause, but it is starting to gain historical significance due to its longevity.

This matter first came to light after World War I when Palestine was supposed to be a national home for the Jewish people. Such an act would have been unconventional since Palestine had a significance to the Jewish people in 200 BC but not in the 20th century because it had then adopted an Arabic culture and was inhabited by Arab population. Although Jerusalem's holy city constitutes a religiously powerful city, its sudden Jewish culture adoption was clearly unorthodox.

Such a cultural matter has now formed the political conflict between Palestine and Israel. Unfortunately, both states have what would be characterized as an expansive policy, and therefore, several territorial issues as each country constantly fights to claim areas as their own. The states' cultural, political, and religious differences have not been able to be overlooked with the aim of a settlement despite the numerous attempts. These issues have now left Palestine with what is thought to be a corrupted state, and hence its agonism for a UN member state status has been rejected on multiple occasions.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Blockade ¹

The action of surrounding or closing a place, especially a port, in order to stop people or goods from coming in or out. In this case, both Israel and Palestine have blockaded each other on multiple occasions to maintain their existing (at each time) territory and even expand them continuously claiming land from each other.

Corpus Separatum²

A city or region which is given a special legal and political status different from its environment, but which falls short of being sovereign, or an independent city state. Jerusalem is the second "corpus separatum" after the Holy See, keeping its special status to protect its international cultural value, particularly due to the area's commotion.

Expansive Policy³

A policy aiming for the coverage of a large subject area. This type of policy is visible in both states of Palestine and Israel as both states have aimed to conquer large territories with the intention being that the territories belong to each state.

Mandate⁴

The authority to do something, given to a government or other organization by the people who vote for it in an election. The British Mandate plays a vital role in this issue, as it introduced the state of Israel as a "national home of the Jewish People," recognizing its historical significance to the Jewish religion.

Sovereignty⁵

Complete power to govern a country. Each state's purpose and desire has been to be a sovereign state despite the territorial complications and barriers.

¹ Blockade. (n.d.). Retrieved July 22, 2020, from https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/blockade_1?q=blockade

² Corpus-separatum. (n.d.). Retrieved July 22, 2020, from <https://www.yourdictionary.com/corpus-separatum>

³ Expansive. (n.d.). Retrieved July 22, 2020, from <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/expansive?q=expansive>

⁴ Mandate. (n.d.). Retrieved July 22, 2020, from https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/mandate_1?q=mandate

⁵ Sovereignty. (n.d.). Retrieved July 23, 2020, from <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/sovereignty?q=sovereignty>

Autonomy⁶

The freedom for a country, a region, or an organization to govern itself independently.

Gerrymandering⁷

The act of changing the size and borders of an area for voting in order to give an unfair advantage to one party in an election. One possible solution to the issue would be the so-called "Federation" that would imply that Israel would have the power over the West Bank and provide different rights to its residents. It would also imply that Palestine would be divided into provinces that would maintain a Jewish character.

Inalienable Rights⁸

A right that cannot be taken away from anyone. The Inalienable Rights to the Palestinian people were granted in 1975 after a long fight between the Palestinian people and the PLO to claim them.

Political Corruption⁹

Political corruption is the use of power by government officials for illegitimate private gain. In the longevity of the issue, signs of political corruption have been observed in all states involved with the case.

Self-Determination¹⁰

The right of a country or a region and its people to be independent and choose their own government and political system. On multiple occasions, Palestine has tried to use the right of Self-Determination to build an independent government.

Annexation¹¹

⁶ Autonomy. (n.d.). Retrieved July 23, 2020, from <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/autonomy?q=autonomy>

⁷ Gerrymandering. (n.d.). Retrieved July 23, 2020, from <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/gerrymandering?q=gerrymandering>

⁸ Inalienable. (n.d.). Retrieved July 23, 2020, from <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/inalienable?q=inalienable>

⁹ Political corruption. (n.d.). Retrieved July 23, 2020, from https://www.sciencedaily.com/terms/political_corruption.htm

¹⁰ Self-determination. (n.d.). Retrieved July 23, 2020, from <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/self-determination?q=self-determination>

¹¹ Annexation. (n.d.). Retrieved August 07, 2020, from <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/annexation?q=annexation>

The act of taking control of a country, region, etc., by force. After the announcement of the US' "Middle East plan," the annexation of the West Bank and the Jordan Valley by Israel is a new Israeli initiative with the support of the US; however, it breaches international law making it a completely illegal act in all basis.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The British Mandate

The League of Nations was the first official international diplomatic organization created in the wake of World War I with the goal of peace between nations¹² Although the League of Nations failed to succeed in all of its missions over time (mainly because of the lack of rugged regions joining the organization such as the United States), it still managed to create a mandate of British authority to administer both the Palestinian and Transjordan areas called "The British Mandate for Palestine." The Mandate's purpose was to acknowledge the historical significance of the Jewish people with Palestine and to construct a national home for them in what is now considered to be Israel.

Three months¹³ After the Mandate was proclaimed, Great Britain and the League of Nations concluded that creating such a region would be nearly impossible due to the land's geopolitical factors specifically, since most of the land was east to the Jordan river and now is considered to be Jordan. Following that decision, the British Mandate allowed the Jewish and Arab communities to manage their own statesmanship. On account of the cultural and political differences; and the pressure put on Great Britain by the League of Nations and what is now the Arab League, the British Mandate disengaged from its obligations, and Great Britain turned to the United Nations upon the issue of Palestine. Later in 1947, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 181, which called for partitioning Palestine.

¹² The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. (2020, March 03). League of Nations. Retrieved July 20, 2020, from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/League-of-Nations>

¹³ (n.d.). Retrieved July 20, 2020, from <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/timeline-of-british-rule-in-palestine-1918-1947>



Palestine 1920-1947 “The British Mandate” period.¹⁴

The Palestine Partition Plan

After Great Britain referred to the UN about the issue of Palestine in order to examine an appropriate route of movement, the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine was founded to achieve effective governing in Palestine. The committee consisted of eleven countries which at the time were part of the Security Council, eliminating the attendance of the P5; the countries were Australia, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Guatemala, India, Iran, Netherlands, Peru, Sweden, Uruguay, and Yugoslavia. The committee managed to present two proposals, that two separate states join economically or that a single binational state was established made of two autonomous states. The Jewish community of Palestine accepted the first proposal; however, the Arab community rejected both.

The Palestine Partition Plan, or else known as UN General Assembly resolution 181, was passed in 1947 with a majority vote and demanded the separation of Palestine into two different states, the Jewish and the Arab state. It also called for Jerusalem to be considered a *corpus separatum*. The Jewish community of Palestine viewed the initiative as a legal basis and guideline for Israel's formation. Meanwhile, the Arab community followed the resolution with acts of brutality and violence.

¹⁴ British Palestine Mandate: History & Overview. (n.d.). Retrieved July 20, 2020, from <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/history-and-overview-of-the-british-palestine-mandate>



The UN Partition Plan Map

The Arab-Israeli Wars

The Palestinian Nakbah (catastrophe) and Israel's War of Independence 1948-1949

Following the UN Palestine partition plan, the British army arranged to withdraw from Palestine. However, conflict kept arising between the Jewish and the Arab communities of Palestine with violent attacks from both sides. Several brutal massacres occurred at that time, with a characteristic attack on the Arab village of Dayr Yasin. Consecutive to the village attack, Arab forces strike Hadassah Hospital. Succeeding the British troop withdrawal, Arab forces from the entire Arab League captured southern, eastern, and a small part of Jewish territory, including the Old City and East Jerusalem; acts which were against the UN partition plan. The reason behind such an encroachment was to reconstruct law after the British withdrawal and combat the ongoing immigrant and refugee crisis. The Jewish community managed to take charge of the main road to Jerusalem and rebut most Arab attacks. The state of Israel was established in May of 1948, and by 1949 it had conquered all of Negev, missing only the Gaza strip.

Suez Crisis 1956

The Suez Canal Crisis began after Egyptian Pan-Arab president Gamal Abder Nasser implemented his plans of nationalizing the Suez Canal after Israeli forces pushed into Egyptian territory. Previously the canal was partially owned by France and Great Britain, which reacted to Egypt's actions by making a deal with Israel. However, Egypt had prohibited the use of Israeli ships in the canal and had blocked the port of Elat; therefore, France and Great Britain

could act as arbitrators and eventually gain power over the canal. In October 1956, Israel invaded the Sinai Peninsula of Egypt and captured Gaza, Rafah and Al Arish. Following such events, the UN placed an Emergency Force, and Israeli forces withdrew the area. Overall, Israel has shown its expansive policy traits and, to this day, has not failed to maintain such policies.

The Six Day War 1967

The Six Day War began on June 05, 1967, and ended on June 10 as Syria brutally bombarded Israeli villages. Israel then shot down Syrian fighter jets. In retaliation, President Nasser of Egypt assembled Egyptian forces in the Sinai borders dismissing the UN troops, unblocked the Elat port, and signed a mutual defense with Jordan. As a result, Israel destroyed the air force of Egypt while it was still on the ground. Afterwards, Israel managed to withdraw Syrian and Jordanian forces and regain the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula.

Yom Kippur War 1973

In 1973 in the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur, Egyptian troops attacked Israeli territories of the Suez Canal while Syrian troops attacked the Golan heights. Although Israel suffered significant losses, it still managed to move into Syrian territory and crossed the Suez Canal, placing forces on its West Bank. In 1974 Israel and Egypt signed multiple peace agreements and ceasefire agreements, which have since been renewed.

Inalienable Rights and the Invasion of Lebanon

In 1975 the UN General Assembly created the Committee of Inalienable rights of the Palestinian People. The previous year it had reconstructed and reestablished the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people in order for them to achieve "self-determination, national independence, sovereignty and to return." With the establishment of the (CEIRPP) came the PLO's observer status (Palestine Liberation Organization) in the UN General Assembly.

The first invasion of Lebanon took place on June 05, 1982, a significant date for the Israeli people as it was right after Israel departed from Sinai, where the tension between Palestine and Israel was noticeable and ended due to Beirut's bombing and southern Lebanon from the Israeli party. The placing of the bombings was reasonable as the PLO had forces in those areas. On June 14, Lebanon was invaded again by Israel, and the Israeli troops reached the outskirts of Beirut, but at that point, the Israeli government agreed to negotiate with the PLO. Subsequent to many interruptions, the PLO withdrew Beirut, and Israeli troops also withdrew Beirut and ultimately exited Lebanon by June of 1985.

The International Conference on the Question of Palestine

In 1982, the International Conference on the Question of Palestine (ICQP) was established and assembled in the UN office in Geneva. In September of 1983, it called for: "*the need to oppose Israeli settlements and Israeli actions to change the status of Jerusalem, the right of all States in the region to exist within secure and internationally recognized boundaries, and the attainment of the legitimate, inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.*"

The First Intifada and the Peace Process followed by the Second Intifada.

The first intifada of 1987 was a series of protest acts from the Palestinian people towards Israel due to Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory. These continuous protests commonly included violent cases and riots against the Israeli people. However, the Israeli forces did not hold back, taking into account the destructive procedures they followed after such protests, threatening the Palestinian population and causing several mass injuries and deaths. The intifada was not only a fight against Israel-occupied areas of Palestine, being the West Bank and the Gaza strip, but also a fight stating the possible and very much wanted autonomy of Palestine. Succeeding such a conflict, the formation of the State of Palestine was called for in the National Council of Palestine in 1988.

In the wake of the first intifada, a peace process between those two states had begun with the Peace Conference of 1991 with the aim of an amicable settlement. The Conference did not only concern the diplomatic relationship between Palestine and Israel, but Israel's relationship with the entire Arab League on the basis of *Security Council resolutions 242 and 338*. Several negotiations involved an environmental, economic, refugee, and arms control manner.

The Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 1993 was a declaration which acknowledged the official recognition of Israel from the PLO and vice versa. This declaration led to Israeli forces withdrawal, an elected Palestinian council, the Presidency of Palestinian authority, and an authority in areas under Palestinian self-rule.

After the peace process of both states in 2000 following the second intifada, which was much more brutal than the first. In 2002 after a suicide bombing in Palestine, Israel started an operation to recapture the West Bank and areas of the Gaza Strip, and later in 2002, a separation wall was built in the West Bank. Subsequently to the separation wall, more than 200 state-directed assassinations of Palestinian officials. By 2005 almost all violent attacks and protests had ended; however, Israel and Palestine's diplomatic relations were far more damaged.

As Israel had control of the West Bank, Israel followed strict restrictions against Palestinian people and goods entering Israel, which benefited Israel's economic growth but had a detrimental financial impact on Palestine. Several negotiations between both states were put off, and Palestinian power, support from other nations, and authority had continuously been disrupted and overlooked. The Palestinian people quickly modified their support to Hamas, a Palestinian organization.

The Road Map and the Gaza Conflict

While the tensions from the second intifada were still going on, the Quartet (US, EU, UN, and Russia) released a Road Map which would provide Israel and Palestine with a solution to their ongoing territorial issues. Palestine and Israel promulgated a peace accord, which was unofficial. Eventually, Israel dismissed its forces from the Gaza Strip, but it still held on to its *borders, seashore, and airspace*. After the 2006 elections of Palestine, the PA and the Quartet collaborated to ensure Palestine's "*commitment to nonviolence, recognition of Israel and acceptance of previous agreements*."

In the wake of the Palestinian election of Hamas in 2007, Palestine tried to reclaim the Gaza Strip, but Israel managed to blockade the area. Despite Hamas' attempts for a permanent UN status arrangement, the process failed. The UN "Goldstone" report explored the illegal practices and international law breach during the Gaza conflict. The establishment of State institutions, a program developed by the PA, was supported internationally in 2009 and in 2010, negotiations about the Israeli settlement moratorium expiration arose.

Palestine as a UN Non-Member Observer State

In 2011 Palestine applied for a UN membership; although UNESCO recognized Palestine as a member, Palestine was not granted with the status of a member state. Finally, in November of 2012, Palestine was granted the status of a non-member observer state to the UN. A non-member observer state *"can receive a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly and maintaining permanent observer missions at Headquarters."*

The US Embassy of Israel

On December 06, 2017, US President Donald Trump officially recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel based on the Congress "Jerusalem Embassy Act" of 1995 and announced the relocation of the US Embassy from Tel Aviv- where the Embassy was located from 1996- to Jerusalem. The relocation took place on May 14, 2018, and admittedly raised much controversy. More specifically, Palestine instituted proceedings against the United States before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on September 28, 2018.

In its application, Palestine argued that the Embassy's relocation violated articles of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of April 18, 1961, which both Palestine and the US have ratified. Palestine claimed that various articles of the Vienna Convention, especially Article 3, *"...Representing the sending State in the receiving State..."*, had been violated since moving the Embassy in Jerusalem raised questions about the grounds of the receiving State. The case is still pending.

On March 30, 2018, after the US President officially announced the Embassy's relocation, a six-week-long campaign initiated by Palestinian organizers and refugees took place due to Trump's decision. On the same day, the White House absolved Israel of any responsibility concerning the Gaza deaths, claiming that Hamas, a Palestinian organization, was held responsible for the tragic incident.

Israel's Annexation Plan

In January 2020, the "Middle East plan" was announced by US President Donald Trump with a partnership with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel. The plan includes the Israeli people's calculated initiative to annex part of the West Bank, breaching international law. The plan also calls for the establishment of a Palestinian state on disconnected Palestinian territories, which would be demilitarized. However, the plan does not involve in any sense East Jerusalem, which is already occupied, and the Palestinians consider it to be their capital.

The plan was evidently denied by the Palestinian Authority and was widely characterized as corrupt.

If the Jordan Valley was to be annexed, it would result to it being part of Israel's territory. Nevertheless, the annexation of any occupied territory *"is a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the Geneva Conventions and contrary to the fundamental rule affirmed by the UN Security Council and General Assembly that the acquisition of territory by war or force is inadmissible"*¹⁵.

2020 Trump's conceptual map

- Palestinian control | 15%
- Israeli control | 85%

US President Donald Trump's conceptual map would allow Israel to **annex huge parts of the occupied West Bank** and give Palestinians control of only 15% of historical Palestine.

Conceptual map



The Conceptual Map of the "Middle East plan" involving Israel.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

Israel

Israel is evidently the most crucial country in this issue (after Palestine) since it is clearly geopolitically and district wise involved in it. Currently, Israel's diplomatic relationship with Palestine is nonexistent, as Israel does not recognize Palestine in any way and vice versa. Although several negotiations since 1948 have occurred in an attempt to solve this everlasting issue, neither Palestine nor Israel are willing to recognize each other's territories and combat the common territory issues they have encountered.

United States of America

¹⁵ Al Jazeera. (2020, June 28). Explainer: Israel's annexation plan for occupied West Bank. Retrieved August 08, 2020, from <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/06/explainer-israel-annexation-plan-occupied-west-bank-200627085214900.html>

The USA has had a clear stance on this issue, which has influenced most of the Western world in supporting Israel. USA's support towards Israel noticeably is apparent due to the historic collaboration between the United States and the Jewish people of Israel, but also because of the financially and politically beneficial diplomatic relations between those two states. Israel gets immense recognition from the EU, Oceania, and America only because of US's support, and the US has financial benefits due to the geopolitical aspects of Israel and power to the Arab League.

The US is also significant to this case because of the relocation of its Israeli Embassy to Jerusalem, a city with the corpus separatum status, that Palestine considers its own. An issue led to an immensely intense ICJ case between the US and Palestine and essentially debated territorial issues. This incident took the US and Palestine's diplomatic relations and the Arab League further apart as controversy kept rising, and the situation increasingly worsened.

Furthermore, the Trump administration cut all US funds to all organizations which supported Palestine. Such an action enraged the international community and broke international consensus. Finally, in the latest submitted application of Palestine to become a UN member state in 2019 seems very unlikely since the United States have the power to veto such a request and past attempts such as the 2011 application never came to a vote.

Egypt

Egypt, being one of the main members of the Arab League, has always taken the side of Palestine. In the Arab-Israeli wars, Egypt fought against the Jewish people of Israel, but after the Yom Kippur war followed the 1979 Egypt-Israel peace treaty mediated by US president Jimmy Carter. Ever since those two states' diplomatic relationship has been proclaimed, however, their political differences remain alive. Egypt being an active member of the Arab League, still supports that Palestine should be an established country and a UN member state. At the same time, the relations between Israel and Palestine should remain peaceful.

Jordan

Jordan and Palestine have had neighboring diplomatic relations as they share political and cultural views. Although their relations are sometimes unstable, they have both remained as parts of the Arab League and multiple other Arab-based organizations. After the 1949 armistice agreements, Jordan had conquered the West Bank, and all Palestinians who were residents of the West Bank became Jordanian citizens. However, in the Six-Day War, Israel regained the West Bank but not the citizens of Jordan. After the 1970 conflict between Jordan and the PLO, Jordan expelled the PLO. Nevertheless, in 1988 Jordan supported the PLO in their battle to authorize the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Additionally, a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan was signed in 1994 after the Israeli Jordanian conflict in 1992.

United Kingdom

After the British Mandate, the United Kingdom placed a consulate-general for the purpose of political, security, and economic interests of Palestine and the UK in East Jerusalem. The UK also supports a settlement between Israel and Palestine; however, it has not officially recognized Palestine as an independent and sovereign state. However, the devolved government of Scotland has requested to recognize Palestine as a state and

establish a UK embassy in Palestine. Nonetheless, the USA's diplomatic relationship with Palestine does practically determine Palestine's diplomatic relations with most western regions.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of Event
1917	The Balfour Declaration of the British Mandate indicates that Palestine is a national home for the Jewish people
1922	Palestine was under UK administration by the League of Nations
1930	A large amount of Jewish immigrants migrated to Palestine on the verge of WWII
1937	What is now the Arab League demands independence by continuous violent and terrorist attacks
1947	The UK turns to the UN with the issue of Palestine
1947	The UN proposes to terminate the Mandate and for Palestine to be separated into two different regions, the Arab and the Jewish
1948	The Palestinian Jewish state claimed its independence and became Israel
1967	In the war of 1967, Israel occupied the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, which eventually joined the territory of Israel
1974	The General Assembly restated the inalienable rights of the Palestinians
1982	Israel occupied Lebanon
1987	The first intifada
1988	The Palestine National Council announced the formation of the State of Palestine
1993	The PLO signed the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self Government Arrangements
2000	The second intifada
2002	The security council declared the vision of two states Israel and Palestine
2003	The Quartet released a two-state Road Map
2005	Israel departed its troops from the Gaza Strip
2007	Israel dictated a blockade

2008	The operation "Cast Lead" in Gaza came to climax
2011	President Mahmoud Abbas submitted an application of Palestine to the UN to become a member state
2012	Several violent terrorist attacks took place in Israel and the Gaza Strip
2012	Palestine was granted the non-member Observer State status by the UN
2014	More terrorist attacks took place in the Gaza Strip
2018	The United States relocated its Israeli Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem
2018	Palestine filed an application before the ICJ instituting proceedings against the US
2020	US President Trump releases a "Middle East plan" with the support of Israel proclaiming the annexation of the West Bank and the Jordan Valley

UN INVOLVEMENT: RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

Future Government of Palestine (Resolution 181 II of 1947)

<https://unispal.un.org/DPA/DPR/unispal.nsf/0/7F0AF2BD897689B785256C330061D253>

Resolution 181 of 1947 was the first official General Assembly UN resolution acknowledging Palestine's issues at the time. This resolution is specifically significant to "the question of Palestine" as it called for Palestine's separation into an Arab and a Jewish state. Even more importantly, it proclaimed the holy city of Jerusalem to be considered a corpus separatum officially.¹⁶

Security Council Resolution 242

<https://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/0/7D35E1F729DF491C85256EE700686136>

Resolution 242 was adopted by the Security Council in 1967 following the Six-Day War between Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and Syria. The resolution called for Israel's right "*to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force*" therefore, Israel was in full support of it when the Arab states accepted it due to the clause which required "*territories occupied in the recent conflict*" to be dismissed by Israel. The PLO did not find

¹⁶ A/RES/181(II) of November 29, 1947. (n.d.). Retrieved July 23, 2020, from <https://unispal.un.org/DPA/DPR/unispal.nsf/0/7F0AF2BD897689B785256C330061D253>

enough direct credentials to the Palestinian people and, therefore, did not vote for it until 1988.¹⁷

Security Council Resolution 338

<http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/338>

The war of Yom Kippur was called to an end by the Security Council with Resolution 338 of 1973. The Yom Kippur War, as mentioned before, was again a war between Egypt, Syria (taking the Arab Palestinian side), and Israel. This resolution is hugely significant to the Security Council as it was adopted unanimously and consisted of only three lines. The resolution demanded that all parties involved in the war "*cease hostilities*" within 12 hours and execute "*all parts*" of UN Resolution 242. Finally, the resolution required negotiations under appropriate circumstances between all parties involved.¹⁸

Security Council Resolution 1860

<http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/1860>

After UN resolutions 242, 338, 1395, 1515, 1850 and several other documents such as the 1993 Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangement and the Arab-Peace Initiative, which were all addressing the conflict that Palestine and Israel were facing, the Security Council had to call for ceasing hostilities again during the Gaza strip conflict of 2009. "*...an immediate ceasefire in Gaza leading to the full Israeli withdrawal, unimpeded provision through Gaz of food, fuel and medical treatment intensified international arrangements to prevent arms and ammunition smuggling*". In the fullness of time, the Resolution had failed due to the fact that Hamas disregarded the Resolution and kept fighting for the Gaza Strip.¹⁹

Security Council Resolution 2334

<file:///C:/Users/enriq/Downloads/SRES2334-2016.pdf>

¹⁷ S/RES/242 (1967) of November 22, 1967. (n.d.). Retrieved July 23, 2020, from <https://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/0/7D35E1F729DF491C85256EE700686136>

¹⁸ UNSCR Search engine for the United Nations Security Council Resolutions. (n.d.). Retrieved July 23, 2020, from <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/338>

¹⁹ UNSCR Search engine for the United Nations Security Council Resolutions. (n.d.). Retrieved July 23, 2020, from <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/1860>

Resolution 2334 addresses the East Jerusalem territories captured by Israel in the war of 1967, which were considered to belong to Palestine. The Resolution was adopted in 2016, expressing that the Israeli settlement violates international law and is not contemplated as valid in a legal manner. Furthermore, it calls for Israel to conclude such a pursuit and to attain its responsibilities.²⁰

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

Although the UN has had many attempts to solve the issue of Palestine, submitting several UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions and establishing a committee dedicated to this issue, most attempts have failed. That is because of the common violations of the clauses from both states of Israel and Palestine. The Arab League has also been involved in combating the issue but in a violent and terroristic way defending Palestine and not finding sense to the issue.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

The most crucial point that needs to be taken under immense consideration when discussing possible solutions regarding the situation, is the extent to which Palestine is politically, economically, and socially independent. Delegates should conduct thorough research concerning the topic, including carefully reading the present study-guide and developing feasible, effective ways to combat the issue.

The "one-state solution"

Essentially there are two basic solutions which could potentially combat the issue: the "on-state" solution or the "two-state solution". The one-state solution is the least popular solution which fundamentally proposes the merge of Israel and Palestine into one democratic state. This would mean that Palestinians and Israelis would belong and be citizens of one joint state, having equal rights. This solution is usually unfavored since it seems unrealistic that such different populations could possibly have a peaceful merge and could come to an agreement on issues such as the borders of each state. Israeli author Avraham Burg who used to be a supporter of the two-state solution, once said, "*A quarter of a century on from the Oslo Accords, the two-state solution lies in tatters. There is no peace process. There is very little hope left. And yet, somehow, we must still find a way for Israelis and Palestinians to live side-by-side, with equal rights within a single international border. It is time for a progressive one-state solution*". However, most Israelis or Palestinians did not come to terms with a one-state solution due to their cultural differences. They were not willing to jeopardize and the practical issues that would follow such a decision.

The "two-state solution."

On the contrary, the two-state solution proposes the establishment of two differentiated states Israel and Palestine. The majority of regions support the two-state

²⁰ N, U. (2016). Resolution 2334 (2016). Retrieved 2020, from file:///C:/Users/enriq/Downloads/SRES2334-2016.pdf

solution as it seems more realistic and practical, and it also can maintain each region's geopolitical and economic interests. However, a two-state solution would also provide the states with plenty of logistical issues concerning the settlements of the border placement, the status of Jerusalem, Palestinian refugees and Jewish settlements of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. A further negotiation has been executed when referring to the borders of the two-state solution plan which would implement the 1967 borders, but Palestine could never come to terms with such a decision.

Other possible solutions

Although these two solutions are the most commonly negotiated, there are other possible solutions such as Confederation, Federation, Expulsion, and Autonomy-Plus. Confederation would mean that Israel and Palestine would essentially create a Union with different governments but shared resources, finances and security. Each citizen would only be a citizen of either Palestine or Israel but could be a resident of both. Federation would imply that Israel would have political control over the West Bank and would provide citizenship and voting rights to the Palestinian residents of the West Bank. However, Palestine would be divided into provinces calculated to maintain a political majority of the Jewish people which would essentially be gerrymandering. The possibility of Expulsion would indicate that Palestinians who are residents of the West Bank would have to be expelled from the West Bank; such an act would be internationally characterized as prejudiced, therefore, it is one of the most unrealistic solutions. Lastly, Autonomy-Plus would entail that Palestine would hold its own elections and maintain all their current services such as schools but still would not have any control over the West Bank's borders and the West Bank would belong to Israel a solution which seems impossible for the Palestinians.

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