# The role of un in the Israel and Palestine conflict

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**Abstract**
The United Nations is considered as the International Forum to solve the disputes between the countries and maintain peace and security. The UN is considered to play a major role in the promotion of humanity and co-operation among the countries. In the ongoing conflict of Israel and Palestine the UN has a major role to play but, the UN had lacked in its functioning. The conflict had turned is great war taking the life of many innocent people. This research paper tries to analyze the role performed by the UN in the reduction of the consequences caused to both the human community as well as the monetary damages caused to the countries. The UN in a way has failed to perform its function as they are unable to stop the war or make the countries to come to an agreement needed for the promotion of peace.

## Introduction
### Research Problem
The conflict between the Israel and Palestine is a huge turnover to the overall world peace. The UN being a most powerful international forum plays a crucial role in the prevention of the destruction but the same has not been executed.

### Relevance of the study
The role of UN is important to understand to resolve the conflicts at the international level where all countries are equal, and a common international law is applicable to everyone. In the ongoing Israel- Palestine conflict the role of UN plays an important role as it is the only forum where the countries co-operate with one another to come to a conclusion.

### Literature Review
- Joana Ricarte, "*The UN Approach to the 'Question of Palestine' during the Cold War*" explores the phase of Israeli-Palestinian process and its impact. It provides for the arguments for reinforcement of dehumanization processes and the development in the international level.
- Daniel Bar-Tal, "*Israeli-Palestinian conflict: A Cognitive Analysis*" analyse the Israel-Palestinian conflict in the framework of an epistemological approach as an example of cognitive analysis of international conflicts. It suggests that the beliefs of one group are incompatible with the beliefs of the other.
- Richard Gowan, "*How the world lost faith in UN*" states about the decisions made by the UN and its failure leading to the loss of its importance amongst the countries. The Israel- Palestine conflict is one of the major failures of the UN as the UN is unable to stop the destruction caused by the war.

### Objectives
The objectives of this research paper are:
1. To understand the role of UN in Israel- Palestine conflict.
2. To understand the shortcomings of UN in maintaining world peace.
3. To understand the need of international forums and laws.

### Hypothesis
The UN being one of the most important and powerful organization has failed in resolving the Israel- Palestine conflict due to various shortcomings.

### Research Methodology
The research methodology used in this research paper is Doctrinal. The data is collected from the secondary sources like articles, research papers, journals etc.

### Research Questions
1. What is the role of UN in Israel-Palestine conflict?
2. What are the shortcomings of the UN organizations?

### History of Israel-Palestine Conflict
The conflict between the Israel-Palestine conflict is not a present dispute but a long on-going conflict between them based on various factors mainly because of the differences between their region and religion. The importance of the three holy places, present at Jerusalem leads to the conflict as it provides the utmost positivity to the people of both the communities. The UN being the most powerful organization at international level leads the way to make the countries conclude their conflicts in a peaceful manner and it had tried to do the same in the year 1947 where the distribution of the land takes place as 60 and 40% to Israel and Palestine respectively but it was not successful as a war happened again and the area was re-distributed to 78 and 21% respectively.

The UN is the international forum that aims to resolve the dispute between countries and maintains peaceful and cordial relations. The countries being a member of these international organizations needs to follow the rules and regulations of these organizations. The UN Security Council tried to resolve the conflict with effective means of implementation through mediation but even today there is

no success that could be seen towards progressing the end of the conflict. Palestine as a country is not even recognized by various other states and in the international forum giving advantage to Israel at the international forum. There are various other reasons as well for the failure of the role of UN as there is a huge impact of various big and powerful nations on the decision-making process. The next main concern arises due to the strong religious sentiments that arose between the citizens of both the countries along with the violent nature to resolve the dispute taking place from a longer period. The practices of resorting to the practices of destruction form the year 1920 till now had become a huge major concern.

Of all the troublesome problems in the world, none has engaged the attention of the United Nations more, for a longer time, and with less success than the Israel-Palestine conflict. The Israel-Palestine conflict is practically as old as the United Nations. A major part of the history of the United Nations is thus a history of the Israel-Palestine conflict. And yet no conflict threatens as sure to spark a global nuclear war with all its catastrophic consequences for mankind today as the Israel-Palestine conflict [1].

The United Nations have had since 1947 been dealing with the Palestine problem, under the cover of the Arab-Israeli conflict. However, despite its efforts to resolve the conflict there have been four major wars in the region, and the situation looks as grim and explosive today as ever. Indeed new factors --- political, economic, psychological and human --- have entered the picture, so that we have in West Asia, one of the most complicated of contemporary conflicts.

## Current Role of UN

Following several years of unsuccessful negotiations, the conflict re-erupted as the second Intifada on September 2000. The violence, escalating into an open conflict between the Palestinian National Security Forces and the Israel Défense Forces, lasted until 2004/2005 and led to approximately 130 fatalities. Israeli Prime Minister Sharon decided to disengage from Gaza. In 2005, Israel removed every soldier and every Jewish settler from Gaza. Israel and its Supreme Court formally declared an end to occupation, saying it "had no effective control over what occurred" in Gaza. In 2006, Hamas took power by winning a plurality of 44% in a Palestinian parliamentary election. Israel responded it would begin economic sanctions unless Hamas agreed to accept prior Israeli-Palestinian agreements, forswear violence, and recognize Israel's right to exist. Hamas responded with rocket attacks and an incursion into Israeli territory using underground tunnels to kidnap Gilad Shalit. After internal Palestinian political struggle between Fatah and Hamas erupted into of Gaza (2007), Hamas took full control of the area in 2007, Israel imposed a naval blockade on the Gaza Strip, and co-operation with Egypt allowed a ground blockade of the Egyptian border.

However, after nearly seven decades of conflict, peace between Israel and the Palestinians remains elusive. The longer the conflict persists, the more intractable it will become. Those Israeli and Palestinians who wish to have it all are dangerously misguided and will ultimately condemn any prospect for peaceful coexistence.

The new international efforts led by the US and the EU to resume the peace negotiations must not lose sight of the popular demand of the majority on both sides to live in peace, because on their own, they will come to terms with one another. The regional turmoil must not forestall the Israeli-Palestinian peace process; on the contrary, it should serves as the catalyst that could end one of the longest conflicts in modern history.

In early October 2023, war broke out between Israel and Hamas, the militant Islamist group that has controlled Gaza since 2006, in the most significant escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in several decades. Hamas fighters fired rockets into Israel and stormed southern Israeli cities and towns across the border of the Gaza Strip, killing more than 1,300 Israelis, injuring 3,300, and taking hundreds of hostages. The attack took Israel by surprise, though the state quickly mounted a deadly retaliatory operation. One day after the October 7 attack, the Israeli cabinet formally declared war against Hamas, followed by a directive from the defense minister to the Israel defence Forces (IDF) to carry out a "complete siege" of Gaza.

Since then, the two sides have traded daily rocket fire, and Israel ordered more than one million Palestinian civilians in northern Gaza to evacuate ahead of a ground invasion that began on October 28. Israeli forces have encircled Gaza City, cutting it off from southern Gaza and squeezing Hamas. Hundreds of thousands of civilians remain in the city. Gazan health officials say the war has killed 10,000 Palestinians, including more than 4,000 children. The territory is also desperately low on water, fuel, and supplies as Israel has rejected humanitarian pauses and limited the amount of aid that can enter.

The displacement of millions more Palestinians presents a dilemma for Egypt and Jordan, which have absorbed hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in the past but have resisted accepting anyone during the current war. They fear that Gazans, many of whom were already displaced from elsewhere in Israel, will not be allowed to return once they leave. Egypt also fears that Hamas fighters could enter Egypt and trigger a new war in the Sinai by launching attacks on Israel or destabilizing the authoritarian regime of Abdel Fattah el-Sisi by supporting the Muslim Brotherhood. So far, negotiations have resulted in only 1,100 people exiting Gaza through the Rafah border crossing to Egypt. The other 1.5 million displaced Gazans—70 percent of the territory's population—have nowhere to go and face increasingly dire living conditions and security risks.

## Shortcomings

Since 1947-48 the UN has adopted more than two hundred resolution on the subject of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict. It has taken no action to secure their observance and implementation. Israel has flouted practically all those resolutions with impunity. It is essential to ensure the implementation of those resolutions. If Israel does not comply with those resolutions voluntarily, then coercive action is clearly called for. On several occasions the Security Council has warned Israel that it would take strong action if its directives are not respected and carried out, but it has never carried out any of its threats. Now a time has come when the UN must either uphold the Charter and use coercive means or submit to, or acquiesce in the rule of force. Intervention by the world body is now a political necessity in as much as Israel has not abandoned the gains it has made through military conquests. Without coercion there can be no solution, no restoration of right and justice,

no peace in the Arab East. Alternatively the UN should, with the assistance of the International Court of Justice if necessary, reappraise the situation and, regardless of the conditions created by force, lay down a new formula for peace. Such a peace formula should safeguard the rights of the Palestinians and create a Palestinian State.

## 1. Religious Differences
The main cause of the non-resolve of the Palestine conflict is the religious differences between the Jews and the Arab communities. The presence of the various important religious structures of both the communities at the place had led to the conflict which is on-going due to no settlement based on the importance of area for both the communities.

## 2. Violent Nature
The presence of Hamas, regarded as one of the terrorist group led to the non-tolerance behaviour and resorting to the violent practices of war and destruction had also become one of the major cause for the non- settlement of the dispute arising between both the states.

## 3. Powerful Nations
Another main reason for the non-resolvent of the dispute between the states is due to the role played by powerful nations in the UN forum and the personal and monetary benefits that arises with the non-settlement of the dispute.

## Recommendations
The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a complex and long-standing issue with deep historical, political, and religious roots. The resolutions proposed are with respect to the realist school of thought. While there is no one-size-fits-all solution, various approaches and proposals have been put forward over the years to resolve the conflict. Here are some of the possible conflict resolution options:

- **Two-State Solution:** This approach involves the creation of an independent and sovereign Palestinian state alongside the State of Israel, with agreed-upon borders based on the pre-1967 lines (with possible land swaps). This solution has been widely supported by the international community and has been the basis for numerous peace negotiations.

- **One-State Solution:** This approach suggests creating a single bi-national state where Israelis and Palestinians would have equal rights and representation. It would require addressing concerns about demographics, political power-sharing, and the protection of minority rights. However, this solution is considered less feasible due to significant challenges related to historical animosities and differing national aspirations.

- **Confederation or Federation:** This proposal suggests establishing a confederation or federation that allows for significant autonomy for both Israelis and Palestinians within a unified political framework. It would involve shared governance structures, cooperative institutions, and joint decision-making mechanisms to address common issues while maintaining separate national identities.

- **Regional Approach:** Some argue that resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict requires a broader regional approach involving neighbouring Arab countries. This approach could include comprehensive peace treaties, economic cooperation, and the normalization of relations between Israel and Arab states. The 2020 Abraham Accords, which established diplomatic relations between Israel and several Arab countries, represent a step in this direction.

- **Incremental/Conflict Management** Rather than seeking a comprehensive solution, this approach focuses on managing the conflict through confidence-building measures, small-scale agreements, and improving living conditions for Palestinians. The goal is to gradually reduce tensions and create an environment conducive to further negotiations.

- **International Intervention:** Increased involvement and mediation by the international community, including regional and global powers, can play a significant role in facilitating dialogue, negotiations, and the implementation of a resolution. This could include initiatives by the United Nations, the United States, the European Union, or other interested parties.
It is important to note that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is highly complex, and any resolution requires a genuine commitment from both parties, compromises, and addressing the core issues that have fueled the conflict for decades. The path to peace will likely involve a combination of the above approaches and may require innovative ideas and adaptations to specific circumstances on the ground.

## Conclusion
Since 1947-48 the UN has adopted more than two hundred resolution on the subject of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict. It has taken no action to secure their observance and implementation. Israel has flouted practically all those resolutions with impunity. It is essential to ensure the implementation of those resolutions. If Israel does not comply with those resolutions voluntarily, then coercive action is clearly called for. On several occasions the Security Council has warned Israel that it would take strong action if its directives are not respected and carried out, but it has never carried out any of its threats. Now a time has come when the UN must either uphold the Charter and use coercive means or submit to, or acquiesce in the rule of force. Intervention by the world body is now a political necessity in as much as Israel has not abandoned the gains it has made through military conquests. Without coercion there can be no solution, no restoration of right and justice, no peace in the Arab East. Alternatively the UN should, with the assistance of the International Court of Justice if necessary, reappraise the situation and, regardless of the conditions created by force, lay down a new formula for peace. Such a peace formula should safeguard the rights of the Palestinians and create a Palestinian State. The steps towards the concrete decisions and the bold implementation along with the unity of the nations will help to resolve the conflict and make the ongoing war like situations between the Palestine and Israel comes to an end.

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