

SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE RESEARCH PAPER

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMITTEE PRESIDENT

Dear Delegate,

Welcome to the research paper we have prepared for you.
This is a great starting point for your research.

If you have any questions about this research, please write
to us at *obsmun@obs.edu.pt*

Happy debating and see you soon.

PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDE

This research guide was compiled by the Secretariat of the OBSMUN 2025. OBSMUN aims to provide delegates with the opportunity to further develop their research skills that will help them in their academics. Thus, these research guides do not cover the whole breadth of the issues at hand. Instead, they are designed to provide a basis from which delegates can undertake their own research into the topics, with the aim of developing clauses from their independent research.

This guide is not sufficient as background information to prepare yourself for the country, since it does not look at the information from your countries point of view, but instead a generalised one.

WHEN RESEARCHING FOR INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR COUNTRY YOU MAY WANT TO ASK YOURSELF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS;

- **Where does your country stand on the issue being addressed?**
- **Does it affect the country you are representing?**
- **Would your country be in favour / against taking action on the issue?**
- **What policies are currently in place in your country to address this issue?**
- **Given your country's stance & policies, what type of solution would you support?**
- **What measures would benefit your country?**
- **What measures would be detrimental to your country? Which ones would your country be especially be opposed to?**

TOPIC 1: THE ISSUE OF CONCLUDING AND EXECUTING THE IMPENDING SOLUTIONS FOR THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine, which has dramatically escalated with Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, has centuries worth of history. Ukraine was for centuries under the Russian Empire and then the Soviet Union, before gaining independence in 1991 when the USSR collapsed. Ever since, Ukraine has often been torn between wanting to be more integrated into Europe and NATO on the one hand and Russian pressure on the other, which has wanted to retain control over its lost territory.

Hostilities escalated in 2004 with Ukraine's Orange Revolution, during which popular protests over election corruption led to a pro-Russian election result. A pro-European government took office after the protests. Again in 2013–2014, protests known as the Euromaidan movement arose after Ukraine's president rejected closer integration with the European Union following pressure from Russia. These protests resulted in political change, but Russia retaliated by annexing Crimea in 2014 and backing separatist fighters in the Donbas, leading to an armed conflict that resulted in thousands of deaths over the next eight years.

The position deteriorated further during 2021–2022, when Russia insisted that Ukraine would never join NATO and therefore deployed troops along the border. On 24 February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine on a full-scale basis, seeking to rapidly capture Kyiv and replace Ukraine's government. This was met instead with robust resistance from Ukraine, and the war has since developed into a prolonged conflict. The war has brought immeasurable destruction, resulted in millions of displaced individuals, and reshaped international politics, with Western nations arming and assisting Ukraine and imposing severe sanctions on Russia.

Background

Statistical facts (of Russia and Ukraine)

- Official country name: Russian Federation;
- Population: 143,828,063 (Sunday, September 14, 2025);
- Area: ~17,098,242 square kilometres;
- Capital: Moscow;
- Largest cities (in order): Moscow, Saint Petersburg, Novosibirsk, Yekaterinburg;
- Languages: Russian (main official language), Ossetic, Ukrainian, Buryat, Kalmyk, Chechen, Ingush, Abaza, Adyghe, Cherkess, Kabardian, Altai, Bashkir, Chuvash, Crimean Tatar, Karachay-Balkar, Khakas, Nogai, Tatar, Tuvan, Yakut, Erzia, Komi, Hill Mari, Meadow Mari, Moksha, Udmurt (other smaller official languages used around the country), English, German (some of the biggest non-Russian languages used in the country), other smaller non-native languages (Belarusian,

Romanian, Armenian, Azerbaijani, etc), other languages; (Komi-Zyrian, Lak, Adyghe, etc);

- Ethnic groups: (over 190 distinct ethnic groups inhabit Russia) Russians 77%, Tatars 3.7%, Ukrainians 1.4%, Bashkir 1.1%, Chuvashs 1%, Chechens 1%, Armenians 0.3%, Nenets 0.02%, other 14.48% (according to the census done in 2010);
 - Religious groups: Orthodox Christians (71%), Muslims (5%), none (15%), other (9%) (2022 est.);
 - Climate: Tundra and polar in the north, subarctic in Siberia, humid continental in most of the European side, steppes in the south. Mild/warm summers in some regions, harsh winters especially inland and north;
 - Borders: Norway, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Belarus, Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, China, Mongolia, North Korea, USA and Japan (the last 2 are due to maritime borders);
 - Birth rate: 8.27 births/1,000 people (2024 est.);
 - Total fertility rate: 1.42 births per woman (2022 est.);
 - Life expectancy at birth: 78.73 years for women, 68.04 years for men;
 - Literacy rate: 99.7%-100% for 15 year olds and older;
 - Currency: Russian Ruble.
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- Official Country Name: Ukraine;
 - Population: 39,216,144 (Sunday, 14 September 2025);

- Area:
- Capital: Kyiv/Kiev;
- Largest cities (in order): Kyiv, Kharkiv, Odessa, Dnipro;
- Languages: Ukrainian (official language), Russian (most popular non-official language), Crimean Tatar, Gagauz, Karaim (other native languages), Hungarian, Armenian, Romani, German, Greek, Hebrew, Slovak, Belarusian, Polish, Romanian, Bulgarian, other (non-native languages);
- Ethnic Groups: Ukrainians (77.5%), Russians (17.2%), Romanians, Belorussians, Crimean Tatars, Bulgarian, Hungarians, Poles, Jews, Armenians, others (5.3%);
- Religious Groups: Eastern Orthodox Christians (60%), Ukrainian Greek Catholic (9.6%), Protestants (1-2%), Roman Catholics (0.5-1.5%), Judaism (0.5%), Islam (0.5%), Buddhism (0.5%), 'just Christians' (8%), non-religious (5%), atheists (3.5-4%), others (8.4-10.9%);
- Climate: Has a predominantly temperate continental climate, has warm dry summers and cold snowy winters. The southern coast has a warmer, Mediterranean climate;
- Borders: Belarus, Russia, Moldova, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland;
- Birth rate: 8.46/1000 people (2025 est.)
- Total fertility rate: 1.22 children born/woman (2024 est.);
- Life expectancy at birth: 65.4 years for men, 75.8 years for women;
- Literacy: 100% (2021 est.);

- Currency: the Ukrainian Hryvnia.

Key Historical Events

- 1991 – Ukraine gains independence from the Soviet Union after it collapses;
- 1994 – The Budapest Memorandum occurs, in which Ukraine gives up its nuclear arsenal in exchange for security assurances from the USA, Russia and the UK;
- 2004 – The Orange Revolution, where protests erupted in Ukraine over election fraud that favored a pro-Russian candidate;
- 2013 – The Euromaiden protests begin, due to President Viktor Yanukovich rejecting an EU association agreement in favour of becoming closer to Russia;
- February 2014 – Yanukovich flees Ukraine and an interim government takes power;
- March 2014 – Russia annexes Crimea after a non-internationally recognized disputed referendum;
- April 2014 – The war in Donbas commences, caused by pro-Russian separatists supported by Moscow, who then seized parts of Donetsk and the Luhansk regions;
- September 2014 – A ceasefire deal is signed (Minsk I agreement), however it mostly fails due to the two countries not being able to agree on the issues of the withdrawal of Russian-backed troops and the elections in separatist-held regions;

- February 2015 – The Minsk II agreement occurs and is mediated by France and Germany. Fighting is reduced but it does not end;
- 2014-2021 – Fighting in Donbas continues and thousands are killed;
- 24 February 2022 – Russia invades Ukraine with a massive assault from multiple directions;
- Spring 2022 – Ukrainian forces manage to repel Russians from Kyiv and northern Ukraine;
- September 2022 – Ukraine recaptures vast areas in the northeast;
- 2023-2024 – Russia increases missile and drone strikes on infrastructure. There is still heavy fighting in places like Bakhmut and Avdiivka.

Attitudes of the UN regarding this issue

The UN has previously made its stance in the conflict clear: it wants to end the conflict, end hostilities between Ukraine and Russia, silence the guns and open the door to dialogue and diplomacy. A majority of the Security Council have called “Russia’s aggression” deplorable and unacceptable, though Russia vetoed the US and Albania’s resolution to pull back all Russian troops from Ukraine. The General Assembly also took a vote on the matter, after Ukraine decided to take the proceeding elsewhere after being vetoed. Out of 193 members, 141 voted in favour of an end to the war, and also reaffirmed Ukrainian sovereignty and independence. Many UN Entities are also helping the Ukrainian people, such as the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for

Refugees), UNOCHA (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) and UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund).

Attitudes of key countries regarding this issue

1. Ukraine: Ever since the full-scale invasion on Ukraine by Russia in 2022, its people have shown resilience and solidarity in their fight for their homeland. Despite the war's horrific cost (over 49,000 civilian deaths have been confirmed by the UN), and thousands more soldiers killed or injured, the morale of the public seems to persist. Many Ukrainians have volunteered their time and effort to assist their communities, provide for military needs, and continue their daily existence amidst extremely difficult circumstances. Surveys among Ukrainians around 70% and 75% support NATO and EU membership, which shows strong interest in European ties, allied support, and security.
2. Poland: Poland is a crucial country in the conflict due to it being a NATO member, and sharing borders with both Russia (through Kaliningrad) and Ukraine, which means if its territory is crossed, it could invoke Article 5 of NATO's North Atlantic Treaty causing an all out world war. Concerning this issue, Poland seems to have contradictory views: it has advocated for Ukraine multiple times, being a world leader when it comes to aid to Ukraine, having spent almost 5% of its gross domestic product on military and humanitarian aid for the country. However, according to a survey conducted in 2025, only 35% of Poles believe their country should support Ukraine in its path to EU membership and 37% when it comes to NATO access. This could contribute to

tension between the wishes of the government against the wishes of the people.

3. Belarus: Belarus is a key country in the Russia-Ukraine war due to its complacency in allowing Russian troops to use Belarusian territory to launch part of the invasion in 2022, and due to it being a key supporter of Russia in the war. President Alexander Lukashenko's allyship has given Moscow a major strategic advantage in the conflict. Since the invasion, Belarus has provided logistical support and has stood by Russia in international forums, rejecting sanctions and repeating Russian claims about NATO expansion. Despite this, Belarus has avoided sending its own troops directly into Ukraine, as Lukashenko faces pressure from his own people, who largely oppose direct involvement. Belarus is increasingly dependent on Russia for economic and political support, which limits its ability to act independently. This close friendship with Moscow has further isolated Belarus from the European Union and worsened its relations with neighbouring countries like Poland and Lithuania.
4. Germany: Germany is a crucial country in this conflict due to it becoming one of Ukraine's most important European allies. At the start of the war, Berlin was criticised for being slow to provide heavy weapons, which was mostly due to their dependence on Russia for oil and energy, but later it changed course and delivered Leopard 2 tanks, advanced air defence systems, and large amounts of ammunition to Ukraine. Germany has also given financial aid (it has provided just under €44 billion to Ukraine) and accepted more than a million Ukrainian refugees. Chancellor Olaf Scholz described

Russia's invasion as a "turning point" for Germany's foreign policy, spending more on higher defence and reducing energy dependence on Russia. Germany strongly supports sanctions on Moscow and backs Ukraine's path towards EU membership. However, some Germans worry about the economic costs of this support. Despite that, Germany continues to play a big role in Europe's response against Russia.

Attitudes of the P5 members regarding this issue

1. The United States of America: Under the Biden administration, the United States showed heavy support for Ukraine: in April 2024 the U.S House of Representatives approved a \$95 billion aid package to Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan. In total, the United States has sent more than \$182.8 billion to Ukraine since February 2022. Despite President Biden saying that American soldiers wouldn't be fighting against Russia, he added that they would defend every inch of NATO territory if threatened by their enemies. However, during the present Trump administration, the President has attempted to have peace talks with both leaders of the countries. These have been failures, with his peace talk with the Ukrainian president ending with Trump berating Zelenskyy and his peace talk with President Putin achieving no ceasefire or peace agreement. Furthermore, President Trump has previously frozen all funding towards Ukraine, due to feeling that European countries weren't helping enough and that Ukraine was a "corrupt place".
2. China: China has attempted to remain neutral in the Russia-Ukraine war, but its position clearly leans

towards Moscow. Beijing calls for respect for sovereignty and peace talks, but it refuses to condemn Russia's invasion. Instead, China blames NATO expansion and Western sanctions for prolonging the war. In 2023, Beijing released a "12-point peace plan," but it was vague and rejected by most Western countries. At the same time, China has increased trade with Russia, helping it to soften the impact of sanctions. Still, China also wants to avoid a total break with Europe, as the EU is one of its largest trading partners. Its stance reflects both its strategic partnership with Russia and its ambition to present itself as a global power able to mediate in conflicts.

3. Russia: Russia has claimed its actions in Ukraine are not aggression but a "special military operation" to protect Russian-speaking communities and to stop NATO expansion. The Kremlin has continued fighting despite heavy military losses and severe economic sanctions. President Vladimir Putin insists that Russia will not be defeated and portrays the war as a struggle for national survival. Russian officials say they are open to negotiations, but only if Ukraine accepts Crimea as Russian territory and recognises limits on its sovereignty, conditions Ukraine refuses. Moscow has turned to closer ties with countries like China, Iran, and some African states to counter Western isolation. Inside Russia, state media present the war as necessary and patriotic, helping the government to maintain domestic control.
4. The United Kingdom: The United Kingdom has been one of the strongest supporters of Ukraine since 2022. It has supplied weapons such as Challenger 2 tanks,

Storm Shadow missiles, and air defence systems, while also training thousands of Ukrainian soldiers. The UK has imposed wide sanctions on Russian banks, companies, and individuals. British leaders often frame the war as a test of international security and affirm that Ukraine's resistance is vital for Europe's future. There is strong cross-party support for continuing to back Kyiv and the Ukrainian people, and public opinion also favours Ukraine despite economic pressures at home, shown by a recent survey done where 59% Britons supported UK assistance for Ukraine and 51% still believing sanctions on Russia are still necessary even if it means higher energy and food prices. Adding onto this, the UK has sent over £21.8 billion in aid to Ukraine. The UK supports Ukraine's closer ties with NATO and the EU and continues to encourage allies to maintain unity against Russia.

5. France: France has combined military aid to Ukraine with a focus on diplomacy. In total, France has sent over €8.6 billion to Ukraine as of September 2025. Paris has provided weapons such as Caesar howitzers and air defence systems, and also financial and humanitarian support. President Emmanuel Macron has strongly condemned Russia's invasion, but he has also argued that Europe must keep channels of communication open with Moscow. This has led to criticism at times, but France has played an important role in EU sanctions and in efforts to keep the bloc united. France supports Ukraine's EU candidacy and emphasises long-term reconstruction. Macron's approach shows France's dual strategy: standing firmly with Ukraine while keeping the idea that future European security will still require dialogue with Russia.

Previous actions of the UN

- 27 February 2022: A procedural resolution is adopted by the Security Council for the General Assembly Emergency Special Session on the Russian aggression. Russia solely votes against, with Chile, India and the United Arab Emirates abstaining.
- 28 February 2022 - Present: The UN General Assembly convenes for the 11th Emergency Special Session, which adopts a series of resolutions (e.g., ES-11/7 and ES-11/8) in 2025 on peace principles, territorial integrity of Ukraine, and constructing a comprehensive just peace.
- 2 March 2022: The General Assembly passes a resolution requesting that Russia unconditionally and in its entirety withdraw its military forces from Ukraine. 141 are in favor, 35 abstain and 5 nations – Russia, Belarus, North Korea, Syria, Eritrea – vote against.
- 24 March 2022: The General Assembly adopts the resolution "Humanitarian Consequences of Aggression against Russia", requesting that Russia end all hostilities in Ukraine and bombardments of its civilians and infrastructure. This passes in favour with 140 in favour, the same 5 objections and 38 abstain.
- End of April 2022: The UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, makes a trip to Russia and Ukraine, meeting President Putin and President Zelenskyy. Due to the agreements made on these trips, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is able to carry out two operations to evacuate civilians from the city of Mariupol and the territory of the Azovstal steel plant.

- 2022: First tranche of financial humanitarian aid of US\$1.7 billion, later increased to over US\$2.2 billion in aid to assist people within Ukraine and refugees in nearby countries.
- 24 February 2025: Non-procedural resolution 2774 on the war is passed with votes of 10 in favor and 5 abstentions – Denmark, France, Slovenia, Greece and the UK.
- UN senior officials, such as the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Rosemary DiCarlo, have repeatedly called for an outright, immediate, unconditional ceasefire in line with Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, and internationally recognized borders.
- António Guterres has reinforced calling for peace in the context of the UN Charter, calling on all parties to continue to negotiate.
- UN disarmament/human rights institutions have sent warning messages on prohibited weapons transfers, against civilian infrastructure (energy, water, hospitals), and calls for unrestricted access for humanitarian relief.

2025 Events Timeline

1 February 2025: Kh-22 missile strike against residential building in Poltava, civilians killed.

13 April 2025: Sumy bombing with Iskander-M missiles during religious ceremony; scores of civilians killed and wounded.

24 April 2025: Russian large-scale missile and drone attack on several regions including Kyiv; casualties and scores wounded reported.

2–3 June 2025: Russian forces capture Kostiantynivka, within Sumy Oblast.

28 March 2025 – Present (September 2025): Novopavlivka offensive along the eastern Dnipropetrovsk-Donetsk front.

28 April 2025 to 8–10 May 2025: Three-day ceasefire announced by Putin to mark the 80th anniversary of the Soviet victory during WWII (Victory Day).

24 February 2025: UN Security Council adopts Resolution 2774 (2025) urging an immediate cessation of the hostilities and seeking lasting peace between Ukraine and the Russian Federation. Vote: 10 votes in favor, 5 abstentions.

24 February 2025: At the same time, two resolutions are adopted by the UN General Assembly during its 11th Emergency Special Session: "Advancing a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine" and "The Path to Peace." These reaffirm the sovereignty of Ukraine and call for peace in accordance with the UN Charter.

6 March 2025: General Assembly considers exercise by the Russian Federation of its Security Council veto on 24 February. European amendments requesting stronger language concerning sovereignty, territorial integrity, and peace rejected by Russian veto.

29 April 2025: Russian war is "a war of choice", United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs informs the Security Council, emphasizing that not one day has gone by without civilians

being targeted and calling for a total, immediate, and unconditional ceasefire.

20 June 2025: UN Security Council meeting reports “escalating attacks” and diplomatic developments; highlighting a deadly missile and drone attack on Kyiv (16-17 June) as among the worst in a year. Also emphasising the urgency of peace in Ukraine.

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TOPIC 2: THE ISSUE OF RESOLVING THE LONGSTANDING ISRAEL- PALESTINE CONFLICT

Introduction

The Israel-Palestine conflict is the culmination of many past feuds, ethnic wars, the remnants of fallen empires and colonial era decisions. It was first started by the origin of Zionism, advocating for a Jewish homeland in Palestine in the late 19th century. Since then, it has evolved into Arab

nationalism seeking self-determination, power struggles between Governments and Militias and a complex Political game. At its core, it's a dispute of land and the independence of these different ethnicities.

Today, it is a standing territorial and political struggle between Israel, a predominantly Jewish State, and Palestinians, represented by associations like Hamas on the front-lines. The main points of contention are borders, statehood, and the rights of refugees. As briefly mentioned above, fighting occurs primarily between the Israeli Military and Palestinian groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad in Gaza, along with the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank. Israel defends its actions as security concerns and self-defense, while Palestine claims it's fighting against occupation, displacement and for their own national recognition and independence.

The 'modern' Israel-Palestine war started on 7 October 2023, when Hamas and allied groups launched a surprise assault from Gaza into southern Israel, firing thousands of rockets and carrying out coordinated ground raids that killed around 1,200 people and took more than 200 hostages (US Department of State, 2025). Israel responded with a massive military campaign in Gaza, including heavy airstrikes, a ground invasion, and a blockade on fuel, food, and water.

The war is rooted in decades of unresolved hate; Israel's occupation since 1967, expanding settlements in the West Bank, the blockade of Gaza since 2007, repeated clashes at

Jerusalem's holy sites, and years of unsuccessful peace efforts. Palestinians view the war and suffering as collective punishment and denial of independence, while Israel defends its security concerns, especially after Hamas's rise to power in Gaza. The conflict continues as Israel aims to destroy Hamas, while Palestinians endure catastrophic humanitarian conditions, and regional actors like Iran, Qatar, and the U.S. have become entangled in the crisis.

The humanitarian impact of this long-lasting conflict has been profound and terrible, affecting millions over several decades. The 1948 **Arab-Israeli War** (The Nakba) made an estimated 750,000 Palestinians displaced from their homes, with over 600 villages being depopulated or destroyed (BBC, 2018). This initial stir created a long-lasting refugee crisis, which was intensified after the 1967 **Six-Day War**, when Israel annexed the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem, displacing another ~300,000 Palestinians (BBC, 2018). Over time, many other waves of conflict, military operations and uprisings have further increased the humanitarian damages. During the **First Intifada** (1987-1993) around 1,300 Palestinians and Israelis were killed, cementing the cost of the prolonged conflict and occupation (The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights, 2025). **The emergence of Hamas in Gaza** in 1987 added a new layer to the conflict, increasing civilian exposure to violence.

Now in modern times, as of 2025, reports show that a ballpark of 64,000 - 84,000 Palestinians have died in the current hostilities and civil bombardments since October 7, of which over 18,500 are minors (Reuters, 2025; Nature

2025). The Conflict has displaced roughly 90% of Gaza's Population (around 2 million people), most of whom are forced to move many times every few months due to the ongoing bombing threats and evacuation orders (UNRWA, 2025; OCHA, 2025). Countless homes, schools, and medical facilities have been damaged impacting the education of the very children supposed to move these generations forward.

Due to the conflict's gravity and widespread impact on civilians, countless charities and Organizations like the UN, UNRWA, and the British Red Cross have become involved. Since May 2025, over 10,000 aid trucks have entered Gaza, carrying food and medical supplies to suffering populations (AJC, 2025), with many more coming before that, although the total number since the conflict started is simply untrackable.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND KEY EVENTS

The British Mandate (1920-1947)

The British Mandate refers to the period where Britain was granted administrative authority by the League of Nations to govern the territories of Palestine and Transjordan (Jordan) after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire to prepare these territories for self rule in the future. Under the British Mandate, Jewish Immigration to Palestine increased sharply. In 1917, Britain created the Balfour Declaration to win the support of Jewish Communities in

both allied and enemy countries; it promised the “establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people” (Page, R., 2016) even though the Jewish people were less than 10% of the population of the area (Al Tahhan, 2017). As Jewish settlers arrived, local Palestinian Arabs became increasingly unwelcoming and alarmed. In the years between 1922 and 1935, the Jewish Population increased from 9% to 27% in the before Palestinian dominated area (Al Tahhan, 2017), sparking riots and revolts. By 1947 Britain had reported the conflict to the United Nations, which suggested the splitting of Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states. This plan was adopted in November 1947, with Palestinian Arab Leaders rejecting it, while Zionists accepted it. The British Mandate remains a pivotal act in history, and it unveiled the conflict to come for many years after that.

The War of Independence and Nakba - 1948

According to the United Nations (2025), Jewish Militias launched attacks against Palestinian villages, forcing thousands to flee. On May 14, 1948, just hours after Britain withdrew its forces from Palestine, Israel officially declared Independence. Expectedly, Arab armies from Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon immediately invaded to oppress what they believed was an undermining of Arab dignity. The Arab Israeli war is the name of the conflict that followed, where thousands were killed or injured during the fighting. By early 1949, a series of armistice agreements ended the fighting and set new borders which established the ‘Green Line’ (a de facto border created after the war).

Against a coalition of countries, Israel managed to survive and expand before the original UN plan, controlling roughly 78% of Mandatory Palestine (Britannica, 2024). Gaza was under Egyptian Military rule, and the West Bank and East Jerusalem were occupied and later annexed by Jordan. In the totality of the war over 700,000 Palestinian Arabs fled or were expelled from their homes, an event Palestinians now call the Nakba, meaning “Catastrophe” (United Nations, 2023) which was over 80% of the local population at the time. These refugees and descendants remain in camps to this day, with the war having critically changed their lives. The War is remembered by Israeli History as the ‘War of Independence’ (Israel’s Birth) and by Palestinians as the sad, enraging ‘Nakba’.

Palestinians used the Nakba and the War as a blame for all of their problems. They viewed their discomfort, ridicule, and worsened living conditions on the Israeli people. To them, their state had just been destroyed by the Jewish People and Britain, building a profound hate for these nationalities which remains to this day, visible by the conflict in more recent times.

The Aftermath in 1949 saw Hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees in Gaza, the West Bank, and many neighbouring countries. The newly established State of Israel absorbed Jewish immigrants from Europe, the Middle East, and many other places around the world; on the other hand, Egypt controlled Gaza and Jordan controlled the West Bank. In the 1960s, small scale guerilla attacks around the borders became increasingly common,

reflecting the mutual feelings the two rivaling groups had for each other.

In October 1956 Israel joined Britain and France in the Suez Crisis after Egyptian President Nasser nationalized and claimed the Suez Canal. As an effort to support their side in the war, Israeli forces invaded Sinai to counter Egyptian threats and reached within 10 miles of the Canal.

International pressure from namely the USA and the Soviet Union forced any invading armies to withdraw by 1957 with the aid of UN peacekeepers deployed around the Suez region. The 1956 crisis showed that Western powers and diplomacy now played a major role in the middle east.

The Six-Day War and Occupation - 1967

In the morning of June 5th 1967, in the midst of escalating tensions from Egyptian troop movements, blockades, Soviet warnings, and Arab grievances from the results of prior conflicts Israel employed military force against Egypt for the closing of the Straits of Tiran. Israel argued it was a 'preemptive strike' (U.S. Department of State, 2007). By June 11, the conflict had come to include Jordan and Syria. In just 5 days, Israel had defeated opposing air forces, namely destroying 90% of Egypt's Air Force (Britannica, 2019) and swept over all fronts. The result of this short war was a decisive Israeli victory; Israel captured the Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip from Egypt, the West Bank (Including East Jerusalem) from Jordan, and the Golan

Heights from Syria. Arab casualties were heavy with thousands killed with an approximate 11,000 for Egypt, 6,000 for Jordan and 1,000 for Syria compared to Israel's 700 (Britannica, 2019). Israel nearly doubled its territory; over a million Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank suddenly came under Israeli military occupation.

The Six-Day War had transformed the conflict into a confusing game of 'who is at fault'. The United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 (Nov. 1967) called on Israel to withdraw from territories occupied in the war in exchange for international recognition and peace. However, Israel, backed by many of its people, retained control of Gaza and the West Bank and rejected full withdrawal of its forces without peace guarantees. The recurring refugee issue over the last years had just become worse.

The Yom Kippur War (1973) and the aftermath

On October 6, 1973, Egypt and Syria launched a surprise attack on Israel hoping to reclaim land lost in the Six-Day War of 1967. Egyptian forces managed to cross the Suez Canal and Syrian units overcame Israeli fortifications in the Golan. With its reserve military supplies running out, Israel sent out a call for help to its ally, the USA. At first this was rejected, with Israeli Generals scrambling to make an improvised defensive plan whilst waiting for something to change. The reluctance of the USA changed quickly after the Soviet Union began its own resupply effort to Egypt and Syria, as a part of the American-Soviet power struggle during the Cold War Era. With a newly found strength from its ally, Israel eventually counterattacked crossing back over

the Suez into Egypt and pushing Syrian forces to the Golan Plateau. A UN Security Council ceasefire took hold on October 25. The 1973 war cost thousands of lives and value in military equipment lost. It ended in the same territorial tension as before the war, but it broke the idea of Israeli invisibility and led to diplomacy.

In 1978, Israel agreed to return the entire Sinai Peninsula to Egypt in exchange for lasting peace. The Camp David Accords of 1978 and 1979 Egypt-Israel Treaty formalized this, with Israel's full withdrawal by 1982. These series of agreements normalized the relations between Israel and Egypt, ending their hostility towards each other. Yet, peace among Israel and its other neighbours (Syria and Jordan) remained ominous and elusive.

First Intifada (1987-1993) and the Oslo Peace Process.

The growing Palestinian frustration over Israeli occupation led to the First Intifada (1987-1993), an uprising in the West Bank and Gaza regions. It featured widespread protests, strikes, boycotts and clashes. The uprising caught the Palestinian leadership abroad by surprise and forced new diplomatic talks. In 1988 Jordan officially let go of any claims to the West Bank, and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) responded by issuing a Palestinian Declaration of Independence (1988) and endorsed UN Resolutions 242 and 338; this meant that the PLO recognized Israel's right to exist in exchange for a future Palestinian state in Gaza and the West Bank.

In the early 1990s these changes resulted in the Oslo Accords. Secret negotiations between Israel and the PLO led to mutual recognition of each other in 1993 remembered by Israeli Prime Minister Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser shaking hands on the White House lawn on September 13 of the same year. In the Oslo “Declaration of Principles”, the PLO renounced terrorism and recognized Israel and in turn Israel recognized the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people. A new Palestinian Authority (PA) was formed to govern the West Bank and Gaza in a five-year interim phase. Both sides agreed to negotiate the final-status issues (Jerusalem, refugees, borders and settlements).

Second Intifada and 21st Century Conflicts

In September 2000, a second Palestinian uprising erupted following the collapse of the Camp David talks and a provocative visit by Israel’s leader to Temple Mount. The violence was much worse than the first Intifada, consisting of suicide bombings, Israeli military operations and heavy casualties with more than 4,300 fatalities registered (Britannica, 2025).

In 2005 Israel withdrew its settlers and troops from the Gaza Strip. In the 2006 Palestinian elections, Hamas won a majority and after violent clashes with the rival Fatah faction Hamas took full control of Gaza in 2007; Fatah and the PA remained present in the West Bank. Israel and

Hamas then continued to engage in repeated conflicts like Operation Cast Lead, Pillar of Defense and Protective Edge between 2008-2021 with each featuring thousands of rockets fired from Gaza to Israel and massive Israeli air and ground fighting campaigns. Thousands of Palestinians were killed or wounded and Gaza's infrastructure was severely damaged. These wars produced short ceasefires but no lasting solution with frequent skirmishes throughout the 2010s and 2020s between the two nations. Among these strikes, Jerusalem remained a focus point due to its status as a holy city.

2021-2025 Events Timeline

Although the conflict is most known to have started in 2023, tensions started escalating before then which led to Hamas' famous surprise attack. To get a more complete contextual understanding of the modern conflict, it is necessary to know what happened up until that point.

2021

- **Operation Guardian of the Walls (May):** After weeks of mounting tensions (clashes in the Al-Aqsa Mosque during Ramadan and Palestinian evictions in Sheikh Jarrah), Hamas and other Gaza militants fired rockets into Israel. Israel reacted with an 11 day air and rocket campaign. This skirmish killed at least 250 Palestinians and 13 Israelis before a ceasefire (Reuters, 2023).

2022

- **Operation Breaking Dawn (August):** Israel preemptively struck Gaza targeting Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) commanders (killed their senior leader) after threats to avenge a West Bank arrest. Gaza fired over 1,000 rockets in response (Reuters, 2023). 44 Palestinians died, half were civilians; dozens of Israelis were injured.

2023

- **Hamas Surprise Attack (October 7): Known as the event that sparked the war.** Hamas led militants crossed the border into southern Israel, killing about 1,200 people and taking around 250 hostages (Reuters Staff, 2025). Simultaneously, thousands of rockets were fired from Gaza into Israeli towns. Israel officially declared war on Hamas and launched massive air strikes on Gaza and mounted a siege.
- **Regional Escalation (October 8):** Hezbollah fighters in Lebanon opened a northern front by firing on Israel. Israel ordered the evacuation of Gaza City, forcing its population of 2.3 million to move southward. Humanitarian Aid began moving in through Egypt's Rafah crossing but Gaza's food, water and fuel shortages continued.
- **Launch of a full ground invasion of Gaza (October 27)**
- **First Ceasefire (November 21):** In exchange for the release of half the 250 hostages, Israel and Hamas agreed to a 7-day truce. The truce broke down on December 1st and heavy fighting resumed.

2024

- **International Court of Justice (ICJ) Court Order (January 26):** The ICJ ordered Israel to take all measures within its power to prevent genocide in Gaza.
- **Mass-Murder (February 29):** Israel opened fire on a crowded aid distribution center in Gaza killing over 100 Palestinians seeking help (Reuters, 2025).
- **Iranian Embassy (April 1):** Israel struck Iran's embassy compound in Damascus, killing many Iranian military officers. Iran later hit back by launching missiles and drones at Israel.
- **Ceasefire proposal (May 6):** Hamas announced its agreement to a ceasefire proposal, but Israel had not yet officially accepted. In the meantime, Israeli forces secured a buffer zone in Gaza's border with Egypt and called for evacuations in Rafah.
- **(June and July):** Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu stated that the phase of "intense fighting" was coming to a close, whilst warning that the war would continue until Hamas had been extinguished. Gaza remained in extreme famine risks under the blockade on its borders. Israel ordered the evacuation of the cities Khan Younis and Rafah on July 2nd.
- **Strike on the Golan Heights (July 27):** Rockets by Lebanon's Hezbollah hit Israeli-occupied Golan heights resulting in the death of 12 children. Israel promised to seek revenge (Reuters Staff, 2025).
- **Death of Mohammed Deif (April 1):** Israel declared it had killed Hamas' evasive military chief in an airstrike on July 13; Hamas did not confirm this. Palestinian authorities disclosed that roughly 90

people had died due to the strikes (Reuters Staff, 2025).

- **Polio Case (August 23):** The WHO revealed a polio case in Gaza, the first in 25 years, highlighting the decreasing humanitarian conditions in the region.
- **Explosions along the Lebanese border (September 17):** The Israeli military detonated unexploded projectiles along the Lebanon Border, injuring hundreds of Hezbollah fighters.

2025

- **Ceasefire Begins (January):** A Ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas, with promises from Hamas to release hostages and Israel releasing Palestinian prisoners. Humanitarian Aid into Gaza will also increase, as previously Israel had been limiting it.
- **Operation Might and Sword (18 March):** Israel launched a surprise air and artillery attack on Gaza, bringing the ceasefire to an end. More than 413 Palestinians were killed and roughly 1000 wounded in the attack (Baba, Estrin and Lonsdorf, 2025).
- **Nasser Hospital Strikes (August 25):** Israel struck Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis killing dozens and effectively destroying the hospital
- **Evacuations and mass displacement (Early September):** Israeli forces increased operations in Gaza City. Around 20,000 people left Gaza City toward the south from August 31 to September 7, with a further 25,000 leaving until the 10th of September. Despite consistent orders for evacuations, 1.3/2 million residents remain in Gaza City and the

Northern region where they are prone to strikes. (Abed and Issa, 2025)

- **Strikes on Yemen (September 10):** Israel launches an airstrike campaign on Sanaa and Al-jawf in Yemen targeting Houthi military infrastructure, namely fuel storage and command facilities.
- **Annexation and Settlement Plan (September 11):** Netanyahu, Israel's Prime Minister, signs a West Bank settlement Expansion plan and makes a declaration for the non-existence of a Palestinian State in the future. This confirms earlier expansionary policies and increases tensions regionally and internationally.
- **New York Declaration (September 12):** The New York Declaration calls for “tangible, time-bound, and irreversible” (APNEWS, 2025) steps towards a two-state solution and was passed by the UN General Assembly with a great amount of support.
- **Israeli strikes on Hamas in Qatar (September 13):** Israel bombards a meeting of Hamas Leaders in Doha killing 5 Hamas members and a Qatari Internal Security Officer. The US is sending Secretary of State Rubio to Israel to investigate the event. Israel said the removal of Hamas Leadership in Qatar is necessary to remove the “deal-breaker” in a Gaza Deal. Hamas strongly condemns the strike as impeding ceasefire negotiations (Lewis, 2025; Reuters Staff, 2025; Lee, 2025). Qatar is starting to question its relationship with the USA, having agreed to a trillion dollar deal a few days prior; internationally, it is quite uncertain what the USA might do.

Attitudes of key countries regarding this issue

Iran

Iran has firmly supported the Palestinian cause. Tehran brands Israel as the aggressor and Iran as the defender of Palestine. It has long condemned Israel's offensive and is the main supporter of Hamas, Hezbollah and Houthis, all militant groups fighting against Israel and its allies. It has provided weapons, funding, supplies, and training to these forces. Whilst its involvement in the war is indirect, its public statements and support have made it a target of international condemnation. Iran provides minimal humanitarian aid to Gaza, preferring to offer military aid instead. It does not import from Israel.

Turkey

Turkey has openly declared itself as pro-Palestinian. Erdogan, Turkey's president has called Israel's campaign on Gaza "genocide" many times and urged for a ceasefire and international action. The President's stance regarding the attitudes of western nations has been voiced, calling them "hypocrites" and threatening to invade Israel if it continues its onslaught. Turkey has halted all trade with Israel and backs Lebanon and Hezbollah in their involvement in the war. Turkey has been one of Gaza's largest Humanitarian aid providers, dispatching major relief missions, namely a 2023 ship packed with hospital equipment and flying food into the region. Turkey's President has offered to take

Gazans to Turkish Citizens and has held talks with other nations to broker ceasefires. Turkey has not provided military hardware in the conflict, focusing on diplomacy and aid instead.

Egypt

Officially, Egypt is neutral but calls for humanitarian aid for Gaza and rejects destabilizing actions. The Egyptian President, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, has called for an immediate ceasefire and urgent aid access, warning Israel not to invade the Rafah area of Egypt's Sinai border. Egypt has strongly urged Israel to establish safe corridors to move displaced refugees rather than forcing them into the Sinai region. It has worked with Qatar and the US to mediate truces and hostage exchanges and pressed Israel to re-open the Rafah crossing to humanitarian aid.

Jordan

Jordan has vocally supported Palestine as a reflection of its large Palestinian population and custodian of Islamic Holy Sites. Like other countries, they have repeatedly demanded for ceasefires, condemned Israel's heavy bombings and warned Israel that if it continued forcibly displacing Gazans, it would result in war. By the middle of 2025, Jordan had arranged roughly 140 aid convoys into Gaza through the West Bank (Reuters, 2025). Jordan has also organized an "air-bridge" to Gaza, airdropping roughly 25 tonnes of food and supplies into northern Gaza (Reuters, 2025). Jordanian trucks routinely carry UN aid across the King Hussein

Bridge. Jordan does not provide military aid. Jordan has also not formally cut ties with Israel, but its side is still clear.

Qatar

Qatar is a significant mediator and benefactor towards Gaza. The Qatari government, whilst officially not taking sides, has strongly sought ceasefires and diplomatic solutions. Doha houses Hamas leadership and helps negotiate multiple truce and hostage exchange agreements; as a result, it has been a victim of Israeli retaliation through air-strikes. Qatar has called for humanitarian aid and expanded access and condemned Israel's actions as undermining prospects for future peace. Qatar has long provided large sums of money to Gaza, paying around 30 million USD per month to fund fuel for Gaza's powerplant, public-sector salaries and stipends to needy families (Sayegh, O'Donnell and Howcroft, 2023). Qatar has also sent direct aid (food and cash) and funded infrastructure repair. It has not supplied weapons to Hamas during this war, frequently using its financial and aid support as leverage to negotiate peace and ceasefire agreements.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia has cautiously maintained a position of careful support for Palestine, more openly calling for peace. Saudi officials have stated that they will not normalize relations with Israel without a two-state solution in the future. Its government has condemned what they term Israel's "unnecessary" assault on Gaza's civilians (Reuters Staff, 2025). It has consistently encouraged a permanent ceasefire

and urged for Israel to stop its aggression and withdraw its forces. In practice, Saudi Arabia's actions have been diplomatic and financial rather than military. In early 2024 the kingdom pledged an additional 40 million USD to UNRWA (Reuters, 2024) on top of prior grants, helping the organization make up for US and Western funding cuts.

UAE

The UAE faces a more complex approach compared to other nations due to its normalization with Israel. Abu Dhabi has publicly expressed concern for Palestinian civilians and has expressed the need for a two-state outcome. UAE leaders have supported ceasefires and called for humanitarian aid corridors into Gaza. Emirati officials have also stated that Israeli annexation plans in the West Bank would be frowned upon and labeled some Israel public statements as hostile to regional peace. It has consistently encouraged Israel to respect UN resolutions. As mentioned earlier, the UAE partnered with Jordan in air-aid and also funded long-term relief infrastructure, for example, a water pipeline from Egypt to Gaza to supply hundreds of thousands with potable water. Whilst it does have agreed security cooperation agreements with Israel, it has not yet supplied any military equipment to Israel nor provided military equipment to Hamas. To date, the UAE has focused on political pressure and aid, planning and advocating for Gaza's recovery.

Germany

Germany immediately condemned the Hamas 2023 terror attack as unacceptable, supporting Israel's right to self-defence. On the other hand, German leaders have urged

Israel to limit Civilian casualties and avoid targeting non-military targets. Germany's Foreign Minister has publicly criticized Israel's handling of the situation of Gaza, calling for more aid to be allowed into the region and highlighting that Israel's plans do not facilitate a two-state solution. Friedrich Merz, Germany's Chancellor, has said that Israel's strikes "no longer reveal any logic" (Marsh, Williams and More, 2025). Germany has not yet severed any ties or imposed sanctions on Israel, and it still remains Israel's largest weapons supplier in Europe, having delivered submarines, tanks, and air-defense systems under pre-war contracts. In May 2025, the government halted consideration of new arms requests. Germany has contributed to UN and EU relief funds for Gaza and backed calls for large-scale reconstruction aid after the conflict, insisting that lasting peace is only possible with a two-state solution and assistance to Gaza's population.

India

India's stance is the culmination of its growing Israeli relations but its traditional and historic support for Palestinians. The government has condemned Hamas' initial terror attack as a terrorist assault on civilians, and Prime Minister Modi expressed sympathy towards Israel; its foreign ministry has reiterated support for "a sovereign, independent and viable State of Palestine" existing in peace adjacent to Israel (Reuters, 2023). Indian statements have stressed Israel's right to self-defense but also the requirement to protect innocent civilians and respect International Law. India, like most other countries, has featured a more diplomatic involvement rather than military material. It maintains strong military and economic

ties with Israel and has not yet imposed any trade restrictions or economic sanctions, and it has also not provided any arms or funding to either side. India, although significantly present on the International stage has indicated it would like to continue remaining neutral, in other words, condemning terrorism, calling for restraint and encouraging a political solution to both groups.

Attitudes of the P5 members regarding this issue

USA

The USA strongly backs Israel, providing billions in new military aid since October 2023, vetoing UN ceasefire resolutions, and sanctioning Hamas financiers. The USA has abstained on a March 2024 Ramadan ceasefire resolution. It funds humanitarian aid through NGOs and the Palestinian Authority, but it has briefly paused support for UNRWA. Trade with Israel expanded during the war. More recently, it authorized Israeli strikes on Doha and continues providing large military aid to Israel, with some of its politicians not recognizing Palestine as a sovereign country.

United Kingdom

The UK has condemned Hamas's terror attack and affirmed Israel's right to defend itself, but has also become more vocal about the scale of Israeli operations and restrictions on aid, repeatedly calling for humanitarian aid and pressuring Israel to restore relief deliveries. Britain has provided significant humanitarian funding (the

government's packages and parliamentary briefings report over £100m in support since 2023) and has joined joint international statements (with France, Canada, and others) warning of possible actions if Israel does not lift aid constraints; the UK still designates Hamas as a terrorist organisation and maintains existing export controls rather than wholesale trade bans with Israel.

France

France both backs Israel's security and increasingly imposes forceful humanitarian and legal pressure. France condemned the October 7 attacks, but President Macron and French Ministers have repeatedly preached for immediate ceasefires, stronger humanitarian access, and proposed or supported restrictions on arms directed towards the war; France participated in joint statements (with the UK and Canada) warning of penalties if aid remains blocked and settlement expansion continues. It is a significant donor to UN and EU relief channels for Gaza and the West Bank (tens of millions in emergency and reconstruction pledges) and has made itself available to use diplomatic and economic leverage to avoid actions it sees as undermining a two-state outcome.

Russia

Russia formally condemns terrorism and criticises Israel's actions and recognizes Palestinian suffering. Russian officials called for immediate ceasefires, and condemned large-scale Israeli strikes as ridiculous and a destabilization of the Middle East (Reuters Staff, 2025). Russia also dispatched multiple humanitarian shipments to Gaza early

in the war. Moscow has often opposed the USA, like in council measures that it deemed one-sided and with China, blocked or pushed back on early American drafts, while framing the conflict through legal norms and a two-state political solution. Russia does not directly provide military aid to Israel or Hamas in this war but uses political, legal and humanitarian channels to highlight Palestinian grievances and to contest Western policy. In reality, Russia, whilst helping its Allies, is also trying to contradict American power.

China

China has remained as a mediator and peacemaker; the government and the Foreign Ministry have repeatedly called for an immediate ceasefire and for an urgently revived two-state process, and labeled the crisis as a humanitarian emergency, requiring large amounts of aid. China has sent substantial relief, with Beijing reporting shipments with roughly 60,000 food parcels sent via Jordan (Mfa.gov.cn, 2025) and has engaged diplomatically with Qatar, Egypt, others. At the UN China has criticised measures it regards as one-sided, and it frequently calls for ceasefires and negotiated settlement with critics of actions that worsen civilian suffering. Beijing maintains normal trade with both Israel and many Arab states, and has so far prioritized humanitarian and diplomatic tools over military involvement.

ATTITUDES OF THE UN REGARDING THIS ISSUE

In recent years, the United Nations has consistently called for a ceasefire and reaffirmed support for a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict. The General Assembly has passed multiple resolutions, most notably the December 2024 resolution (157–8) expressing “unwavering support” for Palestinian rights and announcing a 2025 peace summit in France and Saudi Arabia . During 2023, after the Security Council block, the Assembly adopted Resolution ES-10/21 demanding an “immediate and sustained” humanitarian truce. The Security Council itself was blocked by US vetoes, but eventually adopted Resolution 2712 in November 2023 urging “urgent and extended humanitarian pauses” and the release of hostages, and in March 2024, called for a Ramadan ceasefire with the US abstaining. Despite debates, the Council has authorized no military deployments. The Human Rights Council, however, established inquiries into violations and in June 2024 reported evidence that Israeli forces committed crimes against humanity, including “extermination,” while also accusing both Israel and Palestinian groups of war crimes.

Secretary General António Guterres condemned Hamas’s October 7 attacks while stressing they did not happen in a vacuum, and that nothing can justify killing or collective punishment. In August 2025, he again demanded an immediate ceasefire to stop massive death and destruction.

Human Rights Chief Volker Türk 4has repeatedly called for restraint, urging that humanity must come first. UN agencies like UNRWA and OCHA have delivered much needed aid, with 821 trucks of food, medicine, and supplies having entered Gaza by early November 2023. Nonetheless, this is far below the daily need of 500 trucks. UNRWA alone sheltered over 582,000 displaced people in November 2023, with one toilet per 160 people. Despite this, funding halts after Israeli allegations against UNRWA staff left funding gaps. (Unrwa, 2023)

The UN has not imposed sanctions on Israel, Palestine, or their supporters, but it has condemned external escalations, including Iranian strikes and the 2025 airstrike on Doha. Calls by the USA and Israel to sanction Iran were recognized but not performed. The UN's role has been diplomatic, humanitarian, and investigative rather than coercive or military. The UN's resolutions and reports continue to urge all parties to respect international law, protect civilians, and move toward renewed peace talks.

Statistical facts (of Israel and Palestine)

Israel:

- **Official country name:** State of Israel
- **Population:** ~ 9,974,400 (World Bank, Data Year: 2024)
- **Capital:** Jerusalem
- **Languages:** Hebrew (official), Arabic (special status), English commonly used as foreign language

- **Ethnic groups:** Jewish ~ 73.5%, Arab ~ 21.1%, Other ~ 5.4% (Britannica, 2025)
- **Religious groups:** Judaism majority; Muslims, Christians, Druze, others minority
- **Area:** ~ 22,070 km²
- **Climate:** Temperate; hot and dry in southern and eastern desert areas; Mediterranean in most coastal and northern regions with hot summers, wetter winters
- **Borders:** Lebanon (north), Syria (northeast), Jordan (east), Egypt (south-west), Palestine (West Bank & Gaza) and Mediterranean Sea on west
- **Birth rate:** ~ 18.6 births per 1,000 population (Microtrends, 2025)
- **Total fertility rate:** ~ 2.85 children born per woman (Datacommons, 2023)
- **Life expectancy at birth:** ~ 83 (Worldbank, 2025)
- **Literacy:** ~ 98.7% (World Population Review, 2025, Data Year: 2011)

Palestine:

- **Official country name:** State of Palestine
- **Population:** ~ 5.6 million (Worldometer, 2025)
- **Capital:** Proclaimed Jerusalem; Ramallah serves as administrative centre
- **Languages:** Arabic (official), Hebrew (spoken by Israeli settlers and by some Palestinians)
- **Ethnic groups:** Predominantly Arab Palestinians; small minorities (Christian, etc.) Religious groups:

Predominantly Sunni Islam; smaller Christian populations; some others **Area:** ~ 6,020 km² (Gaza + West Bank)

- **Climate:** Mediterranean climate in many areas; Gaza and coastal West Bank have hot dry summers, mild, wetter winters; also arid zones in some areas
- **Borders:** Israel surrounding/present between; West Bank borders Jordan to the east; Gaza borders Egypt to south-west; near Israel on other sides
- **Birth rate:** ~ 28.8 births per 1,000 population (PCBS, Data Year: 2022)
- **Total fertility rate:** ~ 3.31 children born per woman (Statista, 2023)
- **Life expectancy at birth:** ~ 65.2 years (Datacommons, 2023)
- **Literacy:** ~ 98.0% (Trading Economics, 2024)

Previous actions of the UN

The United Nations has engaged in the Israel-Palestine conflict since as early as 1947 where it proposed the partition of British Mandate Palestine into Jewish and Arab states via Resolution 191 (II). It has established organisations like UNRWA and UNSTO to provide aid and monitor ceasefires and armistices. It has played a key role in ensuring that Human rights are preserved, and without it there is a substantial probability that the clashes throughout the years would've been far worse.

UN Peacekeeping and Observation Missions

- **UNSTO (1948-date):** The United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, established in May 1948, was the first UN peacekeeping operation. UNSTO military observers remain present in Israel, Palestine, and relevant neighbouring countries “to monitor ceasefires, supervise armistice agreement, prevent isolated incidents from escalating and assist other UN operations.” (UN, 2019).
- **UNIFIL/UNDOF:** Focused in Lebanon and the Golan Heights, the UN Interim Force In Lebanon and the UN Disengagement Observer Force help maintain regional stability.
- **Special Envoys and Offices:** The UN Secretary General appoints a special coordinator for the middle east peace process (UNSCO), and often dispatches envoys to mediate. The UNSCO coordinator also regularly briefs the SC on Palestinian Issues.

Significant Resolutions and Declarations

- **GA Resolution 181 (1947):** Called for the splitting of Arab and Jewish states into independent states, and an international regime for Jerusalem;
- **GA Resolution 194 (1948):** Validated the refugees’ rights to return or compensation; created the Conciliation Commission for Palestine;
- **GA Resolution 302 (IV) (1949):** Created UNRWA to assist Palestinian refugees;
- **SC Resolution 242 (1967):** Called for justice and lasting peace after the Six-Day War by the withdrawal

of Israeli armed forces from occupied territories and end to any claims by countries in the conflicts, with such agreeing that they are no longer in conflict;

- **SC Resolution 338 (1973):** Called for immediate ceasefire in the Yom Kippur War and emphasized Resolution 242;
- **SC and GA (1980):** Resolution 476 and 478 (1980) declared Israeli measures in occupied East Jerusalem null and void under International law;
- **GA Resolution 67 and 19 (2012):** Validated the Palestinian Observer Mission to “non-member Observer State” status (like the Vatican state);
- **HRC Resolutions:** The UN Human Rights Council consistently passes resolutions on the human rights situation in Palestine, condemning Israeli settlement expansion and demolition of property amongst other things.

Diplomatic and Political Efforts

The UN participates in and strongly supports many peace initiatives. It is a member of the Middle East Quartet (which has significantly contributed to making two-state solutions), it helped organize the 1991 Madrid Conference, and backed the Oslo Accords as steps toward peace.

Upholding Human Rights and International Law

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued an advisory opinion in 2004 on Israel’s West Bank Barrier. The Court stated that the barrier violated international law and should

be torn down. In January 2024, after South Africa brought a case under the Genocide Convention, the court ordered provisional measures demanding Israel “to take all measures within its power to prevent the commission of genocide” (MENA, 2024) in Gaza to guarantee humanitarian access.

An HRC commission, the “Goldstone Mission”, reviewed Gaza in the 2008-2009 conflict; its report accused both Israel and Hamas of possible war crimes. Since 2021, an “Independent International Commission of Inquiry” by the HRC has been annually reporting on the causes of the conflict; its report in June 2024 revealed that both Hamas and Israel had committed war crimes during the 2023 clash. The specialized UN Reporter on Human Rights also delivers annual reports on Human Rights abuses.

Final Remarks

The Israel-Palestine conflict has an unquantifiable number of consequences. It affects millions of people, and costs billions of Dollars to maintain. Stories of people witnessing this are easily accessible online, with creators like Reachabed retelling and showcasing their harsh day to day lives and poor living conditions as ambassadors for official charities and organizations. For most, who live in a peaceful and developed society, it is impossible to imagine the conditions of the millions of people living inside Gaza and borders around the conflict. This conflict needs a solution,

which is what the UN, and countless diplomats around the world constantly work on, and you will too.

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