

Final Project Research Paper Milestone Four:

Hamas and Israel Gaza Conflict

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Abstract

Since the re-founding of Israel, a lot of conflicts have arisen. Some nations have refused to acknowledge Israel as a Sovereign country, while others acknowledge it but with limits. Fewer still completely acknowledge its legitimacy or right to exist. It is an extremely small country, but it has a huge global impact on the world. Eyes from every nation tend to watch Israel and the surrounding nations as conflict and war wage nearly constantly. No other nation in the world must face the kind of hardship and terrorism that Israel faces almost daily, especially over the Gaza strip and West Bank. An organization has formed in response to this conflict, Hamas. The United States of America and other nations have designated this organization as a terrorist organization. Of course, the leaders of Hamas deny this classification and claim that they are a valid government organization ruling over their own people, the Palestinians, and are fighting the Israeli occupation of their lands. Therefore, this paper will seek to explain why the terrorist classification of Hamas is valid by studying their history, their theories or stance on jihad, their stance towards Israel, and their plans for their people. The information and data collected will be presented and explained. Their policies and procedures will be explained and compared to other known radical terrorist organizations. It will also seek to recommend policy to deal with their terrorism and how to resolve the Gaza conflict. Every nation deserves to experience peace and have their citizens feel safe in their own homes. For this to happen for Israel, the Gaza conflict must be resolved. Therefore, the Hamas organization must be dealt with appropriately. Before that can happen, a deeper understanding of their organization and the conflict over Gaza is required so the appropriate actions can be taken to create a peaceful resolution.

Outline

Milestone 1

Topic Selection

The Israel and Hamas Conflict over Gaza.

Abstract

I have covered in my abstract what will appear in my paper. Generally, the paper is written first, then the abstract. The abstract is a summarization of the paper, the problems it covers and the results it found. Instead, my abstract will be a breakdown of what the paper will seek to learn given the paper is not finished yet.

Outline

Milestone 2

Literature Review

This section will contain my review of each of my chosen Literature or documents that I have found on my subject line. I will break down each source and cover the key findings, concepts, and developments from each of them.

Supporting Tables/Charts

This section will show any graphs or tables that I will create based on the data I have found. There will be a minimum of 3 of them.

Introduction

This section will be the introduction to my paper. It will have my thesis topic and a basic explanation of what will be covered. It will go more into depth of the problem revolving around the Gaza strip and why there is so much conflict revolving around it.

Milestone 3

Policy Paper

This part of the paper will cover the policy recommendations based on the results of the research into Gaza and the Hamas organization. I will cover their government organization, their policy, and procedures, and how it is related to radical Islamic extremism. I will present policy recommendations on how they can restructure themselves to remove their terrorist classification and how to resolve their conflict with Israel and their allies, if a peaceful resolution is even possible. I will discuss what Israel and Hamas can do or change in order to deal with the problem over the Gaza conflict and eliminate terrorism for all people in the area.

Milestone 4

Final Paper

Globalization

In this section I will discuss the impact of globalization has on the Gaza conflict between Hamas and Israel. If globalization will help or hinder a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

Impacts

This section will discuss the impact Hamas has had on the Gaza people, the Israeli people, and the global impact on nations around the world.

Theories/Sources

This section will be used to establish my theories on the Gaza conflict and what sources I used to form my opinions.

Conclusion

This section will give the final determination of the information collected and why I have taken the stance I have on Hamas.

Milestone 5

Research

In this section I will post my project to my online portfolio, and I will share all of my research I gathered for my paper.

Introduction

Since the re-founding of Israel in 1948, a lot of conflict has arisen. Some nations, roughly 28 countries (World Population Review 2023), predominantly Muslim or Arab nations, have refused to acknowledge Israel as a sovereign country, including the Hamas controlled Palestinian territories known as the Gaza Strip and the West bank. While others acknowledge it as a nation, but with limits, fewer still completely acknowledge its legitimacy or right to exist, like the United States does. Each country has had the ability to choose its own capital and establish it without obstacles. Not Israel. That right has been denied them for decades. Israel established Jerusalem as its capital upon its reformation as a nation. Yet other nations refused to accept the designation of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel due to the conflict such a claim would cause with the other countries in the Middle East, especially the Palestinian forces who claim west Jerusalem as their Palestinian capital. Instead, the nations that support Israel's creation established their headquarters and embassies in a city of their choosing, Tel Aviv; including the United States until 2018 when President Trump moved it to Jerusalem, despite the wide opposition. Israel is an extremely small country, but it has a huge global impact on the world. Eyes from every nation tend to watch Israel and the surrounding nations as conflict and war wage nearly constantly. No other nation in the world faces the kinds of hardship and terrorism

that Israel faces almost daily, except during limited times of calls for cease fire. No other nation has ever had to face the sheer number of terrorist attacks or wars that Israel has. For example, Israel has had to endure attacks from armed groups who launched “more than 4,369 rockets in 11 days in May 2021, … (and) 1,100 by PIJ in fewer than a mere three days” (Youssef 2022). There are a number of terrorists organizations that target Israel. A few of these organizations are HAMAS, Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), Hezbollah, and the Palestinian National Authority (PA). This paper will predominately focus on HAMAS and the Gaza conflict in an effort to explain why their designation as a terrorist group is accurate and what needs to change in order for them to be removed from the terrorist organization list. In order to achieve this goal, several articles discussing HAMAS and the Gaza conflict have been reviewed.

Literature Review

Does the Hamas victory advance peace in the Middle East?

Summary

The article “Does the Hamas victory advance peace in the Middle East?” was written by Professor Shahram Akbarzadeh and was published in 2006. It seeks to answer the question as to if the Hamas political electoral victory would be a positive move towards peace between the Palestinians and Israel. The author breaks down some historical facts of Hamas like their origins, motives, and political stances on subjects like Israel. Akbarzadeh points out that Hamas as an “organization is formally committed to the destruction of Israel and there is no indication that Hamas leaders would recant this pillar of their doctrine” (Akbarzadeh 2006, 201). He covers the origins of Hamas back in 1987 as a response to the increasing need for humanitarian aid the Palestinians in the Gaza strip needed but Israel refused or was unwilling to offer. Hamas started out building hospitals and schools. Given these honorable origins, Israel believed Hamas might

be a great answer to the PLO issues. However, these hopes were quickly dashed. Professor Akbarzadeh covers the differences between the PLO and Hamas mainly focusing on their stance towards Israel. While the PLO demanded the borders of Israel return to their pre-1967 war, Hamas demanded the complete return of all Arab lands they deemed as *awqaf* or holy lands. Therefore, the charter of Hamas called for the complete destruction of Israel and still holds this viewed at the time of this article. Despite these views, Hamas won an overwhelming majority during the 2006 elections with a win of 74 out of 132 seats in the Legislative Assembly (Akbarzadeh 2006). In Akbarzadeh's conclusion, he states that "peace is not served by the election of Hamas to government", but it could be the start of a slow and painful process to move away from its role as a militant/terrorist opposition party to a party of government and administration (Akbarzadeh 2006).

Analysis

Professor Shahram Akbarzadeh was extremely thorough in his evaluation of the election results. He made sure to cover important information going back to the foundation of Hamas in order to make an accurate assessment of the political ramifications of the election. He provided details and supported his position. It was thoughtful and well written. His position was clear and easy to understand. His logic was easy to follow and seemed to lack biases.

Strategic Change in Terrorist Movements: Lessons from Hamas

Summary

The article "Strategic Change in Terrorist Movements: Lessons from Hamas" by Hillel Frisch deals with Hamas' strategic changes in their tactics and use of violent methods and non-violent methods in their actions against Israel, and their strategic changes in focusing on external actions against Israel or internal actions against adversaries within their own government and party. Frisch details the rapid changes and focus of Hamas from their external foe to their

internal foes and from violent to non-violent actions over the course of many years due to the effectiveness of the current actions and direction of their current methods. When Hamas' violence against Israel becomes less effective because of Israel's counterterrorism methods, they will switch to brokering a 'lull' in the violence and use negotiations to try to further their cause. They will also switch their focus to internal government adversaries for a while and use violence or non-violence, depending on the effectiveness of their current methods. Frisch references the studies of Lichbach, Enders and Sandler and shows how their predictions have come to pass when the actions of Hamas become less effective. Frisch also shows how Israel has taken advantage of the changing strategies of Hamas to further their own goals and also how both Israel and the United States have not taken full advantage of Hamas' changing strategies when it would have benefitted them more. Frisch then concludes by pointing out that further analysis of the changing strategies could serve to reduce the casualties and violence of Hamas towards Israel and possibly steer them away from being a terrorist organization to a more peaceful government party.

Analysis

Hillel Frisch's article "Strategic Change in Terrorist Movements: Lessons from Hamas" provided a very interesting look at the changing strategies that Hamas has undergone since their formation. Frisch, using the research of Lichbach, Enders and Sandler wrote a very informative analysis of the history of Hamas and their changing strategies in regard to Israel, their external enemy, and their internal governmental foes. His article was well written and informative. He showed no bias towards Hamas, except for their use of violence to solve their problems and achieve their goals. Frisch ended with a very practical and useful conclusion. His article would be a good source for anyone working in counterterrorism and will help them gain more perspective as to the inner workings of Hamas and probably many other terrorist groups.

‘This is ordinary behaviour’: Categorization and culpability in Hamas leaders’ accounts of the Palestinian/Israeli conflict.

Summary

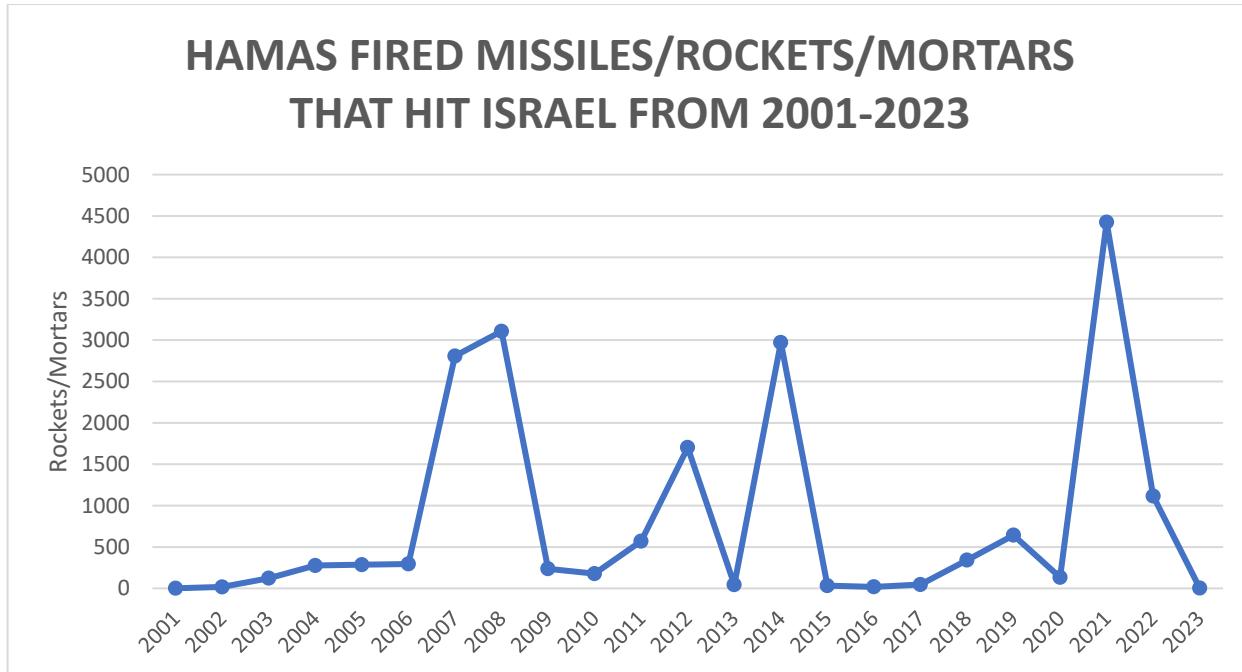
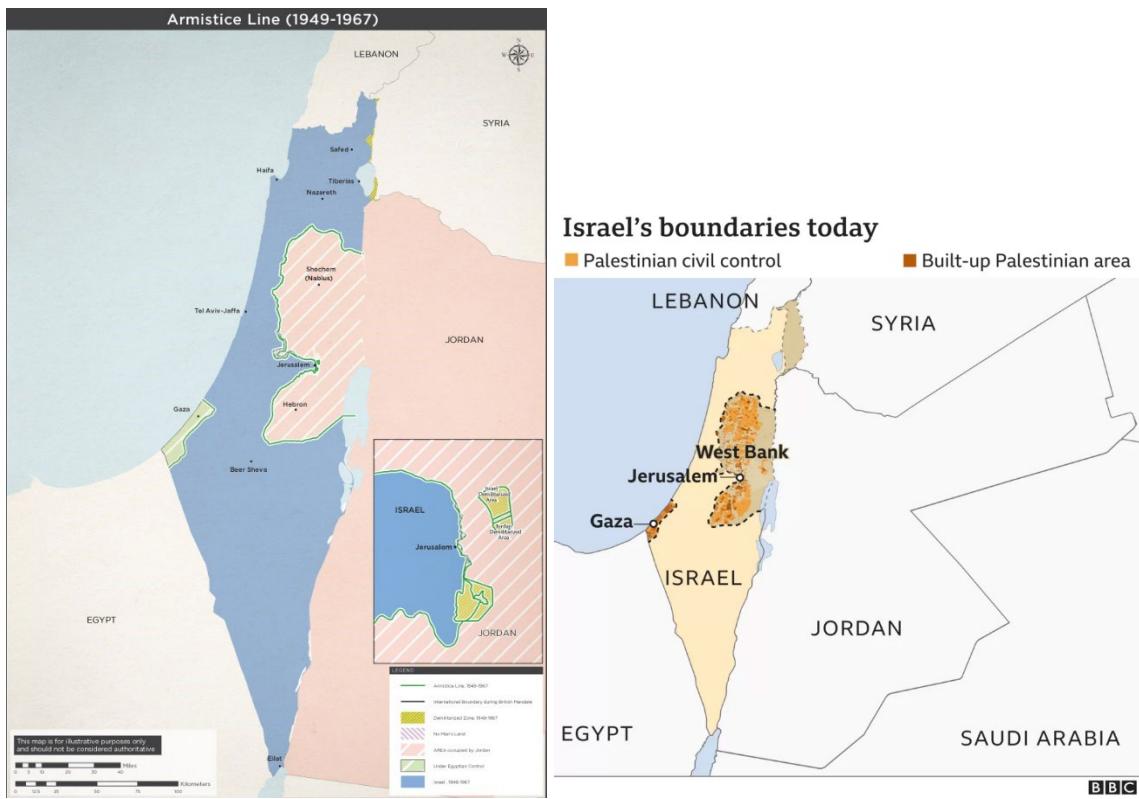
The article ““This is ordinary behaviour”: Categorization and culpability in Hamas leaders’ accounts of the Palestinian/Israeli conflict” examines the “constructions of inter-group relations within the context of the Palestinian/Israeli conflict” (McVittie, McKinlay and Sambaraju 2012), written by Andy McKinlay, Chris McVittie, and Rahul Sambaraju talk about how the actions of Hamas in their attacks against Israel are presented by leaders of Hamas. They describe several interviews in which questions were put forth by the interviewers, which used types of categorizations, and then how the interviewees recategorized the groups mentioned changing the perspective and shifting the blame or culpability of those involved in the acts of violence. The authors first referenced how criminals will categorize themselves and they made comparisons with the leaders of Hamas. They thoroughly covered several extracts from interviews and broke down each change or shift in culpability very thoroughly. They talked about how even the use of categorizations that use the defenseless victim can shift culpability of those involved. They concluded by pointing out that the perspective of those involved carries weight in how actions are categorized, but that it would be better if the actions and those involved were inter-linked making the actions of all those involved more culpable.

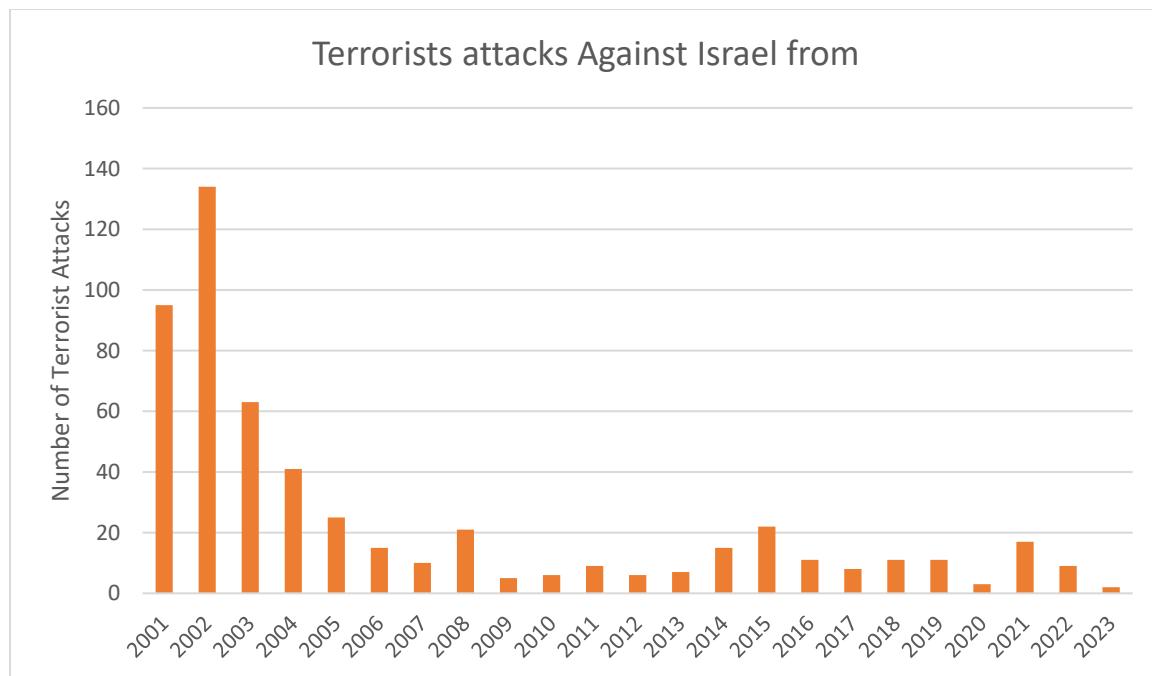
Analysis

The authors explain their methods, summarize their sources, and thoroughly examine each interview extract. However, I found that their methods of explaining their methods and findings to be monotonous and repetitive. They seemed to repeat themselves several times even when talking about different interview extracts. This made understanding and staying focused on what they were saying quite difficult. Research papers such as this could be greatly improved if

methods of delivering the findings were varied and not repetitively used causing monotony. It would also help to make the findings more memorable and that would make their paper have more influence.

Maps, Charts, and Graphs





Policy Paper

Hamas, Israel, and the Gaza Strip

Since the re-founding of Israel in 1948, the Hamas controlled Palestinian territories known as the Gaza Strip and the West bank have refused to accept Israel as a Sovern country. This has caused countless atrocities in both Israel and the Palestinian territories. Unfortunately, the conflict between the Jewish and Palestinian people has led to the formation of an organization known as the Islamic Resistance Movement and better known as Hamas on August 18, 1988. According to the charter of Hamas, written when it was formed, Hamas's goal is to see Islam ruling over every inch of what they call Palestinian land. This can be seen in their own words, "The Islamic Resistance Movement is a distinguished Palestinian movement, whose allegiance is to Allah, and whose way of life is Islam. It strives to raise the banner of Allah over every inch of Palestine.' (Article 6)" (Pike and Aftergood 2010). Hamas continues with "Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it.' (Preamble)" (Pike and Aftergood 2010). The covenant of the Hamas continues to say:

[Peace] initiatives, and so-called peaceful solutions and international conferences are in contradiction to the principles of the Islamic Resistance Movement. Those conferences are no more than a means to appoint the infidels as arbitrators in the lands of Islam... There is no solution for the Palestinian problem except by Jihad. Initiatives, proposals, and international conferences are but a waste of time, an exercise in futility.' (Article 13) (Pike and Aftergood 2010)

So far, the Hamas covenant has designated Israel as an enemy to be destroyed, has stated that peace is a waste of time and will never be achieved, and claimed the goal to raise the banner of Allah over every inch of the land they call Palestine. The land they call Palestine is the land that Israel holds. With this in mind, we will cover the known history of the land of Israel and look at the claim of the Palestinian people on it.

Who are the Palestinian people and why do they lay claim to the land Israel currently holds. According to many sources, there has never been a state or county called Palestine. According to Britannica, “the word Palestine derives from Philistia, the name given by Greek writers to the land of the Philistines, who in the 12th century BCE occupied a small pocket of land on the southern coast, between modern Tel Aviv–Yafo and Gaza” (Jones, Bugh and Albright 2023). The writers continue to explain that it was the Romans in the 2nd century that revived the name by calling the southern portion of Syria as “Syria Palaestina”. However, the name had no official status until after World War I. However, according to the United Nations history, when the land was occupied by the Ottoman Empire, there was Ottoman Territory that was designated Palestine. When the Ottoman Empire fell, these lands fell under the control of the League of Nations in 1922. All of the Ottoman territories became full states except Palestine.

What about before the Ottoman Empire held the lands? Well, the land belonged to the Jewish people. According to the Jewish Virtual Library (JVL),

before the Israelite conquest, the Egyptians called what is now Israel, [Syria](#), and [Lebanon](#) Retenu. The term Canaan appeared in the fifteenth century BCE and was subsequently referred to as Eretz Bnei Yisrael,” the “Land of the Children of Israel” ([Joshua 11:22](#)) or Eretz Yisrael ([I Samuel 13:19](#)) after the Jewish return from Egypt. The name “Israel” was first used in the tenth century BCE to refer to the northern Jewish kingdom following the [division of Solomon’s](#) kingdom. During the [Persian period](#), the area that is now Israel and Syria was referred to as Coele-Syria. A derivative of the name Palestine first appears in Greek literature in the 5th Century BCE when the historian Herodotus used the word “Palaistine” to refer to the coastal strip inhabited by the Philistines.

They go on to explain how the land was originally referred to as Judaea. It was separate from Syria and the land some referred to as Palestine. The name Judaea was used as early as 300 BCE. Coins from the area with the name Judaea or something similar were found from the age before the first Jewish Revolt in 66-70 CE. This revolt was crushed by the Romans and to attempt to remove the Jewish claim on the land, Judaea was renamed to Palestine. However, the Judaeans have an even stronger claim to the land than this. In recent history, some 10 years ago,

archeological evidence has uncovered the remains of the ancient city of Shaarayim, better known as the City of David and his palace. David being the biblical King David from the Tanach, or the Old Testament. The archaeologists at the dig state, “To date no palaces have been found that can clearly be ascribed to the early tenth century BCE as we can do now” (Israel Antiquities Authority 2013). Other digs in Jerusalem have uncovered the ancient city of Jerusalem hidden below the modern city. Where they have found countless ancient Hebrew artifacts like a royal seals from the time period of the Biblical King Zedekiah. The seals were from two of King Zedekiah’s royal advisors that were listed in Scriptures. These royal advisors were Gedaliah son of Pashhur and Jucal son of Shelemiah (Orenstein 2021). In other digs they have found ancient coins with Hebrew markings written on it found in the ancient city of Jerusalem from the time before its first destruction. They have been working for years to uncover the ancient city hidden below the modern one. As of today, they have uncovered entire buildings and homes and the aquafers mentioned in scriptures being used as secret ways into and out of the city.

Therefore, now we have land that was a territory of the Ottoman Empire called Palestine, and a link of the name to the word Philistia, or better known as the people of the Philistines. In addition to the ancient historical digs linking the Jews to the land predating any Palestinian claims or the Ottoman Empire. However, for arguments sake, let’s dig further and figure out who the Philistines actually were. “The Philistines were an Aegean people – more closely related to the Greeks and with no connection ethnically, linguistically, or historically with Arabia – who conquered the Mediterranean coastal plain that is now Israel and Gaza in the 12th Century BCE” (Jewish Virtual Library (JVL) 2023). This fact can be backed up and verified by the DNA evidence found in an archeological dig in 2016 uncovered the remains of individuals they have dated from the time the Philistines were known to be in Israel. The DNA extracted from these

remains point to the fact that the Philistines were of Greek, Crete, and Sardinia decent (Romey 2019). However, the modern term of Palestinians refers to an Arab people, not the descendants of the Philistines. What about the people who lived in the Palestinian territory, were they all Arabs? No, the people who lived in the area under the Ottoman Empire that was referred to as Palestine were Christian, Jews, and Muslims (Jewish Virtual Library (JVL) 2023). When the Ottoman Empire fell, there was a British mandate established using the “Balfour Declaration” of 1917, which stated the British government supported the “the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people” (United Nations n.d.). Then Britain turned over the question of the Israeli state to the United Nations (UN) in 1947. Unfortunately, the UN’s first response was to propose the termination of the mandate and instead partition the land into two states, one Israel for the Jews, and the other Palestine. In this proposition they also wished to make Jerusalem an internationalized city that neither would rule. Before this plan could be played out, the Jews that lived in the proposed land for Israel declared their freedom and started and won the war of 1948 with the Arab controlled territory that the UN intended to be Palestine. Winning 77 percent of the land meant to be Palestine, and also a large part of Jerusalem, they established the nation of Israel as we know it today.

As a result of this rebirth of the Israeli nation, Hamas was created. As discussed in their covenant, their singular goal is to reclaim all the land they claim as Palestinian lands from the Jews and form an independent Palestine free from Jewish control. Their methods to accomplish this goal, terrorism. In addition to the constant terrorist attacks involving IEDs and suicide bombings, they have launched countless rockets and mortars and the occasional missile on Israel. They have massacred thousands of people, many of them have been their own Palestinian people. The actions of Hamas have countered and interfered with all peace negotiations that have

been formed. In 2003, “the Quartet (US, EU, Russia, and the UN) released a Road Map to a two-State solution” that brought about Israel pulling its settlers and troops out of Gaza in 2005 (United Nations n.d.). Then in 2006, the Quartet conditioned granting assistance to the Palestinian Authority (PA) if they would recognize Israel, commit to nonviolence, and accept previous agreements made between them and Israel. All this progress was halted by the hostile takeover of Gaza by Hamas in 2007. Since then, no progress has been made towards finding a peaceful solution. Israel has faced nearly constant assault from Hamas attacks from Gaza including attacks that have taken place this year, 2023. Despite the democratic elections of the Palestinian people, Hamas’s claim to be a Palestinian government, and one of their leaders being elected as the President of Palestine, these attacks on Israel have not stopped. They have yet to change their stance towards Israel, and continue to call for jihad against what they term as the Jewish occupation of their Palestinian lands. This cannot be allowed to continue.

In conclusion, the land that Israel owns is rightfully theirs. Their claim to the land far outdates and proceeds any claim the Arab Palestinians have. Archeological digs have shown the Jewish claim to the land to the known biblical times of the first Kings of Israel. The palace of King David has been discovered and the original city of Jerusalem has been uncovered beneath the modern city. The land is undeniably Israeli land. Therefore, to establish a sense of safety, free from terrorism and constant bombings, Hamas has to be eliminated, and their control over Gaza and the West Bank needs to be removed. The Arab nations surrounding Israel that have been attempting to broker peace between the two people, namely Egypt, Jordan, or Syria, should establish unoccupied land from their own territories and set it as a Palestinian state. This state should be outside of Israel and should not share a border with them. If the Palestinian people refuse to cohabit peacefully with Israel in which they reside, then they should be relocated to a

place of their own, free of the Jewish people they hate. All people and nations deserve the right to live free of tyranny, attack, and subjugation. If cohabitating peacefully is impossible, then separation must occur. The Palestinians should be given a state of their own, where they can govern themselves, and be recognized as a Sovern nation. However, this state must be provided outside the boarders of Israel where both groups of people can be free to dwell safely.

Globalization

The conflict in the Middle East unfortunately has a larger impact than just the events that take place in Israel and the Middle East. The terrorist organizations often link the US and other allies of Israel as prime targets for their terrorism as well. To add to this, many of the Middle East countries supply the terrorist organizations with land, sanctuary, and monetary support. Not to mention the oil that many of the nations supply to the rest of the world. Also, peace conferences generally have nations from all around the world attend those meetings. The last one that President Trump organized had representatives from 19 different nations attended the summit including all of the Arab Gulf states. Unfortunately, due to the boycott of the meeting by the PA, only 15 Palestinian businessmen attended, all of whom were either arrested, threatened, and harassed upon their return. Due to no Palestinian official being precent, Israel felt it was inappropriate to attend and therefore only a few independent businessmen from Israel attended. This led to it being an almost complete failure with neither party, Israel nor Palestine for whom the conference was intended, sending any official representatives. The only positive outcome that President Trump's attempt achieved was the “signing of the Abraham Accords with Bahrain and the UAE, and (achieved) the normalization of relations between Israel, Morocco, and Sudan” (Jewish Virtual Library (JVL) 2023). This is just one example of the many peace conferences and summits that have been organized for the sake of the Palestinian people and Israel.

Why do the events in the Middle East have the attention of so many different nations and have such a global impact? Some would give different theories to answer this question. However, most if not all will boil down to religion. Israel is and has always been a nation under fire. Three different religious faiths deem the land that Israel holds as important to their beliefs. It is the ancestral home of the Jewish and Israeli people since the exodus from Egypt during biblical times. Some even argue that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the founding fathers of the Israeli people lived somewhere in the area before their family followed Joseph into Egypt. Then there is the importance of the Christian faith because of the link to the Jewish prophet, or the Christian Messiah, on which the New Testament was based. The third religion is that of the Muslims, who link their prophet, Muhammad to the land because he claimed to have been transported to Jerusalem during his “night journey” and ascended into Heaven. Muhammad created the religion of Islam and linked it to the Jews and Christians by recognizing all of their prophets mentioned in the Bible and then claiming their holy city Jerusalem as holy to them as well. Thus, linking their religion of Islam to the same city of religious importance as the Jews and Christians. This importance has made the land the target of many wars and atrocities and has caused most if not all nations to look towards the land deemed holy by so many people. The fact is, that the Israelites built Jerusalem, but the Muslims, Christians, and many others conquered it at different times throughout history.

Impacts

The impacts of the conflict in the Middle East between the Palestinians and other Arab people and Israel are global and devastating to more than just the people in the Middle east. Not only do a vast majority of the nations around the world attempt to establish peace, but they are also impacted in other ways as well. Terrorism reaches beyond borders. Hate inspires acts that

cause more devastation than the immediate loss of life. The conflict between Israel and Gaza has had global ramifications. The terrorism it has inspired has reached beyond the surrounding area. Because of the terrorism and hate towards Israel, those that are allies of Israel are also a target. Many terrorist groups are focused on the close enemy, but some see it as their mission to cut the head off the snake as they say to achieve their goal of Israel's destruction. They see the US as the head of the infidels that support Israel and inspire others to do the same. Nations around the world have felt the impact of terrorism through the events of 9/11 and others like it. Then there are the local terrorists acts in the Middle East and radical regimes that have inspired wars that have caused mass refugee problems. All European nations have felt the impact and burden of trying to care for the mass influx of refugees into their lands. Therefore, it is evident that all suffer due to the hatred, radical beliefs, and acts of a few.

The number of lives lost on both sides during the turmoil that is ever present since the founding of Israel is heartbreaking. Gaza is almost constantly launching rockets and mortars at Israel. Israel's iron dome succeeds in stopping most, but not all of the attacks. Those that hit their target cause not only loss of life, but mass destruction and financial hardship. The damage must be repaired, but the lives lost cannot be replaced. Many rockets that are launched do not even reach their target. They misfire or fall short, thus landing in Gaza and slaughtering their own people. The destruction of their own homes and buildings causes undo financial hardship on an already financially devastated people on top of the vast cost to produce and fire the rockets themselves.

Policy

Since 1948, there have been many attempts and different strategies and policies created to resolve the conflict in the Middle East and broker peace between the Israeli people and the Islam

or Palestinian people. Unfortunately, not all the nations trying to help have been on the same side or have had the same plan in mind. For example, in the beginning when Israel was first trying to establish itself, Great Britain was in support of creating an Israeli country in their ancestral homeland that was previously controlled by the Ottoman Empire. As mentioned before, the British established a mandate using the “[Balfour Declaration](#)” of 1917. Then Britain turned over the question of the Israeli state to the United Nations (UN) in 1947. The UN’s first response was to propose the termination of the mandate. Instead, they desired to partition the land into two states. This two-state resolution has been brought up many times since then. This proposal was recommended during the Nov. 22nd, 1967, UN council meeting and is known as the Security Council Resolution 242 (Saleem 2021).

Since the failure of the original UN Resolution 242, there have been many new attempts by many different nations to broker peace. There were the Camp David accords in 1978, The Israel/Egypt peace treaty in 1978, the Madrid Conference in 1991, the Oslo I Accord in 1993, the 1994 Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, the Camp David Summit Meeting in 2000, the Arab Peace Initiative in 2002, the Roadmap peace plan of 2003, the Annapolis meeting in 2007, the Washington meeting of 2010, the Paris Summit of 2017, and then President Trumps peace plan of 2020 (Saleem 2021). These are just a few of the many attempts to broker peace between Israel and the Arab/Palestinian people. All have failed in the end. They sometimes resulted in a cease fire that ultimately ended with more attacks or another war. Lasting peace has yet to be achieved despite the vast numbers of nations and their intelligence agencies that have attempted to resolve the conflict. Every US President since 1967 has attempted to broker peace in the Middle East and resolve the tensions between the Israeli and Palestinian people. President Clinton “offered the

most thorough and judicious peace parameters ever conceived by any foreign statesman. They all failed" (Ben-Ami 2019).

There have been a few attempts to negotiate between Israel and the Palestinians directly. One of the closest attempts to almost succeed was took place during the Oslo Accords in 1994 and was initiated behind the scenes by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) when it was ruled by Yasser Arafat. Israel and the PLO even signed a joint Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles (DOP), which was signed on September 13, 1993. Israel recognized the PLO as a representative for the Palestinian people. The DOP was to be conducted in stages and the following stages were successfully implemented:

- May 4, 1994: the Gaza-Jericho Agreement was signed, includes agreement to a withdrawal of Israeli military forces from Gaza and Jericho, a transfer of authority from the Israeli Civil Administration to a Palestinian Authority (PA), the structure and composition of the Palestinian Authority, its jurisdiction and legislative powers, a Palestinian police force, and relations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority (Jewish Virtual Library (JVL) 2023).
- August 29, 1994, the Agreement on Preparatory Transfer of Powers, and Responsibilities. These powers were successfully transferred to the Palestinian people in the following order:
 - Education & Culture (carried out on August 29, 1994).
 - Social Welfare & Tourism (both carried out on November 13-14, 1994).
 - Health & Taxation (both carried out on December 1, 1994).
- August 27, 1995, a protocol was signed transferring additional spheres to the Palestinian Authority: labor, trade and industry, gas and gasoline, insurance, postal services, statistics, agriculture, and local government.
- September 28, 1995, the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip was signed in Washington, D.C.

However, violence brought on Israel by the different terrorist organizations halted any further progress in this area. Several other attempts were made later that ended in similar results. The Roadmap plan that was signed by Israel and established, but then the hudna (cease fire) was ended when multiple terrorist attacks were carried out against Israel by different terrorist organizations. On August 19th the suicide bombing of a bus in Jerusalem, in which 22 people

were killed and over 130 wounded officially ended the cease fire and resulted in Israel declaring all-out war against Hamas and other terrorist organizations (Jewish Virtual Library (JVL) 2023).

The most recent agreement, as discussed previously, that was attempted and organized by US President Trump in 2017 known as Trump's Ultimate Deal was at best a complete failure. This proposal included his the "Peace to Prosperity" plan. The only positive outcome that President Trump's attempt achieved was the "signing of the Abraham Accords with Bahrain and the UAE, and (achieved) the normalization of relations between Israel, Morocco, and Sudan" (Jewish Virtual Library (JVL) 2023).

Even Israel's intelligence agency, Mossad, has been trying to broker peace between Israel and the Palestinian people by reaching out to their sworn enemy, Hamas who took over the Gaza strip in a violent uprising in 2007. Despite Hamas's democratic victory and one of their leaders being elected as the President of Gaza, and their claim to be a valid government organization, the peace talks still have not succeeded. Hamas still insists on the destruction of Israel and has not changed its charter to accept a peaceful solution. In fact, the Gaza strip has launched 9 rockets against Israel and has successfully carried out 2 terrorist attacks this year, 2023. The last rockets being fired on February 23, just 9 days ago. The last terrorist attack was a Palestinian terrorist who drove his car into a bus stop killing 3 Israelis, a twenty-year-old and two children ages 6 and 8 (JVL 2023). Despite the violence, Egypt has successfully negotiated cease fires between Israel and the Palestinian terrorist on several occasions. Almost all of them are broken by the terrorists and many of the attacks have resulted in all-out war, the last being Operation Breaking Dawn which took place in 2021. Despite the countless attempts at creating a policy that would create lasting peace, all have ultimately failed.

Conclusion

In conclusion, given the vast global impact of the conflict in the Middle East and the almost worldwide impact on the people from many nations, this conflict needs to be resolved. Since the first attempt by the UN in their Security Council Resolution 242, which very well could have started the whole problem, all attempts have failed. The belief that once a land has been conquered by the people of Islam, it is always theirs is the root of the issue. The resolution 242 created the idea of a two state and demanded the withdrawal of Israeli forces out of the land they called occupied territories (Jewish Virtual Library (JVL) 2023). Since then, the majority of the Arab nations have refused to acknowledge Israel's right to exist as a sovereign nation and it has reinforced the belief of the Palestinian people that the land is rightfully theirs. Terrorists organizations have formed with the sole intent to destroy Israel and take back the land they claim they stole from them. This belief is like the idea of when a thief steals something, it legally belongs to them. That something once stolen is no longer the legal property of the owner of whom it was stolen but the property of the thief. The land has been archeologically linked to the Israeli people from as far back as 10 BCE. It is their ancestral home that they have finally been restored to, for the last time. The land is theirs as it should be. Until everyone, including all the Arab nations, accept this fact, there will never be peace in the Middle East.

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