



Beyond Borders: The Complexities of Israel-Palestine Antagonism in the Modern Middle East



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Abstract: *This paper offers a detailed examination of modern geopolitical dynamics in the Middle East, with a focus on the complex and continuing Israel-Palestine conflict. The paper reveals the region's dynamic terrain through an examination of new powers, shifting alliances, and the activities of important state and non-state actors. Turkey, Iran, and the Gulf States have emerged as powerful powers, threatening established power structures. The conflict's complexity is exacerbated by major entities motivated by national interests and security concerns. The theoretical framework of realism is used to understand these actors' intentions and acts. The paper seeks to provide a detailed knowledge of the Middle East's geopolitical developments by diving into historical and current factors. Despite certain limits in data dependence and conflict complexity, this study provides valuable insights into the complicated tapestry of the Israel-Palestine conflict within the larger domain of international politics.*

Key Words: Geopolitics, Dynamics, Middle East, Israel-Palestine Conflict, Emerging Powers, State Actors

Introduction

The Middle East, located at the confluence of Europe, Asia, and Africa, has long been a region of significant geopolitical importance. The region under consideration exhibits a diverse array of cultures, faiths, and civilizations, resulting in a dynamic amalgamation of intricate interconnections and power dynamics (Muhamad Olimat, 2023). At the centre of the region's convoluted geopolitics lies the continuous and profoundly entrenched Israel-Palestine conflict, a protracted subject

that has witnessed decades of unsolved conflicts and turmoil.

The Middle East, frequently referred to as the "birthplace of human civilization," has served as a central hub of historical significance for countless centuries (Maisels, 1993). The geographical area in question has witnessed the ascent and decline of antiquated imperial powers, the genesis of prominent global faiths, and noteworthy progressions in scientific pursuits, artistic endeavours, and systems of administration. Nevertheless, Vakulchuk,

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Overland, and Scholten (2020) stated that the geopolitical importance of the region experienced a significant increase following the identification of extensive oil deposits, resulting in a major transformation of the worldwide distribution of power. In contemporary times, there has been a notable transformation in the geopolitical configuration of the Middle East (Ehteshami 2007), characterized by the emergence of influential actors such as Turkey, Iran, and the Gulf States. These entities have actively exerted their influence, thereby challenging established power dynamics within the region. The Israel-Palestine conflict serves as a prime example of the intricate and delicate nature of the ever-changing geopolitical environment. Through a comprehensive analysis of the roles and objectives of significant state and non-state actors, an examination of the changing power dynamics, and an assessment of the consequences for regional stability, this research aims to offer deep insights into the intricate nature of the conflict and its wider ramifications.

Scope of the Research

Due to the dynamic nature of geopolitical dynamics in the Middle East, particularly in the context of the Israel-Palestine conflict, it is possible that the data does not encompass the latest developments or changes in the geopolitical environment, such as the ongoing state of war between two of these countries. Although there are certain constraints, the primary objective of this study is to offer significant contributions to the body of knowledge regarding the complexities of the conflict and its broader implications by illuminating the interests and roles of key state and non-state actors.

Literature Review

The Middle East, a geopolitically significant region, has experienced dynamic changes that have been influenced by socioeconomic, political, and historical factors. The protracted and ingrained Israel-Palestine conflict is a significant factor in determining the

geopolitical terrain of the area. The objective of this literature review is to examine prior studies that are appropriate for the research inquiries. The central emphasis lies in comprehending the Israel-Palestine conflict through the lens of modern geopolitical dynamics, emergent powers, alliances, and the involvement of significant state and non-state actors.

The geopolitical landscape of the Middle East has been profoundly influenced by the emergence of new powers and the shifting dynamics of alliances. A comprehensive understanding of these alterations is crucial for grasping the present condition of matters, particularly in regard to the Israel-Palestine conflict. A plethora of academic literature emphasizes Turkey's dynamic foreign policy aspirations and active engagement in the Middle East (Al-Shammari & Willoughby, 2017).

Dinçer (2022) asserts that Turkey's proactive stance is motivated by historical, cultural, and economic considerations, with the objective of positioning itself as a prominent regional force. This is consistent with our goal of examining the impact of developing powers, namely Turkey, on the formation of the region's dynamics.

The scholarly work conducted by Ahmadian (2021) provides a comprehensive analysis of Iran's proactive engagement in the area, with a specific focus on the period following the Islamic Revolution of 1979. Ahmadian provides an overview of Iran's pursuit of regional hegemony and its impact on several matters, including the Arab-Israeli conflict. This elucidates Iran's engagement in the Israel-Palestine conflict.

The academic articles authored by Lynch, Schwedler, and Yom (2022) go into a comprehensive analysis of the United States' reassessment of its position and affiliations within the Middle Eastern region. The authors contend that there is a discernible trend in the United States towards adopting a more equitable strategy, wherein considerations extend beyond conventional alliances. This aligns with our aim to assess the

reconfiguration of alliances and its ramifications for the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Bishku (2017) argues that Russia's military participation in Syria represented a significant resurgence of its geopolitical power inside the region. The implementation of this operation had a substantial influence on the power dynamics and alliances inside the region. Comprehending this concept is crucial in order to effectively pursue our goal of examining the impact of emerging powers and alliances.

The Israel-Palestine conflict is subject to the influence exerted by both state and non-state actors, who play significant roles in shaping the course of the conflict. Gaining a comprehensive understanding of the roles and interests of the parties involved is essential in order to comprehend the dynamics and ramifications of the dispute. Academic scholars such as Arnd-Linder, Harel-Shalev, and Daphna-Tekoah (2018) extensively examine the security concerns and aspirations of Israel, with a particular emphasis on the aspiration for a state that is both secure and internationally acknowledged. Comprehending these objectives is essential in order to effectively examine the activities and interests of significant state actors.

The scholarly work conducted by Mason and Falk (2016) provides comprehensive coverage of the Palestinian quest for statehood and the exercise of self-determination. The analysis offers valuable perspectives on the motivations and goals of the Palestinian Authority and Hamas, which are in line with our research purpose of comprehending the roles and interests of state actors.

Natil (2015) provides an analysis of the role played by Hamas in the ongoing conflict, focusing on the methods employed by the organization, its objectives, and the obstacles it faces within the Gaza Strip. Gaining insight into the motivations and actions of Hamas is crucial in order to effectively evaluate the roles and goals of non-state actors.

In his scholarly work, Kamrava (2018) examines the multifaceted role and significant impact exerted by Hezbollah in both Lebanon and the broader regional context. The

forementioned statement offers a viewpoint regarding the impact of non-state actors and their participation in regional conflicts, which is in accordance with the research purpose at hand.

While current literature has shed light on the geopolitical dynamics in the Middle East and the Israel-Palestine conflict, there is a noticeable void regarding the interplay of growing powers and shifting alliances in the context of the conflict. Few studies analyze the changing roles and interests of state and non-state players in the war, especially in light of geopolitical dynamics. Bridging this gap is essential for comprehending the conflict and developing sustainable peace and stability policies for the region. The suggested research addresses this gap by going deeper into these characteristics, harmonizing with the research goals and objectives.

Theoretical Framework

Realism, a dominant perspective in international relations, serves as the theoretical framework for this study. Realism, which originated in classical political theory and gained formalization in the twentieth century believes that power dynamics and the pursuit of national interests are the primary forces driving international interactions, according to House (1991). According to Ahrens Dorf (1997), realism theory can be traced back to ancient Greek thinkers like as Thucydides, whose works stressed power and self-interest in state interactions. Realism, on the other hand, achieved systematic articulation and prominence through renowned researchers such as Hans Morgenthau, Kenneth Waltz, and E.H. Carr, who contributed to the theory. The rationale behind choosing Realism as the theoretical framework for this study is its capacity to offer significant perspectives on the self-serving behaviour of both state and non-state actors in the Middle East. Through the application of Realism, this research endeavour can thoroughly examine the complex interplay of power, strategic interests, and security concerns that influence the geopolitical

transformations and the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Methodology

This study utilizes a secondary data methodology with a qualitative approach to assess the current geopolitical dynamics in the Middle East, with an emphasis on the Israel-Palestine conflict. The backbone of this research is secondary data gathered from trustworthy scholarly sources, academic publications, official reports, and other documented resources. The qualitative method allows for a more nuanced understanding of the complexities of the geopolitical landscape and the conflict's numerous facets.

Emerging Powers and Shifting Alliances in the Middle East

With the development of new major players and developing alliances, the Middle East, an area of significant geopolitical importance has witnessed notable upheavals in recent years. This chapter looks into the findings connected to the first study question and objective: examining the role of growing powers and shifting alliances in modern Middle Eastern geopolitical dynamics, particularly in the context of the Israel-Palestine conflict (Anderson, [2000](#)),

Emergence of Key Players

The geopolitical landscape in the Middle East has seen significant changes with the emergence of new powers such as Turkey, Iran, and the Gulf States. This shift has disrupted the conventional equilibrium of power that previously existed in the region (Fawcett, [2016](#)). These states have demonstrated proactive involvement in regional politics, exerting their influence and pursuing their strategic objectives. Turkey has exhibited a more muscular foreign policy during President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's tenure. The involvement of the entity in Syria, Libya, and other areas serves to emphasize its aspiration to exert influence and mould the

outcomes within the region. Turkey's strong engagement in Middle Eastern geopolitics is influenced by its historical and cultural connections with the region. Turkey is actively pursuing the consolidation of its status as a significant regional force, with the intention of aligning itself with its historical heritage as a pivotal link between the continents of Europe and Asia.

The desire for regional supremacy is a major aspect of Iran's foreign strategy. The Iranian policy is primarily motivated by ideological considerations and is propelled by the objective of safeguarding its national security interests. Consequently, Iran has notably augmented its sphere of influence in neighbouring nations such as Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon. Iran's engagement in the Israel-Palestine issue primarily serves the purpose of mitigating Israel's regional sway and advancing its own geopolitical objectives. The Gulf States, namely Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), have emerged as significant actors in the realm of Middle Eastern geopolitics. The possession of substantial oil wealth, in conjunction with endeavours to expand their economic activities, has provided them with the capacity to exercise influence not only within their immediate vicinity but also on a worldwide scale. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) functions as a collaborative platform that facilitates the joint efforts of member states in addressing regional concerns and safeguarding their mutual interests.

Shifting Alliances and Dynamics

The dynamic changes in the geopolitical scene have prompted a reassessment of alliances, necessitating a reconsideration of conventional power dynamics. Nations engage in the strategic formation and modification of alliances in order to align more effectively with their present interests and ambitions. The United States, a historically influential actor in the Middle East, is currently undergoing a process of reevaluating its position and partnerships within the area (Migdal, [2014](#)). There has been a reorientation of priorities

towards the Asia-Pacific region, prompting a reassessment of its obligations and subsequent modifications in its approach towards the Middle East. There is a growing trend in the United States to encourage regional actors to assume greater responsibility for ensuring peace and security within their own regions. Russia's reemergence as a significant actor in the Middle East, mostly due to its military involvement in Syria, has brought about a transformation in the geopolitical landscape of the region. The entity in question has strategically initiated interactions with multiple parties in the region, resulting in a modification of the established distribution of power and the establishment of novel alliances. The engagement of Russia in the region is characterized by a diverse range of factors, including economic, military, and political components. The findings point to a dramatic shift in the Middle East's geopolitical dynamics, driven primarily by the development of new power players and the reorientation of established alliances. Turkey, Iran, and the Gulf States' assertive engagement in regional affairs have upended the conventional power dynamics. Furthermore, the reevaluation of alliances by key global powers such as the United States and Russia has contributed to the changing landscape. Understanding these trends is critical for a thorough examination of the Israel-Palestine conflict and its implications for broader Middle Eastern geopolitical forces. The next chapters will go more into the influence of these transformations on the Israel-Palestine conflict and their role in defining the future of the area.

Roles and Interests of Major State and Non-State Actors in the Israel-Palestine Conflict

The complex and multifaceted roles and objectives of significant state and non-state actors in the Israel-Palestine conflict are explored in this chapter. A complete grasp of the conflict dynamics and its ramifications on the wider geopolitical arena of the Middle East necessitates an awareness of these motivations

and functions. Moreover, connecting these positions to theories of international relations offers a thorough framework for examining the actions and tactics of the various players.

Roles and Interests of State Actors

The actors involved in the Israel-Palestine conflict are driven by their own national interests and historical experiences, hence adhering to fundamental principles of realism within the realm of international relations. Israel's activities are affected by the security dilemma, a core idea in realism. The primary focus of the nation lies in the protection of its national security, which is driven by its historical susceptibility and past confrontations with neighbouring countries. Israel considers its security situation to be delicate, which requires it to adopt a proactive military approach and establish strategic partnerships, particularly with the United States (Hoffman, [2019](#)).

The activities undertaken by Palestinians are motivated by their nationalist ambitions and their pursuit of self-determination, which are in accordance with the ideas of constructivism. The aspiration for a self-governing Palestinian state, which is deeply embedded in the Palestinian national identity, serves as a driving force behind their pursuit of political independence and self-determination. The story places significant emphasis on past grievances and the formation of a collective cultural identity, which in turn influences their ambitions. The engagement between Egypt and Jordan is shaped by the realist concepts of regional stability and the balance of power (Ekşi, [2017](#)). Both states place a high emphasis on the preservation of a stable neighbourhood in order to safeguard their respective national interests. They actively participate in conflict resolution initiatives in order to effectively address future threats and foster regional stability (Elbahy, [2019](#)).

Non-State Actors and Their Influence

Non-state actors frequently derive their objectives from ideologies such as nationalism or resistance, thereby aligning themselves with

the principles of realism. Hamas's objectives exhibit a convergence with a combination of realist principles inside a theoretical framework. Hamas also incorporates constructivist principles by placing significant emphasis on the influence of identity and cultural elements in defining its pursuit of legitimacy and power. The operations of Hezbollah are shaped by the application of realism principles pertaining to power dynamics and proxy warfare (Farasoo, 2021). The entity functions as a proxy for Iran, employing a realistic approach to bolster Iran's regional influence and counterbalance Israeli dominance. Furthermore, the opposition exhibited by the entity in question towards Israel can be seen as congruent with the constructivist notion of actively shaping regional identity and exerting influence.

International Actors and Peace Mediators

Different schools of thought on the subject of international relations, such as liberalism and realism, inform the actions of diverse international actors. In order to protect its geopolitical interests in the region, the United States has frequently acted in a manner consistent with realist ideals while participating in the conflict. The historical alignment of the United States with Israel is driven by shared democratic values as well as security concerns. The United States utilizes the strategy of real politics in order to preserve its power and preserve stability in the Middle East. The involvement of the United Nations in the conflict is consistent with idealistic and liberal ideas because it seeks to preserve international law, human rights, and the pursuit of peace. It seeks to end the dispute through discussion and conformity to global norms, advocating for a two-state solution that is founded on normative frameworks and aims to resolve the conflict.

Relating Roles to Theories of International Relations

The roles and interests of state and non-state parties in the Israel-Palestine conflict can be interpreted using numerous international

relations theories. Realism illuminates state actors' power dynamics, security concerns, and strategic calculations. The activities of Israel, Egypt, Jordan, and the United States all demonstrate a focus on national interests, power rivalries, and alliances. Constructivism, on the other hand, sheds light on the role of identity, culture, and shared narratives in moulding the behaviour of non-state entities such as Hamas and Hezbollah. Their emphasis on resistance, nationalism, and identity is consistent with constructivist theories that emphasize the role of ideas in influencing international relations. Liberalism is represented in international actors' peace-building efforts and normative approaches, such as the United Nations, which promotes human rights, international law, and conflict resolution through diplomacy and discussion. The Israel-Palestine conflict is characterized by a complex interplay of state and non-state actors, each with their own set of roles, interests, and objectives. The theoretical underpinnings of international relations give a framework for comprehensively understanding these interactions. Realism emphasizes state actors' power dynamics and security considerations, constructivism emphasizes non-state players' identity and cultural aspects, and liberalism emphasizes international actors' normative approaches and peace-building attempts. The following chapters will investigate the impact of these positions on the conflict and their impact on the broader Middle Eastern geopolitical scene.

Conclusion

To conclude, this research paper has conducted an extensive investigation into the current geopolitical circumstances in the Middle East, with a specific emphasis on the complex Israel-Palestine conflict. The Gulf States, Turkey, and Iran have emerged as major actors, thereby reshaping established power dynamics. The dynamic nature of the Middle East is underscored by their proactive roles and realignment of alliances; therefore, a nuanced comprehension of their motivations and strategic objectives is required. Moreover,

the research paper also examined the objectives and motivations of significant governmental and non-governmental entities involved in the Israel-Palestine dispute. Israel and Palestine, motivated by nationalistic ambitions and security considerations, constitute fundamental aspects of this protracted conflict. Furthermore, the intricate interplay of forces in this conflict is exacerbated by the participation of influential non-state actors, including Hamas and Hezbollah, as well as regional actors such as Jordan and Egypt. International actors' participation, including the United States and the United Nations, underscores the global nature of the conflict. Their approaches have been influenced to different extents by constructivist, realist, and liberal ideologies. The theoretical frameworks of international relations, notably realism, were used to contextualize and analyze the actions and motivations of the participating actors. The power dynamics and security issues were clarified by realism. The research paper, however, has certain drawbacks. Relying on existing data and published sources may create bias or fail to capture the most recent changes in the quickly changing Middle Eastern geopolitical scene. Furthermore, while the paper's focus on the Israel-Palestine conflict is crucial, it is part of a larger regional context, and a more comprehensive analysis may include other regional factors. Finally, comprehending the Middle East's geopolitical developments and conflict dynamics is crucial for developing informed policies and fostering peace in this critical region. Addressing the Israel-Palestine conflict within this larger geopolitical context gives a more comprehensive understanding of the interconnected challenges and opportunities that create the Middle East's modern terrain.

Recommendation

Several ideas to promote stability, peace, and a road towards resolution emerge in light of the complicated roles and interests of significant state and non-state parties in the Israel-Palestine conflict.

- The most important is the promotion of constructive dialogue and negotiations between Israel and Palestine. It is imperative to promote constructive and protracted negotiations that are guided by international mediators in order to effectively tackle fundamental concerns and arrive at a fair and all-encompassing resolution. Mediation ought to be conducted in an unbiased manner, duly considering the concerns of all involved parties, in pursuit of a two-state resolution that upholds the security and sovereignty of Israel and Palestine.
- It is crucial that international actors, including but not limited to the European Union, the United Nations, and the United States, maintain their constructive involvement in mediating and facilitating negotiations. By means of its normative frameworks and resolutions, the United Nations ought to maintain the validity of international law and strive to guarantee adherence from all participating entities. By capitalizing on its historical connections and sway, the United States ought to facilitate dialogue between the involved parties and steer the peace endeavours; it should also advocate for a two-state solution as a peaceful resolution.
- Likewise, the European Union, by virtue of its substantial diplomatic and economic influence, can foster discourse and provide motivations for both factions to participate in peace negotiations.
- It is also critical to ensure the region's economic progress and social stability. Investments in education, healthcare, infrastructure, and job opportunities, particularly in Gaza and the West Bank, can help to raise people out of poverty and create a peaceful environment. Economic stability can help to ease grievances and create collaboration, thereby advancing the peace process. International development and relief organisations should work together to

improve living conditions and support economic growth in these places.

- Security measures should also be pursued to reduce the possibility of a recurrence of violence. Implementing confidence-building measures and strengthening security cooperation between Israel and Palestine can contribute to the development of trust. Engaging regional parties, such as Egypt and Jordan, in regional security initiatives and confidence-building measures can also add to the region's overall sense of stability and peace.
- Through empowering civil society and encouraging people-to-people activities, a culture of peace and understanding can be fostered. Encouraging cooperative businesses, cultural contacts, and conversations between Israel and Palestine's civilian populations can help overcome

divisions and promote tolerance. Civil society organizations should be encouraged in their efforts to promote grassroots discussion and understanding.

- Finally, resolving the Israel-Palestine problem requires a diversified strategy. Fostering meaningful conversation, leveraging international mediation, assuring economic development, strengthening security measures, and supporting people-to-people efforts are all critical stages towards achieving a long-term settlement. These ideas seek to address the complexities of diverse players' responsibilities and interests, with the goal of achieving a just and peaceful future for both Israelis and Palestinians. With commitment and cooperation, these proposals can pave the road for long-term peace and stability in the Middle East.

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