

**THE EFFICACY OF UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION (UNO) IN GLOBAL
CONFLICT RESOLUTION: THE ISRAEL-PALESTINE PEACE IMPASSE.**

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ABSTRACT

The United Nations Organization (UNO) has a fundamental mandate to maintain international peace and security. Its establishment in 1945 represented a key moment in pursuing global peace and conflict resolution. This study evaluates the effectiveness of the UNO in mediating global conflicts, with a particular focus on the enduring Israel-Palestine conflict as a case study. The theoretical framework of constructivism in international relations was employed for this analysis. In the context of the UNO and the Israel-Palestine conflict, constructivist perspectives suggest that understanding the identities, norms, and shared perceptions of the involved parties is crucial for successful conflict negotiation. Utilizing qualitative research and document analysis, this study highlights the multifaceted role of the UNO in promoting peace, through avenues such as peacekeeping missions, diplomatic negotiations, and humanitarian assistance. Despite numerous initiatives and resolutions aimed at addressing the Israel-Palestine conflict, the UNO faces considerable challenges. These include the geopolitical interests of member states and internal divisions that impede decisive action. This analysis reveals the complexities of international diplomacy and the limitations of institutional frameworks in dealing with deeply rooted conflicts. The study argues that the UNO and other mediating entities must develop a deeper understanding of the norms, identities, and shared perceptions of both Israel and Palestine to move past the Israel-Palestine peace impasse. This approach could facilitate the achievement of a lasting consensus.

Keywords: UNO, Global conflict resolution, Israel, Palestine, Constructivism, Peace impasse.

Introduction

The establishment of the United Nations Organization (UNO) in 1945 marked a significant milestone in global conflict resolution and international diplomacy. Formed in the wake of two catastrophic world wars, the primary objective of the UNO was to prevent the occurrence of another world war and to cultivate international peace and security. The key functions of the UNO include maintaining global peace, promoting international law, safeguarding human rights, providing humanitarian aid, and fostering sustainable development. Over the decades, the UNO has utilized a range of mechanisms to address conflicts, such as peacekeeping missions, mediation efforts, diplomatic negotiations, and the adoption of binding resolutions through its Security Council. The UNO has played a vital role in mitigating conflicts across various regions worldwide. Despite facing significant limitations and criticisms, the UNO has successfully facilitated peace agreements, promoted peacebuilding initiatives, and overseen post-conflict reconstruction efforts. Nevertheless, the organization grapples with major challenges, particularly where geopolitical interests and long-standing hostilities obstruct diplomatic progress. Among the most enduring and complex conflicts under the UNO's purview is the Israel-Palestine conflict, which has remained unresolved for over seventy years (Doyle & Sambanis, 2006).

The Israel-Palestine conflict traces its roots to the late 19th century and has been characterized by territorial disputes, religious tensions, and diverging national aspirations. The establishment of the state of Israel on May 14, 1948, resulted in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, leading to recurring cycles of violence, warfare, and unsuccessful peace negotiations. The UNO became involved early in the conflict, adopting Resolution 181 (The Partition Plan), which proposed a two-state solution that would divide the British Mandate of Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states. This plan precipitated the first Arab-Israeli war in 1948, which concluded in 1949, resulting in the displacement of approximately 750,000 Palestinians and a victory for Israel (Council on Foreign Relations, 2024).

In subsequent years, the United Nations Organization (UNO) adopted several pivotal resolutions aimed at resolving the Israel-Palestine conflict. Among the most significant is Security Council Resolution 242 (1967), which called for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from territories occupied during the Six-Day War. Additionally, General Assembly Resolution 194 (1948) addressed the rights of Palestinian refugees who were displaced during the Nakba, meaning "catastrophe" in Arabic. Despite these initiatives, the conflict has persisted, with both sides experiencing ongoing violence and reaching a peace impasse (deadlock in peace negotiations). This enduring cycle of violence was starkly exemplified by the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, highlighting the continued instability and unresolved tensions in the region. The United Nations' involvement in global conflict resolution, particularly regarding the Israel-Palestine conflict, has faced criticism for its perceived lack of effectiveness. The UN has played a crucial role in facilitating peace negotiations and providing humanitarian assistance, notably through the efforts of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which supports Palestinian refugees. However, the UN often finds itself hampered by political divisions among its members, especially among the five permanent members of the Security Council. The veto powers, particularly exercised by the United States, have frequently obstructed resolutions that are critical of Israel, thereby limiting the UN's ability to act decisively.

In addition to the political challenges, the intricate nature of the conflict stemming from historical grievances, religious tensions, and nationalist aspirations complicates the United

Nations' ability to facilitate sustainable peace. Efforts such as the Oslo Accords (1993) and the Road Map for Peace (2003), both supported by the UN, have ultimately failed to address critical issues, including the status of Jerusalem, the borders of a future Palestinian state, and the right of return for Palestinian refugees. In light of this situation, the efficacy of the UNO global conflict resolution especially the Israel-Palestine conflict has been called into question. This study examines the overall efficacy of UNO in global conflict resolution, using the Israel-Palestine peace impasse as a case study. This study will contribute to a broader understanding of the UNO's role and limitations in mediating global conflict

Materials and method

This study employs a qualitative research design, emphasizing document analysis, a case study approach, and a historical evaluation of the interventions by United Nations Organizations (UNO) in global conflict resolution. The Israel-Palestine peace impasse serves as a central case study to evaluate the effectiveness of the UN in promoting global peace. Data collection incorporated both primary and secondary sources. Primary data was obtained from official UNO websites, resolutions, documents, reports from UNO agencies, and peacekeeping mission reports. Secondary data was sourced from books, journal articles, academic publications, and analyses by esteemed scholars. Given that this study primarily relies on document analysis rather than direct interviews, it poses minimal ethical risks. Nonetheless, significant care was taken to ensure the proper use of all sources.

Literature Review

The United Nations Organization (UNO) has been instrumental in addressing global conflicts through agencies dedicated to peacekeeping missions and diplomatic interventions. These initiatives aim to restore stability and encourage dialogue in regions beset by tension. However, the effectiveness of the UNO in resolving conflicts, particularly in long-standing and deeply entrenched disputes like the Israel-Palestine conflict, has generated significant debate. Critics often highlight the complexities inherent in these enduring issues and question the adaptability of the UNO's strategies to the unique challenges they present.

The role of international organizations, particularly the UNO in global conflict resolution has been the focus of extensive scholarly debate. Lederach (1997) highlights the significance of peacebuilding and conflict transformation in the pursuit of sustainable peace. In a similar vein, the concept of "positive peace," as articulated by Galtung (1996), transcends the mere absence of violence by advocating for social justice and equality. These theories emphasize the necessity of comprehensive approaches to peace. However, Weiss and Davis (2007) delve into the UNO's evolving role in global conflict resolution, showcasing its achievements in peacekeeping missions and mediating peace processes. They contend that, despite the UNO's critical contributions to conflict prevention and resolution, its effectiveness is often hindered by political constraints and limited resources.

The UNO engages in conflict resolution through diplomacy, peacekeeping, and enforcement of international law. Boutros-Ghali's "Agenda for Peace" (1992) offers a comprehensive framework for preventive diplomacy, peacekeeping, and peacemaking, serving as a guiding principle for numerous UNO interventions in conflict zones around the globe. As noted by Bellamy and Williams (2010), the nature of peacekeeping operations has evolved from traditional approaches to more complex multidimensional strategies designed to tackle the underlying causes of conflict. The success of UNO peacekeeping missions has been inconsistent. For instance, the missions in Rwanda and Bosnia faced substantial challenges and

have been criticized for their shortcomings (Dallaire, 2009; Power, 2010). In contrast, the missions in East Timor and Sierra Leone are frequently cited as exemplifying successful UN interventions (Chesterman, 2005; Howard, 2008). These case studies underscore the intricacies and challenges of peacekeeping, highlighting the necessity for robust mandates and sufficient resources. Moreover, conflicts that involve substantial geopolitical interests, such as those in Syria and Ukraine, have revealed the UNO's reliance on consensus among its Security Council members (Mingst & Karns, 2023). The ongoing crisis in Ukraine, for instance, has underscored the limitations faced by the Security Council in addressing conflicts that involve veto-wielding members. This issue is similar to the Israel-Palestine conflict (Weiss, 2016).

The Israel-Palestine conflict is one of the most enduring and complex disputes in modern history. While various peace efforts, such as the Oslo Accords (1993) and the Camp David Summit (2000), have been made, they have achieved limited success. Khalidi (1997) offers a thorough historical analysis of the conflict, highlighting the deep-rooted historical grievances and geopolitical interests that have obstructed the peace process. According to the CFR (2024), this conflict has heightened regional tensions throughout the Middle East. The UNO's initial engagement with the Israel-Palestine conflict began with the 1947 Partition Plan (Resolution 181), which aimed at the establishment of Jewish and Arab states. However, the resulting conflict between Israel and their neighbouring Arab states, coupled with the displacement of Palestinians, has created intricate political and humanitarian challenges that persist in the region today (Khalidi, 2020).

Numerous UN Resolutions have played a pivotal role in shaping international discourse surrounding the conflict. Security Council Resolution 242 (1967) is particularly significant, as it calls for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from territories occupied during the Six-Day War and recognizes the right of all states in the region to coexist peacefully. Yet, the interpretation of this resolution has diverged between the two sides: Israel highlights the necessity of secure borders, while the Palestinians emphasize the demand for Israeli withdrawal (Khalidi, 2007). The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), established in 1949, has been instrumental in delivering humanitarian assistance to Palestinian refugees. While the agency's efforts have been vital in addressing the humanitarian dimensions of the conflict, it has faced criticism from some quarters for allegedly perpetuating the refugee situation instead of fostering conflict resolution (Uzun, 2024). Critics argue that the agency's enduring presence serves as a reflection of the international community's inability to effectively address the refugee crisis (Bocco, 2010).

Shalim (2014) contends that the role of the United Nations Organization (UNO) in the Israel-Palestine conflict has been limited by political biases and the influence of powerful member states within the UNO Security Council. Despite a multitude of UNO Resolutions and peace initiatives, the conflict remains unresolved. The UNO's inability to enforce its resolutions, coupled with a lack of a unified international stance, has impeded progress toward achieving a lasting peace (Khalidi, 1997; Shalim, 2001). The Israel-Palestine conflict presents unique challenges that undermine the effectiveness of the UNO in global conflict resolution within the international system. The region's geopolitical dynamics, particularly the strategic interests of major global powers like the United States, have significantly influenced the UN's actions. Bozorgmehri and Khani (2012) argue that the US's unwavering support for Israel, along with its frequent use of the veto in the Security Council, has often hindered international efforts to attain a peaceful resolution.

Furthermore, the internal divisions within the UNO have significantly impaired its ability to act decisively. Many Arab nations, along with several non-aligned countries, have been outspoken in their support for Palestinian self-determination. In contrast, Western countries, particularly the United States, have favored policies aimed at ensuring Israel's security. Olayiwola (2024) highlights that this discord has frequently led to a persistent deadlock, characterized by veto power politics among permanent members of the UNO Security Council (UNSC), which, coupled with geographical interests, has obstructed effective intervention. Additionally, he notes that the UNSC's capacity to alleviate tensions and promote enduring peace in the region has diminished as a result of these factors.

The UNO's focus on state-centric approaches to conflict has faced criticism for overlooking the needs and perspectives of local communities (Mac Ginty, 2011). This criticism highlights the importance of adopting more inclusive and participatory strategies that involve local stakeholders in the peacebuilding process. The literature on the role of the UNO in global conflict resolution and the ongoing Israel-Palestine peace impasse highlights the significant complexities and challenges inherent in international peace efforts. The UNO undeniably plays a crucial role in preventing and resolving conflicts. Despite this, its effectiveness is frequently hampered by political constraints, insufficient resources, and a pressing need for more inclusive approaches to peace.

Theoretical Framework

Much literature has employed realist theory to analyse the Israel-Palestine conflict through the lens of international relations (IR) theory. However, this study will adopt a Constructivist approach to explain the conflict. Constructivism emerged to address the gaps left by Realism and Liberalism in understanding the evolving dynamics of international politics, such as the post-Cold War landscape. Unlike Realism and Liberalism, Constructivism does not rely on a material foundation for social interactions. Instead, it postulates that social interactions forge a shared understanding that subsequently shapes material reality. Constructivism has evolved to redefine changes in International Relations (IR), particularly to identity, ideas, and norms. According to Javadikouchaksaraei et al. (2015), this paradigm shift gained momentum toward the late 1980s and early 1990s, heavily influenced by the contributions of scholars such as Onuf (1989), Wendt (1992), Finnemore (1996), and Katzenstein (1996). Additionally, Finnemore and Sikkink (1998) further advanced constructivist concepts in their article "International Norm Dynamics and Political Change," published in the *Journal of International Organization*.

Alexander Wendt (1992) in his "Anarchy is What the State Makes It" built the foundation of constructivism in IR. He states that:

- I. "Structures of human association are determined primarily by shared ideas rather than material forces."
- II. "Identities and interests of purposive actors are constructed by those shared ideas rather than given by nature."

Constructivism postulates that the world is constructed through social interactions among agents, which foster a shared understanding of the material reality and the structures of daily life. These structures, in turn, can either reinforce or weaken new shared understandings. This underscores the constructivist theory's focus on individual agency. Furthermore, as Wendt's article title suggests, anarchy in the international system is not an inherent characteristic of that system. Instead, states respond to anarchy shaped by their shared behaviours. In essence, states create an anarchic system by acting as though the international system is anarchic (Wendt, 1992).

Another important aspect of constructivism is the concept of norms, which represent standards of appropriate behaviour for specific actors within IR. Norms dictate how these actors should behave in the international system. While they are not typically codified in international law, they provide guidance for state conduct. In their article "International Norm Dynamics and Political Change," Finnemore and Sikkink (1998) articulated a framework outlining a three-stage process through which norms evolve:

- I. **Emergence:** Norms emerge through individual actors, known as norm entrepreneurs, who advocate ideas about how the international system ought to be. They often rely on persuasion and advocacy to convince other actors within this system.
- II. **Cascade:** At this stage, more actors embrace the norm and act as if it is reality.
- III. **Internalization:** The norm is now implemented through practice and sometimes through international law. States act according to the principles it outlines.

In summary, constructivists argue that identity is essential for understanding international relations. They contend that our perceptions of the international system significantly influence its functions, structures, and realities. Rather than merely assuming the interests of various actors, we should view them as reflections of their identities, which can evolve based on perception. Interests are not simply waiting to be uncovered; they are constructed through social interactions (Finnemore & Sikkink, 1998). Furthermore, norms play a crucial role in shaping the behaviour of actors within the international system.

Explaining the Israel-Palestine Conflict from a Constructivist Perspective.

The Israel-Palestinian conflict exemplifies a complex issue deeply rooted in identity and involving multiple ethnic groups, notably Arabs and Jews. Identity plays a vital role in this conflict, as it serves to rationalize demands for political leadership and claims to land ownership (Javadikouchaksaraei et al., 2015). Constructivism posits that identities are not fixed but are instead constructed through social interactions and historical narratives. This framework helps elucidate the deep-rooted mistrust and animosity between Israelis and Palestinians, which stems from competing understandings of history, land ownership, and national identity. Each side perceives itself as a victim with legitimate claims to the land, complicating the path to compromise. Furthermore, social interactions among Israelis and Palestinians—whether through political discourse, media representations, or personal relationships—serve to either reinforce or challenge existing identities and beliefs. Constructivism underscores how these interactions shape perceptions of 'the Other' and influence the likelihood of peace or the escalation of conflict. In this context, both sides construct their narratives, positioning themselves as victims while depicting the other as the aggressor. These narratives become entrenched in collective identities and fuel emotions such as fear, anger, and mistrust. Constructivism highlights that these narratives, rather than objective facts, often drive the dynamics of the conflict.

Moreover, Constructivism provides valuable insights into the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by emphasizing the significance of socio-political realities, nationalism, and national identity in shaping the trajectory of protests and violence throughout the conflict. It asserts that the conflict cannot be understood solely through a realist lens of power and interest; instead, it must also consider the historical, cultural, and religious processes that have influenced the formation of Israeli collective identity.

Findings and Discussion

The United Nations Organization (UNO) is comprised of six principal organs as established by its Charter. These organs include the General Assembly (GA), the Security Council (SC), the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and the UN Secretariat. This study will primarily focus on the Security Council (SC). The SC holds the key responsibility of maintaining international peace and security, making it vital for global conflict resolution. It consists of fifteen member states: five permanent members and ten non-permanent members. The five permanent members are the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia, China, and France. As of the time of this study, the ten non-permanent members, elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly, are: Algeria (2025), Ecuador (2024), Guyana (2025), Japan (2024), Malta (2024), Mozambique (2024), the Republic of Korea (2025), Sierra Leone (2025), Slovenia (2025), and Switzerland (2024). According to Article 27 of the UN Charter, the functions and powers of the Security Council can be divided into two main areas: the peaceful resolution of disputes and the enforcement of measures.

Furthermore, the UNO operates within a spectrum of activities related to peace and security, designed to address various aspects of conflict and promote global stability. This spectrum includes a variety of strategies and tools aimed at preventing, managing, and resolving conflicts, reflecting the evolution and complexity of modern peace operations. The strategies and tools are as follows:

- I. **Conflict Prevention and Preventive Diplomacy:** Conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy initiatives aim to tackle potential sources of conflict. This includes fostering community involvement, implementing early warning systems, and engaging in diplomatic efforts. The UNO employs preventive diplomacy and mediation to prevent disputes from escalating into full-blown conflicts and to contain the spread of conflicts when they arise. The Secretary-General and his representatives undertake good offices and mediation efforts at the request of the disputing parties, on the initiative of the Secretary-General, or in response to requests from the Security Council or the General Assembly (United Nations, 2008). Furthermore, the UNO deploys special envoys and political missions on the ground to promote dialogue, encourage compromise, and facilitate the peaceful resolution of tensions.
- II. **Peacekeeping Operations:** UNO Peacekeeping Operations are deployed to assist nations in their journey from conflict to stability. These missions comprise military and police personnel from various countries, collaborating with civilian peacekeepers to carry out a wide range of mandates set forth by the UNO Security Council and General Assembly. Peacekeeping efforts involve monitoring and observing peace processes, aiding former combatants in the execution of peace agreements, supporting the organization of elections, and promoting the rule of law along with social and economic development.
- III. **Peacemaking:** This process encompasses activities like negotiation and mediation aimed at resolving disputes and fostering peace agreements. The UNO frequently plays a role in facilitating dialogue between conflicting parties. The UNO Secretary-General has the authority to utilize their "good offices" to assist in conflict resolution. Peacemakers may include envoys, governments, coalitions of states, regional organizations, or the UNO itself. Furthermore, peacemaking initiatives can also be undertaken by unofficial and non-governmental organizations, or by distinguished individuals acting independently.

- IV. **Peace Enforcement:** This consists of actions taken to compel compliance with international mandates, which may include the use of military force when necessary. Such actions are typically authorized under Chapter VII of the UN Charter when peaceful means prove insufficient.
- V. **Peacebuilding:** These are long-term efforts aimed at addressing the root causes of conflict and promoting sustainable peace. This encompasses supporting governance reforms, economic development, and initiatives that enhance social cohesion.
- VI. **Sanctions:** The UN Security Council has the authority to impose sanctions to maintain or restore international peace and security. These sanctions can encompass a range of measures, from economic restrictions to arms embargoes and travel bans. According to Chapter VII, Article 41 of the UN Charter, sanctions serve as a mechanism for the Security Council to promote global peace. The forms that sanctions may take include economic and trade restrictions, arms embargoes, travel bans, and limitations on financial transactions or commodities (United Nations, 2008).

The Israel-Palestine Peace Impasse

The United Nations Organization (UNO) has been actively involved in the Israel-Palestine conflict since 1947. Its efforts have included a variety of activities aimed at promoting peace, security, and humanitarian assistance. However, the UNO's involvement in the conflict reflects a complex approach characterized by achievements, challenges, and ongoing dilemmas (Bashir, 2024). This study will examine the UNO's efforts and effectiveness in addressing the conflict.

- I. **UNO Partition Plan:** Resolution 181 was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, proposing the partition of Palestine into two states: one for Jews and one for Arabs. This resolution initiated a series of conflicts between the two communities. This raises the question: Did the United Nations play a foundational role in the Israel-Palestine conflict?
- II. **The First Arab-Israeli War (1948–1949) and the UNO's Involvement:** The declaration of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948, initiated the first Arab-Israeli war. In this conflict, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq engaged in combat against Israel. The hostilities concluded with the signing of the 1949 Armistice Agreement, facilitated by the UNO, which was reached between Israel and four neighboring Arab states: Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. This agreement formally ended the fighting and established armistice lines, commonly referred to as the “Green Lines,” which demarcated Israeli-controlled territory from Arab-controlled territory (Morris, 2001). Additionally, the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) was established to monitor the ceasefire and ensure compliance with the agreement by all parties involved.
- III. **UNO Addresses Palestinian Displacement (Dec. 11, 1948):** The aftermath of the first Arab-Israeli war saw the displacement of at least 700,000 Palestinians, an event referred to as the *nakba*, meaning ‘catastrophe’ in Arabic (CFR, 2024). In response, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 194 in 1948, which recognized the right of return for displaced refugees and called for compensation. Furthermore, the resolution established the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine

(UNCCP) to facilitate dialogue and peace negotiations involving Israel and Arab states, including France, Turkey, and the United States.

- IV. **The Second Arab-Israeli War and UNO's Involvement:** The Suez Crisis, occurring from October 29 to November 7, 1956, pitted Israel with the United Kingdom and France supporting against Egypt. This conflict was ignited when Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser nationalized the Suez Canal, a vital artery for international trade, in July 1956. Israel, facing blockades that prevented access to the Gulf of Aqaba, viewed this move as a direct threat. In response, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) passed Resolution 119, which mandated an immediate ceasefire and the withdrawal of invading forces from Egypt. This resolution marked the inception of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF), the UNO's first peacekeeping effort. The withdrawal of UNEF in 1967 ultimately contributed to the outbreak of the Six-Day War.
- V. **UNO in the Aftermath of the Six-Day War:** The Six-Day War transpired from June 5 to June 10, 1967, involving Israel and its neighboring Arab states—Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. The conflict concluded with Israel seizing control of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, and the Sinai Peninsula (CFR, 2024). On November 22, 1967, the UNSC adopted Resolution 242, calling for Israel's withdrawal from territories occupied in the recent conflict and underscoring the value of each nation's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence. The resolution introduced the principle of "land for peace," laying the groundwork for future peace processes, notably the Camp David Accords (1978) and the Israel-Jordan Treaty of Peace (1994) (Quandt, 2005).
- VI. **The Yom Kippur War and Its Aftermath:** The Yom Kippur War, also known as the Ramadan War or the October War, unfolded as Egypt and Syria aimed to regain Israeli-occupied lands in the Sinai Peninsula and Golan Heights. The conflict intensified Cold War tensions, with the Soviet Union backing Egypt and Syria, while the United States supported Israel (CFR, 2024). The hostilities concluded with a UNO-mediated ceasefire that emphasized negotiations for a lasting peace in West Asia, along with adherence to Resolution 242 (1967). During this period, major powers used the UNO as a framework to facilitate their roles in the ongoing conflict (Siniver, 2013).
- VII. **The UN and Palestinian Statehood:** The Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) advocated for the recognition of Palestine by the United Nations based on its 1967 borders. This campaign garnered significant global support despite divergent views from various nations. In 2012, the UN General Assembly accorded de facto recognition to Palestine as a sovereign entity, elevating its status to that of a non-member state (Eden, 2012).
- VIII. **United Nations Relief and Works Agency in the Near East (UNRWA) and the Palestinian Refugee Crisis:** The Arab world has faced significant challenges stemming from the Palestinian refugee crisis since 1948. In response to the dire socioeconomic conditions confronting Palestinians, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) was established. Despite its efforts, the number of refugees has escalated by over 30,000 annually (Bashir, 2024). UNRWA aims to support Palestinian refugees in becoming full citizens and achieving self-sufficiency, with a focus on fostering economic stability, political identity, and social acceptance (Farah,

2013). The recurring escalations of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in 2008, 2012, 2014, 2018, 2022, and 2023 have had devastating effects on civilian populations on both sides. Nevertheless, the UN's role in mediating these disputes has often been criticized for failing to adequately represent the interests of the parties involved (Bashir, 2024).

UNO and the Israel-Palestine Impasse

Until now, the United Nations has struggled to effectively implement a sustainable resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on mutual agreement between the parties involved. Several circumstances contribute to this failure. Israel's strong economic ties and support from Western nations significantly influence its relations with other countries. Israel has established robust international connections with powerful nations, particularly the United States. It is a key player in international trade due to its economic strength, military capabilities, and technological advancements. Despite its small size, Israel possesses the majority of nuclear weapons and plays a significant role in global commerce.

Since Russia—an important member of the UN—has maintained a neutral stance following the Cold War, Israel is unlikely to face threats from large nation-states beyond its borders. Even during periods of hostilities, the UN, which is often influenced by Western powers, has been unable to effectively side-line the parties involved in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, the United States has the power to veto resolutions and has frequently used this power to block measures it perceives as biased against Israel, including resolutions condemning Israeli military actions and settlement activities (Pratiwi et al., 2020).

Israel's apolitical stance has further hindered the UN's efforts to resolve the conflict between Palestine and Israel. As the 59th member state, Israel has made significant contributions to UN operations in various areas, such as science, technology, education, health, culture, and economics. The UN has the authority to maintain world peace and security, advise its members, initiate military actions against governments violating international law, and impose economic sanctions. However, for an extended period, the UN's involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian issue has primarily consisted of temporarily ignoring the positions of both sides. The UN's inability to act impartially in crisis resolution is underscored by its inconsistent behaviour towards other member states (Priyadarshani, 2024).

The practical challenges that hinder both sides from reaching an agreement contribute to the UN's failure to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Key issues include the establishment of a Palestinian state next to Israel, the rights of Palestinian refugees, Jewish settlements in the West Bank, and the ownership of Jerusalem. Despite ongoing negotiations, the crisis persists. Palestinians rejected "The Deal of the Century," a US-prepared peace plan that proposed compromises to economic issues. The Oslo Accords, which represented the first direct peace agreement between Israel and Palestine, also faltered due to Israel's actions. Even after Palestine agreed to recognize the 1967 borders, Israel continued to evict Palestinians from Jerusalem and expand settlements in the West Bank. The competing desires of both parties have prevented any proposed solutions from being successfully implemented (Habas & Erdoğan, 2020).

Conclusion

The UNO has played a crucial role in global conflict resolution; however, its effectiveness is often constrained by political factors and the complex nature of issues like the Israel-Palestine conflict. Despite numerous resolutions and peace initiatives, including UNSCR 242 and General Assembly Resolution 194, a sustainable solution remains elusive. Diplomatic efforts are further complicated by the interplay of national aspirations, religious tensions, and historical grievances. Additionally, the UNO's capacity to implement decisions and take decisive action is significantly limited by the dynamics of veto power within the UNO Security Council. Achieving sustainable peace will require a concerted international effort and genuine commitment from all parties involved, particularly in light of ongoing violence and humanitarian crises, exacerbated by recent escalations such as the October 2023 Hamas attack on Israel. Ultimately, it is crucial to draw on insights from Constructivist theory, which highlights the importance of dialogue that acknowledges identity, norms, and shared understanding. This approach could facilitate breaking the cycles of mistrust between Israel and Palestine.

Recommendations

To enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations Organization (UNO) in global conflict resolution and to achieve a breakthrough in the Israel-Palestine conflict, this study proposes the following recommendations:

- I. The UNO should prioritize inclusive dialogue that encompasses all stakeholders, including local communities affected by the conflict. This approach can cultivate trust and facilitate more effective peacebuilding efforts.
- II. The UNO should reform the dynamics of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) by addressing the issue of veto power. Re-evaluating the process by which resolutions are adopted could lead to more balanced decision-making that reflects a broader consensus among member states.
- III. The UNO should implement comprehensive peace strategies that extend beyond mere ceasefires to address underlying issues such as territorial disputes and refugee rights, which are essential for achieving lasting peace.
- IV. Strengthening strategic partnerships with regional entities can provide localized insights and support for peace initiatives tailored to specific contexts.
- V. Adopting Constructivist insights suggests that fostering dialogue requires consideration of identity, norms, and shared understanding. This can help break the cycles of mistrust between Israel and Palestine. Initiatives aimed at reconciling narratives through education and cultural exchanges may promote mutual understanding and lead to sustainable peace.
- VI. Conflict resolution initiatives should acknowledge the identities of conflicting parties, recognizing their historical experiences and aspirations for self-determination. This acknowledgement can pave the way for more equitable negotiations.

By implementing these recommendations, the UNO can navigate the complexities of international conflict more effectively and work towards achieving sustainable peace in regions like Israel and Palestine. Additionally, these measures will enhance the overall efficacy of the UNO.

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