

**INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE 2021**



**GLOBAL SECURITY  
ORGANISATION  
STUDY GUIDE**

# GSO STUDY GUIDE : ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT

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# **GSO STUDY GUIDE : ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT**

## **LETTER FROM THE CHAIR**

Dear Delegates,

We welcome you to one of the most complicated, contentious and conflict-ridden regions of our world – the Middle East. This is a region that has long been dominated by uprisings, war, extremism and anarchy. The Israel Palestine issue has been influencing regional politics for decades, if not centuries. It is up to you delegates of the Global Security Organisation 2021, to finally determine a solution to this seemingly never-ending conflict.

At GSO, we believe that every single delegate must speak up in order to reach a comprehensive solution. To bring this decades-long conflict to an end, delegates will require immense clarity of thought, strong debate and viable solutions. Whether you're a first-timer or the most experienced munner in committee, beware, as the unpredictable crises and turns in committee will constantly keep you on your feet and require spontaneous, creative thinking.

On the 17th and 18th of September, as we come together to solve the most pressing crisis of history, we urge the delegates of the global security organisation, to speak up, collaborate and collectively come up with comprehensive solutions while maintaining the foreign policy.

Suit up, Delegates!

The GSO Executive board can't wait to see you all on the 17th and 18th of September.

Regards,  
Syna Pal- Chair,  
Aman Jasani- Vice chair,  
Armaan Jain- Moderator,  
Vamika Goel- Rapporteur,  
Yashil Vora- R&D head.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is one of the world's longest-running and most controversial conflicts. At its heart, it is a conflict between two self-determination movements — the Jewish Zionist project and the Palestinian nationalist project — that lay claim to the same territory. But it is so, so much more complicated than that, with seemingly every fact and historical detail small and large litigated by the two sides and their defenders. While religion is involved, the conflict is mainly about two groups of people who claim the same land. The beginning of the conflict dates back to the early 1900s.

Increasing numbers of Jews began moving to Ottoman Palestine—a predominately Arab region—following the 1896 publication of Theodor Herzl's *The Jewish State*, which promoted the idea of a haven for Jews in their ancient homeland to escape anti-Semitism in Europe. The migration accelerated after the Holocaust of World War II, in which Nazi Germany killed six million Jews. Since then there have been several complications and developments and despite the worldwide efforts to bring about peace in that region, there still remains uncertainty in the near future.

## **A BRIEF HISTORY**

### **TIMELINES**

#### **1914-1918 (World War I)**

- British and French empires divided the Middle East. The British took control of the region called the British Mandate which is known as Palestine today.

#### **1919-1948 (British rule)-**

- The British allowed Jewish immigration. However, as more Jews arrived, tensions between Jews and Arabs grew. Acts of violence were committed by both sides.
- By the 1930s the British began limiting Jewish immigration. In response, Jewish militias formed to fight the Arabs and resist British rule.
- Then came the Holocaust, leading many more Jews to flee Palestine.

1947 onwards -

- As violence between Jews and Arabs grew, the UN approved a plan to divide British Palestine into 2 separate states – Israel for Jews and Palestine for Arabs. The city of Jerusalem (where Jews, Muslims and Christians all have holy sites) became a special international zone.
- The aim of this move was to give the Jews a state so that Palestinian independence could be established. The Jews accepted this, but Arabs saw the UN plan as just more European colonialism trying to steal their land.
- Many of the Arab states declared war on Israel. Israel won this war. However, they pushed their borders well beyond those mandated by the UN and took the Western half of Jerusalem and a lot of the land that was part of Palestine. They also displaced a large number of Palestinians from their homes creating a refugee crisis of about (\*put number displaced today).



- At the end of the war, Israel controlled almost all of the territory except for Gaza (which Egypt controlled) and the West Bank (which Jordan controlled).

1967-

- The Israeli and its neighboring Arab states fought another war lasting for six days. At the end of this war Israel captured the West Bank, Golan Heights and Sinai & Gaza

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## 1978 onwards

- Israel and Egypt signed the Camp David Accords after which Israel gave Sinai back to Egypt as per the peace treaty
- Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO, formed in the 1960s) fought against Israel (including acts of terrorism) as it wanted to completely end the state of Israel
- Later on the PLO agreed to divide the land between Israel and Palestine.
- However, during this time Israelis settlers started moving into Israeli occupied Palestine.
- With support from Israeli military, they divided up these territories by settling in, making it difficult for Palestinians to ever have an independent state for themselves.

## Late 1980s

- From 1987-1993 the first Intifada happened.
- At the same time, Palestinians in Gaza created Hamas- a violent, extremist group
- dedicated to Israel's destruction.

## Early 1990s

Leaders from both sides signed the Oslo Accords

## 2000-2005

- Second Intifada occurs
- In 2005, Israel withdrew from Gaza after 38 years, Hamas gains power, splits from the
- Palestinian authority and sparks a civil war dividing Gaza from the West Bank.

2013-2014

- The Barack Obama administration relaunches Israeli-Palestinian final status negotiations, but talks break down over disagreements on settlements, the release of Palestinian prisoners, and other issues.

2017

- Hamas and Fatah (largest faction of the confederated multi-party PLO) sign a reconciliation accord which gives Fatah full control of the Gaza strip.
- U.S. President Donald J. Trump announces his decision to relocate the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, recognizing the city as Israel's capital.

2018

- The United States slashes bilateral aid to the Palestinians and the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), closes the PLO office in Washington, DC, and opens its embassy in Jerusalem.

2019

- The Trump administration recognizes Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights and voices its disagreement with a decades-old State Department opinion that says Israel's West Bank settlements are inconsistent with international law

2020

- President Trump announces his vision for Israeli-Palestinian peace, which provides for Israel to annex 30 percent of the West Bank and for a smaller Palestinian state. Later, his administration brokers deals for multiple Arab states to normalize relations with Israel.

2021

- Clashes escalate again due to the Sheikh Jarrah issue/ Violence at Al Aqsa mosque.
- Benjamin Netanyahu ousted as Israeli Prime minister. Replaced by Naftalli Bennet.

## **RECENT ESCALATIONS**

It is dependent on the highbrow debate as to who among Israel and Palestine must be held responsible for sparking the present-day dispute. The Israelis are portraying the rocket fires by Hamas as intentional and their personal motion as retaliatory in self-defense, while Hamas is justifying it as its reaction to Israeli aggression.

### **THE SHEIKH JARRAH ISSUE**

#### *Background*

The neighbourhood of Sheikh Jarrah has become the centrepiece of belligerent fighting between Israel and Palestine this week as Palestinians rallied around its residents to resist the Israeli settlers encroaching on East Jerusalem. Following Israel's occupation of East Jerusalem in 1967, settler groups have launched legal bids to take over the area, staking a claim to the land as Jewish property lost in the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. When Israel regained control of Jerusalem after the war, it passed a law allowing Jewish families to reclaim their property in the city that they had lost to Jordanian or British authorities prior to 1967 if they could furnish proof of ownership. Palestinians say this law is discriminatory in practice and provides them no recourse to challenge Jewish claims. In 1982, Jewish settlers sued the Palestinian families who lived in Sheikh Jarrah and called for their eviction, saying they were squatters on the property. The Magistrate Court determined that the Palestinian families were unable to prove their ownership of the property, but would be able to continue living on the property as long as they paid rent and maintained the property.

Beginning in 1993, Jewish trusts began proceedings against the residents based on their non-payment of rent and of illegal changes to the property. The legal suits saw 43 Palestinians forced out of the predominantly Muslim neighbourhood in 2002 and more followed in 2008 and 2017, with Israeli settlers taking over their homes. The most recent case, due to be heard in the Supreme Court, seeks to remove four more families from the contested neighbourhood.

Palestinians view Israeli efforts to evict the residents as a larger ploy to take control of East Jerusalem and its prized Old City, which is considered an extremely holy site by both sides. Protests against their eviction went on for days, which gave way to serious violence and aerial warfare between the two factions.

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On May 10, after numerous consecutive days of violence at some point of Jerusalem and the usage of deadly and nonlethal pressure with the aid of Israeli police, Hamas, the militant organization which governs Gaza, and different Palestinian militant companies released masses of rockets into Israeli territory. Israel answered with air moves and later artillery bombardments in opposition to goals in Gaza, together with launching numerous air moves that killed more than twenty Palestinians. While claiming to target Hamas, different militants, and their infrastructure—together with tunnels and rocket launchers—Israel accelerated its aerial marketing campaign and struck goals together with residential buildings, media headquarters, and refugee and healthcare facilities. On May 21, Israel and Hamas agreed to a cease-fire, brokered with the aid of Egypt, with each facet claiming victory and no stated violations. More than hundred and fifty Palestinians have been killed and almost thousand others wounded, and as a minimum 13 Israelis have been killed over the 11 days of fighting.

### *Fatalities and Damage done*

Authorities in Gaza estimate that tens of hundreds of thousands of dollars of harm has been done, and the United Nations estimates that more than 72,000 Palestinians have been displaced by the fighting. Final and lasting decision of the conflict, assembling the aspirations of the events to the conflict, however, is nowhere on the horizon.

## POSSIBLE OUTCOMES

### *Two State Solution*

The primary approach to solving the conflict today is a so-called “two-state solution” that would establish Palestine as an independent state in Gaza and most of the West Bank, leaving the rest of the land to Israel. It would establish a Palestinian state that includes most of the West Bank—with land swaps to compensate it for Israel’s absorption of some Jewish settlements there—and Gaza, which Israel unilaterally withdrew from in 2005. Most international diplomacy promoting a two-state solution favors Israel’s reverting to a version of its pre-1967 borders, but there is no consensus on how doing so could account for Palestinians within those borders and Jewish Israelis living beyond them.

### *One State Solution*

The alternative to a two-state solution is a “one-state solution,” wherein all of the land becomes either one big Israel or one big Palestine. Proponents of a unified Israel advocate a single state in Israel, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, with citizenship and equal rights in the combined entity for all inhabitants of all three territories, without regard to ethnicity or religion. Some Israelis advocate another version of the one-state solution in which Israel will annex the West Bank but not the Gaza Strip and remain a Jewish state with a larger Arab minority. While some advocate this solution for ideological reasons, others feel simply that, due to the reality on the ground, it is the de facto situation. Many who argue for a one state solution excluding Gaza argue that there is no need to include it due to its self-governing status.

## **COUNTRY STANCES**

### **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

The Middle East has long been of central importance to the United States as successive administrations pursued a broad set of interrelated goals including securing vital energy resources, staving off Soviet and Iranian influence, ensuring the survival and security of Israel and Arab allies, countering terrorism, promoting democracy, and reducing refugee flows. Correspondingly, the United States has sought to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which has been a major driver of regional dynamics, with an eye toward obtaining these strategic objectives while balancing its support for Israel and pushing for broader regional stability. Under the Trump administration, the USA sided with Israel on various matters and passed a statement recognizing Jerusalem as Israel’s capital. These decisions have further strengthened the relations between Israel and the United States.

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## UNITED KINGDOM-

The United Kingdom believes that The Middle East Peace Process remains a foreign policy priority for this Government. Violence in Israel and the Occupied Territories has caused an immense loss of life, humanitarian suffering and economic hardship. A solution to this conflict is crucial both for Israelis and Palestinians, and for broader prospects of long-term peace in the region. The Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary are committed, along with international partners, to achieving the vision of a two-state solution: a democratic, viable and peaceful Palestinian state, alongside a secure Israel. Recently they have made their strongest statement explicitly in support of Israel's bombardment of Gaza, saying the country has a "legitimate right to defend itself".

## RUSSIA-

Russia supports two-state solution for the Israeli–Palestinian conflict and has relations with several Palestinian political parties. Russia does not consider Hamas as a terrorist organization and continues to diplomatically negotiate with them. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei accused Washington of attempting to create a closed club of democracies based on ideology, which could only “further exacerbate international tension.” Israel’s support of the rebels in Syria further strains its relations with the Russian Federation

## CHINA

China has been supporting Palestine independence and officially opposes Israeli occupation of its territories. The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has a similar stance on the issue to the Russian Federation and the two countries have worked together on policies to help resolve the issue. questioned U.S. motives and reprimanded the country for being “indifferent to the sufferings of the Palestinians.

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## ARAB LEAGUE-

Strongly support the Palestinian Cause. This group does not identify the creation of Israel at all. These countries also demand a separate Palestine. The countries however do not include Egypt, Jordan, UAE, Morocco (Although they have shown support for the Palestinian cause)

## EU MEMBERS

states of EU recognize Palestine but majority refrain from openly supporting Palestine. This category of the countries supports both Israel and Palestine but maintain that the issue must be resolved by both the parties without any interference from third parties.

## PAST ACTIONS

### CREATION OF UNRWA

Due to the nature of the crisis in Palestine, a completely separate organization was created for the Palestine refugee crisis, called “The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)”. On the other hand there is UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) who look after the rest of the world’s immigrants. UNRWA dwarfs UNHCR which helps highlight the importance of this matter. Following the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict, UNRWA was established by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949 to carry out direct relief and works programmes for Palestine refugees. The Agency began operations on 1 May 1950. In the absence of a solution to the Palestine refugee problem, the General Assembly has repeatedly renewed UNRWA's mandate, most recently extending it until 30 June 2017. UNRWA is unique in terms of its long-standing commitment to one group of refugees. It has contributed to the welfare and human development of four generations of Palestinian refugees, defined as “persons whose normal place of residence was Palestine during the period 1 June 1946 to 15 May 1948, and who lost both home and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 conflict.”

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The descendants of Palestinian refugee males, including legally adopted children, are also eligible for registration. Out of the several resolutions that have been unanimously voted for, the following resolutions are the most notable ones with regards to Israel and its government.

### **UN RESOLUTION 194 (1948)**

The Right of Return - allows any Palestinian to return to their original land. The 4 million Palestinian refugees who have been displaced wish to go back to their lands, but are prevented from doing so by the Israeli war machine. In fact they are demolishing more homes of the inhabitants in Jerusalem and West Bank.

### **UN RESOLUTION 242 (1967)**

Resolution 242 was passed on 22 November 1967 and embodies the principle that has guided most of the subsequent peace plans - the exchange of land for peace. The resolution called for the "withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict", and "respect for and acknowledgement of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every state in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force". The resolution is famous for the imprecision, in English, of its central phrase concerning an Israeli withdrawal - it says simply "from territories". The Israelis said this did not necessarily mean all territories, but Arab negotiators argued that it did.

### **UN RESOLUTION 273 (III)**

Is based on the condition that Israel undertakes to honor the charter and Recalls the two Resolutions I mentioned previously.

### **UN RESOLUTION 446**

Settlements are illegal under the Fourth Geneva convention. S/RES/446 (1979) of 22 March 1979

### **UN RESOLUTION 468**

The resolution called upon Israel to rescind the "illegal measures" and to facilitate the return of the Mayors of Hebron and Halhoul, as well as the Sharia judge of Hebron by occupying Israeli forces to resume the functions they were elected or appointed to do. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to continually monitor the implementation of the resolution.

After considering a report by the Secretary General and noting relevant parts of the Geneva Convention, the Council strongly disapproved the Government of Israel's failure to implement Resolution 468.

### **UN RESOLUTION 484**

The resolution called upon Israel to adhere to the Geneva Convention and recalled the previous Resolution 468 strongly disapproving the Government of Israel for ignoring it. The UN's "admission" of the state of Israel is based on fulfilling these two important obligations, which it has not done yet. Evidence of Israel's continuous ignorance of UN Resolutions follows these two subsequent Resolutions that speak for themselves:

### **UN RESOLUTION 2253**

Calls upon Israel to rescind all invalid measures to change the status of the City of Jerusalem

### **UN RESOLUTION 3236**

Reaffirming and emphasizing the regaining of the rights of Palestinians and appealing to the support of Palestinian people and their right to exist.

### **UN RESOLUTION DRAFT 2011**

The UN Resolution that drew 14 votes in favor and died with the U.S. veto: "Israeli settlements established in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, are illegal and constitute a major obstacle to the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace." - February 18.

**QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION SHOULD ANSWER-**

1) How will the new state of Palestine be created?

Many Israel and Palestinian leaders have conceded that a solution lies largely in the efficient formation of the new state of Palestinian. Hence it is essential that the delegates mention steps on how the new state of Palestine should be created

2) Rehabilitation of refugees and methods of investment for the same.

It is of importance that delegates account for the 6.5 million plus displaced Palestinian refugees worldwide. The rehabilitation process would require a large economic scale investment to ensure that housing jobs, healthcare and education are available for people

3) Public Backlash

Whatever the decision made, there will be public backlash as these people have been in a state of war for decades starting with their ancestors. Delegates will need to determine how to effectively deal with this backlash and ensure that there are no civilian uprisings.

4) Division of land

For decades the UN has tried to draw up plans for dividing the land between the two nations in a manner that will prevent conflict, but this has been to no avail. Both countries unwilling to compromise have continued fighting “if” delegates decide the land is to be divided. How will they do so fairly and in a manner that is plausible to both parties. If delegates choose to unify the area, how will they ensure that both nationalities and all religions are treated equally and fairly?

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