

PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI CONFLICT IN WAR AND PEACE APPROACH

Marlini Alianita^{1*}, Eva Achjani Zulfa², Bayquni³

^{1,2}Sekolah Kajian Strategik Global, Universitas Indonesia

³University Prof. Dr. Moestopo (Beragama), Indonesia

*Corresponding Author:

marlini.alianita@gmail.com

Accepted by Editors: 01-11-2023 | Completed Revision: 24-11-2023 | Published: 14-12-2023

Abstract

The Palestinian-Israeli conflict is a conflict that has been going on for decades and has not been resolved even though it has involved many countries to encourage the implementation of the peace process. The Palestinian-Israeli conflict is multifaceted, with various internal and external factors influencing the course of the conflict. In this paper the author tries to examine what approaches have been used in resolving the conflict, the method used by the author in compiling this paper is a qualitative descriptive approach based on literature studies or library research. In this paper the author finds that various initiatives and peace negotiations have been attempted to end the conflict between Palestine and Israel, ranging from the Reconciliation approach, the approach to the formation of two states to the proposal of confederation have also been carried out, but this has not found enlightenment in its settlement thus making it difficult for leaders to find common ground. Internationally, regional power dynamics, national interests, and external interventions are increasingly complicating the path to peace and to date the two-state solution remains the most widely supported option, the greatest challenge of which lies in addressing core issues and reconciling competing national aspirations. Achieving peace and stability in the region requires sustained dialogue, compromise, and commitment from all stakeholders involved.

Key Words: Israel, Palestine, Islah, Reconciliation

1. Introduction

The Palestinian-Israeli conflict is a conflict that has been going on for decades and has not been resolved even though it has involved many countries to encourage the implementation of the peace process. The following will explain the history of the conflict between Palestine and Israel.

Starting when World War I raged from 1914 to 1918, at that time Turkey had to involve itself in World War 1 based on efforts to maintain the survival of the empire that had been has a territory stretching from Europe to western Asia. But unfortunately for the Ottoman Turks, they were on the losing side, so they had to cede their territory to Britain, France and Russia. The effort to divide Ottoman territory was already planned before World War I ended.

Britain and France, made a treaty that sliced the Ottoman Turks' territory in the Middle East. The agreement was named the "Sykes-Picot Agreement". Once World War I was over, Britain and France realized the Sykes-Picot Agreement by dividing Turkish territories in Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Iraq and Trans Jordan under their control. One of the things that the British got was Palestine.

Meanwhile, long before World War I raged; anti-Jewish sentiment spread in Europe until it prompted the Zionist movement in 1897 aimed at establishing a Jewish state on the ground inhabited by Palestinian Arabs. At that time Palestine was still Ottoman territory.

A year before World War I ended, on November 2, 1917 the Balfour Declaration was issued which contained a British promise to facilitate Jews to establish a state in Palestine which at that time 90% of the population was actually Palestinian Arabs. After Britain officially gained a mandate in Palestine in 1923, Jews in Europe flocked there. The exodus intensified in World War II when Nazi Germany carried out ethnic cleansing of Jews in Europe.

By 1947, the Jewish population had jumped to 30% of the total Palestinian population, but they inhabited only 6% of the territory. In 1947, when the United Nations was just established, it passed a resolution on the Plan for the Partition of Palestine that recommended the establishment of two states and mandated Jerusalem under international supervision. The Palestinians rejected the plan because 56% of the Palestinian territory had to be ceded to Jews, whereas at that time, Palestinian Arabs controlled 94% of Palestinian land and 67% of the total population of Palestinian land. As the situation escalated, Britain ended its mandate in Palestine on May 14, 1948, on which day Jews proclaimed the establishment of Israel.

In the midst of that war, in December 1948, the United Nations again passed Resolution 194 guaranteeing the right of Palestinian refugees to return to Israeli-occupied lands. A year later in 1950, Egypt occupied the Gaza Strip, while Jordan ruled the West Bank.

The embers of conflict continue to burn, but the Palestinian cause lacks a leadership structure. Then, in 1964, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was established, which a year later was followed by Fatah which became the political wing of the PLO. Arab and Israeli relations themselves are getting hotter, especially at that time the world was shrouded in the Cold War.

In 1967 a six-day war broke out between Israel and the Arab coalition. Israel won this war and occupied the remaining Palestinian territories in the Gaza Strip, West Bank and East Jerusalem, in addition to the Golan Heights in Syria and the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt. Practically the Palestinian homeland was completely usurped by Israel.

In 1973 war broke out again, between the Syrian-Egyptian coalition and Israel. Egypt and Syria are trying to retake the Golan and Sinai. Egypt could counterbalance Israel, forcing it to agree to a ceasefire requiring Israel to withdraw troops from western Sinai.

Two years later on September 4, 1975, Israel and Egypt signed a peace treaty that saw Israel return the entire Sinai Peninsula to Egypt, in exchange for Egypt recognizing Israel followed by the opening of diplomatic relations. War broke out again in 1982 when Israel invaded Lebanon to hunt down the Lebanon-based PLO. Three years later, Israel withdrew troops from Lebanon after the PLO also left Lebanon.

In the following years the Palestinians adopted new methods of resistance through the 1987 intifada. A year later Hamas (Harakah Al Muqawamah Al Islamiyyah or Islamic

Resistance Movement) was born. After a period of heat, in 1993 an Israeli-Palestinian agreement was reached in Oslo, Norway, allowing the PLO to establish offices in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to form the Palestinian National Authority. Hamas and Islamic Jihad rejected this deal.

In September 2000, the second intifada movement broke out, which triggered a war between the Palestinian Authority Forces and the Israeli Armed Forces. The conflict ended in 2005 after Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon ordered Jewish soldiers and settlers to leave Gaza.

A year after that the Palestinians held elections. Hamas won 44 percent of the vote in the Palestinian legislative council. Israel responded to Hamas' success by imposing economic sanctions, until Hamas accepted the results of previous Palestinian-Israeli agreements, and recognized Israel.

In 2007, internal conflict broke out between Fatah and Hamas in 2007 which drove Fatah out of Gaza. In the aftermath of this internal conflict, Israel blockaded the Gaza Strip. Saudi Arabia then mediated between Hamas and Fatah to form a unity government, in which Hamas governs Gaza, while the West Bank is administered by the Palestinian Authority. Nevertheless, Israeli-Palestinian hostilities have not ceased, even in 2014 war broke out in Gaza.

Having entered a period of relative calm, violence peaked again when in November 2022 Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing government, involving extreme right-wing figures, ruled Israel.

2. Theoretical Background

During this rule, violence broke out almost throughout 2023 in various Palestinian territories, including Al Aqsa, resulting in the largest number of casualties since 2005.

Based on the explanation of the history of the conflict between Palestine and Israel above, the author is interested in examining what approaches have been used in resolving the conflict.

3. Methodology

The method used in this paper is based on literature studies or library research. Library research is a study that utilizes library sources to obtain research data. In the preparation of this paper to collect information relevant to the title of the paper, a qualitative descriptive approach is used, through literature studies to find references from book sources, theses, dissertations, conference papers, journals, and related documents.

4. Result and Discussion

From the history described above, we can see that the conflict that occurred between Palestine and Israel was not only caused by political factors between the two countries but there were other factors that became the cause.

Like the causes of war or conflict proposed by Waltz, according to Waltz the causes of war occur on three levels

Individual level, where war is caused by human emotions, impulses, and immorality.

Nation State, where war is caused by immoral political, economic, and social institutions within a country

System level (International System), where the system of international interaction between countries allows war to occur (Hamka: 2022)

Of the 3 causes of the war, if we refer to the Palestinian and Israeli conflicts, the causes of conflict between the two countries are caused by a combination of these three factors. The individual level and the state level began as early as the Ottoman Dynasty began its participation in World War I, and the system level began as early as the intervention of Britain and France in this conflict.

The Palestinian-Israeli conflict is multifaceted, with various internal and external factors influencing the course of the conflict. Domestically, Palestinians and Israelis are divided over key issues, making it difficult for leaders to find common ground. Internationally, regional power dynamics, national interests, and external interventions further complicate the path to peace

Over the years, various peace initiatives and negotiations have been pursued to end the conflict between Palestinians and Israelis. Several peace approaches are used. The first approach used was the Reconciliation/Islah approach. Islah is interpreted as an effort to create peace by preventing conflicts so that both parties are not involved in disputes, including trying to find solutions that can benefit both parties who want to conflict, and strengthen ukhuwah islamiyah. (Haddade: 2022). Islah is popular as a discourse when the nation is wracked with unresolved disputes and disputes, ranging from personal, ethnic, racial problems to political problems for certain disputing parties. Making peace in this way is the embodiment of reconciliation that many people yearn for. (Arifin: 2015).

The Islah/Reconciliation approach in handling the Palestinian and Israeli conflicts has been carried out with the Oslo Accords. The Oslo Accords of 1993 aimed to establish a Palestinian framework of self-rule in parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Although the Oslo Accords did not promise the independence of a Palestinian state, in the process it could provide and set territorial parameters for the Palestinian people who would slowly become territory without the jurisdiction of the state of Israel. The agreement, in essence, was a breakthrough for negotiations on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict decades earlier, because it was able to lead the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization at the time, Yasser Arafat, to set foot back in his homeland (Ashed: 2015)

But the agreement fails to address fundamental issues such as the status of Jerusalem, the right of return of Palestinian refugees, and Israeli settlements. As a result, the peace process stagnated and led to increased violence, most notably the second intifada in 2000 to 2005.

In addition to the approach considered as a potential solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, it has been discussed and debated for decades. This approach is the establishment of two states, in which Israel and Palestine will stand as separate and independent states recognized by the international community. This solution requires negotiating borders, resolving controversial issues such as the status of Jerusalem, the right of return of

Palestinian refugees, and the demolition of Israeli settlements. There is a two-state solution, both sides in this aspect, agree that at least separation is needed for both the state of Israel and Palestine. With this separation, the goals of Zionism and Arab nationalism will be maintained, and demographic threats can be avoided. (Charity: 2015)

However, reaching a two-state solution proved difficult. Efforts toward peace, including the Camp David summit in 2000 and the Annapolis Conference in 2007, have failed to bridge the gap between Israeli and Palestinian negotiators. Internal divisions in both societies, security concerns, and deep-rooted mistrust have hindered meaningful progress.

In addition to the above two approaches, other alternatives have also been proposed, such as the one-state solution or confederation, has been proposed, the one-state solution, in short is a solution that refers to the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through the establishment of an Israeli-Palestinian state in the form of a unit, union or confederation. Under this plan, the resolution would cover all of present-day Israel, the West Bank including East Jerusalem, and possibly the Gaza Strip and Golan Heights. (Charity: 2015). But this approach also faces significant challenges due to the deep national aspirations and fears of both Israelis and Palestinians.

5. Conclusion

The Palestinian-Israeli conflict is a very complex issue, with historical, political, and socio-cultural dimensions. Understanding the root causes, complexities, and potential solutions requires careful consideration of Palestinian and Israeli narratives. While the two-state solution remains the most widely supported option, its greatest challenge lies in addressing core issues and reconciling competing national aspirations. Achieving peace and stability in the region requires sustained dialogue, compromise, and commitment from all stakeholders involved.

Reference

- Arifin, Muhammad Patri, (2015), 'Reconciliation in the Quran', *Rausyan Fikr*, Vol.11, No. 1 January – June 2015, accessed 23 October 2023 from <https://jurnal.iainpalu.ac.id/index.php/rsy/article/view/72/53>
- Charity, I. (2020). 'The Future of Israel - Palestinian Conflict: Either One State or Two?'. *Global Strategic*, 14(1), 63–76, accessed October 23, 2023 from <https://doi.org/10.20473/jgs.14.1.2020.63-76>
- Ashed, Marc Aron, (2015). 'Three's Company: An Alternative to Two-States Solutions.', Johns Hopkins University, accessed October 25, 2025 from <http://jhir.library.jhu.edu/handle/1774.2/38033>
- Berty, Teddy, (2023), 'Revealed, This is the Root Cause of the Long Israeli-Palestinian Conflict', accessed October 23, 2023 from <https://www.liputan6.com/global/read/5421541/terkuak-ini-akar-penyebab-konflik-panjang-israel-palestina>

- Dewantara, J. A., Sulistyarini, Afandi, Warneri, & Efiani. (2023) 'Human Rights Violations in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Have an Impact on the Loss of Human Rights, Especially Children's Rights in Palestine', *Journal of Citizenship* Vol. 7. Retrieved 25 October 2023 from <https://journal.upy.ac.id/index.php/pkn/article/view/4580/2804>
- Haddade, Abdul Wahid, (2016), 'The concept of Islah in the Quran', *Tafsere* Vol. 4 No. 1, accessed 23 October 2025 from <https://doi.org/10.24252/jt.v4i1.7691>
- Noer, Hamka, (2022), 'War and Security in a Review of Neorealism and Institutionalism Theory', *Journal of Indonesian and Global Politics*, accessed October 23, 2023 from <https://jurnal.umj.ac.id/index.php/Independen/article/view/12373>
- Sumertha, Gede, Hilaria Ananda Wibowo, (2017), 'Indonesian Government Involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Peace Process', *Journal of peace and conflict resolution*, accessed 25 October 2023 from <https://jurnalprodi.idu.ac.id/index.php/DRK/article/view/68>
- <https://study.com/academy/lesson/causation-of-war-at-the-system-level.html>. Retrieved 25 October 2023
- <https://www.bakerinstitute.org/research/two-perspectives-two-state-solution>, diakses October 25, 2023