

## **Role of United Nations in Conflict Resolution: A Case Study of Palestine Issue**

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Session 2017-18  
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### **Abstract**

*The stated goal of setting up the United Nations was the prevention of wars and conflicts between states. However, it has proved to be a daunting challenge to achieve this noble aim. The number of wars waged since the organization was established in 1945 and the ongoing conflict around the world, especially in the current Israel-Palestine conflict, are explanations of how the United Nations' peace and stability initiatives are hindered. The non-democratic structure of the Security Council, that gives the five permanent members veto power, is of course a major reason for this breakdown. The USA with its veto power has always used it in favor of Israel and the dismay of Palestinians within the Security Council. Historical conditions have not been very helpful for the involvement of the UN in the Israeli-Palestinian crisis as regards peace achievement. Not only has the UN failed to resolve the Palestinians' genuine grievances, it has also been miserably impotent to deter Israeli atrocity. The influence that the US has on its veto and applies primarily to the United Nations and its various agencies can be attributed to this.*

**KEY WORDS:** Palestine; United Nations; United States; Security Council; veto power; Israel; Conflict Resolution; PLO Palestinian Liberation Authority; Hamas; Al-Fatah.

### **Introduction**

The United Nations was established to maintain peace between nations because, in reality, it has been able not only to deter international conflicts on a consistent basis, but also to make them happen. The main dispute which arose was its role in the early years of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It was not yet resolved. In compliance with the United Nations preamble. The aim of the organization is to rescue future generations from conflict and to provide for the circumstances in which peace and reverence for commitments resulting from treaties and other forms of international law can be maintained. Article 1 of the charter also defines the United Nations as the purpose of maintaining the international climate, the charter was signed by its founding Member States in June of 1945. Nonetheless, the UN almost right after its inception, the situation in Palestine was exacerbated by acting against its own declared principles (Merican, 2018). The international system is evolving into a complex structure in which principles such as balance of power, collective security, interference in conflict resolution become increasingly complicated. The stability of the international system was ruined by the previous instability created by the two World Wars. The hostile positions of the European powers dominated the time up to the mid-twentieth century. Even the winning side did not want to hurt humanity any more. Thoughts centered during the inter-war period on the issue of ensuring peace and security, as envisaged by the League of Nations (Bennis, 1997).

As the Second World War erupted in 1939, which again showed that experience cannot teach us anything, the destruction became even greater. As the war was on its way, the allied powers continued to pursue a peaceful end to the war. The attempts to solve the crisis of the international system have pursued (Essays, 2018).

Some of the treaties signed to form an international organization to preserve international peace and security were: 12 June 1941, all the Allied powers joined forces to take action against Germany for its aggressive activities. The Atlantic Charter spoke in August 1941 about the peace

which will allow all countries to reside within their respective borders in security. It is therefore decided that a new organization should be formed that has the characteristics of the UN (Karim Makdisi, 2017). In the 1933 Tehran Declaration, solidarity is formed to abolish tyranny and slavery and intolerance. In 9 October 1944: calls for the creation under the banner of the United Nations of an international organization. On 24 October 1945, this international body launched its plan (Mauro, 2012).

The main feature of this organization is that it is a non-sovereign organization which functions on the basis of the cooperation of the Member States. The Organization's main purpose is to maintain international peace and security, social and economic growth and justice between Member States. The UN Preamble suggests some of the Member States' basic values, A few more of those objectives are compliance and extension of cooperation in all matters with international standards. The United Nations' main duty is to settle disputes by peaceful means. Armed intervention can only be used if all peaceful means have failed and if international peace and security are threatened (Upendra, 2000).

The issues which emerge are generally referred to the Security Council. While they have the right to vote, the General Assembly has the opportunity to take part in the topics. The argument is that permanent Council members have the right, if any, to obstruct matters. So the Security Council as a whole has more strength over international conflict action (Matthews E. , 2011).

Pursuant to Article 99 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Secretariat may refer the cases to the Security Council for the necessary action. The international tribunal has also been set up to consider cases submitted to the United Nations. In comparison to the League of Nations, the United Nations is undoubtedly broader based on its objectives and objectives. The downside is that UN resolutions are not binding on the Member States either. Except in the case of a direct military action or an economic blockade by a Security Council where another State has an obligation to take action against the aggressor (Jan·Osmańczyk, 2003).

The post-war scenario was not the way it should be. The justification for this is the ideological struggle for the hegemony of major powers and for world order. The goals are mainly determined by the USA (Serry, 2016).

Conflict resolution is one of the main objectives of the United Nations through peaceful, if necessary, military action. The problem is also whether it is internal or external. International relations analysts face challenges in determining the conflict's nature. Interdependence becomes more and more unavoidable in the changing international system, as the question is to imply some kind of intrusion as involvement. The principles of national interest and citizenship pose more challenges to describe the confrontation that concerns the whole world of peace and security (Tomeh G. J., 1988).

### **United Nations' Role in Conflict Resolution**

Interference by the UN is interference only if it poses a threat to national security and stability. Any kind of interference is an act of procedure when the interfered state system remains disturbing for a long time. In the early years of its establishment, the operations undertaken by the UN cannot be viewed as the action for freedom from colonial rule of the former colonies. Amid the bleak period of UN decolonization (Khalidi, 2014). In the years that followed, the UN functioned partially in accordance with the wishes of the Security Council and the interests of the five permanent members. This is demonstrated by the entire period of cold war as illustrating the success of the Security Council as a non-sovereign entity of many countries whose decisions are not obligatory for the Member States. It is a kind of confederation with no independent powers (Tzimas, 2017).

Upon dealing with the terms of the UN Charter, the interpretation of disputes and their acceptance in the area of international system experts say that there are various forms of conflict resolution in the form of mediation or involvement or neutral aid from the UN. Conflict that occur for different reasons, for instance interference in the affairs of other states, weapons from one state to another which might threaten the neighboring state, fundamentalism by intervention in religious affairs, racial problems created in a certain state involving a third party. These are called intervention that disturbs domestic and external stability, even if they are used to resolve the conflict (Tessler, 1994).

### **United Nations' Role in the Palestine Issue**

The study of the role of the United Nations in the issue of Palestine has a special significance. The success of the UN in the post-cold war and post-

gulf war era can be explained by its domination by super powers like the United States. Palestine has always been in conflict since the UN was inscribed. Palestine is one such area. Israel's formation on the land of the Arabs themselves has long created instability (Bennis, 1997). The history of Palestine can be progressed through interregional religious and ethnic tensions. Due to vital importance and its relevance among three Abrahamic religions, the issue gained prominence. The Cold War age has a lot to say about the politics of Israel in international politics. To place this area's diplomacy in the clearest words, the super-powers are constantly striving: for regional hegemony: US and USSR. The Arab state balance was affected by the ideological conflict that symbolized the cold war. The superpowers interfered with the region to achieve economic supremacy. The super power intervention, along with ideological propaganda, has been performed as an important factor for cold war times (Essays, 2018).

Ethnocentric sentiments were widespread and led to the conception of other Arabs as enemies. This was always prevalent in the Middle East. Israel could not be assigned to the area since its establishment. The main cause is because the Arabs (Palestinian) protested about Israel's hostile behavior and interference with the US. An atmosphere of extreme animosity was generated by the opposition to the Jewish community and the Israel state as a whole (Upendra, 2000).

Palestine, as a volatile area, has never been stable, and the frequent subjection to the pressures of the super-powers has added to its instability. The cessation of many wars and peace agreements could not have any effect on balancing and stability even after the cold war. In the international context, the position of the US in Palestine is unclear. In the overall situation of the conflict over the area, few other major European powers were supported and settled during contrast to the powerful United States. In order to protect just the Jewish population, the United States played a major role in the region (Karim Makdisi, 2017).

In all the Palestine question, the United Nations played a marginal role for settling the conflict. This colossal interest dispute remains unresolved. The United States had even taken the initiative in the context of ethnic disputes on the basis of the provisions of the Charter on behalf of the UN Resolution (Jan·Osmańczyk, 2003). Israel defends its establishment on the basis that

the property was part of the British evacuation town. In this context, the UN will cede to the work and demands of the major powers of the international system. In consideration of the increasing dispute between Israel and Palestine, the United Nations Emergency Force was created. The Arab-Israeli conflict of 1967 only seemed intractable in the West Bank and Golan Heights occupied of Israel (Mauro, 2012).

### **Failures of the United Nations in the Palestine Issue**

The state justification of Israel is not clearly defined in the sense that it is not a particular structure as a sovereign entity. Thanks to conflicting interests of the major powers the issue was dismissed. The United Nations failed to play an integral role in resolving the main issue of the Arab-Israeli crisis in general and Palestine issue in particular, and was therefore remained dormant in this dispute (Karim Makdisi, 2017). The Palestine issue should be viewed throughout history as part of United States' activities and other regional supremacy powers. UN failed in the occasions of dispute is as follows:

War of Independence (1947–1949)

War of Sinai (1956)

The Yom Kippur War (1973)

Six-Day War (1967)

Massacre of Palestinians in 1970

Genuinely, the Arab-Israeli war of 1948 enabled the creation of the State of Israel, which made it possible to move the Jews to a common place. The Arabs objected to this sidelined situation and a separate statehood was given to Israel. In matters relating to this area, the United Nations and major international powers have behaved in a limited way. In fact, the interests of major powers, Europe, are always secured and disputes are dealt with on the grounds of the benefits of conflict resolution or action. Even after super-power rivalries (especially between the Arab States and Israel) have ceased to exist, tensions continue. The two superpowers and few other major powers have hindered the UN from impartially resolving the disputes (Essays, 2018).

The First and Second World Wars caused a great deal of damage to humanity, wealth. It was difficult to effectively create a stable international system by the League of Nations that was registered by the virtuosity of

the post-World War 1. The negative aspects of the League of Nations ' ideals could not be done with the peace and security goal that contributed to the Second World War (Khalidi, 2014).

Even if many meetings were held on conflict resolution, the UN struggled, to some degree, to handle to bring peace and to end the Israeli hostilities. Antagonisms against Israel have not been overcome because of their action against Lebanon, which places the emphasis on settling their disputes by contacting the UN. The Arab-Israeli rivalry was thus intensified. All this created a climate in which the UN felt that peace-keeping troops were needed. The Palestinian state, however, opposed the UN's stance. The super powers were continuously expanding military support to their respective ally as part of national interest and regional supremacy (Said, 2018). Political instability and social unrest in this region were taken advantage by the super powers. The world consists of more or more nations than the states. Technological development has increased crime. There were three reasons why the UN could not be active in the dispute. Firstly, it is a non-sovereign international body; secondly, throughout the cold war period super-powers interfered all the time. But many foreign policies have been influenced by the geo-strategic position and importance (Tzimas, 2017).

In 1967, Resolution 242, which declared that Israel should withdraw forces from all occupying areas, was adopted by the Security Council. In the resolution, political independence was retained by maintaining a demilitarized region. Nevertheless, the issue of Palestine, for which there were widespread demands, was not stated in Resolution 242. The PLO was set up in 1973 to increase self-determination. In 1973, it was formed. The Israeli forces have suppressed the demands, removing PLO rebels (Matthews E. G., 2011).

Palestinian instability was directly contrary to Israeli needs by the major powers of the international system. The surge in power in the area has caused instability in the area. The Iran-Iraq war was also the product of the US and former Soviet Union conflicts. This also reduced the role of the UN by applying its own interests to the Security Council. After that were often major powers ' non-responsive actions to operate with or without the UN permission. This can be explained by saying that peace resolutions

have not been fully acceptable to both parties in reaching decisions. The Palestinian-Israeli crisis issue is still unresolved. While Palestine's recognition as a statehood in recent years has eased tensions and paved the way for Israeli-Palestinian peace talks (Tessler, 1994).

On the grounds of the operation of various agencies of the frontier, the success and failure of the UN in conflict resolution of the dispute must be measured. The Security Council and the Secretary General offices are not limited to internal and external disputes. The Security Council continuously hinders the freedom of the Secretary-General. The Secretary General is not allowed to track the issues addressed by Chapter 7 of the Charter of the United Nations on the crucial points. There is no minimum opportunity to decide things, such as Somalia and Bosnia, available to the Secretary-General. Even in military and economic policy, the Secretary General has no major powers. The Security Council has rationalized its position in conflict resolution in the wake of the Cold War when the depressive interference is missing. A dignified role should be played by the Secretary General (Mercan, 2018).

In order to maintain peace from force, the international community must define the new domain of group military action. It also clarifies how the problem of national safety can be tied to military demand. It is widely held that the UN armies are for self-defense purposes only. The use of force is a legal term rather than a military term which covers chapter 7 of the Charter. The major weakness of the UN is that it does not have a distinct international administrative body (Serry, 2016).

It depends largely on the UN's unbiased approach to a specific issue. The need of an organization that offers a permanent UN army should be adequately addressed and provide an enduring supply of resources. Via dialogue the international settlement in Sudan, Vietnam and El Salvador has brought about the end of civil wars and revived the expectation that voting not ballots solve the problems. Current interveners insist that a new role for the UN will be conceptualized, allowing the UN to participate with agreement only in internal conflicts. The new interveners are aimed at resolving civil wars and avoiding policy barriers that are unselfishly undermining world peace and safety. Intervention should be for a shorter period in the world situation of constant wars. The United Nations will



remember that the indigenous powers with ample territorial awareness are incapable of eliminating them (Karim Makdisi, 2017).

The important point is the proper protection of Third World Countries from foreign interference. To order to prevent further harm to the financial position, the expense effects of the operation must be measured in the long term. For humanitarian affairs, the field of UN intervention is rapidly expanding. It should not affect nationality and the sovereignty problem (Khalidi, 2014).

The developing countries should be entitled to make a fair contribution to the Security Council in decisions reached on conflict matters. Before using military action and unilateral action, there needs to be much examination. Proper dichotomy between peacekeeping and peacebuilding is necessary. The idea of national interest is always a barrier to the survival of world peace and security. As the international arbitrator, the UN cannot play its function. The cooperation between the nations reflects the success or failure of the UN and its commitment to peace-building throughout the world as well as Palestine in particular. Every State must offer peace and stability, it is very appropriate to say. In the case of humanitarian aid, coordination is much more essential. The mighty nations should extend their cooperation properly without taking unnecessary action (Jan·Osmańczyk, 2003).

The important aspect of the action is that, in the midst of a conflict, the UN should be impartial. This is hard to understand. When the UN takes part in the intervention, collective security, peacekeeping, etc. The aggressor and the perpetrator should be understood from a different angle. It shows us specifically that the United Nations cannot help any of the opposing nations. In the structure and operations of collective security and peacekeeping, the principle of Neutrality extends beyond the intent of aggression. The current problems faced by the United Nations as an international peace and security agency are limitations. In the process of reaching a true confederation, it has barriers such as constraints of the armed conflicts, politics, humanitarian intervention, ethnicity and religion, national unity challenges (Bennis, 1997).

The world today, where terrorist problems, religious conflicts, ethnic disturbances, international drug trafficking, the supply of arms etc. are

concerned, poses a threat to international security. international security. The post-Soviet and subsequent post-Gulf Wars did not entirely resolve the problems. With the changing international system, the United Nations is facing new challenges. The perceived geo-economic world cannot change the nature of the international system. In addition to the existing forms of intervention, the Geo-economic world added the aspect of economic intervention (Upendra, 2000).

In the context of increasing regional solidarities, the international system poses several issues in the contemporary world to the United Nations. It can interfere in Kosovo's riots and its surroundings, East Timor's dispute in Indonesia, Taiwan and China, Chechnya's problems, Kashmir's problem in India, the problem of the Republican army and the British Government, and so on. This appears to indicate that the drivers' seat is the dimension of national interest and power. Even after the Cold War and the new century, the United Nations is not free from the demands of powerful forces (Said, 2018).

There is no question of interference when a country values each other's sovereign rights. In today's world, it is of crucial importance when we consider a new idea-the global village. It cannot be spoken of if countries continue to maintain their antagonisms. The reality shows that the powerful states do not keep away from their egoistic desires. If the General Assembly is also given the appropriate position, the UN is able to function properly in the near future. Finally, it can be said that the UN has a respectable role to play in the post-cold war situation provided that all Nations, in particular those from the large league, believe and adhere to UN regulations (Sinanoglou, 2009).

## **Conclusion**

However, the United Nations was preoccupied with the question of Palestine. At the beginning of September 21, 1948, the whole problem of Israel was to be put on the agenda at a new session of the General Assembly which was to deal with the immediate problem of recognizing Israel as a member nation as requested by the Security Council in a memorandum on 17 August 1948. The memorandum stated that failure to deal with the proposal would leave for another full year a certain and unpredictable

government environment. There was little doubt that the United Nations' recognition of Israel would lay the UN approval stamp on its decision to partition Palestine on 29 November 1947.

This world body may lose its credibility as the UN continues to be passive on such questions throughout the world, including the conflict between Israel and Palestine. The UN is considered the only forum that developed countries can use to address their international problems. In view of the realities of all these with varying facets, the United Nations must play an active role in addressing the Palestinian problem, especially in the Middle East, with a view to reinvigorating its position as the only viable international platform for all questions in order to achieve a peaceful end. Simultaneously, all States must respect the mandate of the United Nations and comply with its resolutions for the sake of international peace and harmony.

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