

UNSC

STUDY GUIDE

#LETSBEEUNITED

OĞUZ KAAAN ATAÇ
BOARD MEMBER

MARYAM EL SALEH
BOARD MEMBER

BORAN EFE KAZBEK
ACADEMIC ASSISTANT

İSTANBUL TEKNİK
ÜNİVERSİTESİ



Letter from the Secretariat

Dear Delegates,

It is with great honor and enthusiasm that I welcome you to ITUMUN 2025, where innovation, diplomacy, and collaboration come together to shape a brighter future. As Secretary-General, it is my privilege to witness the incredible passion and dedication each of you brings to this conference.

For this year's ITUMUN, we challenge you to think beyond borders and redefine the possibilities of multilateral cooperation. As a university rooted in engineering and technical excellence, we have embraced our unique identity by curating committees and agendas that emphasize industrial development, technological advancement, and critical technical issues. Whether debating economic policies, grappling with emerging technologies, or navigating historical turning points, you will be tasked with crafting solutions that not only address the challenges at hand but also inspire progress.

Model United Nations is more than just an academic exercise—it is a platform for you to develop critical thinking, refine your communication skills, and foster a spirit of teamwork. This conference is your opportunity to step into the shoes of world leaders, embracing the responsibility and influence that comes with these roles.

On behalf of the entire ITUMUN team, I wish you the best of luck in your preparations and during the conference itself. We are here to support you every step of the way, ensuring that your ITUMUN experience is both impactful and unforgettable. I look forward to seeing the energy and ideas you bring, and the lasting connections you will forge throughout this journey.

Warm regards,

Roya Alhariri
Secretary-General
ITUMUN 2025

Letter From the Committee Board

Committee: United Nations Security Council

Esteemed Delegates,

It is our sincere pleasure to welcome you all to ITUMUN'25.

During the following four days, you will find the opportunity to thoroughly discuss one of the most significant ongoing conflicts in the global stage. The Israeli Palestinian conflict, or The Arab - Israeli conflict on a broader historical aspect is a long-standing political and territorial dispute between Jewish and Arab populations in the Middle East, primarily centered on the land of historic Palestine. It began in the early 20th century, intensified with the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948, and has led to wars, displacement, and ongoing tensions over borders, refugees, and the status of Jerusalem. Despite numerous peace efforts, the conflict remains unresolved, with intermittent violence and deep divisions between Israelis and Palestinians.

The agenda hence named as the Multinational Conflict in the Middle East then divided into two sections due to the fact that a crisis of this size naturally results in dire consequences, bringing the conflict into not only a regional, but to the global stage. Today local and global powers are involved with it to different extents.

Your task is to find effective solutions for “Securing the Energy & Strategic Resource Supply” and “Preventing a Mass Scale Immigration Crisis” in the region for this conflict. Your contribution is vital since the aforementioned topics hold a great **strategic** and **humanitarian** importance. You are provided with the exclusive powers of the Security council such as deploying Peace-Keeping Forces and making decisions that are legally binding by international law, unlike the rest of UN Bodies. So you are expected to use your powers wisely to deliver the ultimate good for the people.

We sincerely hope to deliver an enriching and memorable experience for you and for that we promise to do whatever is needed. Please do not hesitate to contact us via e- mail addresses provided below, should you require any further information.

Sincerely,

Oğuz Kaan Ataç / oguzkaanatc@gmail.com

Maryam El Saleh / maryamelsaleh77@gmail.com

1. Introduction to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)
2. Overview of the Agenda Item I: The Multinational Conflict in the Middle East ,
Securing the energy and strategic resource supply from the region
3. Historical context
 - 5.1.The Role of the Middle East in Global Energy Supply
 - 5.2.Key Conflicts Impacting Energy Security in the Region
 - 5.3.Strategic Resource Competition and Geopolitical Rivalries**
4. **Current Issues**
 - 6.1Energy Supply Disruptions Due to Ongoing Conflicts
 - 6.2The Syrian Conflict and Energy Transit Routes
 - 6.3 Regional Competition for Resources:
5. **Recent Developments**
 - 7.1.Attacks on Energy Infrastructure
 - 7.2.Shifts in Energy Alliances and Agreements
 - 7.3. Emerging Technologies and Renewable Energy Initiatives in the Region
6. **The Role of International Bodies and Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue**
 - 8.1.UN Resolutions on Resource Security and Regional Stability
 - 8.2. Multilateral Agreements for Energy Cooperation
 - 8.3. Role of Peacekeeping Operations in Protecting Energy Infrastructure
7. **Possible Solutions and Main Issues to Address**
8. **Further Readings**
9. Introduction to Agenda II
10. Key Vocabulary
11. Overview of the Conflict
12. Other Ongoing Conflicts in the region
 - a. Syrian Civil War
 - b. Yemen Civil War
13. Current Situation in the Region
 - a. Civilian Safety in Active Combat Zones
 - b. Challenges in Delivering Humanitarian Aid
14. Political Hindrances and External Influences in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
15. Regional Power Struggles and Proxy Conflicts in the Middle East
16. Roles of UN Bodies
17. Displacement of Palestinian People
18. Challenges to be Addressed
19. Recommendations for Solution
20. Further Reading
21. Bibliography

1. Introduction

1.1. Introduction to the UNSC

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN) and holds the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. Established in 1945 following the devastation of World War II, the Council was designed to foster collective security and prevent future conflicts by providing a platform for diplomacy and decisive action. Operating under the framework of the UN Charter, it is one of the most powerful and influential organs within the international system.

The UNSC is unique in its ability to make legally binding decisions that all UN member states are obligated to implement, setting it apart from other UN organs. It is authorised to take a range of measures to address threats to peace, including imposing economic sanctions, approving military interventions, and deploying peacekeeping forces to conflict zones. Its resolutions and mandates are central to international efforts in conflict resolution, crisis management, and the enforcement of international law.

The member states in the council are divided into two categories;

Five permanent members (P5): China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. These nations wield the influential power of veto, allowing any one of them to block substantive resolutions regardless of majority support.

Non-permanent members, elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms, with seats distributed to ensure geographic representation across different regions of the world.

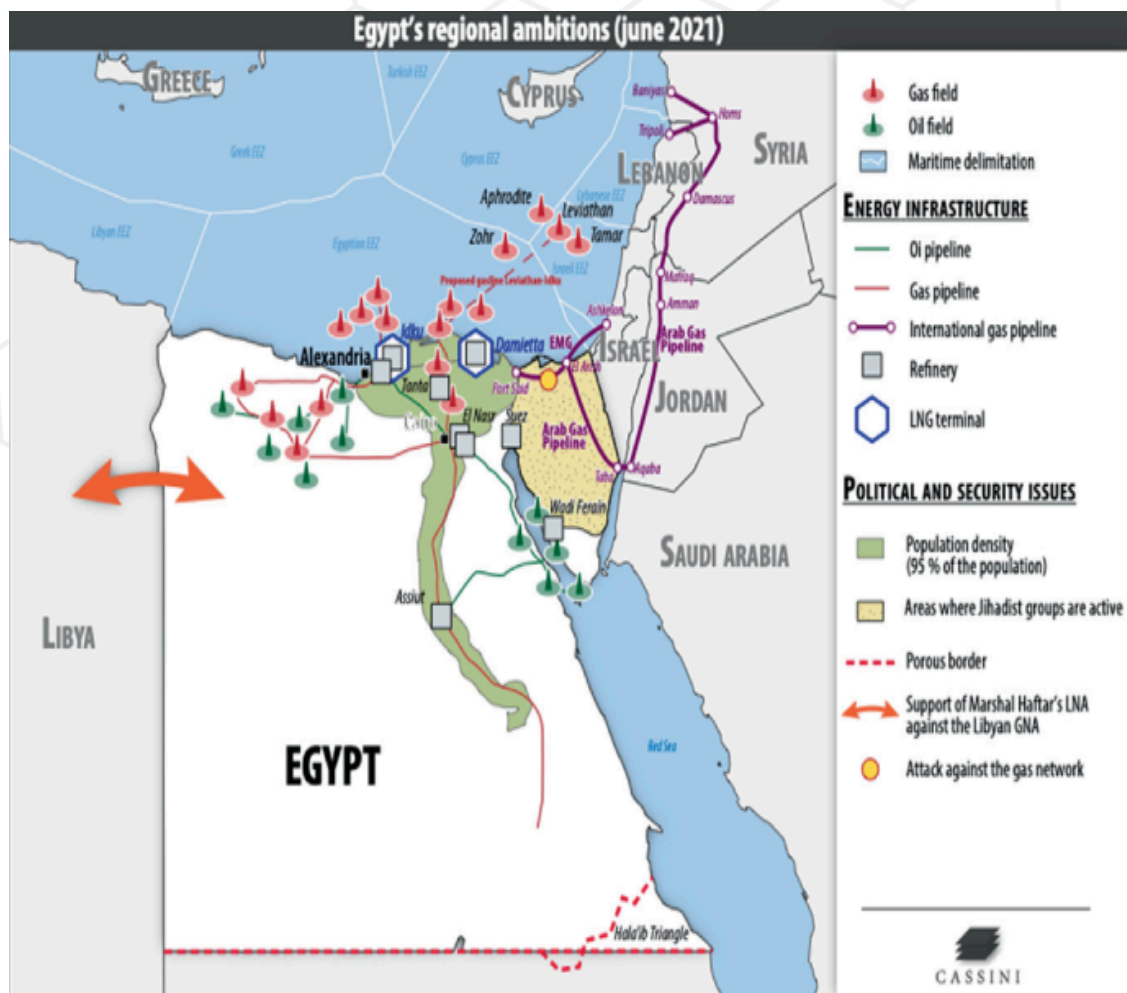
The UNSC's agenda is extensive and addresses some of the most pressing global challenges, including armed conflicts, nuclear non-proliferation, counter-terrorism, and the protection of civilians in war zones. It also plays a significant role in overseeing the implementation of peace agreements and supporting the establishment of post-conflict stability and governance.



2. Overview of the Agenda Item I: The Multinational Conflict in the Middle East, Securing the energy and strategic resource supply from the region

The Middle East, with its rich oil, gas, and other key resources, plays an important role in the global energy supply chain. It contributes to supplying the world's energy demand, with main oil and natural gas suppliers such as Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). This abundance of resources has fueled economic growth while also drawing large geopolitical attention from regional and global countries.

However, the region's energy stability has been undermined by decades of geopolitical rivalries, conflicts, and external interventions. Prolonged wars, such as the Gulf Wars and the Syrian Civil War, have damaged vital energy infrastructure, disrupted production and supply chains, and escalated tensions among states. Furthermore, competition over strategic resources has deepened divisions, both within the region and internationally, as countries vie for control over oil fields, gas reserves, and transit routes.



3. Historical Context

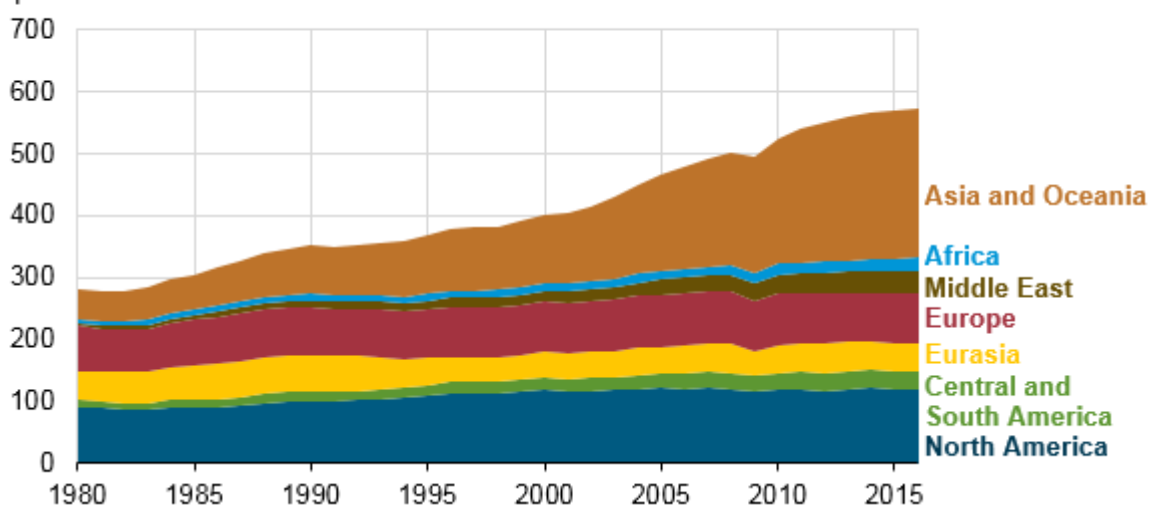
3.1 The Role of the Middle East in Global Energy Supply

The Middle East has long been the world's principal supplier of crude oil and natural gas, and it holds about half of global demonstrated oil reserves and a significant proportion of natural gas reserves. Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, and the United Arab Emirates are among the top global exporters, with their massive resources supplying energy to countries around the world. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, in particular, play an important role in regulating oil prices, frequently impacting global markets through their production methods and policies, which are mostly coordinated through OPEC.

The region's energy wealth has not only driven economic progress in these countries, but also solidified its place as a pillar of global energy security. Its oil and gas assets are vital for powering both industrialized and rising economies. However, the Middle East's strategic importance has made it a focal point for geopolitical rivalries, which frequently result in external involvement, military wars, and economic exploitation.

Historical events, such as the 1973 oil embargo and the Gulf Wars, highlight the region's weight on global energy markets, as well as the vulnerabilities generated by reliance on Middle Eastern energy. Conflicts over territorial control, access to key energy supplies, construction, and shipping lanes transit routes have all added to the geopolitical complexity. Additionally, the region's large energy resources have frequently been the focus of disagreements between regional powers such as Saudi Arabia and Iran, increasing sectarian and political divisions.

Energy use by world region, 1980-2016
quadrillion British thermal units



3.2 Key Conflicts Impacting Energy Security in the Region

Conflicts such as the Gulf Wars, the Israeli-Palestinian struggle, and the Syrian Civil War have had far-reaching consequences for energy security in the Middle East, destabilizing the region and creating ripple effects across global energy markets. These conflicts have resulted in:

a. Damage to Key Infrastructure:

Energy infrastructure has frequently been targeted in various conflicts, whether as collateral damage or planned destruction. Pipelines, oil refineries, and ports that are vital for energy production and export have been repeatedly attacked or destroyed:

- **Gulf Wars:** Both Gulf Wars severely damaged Iraq's oil infrastructure, including key oil fields and refineries. The destruction extended to transportation networks, reducing the country's production capacity for years.
- **Syrian Civil War:** The war has devastated Syria's energy infrastructure, with pipelines bombed and oil fields controlled or destroyed by various factions, including extremist groups.
- **Lebanon and Gaza Conflicts:** Infrastructure in areas like Gaza and southern Lebanon has been targeted during hostilities, further restricting access to energy resources for domestic and regional use.

b. Supply chain disruptions

The destruction of infrastructure has caused major disruptions in the supply of oil and gas, both locally and abroad. These disruptions have led to fluctuation in energy prices and uncertainty in international markets:

- During the Gulf Wars, Iraq and Kuwait, two major oil-exporting nations, were temporarily removed from the global market, leading to dramatic spikes in oil prices and uncertainty in global supply.
- Conflicts in the Strait of Hormuz, a critical chokepoint for global oil shipping, have repeatedly threatened the safe passage of oil tankers, affecting markets far beyond the region.

3.3. Increased geopolitical competition.

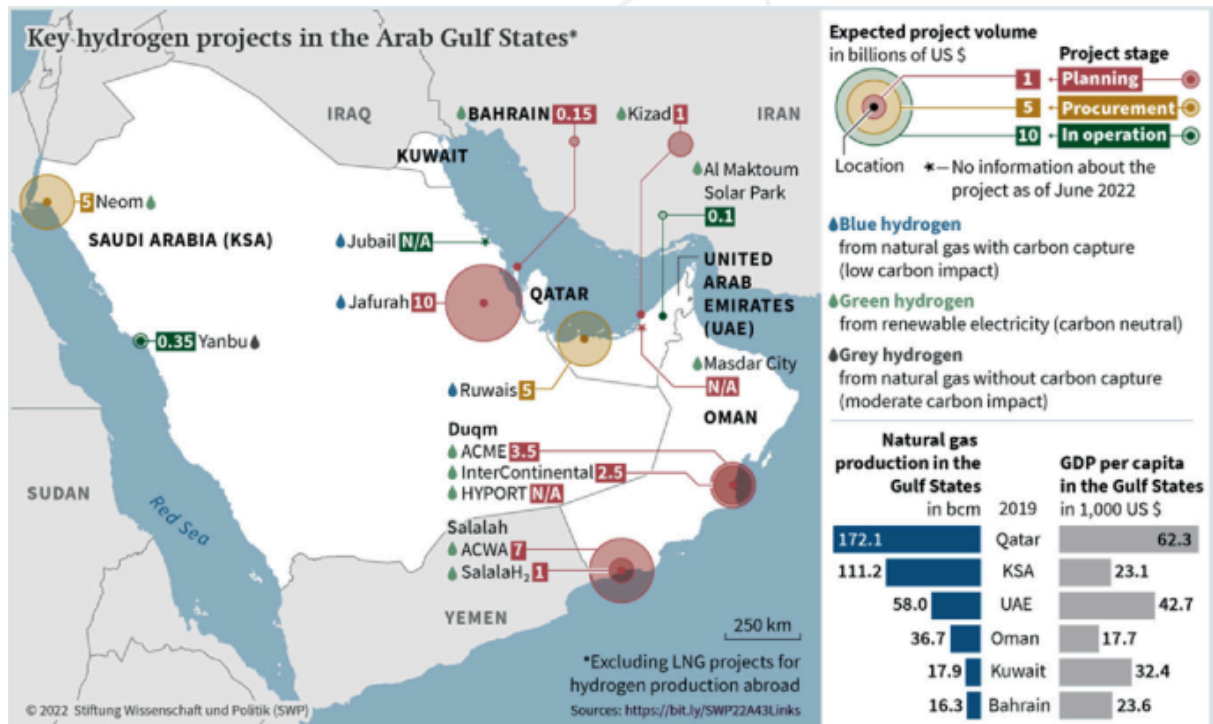
The strategic significance of the region's resources has increased geopolitical rivalry, with global countries seeking control over vital resource-rich areas.

- The United States and Russia have followed conflicting agendas in the region, with Russia increasing ties with resource-rich nations such as Iran and Syria, and the United States attempting to protect the security of its allies and maintain access to oil supplies.
- Regional countries such as Saudi Arabia and Iran have engaged in proxy conflicts around the area, including Yemen and Syria, which have further complicated energy manufacturing and distribution routes.
- The Eastern Mediterranean Gas Reserves have become another focal point of competition, with disputes over maritime boundaries involving Turkey, Greece, Cyprus, and Israel exacerbating tensions.

These conflicts have resulted in an unstable energy market that has involved frequent supply disruptions and price increases. Furthermore, they have discouraged investment in the region's energy industry, limiting growth and modernization initiatives. Instability has additionally restricted Middle Eastern countries' capacity to fully capitalize on their energy foundations for economic growth and development.

b.3 Strategic Resource Competition and Geopolitical Rivalries

The region's energy reserves have played a crucial role in fueling geopolitical rivalry between Middle Eastern nations such as Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Turkey, as well as external entities such as the United States, Russia, and China. These rivalries often intersect with broader geopolitical and economic objectives, leading to complex and continuous conflicts that worsen regional instability.



Regional Rivalries:

1. Saudi Arabia vs. Iran:

- As two of the region's largest oil producers, Saudi Arabia and Iran represent opposing political and ideological camps, with Saudi Arabia championing Sunni Islam and Iran promoting Shiite Islam. Their competition for regional dominance has fueled proxy wars in Yemen, Syria, and Iraq, where both nations aim to secure influence over energy resources and transit routes.
- The rivalry has also impacted global oil markets, with both nations leveraging their roles in OPEC to advance their economic and political agendas.

2. Türkiye's ambitions:

Türkiye, which lacks massive domestic energy resources, has sought to demonstrate its influence in the region by becoming an essential energy transit hub. Its effective foreign policy, particularly in the Eastern Mediterranean, has resulted in disputes over maritime boundaries and drilling rights.

Ankara's exploration activities in contested waters have heightened tensions with Greece and Cyprus, leading to standoffs and international arbitration efforts. Turkey's involvement in Libya and its agreements with the Tripoli-based government to extend maritime claims have further complicated the situation.

External Powers and Their Interests:

1. The United States:

- The U.S. has long sought to maintain stability in the region to ensure uninterrupted access to energy supplies for itself and its allies. This has led to military interventions, alliances with resource-rich Gulf states, and economic sanctions targeting adversaries like Iran.
- U.S. shale oil production has reduced its dependence on Middle Eastern energy, but its strategic interests, such as protecting the Strait of Hormuz, remain significant.

2. Russia:

- Russia's involvement in the region, particularly in Syria and Iran, stems from its desire to strengthen its geopolitical influence and energy market share. By aligning with resource-rich nations and challenging U.S. dominance, Russia has sought to position itself as a key player in Middle Eastern energy dynamics.
- Additionally, Russia's energy companies have actively pursued agreements for oil and gas exploration in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Gulf.

3. China:

- China, the world's largest importer of oil, has deepened its ties with Middle Eastern nations through its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and investments in energy infrastructure.
- Beijing's focus on securing stable energy supplies has led to partnerships with Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq. These economic ties, however, place China in a delicate position, navigating the region's complex rivalries to maintain its interests.

4. Current Issues

4.1 Energy Supply Disruptions Due to Ongoing Conflicts:

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has had significant consequences on regional energy security, particularly concerning gas exploration in the Eastern Mediterranean. Offshore fields like Leviathan and Tamar hold the potential to greatly enhance the energy supply for both Israel and surrounding countries. However, the ongoing territorial disputes over maritime boundaries and the volatile situation in Gaza create obstacles for safe and consistent exploration and production activities, hindering regional energy cooperation and development.

Lebanon faces additional challenges, as its already fragile political and economic condition leaves its energy infrastructure vulnerable. The nation's dependence on imports for its energy needs has made it difficult to develop its offshore gas reserves. The continuous threat of political instability, sabotage, theft, and the dilapidated state of critical energy infrastructure further complicates Lebanon's efforts to meet domestic demand or capitalize on potential offshore resources, thereby exacerbating the country's energy crisis.

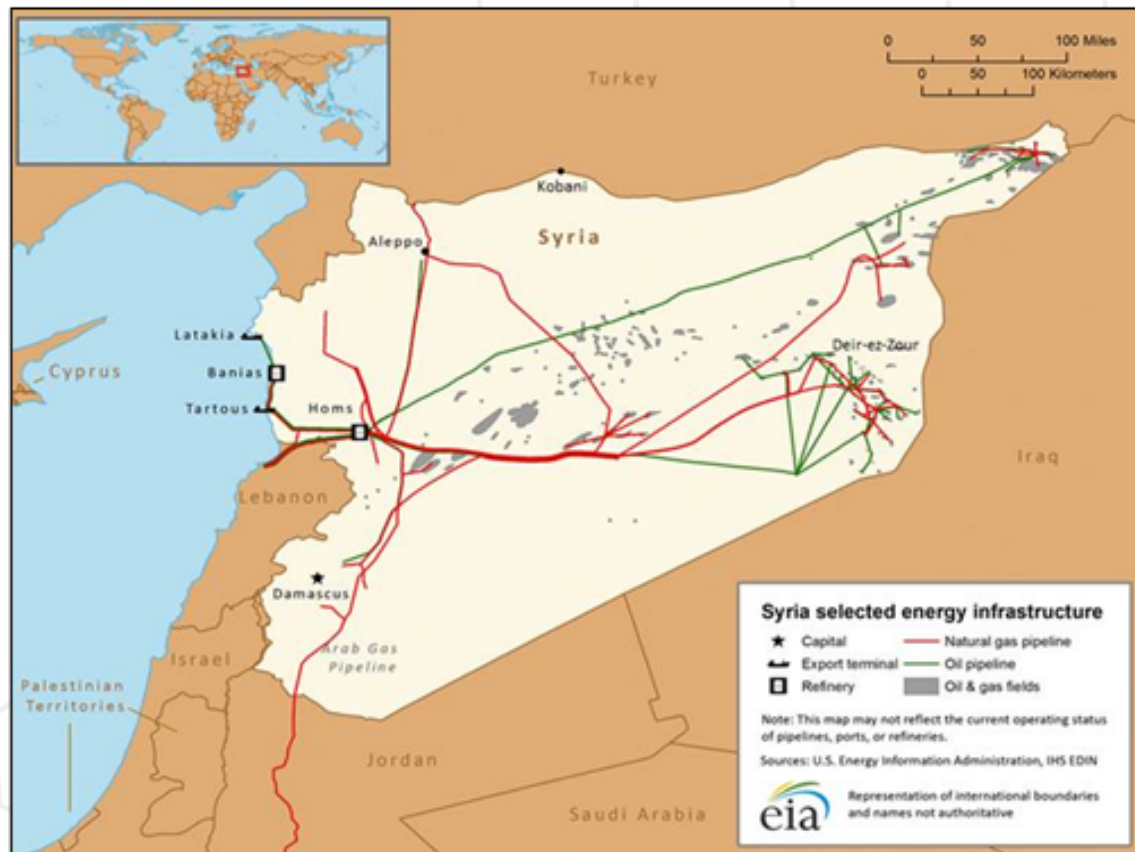
4.2 The Syrian Conflict and Energy Transit Routes

Syria's strategic location in the center of the Middle East has long made it a vital transit point for energy lines, connecting Gulf oil and natural gas reserves to Europe. Syria's accessibility to major pipelines, as well as its role in enabling energy traffic between the Middle East, Europe, and beyond, may have made it a key player in the regional energy infrastructure. However, the civil conflict, which has lasted more than a decade, has severely damaged key transportation lines, resulting in major instability. However, the recent overthrow of President Bashar al-Assad's regime has introduced both opportunities and challenges for the country's role in regional energy infrastructure.

In December 2024, opposition forces led by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) launched a rapid offensive, culminating in the capture of Damascus and the fall of the Assad regime. This development has led to widespread celebrations among Syrians, marking the end of over five decades of Assad family rule.¹

The fall of the Assad regime presents an opportunity for the reconstruction and revitalization of Syria's energy sector. The international community, including neighboring countries and global powers, is closely monitoring the situation, with

discussions underway regarding potential investments and partnerships to rebuild Syria's energy infrastructure. However, the success of these efforts will depend on the establishment of a stable and inclusive governance framework that can effectively manage and protect energy assets.



4.3. Regional Competition for Resources:

- **Gulf States' Influence on Global Oil Markets:** The Gulf states, particularly Saudi Arabia, maintain significant influence over global oil prices through their production levels. This dominance has often led to tensions with other major producers, including Russia and the U.S.
- **Rivalries Over Eastern Mediterranean Gas Reserves:** Discoveries of substantial gas reserves in the Eastern Mediterranean have intensified disputes over maritime boundaries. Countries like Turkey, Greece, Israel, and Egypt are engaged in negotiations and conflicts over drilling rights and revenue-sharing agreements.

5. Recent Developments

5.1 .Attacks on Energy Infrastructure

Recent attacks on energy infrastructure, particularly those utilizing drones and missiles, underscore the increasing vulnerability to critical energy assets in conflict zones. These attacks, which often target oil refineries, pipelines, and storage facilities, are a direct form of destruction and a tactical strategy used by numerous factions to undermine their enemies economically and militarily. These incidents have far-reaching implications. Locally, they cause rapid disruptions in energy sources, which can lead to power outages, fuel scarcity, and a halt in the operation of critical sectors. On a larger scale, these attacks can destabilize whole energy markets, as supply disruptions often lead to shifts in global oil prices, making affected regions less reliable suppliers to international markets.

These attacks not only have an economic impact but also increase international political tensions. When an energy infrastructure target is located in a contentious region or is affiliated with a foreign entity, the consequences can extend beyond regional disputes and involve multiple state players and international organizations. This dynamic can exacerbate current conflicts, as countries may retaliate or intervene to protect their energy interests, resulting in a long cycle of violence and insecurity.



The Economist

5.2. Shifts in Energy Alliances and Agreements

The geopolitical landscape in the Middle East has been undergoing significant shifts, driven largely by new energy alliances and agreements that are reshaping the region's economic and political dynamics. One of the most notable developments in this regard is the Abraham Accords, signed in 2020 between Israel and several Arab states, including the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco. These agreements, primarily aimed at normalizing diplomatic relations between Israel and Arab countries, have opened up new avenues for energy cooperation, particularly in the fields of natural gas, renewable energy, and technology. Israel, with its vast offshore gas reserves in the Eastern Mediterranean, has emerged as a key energy partner for these Arab nations, which, in turn, are looking to diversify their energy sources and reduce dependence on oil. This newfound collaboration is expected to create a more integrated energy market in the region, with joint projects and initiatives designed to enhance energy security and mutual economic growth.

In parallel, China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has expanded its influence in the Middle East's energy sector. As part of its broader strategy to invest in infrastructure and establish trade routes across Asia, Africa, and Europe, China has increasingly focused on securing energy resources and transit routes in the Middle East. Through investments in oil and gas pipelines, refineries, and storage facilities, China is positioning itself as a key player in the region's energy market. Additionally, China is contributing to the development of renewable energy projects, aligning with the region's growing interest in transitioning to cleaner energy sources. This shift towards Chinese involvement reflects a broader trend of diversifying energy partnerships and reducing reliance on traditional Western powers.

These emerging energy alliances are not without their complexities. The Abraham Accords, for example, have the potential to alter the regional balance of power, with some traditional players, such as Iran, viewing the agreements with suspicion. Iran's stance on the normalization of ties between Israel and its Arab neighbors could lead to further political and economic tensions. Similarly, China's increasing role in the region could prompt a recalibration of energy policies by the United States and other Western countries, as they seek to maintain their influence over critical energy resources.

Ultimately, these shifts in energy alliances and agreements signify a broader transformation in the Middle East, where old rivalries are being redefined and new partnerships are forming, driven by shared energy interests and the global demand for diversification and security.

5.3. Emerging Technologies and Renewable Energy Initiatives in the Region

Several Middle Eastern countries are investing heavily in renewable energy to diversify their economies and reduce dependence on fossil fuels. The UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt are leading the way with significant solar and wind energy projects.

The UAE has developed major initiatives like the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park and aims to produce 50% of its energy from clean sources by 2050. Saudi Arabia, through its Vision 2030 plan, targets 50% renewable energy, with large-scale solar and wind projects and plans for green hydrogen production. Egypt is also investing in solar and wind energy, with the Benban Solar Park being one of the largest in the world, aiming to meet 42% of its energy needs from renewables by 2035. These investments are transforming the Middle East's energy landscape, utilizing the region's abundant sunlight and wind to foster sustainable energy production. While challenges remain in infrastructure and energy storage, the region's commitment to renewables marks a significant shift toward a more sustainable energy future.

GCC countries renewable generation share, 2020 - 2035



6. The Role of International Bodies and Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

6.1. UN Resolutions on Resource Security and Regional Stability

- UNSC Resolutions have called for the protection of energy infrastructure and peaceful dispute resolution frameworks to prevent resource-based conflicts.

- These resolutions emphasize the need for international cooperation to safeguard oil and gas facilities from attacks and to address disputes over resource-rich areas diplomatically.

6.2. Multilateral Agreements for Energy Cooperation

- The Gulf War Ceasefire Agreements: Efforts to restore damaged oil infrastructure were partially successful but lacked long-term security guarantees, leaving facilities vulnerable to future attacks.
- OPEC Collaborations: OPEC has worked to stabilize global oil markets by coordinating production levels among member states. However, internal disagreements often hinder cohesive action.
- UN-Led Mediation in Resource Disputes: Past attempts by the UN to mediate conflicts, such as maritime boundary disputes in the Eastern Mediterranean, faced challenges due to deep-seated mistrust among stakeholders.
- Eastern Mediterranean Gas Forum (EMGF): Promotes cooperation on natural gas exploration and transportation, helping resolve regional disputes and ensuring energy security.

6.3 Role of Peacekeeping Operations in Protecting Energy Infrastructure

- UN peacekeepers play a vital role in safeguarding energy infrastructure in conflict zones, ensuring uninterrupted energy supplies by preventing sabotage and attacks.
- They also support post-conflict reconstruction and the secure management of energy resources, fostering stability and security in fragile regions.

7. Possible Solutions and Main Issues to Address

- **Addressing Root Causes of Conflict:** Promoting political dialogue and economic development programs to stabilize conflict-affected areas and reduce the appeal of resource-driven disputes.
- **Enhancing Regional Cooperation:** Establishing a Middle East Energy Security Forum to foster dialogue and joint decision-making on resource management and infrastructure protection.

- **Strengthening International Oversight:** Encouraging collaboration between the UN, OPEC, and other relevant organizations to ensure compliance with energy security protocols.
- **Investing in Renewable Energy:** Supporting regional initiatives to diversify energy sources and reduce dependence on fossil fuels, thereby mitigating resource-based rivalries.

8. Further Readings

1. Tandfonline Article

Govindharaj, Y. (2021). Global economic recession and Hamas-Israel conflict affecting GDP growth, oil prices, financial markets, and Palestinian economic development: An assessment. *Global Economic Review*, 10(3), 34-56.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/13563467.2021.1903850>

2. ResearchGate Article

Govindharaj, Y. (2023). Global economic recession and Hamas-Israel conflict affecting GDP growth, oil prices, financial markets, and Palestinian economic development: An assessment. *ResearchGate*.

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Yoganandham-Govindharaj-2/publication/375837141_Global_Economic_Recession_and_Hamas_-Israel_Conflict_Affecting_GDP_Growth_Oil_Prices_Financial_Markets_and_Palestinian_Economic_Development_-_An_Assessment-/links/655f0f95ce88b87031039fed/Global-Economic-Recession-and-Hamas-Israel-Conflict-Affecting-GDP-Growth-Oil-Prices-Financial-Markets-and-Palestinian-Economic-Development-An-Assessment.pdf

3. Journalspress Article

Yoganandham, G. (2024). Impact of the Israel-Palestine conflict on regional energy security and economic performance. *Liberal Journal of Research in Humanities and Social Sciences*, 12(1), 22-38.

<https://journalspress.uk/index.php/LJRHSS/article/view/732>

4. ScienceDirect Article

[Al-Momani, M., & Al-Majali, M. \(2020\). The impact of regional conflicts on the energy sector in the Middle East. *Energy Policy*, 139, 111445.](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2020.111445)

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2020.111445>

5. SAGE Journals Article

[Kabbani, A. \(2017\). Economic impacts of Middle Eastern conflicts on energy markets and regional stability. *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 49\(2\), 317-331.](https://doi.org/10.1177/0967010617716615)

<https://doi.org/10.1177/0967010617716615>

6. **Amnesty International Document**

[Amnesty International. \(2006\). The impact of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on human rights and energy resources. Amnesty International. https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/MDE18/007/2006/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/MDE18/007/2006/en/)

9. Overview of Agenda II

Agenda 2: Ensuring the safety of civilians in the combat area and preventing a mass scale immigration crisis

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has become a multinational conflict with the involvement of regional and global powers, and it presents a series of serious humanitarian challenges, particularly concerning the safety of civilians and the potential for mass displacement. The densely populated Gaza Strip is frequently the epicentre of violence, where civilians face threats from aerial bombardments, ground incursions, and access denial to basic resources. These conditions parallel the devastating impacts of other regional conflicts, such as those in Syria and Yemen, where prolonged hostilities have resulted in vast amounts of casualties, destruction of infrastructure, and large-scale displacement. The consequences of such crises often extend beyond their immediate borders, straining the resources of neighbouring states and the capacity of international humanitarian systems.

Addressing these issues requires a dual approach: immediate action to safeguard civilians and prevent displacement, alongside long-term efforts to resolve underlying political disputes. Lessons from other conflicts highlight the critical role of safe zones, humanitarian corridors, and international oversight in mitigating civilian harm. In the Israeli-Palestinian context, the involvement of global actors, including the United Nations and regional stakeholders, is essential to facilitate humanitarian relief and promote de-escalation. Furthermore, advancing political dialogue and addressing contentious issues, such as territorial disputes and governance, are vital for achieving sustainable peace and preventing further humanitarian catastrophes. A coordinated, multilateral approach is indispensable to ensure civilian protection and regional stability.

10. Key Words

Two-State Solution: A proposed resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict envisioning independent states for both Israelis and Palestinians, with defined borders.

Proxy Groups: Armed groups supported by larger regional powers to advance their interests indirectly, often in conflicts like the Israeli-Palestinian situation.

Humanitarian Corridor: A designated route or zone established to allow the safe delivery of aid and the movement of civilians during armed conflicts.

Zionism: A nationalist movement advocating for the establishment and support of a Jewish homeland in the region of Palestine, which emerged in the late 19th century.

Hamas: A Palestinian militant group and political organization that governs the Gaza Strip. It is designated as a terrorist organization by several countries, including the United States and the European Union.

Abraham Accords: Agreements normalizing diplomatic relations between Israel and several Arab nations, reshaping alliances in the Middle East and isolating adversarial states like Iran.

Hezbollah: A powerful Shia militant and political group based in Lebanon, supported by Iran, with significant influence in regional conflicts and Lebanese politics.

11. Overview of the Conflict

11.1. Origins of the Arab–Israeli Conflict:

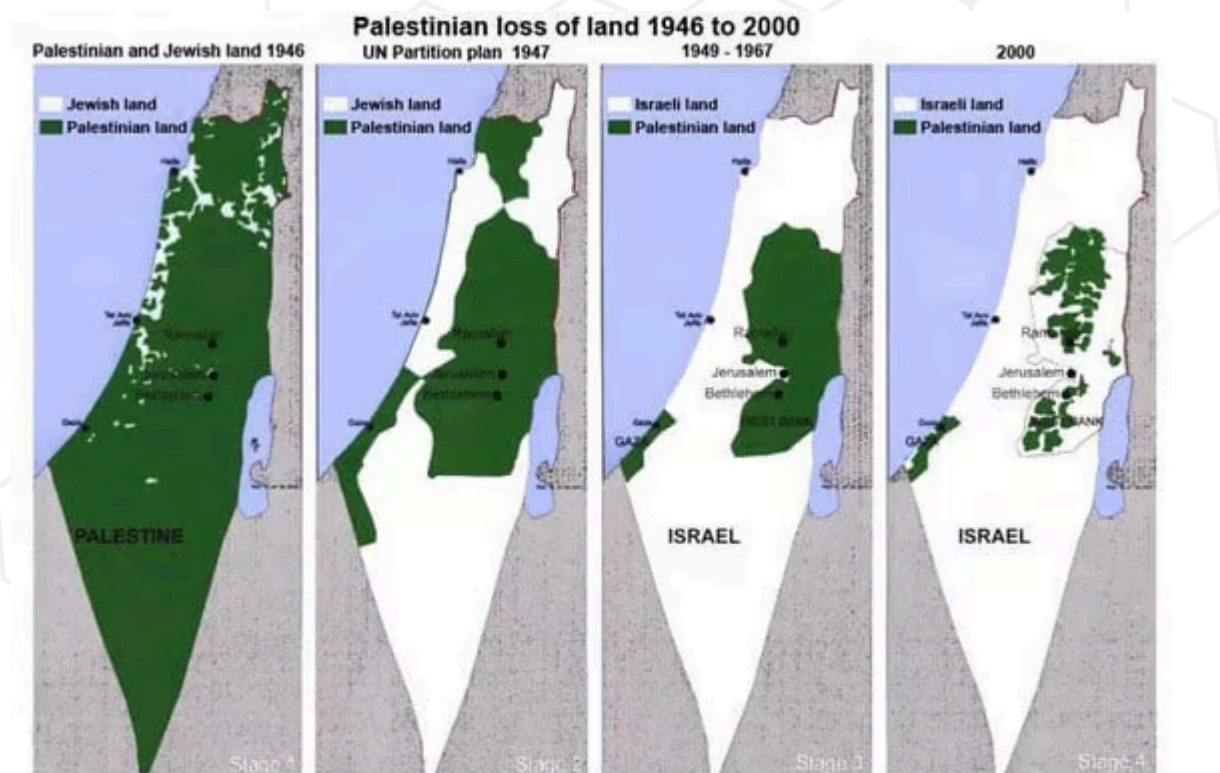
- **Late 19th Century:** The emergence of Zionism and Arab nationalism led to competing claims over the territory of Palestine.
- **British Mandate Period (1920–1948):** Tensions escalated due to increased Jewish immigration and land acquisitions, resulting in periodic violence between Jewish and Arab communities.

11.2. Establishment of Israel and the 1948 Arab–Israeli War:

- **1947:** The United Nations proposed partitioning Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states. Jewish leaders accepted the plan; Arab leaders rejected it.
- **14 May 1948:** Israel declared independence, prompting military intervention by neighbouring Arab states.
- **1948–1949:** The ensuing conflict led to the displacement of approximately 700,000 Palestinians, creating a protracted refugee crisis. Concurrently, Jewish populations faced persecution and expulsion from Arab countries, leading many to seek refuge in Israel.

11.3. Subsequent Conflicts and Territorial Changes:

- **1956 Suez Crisis:** A military confrontation involving Egypt, Israel, the United Kingdom, and France over control of the Suez Canal.
- **1967 Six-Day War:** Israel captured the West Bank, East Jerusalem, Gaza Strip, Sinai Peninsula, and Golan Heights, significantly altering the region's geopolitical landscape.
- **1973 Yom Kippur War:** Egypt and Syria launched a surprise attack on Israel during the Jewish holy day of Yom Kippur, leading to a conflict that resulted in a ceasefire brokered by the United Nations.



11.4. Previous Peace Efforts

1979 Egypt–Israel Peace Treaty: Egypt became the first Arab country to officially recognise Israel, leading to Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula.

1993–1995 Oslo Accords: Agreements between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) aimed at achieving a peace treaty and establishing the framework for Palestinian self-governance.

2002 Arab Peace Initiative: The Arab League proposed normalising relations with Israel in exchange for a full withdrawal from occupied territories and a "just settlement" of the Palestinian refugee issue.

11.5. Timeline of Recent Developments

7 October 2023

- **Hamas Attack:**
Hamas launched a large-scale attack on Israel, firing thousands of rockets and infiltrating towns near the Gaza border. Over 1,300 Israelis were killed, and dozens were taken hostage.

8–15 October 2023

- **Israeli Retaliation:**
Israel initiated a massive military response, including airstrikes targeting Hamas infrastructure in Gaza.
Civilian casualties and displacement in Gaza escalated rapidly.

Late October 2023

- **Ground Offensive Begins:**
The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) launched a ground invasion into Gaza, aiming to dismantle Hamas' military capabilities and secure the release of hostages.
Cross-border skirmishes intensified along the northern border with Lebanon as Hezbollah increased rocket fire.

November 2023

- **Worsening Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza:**
Over 1.5 million Gazans were displaced, with severe shortages of food, water, and medical supplies reported.
International aid efforts faced significant challenges due to restricted access and ongoing hostilities.

December 2023

- **Regional Escalations:**
Proxy groups in Syria and Lebanon launched attacks on Israel, leading to retaliatory strikes by the IDF.
Iran publicly supported Hamas, increasing tensions across the region.

January 2024

- **Hostage Negotiations Begin:**
Mediated by Qatar and Egypt, indirect negotiations were initiated to secure the release of hostages held by Hamas.

March–June 2024

- **Prolonged Conflict:**

Intense fighting persisted in Gaza, with mounting civilian casualties on both sides. International protests and diplomatic pressure on Israel increased, while Hamas intensified rocket attacks.

July 2024

- **Temporary Ceasefires:**

Brief humanitarian ceasefires allowed limited aid deliveries to Gaza, but fighting quickly resumed each time.

August–December 2024

- **Military Stalemate:**

Despite continued military operations, Israel struggled to eliminate Hamas' tunnel networks and leadership.

Gaza remained under siege, with worsening humanitarian conditions.

January 2025

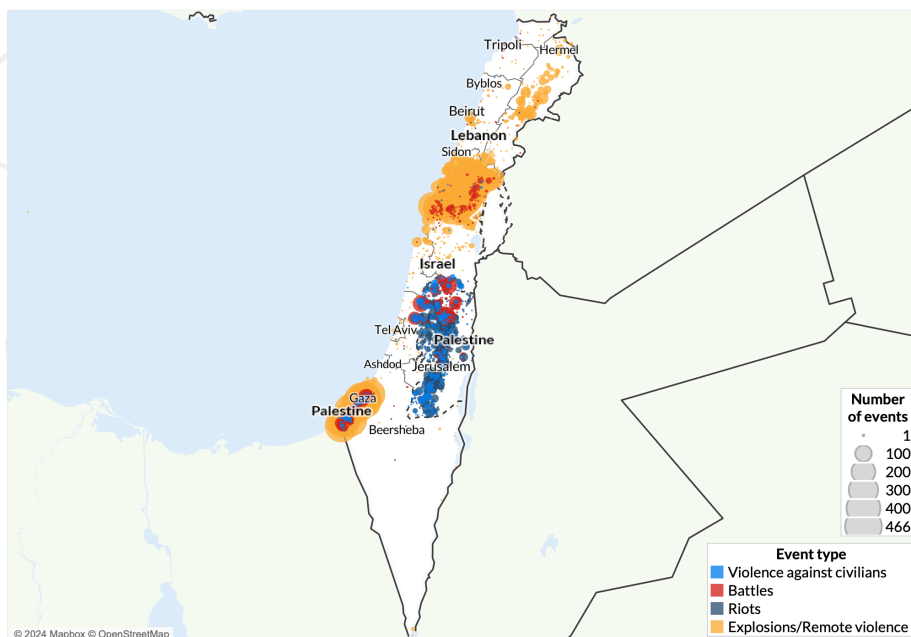
- **Intensified Diplomatic Efforts:**

International mediators, including the U.S., Qatar, and Egypt, intensified efforts to broker a comprehensive ceasefire.

Ongoing hostilities and political challenges delayed progress.

Political violence in Israel, Palestine, and Lebanon

1 January - 29 November 2024



11.6. Humanitarian Impact

Casualties:

As of January 2025, the conflict has resulted in over 47,000 Palestinian deaths, predominantly in Gaza, with approximately 1,139 Israeli fatalities since the October 2023 escalation. The casualties include a significant number of women and children, underscoring the severe human cost of the conflict.

Displacement Crisis:

The violence has displaced over 1.5 million Palestinians within the Gaza Strip, exacerbating the already dire living conditions in the densely populated enclave. Many have sought shelter in overcrowded schools, hospitals, and UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) facilities.

Infrastructure Devastation:

Gaza's critical infrastructure, including hospitals, schools, water facilities, and power stations, has suffered extensive damage, leaving millions without access to essential services. The reconstruction efforts face significant challenges due to restrictions on building materials and ongoing security concerns.

Access to Aid:

Humanitarian organisations have struggled to deliver aid amid the hostilities. Crossings into Gaza have been periodically blocked, delaying the delivery of food, medical supplies, and fuel. Despite international calls for a humanitarian corridor, access remains inconsistent, intensifying the suffering of affected populations.

11.7. International Involvement

- **Humanitarian Assistance:**

Countries such as the United States, EU member states, and Gulf nations pledged significant humanitarian aid packages to alleviate the suffering in Gaza. However, delivering this aid has been fraught with logistical and security challenges, especially due to continued restrictions on Gaza's borders.

- **Geopolitical Dynamics:**

The conflict has further highlighted the complex regional dynamics. Iran's backing of Hamas through financial and military support has deepened the divide between Israel and Iran. Conversely, Israel's growing ties with Sunni Arab states, including Saudi Arabia and the UAE, have created a shifting geopolitical landscape, with some Arab nations balancing their support for Palestinian rights with broader strategic goals.

- **Reconstruction Initiatives:**

Efforts to rebuild Gaza are underway, with international donors pledging billions of dollars. However, disagreements over the administration of funds and

oversight—especially concerning Hamas’ role—have delayed progress. Transparency and accountability remain significant concerns for donors.

12. Other Ongoing Conflicts in the Region

12.1. Syrian Civil War

The Syrian Civil War began in March 2011 during the Arab Spring, sparked by protests in Daraa against President Bashar al-Assad's regime. The regime's violent crackdown escalated the unrest into a nationwide armed conflict. By 2011–2012, opposition groups like the Free Syrian Army (FSA) and extremist factions, including ISIS, emerged, complicating the war.

Key turning points include the 2014 rise of ISIS and the 2016 Battle of Aleppo, which saw Assad reclaim the city with Russian and Iranian support. Russia’s 2015 military intervention was pivotal in reversing Assad's losses, while U.S. efforts focused on combating ISIS alongside Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF).

By 2019, Assad had regained most of Syria, except for opposition areas in Idlib and Kurdish regions. However, in December 2024, economic collapse and internal dissent led to Assad’s downfall. A fragile coalition took control, but jihadist insurgencies persist, hindering stability.

The war has caused over 500,000 deaths and displaced 13 million people, with Syria becoming the largest source of global refugees. Infrastructure is devastated, and over 15 million Syrians require humanitarian aid.

Key international actors include Russia and Iran, which supported Assad, and the U.S. and Turkey, which focused on countering ISIS and Kurdish groups. Assad is now fallen after the successful coup d’état executed by rebel forces in December 2024, and now the new government is aiming to move over from what Assad has left, thus international negotiations aim to establish a transitional government are in progress.

12.2. The Yemeni Civil War

The Yemeni Civil War began in 2014, rooted in the aftermath of the 2011 Arab Spring, which ousted President Ali Abdullah Saleh. His successor, Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, faced challenges stabilizing the country. The Houthi rebels, a Zaidi Shia group from northern Yemen, seized the capital Sana’a in late 2014, forcing Hadi to flee to Saudi Arabia in 2015.

In response, a Saudi-led coalition launched military airstrikes to restore Hadi’s government, escalating the conflict into a regional power struggle, with Iran supporting the Houthis. By 2019, the war had reached a stalemate, with the Houthis controlling the north and Hadi's government holding parts of the south and east. In 2024, Hadi’s government collapsed, leaving southern separatists backed by the UAE to strengthen their control in the south.

The war has caused over 250,000 deaths, with millions more displaced. Yemen faces severe food insecurity, with over 16 million people at risk of famine, and its healthcare system has collapsed, leading to disease outbreaks. The refugee crisis has displaced over 1 million Yemenis abroad and left millions in overcrowded camps with limited resources.

International involvement includes Saudi Arabia and the UAE leading coalition efforts, while Iran supports the Houthis. UN peace negotiations, such as the 2018 Stockholm Agreement, have yet to produce lasting solutions. The conflict remains one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

13. Current Situation in The Region

13.1. Civilian Safety in Active Combat Zones:

1. Gaza Strip

Civilian security in the Gaza Strip is precarious due to frequent military escalations and the high population density.

- **Rocket Attacks and Airstrikes:** Civilians are at constant risk from Israeli airstrikes targeting militant infrastructure and rockets launched by militant groups into Israel, often landing within Gaza due to misfires.
- **Collateral Damage:** Urban warfare leads to widespread destruction of homes, schools, and hospitals.
- **Lack of Safe Zones:** Gaza lacks bomb shelters or advanced warning systems for civilians, leaving people vulnerable during attacks.
- **Blockade and Economic Strain:** The Israeli-Egyptian blockade restricts goods, leading to shortages of food, medicine, and essential services, exacerbating civilian hardships.

2. West Bank

Civilian security is undermined by frequent clashes and military operations.

- **Israeli Settler Violence:** Palestinian communities often face violence and harassment from Israeli settlers.
- **IDF Operations:** Military raids in cities like Jenin and Nablus sometimes result in civilian casualties, property damage, and displacement.
- **Restricted Movement:** Military checkpoints limit freedom of movement, affecting access to healthcare, education, and employment.
- **Protests and Confrontations:** Protests against Israeli policies often result in live fire or tear gas being used, leading to injuries or deaths.

3. East Jerusalem

Civilian security in East Jerusalem is fraught with tension, especially in contested areas.

- **Al-Aqsa Mosque:** Clashes at this site during religious events can endanger worshippers and bystanders.
- **Home Evictions:** Families facing eviction, particularly in Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan, are often subjected to violence during protests or confrontations with settlers and security forces.
- **Police Presence:** Heavy policing and frequent searches contribute to a climate of fear among Palestinian residents.

4. Southern Israel and Border Areas

Communities near Gaza face a continuous threat of rocket fire.

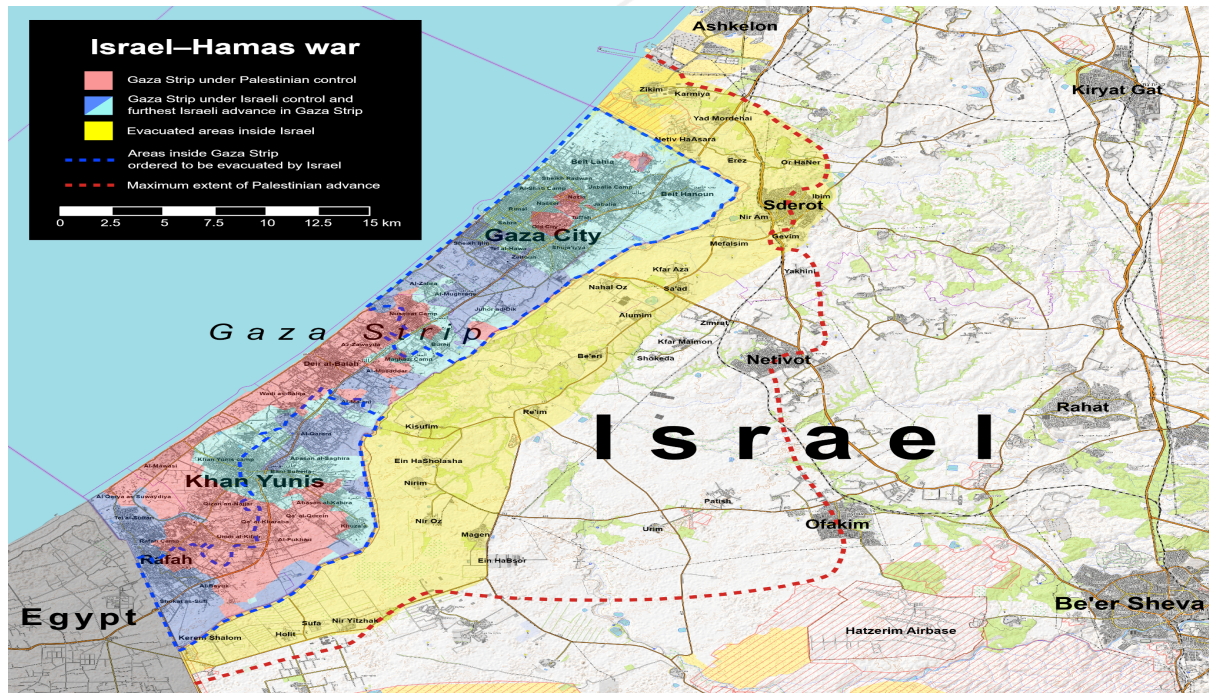
- **Rocket Alerts:** Civilians rely on Iron Dome interceptors and bomb shelters, which provide some security but do not eliminate the psychological toll.
- **Damage and Casualties:** Rocket impacts cause deaths, injuries, and property damage, particularly during major escalations.
- **Cross-Border Infiltrations:** Rare but significant infiltrations by militants pose additional risks.

5. Mixed Cities in Israel

- **Communal Tensions:** Periods of escalated conflict often spark intercommunal violence in cities like Lod and Haifa, leading to attacks on homes, businesses, and places of worship.
- **Police and Security:** Heavy-handed responses by security forces can exacerbate tensions, leaving civilians feeling unsafe.

6. Lebanon and Syria Border Areas

- **Hezbollah Threat:** In southern Lebanon, civilians face sporadic cross-border exchanges, with the risk of larger conflicts.
- **Israeli Airstrikes in Syria:** While targeting military sites, airstrikes can endanger civilians in border areas, particularly when infrastructure is damaged.
- **Displacement:** Conflict spillovers could trigger further displacement in these already fragile regions.



13.2. Challenges in Delivering Humanitarian Aid

Delivering humanitarian aid to conflict zones such as Gaza, Yemen, Beirut, and Syria presents significant challenges due to a combination of access restrictions, insecurity, and logistical constraints. Blockades and bureaucratic barriers severely limit the entry and distribution of aid, as seen in Gaza and Yemen, while ongoing violence and the targeting of infrastructure hinder operations across all regions. Damaged roads, ports, and airports exacerbate logistical difficulties, further compounded by political interference and underfunding of humanitarian initiatives. Additionally, the displacement of millions of civilians into inaccessible areas complicates coordinated relief efforts. Addressing these challenges necessitates enhanced international cooperation, secured humanitarian corridors, and strict adherence to international humanitarian law.

14. Political Hindrances and External Influences in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

1. Stalled Peace Process

- Repeated failures of negotiations, including the Oslo Accords and the Camp David Summit, reflect deep divisions over core issues such as borders, Jerusalem, refugees, and security.
- Both Israeli and Palestinian leaderships face internal political pressures that hinder meaningful compromise.

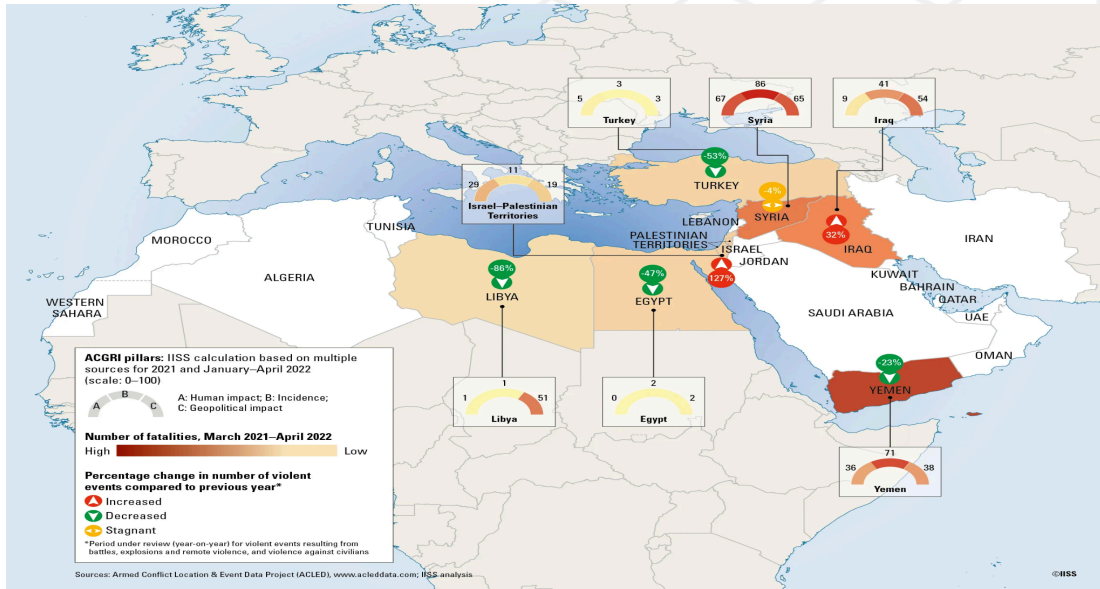
2. Fragmented Palestinian Leadership

- The political rift between Fatah, which governs the West Bank, and Hamas, which controls Gaza, undermines Palestinian unity.
- This fragmentation weakens the Palestinian negotiating position and complicates efforts toward a two-state solution.
- 3. **Israeli Political Constraints**
 - Israel's political landscape is marked by coalition governments, which often include parties with opposing views on the conflict.
 - Hardline factions advocating for settlement expansion and annexation reduce the likelihood of concessions.
- 4. **External Influences**
 - **United States:** Historically a key broker, but perceived bias towards Israel in recent years (e.g., recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital) has eroded trust among Palestinians.
 - **European Union:** Supports a two-state solution and provides humanitarian aid, but lacks leverage to push for substantial progress.
 - **Arab States:** Shifting priorities towards normalisation with Israel (e.g., Abraham Accords) have reduced collective Arab pressure on Israel.
 - **Iran and Regional Proxies:** Support for groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad increases militarisation and escalates tensions.
- 5. **International Law and UN Impasse**
 - UN resolutions calling for a two-state solution and cessation of settlement activity are often ignored.
 - The UN Security Council remains paralysed by vetoes from permanent members like the United States.
- 6. **Expansion of Settlements**
 - Israeli settlement expansion in the West Bank and East Jerusalem is widely condemned as a violation of international law.
 - Settlements deepen mistrust and alter the facts on the ground, making a viable two-state solution increasingly difficult.
- 7. **Geopolitical Shifts**
 - Regional power struggles, particularly between Iran and Gulf States, overshadow the Israeli-Palestinian issue, reducing its centrality in Middle Eastern geopolitics.
 - The conflict is increasingly sidelined as global powers focus on other strategic concerns.
- 8. **Humanitarian Impact and Popular Discontent**
 - Political deadlocks and external interference exacerbate the humanitarian crisis, with Gaza facing severe economic and social challenges due to blockades and repeated conflicts.
 - Frustration among Palestinians, particularly younger generations, leads to increased resistance and periodic escalations in violence.
- 9. **International Advocacy and Civil Society**
 - Non-governmental organisations, human rights groups, and grassroots movements (e.g., Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions - BDS) continue to push for

justice and accountability, but their influence remains limited compared to state actors.

10. Lack of a Unified Vision

- The absence of a clear, actionable framework accepted by both sides and the international community perpetuates the status quo.



15. Regional Power Struggles and Proxy Conflicts in the Middle East

1. Geopolitical Rivalry Between Iran and Saudi Arabia

- The rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia defines much of the region's instability, with Iran supporting Shia-aligned groups such as Hezbollah, the Houthis, and militias in Iraq and Syria, while Saudi Arabia leads Sunni coalitions

2. Sectarian Divides

- Sectarian tensions between Sunni and Shia Muslims exacerbate conflicts, particularly in Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon, where external actors manipulate these divides for geopolitical gain

3. Proxy Wars and Foreign Interference

- Proxy wars in Yemen, Syria, and Lebanon illustrate the interplay of local grievances and external involvement. For instance, Saudi Arabia backs the Yemeni government, while Iran supports the Houthis, turning the conflict into a regional power struggle
- Syria has become a battleground for global powers such as Russia, the United States, and Turkey, further prolonging violence

4. Resource Competition

- Disputes over strategic resources, such as oil, gas, and maritime chokepoints like the Strait of Hormuz, drive power struggles. Iran's threats to disrupt global oil flow highlight the strategic importance of these areas
- Gas discoveries in the Eastern Mediterranean have triggered disputes between Lebanon, Israel, and Cyprus, adding another layer of regional contention
- 5. **Non-State Actors and Militias**
 - Groups such as Hezbollah, the Houthis, and ISIS exploit weak state structures, undermining sovereignty while serving as proxies for larger powers. These actors prolong conflicts and complicate peace negotiations
- 6. **Shifting Alliances**
 - The Abraham Accords, normalising relations between Israel and several Arab states, signal a realignment of power in the region, isolating countries like Iran and Türkiye
 - Türkiye's increasing assertiveness, particularly in Syria, Libya, and the Eastern Mediterranean, underscores its bid to expand its regional influence
- 7. **Economic Strain and Political Instability**
 - Widespread corruption, economic crises, and governance failures in states such as Lebanon and Iraq leave them vulnerable to foreign influence, exacerbating local grievances
 - The burden of hosting millions of refugees also strains resources in neighbouring countries like Jordan, Lebanon and Türkiye
- 8. **Global Power Competition**
 - The Middle East serves as a key arena for US-Russia rivalry, with the US maintaining alliances and bases to counter Iranian influence, while Russia entrenches itself in Syria to secure Mediterranean access (Dannreuther, 2015).
 - China's growing presence, particularly through investments under the Belt and Road Initiative, reflects a shift towards economic diplomacy in the region (Zhang & Sheetz, 2017).
- 9. **Humanitarian Consequences**
 - Prolonged conflicts have led to catastrophic humanitarian crises, with Yemen suffering from famine and disease, Syria experiencing mass displacement, and Gaza facing economic collapse due to blockades and recurrent violence (UNOCHA, 2023).

16. Roles of UN Bodies

16.1. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)

UNRWA was established in 1949 to provide humanitarian aid and support to Palestinian refugees, and it continues to be a vital player in alleviating the suffering of Palestinians displaced by the conflict. It provides services such as:

- **Education:** Schools for over 500,000 Palestinian students.
- **Healthcare:** Medical clinics offering primary health care to millions of refugees.
- **Food Assistance:** Providing food rations to refugees in Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and the West Bank. UNRWA is crucial in supporting the daily needs of Palestinians in refugee camps and territories affected by the ongoing conflict.

16.2. United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

The UNSC is responsible for maintaining international peace and security. However, its role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has often been limited by political divisions, particularly between permanent members with veto power. Despite this, the UNSC has:

- **Resolutions:** Issued resolutions such as Resolution 242, calling for Israel to withdraw from territories occupied during the 1967 war, and Resolution 338, which calls for a ceasefire and peace negotiations.
- **Peacekeeping Missions:** The UNSC can authorize peacekeeping missions, though this has not yet been implemented in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict due to geopolitical complexities.
- **Calls for Ceasefire:** The UNSC has called for ceasefires during periods of intense violence, although enforcement has been limited.

16.3. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Although the UNHCR primarily focuses on refugee protection globally, it works closely with UNRWA to address the refugee crisis resulting from the conflict. It provides:

- **Protection:** Advocates for the rights of Palestinian refugees and displaced persons, emphasizing their right to return or compensation.
- **Assistance:** Coordinates the delivery of emergency relief to refugees, particularly in neighboring countries like Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria.

16.4. Challenges and Limitations

The United Nations' ability to bring about lasting change in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is hampered by:

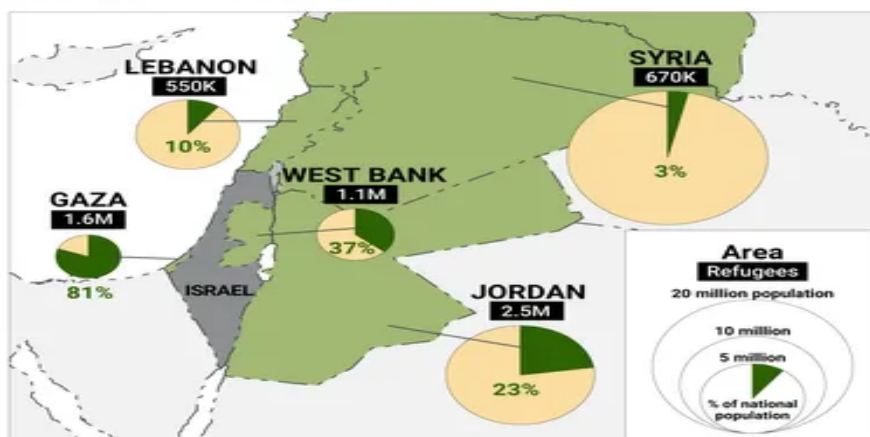
- **Veto Power:** In the Security Council, the U.S. often vetoes resolutions perceived to be against Israeli interests, while Russia and China may veto those against Palestinian interests, leading to deadlock.

- **Political Divisions:** The varying interests of member states often result in fragmented approaches and a lack of unified action.
- **Complex Humanitarian Needs:** The ongoing violence, the blockage of Gaza, and the political instability make it difficult to provide consistent humanitarian aid and address underlying issues.

Despite these challenges, the UN remains an essential actor in humanitarian relief, providing services to millions and advocating for international recognition of Palestinian rights and the enforcement of human rights laws in the region.

Where the Palestinian refugees live

Number of UN-registered Palestinian refugees and percentage of the overall population where they live.



Subscribe to GZERO's geopolitics newsletters at gzeromedia.com
Sources: UNRWA, UN, US State Department

GZERO
everything is political

17. Displacement of Palestinian People

17.1. Historic Displacement (1947–1949)

- **The Nakba (Catastrophe):**
The 1948 Arab-Israeli War, following the establishment of Israel, resulted in the forced displacement of approximately 700,000 Palestinians. Many fled or were expelled from their homes in cities and villages across Mandatory Palestine.
 - **Key Locations of Refugee Origin:** Haifa, Jaffa, Jerusalem, and hundreds of smaller villages.
 - **Refugee Destinations:** Neighboring Arab states, including:
 - **Lebanon:** Concentrated in camps such as Shatila, Burj al-Barajneh, and Ein el-Hilweh.
 - **Jordan:** Currently home to the largest Palestinian refugee population, with camps like Baqa'a and Jerash.
 - **Syria:** Initially welcomed refugees in camps like Yarmouk near Damascus.

- **Gaza Strip and West Bank:** Many Palestinians sought refuge within what became contested territories.

1967 Displacement and Occupation

- The Six-Day War (1967) led to a second major wave of displacement. Over 300,000 Palestinians fled the newly occupied territories of the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza.
 - Many refugees were displaced for a second time, particularly those who had sought safety in the West Bank following the Nakba.

17.2. Recent Displacements (2000 - Present)

The ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict has perpetuated displacement through military escalations, settlement expansions, and blockades, particularly in the Gaza Strip.

- **Gaza Strip:**
 - **2008–2023 Conflicts:** Repeated conflicts have displaced hundreds of thousands of Gazans, with temporary shelters often provided by UNRWA.
 - **Recent Escalations (2023–2024):** Over 1.5 million Gazans were displaced due to Israeli airstrikes and ground operations targeting Hamas infrastructure. Many sought shelter in overcrowded UNRWA schools and hospitals, while others remained trapped due to the Israeli-Egyptian blockade.
 - **Limited External Refuge:** Gaza's borders with Egypt (Rafah crossing) and Israel remain tightly controlled, restricting opportunities for escape.
- **West Bank:**
 - **Settler Violence and Military Raids:** In cities like Jenin and Nablus, military operations and expanding Israeli settlements have caused internal displacement among Palestinians.
 - **Restricted Movement:** Military checkpoints and the separation barrier limit access to essential resources, prompting some families to relocate internally.
- **East Jerusalem:**
 - **Home Evictions:** Palestinian families in neighborhoods like Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan face evictions tied to legal disputes over land ownership, exacerbating displacement.

Palestinian Refugees Today

- **Global Refugee Presence:**
 - As of 2023, there are over 5.9 million Palestinian refugees registered with UNRWA.
 - Key host countries: Jordan (2.2 million), Lebanon (450,000), Syria (about 438,000 pre-2011, reduced due to the Syrian Civil War).
- **Internal Displacement in Gaza and the West Bank:**

- Gaza remains one of the most densely populated and vulnerable regions, with displaced individuals largely confined to the Strip due to movement restrictions.
- The West Bank sees ongoing displacement from demolitions and settler activities.

18. Challenges to be Addressed

Ongoing Violent Escalations

- Continuous conflict and military operations create instability, leading to displacement and hindering efforts to maintain peace or safety for civilians.

Restricted Access to Humanitarian Aid

- Blockades and access restrictions limit the delivery of essential aid, exacerbating humanitarian crises and pushing civilians to migrate.

Fragmented Palestinian Leadership

- Political division between Hamas in Gaza and the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank complicates coordination of aid, governance, and peace efforts.

Regional Political Instability

- Neighboring countries' internal challenges and shifting alliances can complicate their willingness and ability to provide refuge and support to displaced populations.

International Diplomatic Deadlock

- Geopolitical rivalries and lack of consensus among key international actors (e.g., the US, EU, and Arab states) hinder the implementation of effective peace negotiations or humanitarian interventions.

19. Recommendations for Solution

● Humanitarian Corridors

Establish safe routes for civilians to access humanitarian assistance and temporarily relocate, with international oversight and cooperation from neighbouring countries, to prevent forced migration.

● Reconstruction and Economic Stability

Implement initiatives to rebuild the infrastructure and economy of Gaza and the West Bank, thereby improving living conditions and providing economic opportunities that reduce displacement.

- **Regional Cooperation on Refugee Support**

Create a regional framework for shared responsibility among neighbouring countries (such as Egypt and Jordan) to manage refugee support and integration, with international backing.

- **Diplomatic Solutions to De-escalate Conflict**

Facilitate peace negotiations to address key political and security issues, aiming to reduce violence and displacement through ceasefires and gradual agreements on contentious matters.

- **Strengthening Local Governance and Resilience**

Empower Palestinian authorities and local organisations to manage internal displacement effectively, ensuring the efficient distribution of aid and providing support to affected populations.

20. Further Reading

UNSC Resolution S/RES/2737(2024) : [http://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2737\(2024\)](http://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2737(2024))

UNSC Resolution S/RES/2728(2024): [http://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2728\(2024\)](http://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2728(2024))

UNSC Resolution S/RES/2720(2023): [http://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2720\(2023\)](http://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2720(2023))

UNSC Resolution S/RES/2712(2023): [http://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2712\(2023\)](http://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2712(2023))

21. Further Reading

Atlantic Council. (n.d.). *An energy and sustainability road map for the Middle East*. Atlantic Council.

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/in-depth-research-reports/report/an-energy-and-sustainability-road-map-for-the-middle-east/>

Goul, R. (2018, November 25). *The United Nations and Middle Eastern security*. E-International Relations.

<https://www.e-ir.info/2018/11/25/the-united-nations-and-middle-eastern-security/>

European Commission. (2023, September 8). *Energy diplomacy: EU and UAE boost cooperation ahead of COP28*. European Commission.

https://energy.ec.europa.eu/news/energy-diplomacy-eu-and-uae-boost-cooperation-ahead-cop-28-2023-09-08_en?utm

U.S. Mission to the United Nations. (2023, October 26). *Remarks at a UN Security Council briefing on the situation in the Middle East*. U.S. Mission to the United Nations.

<https://usun.usmission.gov/remarks-at-a-un-security-council-briefing-on-the-situation-in-the-middle-east-38/?utm>

Atlantic Council. (2024, January 8). *Syria's energy sector and its impact on stability and regional developments*. Atlantic Council.

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/in-depth-research-reports/issue-brief/syrias-energy-sector-and-its-impact-on-stability-and-regional-developments/>

Fukashere Journal of Political and International Relations. (2024). *The role of international organizations in energy security in the Middle East*. Fukashere University.

<https://journals.fukashere.edu.ng/index.php/kjpir/article/view/236>

Govindharaj, Y. (2023). Analyzing the effects of geopolitical conflicts on oil prices and economic stability: The case of Palestine. *Journal of Development and Social Studies*, 9(2), 105-119. <https://www.ojs.jdss.org.pk/journal/article/view/1170>

Awerbuch, S., & Dymond, R. (2004). Energy security in the context of the global energy markets. *Annual Review of Energy and the Environment*, 29(1), 1-28.

<https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.energy.29.062403.102238>

Kemp, A. G., & Barros, L. (2015). Geopolitical risks, energy security, and the future of the global oil market. *Energy Policy*, 87, 292-302. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2015.08.016>

Goul, R. (2018). *Conflict and diplomacy in the Middle East*. E-International Relations.

<https://www.e-ir.info/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Conflict-and-Diplomacy-in-the-Middle-East-E-IR.pdf#page=136>

- Freilich, C. (2020). *Israeli National Security: A New Strategy for an Era of Change*. Oxford University Press.
- Khalidi, R. (2013). *Brokers of Deceit: How the US Has Undermined Peace in the Middle East*. Beacon Press.
- Lustick, I. (2019). *Paradigm Lost: From Two-State Solution to One-State Reality*. University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Milton-Edwards, B. (2018). *The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: A People's War*. Routledge.
- Pinfari, M. (2020). *The Arab Uprisings and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*. Springer.
- Quandt, W. B. (2010). *Peace Process: American Diplomacy and the Arab-Israeli Conflict Since 1967*. Brookings Institution Press.
- Altunışık, M. B. (2020). *Turkey's Role in the Middle East: Strategic Calculations and Ambitions*. Middle East Journal.
- Betts, A. (2013). *Survival Migration: Failed Governance and the Crisis of Displacement*. Cornell University Press.
- Miller, R. (2020). *The Abraham Accords: A New Paradigm for Middle East Peace?* Journal of Peace Studies.
- UNOCHA. (2023). Humanitarian Needs Overview. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.
- Wehrey, F. (2019). *The Forgotten Uprising: Tunisia, Iraq, and Yemen in the Shadow of the Arab Spring*. Hurst & Company.
- Tapper, M. K. (2024, December 1). *How the Israeli-Hezbollah war changed Beirut* Financial Times.
- Zerrouky, M. (2024, October 11). *Israeli strikes in central Beirut: "No part of the city is safe anymore."* Le Monde.fr.
- The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. (2025, January 10). *Israel-Hamas War | Explanation, Summary, Casualties, & Map*. Encyclopedia Britannica.