

Chapter One

Introduction

1.1 Background to the Study

The classical and contemporary international socio-political environment has continuously verified the “political animal” status of men¹. This status has continuously made conflict inevitable necessitating effective and strategic peace promotion and conflict resolution to avoid the “state of nature” as described in the Leviathan². The desire to protect the interests of states and the avoidance of conflicts that will reshape the world polar system inspired the creation of the League of Nations in 1920 and the United Nations in 1945³. The pioneered concept championed for a single world state and, later, the formation of a federal political system comprised of all nations. A desire that was realized only after the First World War⁴. On the other hand, the United Nations came into existence after the devastating events of World War II. It became a global institution that reflects the balance of power among states. It also acts as a space where countries can come together to support peace and maintain international stability.

The primary aim of preventing another harrowing time, the necessity for human rights protection, and preventive diplomacy and conflict resolution formed the foundation for the United Nations' functions. Since creation, the UN has continued to serve this purpose in the entire world system but with more specifics to the Middle east region with more conflictual situations among countries therein. The conflicts in the Middle East stand out as some of the most significant issues in global politics, intertwining strategic, economic, and religious dimensions that impact the world's most powerful countries.

For centuries, this region has been a battleground for competing interests, marked by struggles over religious influence and economic dominance.

One of such prominent and recurring conflict in the region is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Israel-Palestinian conflict remains one of the predominant international conflicts that has claimed the lives of over 44,000 Palestinians and 1,706 Israelis, 143 journalists, 120 academics, 224 humanitarians, and 179 UNRWA workers⁶. Historically, the Israel-Palestinian conflict to the 20th century characterized with Jewish and Arab state claim of land ownership⁷. As prominent and leading international organization, the United Nations (UN) has intervened in this conflict in the mission to achieve its mission of peaceful co-existence of all states in the world. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict outlines the historical and geopolitical context surrounding one of the most enduring conflicts in modern history. This conflict has persisted for more than seventy years, deeply impacting the Middle East and international diplomacy. Central issues include territorial claims, the status of Jerusalem, Palestinian refugee rights, and mutual security concerns.

Efforts to achieve peace have faced significant setbacks due to political divisions, violence, and entrenched mistrust among the parties involved. The establishment of the State of Israel in 1948 and the subsequent displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians marked the beginning of a series of wars, uprisings, and failed peace negotiations⁸. Key historical events, such as the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, the 1967 Six-Day War, the First and Second Intifadas, and the Oslo Accords, illustrate the enduring complexity of this conflict⁹. Each attempt at resolution has been met with significant challenges, including political divisions, violence, and deeply entrenched mistrust. International organisations have played pivotal

roles in mediating peace, providing humanitarian aid, and addressing the broader implications of the conflict. The UN has passed numerous resolutions, established peacekeeping missions, and supported Palestinian refugees through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)¹⁰.

Accordingly, the UN partition plan and creation of Israel in 1947 (UN Resolution 181) served as a major intervention to separate Palestine into the Jewish and Arab populace¹¹. However, while the Jewish accepted the offer, the Arab wing rejected this position which served as a major foundation to the conflict. In addition, the UN has also performed humanitarian role providing medical aid among others through United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). More so, UN has instigated peacekeeping/ceasefire missions, organised resolution and peace efforts, implement international advocacy and diplomatic pressure among others. However, despite proactive efforts, In the words of a scholar, “the recurrent clash between Israel and Palestine continuously renders the efforts of United Nation weak as a Peace-Keeping Organization”¹³. Not only that, while the UN has implemented various strategies and measures in curbing and completely quenching the conflict, it has not yielded desired result¹⁴.

Between 2021 and 2024, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict experienced significant escalation, marked by intensified military operations, humanitarian crises, legal challenges, and shifting political dynamics. On October 7, 2023, Hamas launched a large-scale attack on southern Israel, resulting in over 1,200 Israeli deaths and numerous hostages taken. In response, Israel declared war on Hamas, initiating extensive military operations in Gaza. By late 2024, these operations had led to over 44,000 Palestinian deaths and the displacement of nearly all 2.3

million Gaza residents. The conflict caused widespread destruction of homes, schools, hospitals, and infrastructure, leading to severe humanitarian conditions, including famine and lack of medical care.¹⁵

The Israeli military's actions in Gaza resulted in the destruction of approximately 70% of buildings and the displacement of 1.9 million people. The blockade imposed by Israel led to extreme shortages of food, clean water, and medical supplies, pushing the population toward famine. The United Nations and other Organisations have warned that the scale of displacement may constitute forcible transfer, a crime under international law. More so, between 2023 and 2024, Israel approved the construction of over 20,000 new housing units in settlements in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. This expansion was accompanied by a significant increase in settler violence against Palestinians, with more than 1,400 incidents recorded since October 2023. The violence included attacks on Palestinian property and communities, often with little intervention from Israeli authorities.¹⁶

In July 2024, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued an advisory opinion declaring Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories since 1967 as unlawful under international law. The ICJ concluded that Israel should end the occupation, evacuate settlements, and pay reparations for damages caused. The conflict has had a devastating effect on children, with reports estimating that up to 21,000 children have gone missing in Gaza between October 2023 and June 2024. The United Nations added the Israeli Défense Forces to a list of offenders failing to protect children during armed conflict. International organisations have expressed grave concern over the treatment of children and called for adherence to international conventions on their rights. These developments between 2021 and 2024 have

significantly altered the landscape of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, leading to increased international scrutiny and calls for renewed efforts toward a peaceful resolution especially by the United Nations.

Yet, while the United Nations has remained visibly active through diplomatic engagements, the passage of General Assembly resolutions, humanitarian relief through agencies such as UNRWA, and legal interventions via the International Court of Justice and other international mechanisms, profound concerns have surfaced about the structural limitations that hinder its effectiveness in high-stakes conflicts. Chief among these limitations is the veto power exercised by the five permanent members (P5) of the UN Security Council, namely the United States, Russia, China, the United Kingdom, and France. These powers possess the ability to unilaterally block any substantive resolution, regardless of international consensus or moral urgency. This institutional design, while originally intended to maintain global stability, has increasingly served as a strategic tool of obstruction when national interests are at stake. In the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, veto privileges (particularly those employed by the United States) have systematically diluted, stalled, or outright prevented Security Council resolutions aimed at restraining Israeli military operations or addressing violations of international law¹⁷. The cumulative impact of these vetoes between 2014 and 2024 reveals a troubling reality: that the UN's capacity to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is significantly undermined by power asymmetries embedded within its highest decision-making body.

Despite various interventions by the UN, the Israel-Palestine conflict continues unabated today, thereby questioning the effectiveness of various strategic measures adopted by the UN

in achieving sustainable peace and conflict resolution. This study thus aims to examine the effectiveness of the United Nations strategies in the Israel-Palestine conflict resolution and peace promotion, with particular emphasis on the implications of UN Security Council **veto power politics** on its capacity to act meaningfully in this enduring and devastating conflict.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The wrath of conflict particularly between two warring nations like Israel and Palestine cannot be overemphasized. The conflict has been a long - drawn territorial battle that has battered both sides in virtually all ramifications. It has arguably garnered the most international attention and has been the subject of numerous mediation efforts. Despite these attempts, finding a lasting resolution has proven elusive. Various international actors have launched numerous initiatives aimed at bringing the peace process closer to a conclusion. Conversely, others argue that continuing to advance a two-state solution fails to recognise the realities post-second intifada and the inadequacies of previous UN Security Council efforts to resolve the ongoing conflict.

This research embarks on a rigorous analysis of the role of the United Nations (UN) in the resolution of conflicts between Israel and Palestine. Numerous studies have undertaken the assessment of humanitarian services rendered by the UN in this conflict¹. However, despite various interventions from the UN, the Israel-Palestine conflict persists, thereby questioning the effectiveness of strategic actions adopted by the UN to achieve peace and promote lasting conflict resolution. A critical and often overlooked aspect of this dilemma lies in the structural power dynamics within the UN itself. In particular, this study seeks to explore how superpower veto privileges within the UN Security Council have affected the UN's capacity

to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict between 2014 and 2024, especially when permanent members use these powers to shield geopolitical allies or obstruct consensus. This study thus aims to fill significant gaps in the literature, not only by evaluating the impact of the UN's involvement, but also by interrogating the internal political architecture that may be frustrating its peace-building mandate in one of the world's most enduring conflicts.

1.3 Aim and Objectives of the study

The main aim of this study is to examine the effectiveness of the United Nations (UN) in conflict resolution and peace promotion with specific reference to its involvement in the Israel-Palestine conflict between 2014 and 2024. The specific objectives:

- i. investigate the roles of the United Nations in Israeli-Palestine conflict resolution.
- ii. identify the impact of conflict resolution strategies adopted by UN in Israel-Palestine Conflict.
- iii. identify challenges encountered by UN in promoting peace between Israel and Palestine.
- iv. examine how superpower veto privileges within the UN Security Council have affected the UN's capacity to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict between 2014 and 2024.

1.4 Research Questions

This study was anchored upon the following question:

1. What are the roles of the United Nations in Israeli-Palestine conflict resolution?

2. What are the impacts of conflict resolution strategies adopted by UN in Israel-Palestine Conflict?
3. What are the challenges encountered by UN in promoting peace between Israel and Palestine?
4. How have superpower veto privileges within the UN Security Council affected the UN's capacity to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict between 2014 and 2024?

1.5 Significance of the Study

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict in contemporary space has remained a persistent stain on the developmental trajectory of both entities. Strategies aimed at resolving this long-standing issue have repeatedly proved abortive. Anchored in the evolving complexities of the conflict, this study seeks to investigate the role of the United Nations in mediating the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, explore the socio-economic consequences of recurring military confrontations, and critically assess structural barriers to effective conflict resolution particularly the impact of superpower veto privileges within the UN Security Council between 2014 and 2024.

As a scholarly endeavour, this research offers the general public an enriched historical account of the Israeli-Palestinian war. By incorporating the differing perspectives of Israelis and Palestinians, it provides a balanced understanding of how both sides interpret and engage with the conflict. Additionally, the study disaggregates major military confrontations with the intent to identify root causes and patterns that have sustained the conflict over the years.

Crucially, the study interrogates how institutional mechanisms within the UN (especially the veto power of permanent Security Council members) have either facilitated or obstructed resolutions aimed at justice, accountability, and peace. In doing so, it extends existing intellectual discourse on the power politics of international conflict mediation. The inquiry into veto diplomacy is particularly urgent given its implications for the legitimacy, neutrality, and operational capacity of the UN in asymmetric conflicts such as this.

Furthermore, this study is a call to all current and future intermediating forces (whether national, regional, or global) to adopt strategies that prioritize cooperation over coercion in international affairs. By analysing the interventions of pivotal international actors such as the United Nations (UN), European Union (EU), and the Arab League, the study contributes to a broader understanding of multilateral conflict resolution mechanisms.

Global peace and security remain intricately tied to the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian crisis, which continues to generate ripple effects beyond the Middle East. Understanding the dynamics of superpower influence within the UN Security Council helps to evaluate whether the institution is equipped to handle such protracted disputes¹⁶. The study further provides insight into the operational tools and policy limitations of global institutions, drawing lessons applicable to emerging conflicts.

The recommendations derived from this work may serve as a reference framework for improving the design and delivery of international interventions¹⁷. By bridging gaps in literature, the study contributes to academic discourse on international relations, particularly on theories of conflict transformation, institutional legitimacy, and the politics of global governance. Finally, the study also evaluates humanitarian interventions (especially those of

agencies like UNRWA) which continue to play a crucial role in alleviating the suffering of displaced Palestinian populations. By examining these efforts, it highlights areas for policy improvement and offers practical insights for future diplomatic and humanitarian engagement in similarly protracted geopolitical crises.

1.6 Scope of the Study

This research endeavour presents an in-depth analysis of the conflictual relationship between Israel and Palestine by examining the role of the United Nations in conflict resolution. Anchored upon the objective to investigate the effectiveness of the UN in mediating the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the study covers critical aspects such as the impact of UN-adopted conflict resolution strategies, the challenges encountered by the UN in promoting peace, and the broader political and institutional factors influencing these efforts. A key dimension of this research includes assessing how superpower veto privileges within the UN Security Council have affected the UN's capacity to respond decisively and impartially to the crisis. This inclusion allows for a nuanced exploration of institutional constraints that may hinder peacebuilding efforts and perpetuate the deadlock in negotiations. The temporal focus of the study is between 2014 and 2024. This ten-year window captures a decade of intensifying hostilities, transformative UN engagements, and significant geopolitical shifts. The period is contextually significant for evaluating the evolution of UN strategies, the influence of veto dynamics, and the effectiveness of humanitarian and diplomatic mechanisms deployed to manage the conflict. It offers a comprehensive longitudinal framework for understanding one of the most enduring and complex disputes in international relations.

1.7 Limitations of the Study

This study was subject to certain limitations that influenced the depth and breadth of its analysis. First, the deliberations and voting records of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are largely confidential. This restriction limited access to primary data from diplomats and representatives of the permanent members, thereby constraining insight into the internal decision-making processes behind veto use.

Second, due to these access constraints, the research relied heavily on secondary sources, including official UN records, published resolutions, scholarly literature, and credible media reports. While these materials provided substantial information, they may not fully reflect the informal negotiations, political bargaining, or behind-the-scenes influences shaping UNSC decisions.

Third, the highly sensitive and volatile nature of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, particularly during escalations such as the October 2023 hostilities, created significant security risks and logistical challenges. These circumstances prevented the possibility of conducting field research or direct interviews with stakeholders in conflict-affected areas.

Although these limitations posed challenges, the study applied rigorous document analysis and cross-verification of multiple sources to ensure reliability and validity. The findings thus present a credible and comprehensive assessment of how superpower veto privileges affect the UN's conflict resolution capacity in the Israeli-Palestinian context.

1.8 Definition of Terms

Conflict: A conflict exists when two or more individuals have irreconcilable or disagreeing interests, attitudes, behaviour's, views, ideas, principles, desires, needs, or ambitions.

Conflict Management: In the case of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, conflict management means reducing the harmful effects of the conflict while trying to bring out any benefits it might offer. The purpose is to create better understanding and improve how groups function and perform. When handled well, conflict can actually lead to stronger cooperation and more effective results.

Conflicts Resolution: Conflict resolution is either a formal or an informal the process of finding a peaceful resolution to a disagreement or degenerating issues between two or more entities. It involves understanding different perspectives and working together to find a compromise and strike a balance between the parties concerned.

International Organisation: An international organisation is a group of countries that come together on the basis of shared interest in order to achieve a shared goal. Some examples of international organisations include the United Nations, ECOWAS, the African Union, the European Union, the World Trade Organisation, the IMF Fund and the World Bank.

Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is one of the longest conflicts in history. It has persisted for over 70 years, with profound implications for the Middle East and global diplomacy. The conflict surrounds issues of territorial claims and boundaries as well as the status of Jerusalem, the rights of Palestinian refugees, and mutual security concerns.

Mechanism: This is the established custom, policies, manoeuvres, procedures, and strategies that governments, security agencies, and organizations adopt in response to terrorist threats or strategies to prevent future terrorist incidents.

Peace building: The process of resolving conflicts by identifying and addressing root causes in order to achieve long-term peace using all necessary strategic peace-building tools.

The United Nations: The United Nations (UN), originally known as the United Nations Organisation, is a global body created to help maintain peace, promote cooperation among nations, and support the protection of human rights. It was formed in 1945 after the end of the Second World War, following the collapse of the League of Nations which had been founded in 1919 but failed to prevent further conflict. The UN currently has 193 full member states and 2 observer states.

United Nations Security Council: The Security Council is one of the main organs of the United Nations. Its main duty is to protect international peace and security. It also suggests new members to the General Assembly and must approve any changes made to the UN Charter. The Security Council has the power to create peacekeeping missions, apply global sanctions, and approve the use of military force. It is the only part of the UN system that can issue decisions all member countries must follow.

Veto: The veto is a special power used by any of the five permanent members of the Security Council to stop the passing of certain key decisions. This often weakens the UN's ability to respond to conflicts, especially in cases where a permanent member has strong political or economic interests, as seen in the Israeli-Palestinian situation.

Endnotes

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Chapter Two

Literature Review

2.1 Conceptual Review

2.1.1 International Organisation

International organisations are the body of countries in the international system that interacts on the basis of shared interest with one another. These relations often come in form of political, economic, sociocultural, sport, military or even technological and scientific innovations. The interactions also occur on different basis depending on the number of countries involved. There are bilateral relations and multilateral relations like the United Nations, the European Union, the African Union, BRICS, ECOWAS among others. These organisations often act in various and complex capacities in conflicts providing mediation, peacekeeping, humanitarian aid, and rebuilding. They always present themselves with various strategies to promote the interests of their member states in the international system. They surely do know that conflicts are inevitable and as such are always readily available with different mechanisms to address such issues.

International organisations are entities established by multiple nations with the aim of facilitating cooperation on issues of common interest. These Organisations are characterized by formal structures, a defined purpose, and the ability to engage in international relations. They serve as platforms for states to interact, communicate, and coordinate their actions on global matters. These can include economic, security, environmental, and social issues.¹ The purpose of an International Organisations often involves promoting peace, stability, and cooperation among member states. There are various types of international organisation,

including intergovernmental organisations (IGOs) like the United Nations (UN) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), which operate independently of government control. IGOs typically have member states as their stakeholders, while NGOs are usually composed of individuals or groups advocating for specific issues.

International organisation plays a crucial role in promoting global cooperation and addressing transnational challenges that no single nation can tackle effectively on its own. These entities, including the United Nations, World Bank, and World Health Organisations, serve as platforms for dialogue and collaboration among countries, fostering consensus on issues ranging from climate change to human rights. Their relevance is particularly evident in today's interconnected world, where challenges such as pandemics, terrorism, and economic instability transcend borders, necessitating collective action and shared resources. They are thus pivotal and crucial to the maintenance of the global order.

One of the core functions of international organisation is to facilitate peace and security among nations. Through diplomatic efforts, peacekeeping missions, and conflict resolution initiatives, organisation like the United Nations aim to prevent conflicts and foster stability. By providing a forum for negotiations and mediating disputes, these Organisations contribute to a reduction in hostilities and an increase in cooperation, ultimately creating a safer global environment. Their presence underscores the importance of diplomacy and rule-based order in maintaining international peace. In the realm of economic development, international Organisations also play a pivotal role. They offer funding, expert guidance, and training to countries that are still developing, with the goal of reducing poverty and encouraging long-

term development that can be maintained over time. Programs initiated by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank are instrumental in stabilizing economies and providing countries with the tools necessary for long-term growth. By addressing economic disparities and fostering development, these organizations contribute to global stability and prosperity. International organizations fulfil several critical functions in the international system. They provide forums for negotiation and dialogue, create norms and standards for state behaviour, facilitate the distribution of resources, and contribute to conflict resolution². Through these functions, they play a crucial role in global governance. The establishment of international organisations has significantly influenced international relations by promoting multilateralism and reducing the likelihood of conflict through collaboration. The presence of international organisations can enhance stability by fostering communication and trust among states³. Despite their importance, international organisations face challenges such as bureaucratic inefficiency, inequality in power dynamics among member states, and criticisms regarding their effectiveness in addressing global issues⁴. The debate continues on how to reform these organisations to better serve their intended purposes. They are pivotal in shaping global interactions and addressing transnational challenges. Their roles are evolving in response to global shifts, reflecting the complexities of international cooperation.

The world is filled with complicated problems that individual countries cannot always solve on their own. Issues like terrorism, pandemics, border clashes, drug trafficking, and climate change often go beyond national boundaries, making it difficult for domestic laws and efforts to handle them alone. Because of this, there is a need for countries to work together under agreed rules, and this led to the creation of international organisation. These organisations are formed when countries come together for a common reason, agree on the organisation's

purpose, and give it authority through legal agreements or treaties. They are usually established under international law. Some well-known examples include the United Nations (UN), the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the International Monetary fund (IMF), the World Bank Group, the international Labour Organisation (ILO), INTERPOL, and the World Health Organisation (WHO). These organisations operate globally and coordinate cooperation across various political, economic, humanitarian and security issues.

International organisations vary in what they do, how many members they have, and who can join. Some were created to provide a neutral ground for discussions and peaceful resolution of disagreements. Others focus on shared goals such as promoting peace, supporting human rights, environmental protection, healthcare, education, economic growth, or offering emergency help. While some organisation, like the United Nations, cover many issues, others focus on specific areas such as law enforcement (INTERPOL) or communication standards (International Telecommunication Union). The oldest of these is the International Telecommunication Union, which was founded in 1865. The first general international organisation was the League of Nations, created in 1920 to maintain global peace after World War I. It was later replaced by the United Nations after the Second World War.

The use of organisational intervention such as peace spokes including the United Nations seeks to ensure that the conflicting parties come to an agreement on their own by peaceful negotiation, Dialogue instead of using force to solve the conflict⁵. Peace making involves use of force to make warring parties cease hostilities which is carried out under United Nations Security Council mandate and involves using military and other personnel to oversee the cessation of hostilities, to protect civilians and provide humanitarian aids⁶. The Red Cross,

similarly, non-governmental organisations help human beings suffering from conflict-related situations with basic needs, including food and shelter and medical necessities⁷.

Besides, international organisations help states implement post-conflict reconstruction by advocating for unity and cooperation and providing resources for restoration of facilities as well as economic recovery in conflicted societies⁸. The capabilities of international organisations in responding to conflicts are multiple and can be concerned by many factors that are related to the type of conflict, cooperation of the actors participating in the conflict, and the available means and instruments the organisation possess for interfering. Some levels of conflict have been handled by intercessory through international mediation and peace keeping initiatives but others stand at par because of political, social, and economic injustices entrenched in some societies⁹.

The case of UN's intervention in brokerages of peace in Mozambique, illustrates how such organisation can bring about sustainable post conflict accords as well as provide for reconstruction even though the organisation is yet to record an overall success with the issue of Israeli-Palestine conflict over the years. However, the challenges like the increase in violence in areas of conflict, continued humanitarian crisis, and rise of extremism present a challenge to the international community whereby whatever efforts is done towards the causation of achieving the state of peace seems to be powerless¹⁰. The United Nations is not short of these challenges as several scholars and conflict observers have argued their intervention in the ongoing conflicts between the Israelis and the Palestinians over the years.

International organisations are central to resolving conflicts around the world. They help mediate disputes, support peace processes, and provide humanitarian aid in times of crisis.

Through dialogue, negotiation, and peacekeeping, they create pathways for rebuilding trust between warring parties and promoting long-term stability. In some cases, their efforts have helped end violence, rebuild societies, and prevent further escalation. However, their effectiveness is often limited by several major challenges. Concerns about national sovereignty can prevent governments from accepting external help, especially if they fear it may affect their control or legitimacy. This resistance can make it hard for these organisations to step in or to carry out peacekeeping missions.

In addition to sovereignty issues, the lack of political will among powerful actors and the involvement of groups that are not part of the state structure, such as rebel groups or terrorist networks makes peace efforts more complex. Conflicting parties sometimes use ethnicity or religion as a tool for division, making it harder to build peace. There is also the issue of humanitarian aid being used for political gain, which weakens trust and hampers recovery efforts. Modern security threats like cyber-attacks and terrorism do not fit neatly into traditional peacekeeping models, so international organisations must find new ways to respond. Despite these obstacles, they continue to fight for human rights and social fairness, standing up for people whose lives are at risk and helping societies recover from violence.

Through various treaties, conventions, and monitoring mechanisms, they ensure that human rights violations are addressed and that marginalised communities receive the attention they deserve. By promoting dialogue and setting global standards, these organizations foster a culture of accountability and respect for human rights, reinforcing their essential relevance in creating a just and equitable world. In summary, the impact and importance of international

organisations cannot be overstated as they are vital for fostering cooperation, promoting development, and ensuring global peace and security.

2.1.2 Conflict Resolution

Conflict can be understood through multiple lenses; as numerous authors have offered varying definitions. At its core, conflict is an inherent aspect of human interaction, arising from the natural competition of interests between individuals. It encompasses a range of expressions, including sharp differences, dissent, hostility, and clashes of ideas or interests. Essentially, conflict is both a personal and social phenomenon that emerges from disagreements over goals or the means to achieve them. These dynamics illustrate how conflict is not merely a negative occurrence but a fundamental part of the relational landscape among individuals and groups. It could be defined as "a process that begins with one party believing that another party has adversely affected, or is about to adversely affect, something which the former cares about ^{1,2}.

Conflict is defined as any type of friction, disagreement, or discord that arises within a cluster when the ideologies or decisions of one or more group members are either resisted or unacceptable to one or more members of some other group. Conflict can occur between people from the same group, known as intragroup conflict, or it can occur between members of two or more groups, known as intergroup conflict, and can involve violence, interpersonal discord, and psychological tension³. Conflict in groups frequently takes a predictable path. An initial conflict disrupts routine group interaction, which is typically induced by differing views, misunderstandings among members, or a lack of resources. The group is no longer consolidated at this point and may be partitioned into coalitions. In some cases, this period of

conflict escalation gives way to a stage of conflict resolution, following which the group can return back to routine group interaction⁴. Conflict is the act of dissenting or completely at odds forces, ideas, interests, context, and discord striking together. Conflict is a situation of emotional stress in an individual or group of individuals triggered by the clash of different needs and operating methods in a given situation⁵. Competition for resources, task interdependence, jurisdictional ambiguity, and status struggle are identified as antecedents to intergroup conflict. Conflict is viewed as a natural part of organisational life and can occur within an individual, between individuals, between individuals and groups, and between groups⁶.

Conflicts can occur in various kinds and can also be resolved in different ways. They are categorized by scholars as:

Intrapersonal Conflict: This occurs within an individual as a result of role ambiguity and occupational stress role conflict, which refers to the various roles that people play in a specified organisation or community. For example, when the employee's child becomes ill and the career parent is frustrated at work, the roles of parent and employee may clash. This causes interpersonal conflict. Because the worker may be unable to give his or her all to the ever-increasing number of tasks on the table. Intrapersonal conflict can lead to self-destruction, as well as drug and alcohol abuse. It also influences job performance, turnover, and absenteeism. However, these issues can be addressed by sending employees to seminars, workshops, and counselling centres set up in the office⁷.

Inter Personal Conflict: This occurs when two or more people in an organisation disagree. This could be caused by differences in values which is especially true when one person

prioritizes task completion over everything else, while another emphasises the importance of maintaining positive workplace relationships even if immediate task performance suffers slightly. Differences in Problem-Solving Styles is another because of this, one staff may prefer working independently, whereas the other prefers group work. Interpersonal conflict can also arise as a result of two or more employees competing for power, promotion, or rewards⁸.

Person - Group Conflict: An individual may choose to contest the social rules or behavioural guidelines that govern group membership in this situation. When allegations of waste, fraud, or corruption are levelled against this individual and the allegations are investigated, the affected employees feel threatened.

Inter - Group Conflict: Inter-group conflict occurs when people in the same group work together. It is caused by issues with authority, jurisdiction, workflow control, and access to limited resources. Sources of inter-group conflict can be classified as follows:

Bargaining Conflict: This occurs when groups within an organisation compete for power, influence, and even scarce resources. When there is a budget deficit and the government attempts to start reducing it by cutting expenditures, bargaining conflict can arise.

System Conflict: A system conflict occurs when multiple departments in an organisation work toward objectives that are diametrically opposed to the overall organisational goals. The system issue can be overcome by using task forces and constantly moving department members among work units⁹.

Conflict also exists in stages. Conflict at the latent stage is when it is yet to surface, but there is a rising consciousness of the conflict. Conflict is in the manifest stage when its face starts with low-level violence. Conflict at the crisis stage represents its highest point with unguarded antagonism between the conflicting parties. The last stage, the de-escalation stage, is divided into two stages: the improvement and the transformation stages. These stages are when a third party intervenes in the conflict, and the contending groups start to recognize the views and concerns of the other party, and efforts are being made to change the approaches of the conflicting parties to the conflict, thereby paving ways for conflict transformation¹⁰.

Conflicts occur in organisations between managers and subordinates, between labour and management, between work teams, as well as between organisation and its external surroundings. Organisational conflicts are caused by a number of factors.

Personality Differences: Individuals with opposing attitudes and behaviours are sometimes tasked to work together. Conflicts may arise if they completely disregard each other's needs. Individual perception differences can also lead to disagreements once managerial staff members are not diplomatic in introducing new ideas and processes.

Communication Barrier: Conflict occurs as a consequence of communication barriers. Communication is defined as the transmission of meaning from the source to the recipient. That is meaning transfer from one individual to another. Ambiguity in communication causes serious issues and misunderstandings, which can lead to conflict. A supervisor in an establishment can cause conflict by changing the culture of the organisation, bringing in employees from other organisations, restructuring the organisation, or appointing a solicitor¹¹.

Conflicting Interest: Conflicting interests may arise as a result of goals that differ among organisational members. Numerous management staff and employees' immature behaviour can also lead to conflicts.

Scarce Resources: Organisational resources aren't always enough. People, money, materials, and time may be in short supply, resulting in conflicts. Further to that, when a person needs some mutually desirable resources that are in short supply by others, the resulting or emerging competition may result in conflicts.

The Administrative Styles: If an administrator's administrative style is autocratic, it can be a source of disagreement. When management makes appointments and promotions without seeking the input and cooperation of unit heads, conflict can arise.

Conflicts require various management techniques to address the situation. Conflict management is a strategy used to decrease the number of counterproductive encounters by strengthening conflict inhibitors and avoiding triggering off events. Conflict management aims to limit and prevent confrontation between two parties. It thus encompasses all actions taken prior to, during, and after a conflict with the goal of mitigating its effects and ensuring that both groups continue living in peaceful harmonious relationship and conduct themselves in an organised manner. Conflict management is defined as the resolution of an unresolved dispute. It is an approach to resolving disagreements ^{12, 13}.

Conflict management is a broad term. When broken down, there are three distinct meanings: a term, an approach, and a discipline. Conflict management is a term that refers to a process that reduces conflict and thus results in a favourable change in behaviour. It is a way of

dealing with the causative factors, symptoms, complexities, transformation, control, settlement, and resolution in a systematic manner¹⁴. Conflict management is viewed as a distinction between relevant and irrelevant ideas. As a result, managers must help facilitate to guarantee that conflicts are resolved and that misunderstandings do not escalate into lengthy and destructive disputes. Mediation is necessary because it is aimed at assisting people in resolving their misunderstandings, assisting individuals who have misunderstandings in working toward conflict resolution and resolving their differences¹⁵. As the saying goes, "prevention is better than cure." That is, it is preferable to deal with and control conflicts before they escalate. Competition is typically intended to draw out the best in people or groups as they strive to be at the pinnacle of their profession. The worst-case scenario occurs if the competitive rivalry turns sour.

As a result, using a conflict management strategy to prevent organisational conflict is essential¹⁶. It is the process of reducing conflict's negative aspects while increasing its positive aspects. The goal of conflict management is to improve learning and organized foresight, such as organisational effectiveness or performance¹⁷. A conflict management approach and practice in an organisation entail being able to recognise and address dispute in a rational way, equitably, and competently. Because conflict is unavoidable, organisations must find ways to manage it in an equitable manner. Conflict management, when approached correctly, makes the assumption that conflicts are long-term processes that cannot always be resolved quickly. The concept of "management" implies that individuals can be directed or held in check in the same way that physical objects can.

Furthermore, the concept of management implies that the objective is to reduce or control volatility rather than to address the root cause of the problem. Some agree with this viewpoint, defining conflict management as "the method of reducing the destructive and negative capacity through a variety of approaches and by continuing to work with and through the involved parties in that conflict." Similarly, some argue that the term is occasionally used interchangeably with the term conflict resolution. By extension, the term encompasses other aspects of dealing with "conflicts positively at various levels, including proactive efforts to prevent conflict¹⁸"

Conflict management can occur in three stages: pre-conflict, conflict, and post-conflict.

Pre-conflict stage: During this stage, a third party (peacemaker) attempts to resolve the issue before it escalates into physical combat. Because conflict is anticipated, measures are taken to redress causal grievances in order to avoid escalation. Pre-conflict management is also important and desirable because it avoids the costs associated with violent conflict^{19, 20}.

Conflict stage: At this stage, third-party efforts are made to achieve peace and end hostility between actors involved in ongoing conflicts. Conflict management at this stage indicates that efforts to resolve the dispute prior to the conflict either were not made or were unsuccessful. Post-conflict stage: Efforts are made by third parties at this stage to ensure long-term peace after the initial dispute is over in order to avoid future conflict. Typically, this involves the process of post-conflict economic restructuring and peacekeeping. To ensure long-term peace, the grievances that sparked the initial conflict must be thoroughly investigated, victims of such conflict compensated, and perpetrators held accountable²¹.

“Conflict” is a term used to mean a variety of things, in an assortment of contexts under the mantle of conflict are words such as, serious disagreement, disputes, incompatibilities, fight, argue, contest, debate, combat, collision, clash and war etc. These are the equally evocate terms to understand the term conflict or to know which description of behaviour fit under the title of conflict. A situationist thinker defined conflict as a “situation which generates incompatible goals or values among different parties.”²² An American sociologist defines conflict as the “Clash of values and interests, the tension between what is and what some groups feel ought to be.”²³ This was all about the word conflict, now we have to understand the real connotation and meaning of resolution. The word “resolution” means, the quality of being resolute, a firm decision, an expression of opinion or intensions agreed on by a legislative body, the action of solving a problem or dispute, the process of reducing or separating something into components²⁴.

Thus, conflict resolution is seen as a situation where the conflicting parties enter into an agreement that solves their central incompatibilities, accept each other’s continued existence as parties and cease all violent action against each other”²⁵. Conflict resolution involves various efforts aimed at reducing or completely removing the causes of disagreement between parties. It includes many different approaches used to address disputes, such as negotiation, diplomacy, mediation, arbitration, facilitation, adjudication, conciliation, and even broader efforts like conflict prevention and peacekeeping. Some methods focus on managing the conflict without fully solving it, while others aim to change the way the conflict is understood and dealt with over time. Each method is used depending on the nature of the conflict, the people involved, and the goals of those trying to resolve it. Conflict

resolution is defined as "a range of approaches focused at discontinuing conflicts through constructive problem solving, as opposed to conflict management or transformation²⁶."

The root causes of a conflict are usually expected to be addressed in such a way that violent actions end, hostile attitudes shift, and the overall structure of the conflict is changed. The idea of conflict resolution suggests that conflict is harmful and should not be allowed to continue. It also assumes that conflict is a temporary issue that can be brought to an end through meaningful conversation or other peaceful approaches. A conflict can be considered resolved, especially when looking at human needs, only if those needs are met in a way that satisfies the people involved and removes their fears or doubts.

Other forms of conflict, such as those based on beliefs or values, can only be considered settled when both sides accept a solution that works for them, lasts over time, and helps form a new, healthy relationship between groups that were previously in disagreement. The steps taken to reach this solution are as important as the final agreement. In theory, conflict resolution means both sides walk away satisfied, and the disagreement no longer exists. However, in reality, some types of conflict, especially those related to control over resources, may never be fully resolved or brought to a permanent close.

In any given society, group structure cannot be said to be static because the individuals and groups that comprise the society are constantly interacting. Given the constantly shifting pattern of entrenched and opposing interests, one group appears to dominate the other. In such circumstances, groups in such societies tend to defend their values in order to survive and advance their aspirations. As a result, everyone has a strong interest in the well-being and survival of his or her community or family. A society made up of such dominant groups

is bound to have fierce competition, rivalry, and conflict over their values. This is because the objectives of one group are frequently incompatible with those of another. What complicates land disputes is that all land is usually owned; regardless of whether farmed or not, it belongs to someone or a community. As a result, claims and counterclaims over land ownership became the norm in Israel and Palestine.

Conflict is a natural part of human relations, often arising from differences in interests, opposing values, and the unequal sharing of resources. When not addressed properly, conflicts can grow into violence, mass displacement, and deep human suffering, leaving lasting damage on individuals, communities, and entire nations. In the international context, resolving conflict is essential for maintaining peace, security, and global stability. International organisations such as the United Nations, regional institutions, and non-governmental organisations play a key role in managing disputes, delivering humanitarian aid, and supporting peacebuilding efforts. By using their legal authority, technical knowledge, and financial resources, these organisations help to address conflicts in many parts of the world. However, the success of their efforts is often limited by serious challenges and constraints that need to be better understood and addressed.

In today's world, conflict resolution is more important than ever. It is widely accepted that peaceful approaches are the only way to reduce hostilities, settle disputes, and achieve lasting peace. This understanding has led global leaders, scholars, policy analysts, the media, and civil society to place significant focus on the need for structured conflict resolution. It must be emphasised that conflict resolution is not just a theory, but an essential process within broader peacebuilding and peace-making efforts. As a central area within peace studies,

conflict resolution promotes the idea that all forms of disagreement in human society should be addressed through non-violent and peaceful means such as diplomacy, open dialogue, negotiation, summits, conciliation, arbitration, mediation, and trust-building efforts.

In the modern world, the value and necessity of conflict resolution are undeniable. It is a well-known truth that violence often leads to more violence, creating cycles of destruction. Therefore, the survival of humanity and the prevention of future wars or humanitarian disasters depend on the willingness of conflicting groups or nations to embrace peaceful methods of resolving their differences. Conflict resolution offers not just a solution to individual disputes, but also a broader path to global peace and cooperation.

Methods of Conflict Resolution

In many traditional communities, resolving conflict has involved several approaches, which may differ slightly depending on the cultural background of the people involved. These approaches often include mediation, arbitration, negotiation, reconciliation, and adjudication. In some cultures, spiritual or mystical practices are sometimes used alongside these methods. These may involve appealing to deities, invoking curses, or using symbolic objects to influence how the disputing parties understand or respond to the situation at hand.

Mediations

Mediation is often seen as a process where an outsider who is not involved in the conflict steps in to help both parties find a way forward. This process is voluntary, informal, and does not carry legal weight. The third party does not take control of the outcome but simply helps to guide discussions between the two sides. In some cases, this support may include

suggestions or pressure to move the process forward, but the main idea is that the final decision remains with the parties involved²⁹. Mediation is usually used when both sides accept that they want to find peace but need help to talk things through. The mediator organises and oversees the discussions but does not force any outcomes. The parties are free to make their own decisions. Many people use mediation skills in everyday life without realising it. A mediator's task is mainly to build a space where both sides feel safe enough to speak openly and listen to one another. This helps them understand each other better and reach some form of agreement. The mediator is not a judge or decision-maker³⁰.

Characteristics of Mediation

Mediation is a process that allows people to settle disagreements through voluntary participation. It is simple, informal, and allows both sides to speak freely and work together. Through honest dialogue, it helps the parties involved to find common ground and reach their own agreement. The process protects privacy, as discussions remain private and are not made public. This private setting can reduce tension and support better understanding. It also helps to keep good relationships, especially when those involved will need to keep working or living together. Mediation offers a less stressful option than going to court, as it saves time, money, and emotional pressure³¹.

Adjudication: Adjudication brings people involved in a dispute to a formal meeting led by recognised authorities, such as community elders, family heads, or local rulers, depending on the situation. In older societies, this method often included dialogue but followed a more structured path^{32,33}. Those brought before this process cannot refuse to take part. The method follows set rules that guide how evidence is shown and how the case is heard. Each side is

allowed to share their views, bring forward their own proof, and question the other party's claims. This takes place in public, and there are clear rules to make sure the process is fair. The result is based on legal standards and is usually final, but it can sometimes be challenged in a higher setting. In many cases, the person who loses may have to cover certain costs from the case.

Reconciliation: Among all the methods used to resolve conflicts, reconciliation stands out as the most meaningful. It is usually what follows once a decision has been reached through adjudication. Peace is brought back when the individuals involved are persuaded to bring their disagreement to an end. This return to peaceful relations is often made possible through a shared willingness to compromise. Both sides usually agree to adjust their expectations, allowing for some level of give and take. It is not unusual for a social gathering to be organised after this process, showing that both parties are now open to mutual understanding and resolution³⁴.

In many African societies, Arbitration has not been the most commonly applied method when dealing with disputes. Unlike other familiar approaches, arbitration involves a respected community figure who takes charge of managing the discussion between those in conflict. This individual is not just a neutral guide but has the recognised authority to make a decision that both parties are expected to accept. The goal of arbitration is not to impose strict legal consequences, but to encourage peace and understanding between both sides while reflecting the moral standards and traditions of the community. It is common for respected members of the society to assist in this process, helping to maintain a good relationship between the authority figure and the wider community.

Arbitration has a number of features that make it unique^{35,36}. It is often entered into by choice, and the process is usually carried out in private unless there is a rare situation where a limited court appeal takes place. Depending on the rules that apply, it can be more organised and follow a clearer structure than courtroom proceedings. Arbitration is often completed more quickly and at a lower cost than going through a court trial. Each side involved in the conflict is allowed to present their evidence and explain their point of view. The decision made by the arbitrator can be enforced through legal channels if necessary. Sometimes, parties are allowed to choose an arbitrator with particular knowledge of the issue at hand. The ruling given by the arbitrator can bring a lasting end to the disagreement and is generally considered final. However, when the decision is not binding, the parties may still go to trial. Arbitration is generally not used in disputes involving family matters.

Negotiation focuses on finding common ground between those involved in a dispute. The aim is to bring the interests of both parties together. Even when someone is in conflict with the broader community, the approach remains centred on helping the individual return to good standing. Restoring someone who has acted against the community's norms is seen as bringing back unity and shared values. This also helps to strengthen the community's peace and structure, making it a resolution that benefits all those involved³⁷. In traditional Yoruba society in Nigeria, negotiation was used to achieve peace. It often involved public apologies made for harm caused to both individuals and the wider group. These apologies were carried out through recognised representatives, such as elders, family leaders, and respected chiefs. The process was handled at a level where community leaders represented the interests of both parties.

Negotiation has certain clear qualities³⁸. It is always voluntary and private. Everything discussed stays confidential between the parties. The process is usually fast and does not require much money. There are no formal procedures or set structures, and those involved lead the process themselves. They take control of decisions and are responsible for reaching an outcome. There is no outsider making the final judgment. If both parties agree, the results of a negotiation can be taken to court and made legally binding. Negotiation can also lead to outcomes where both sides feel satisfied.

2.1.3 The Nexus Between International Organisations and Conflict Resolution

Conflict is sacrosanct in the international system because all nations relate with one another on the basis of their national interest. However, in order to ensure probity, pacifism, orderliness and stability of the world system, the international organisations were put in place to guide the affairs and interactions of nations in the international system. International organisations therefore are saddled with the responsibility of conflict resolutions and management in the world system because the international system thrives on the principle of an attack on one is an attack against all. As a challenge, organisations have adopted various conflict resolution strategies that have been practically targeted at resolving conflict and enhancing global relations.

Conflict is bound to happen, as no country can remain completely separate from others. When countries engage with one another, their interests often clash. Still, in a world that is becoming more connected each day, international bodies play a central role in protecting global peace and stability. Among these bodies, the United Nations (UN) has become one of the most active and influential institutions in resolving international disputes. Since its

creation in 1945, the UN has been known for its wide responsibilities, which include preventing conflict, managing peacekeeping missions, and supporting mediation. Different parts of the UN, including the Security Council and the Department of Peace Operations, are assigned with handling disputes across the world. The idea of peacebuilding became more popular after 1992, when then Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali introduced the Agenda for Peace. This term has different meanings in different settings, but the UN mostly applies it to long-term rebuilding in countries recovering from violence. It also separates this effort from actions taken to stop conflict before it begins³⁹.

In both academic research and field practice, the meaning of peacebuilding has grown to cover a wider group of activities, plans, and stages that aim to create lasting peace and stronger systems of leadership. This is why international organisations such as the United Nations and the African Union are considered essential in managing conflict globally. When seen in a broader way, peacebuilding goes beyond just stopping war. It includes the entire timeline of conflict, beginning with early prevention, resolving violence as it unfolds, helping communities to rebuild after fighting ends, and making sure violence does not return. Efforts to stop conflict before it starts often focus on tackling poor economic and social conditions, reducing unrest, and calming rising tensions before they grow into full violence. Peace making& peace implementation assistance occur during armed combat and involve external efforts such as mediation, negotiation, and arbitration. During this conflict stage international actors become a source of positive and negative incentives for the conflict parties to agree upon, and comply with, conflict-ending settlements. Finally, assistance in the post-conflict peacebuilding phase aims at comprehensive and complementary political, socio-cultural, and economic revival.

The participation of international institutions in handling conflicts can be traced back to the period following the First World War, when the League of Nations was formed in 1919. Although the League was built on high ideals, it suffered from serious weaknesses. One of its major setbacks was the non-participation of key countries like the United States, whose absence weakened the League's global influence. It also lacked strong systems to ensure that nations followed collective security agreements. After the widespread destruction caused by the Second World War, the United Nations was created in 1945 with stronger goals to stop future wars and to promote cooperation among countries. From then on, the UN and its specialized arms have taken the lead in dealing with global disputes, sending peacekeeping troops, leading diplomatic discussions, and giving humanitarian support to areas affected by violence. Some major achievements include helping bring an end to colonial disputes like Namibia's independence in 1990, and assisting in solving international tensions such as the Northern Ireland peace process, where the UN played a guiding role.

These organisations serve many roles when addressing conflicts. Their tasks range from creating space for dialogue between hostile parties to protecting lives on the ground. When groups like the UN step in to mediate, they help those involved in the conflict to talk and look for peaceful answers, aiming to stop fights from growing worse. Peacekeeping operations, which need the approval of the UN Security Council, send trained teams of military and civilian staff to observe ceasefires, shield people from danger, and help ensure that basic aid reaches those in need. Aid groups such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) give urgent help like food, shelter, and healthcare in war zones. On top of that, these organisations help countries recover after violence by encouraging forgiveness,

rebuilding damaged areas, and supporting job creation and public services in communities that are trying to move forward after war.

How well these organisations perform depends on several factors. These include the kind of conflict they are handling, how ready all sides are to work together, and how much money or resources are available to support their work. There have been times where peacekeeping and mediation efforts by international organisations have led to successful resolutions. One example is Mozambique, where the UN played a central role in ending the civil war and supporting the rebuilding of the country. Still, many other situations remain difficult to resolve. This is often because of long-standing political tensions, economic problems, or deep divisions within society. While there are successes that show the value of these organisations, ongoing problems such as renewed violence in already troubled areas, continuous humanitarian emergencies, and the rise in extremist behaviour reveal the difficulties in achieving peace that lasts.

Organisations that try to stop conflicts face many problems. A common one is the concern over national independence, where some governments see outside help as a threat to their control or honour, and refuse support that could ease tensions or bring peace. In addition, when aid is influenced by politics, or when groups use religious or ethnic identities to stir up divisions, it makes peacebuilding harder. There are also new kinds of threats, like terrorism or digital attacks, that make traditional peace tools less effective. Even with these issues, international organisations still have a vital place in efforts to manage conflict and build peace across the world.

2.1.4 The History and Growth of the United Nations

After the conclusion of World War II, the United Nations (UN) was formally established on October 24, 1945, with the goal of safeguarding global peace and security, promoting friendly relations among states, and ensuring respect for fundamental human rights. The UN functions through six principal organs: the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Secretariat, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, and the International Court of Justice. However, when it comes to the implementation of its decisions, particular emphasis has been placed by member states on the authority and sovereignty of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). This council plays a leading role in advancing cooperation and encouraging peaceful solutions to global challenges. ¹

The Security Council is one of the six main organs of the United Nations, consisting of fifteen member states. Among the UN's structures, it holds unique responsibilities and powers. Member states have unanimously accepted that the Security Council should carry out its duties autonomously. It is the only UN organ authorised to issue decisions that are legally binding on all member countries. One of its core responsibilities is to uphold peace and prevent conflict. In cases where tensions arise, the Council attempts to persuade the parties to resolve their differences through peaceful dialogue. To achieve this, it can deploy special representatives tasked with investigating the root causes of the conflict².

The duty of setting the guidelines and principles that govern peaceful dispute settlement lies with the Security Council. It shoulders the task of ensuring that threats to peace are addressed before they escalate into violence. It actively promotes dialogue and understanding between conflicting parties and proposes various methods of dispute resolution. In situations where

diplomatic efforts fail, the Council can escalate its response by authorizing the use of force to restore order. Through these mechanisms, it strives to maintain a secure international environment. It is also within the Council's power to implement sanctions, ranging from cutting off diplomatic ties to enforcing economic penalties, blockades, or coordinated military action. Measures such as travel restrictions and punitive financial actions may also be enacted to compel compliance³.

Beyond peacekeeping and conflict resolution, the Security Council also holds other important responsibilities. It makes key recommendations to the General Assembly regarding the appointment of the UN Secretary-General. Additionally, it plays a role in reviewing and approving the applications of new member states seeking to join the United Nations. The Security Council is also actively involved in the selection of judges for the International Court of Justice, reinforcing its pivotal position in the broader UN system.

Aims of the United Nations

The objectives of the United Nations are outlined in Article 1 of its Charter. First, the UN seeks to maintain global peace and security. To achieve this, it undertakes coordinated actions to prevent and remove threats to peace, suppress acts of aggression, and facilitate the peaceful resolution of international disputes. Such efforts are grounded in justice and respect for international law. Second, the UN aims to nurture friendly relations among nations, built on the principles of equal rights and the self-determination of peoples, while also taking measures that contribute to global harmony. Third, it seeks to promote international cooperation in addressing global challenges whether economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian and to advocate for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms

for all individuals, regardless of race, gender, language, or religion. Lastly, the UN serves as a central platform for harmonizing the efforts of nations in pursuit of these shared goals.

Thanks to its distinct international character and the authority granted by its Charter, the UN can act on a wide array of global issues while also offering a venue where its 193 Member States can express their perspectives through platforms such as the General Assembly, Security Council, and Economic and Social Council. the influence of the United Nations is evident in virtually every part of the world. While the broader "UN System" including agencies like UNICEF and the World Food Programme and entities such as the Security Council, is widely recognized for roles in peacekeeping, peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and humanitarian aid, its work extends far beyond these areas. The United Nations tackles a broad spectrum of vital concerns to build a more secure world for future generations. These efforts span across sustainable development, protection of the environment and refugees, disaster response, combating terrorism, disarmament and non-proliferation, good governance, upholding human rights, gender equality, women's empowerment, economic and social progress, global health, landmine clearance, agricultural development, and much more.

The purposes of the United Nations are upheld through a set of core principles enshrined in Article 2 of the UN Charter, which guide both the organisation itself and its member states. First, the UN is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its members. Second, all member states are expected to fulfil the obligations they have undertaken in accordance with the Charter, thereby ensuring the benefits and rights of membership are preserved for all. Third, members must resolve international conflicts through peaceful means, in a way that upholds global peace, security, and justice. Fourth, in their interactions with one another,

states must refrain from threatening or using force against the territorial integrity or political independence of other states, or in any way that contradicts the purposes of the UN. Fifth, member states are required to support all UN actions taken in line with the Charter and are prohibited from aiding any entity against which the UN is undertaking preventive or enforcement measures. Sixth, the UN is responsible for ensuring that non-member states comply with these principles as far as necessary for maintaining international peace and security. Finally, the Charter does not grant the United Nations the right to interfere in matters that fall within the domestic jurisdiction of any state, nor does it obligate states to submit such issues for resolution under the Charter. However, this non-interference principle does not prevent the UN from applying enforcement actions under Chapter VII of the Charter. Furthermore, the Charter provides for the suspension or expulsion of any member state that fails to abide by its stated principles.

2.1.5 The Roles and Functions of the United Nations

With its 193 member states, the United Nations (UN) plays a pivotal role in promoting global peace, security, and cooperation among nations. Established in 1945 in the aftermath of World War II, the organization was designed to prevent future conflicts and foster international collaboration on a wide range of issues, including the protection of human rights, economic development, humanitarian assistance, and environmental sustainability. The UN functions through specialized agencies, programs, and bodies, each tasked with addressing specific global challenges. Its initiatives, ranging from peacekeeping operations to conflict resolution and the promotion of fundamental freedoms demonstrate the UN's long-standing commitment to fostering a more just and equitable world. Through collective

engagement and multilateral dialogue, the United Nations provides a vital platform for countries to work cooperatively toward common goals and confront the increasingly complex and interconnected problems of the 21st century.

One of the UN's central functions is the maintenance of international peace and security. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is specifically mandated to address conflicts and prevent the escalation of violence globally. By deploying peacekeeping missions and facilitating diplomatic mediation, the UN plays a critical role in resolving disputes and protecting civilian populations in conflict zones. Notable peacekeeping missions include those in Sierra Leone, Liberia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Beyond peacekeeping, the UN is also a key factor in humanitarian responses during crises. Agencies such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Food Programme (WFP) are essential in delivering emergency assistance to populations affected by war, displacement, natural disasters, and pandemics. For instance, in 2020, the UN orchestrated a global response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring that vulnerable communities across regions received medical, nutritional, and economic support.

Additionally, the UN has shown unwavering commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights worldwide. The adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 marked a significant milestone in codifying the rights and freedoms that belong to every individual, irrespective of nationality, race, gender, or belief. To monitor violations and uphold international standards, institutions such as the Human Rights Council and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) were established. These bodies work to hold violators accountable and provide mechanisms for redress. In line with its

development agenda, the UN adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, outlining 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aimed at eradicating extreme poverty, narrowing social inequalities, and advancing environmental resilience. The UN has been instrumental in guiding and supporting member states in the implementation and monitoring of these goals through capacity-building, policy advice, and technical cooperation.

Furthermore, the United Nations addresses one of the most pressing issues of the modern era climate change through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The adoption of the Paris Agreement in 2015 under this framework underscores the UN's role in galvanising global consensus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and limiting global warming. Beyond climate mitigation, the UN fosters environmental stewardship and biodiversity conservation through collaborative programs, international agreements, and multilateral partnerships. Equally important, the UN upholds the rule of law and advances the cause of international justice through the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and various ad hoc tribunals. The ICJ adjudicates legal disputes between states and offers advisory opinions on international legal questions, thereby reinforcing adherence to international norms. By promoting legal accountability and peaceful dispute resolution, the UN significantly contributes to the preservation of global order and stability⁵⁵.

The United Nations also acts as a central point for bringing countries together to respond to major global issues. It gives nations a space to engage in peaceful discussions and build cooperation. Through regular meetings such as the UN General Assembly and other focused conferences, member states gather to talk about urgent challenges facing the world and agree on ways to tackle them together. This role helps promote unity in dealing with matters related

to peace, the economy, and social concerns. The UN also supports the rights of women and encourages their full involvement in society. Through the establishment of UN Women in 2010, efforts have been made to stop unfair treatment, abuse, and harmful traditions targeted at women. The organisation continues to push for the involvement of women in leadership and decision-making. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action remain strong evidence of the UN's long-term dedication to achieving gender equality.

The UN also has a major role in improving education and healthcare across the world. The World Health Organisation (WHO), one of its main bodies, works on public health matters, responds to outbreaks, and supports equal access to medical services. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) helps to make education open and fair for everyone⁵⁷. These contributions support the development of people and communities. The UN is also active in helping people who are displaced from their homes. Agencies like the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) give help and find long-term answers for refugees and migrants. The Global Compact for Migration, agreed upon in 2022, reflects a shared understanding among countries to manage migration more fairly and to protect the rights of migrants.

The United Nations encourages efforts to reduce the presence and risk of weapons around the world, especially nuclear weapons. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT) remains one of the most important global agreements in this area. It seeks to stop the spread of nuclear weapons and encourages countries to reduce their nuclear stockpiles. The UN also deals with the dangers caused by small arms and light weapons, understanding the

harm they cause to peace and safety. Overall, the UN plays an important part in promoting peace, upholding human rights, encouraging development, and bringing countries together. Its many duties and specialized agencies help address serious global issues. As international problems grow more complicated, the continued strength and value of the United Nations depend on the shared commitment and cooperation of its member countries.

2.1.6 Chronology of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has lasted for more than seventy years. At the heart of the issue are two communities, each trying to build their own national identity within a land that both consider their own. When viewed this way, the conflict can be seen as a political and cultural struggle, with Palestinians and Jews both seeking recognition, independence, and fairness in terms of their national goals. The roots of today's tensions go back to the late 1800s, during the rise of Zionism. Zionism started as a political idea, strongly connected to Jewish religious history. It aimed to create a homeland for Jewish people in what is now Israel.

In the present day, Zionism continues to support the unity and protection of Jewish identity through the establishment of Israel and the granting of Israeli citizenship to Jewish people⁶¹. On the other hand, the movement for a Palestinian state developed differently. The identity of Palestinians grew alongside the spread of Arab nationalism. This form of nationalism started during the final years of the Ottoman Empire, when many Arab countries began to demand freedom from outside control. To achieve this, they started building stronger ideas about who they were as people. As a result, a shared Arab identity played a major role in shaping how Palestinians saw themselves during that time. Over the last few decades, the idea of

Palestinian nationhood has come to reflect global views about national identity and the belief in an independent Palestinian country².

By 1917, the Jewish Zionist movement had received open backing from the British government to create a Jewish homeland within the territory of Palestine. This support was outlined in the Balfour Declaration. Five years later, in 1922, Britain officially took control of Palestine as a protectorate. It was under British oversight that Jewish immigration into Palestine increased, laying the foundation for a future Jewish homeland and eventually the creation of the State of Israel. Land purchases and expansion of settlements made it easier for Jewish settlers to build communities and social structures³. However, the growing number of Jewish settlers and their gradual settlement patterns were seen by the local Arab population as a challenge to their own aspirations for national development and a distinct Palestinian identity.

This perception remains deeply significant today. Among both Palestinians and Jews, there is a widely held belief that recognising the other group's national identity would automatically weaken their own. In other words, accepting the legitimacy of the opposing side's goal of building a nation would mean surrendering the exclusive right to the same land. Because of this, the root of the conflict lies in competing national identities, each based on the desire to claim the same territory and to preserve their distinct sense of nationhood.

The British rule over Palestine ended in 1948. Before that, the United Nations General Assembly had proposed a plan to divide the land between the two communities into separate Jewish and Arab states. This proposal aimed to establish two nations side by side. Jewish leaders accepted the idea, but Arab leaders opposed it. They believed the partition would

unjustly favour the Jewish community and take land away from the Palestinian majority. After Britain left in May 1948 and the UN resolution was implemented, Israel declared its independence.

This declaration sparked increased violence in the region, as the conflict grew beyond a local dispute into a full-scale war involving neighbouring Arab nations and the newly formed state of Israel.

In July 1949, following the war, Israel and surrounding Arab countries signed an Armistice Agreement that marked the official borders of Israel. Yet, this agreement did not lead to lasting peace. The fighting caused about two-thirds of the Palestinian population to lose their homes. Many of them fled or were forced out of the areas now recognised as part of Israel, while others stayed behind in places like the West Bank and Gaza, which were still under Arab administration, or remained as Israeli citizens within limited regions.

A key turning point in the history of this conflict was the Six Day War in 1967, where Israel fought against several Arab states. During this war, Israel captured the West Bank and Gaza, placing the last remaining Palestinian regions under its control. This moment was critical because it marked a shift in how the Palestinian struggle was viewed. From then on, Palestinians themselves began to take a more active role in their fight for independence and nationhood. Before this period, most efforts to resist Israel's presence had been led by other Arab countries¹. Between 1987 and 1991, Palestinians living under occupation launched the First Intifada. This period saw heightened unrest and violence, and it signified a growing awareness among Palestinians that their movement was becoming the main force shaping the direction of the conflict. A new emphasis began to emerge among Palestinians, as the goal

shifted from armed resistance to political strategies aimed at securing formal statehood. This represented a turning point, where recognition of The West Bank and Gaza as a future Palestinian state became a central objective. The belief grew that engaging through political frameworks would be more effective than armed confrontation. The outbreak of the Second Intifada stemmed from growing dissatisfaction within the Palestinian population over the collapse of the Oslo Accords. In essence, the failure of numerous peace discussions and diplomatic engagements that had taken place since the late 1980s (which will be explored in detail in the following chapter), led to increasing international sympathy for the Palestinian cause. This ultimately encouraged many Western European countries to support the idea of Palestinian statehood. As a result, global discussions began to place more emphasis on the pursuit of a “two-state solution”.

The religious significance of Jerusalem, with sacred sites for Jews, Christians, and Muslims, continues to intensify the situation. These sites represent spiritual identity and historical belonging for both Palestinians and Israelis, further complicating any possible resolution. The United Nations, as the most influential international body, has historically attempted to resolve international disputes peacefully. Its early intervention in 1947, through a land partition plan, aimed to create peace by allocating 60 percent of the land to Israel and 40 percent to Palestine. However, this division was rejected and eventually overturned following a renewed outbreak of war. After the conflict, Israel gained a larger portion of the territory approximately 78 percent, while Palestinians were left with around 21 percent. Despite the efforts of the United Nations to provide a neutral platform for negotiations and uphold peace, its influence over the conflict has remained limited due to a lack of enforceable authority.

The UN Security Council has taken steps to mediate between the two sides using several diplomatic approaches. However, progress has remained elusive. Palestine continues to face challenges in gaining full recognition as a state by several governments around the world, which places Israel in a more advantageous position within international platforms. This imbalance has made diplomatic processes even more difficult. Another challenge facing international mediation is the involvement of powerful countries whose political interests influence the decisions of the United Nations. Additionally, strong religious attachments to the land and the recurring use of violence as a method to address long-standing grievances have further complicated efforts to establish peace. Violent confrontations that began in the 1920s have persisted into the present day, and the continued destruction has become a significant issue that demands urgent attention.

Among all of the unresolved international disputes, few have received as much attention from the United Nations for such a prolonged period with so little success as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The conflict has existed almost as long as the United Nations itself. A considerable part of the UN's historical engagement has focused on this issue. Nevertheless, no other regional crisis today carries the same potential to trigger a wider global war, possibly involving nuclear weapons and resulting in devastating outcomes for humanity, as this conflict does⁷². Since 1947, the United Nations has engaged with the issue under the broader context of Arab-Israeli tensions. Despite repeated attempts to mediate, the region has experienced at least four major wars. Today, the conflict continues to evolve in complexity due to new political, social, economic, psychological, and humanitarian dimensions, making it one of the most difficult and enduring challenges in modern global affairs.

2.1.7 Veto Power and the United Nations Security Council

The authority given to the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) to stop any major resolution is one of the most debated aspects of the post-World War II global order. This power, known as the veto, was supposed to bring balance and involve the most powerful countries in keeping world peace. However, in practice, it has exposed serious flaws in how the United Nations tries to protect human rights, act fairly, and uphold justice. Each of these five countries can reject any key decision, even if every other member supports it⁷³. This has often had damaging effects, especially in long-standing conflicts such as the one between Israel and Palestine. In the past ten years, the way this veto power has blocked peace-making in this region has become very clear and highly concerning.

The conflict between Israel and Palestine remains one of the most difficult and politically sensitive problems in modern global politics. Between 2014 and 2024, the area went through several intense periods of violence. These included the Gaza War in 2014, the deadly clashes linked to the Great March of Return in 2022, the short but deadly war in 2021, and a rise in fighting in both 2023 and 2024⁷⁴. At each of these points, the United Nations had a chance to carry out its duty to protect peace and respond to threats facing civilians. Still, efforts to pass resolutions that might have helped stop the violence, delivered aid, or held parties accountable for breaking international rules were blocked, most often by the United States. This repeated use of the veto has left the Security Council unable to act, even in the face of one of the most heartbreaking and widely followed crises of the current century.

Critics have argued that the veto power essentially legalizes impunity when exercised to shield allies or national interests. In the case of the United States, the repeated use of its veto to block resolutions critical of Israel has not only weakened the credibility of the UN but has also created a perception that the international order privileges power over justice⁷⁵. Between 2014 and 2024, the United States exercised its veto at least seven times in resolutions relating to Israeli actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. These blocked resolutions included calls for ceasefires, independent investigations into civilian casualties, and condemnation of settlement expansions deemed illegal under international law⁷⁶. The power to veto in these instances was not exercised out of a collective interest in peace, but rather from a unilateral political stance that prioritized the strategic alliance with Israel over the broader humanitarian and legal implications of the conflict.

This practice has not gone unchallenged. Many member states, particularly from the Global South, have continuously criticized the undemocratic nature of the veto. The imbalance it creates not only distorts the decision-making process within the Security Council but also undermines the principles of sovereign equality and the rule of law that the UN Charter claims to uphold. When dozens of countries vote in favour of a resolution only for it to be shut down by a single veto, the legitimacy of the Security Council comes under direct attack. This was painfully visible during the 2023 escalation in Gaza, when over 100 countries in the General Assembly supported a humanitarian truce, yet similar proposals in the Security Council were vetoed⁷⁷. This demonstrated that the will of the international community could be overridden by one country acting in isolation, further entrenching divisions and fuelling resentment towards the very institution that is supposed to act as a guardian of peace.

Furthermore, the presence of the veto has not only paralysed action but has emboldened parties on the ground. In the case of Israel, knowing that a critical resolution can be vetoed has allowed successive governments to pursue aggressive military strategies and settlement expansion with reduced fear of international sanction. This impunity is compounded when the veto is applied consistently in its favour. The UN, in such cases, is reduced to issuing non-binding statements and humanitarian appeals that lack enforcement power. Palestinians, on the other hand, are left increasingly disillusioned with an international system that appears selective in its application of justice⁷⁸. This imbalance in enforcement further complicates prospects for dialogue and negotiation, as one side perceives international protection while the other perceives abandonment.

Beyond the Israel-Palestine case, the veto power has produced similar paralysis in conflicts such as those in Syria and Ukraine. However, what makes the Israeli-Palestinian context more telling is the sheer duration of the conflict and the frequency of Security Council discussions that lead to no concrete outcome. While temporary ceasefires and aid corridors are sometimes agreed upon, structural and long-term solutions are routinely blocked. The veto system essentially traps the Council in a cycle of rhetorical condemnation and humanitarian concern, without the political leverage needed to force compliance or encourage change.

The debate around reforming the veto system is not new, but recent developments have amplified calls for change. Several countries and scholars have proposed limitations on the use of the veto, especially in situations involving mass atrocities, war crimes, or grave breaches of international law. The French proposal for a voluntary code of conduct to refrain

from using the veto in such cases has gained modest traction but remains non-binding and largely ignored by other permanent members⁷⁹. The logic behind such proposals is simple: when the world is witnessing significant humanitarian suffering, no single country should have the power to prevent the international community from acting. Yet efforts to reform the veto have largely failed because any change to the UN Charter requires the consent of the very states that benefit from the current system. This creates a self-preserving loop in which the powerful remain in control, and structural inequality is entrenched.

What becomes clear is that the veto power does not just obstruct specific resolutions; it reshapes the moral authority of the UN itself. When the Security Council fails to act in the face of clear injustice or humanitarian crisis, it signals to both state and non-state actors that the enforcement of international norms is subject to politics rather than principle. This erosion of credibility has led many to turn to regional or ad hoc coalitions to address conflicts, bypassing the UN altogether. In the case of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, countries such as Egypt, Qatar, and Turkey have at various times taken the lead in mediation efforts, filling the vacuum left by an inactive UN Security Council⁸⁰. While such efforts can yield short-term results, they lack the legitimacy, consistency, and global backing that the UN is supposed to offer. This fragmented approach to peacebuilding further complicates the conflict landscape, as different actors pursue competing interests and visions for resolution.

Another critical dimension is the psychological impact of the veto on global public opinion. The image of the United States repeatedly standing alone to block resolutions aimed at easing civilian suffering has sparked widespread criticism, protests, and distrust. It deepens the narrative that international institutions are manipulated tools of Western power, rather than

impartial forums of justice. In the era of digital activism and global awareness, such perceptions are not just symbolic; they influence policy, mobilize populations, and shape the narratives of entire generations⁸¹. Young people in both the Global South and conflict zones are growing up with a deep scepticism of international institutions that fail to live up to their stated ideals.

The years between 2014 and 2024 have made it increasingly difficult to defend the veto power as a necessary safeguard. While it was originally conceived to prevent direct military confrontation between great powers, its practical application today serves primarily to shield allies and delay action. It protects strategic interests at the expense of human lives and undermines the collaborative spirit of international diplomacy⁸². In a world of complex and fast-evolving threats (from hybrid warfare to humanitarian collapse) the idea that one country can hold the entire system hostage to its political priorities is no longer sustainable. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with its high-profile visibility and tragic consequences, has made this structural flaw painfully clear.

Summarily, the veto power remains one of the most significant limitations on the UN's ability to fulfil its founding mission. It creates an uneven field of accountability, weakens the moral authority of the Security Council, and often prevents timely intervention in crisis situations. In the Israeli-Palestinian context, the repeated use of the veto has allowed violence to persist, undermined efforts at reconciliation, and entrenched a status quo defined by injustice and mistrust. Until this structural imbalance is addressed, the credibility and effectiveness of the United Nations in resolving protracted conflicts will remain deeply compromised.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

The situation of Palestine has often been presented as a way to highlight the aggressive actions of Israel and its efforts to maintain control over Palestinian lands. In this context, the role of the United Nations becomes central, as it has mostly approached the question of Palestinian independence through peacekeeping and by trying to offer a level of security. Israel has continued to push itself into the category of major global powers by tightening its grip over Palestinian territory and limiting the space for Palestinian self-rule. Two important theories that help in understanding how international organisations engage with such conflicts are Liberal Institutionalism and Conflict Transformation Theory. These frameworks will be used to examine how international bodies such as the United Nations attempt to address and respond to the long-standing Israel-Palestine dispute.

Liberal Institutionalism

There are usually different deliberations between proponents of realism and neoliberalism over the capability of international institutions to maintain collaboration between states. Although Liberal Institutionalism or Internationalism seems to be the topic of greater interest to scholars, media debates, and socio-political disputes; it has a history of generating heated debates in the 1970s about its validity as an alternative to Realism⁸³. Liberal Institutionalism and Realism is also considered as theories based on political assumptions in International Relations whose relevance has caused ongoing disputes for any of the countries that adopt them⁸⁴. Liberal Institutionalism is considered a significant challenge to realism which suggests a pessimistic evaluation of the role of international institutions in ensuring international cooperation.

Institutional Liberalism, unlike realism, posits that international institutions can assist states to cooperate and is hopeful about their capability to achieve such cooperation. It is a theory that postulates the necessity for institutional arrangements to initiate and preserve relations between states. In other words, it “presumes that domestic and international institutions play central roles in facilitating cooperation and peace between nation-states”⁸⁵. Liberal Institutionalism is one of the reasons why there has been an increased interest in the ability and potentiality of international institutions, especially the UN, to ensure sustainable international relations and peace in the aftermath of the Cold War era.

A particular scholar, in his book *Liberalism and International Theory*, outlines three key arguments that explain the core of Liberal Institutionalism. In the first argument, he explains that what sets liberal international relations theory apart is its belief that states function as parts of both domestic and international civil societies. He describes this civil society as a network of individuals and voluntary organisations. This idea is shaped by three main assumptions commonly found in liberal theories: that individuals and independent social groups with their own preferences are the key actors in global politics; that governments reflect the interests of specific groups within their own societies; and that the way states behave towards each other is influenced more by their internal goals and priorities than by the power they hold. His second argument shows how these liberal assumptions help explain a wide range of ideas in both international and comparative politics. These include long-held liberal beliefs about the influence of democracy, fairness, and trade; theories of regional integration and institution-building; views that link domestic political systems with international behaviour; suggestions that nationalism may lead to conflict; and ideas that connect internal social equality with the way a country acts on the international stage

In his third argument, he argues that when applying a Liberal model to international institutions, it is noticeable that Liberal support for strong international regimes is carefully qualified. Liberal Institutionalism is also considered as an assumption made within the context of international relations⁸⁷. They, however, denote that the best way to comprehend Liberal Institutionalism theory will be to understand the roots of Liberal Institutionalism. They widely elaborate on the conceptual and real-world roots of Liberal Institutionalism. Concerning the conceptual roots of Liberal Institutionalism, these authors elaborate exhaustively on the three linked prescriptions propounded by Immanuel Kant in his 1795 essay *Perpetual Peace*.

Denoted as being the origin of the present liberal world order, the real-world roots of Liberal Institutionalism are the backbone behind the creation of international organisations and unions (UN, EU, AU, World Bank) to consolidate the desire of a world free from conflict and cold wars, but rich in international cooperation and free trade zones⁸⁸. However, the prevalence of international conflicts and tension have questioned the theory of Liberal Institutionalism, thus affirming the tenets of realism much like in the 1970s. Yet, the survival of international systems has led to a new perspective of Liberal Institutionalism which agrees with some of the tenets of realism, arguing that “even if the realists are correct in believing that anarchy constrains the willingness of states to cooperate, states nevertheless can work together and can do so, especially with the assistance of international institutions”⁸⁹. The theory of Liberal Institutionalism thus, help us to explain the UN’s approach to conflict resolution through its emphasis on diplomacy, peacekeeping, and collective action. It underscores the UN’s role in promoting international norms and facilitating cooperation among states to address global challenges.

Conflict Transformation Theory

The second theoretical framework used in this review is the Conflict Transformation Theory. This theory focuses on dealing with deep-rooted conflicts by encouraging meaningful change and building more positive relations within the conflict setting. Its purpose goes beyond offering temporary fixes. The main aim of conflict transformation is to create constructive progress by addressing not only the visible problems but also the deeper causes and long-standing issues behind the conflict. Because of this, the emphasis lies on changing the relationships and social systems that support and continue the conflict over time.

The model developed by Lederach builds on the idea that conflict is not static but constantly changing and influenced by different factors. As such, one of its key points is that any effort to resolve a long-running conflict must be shaped by the specific situation and conditions in which it exists. Each conflict requires a tailored approach that fits the reality on the ground. These strategies should use a variety of methods to produce meaningful and lasting results. While the approach focuses on managing conflict in a constructive way, it also stresses the importance of reviewing and adjusting strategies regularly, because the people involved, the issues at stake, and their interests often shift with time¹. This method encourages a deeper look into the core problems of a conflict and how the relationship between the parties can be reshaped. In the case of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the theory helps to explore wider concerns like political status, long-standing historical views, and economic power struggles that continue to feed the dispute.

The conflict transformation model gives special attention to conflicts that seem impossible to resolve, especially those built around competing group identities. It is important in debates

about national identity and how such identities help keep conflicts alive. When a conflict is based on identity, it is necessary to understand that identity itself is not fixed, and because of this, the conflict also changes over time. These identity-driven disputes usually involve a strong sense of self-protection and are focused on defending a group's way of life or existence. As a result, the people and forces involved are constantly changing how they interact.

Conflict transformation, therefore, pushes for a clear understanding of how identity concerns play a strong role in making such disputes last. By using these two theories, this review seeks to explore how the United Nations has engaged in both short-term peacekeeping and long-term structural reform in trying to change the course of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

2.3 Review of Empirical Studies

A submission in an article on the Palestine conflict argues that the United Nations has played a central role in the Middle East from the earliest days of its establishment⁹². It was the body designated by major powers such as the United States, Britain, and the USSR to oversee the partition and division of Palestine. However, the Israeli government has continually expanded its authority, aiming to dominate the predominantly Muslim regions of Palestine. While the aftermath of the Second World War led to the decolonization of many nations previously ruled by major powers, those same powers quietly and consistently backed their allies in pursuing neocolonial strategies most notably, their support for Israel's continued occupation of Palestinian land as part of broader foreign policy interests. The United States, in particular, has functioned as a supranational actor, often using its coercive tools, especially its Security Council veto, to shield Israel and advance its strategic alliances.

Though Israel is not formally a NATO member, it has received continuous military and strategic support from NATO countries during its confrontations with Palestinian groups such as the PLO and Hamas³. Israel has participated discreetly in numerous security and strategic dialogues and was even granted a position in the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. Additionally, Israel has strengthened its bilateral relationships with various European Union member states. These ties have deepened over the years, often aligning with Western geopolitical and security interests in the region.

In another article titled *“Failure of OIC: Not to Protect Human Rights of Kashmir and Palestine,”* it is argued that Israel occupies a pivotal geostrategic position, offering access to the warm waters of the Mediterranean Sea and proximity to the Persian Gulf’s oil-rich strait of Hormuz, making it economically significant to the European Union. The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), established in May 1971 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, was created to uphold Islamic values, promote economic well-being, and ensure justice among its member states. Despite these goals, the OIC has been widely criticised for failing to protect the Palestinian population from escalating humanitarian crises and human rights violations at the hands of the Israeli state. Although the OIC consistently reaffirms its official stance in support of an independent Palestinian state similar to its position on Kashmir. It has repeatedly failed to take meaningful action during critical periods of suffering.

This failure is often attributed to internal contradictions within the OIC. Leading member states like Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates maintain strong commercial and diplomatic ties with the United States and Israel, which undercut the organisation’s ability to take a firm stance against Israeli aggression. Furthermore, countries such as the UAE, Egypt,

Jordan, and Turkey have formally recognised Israel as a sovereign state. Such recognition has significantly weakened the OIC's moral and political leverage, making it increasingly difficult for the organisation to challenge Israel or its Western allies while claiming solidarity with the Palestinian cause.

Critically analysing, in another empirical research titled "Palestinian Issue and the Security Council of UN: Use of Veto Prevents the Establishment of International Peace", two scholars found that a lack of comprehensive perspective has been noticed⁹⁷. It primarily focuses on the UNSC impact and veto power of the USA, however, a lack of comparative analysis involving all parties like Israel and Palestinian authorities, and neighbouring states' contributions has been omitted⁹⁸. Moreover, the authors discuss the UNSC's effectiveness in addressing the Israel and Palestine conflict. This article could discuss the UNSC's success in other regions in maintaining peace, security, and enforcement of resolution. In addition, the discusses pointed the need to reform the UNSC structure, and may suggest some proposals like changing the veto system, expanding UNSC membership and alteration the decision-making process in this conflict.

To analyse the action and decision of the UNSC in the context of the Palestine conflict, international relation theory has been applied which involves power dynamics, hegemony, and the influence of the dominant state on decision-making within the Security Council, from my analysis, the author may provide deep insights into the structural inequalities and power imbalance that affect the conflict resolution process. On the other hand, another author by the article "The failure of the United Nations in resolving the Palestine-Israel conflict: A Neorealist perspective ", examined and critically analysed the UNSC role to stop the ever

ongoing Israel Palestine conflict, they shows their arguments that UNSC ultimately failed to create sustainable peace in the middle east, they show how USA veto power shelled the Israel and fuelled this conflict sustaining they critically that this organisation is not free from partiality, they also highlighted the structural inequality and reformation of UNSC moreover they also focus the importance of emancipation and advancing principle of justice in global governances^{99, 100, 101, 102}.

However, the article primarily focuses on the role of the Security Council and the issue of veto power in terms of Palestine issues which may narrow the complexity of the Palestine conflict. Moreover, the article may have a lack of diverse perspectives. Adding a range of perspectives could provide more understanding of the challenges and potential solutions to the conflict. For the empirical part, their writing has heavily focus only on theoretical frameworks like international relations. A case study could strengthen the credibility of the article. Finally, the authors may not widely focus on the region dynamics (in the case of the Middle East) and geopolitical factors that influence the conflict (like the US supporting Israel Iran supporting Palestinian groups, Egypt and Jordan peace treaty with Israel and Saudi Arabia emerging relation with Israel).

A wide range of discussions may add credibility in terms of regional peace and security. From research observation, addressing these limitations and challenges could strengthen the article's strength and contribute more to understanding the complexity surrounding the Palestine-Israel issues. Finally, a study in an article "Role of United Nations in Conflict Resolution: A Case Study of Palestine Issue", critically analysed and posed arguments which presents a case study in terms of the Palestine and Israel issue, but in-depth, empirical

evidence may skip from the author's discussion^{103, 104, 105, 106}. Moreover, the limitation of sources of this ever-continuous conflict may be one, more criticism. Political bias and ideological assumptions are also one of the limitations of this article. It is essential to maintain a neutral position to gain more academic objectives like the interpretation of events and actions by the UN and major powers the USA. When this conflict is valued by the liberalism theory which emphasises international cooperation and the rule of law. Structurally Permanent 5 members of the UNSC more specifically the USA often support Israel, which undermines collective decision-making and equal participation, core liberal principles¹⁰⁷.

This veto power abstained from the UNSC taking any action when any resolution is imposed as unfavourable to Israel's interest. Political factored also make complicity of UNSC effectiveness as well. The United States' strong support for Israel, driven by strategic alliances and domestic political pressures, clashes with the liberal ideal of impartiality and cooperation for global peace¹⁰⁸. Political affairs and powerful lobbying groups like the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), shape the US foreign policy and make repeated vetoes of these issues. Moreover, Israel. Is the 59th Un member and Palestine is a still not yet a member. Israel provides a high level of support to the UN in terms of economy, health, social services, agriculture, education, culture, science, technology, etc.

Israel is the world's 9th largest water exporter and economically, and technologically rich compared to other neighbouring country. Additionally, inconsistent application of international law, as seen with the selective enforcement of UNSC resolutions, weakens the council's credibility and effectiveness, and the broader international context in terms of regional challenges also undermines the potential for unified international action, contrary to

liberalism's emphasis on multilateralism^{109, 110}. These factors hinder to UNSC to take any steps.

The Five Phases of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

If managing conflict is seen as something that comes before finding real solutions, then it has rarely appeared as ineffective as it does today in the case of the Israeli-Palestinian struggle. And if it is regarded as a process meant to ease tensions when genuine resolution efforts have already broken down, then it has once again failed¹¹¹. The history behind this conflict has been widely covered and is deeply familiar. What matters in the context of this study is how that history can be grouped into clear stages. The first major period took place between 1947 and 1948. During this time, Israel was formally established, a war broke out between the new Israeli state and its Arab neighbours, and the Nakba happened, where a large number of Palestinians were displaced. This stage marked the entrance of Israel as a new state in the region, causing shock among Arab societies and leaderships, who struggled to respond to the shift in power and identity.

The second phase extended up to 1967, ending with the Six-Day War. That war led to the full occupation of Palestinian territories and influenced many events that followed. It also weakened the appeal of Arab nationalism as a political movement, with Gamal Abdel Nasser being its most important figure. The third stage began in 1968 and lasted until 1974, which was when the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) rose to prominence. This period focused on turning the Palestinian situation into a formal political cause. Although the PLO raised global awareness about the Palestinian condition, it only partly moved away from

being tied to the goals of other Arab governments. The phase ended when the United Nations General Assembly officially acknowledged the Palestinian people's right to self-rule.

The fourth stage is marked by a growing use of armed resistance by Palestinians and lasted until 1987 and 1988, when the first intifada erupted. Around this time, the PLO announced the formation of a Palestinian state. The intifada brought a new direction to the conflict. It marked the start of the fifth stage. Palestinian actions were defined by daily non-violent resistance, organised strikes, regular protests, and confrontations between unarmed civilians, including young people, and Israeli troops. These events brought increased criticism of Israel from the international community, and the image of its military and occupation became more negative¹¹². The scale and method of Palestinian resistance forced Israel to come to the table. By the end of this phase, Israel and the PLO had come to a point of mutual recognition, as shown in the Oslo Declaration of Principles. This was followed by the Taba talks and the election of Yasser Arafat as the President of the Palestinian Authority. It was a period filled with hope for progress in the conflict, helped by both regional shifts and wider global involvement¹¹³.

It briefly seemed as though a true resolution to the conflict was finally within reach. However, as events unfolded, the weaknesses in the agreement became more visible. The Oslo Accords did not represent a full peace treaty, nor did they offer concrete answers to the most sensitive matters fuelling the conflict. What they presented to the Palestinian side was a temporary form of statehood, scattered in authority and riddled with difficulties, based on the belief that a final agreement would be reached by 1998. From the outset, the journey toward peace was laid out with many uncertainties. In this way, the situation can be compared to the experience

of Cyprus during its declaration of independence, where flaws in core agreements, when combined with already fragile political conditions, only reignited the original sources of unrest.

The last stage of the conflict's timeline began when the Camp David talks failed and has continued up to the present day¹¹. It has been marked by growing Palestinian disappointment, repeated outbreaks of violence, the weakening of the Palestinian Authority, and growing internal political rifts, even though more countries have offered formal recognition. Meanwhile, political discourse in Israel has increasingly leaned towards hardline or even far-right thinking. Over time, this conflict, which once symbolized the broader Israeli-Arab tension and reflected shifts in global and regional influence, started to take on its own independent momentum. Despite losing some of the international spotlight it once held, especially when compared to past decades, the struggle has continued to evolve in serious ways.

During the Cold War era, the competition between the Soviet Union and the United States made it even harder to create a path toward meaningful resolution¹¹. Key countries in the region such as Egypt, Jordan, and Syria played significant roles, and they still do. The nature of their involvement began to change especially after the Palestine Liberation Organization began following its own strategy, moving away from the influence of allied Arab regimes. This shift led to violent clashes between the PLO and Arab governments, which gained widespread attention. Even though the Cold War and the surrounding regional conflicts harmed chances for real progress, the gradual removal of the conflict from the central stage

of great-power politics in more recent times has not led to improvement. The hopeful tone of the 1990s has not translated into a real breakthrough¹¹.

Once it became clear that the Oslo accords were not being fully put into action, many reasons were offered for the delay. These included political tensions surrounding Israeli settlers and rural populations, the unresolved status of Palestinian refugees, arguments over water sharing, and ongoing disputes over East Jerusalem. Also, both parties showed reluctance to make the necessary concessions for lasting peace. There was a clear lack of a neutral party to guide the process, and the international community showed little determination to push for a fair settlement. After the murder of Yitzhak Rabin and the rise of leaders like Ariel Sharon and Benjamin Netanyahu, these problems became worse, as Israeli politics moved sharply toward more aggressive positions¹¹, ¹¹. In many ways, the failure to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict shares features with the Cyprus conflict. In both cases, strong, divided group identities eventually became the core reasons that made reconciliation even more difficult

Both communities regarded their coexistence not as a natural or manageable reality, but as a source of tension, especially once the question of state formation came into focus. This framing of coexistence as problematic was present in both the Israeli-Palestinian and Cyprus conflicts. Another notable similarity lies in the involvement of the former colonial power, the United Kingdom, as well as the participation of broader regional and global actors. Their influence, particularly when combined with dominant nationalist ideologies, led to the design of partition plans that were inherently flawed and failed to reflect the complex realities on the ground. It is particularly significant that the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP), established by the General Assembly in 1947, determined that out of a

population of 1,846,000, approximately 1,203,000 were Arabs and 608,000 were Jews. Furthermore, land ownership records showed that Arabs possessed 85% more land than Jews in every district across Palestine¹¹⁹. In response to this demographic and territorial imbalance, Arab states suggested the formation of a single, unified state that would guarantee minority protections. Once again, this mirrors the situation in Cyprus, where the majority population pursued a unitary state model, while the minority advocated for partition and separate governance.

UNSCOP, however, recommended the partition of Palestine, allocating 55% of the land to the Jewish population and 45% to the Arab population^{120, 121}. This proposal conflicted with the views of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Palestinian Question, formed by the General Assembly to respond to UNSCOP's findings. The committee rejected the idea of partition and instead supported the establishment of an independent state, insisting that its future structure should be determined by its inhabitants. Despite this divergence in perspectives, the General Assembly passed Resolution 181, which backed UNSCOP's partition recommendation and urged the United Nations Security Council to take all necessary steps for its enforcement. However, before the Security Council could act, the state of Israel was unilaterally declared, leading immediately to the outbreak of the first Arab-Israeli war. Similar to the developments in Cyprus, the conflict resolution plan that had been formulated was already marked by severe shortcomings and contradictions from its very beginning.

Rather than addressing the deep-rooted grievances or encouraging reconciliation, the adopted plan in Palestine, much like in Cyprus, exacerbated pre-existing tensions and divisions. Regional and international actors further escalated the situation instead of fostering peace¹²².

While each conflict contains unique elements, the parallels between them are striking in how they both evolved, intensified, and resisted resolution over time. In both contexts, long-term occupation brought with it a cascade of additional issues, such as disputes over land ownership, displacement and refugee crises, shifts in population demographics, economic instability, and competition over natural resources like water. The expansion of settlements, the construction of physical barriers such as the separation wall in Palestinian territory and the recurring use of violence have all compounded social inequalities and entrenched identity-based divisions. These overlapping challenges have firmly entrenched both conflicts in a state of prolonged and unresolved tension.

Origin of Israeli and Palestinian conflict management in the United Nations

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is rooted in decades of competing territorial claims over the Holy Land: a region in the Middle East that holds deep religious and historical meaning for Jews, Christians, and Muslims. The modern phase of this conflict began with the publication of *The Jewish State* in 1896 by Theodor Herzl, who advocated for a Jewish homeland as a refuge from anti-Semitic persecution in Europe. This idea fuelled Jewish migration to Ottoman-controlled Palestine, a land then inhabited primarily by Arabs. Jewish immigration intensified following the Holocaust during World War II, in which six million Jews were murdered by Nazi Germany¹²³. In 1947, after a long period of growing tension and violence between Jewish and Arab communities, the United Nations General Assembly voted to partition Palestine into two separate states, one Jewish and one Arab. Soon after this resolution, the Jewish community in Palestine declared the establishment of the state of Israel. This declaration led to a major war with surrounding Arab states and a further wave of

Jewish immigration. Palestinians, however, have long viewed this development as a takeover of their ancestral homeland, enabled by powerful Western actors such as the United States and the United Kingdom. They refer to Israel's declaration and military victory in the 1948 Arab-Israeli War as the *Nakba*, or "catastrophe," an event which, according to UN estimates, led to the forced displacement of over 700,000 Palestinians¹².

Since 1948, the conflict has erupted repeatedly in cycles of violence, including regional wars, Palestinian uprisings known as *intifadas*, and terrorist attacks. A key turning point came during the 1967 Six-Day War, in which Israel occupied East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza. In response, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 242, calling for Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories and recognize the sovereignty of neighbouring states in return for peace. Although vague in its wording, Resolution 242 became a cornerstone of future diplomatic efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict¹². Adopted on 22 November 1967, the resolution emphasized that it was unacceptable to acquire territory through war and called for a lasting peace that would allow all states in the region to live securely. Despite this, in 1976 the United States vetoed a draft resolution that advocated for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination a resolution supported unanimously by other Security Council members¹². In a renewed diplomatic push, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) sought full UN membership for a Palestinian state in 2011, but the effort was rejected. Nonetheless, in October 2011, Palestine was admitted as the 195th full member of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

With full membership denied, Palestine turned to seek non-member observer state status. In November 2012, the United Nations voted in favour of this recognition¹². Since then, Palestine has ratified eight of the UN's nine core human rights treaties, while Israel has signed seven (United Nations Treaty Collection). However, neither Israel nor Palestine has signed the 1990 International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and Israel has additionally refused to sign the 2006 Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. The United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine (UNISPAL) now serves as a central hub for documenting UN activity related to Palestine. Historically, the majority of UN member states have supported the Palestinian cause and often been critical of Israel. This perceived bias was even acknowledged by former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, who stated that Israel had "suffered from bias and sometimes even discrimination" within the UN system¹².

This long-standing imbalance in international engagement is especially troubling because the conflict continues to unfold across various dimensions simultaneously. Israeli police operations against Palestinian demonstrators, particularly during protests linked to home evictions or restrictions on prayer at Al-Aqsa Mosque, regularly trigger wider unrest. These tensions often escalate into armed confrontations between Israeli forces and Palestinian militant groups in Gaza. Simultaneously, protests erupt along the Jordan-West Bank border, and episodes of violence emerge in Israel's mixed cities, areas where Jewish and Palestinian citizens live in close proximity. These layered crises highlight how the Israeli-Palestinian conflict persists not only as a geopolitical standoff but also as a deeply embedded societal struggle, marked by unresolved grievances and contested national narratives.

These clashes, taken together, are rapidly evolving into one of the most alarming and destabilizing episodes in the modern phase of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The scale of human and material devastation is already severe. By May 10, 2021, at least 250 Palestinians had sustained serious injuries during Israeli security operations in East Jerusalem. What began as peaceful protests against home evictions and restrictions around the Al-Aqsa Mosque quickly spiralled into widespread violence. Following Hamas' launch of rockets from Gaza, Israel responded with intensive airstrikes. According to Gaza's Ministry of Health, 830 Palestinians were injured and 119 were killed in the escalation, among them 31 children. It is deeply disturbing that 42 percent of those killed were women and children, suggesting indiscriminate or disproportionate use of force. On the Israeli side, Hamas rocket attacks resulted in nine deaths, including one child, and over 400 injuries. These figures lay bare the asymmetric nature of this confrontation and the disproportionate suffering borne by Palestinian civilians under Israeli bombardment. Urban centres within Israel itself particularly its so-called "mixed cities" where Jews and Palestinians live side by side, also witnessed unprecedented levels of intercommunal violence. Lod (Al-Lid) was at the heart of these disturbances, where Palestinians set fire to synagogues and police vehicles, and an armed Jewish resident fatally shot a Palestinian. The Israeli government responded with an emergency night-time curfew, yet ultra-nationalist Jews flagrantly violated it. This curfew marked the first time since 1966 when Israel formally ended military rule over its Palestinian citizens, that such emergency measures were imposed. Even more provocatively, Israeli Border Police were redeployed from the occupied West Bank into Lod, reinforcing perceptions of institutional bias and the state's conflation of domestic unrest with military occupation. On May 12, Israeli ultra-nationalists vandalised the Al-Omari Mosque,

prompting the city's Jewish mayor, Yair Revivo, to declare the situation tantamount to "civil war." The language used by the authorities and the scope of state response betrayed a deeply embedded ethno-nationalist paranoia that only exacerbated communal tensions.

Elsewhere across Israel and the occupied territories, similar patterns of orchestrated violence emerged. Jewish nationalist mobs, mobilised via mobile apps and social media, launched coordinated attacks on Palestinians in cities and towns, often without restraint from Israeli security forces. The systematic nature of these assaults, and their open execution under official surveillance, suggests tacit approval or at least deliberate inaction by state apparatuses. In one case, a Palestinian man was beaten into critical condition in Acre. In another, in Bat Yam, dozens of flag-waving Israeli nationalists publicly lynched a Palestinian citizen.

That same day, a Palestinian was wounded in West Jerusalem. These incidents reveal an ugly and underreported layer of structural violence where state authority, settler aggression, and ultra-nationalist sentiment merge to form a deeply discriminatory system of repression and impunity.

The damage inflicted on Gaza during Israel's military retaliation was nothing short of catastrophic. Residential buildings, office towers, and vital infrastructure were systematically targeted. Schools, banks, municipal offices, homes, and police stations were reduced to rubble. These were not just military installations, these were the backbone of civil life, institutions meant to sustain the daily survival of a besieged population. Israel's air and artillery strikes did not merely aim to neutralise military threats but obliterated symbols of Palestinian governance, civil society, and resilience. Meanwhile, as of May 13, 2021, Hamas

had launched more than 2,000 rockets and mortars, many of which were intercepted by Israel's Iron Dome system. Despite the failures and misfires of some rockets, several still landed in Israeli urban centres, intensifying public fear and state justification for further military escalation.

In sheer magnitude, the exchange of firepower particularly from Hamas surpassed previous flare-ups in both volume and geographic range. However, Israel's retaliatory campaign was executed with an intensity more aligned with full-scale warfare than proportionate Defence. The scale of destruction in Gaza mirrored the catastrophic consequences of the major Gaza wars in 2006, 2008-2009, 2012, and 2014. The most striking element of the 2021 conflict, however, was not just the firepower or the destruction, but the unified response across fragmented Palestinian geographies. For the first time since the Second Intifada in September 2000, Palestinians across East Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza, and inside Israel mobilized collectively against the intersecting structures of military occupation, settler-colonial dispossession, racial segregation, and systemic discrimination. This unprecedented convergence of Palestinian resistance across territories signals not merely an episode of unrest, but a boiling point a mass uprising born of decades of abandonment, failed diplomacy, and international indifference.

The Move from Conflict Resolution to Conflict Management

When we move from talking about solving conflict to simply managing it, the difference becomes more noticeable. While conflict management has kept the situation in Cyprus from getting worse, it has been largely unsuccessful in the Israeli-Palestinian case. The key element in both situations is that occupation plays a central role. In both places, tensions and

hostilities between groups already existed before foreign control began. After these occupations took place, one side gained more ground power, which led to the rise of more serious challenges. Therefore, the contrasting results in managing both conflicts are mostly, but not only, due to the nature of each occupation. It must also be said that many other issues play a part, and it is not simply because one occupying force was more generous or more aggressive than the other.

On the other hand, Israel's occupation clearly shows an ongoing refusal to accept the Palestinian people's right to have their own country and identity. The way this occupation works does not just create separation but also leads to a forced coming together of both communities in a way that favours one and harms the other. There are some clear features that show this situation. Israel tries to downplay its occupation of the Gaza Strip in order to avoid legal obligations, especially under the Fourth Geneva Convention¹³⁴. Turkey, in contrast, claimed its control over Northern Cyprus was protected by international agreements and went on to set up a shadow state. Israel, however, has taken things much further in both its actions and legal claims.

Problems like taking Palestinian land, building the wall inside Palestinian borders, expanding Israeli settlements, breaking the Oslo accords again and again, imprisoning people including children, and carrying out selective killings all make the conflict worse^{135, 136}. Israel also uses legal tricks to pretend it has pulled out of Gaza, but the effect remains the same. These actions keep the two sides locked in a situation of inequality. The Israeli government uses power, military action, and unfair laws to control both communities. It also stretches its authority quietly and openly into the West Bank and Gaza by using military courts, random

arrests, and security raids. There is no doubt that Israel has remained in firm control of Gaza throughout the time that the Mission was examining the situation¹³⁷.

The Mission is convinced that Israel is still in charge of Gaza and that the territory remains under occupation. This means Israel must follow international laws like the Fourth Geneva Convention. However, its actions go against those legal rules and even break the terms of the Camp David and Oslo agreements¹³⁸. Since the Second Intifada, Israel's control has grown even more severe. The clampdown on Palestinian freedom has created a deep crisis for the people, whether one calls it a mild occupation or sees it for the harsh daily reality it brings¹³⁹,¹⁴⁰. As Israel continues to ignore its past agreements, any attempt to build even a weak form of cooperation with Palestine becomes weaker over time.

Because of this, the Palestinian Authority is now losing not just its ability to operate, but also its reputation in the eyes of its people. It is becoming a powerless government with very limited control. The economy is getting worse, and the chances for a real two-state solution are fading. The difference between Palestine and Israel in land, control, and finances keeps growing¹⁴¹, ¹⁴². Israeli occupation does not only feed the roots of the conflict, but it also creates a strong belief among Palestinians that peace is no longer possible. Any attempt to manage the conflict seems only to protect Israel's interests. This makes it clear that Israel may not be interested in ending the conflict or even reducing the tension through fair management.

The fact that the occupation goes on without restraint causes new waves of violence and blocks even the smallest efforts to keep peace. The Israeli occupation keeps expanding through land control, economic gains, and military pressure. Several reasons lie behind this

growth. There is no real balance of power between the two sides, little effective support for the Palestinians from other countries, ongoing fear among Israeli citizens, the regular use of dehumanizing language, and a wider global environment that has mostly failed to help¹⁴³. The Oslo Accords split the West Bank and Gaza into three areas: A, B, and C. Some roles and civil duties were moved from the Israeli Civil Authority to the Palestinian Legislative Council, while powers that were not tied to land control were placed under Zone C.

Under the second part of the Oslo Accords, the Palestinian National Authority was given limited legal control in the West Bank and Gaza. This did not include matters that involved Israeli citizens, military bases, or crimes by or against Israelis. In the West Bank, the Palestinian Authority could only judge cases involving Palestinians or non-Israelis in areas under its limited control. Meanwhile, Israel kept full control over crimes by Israelis in Zone B and anything tied to national security or terrorism. In civil matters, control was given to Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank, except when Israelis or the Israeli state was involved. There was also an agreement that both sides would cooperate. However, occupation over time only deepens the split between both communities. It increases bitterness, builds anger, and strengthens stereotypes. These emotional scars are deeply felt by people on both sides of the conflict.

Some studies suggest that only a small portion of Palestinians show interest in forming social relationships with Jewish people¹. Several opinion polls have shown that mistrust and fear between the two communities have increased over time. A joint survey carried out in June 2015 by the Harry S. Truman Research Institute at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Palestinian Centre for Policy and Survey Research (PCPSR) in Ramallah found that 56

percent of Palestinians believe Israel's long-term aim is to expand its borders across the entire area between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea and to eventually drive out its Arab population. About 25 percent think Israel wants to take over the West Bank while continuing to deny political rights to Palestinians. On the other side, 43 percent of Israeli participants think Palestinians want to take control of Israel and remove most of the Jewish population, while 18 percent believe Palestinians aim to occupy the State of Israel¹.

Violence in this conflict is deeply tied to psychological reasons, which are often rooted in religious and ethnic differences. These are also influenced by the impact of economic hardship and a long-standing cycle of destruction. Scholars have identified psychological aspects as an important area when trying to understand prolonged conflicts that involve many layers of interaction. One idea often explored is that long-term violence can be connected with particular ideologies. These ideologies reflect a person's or a group's broader understanding of the world, usually shaped by cultural and social influences, and they provide people with a sense of meaning or direction, especially when they feel threatened individually or collectively¹.

In the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, these psychological views are said to revolve around several key ideas: a belief in the fairness of one's own goals, the sense of being wronged, safety concerns, pride in national identity, portraying the other side as evil, love for the nation, a sense of togetherness, and the desire for peace¹. These viewpoints form the emotional and mental side of the conflict and vary depending on the situation or the background of the person involved. They often lead people to believe that the other side is entirely dangerous and inhuman¹.

At the same time, it is important to remember that the relationship between the two communities is very complex. Differences in age, social class, and other factors make these relations harder to understand fully. Emotional reactions are not always negative. There are everyday exchanges between Israelis and Palestinians in workplaces and through business, which lead to a mix of emotions. Israel's view that Palestine could become a future threat has influenced its position. Several events have made Israelis more fearful, even though the Palestine Liberation Organisation began changing its stance in the 1970s by recognising Israel and reducing its claims over territory. They also limited access to weapons that could be seen as dangerous. However, the long occupation by Israel has created a strong emotional bond among Palestinians to stay and survive on the land. This belief is connected with the trauma caused by the occupation¹.

Although this study does not attempt to go into deep detail about how these psychological issues affect politics and economics, it does confirm that constant violence has led to people being viewed as less human in areas under military control¹. The effects on peace talks are direct and visible. Because of this, both managing and resolving the conflict become nearly impossible. A strong, unhelpful approach is formed that pushes away peaceful solutions. As a result, violence continues without being properly addressed. In some situations, violence only slows down when one side is too tired to continue, when one party has already achieved its goals, or when extremely harsh methods are used. If none of these take place, violence breaks out again, often in a way that seems unavoidable. Based on this, the study suggests that one deeper reason for the failure of both conflict resolution and conflict management lies in Israel's changing political values and its fear of not surviving as a state. This fear does not

only come from shifts in international power but also from inside the country, especially due to how it sees its Arab population.

One of the main issues affecting Israel's ability to take part in real peace efforts is how its political system has changed in recent years. When this shift is combined with the other factors already mentioned, it becomes harder for Israel to properly engage in honest negotiations. This direction, especially under the leadership of Netanyahu, appears to reduce the likelihood of meaningful discussions with Palestinians^{11, 12}. The topic of how the Israeli state has evolved is rarely discussed in full, but one important example can be seen in a report published by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. This report was titled "Israeli Practices Toward the Palestinian People and the Question of Apartheid" and looked into the controversial idea of whether Israel is now acting as an apartheid regime.

The report makes a serious observation. It explains that if a country's constitutional laws are designed in a way that favours one racial group, as Israel defines itself as a Jewish state and South Africa once did as a white Afrikaner state, then any opposition to discrimination will lack legal tools to fight back. Worse still, trying to resist such discrimination will be seen as a direct threat to the government and will likely be punished harshly. This means that the basic laws of the country must be examined closely to see whether they allow or even encourage racial inequality^{1 3}. According to the report, four features support the apartheid claim. First, Israel appears to carry out demographic strategies to keep a strong Jewish majority in the country. Second, it prevents people from legally challenging racial dominance. Third, it

openly promotes Jewish national identity. And fourth, it divides Palestinian communities in a way that limits their unity and power¹.

After reviewing these practices, the report reaches a powerful conclusion. It declares that Israel is guilty of apartheid¹. While this statement does not carry any legal weight within the United Nations system and does not represent an official position, it does give a new and strong analysis of how the Israeli government behaves. It also reveals how the nature of the state itself has changed. These findings raise serious questions about whether peace is even possible under the current conditions. The idea that Israel cannot genuinely manage or resolve the conflict with Palestinians is not new, but it is more widely noticed now.

Many legal scholars in Israel, along with others in public debates, have traced the weakening of democratic principles in the country to the military rule that followed the 1967 war. The early decision to absorb the West Bank and the Golan Heights without clear legal frameworks is often linked to the rise of a political culture that puts Jewish identity at the centre of state decisions. This shift has drawn criticism, particularly from those who see the growing influence of military thinking and traditional gender roles as signs of a deeper social problem. These ideas are seen by some as deeply rooted in conservative religious values, and many believe they stand in the way of efforts to bring lasting peace¹.

Research on how the United Nations has responded to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict up until 2024 shows increasing awareness of how difficult and layered the situation has become. Analysts have looked closely at how well the UN's peace efforts have worked, especially its repeated push for broad-based talks meant to reach a permanent political solution. With regular escalations in violence, many writers stress that peace cannot come through

fragmented efforts. Instead, they argue that all major voices must be involved, especially those who are directly affected by the actions taken. The effects of decisions made by only one side are being studied more seriously. There is also more focus on how countries nearby could be more actively included in finding a way forward.

This period has also witnessed more attention given to how legal issues and human rights apply in this setting. One of the main topics in this area has been the spread of Israeli settlements, which many view as violating international agreements and past United Nations rulings. These actions have raised wider concerns about how international law is being used or ignored. Writers have stressed that if legal tools are to have any real effect, they must be applied equally and without political pressure. These concerns have become more serious as violence increases and trust in international mechanisms begins to weaken.

Another area that has received close attention is the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), especially regarding the care of Palestinian refugees. The needs of displaced people have remained urgent, and several researchers have pointed out that UNRWA is facing serious problems in meeting these needs due to funding gaps and growing political unrest in the region. Many have questioned whether the current structure of the agency is strong enough to continue its work in such conditions. This has led to calls for better support and review of how the agency operates, especially in areas where people are most vulnerable.

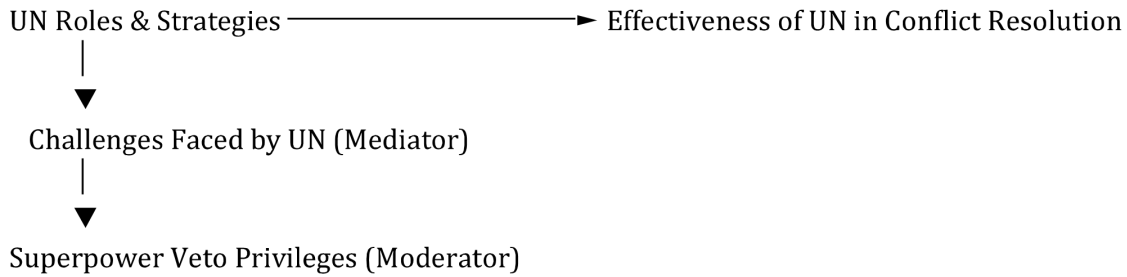
In addition to this, the role of United Nations peacekeeping forces has come under review. Some studies have explored whether these missions are capable of responding to the fast-changing conditions in places affected by conflict. Critics have said that many of these

missions lack clear goals and do not have enough freedom to act when urgent problems arise. As a result, there are growing voices asking for better planning and more flexible rules that will allow peacekeepers to respond more quickly and effectively when things on the ground change.

Scholars also highlight the value of listening to voices from local communities. People from civil society, especially those who have lived through the conflict, are often not part of formal peace talks. Many experts argue that this has been a mistake. By leaving out the daily concerns and hopes of people living in these areas, the peace process loses touch with what really matters. Because of this, there is now a stronger call for the UN to include these people in shaping policies. Including different views and lived experiences could help reduce mistrust and open the door to long-term solutions. Taken together, recent literature suggest that peace cannot come from traditional diplomacy alone. There is a clear view that the UN must do more than rely on the same tools it has always used. What is needed now is a more creative and inclusive way of thinking, one that addresses the deep problems behind the violence and looks at justice, dignity, and fairness for all involved.

2.4 Conceptual Model

This study is structured around examining how the United Nations' (UN) actions, strategies, and institutional dynamics influence its effectiveness in resolving the Israel- Palestine conflict and promoting peace between 2014 and 2024.



1. Independent Variables (IVs)

Roles of the United Nations in the Israel-Palestine Conflict

- Mediation and negotiation activities
- Peacekeeping and monitoring missions
- Humanitarian interventions and reconstruction efforts
- Policy advocacy and resolution drafting

Conflict Resolution Strategies Adopted by the UN

- Diplomatic dialogues and ceasefire facilitation
- Deployment of special envoys and missions
- Support for peace agreements and humanitarian aid
- Coordination with regional and international partners

2. Mediating Variable

Challenges Faced by the UN in Peace Promotion

- Political interference and lack of neutrality
- Limited resources and enforcement mechanisms
- Security risks and restricted access
- Divergent member-state interests

3. Moderating Variable

- Superpower Veto Privileges in the UN Security Council
- Use of veto to block resolutions on Israel- Palestine issues
- Influence on decision-making, accountability, and implementation
- Impact on the UN's credibility and operational independence

4. Dependent Variable (DV)

Effectiveness of the United Nations in Conflict Resolution and Peace Promotion

- Reduction in violence and hostilities
- Sustained ceasefire and dialogue outcomes
- Improved humanitarian conditions
- Progress toward lasting peace and stability

2.5 Summary of Gap in the Literature Reviewed

This research examined various academic contributions that describe conflict as a normal part of life, often developing when individuals or groups with different goals and values interact. It outlined several factors that commonly lead to group conflict, such as limited access to resources, shared responsibilities between groups, unclear roles, and competition for recognition or control. The chapter also made it clear that conflict is not always harmful. It can sometimes lead to better thinking and planning, and bring improvements to how people work together. These useful outcomes may support stronger relationships within groups and help in finding new and creative ideas. By gaining a clearer view of these processes,

individuals involved in conflict can learn how to respond in ways that reduce harm and support positive change, instead of simply trying to stop conflict at all costs^{1 1}.

The research further explored how conflict resolution works as a method of reducing the damage caused by conflict. This involves strengthening ways to avoid violence and keeping events from escalating. It stressed the idea that some conflicts take a long time to settle and cannot be quickly solved. Therefore, the approach of conflict management is often understood as a way to guide people's actions or keep situations under control, much like directing the movement of objects. The main aim here is to lessen the tension or instability without necessarily fixing the core problem. On the other hand, conflict resolution believes that the key sources of disagreement can be addressed so that people are no longer aggressive, their attitudes change, and the conflict is no longer structured in a way that encourages division^{1 1}.

The research also drew attention to the distinction between conflict management and conflict resolution, based on how deeply they deal with the underlying problems. In basic terms, conflict resolution works toward solving the actual disagreements or causes behind the conflict. Conflict management, however, focuses on reducing the level of damage or violence without removing the real causes. It is more concerned with making the situation less harmful. The chapter then provided a detailed explanation of the United Nations, which was created in 1945 as a body where all countries could meet and discuss global issues. The organisation is made up of five main parts, including the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Secretariat, the International Court of Justice, and the Economic and Social

Council. Among them, the Security Council has the greatest influence in times of crisis because it has the authority to enforce decisions that all member states must follow.

This makes it widely recognized as the main body under the UN Charter responsible for maintaining global peace and security^{1 2}. The United Nations became involved in the Israeli-Palestinian situation after taking over from the League of Nations, which had failed to prevent tensions in the region. After many years of clashes between Arabs and Jews, the UN General Assembly voted in 1947 to divide Palestine into two separate states, one for Jews and one for Arabs. Soon after, the Jewish population in Palestine declared the State of Israel, leading to the migration of more Jews and a new war between Israel and nearby Arab nations. As seen from previous academic works, the conflict has many causes, such as the occupation of Palestinian land, forced displacement of people, the demand for political independence, religious and historical tensions, and the effects of colonial rule.

Based on current academic sources, the UN General Assembly and the Security Council have used tools like passing resolutions, sending peacekeepers, and enforcing sanctions to try and stop the fighting. However, these steps have not brought lasting peace. This chapter identified major factors that keep the conflict going, including security disputes, contested borders, access to water, control over Jerusalem, expansion of Israeli settlements, restrictions on Palestinian movement, the debate over refugees returning, and the lack of neutral peace brokers and global willingness to take bold steps. The theoretical review included two main international relations theories: Liberal Institutionalism and Conflict Transformation Theory. In closing, the chapter pointed out a clear gap in the research. While many studies mention the important role of the United Nations Security Council in handling the conflict, few

actually explore whether the Council is prepared or capable of resolving it, especially given the political interests at play.

As a result, this research will go further to examine how the Security Council performs its role of promoting peace and the deeper issues within the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

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Chapter Three

Methodology

3.1 Research Design

This research uses a qualitative case study research design to closely examine how international organisations take part in resolving conflicts particularly the United Nations, in the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflicts between 2014 -2024. Qualitative research involves using methods like direct observation and case analysis to give a detailed and clear explanation of how certain events or situations unfold¹. In this study, the data used comes mainly from secondary sources such as academic publications, documents from international bodies, official resolutions, and relevant texts that focus on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This form of data collection provides deep insight into how these organisations operate, what steps they have taken, and what results they have achieved in their peace efforts.

The research design was developed to meet the purpose of the study with great clarity and accuracy. It aims to carefully manage any unrelated variables and reduce potential errors that could affect the findings². Therefore, the researcher specifically conducted library research using the document analysis method. Sequel to the aforementioned, this section provides the various process involved in data collection and analysis. More practically, rationale behind the selection of sources will be based upon the intended objective of the study. The need to correlate the data collected with the intended objective of a particular research Endeavor is very important³.

3.2 Population of the Study

The population for this study covered a wide range of materials gathered from Academic publications, United Nations documents, libraries, academic books, news articles, peer-reviewed journals, and reliable online databases. These materials provided insight into global conflict resolution practices, international diplomacy, and the Israel-Palestine conflict. This research specifically focused on the period between 2014 and 2024, a decade that witnessed significant developments in United Nations peace initiatives, Security Council Resolutions, and humanitarian interventions in the region.

3.3 Sample and Sampling Techniques

The study employed purposive sampling to identify and select relevant secondary data sources. Purposive sampling is a non-probability technique that enables the researcher to deliberately choose materials based on their relevance to the research objectives. This approach is suitable for qualitative studies because it prioritizes depth and analytical richness over generalizability. The selected sample included peer-reviewed journal articles, official reports, policy briefs, and publications from institutions such as the United Nations, Arab League, and European Union. Sources were chosen based on credibility, thematic relevance, and contribution to the understanding of conflict resolution processes. By focusing on materials that offered diverse yet substantive perspectives, the study ensured a well-rounded and evidence-based analysis of the United Nations' involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

3.4 Instrument of Data Collection

Since the research heavily relied on qualitative data, the main instrument of data collection was documentary analysis. Relevant information was obtained from secondary sources such as official United Nations reports, scholarly journal articles, books, policy papers, and credible online databases. A data extraction template was developed to systematically organize and record key details relating to UN interventions, resolutions, and peace initiatives in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict between 2014 and 2024. This approach ensured that the information gathered was accurate, relevant, and aligned with the objectives of the study.

3.5 Validity of the Research Instrument

The validity of the research instruments in this study was ensured through a careful and deliberate selection of credible, peer-reviewed, and institutionally recognised secondary data sources. Academic journals, official documents from international organisations, and reputable publications were chosen based on their relevance, authenticity, and scholarly rigor. To further enhance validity, the researcher cross-checked information across multiple sources to confirm consistency and accuracy of facts. The document analysis method was structured around predefined research questions and theoretical frameworks, maintaining a clear focus on the objectives of the study. Only sources that directly addressed the role of international organisations in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict were considered valid for analysis. This methodological discipline helped reduce bias and improved the trustworthiness of findings. By using well-established literature and verified institutional data, the study upheld a high standard of validity and ensured that the conclusions drawn were based on dependable and

consistent evidence. The credibility of all selected documents was further strengthened by referencing authoritative sources from international bodies, thereby enhancing both internal and external validity.

3.6 Reliability of the Research Instrument

The reliability of the research instruments was maintained through the consistent use of credible secondary sources and a structured document analysis approach. All materials reviewed (such as academic journals, official United Nations resolutions, international organisation reports, and scholarly books) were selected based on their publication by reputable institutions and authors. The researcher applied the same criteria and procedures when collecting and analysing data to ensure uniformity and reduce subjectivity. To strengthen reliability, data was gathered from multiple sources discussing similar themes, allowing for cross-validation of facts and interpretations. Additionally, the researcher maintained detailed documentation of all sources and coding methods used during analysis, enabling the research process to be replicable by others under similar conditions. By following a systematic and transparent method throughout the study, the research ensured that the instruments would consistently yield similar results if the same procedure were repeated, thus affirming the reliability of the findings.

3.7 Administration of Research Instrument

Since the study relied on secondary qualitative data, the research instrument was administered through a systematic review of peer-reviewed journal articles, official reports, scholarly publications, and policy papers. Each document was examined using a data

extraction template to record key themes and information relevant to the study objective. This process ensured consistency, accuracy, and objectivity in the collection and interpretation of data.

3.8 Method of Data Collection

In conducting this study, data were gathered primarily through library research and extensive review of online academic databases. The researcher consulted a variety of credible and relevant sources, including journals, policy documents, encyclopaedias, United Nations archives, and scholarly databases such as Google Scholar, ResearchGate, and Academia.edu. Since the study relied entirely on secondary data, no primary data such as interviews or field surveys were collected. Emphasis was placed on obtaining accurate, verifiable, and contextually rich information relating to the United Nations' peacebuilding strategies and its broader role as an international organisation in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict between 2014 and 2024.

3.9 Methods of Data Analysis

The collected data were analysed using descriptive and content analysis methods. Content analysis helped the researcher to identify, interpret, and group similar patterns, themes, and ideas from the reviewed documents. It also made it easier to compare institutional strategies and policy outcomes based on the research objectives.

Descriptive analysis was used to explain the qualitative data in a simple and narrative way. This allowed the researcher to connect the findings with both theoretical perspectives and real-life practices. The analysis involved coding main themes such as diplomacy, mediation,

humanitarian intervention, and institutional limitations, while linking them with the ideas of Liberal Institutionalism and Conflict Transformation Theory. Through this process, the study gained a clear understanding of the effectiveness and challenges of the United Nations' interventions in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

3.10 Ethical Consideration

Since the research depended entirely on secondary sources, there was little risk of ethical violation. Still, the researcher followed recognised ethical standards to ensure accuracy, fairness, and respect for intellectual property. All sources were properly cited using the Kate Turabian referencing style to avoid plagiarism. Care was taken to ensure that the interpretation of documents remained faithful to their original context and meaning.

The study also avoided the use of classified or confidential materials, relying only on publicly accessible and ethically sourced documents. No personal data were collected, and the entire research process was conducted with transparency regarding the origin, purpose, and scope of each document analysed.

Endnotes

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Chapter Four

Results and Discussion of Findings

According to a report by a non-governmental organisation based in Geneva that monitors the United Nations' activities, United Nations Watch, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) was noted to have condemned Israel the most, as shown in the table below.

Table 4.1: UN General Assembly Votes on Israel vs. The Rest of the World

Year	Resolutions Related to Israel	Resolutions Related to the Rest of the World
2014	20	3
2015	20	3
2016	20	6
2017	21	6
2018	21	6
2019	18	7
2020	17	6
2021	14	5
2022	15	13
2023	14	3
2024	17	6

Source: UN Watch Report, 2024

4.1 Presentation of Data

4.1.1 Analysis of United Nations General Assembly's Resolutions Critical to Israel and Palestine, 2014-2024

The table above captures the annual number of resolutions passed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) between 2014 and 2024 by separately illustrating resolutions specifically related to Israel versus those concerning all other countries combined. The trend reflects ongoing debates over whether Israel is subject to disproportionate scrutiny in the UNGA compared to other global issues. The key observations and trends from the resolutions are highlighted below:¹

- i. **High Frequency of Resolutions on Israel:** From 2014 to 2024, the United Nations General Assembly passed a total of 217 resolutions related to Israel, compared to just 66 resolutions passed on all other countries. Between 2014 and 2024, the ratio was as stark as 20:3 signalling that more than 85% of country-specific resolutions targeted Israel. Even in 2023, Israel alone accounted for over 80% of country-specific resolutions (14 of 17 total).
- ii. **Decline in Israel-Related Resolutions in Recent Years:** There is a gradual decline in resolutions concerning Israel from 21 in 2023 and 2022 to 14 in 2021 and 2023. However, the numbers remain high relative to other countries, indicating persistent UN focus on Israeli policies, particularly concerning the Palestinian territories.
- iii. **Fluctuations in Resolutions for Other Countries:** The resolutions on other countries ranged from 3 to 13 per year, showing inconsistency. In 2022, there was a notable rise (13 resolutions on other countries), possibly due to global crises like the war in Ukraine or

humanitarian concerns elsewhere. However, this broader attention dropped again in 2023, returning to just 3 resolutions, reaffirming the recurring focus on Israel.

The implications of the data can be felt in the disproportionate attention and criticisms from observers who claimed that the UN's consistent focus on Israel leaving other major global crises with very far less institutional scrutiny. The UN Watch and some U.S. delegates claimed that this reflects a politicized bias within the UNGA². Also, there was the argument that the proponents of the resolutions argue that the frequency reflects the ongoing nature of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories, and alleged human rights violations issues under continuous international monitoring and that countries with severe human rights violations such as North Korea, Iran, Myanmar, Syria among others receive very few annual resolutions in contrast.³

This raises questions about equity, selectivity, and consistency in how international law and justice are applied within the United Nations framework. The data from Table 4.1 also revealed a long-standing pattern of disproportionate UNGA resolutions focused on Israel compared to all other countries.⁴ While it may reflect legitimate concern over unresolved geopolitical and humanitarian issues in the region, the contrast with global treatment of other serious crises suggests potential imbalance in international policymaking and diplomacy. This imbalance continues to fuel debates over bias, fairness, and reform within the United Nations system.

4.1.2 The United Nations Roles/Involvement in Israeli-Palestine Conflict Resolution

Several international organizations such as the European Union (EU) and the Arab League have played crucial roles in addressing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. However, the role played particularly the United Nations (UN) cannot be overemphasized being the umbrella of all sovereign countries in the world. The involvement of the UN cut across several diplomatic initiatives including the passage of several resolutions to contain the conflict, humanitarian assistance, and advocacy for peace, with each contribution uniquely trying to suppress the complex landscape of this enduring conflict^{5, 6}, some of which are discussed below.

1. United Nations (UN) Diplomatic Resolutions:

The UN has been instrumental in shaping the international legal framework surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Key resolutions, such as Resolutions 242 and 338, emphasize the necessity for Israel to withdraw from occupied territories and recognize the right of all states in the region to coexist peacefully. These resolutions serve as foundational documents for subsequent peace efforts and negotiations, framing the discourse around territorial integrity and security^{7,8}. Some of the resolutions which were either failed, vetoed or passed by the UN are analysed below.

Jordan: Draft Resolution Proposed on December 30, 2014 (Failed to Pass)⁹

The Council repeated its position on major resolutions such as 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 1397 (2002), 1515 (2003), 1544 (2004), 1850 (2008), 1860 (2009), and also the Madrid Principles. It restated its hope for a future where Israel and Palestine, as two democratic nations, live next to each other peacefully, each within secure and officially accepted borders. The Council

made it clear that the people of Palestine have the right to self-rule and freedom in a State of their own, with East Jerusalem as its capital. It referred to General Assembly Resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947 and stressed that gaining land through force is unacceptable. It also revisited Resolutions 446 (1979), 452 (1979), and 465 (1980), which confirmed that Israel's settlement expansion in areas taken since 1967, including East Jerusalem, holds no legal ground and is a serious barrier to peace.

It again referred to its earlier positions on the status of Jerusalem, such as Resolution 478 (1980) adopted on August 20, 1980, which made it clear that East Jerusalem's annexation is not accepted by the international community. The Council stated that the issue of Palestinian refugees must be addressed according to international law and relevant decisions, including Resolution 194 (III), as supported in the Arab Peace Initiative. It noted the advisory view of the International Court of Justice dated July 9, 2004, which dealt with the legal effects of the barrier built in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. It stressed that Gaza remains an inseparable part of the land occupied in 1967 and called for long-term steps to ease the situation there. These include regular and reliable openings of border crossings to allow the free movement of people and goods.

The Council welcomed the 2012 assessments by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, which acknowledged the Palestinians' achievements in forming state institutions. It repeated its call on all states and global bodies to support the nation-building efforts of Palestine in preparation for full independence. The Council stated once more that solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict fairly and permanently must happen through peaceful dialogue, rooted in consistent respect for each other, freedom from acts of violence,

incitement, or terror. It added that only a two-state solution could realistically end the occupation that began in 1967, solve all long-standing issues raised earlier by both sides, and meet the genuine needs of both populations.

The Council condemned every form of violence and attacks aimed at civilians, including all terrorist actions. It reminded all countries of their legal duties under Resolution 1373 (2001), especially their duty to ensure the protection of civilians during times of war. It confirmed that every country in the region has the right to peaceful existence within secure and internationally acknowledged borders. The Council also recognised the diplomatic efforts made by the United States in 2013 and 2014 to restart peace talks between the parties, aiming for a lasting agreement. As part of its ongoing responsibility to help resolve the conflict, the Council:

- i. Stated the urgent requirement to reach a full and fair peace deal within twelve (12) months after adopting this resolution. This agreement must end Israel's occupation of Palestine, ongoing since 1967, and bring to life the vision of two free, democratic, and thriving nations-Israel and a sovereign, connected, and workable State of Palestine living peacefully next to each other within borders agreed on by both sides and accepted internationally;
- ii. Agreed that the outcome of the talks must be based on several key points. These include borders as they stood on June 4, 1967, allowing for agreed and limited exchanges of land. Security must be guaranteed through third-party roles that protect the future State of Palestine's independence. This includes the full and step-by-step pull-out of Israeli security forces, ending the occupation that began in 1967, within a practical period that

should not extend beyond the end of 2023. It must protect both Israel and Palestine by having effective border control, preventing the return of terrorism, and properly responding to security threats, including new and serious challenges in the region. There should also be a fair and agreed-upon resolution to the refugee matter, based on the Arab Peace Initiative, relevant United Nations decisions, and international law, including Resolution 194 (III). The issue of Jerusalem must be solved in a way that makes it a shared capital, respecting the hopes of both sides and protecting the right to worship. Other long-standing issues like water rights and prisoners should also be settled fairly;

- iii. Accepted that once this final agreement is reached, it would officially end the occupation and resolve all claims between the two sides, leading to immediate recognition from both countries;
- iv. Stated that during negotiations, developing a clear and realistic security strategy and timeline is essential and must be part of the agreed plan supported by the resolution;
- v. Looked forward to admitting Palestine as a full member of the United Nations within the period stated in this resolution;
- vi. Urged both parties to seriously focus on rebuilding trust and working together towards peace by making reasonable compromises and avoiding any acts or statements that could stir up tension. It also invited countries and global bodies to support trust-building activities and help create the right conditions for peace talks;
- vii. Called on all involved parties to respect their legal duties under international humanitarian laws, including the Geneva Convention of August 12, 1949, which protects civilians during times of war;

- viii. Called for coordinated efforts that would lead to lasting peace in the wider region, encouraging better relationships among neighbouring countries in the Middle East. It also repeated the importance of fully putting into action the Arab Peace Initiative in this effort;
- ix. Requested a new negotiation setup where key global partners, along with the two sides, play a major role in helping reach a solution within the agreed timeline and ensure full implementation of all parts of the final deal. This includes providing political and material support for rebuilding efforts after the conflict;
- x. Appealed to both Israel and Palestine to avoid illegal and provocative actions, such as settlement construction, that could worsen the situation and reduce the chances of a Two-State solution based on this resolution;
- xi. Again, demanded that Israel stop all settlement building in Palestinian areas occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem;
- xii. Called for urgent action to improve the difficult living conditions in Gaza. This includes more humanitarian support to civilians through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and other relevant United Nations bodies. It also asked for serious attempts to resolve the key causes of the crisis, such as keeping to ceasefire agreements between the parties;
- xiii. Asked the Secretary General to give updates on how this resolution is being followed every three months;
- xiv. Agreed to keep the matter under active review

Egypt: Jerusalem Draft Resolution S/ 2023/1060 Presented to the United Nations Security Council December 18, 2023 (Vetoed)¹⁰

The Security Council, guided by the goals and values found in the Charter of the United Nations, restated its firm position that gaining territory through the use of force is not acceptable. It also highlighted the special importance of the Holy City of Jerusalem and stressed the need to protect and maintain its spiritual, religious, and cultural uniqueness, as reflected in earlier United Nations resolutions. The Council underlined that the issue of Jerusalem's future must be dealt with as part of final status talks and should follow the guidelines laid out in relevant United Nations decisions. It also expressed strong disappointment over recent actions and announcements regarding the status of Jerusalem. Therefore, the Council:

- i. Declared that any moves or decisions claiming to have changed the identity, legal standing, or population balance of Jerusalem had no legal effect, were invalid, and must be reversed based on earlier Security Council resolutions. It reminded all nations not to place diplomatic offices in the city of Jerusalem, in line with Resolution 478 (1980);
- ii. Stated that all countries must follow the Security Council's decisions regarding Jerusalem, and that no steps or policies that go against those decisions should be accepted or approved;
- iii. Repeated its appeal to reject the harmful developments on the ground that threatened the chance of achieving a two-State solution. The Council also called for increased support from both international and regional actors to urgently work toward a full, fair,

and lasting peace across the Middle East. This must be done based on key United Nations resolutions, agreed peace terms such as the "land for peace" idea, the Arab Peace Initiative, and the efforts of the Quartet;

- iv. Agreed to continue monitoring the issue closely and to keep it as an active item on its agenda.

Kuwait: Draft Resolution on Protecting Civilians in Gaza on June 01,2022 S/ 2022/516 (Passed)¹¹

The Council referred to its earlier Presidential Statement 2014/13 from July 28, 2014, and took note of the Secretary-General's letter (S/2015/809) dated October 21, 2015. It also recalled previous resolutions that addressed the protection of civilians in times of war, including those focusing on children affected by armed conflict, such as resolutions 1894 (2009) and 2225 (2015), along with other relevant presidential declarations. The Council also made reference to resolutions concerning the safety of healthcare and aid workers, as well as media professionals, including resolution 2286 (2024).

The Council reaffirmed, as stated in Article 1 of the Geneva Conventions, that international humanitarian law must be respected and upheld under all circumstances. It voiced strong disappointment over the rise in tensions and the deepening crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially East Jerusalem, since March 30,2022. It expressed alarm at the rising number of civilian deaths and injuries, particularly among Palestinians in Gaza, including many children, as a result of actions taken by Israeli forces. The Council condemned all forms of violence against civilians, including terrorism, provocation, incitement, and

destruction. It also underlined the importance of safeguarding the right to gather peacefully, demonstrate, and express views freely, along with the right to form associations.

The Council stressed the need for accountability, highlighting the importance of impartial investigations that follow global standards. It voiced concern about the worsening humanitarian emergency in Gaza and the urgent need for a lasting solution. It drew attention to how armed conflict affects women and children, especially those who are displaced or seeking refuge, as well as other civilians in vulnerable conditions, such as older people and persons with disabilities. The Council stated that the Security Council and United Nations Member States must step up efforts to protect civilians more effectively. It also reaffirmed that Gaza is part of the Palestinian land occupied since 1967 and that every country in the region has the right to live in peace within secure and internationally accepted borders. Based on this, the Council:

- i. Called on all involved groups to fully observe international human rights and humanitarian laws, especially with regard to civilian protection. It stressed that practical measures must be taken to ensure civilian safety, uphold their dignity, and hold violators accountable¹².
- ii. Strongly criticized Israeli forces for using excessive, unnecessary, and poorly targeted force against Palestinian civilians in the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem and especially Gaza. This included firing live bullets at peaceful demonstrators, children, medical workers, and journalists. The Council expressed serious concern over the unnecessary loss of innocent lives¹².

- iii. Demanded that Israel, as the occupying authority, stop these actions and honour its legal responsibilities as set out in the Fourth Geneva Convention of August 12, 1949, which concerns the protection of civilians during war¹².
- iv. Rejected any actions that could provoke violence or put civilians at further risk, and appealed to all parties to ensure that public protests remain non-violent¹².
- v. Condemned the launch of rockets from Gaza into residential areas in Israel¹².
- vi. Called for a ceasefire that is immediate, long lasting, and fully respected by all sides¹².
- vii. Urged all participants to show the highest level of restraint and calm. It also encouraged immediate and meaningful actions to ease tensions and undo negative developments on the ground¹².
- viii. Reaffirmed its dedication to respond to armed conflicts where civilians are targeted or where the delivery of aid is blocked intentionally. The Council stated that it would consider any actions within its powers, as guided by the United Nations Charter¹².
- ix. Stated that steps must be taken to guarantee the safety and protection of Palestinian civilians in all occupied areas, including Gaza¹².
- x. Demanded that Israel lift its closures and movement restrictions into and out of Gaza. This included keeping crossing points open to allow the movement of aid, trade goods, and people, all in line with international law and balanced with security considerations¹².

- xi. Asked all groups to work with health and aid workers to ensure they have free and secure access to civilians. It also called for an end to all acts of violence or harassment against those delivering medical and humanitarian support¹².
- xii. Supported the delivery of emergency aid without delay to Palestinians in Gaza, taking into account urgent needs such as medicine, food, clean water, and fuel. The Council urged increased help for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and acknowledged the critical role played by this and other United Nations and aid organisations in addressing emergencies¹².
- xiii. Welcomed real progress in efforts to heal divisions among Palestinian groups, including Egypt's mediation role. It also welcomed moves to unify Gaza and the West Bank under the legitimate Palestinian government and to support its full functioning in Gaza¹².
- xiv. Thanked and encouraged the Secretary-General and the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process to carry on their work with relevant parties to reduce tensions quickly. It also asked them to support development projects approved by the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee that address urgent humanitarian and infrastructure needs¹².
- xv. Requested the Secretary-General to examine the present situation and submit a written report within 60 days of this resolution's adoption. The report should include advice on ways to ensure the safety, protection, and well-being of Palestinians living under Israeli occupation. It should also explore options for an international protection system¹².

- xvi. Urged renewed and timely efforts to build the necessary conditions for launching real peace talks on all key issues. The goal is to swiftly end the occupation that began in 1967 and to achieve a fair and lasting peace, based on a vision where both Israel and Palestine, as democratic states, coexist peacefully within recognized and secure boundaries, following all relevant United Nations resolutions¹².
- xvii. Decided to keep this matter under continuous review¹².

1. Humanitarian Assistance:

The United Nations provides several critical humanitarian aids through agencies like the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). This agency offers education, healthcare, and social services to millions of Palestinian refugees, playing a vital role in their daily lives. However, ongoing funding shortfalls and political pressures often hinder the effectiveness of these humanitarian efforts, leading to increased suffering among vulnerable populations^{12,13}. Through this initiative, the UN has contributed immensely towards catering for the victims of the ongoing conflict between the two countries especially the people of Gaza.

2. Advocacy and Monitoring:

The United Nations has remained a strong voice for the defence of human rights in the area, publishing regular assessments that highlight abuses and call for those responsible to be held accountable. The creation of the UN Human Rights Council has given affected communities a stronger platform to express their concerns, although some member countries, especially Israel, have not always welcomed these actions¹. The UN continues to play an active role in

promoting peace and observing developments in the Israel-Palestine situation, consistently stressing the importance of a two-state agreement and the defence of basic human rights for individuals in both regions. Several UN bodies, such as the Security Council and the General Assembly, have adopted a wide range of resolutions urging an end to hostilities, a stop to settlement expansion, and recognition of Palestinian sovereignty. In addition, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) frequently releases updates on rights abuses taking place in the area. Through these activities, the UN aims to encourage discussion between both sides, promote justice, and help move toward a lasting and fair peace¹.

4.1.3 Impact of Conflict Resolution Strategies Adopted by UN in Israel-Palestine Conflict

The United Nations (UN) role in deploying several conflict resolution strategies concerning the Israel-Palestine conflict has been very remarkable, through employing various diplomatic and peacebuilding initiatives targeted towards improving dialogue and reconciliation between the parties. One of such notable strategies includes the establishment of peacekeeping missions, which seek to maintain ceasefires and monitor the situation on the ground. For instance, the UN's involvement through the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) has been pivotal in observing ceasefire agreements since 1948¹⁶.

Additionally, the UN General Assembly has severally called for negotiations based on the two-state solution framework, mobilizing international support for a peaceful resolution. These strategies emphasize the relevance of addressing underlying grievances, promoting dialogue, and mediating between conflicting parties, which are essential for sustainable

peace¹⁷. However, the effectiveness of these conflict resolution strategies is often debated due to ongoing tensions and failure to achieve a lasting peace agreement. The UN's efforts to foster negotiations have been met with challenges, including significant political opposition, divergent interests among key stakeholders, and occasional violence that undermines peace efforts. For instance, the perceived bias in the UN's resolutions, often seen as favouring Palestinian issues, has led to criticism from Israel and its allies¹⁸.

Additionally, the fragmentation within Palestinian leadership creates a complex landscape that the UN must navigate when attempting to mediate peace talks. Despite these challenges, the UN continues to advocate for a multilateral approach, reminding the international community of its responsibility to facilitate a fair resolution to the conflict¹⁹. The United Nations has made substantial contributions to humanitarian relief efforts and political dialogue in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Their advocacy has raised awareness of the humanitarian situation and the need for a negotiated settlement. However, their effectiveness is often curtailed by geopolitical complexities, internal divisions within Palestinian society, and the challenges of implementing resolutions. The ongoing conflict has created a cycle of mistrust, which complicates the efforts of these organizations to facilitate meaningful dialogue and sustainable solutions^{20, 21}.

4.1.4 Challenges Encountered by UN in Promoting Peace between Israel and Palestine

There are indeed several practical reasons why negotiations especially those proposed and promoted by the United Nations between Israel and Palestine have been unable to promote peace between the two conflicting countries. The following factors contribute to the difficulty in the management of the conflict.

Geopolitical Constraints: The geopolitical interests of powerful nations, particularly the United States, significantly influence the peace process. The U.S.'s strong support for Israel often limits the effectiveness of UN resolutions and initiatives proposed by other organisations, creating an imbalance in the negotiation dynamics²².

Internal Divisions: The lack of cohesion among Palestinian factions remains a significant barrier to peace. Disagreements between Hamas and Fatah undermine the Palestinians' ability to present a unified front in negotiations, complicating international mediation efforts and leading to inconsistent policy positions²³.

Implementation Gaps: Many UN resolutions and international agreements lack effective enforcement mechanisms. This gap leads to a disconnect between commitments made by parties and actual progress on the ground, with ongoing violence and settlement expansion continuing to undermine trust and stability^{24, 25}.

No Two-State Solution: There is no backing for a two-state solution from either the ruling Israeli government or the opposition parties. Both sides share the same position against recognising Palestine as an independent state. Naftali Bennett, Israel's thirteenth Prime Minister, has openly rejected the idea, calling any possible Palestinian state a threat, describing it as a breeding ground for violence. He went as far as criticising the peace plan proposed by the Trump administration. This plan was introduced in early 2023 when Donald Trump became president of the United States. Although the proposal clearly favoured Israeli interests and moved away from the widely supported two-state structure, Bennett still viewed it as an approach that tried to create two states^{2 2}.

No End to Settlements: Bennett also made it clear that while his leadership would not officially declare an annexation or support the idea of a Palestinian state, it would continue to support the expansion of Israeli settlements. This approach contradicts United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334, which classifies the growth of settlements as a serious breach of international law and calls for such activity to be stopped immediately and fully. The idea behind the long-standing peace process has been based on exchanging land for peace, which includes the creation of a Palestinian state within the territories taken in 1967. However, Israel's continued takeover and development of these areas for settlements continues to weaken the chance of Palestine establishing itself as a functioning and independent state.

No Refugee Return: Lastly, the issue of refugee return has seen a hardening of the Israeli position over the past twenty years. The period between 2001 and 2002 marked a high point in discussions between both sides concerning refugees. It was during this time that the suffering of Palestinians during the 1948 conflict was recognized, with attention given to the need for international help in areas like compensation, finding places for refugees to live, and other related issues. The United States was seen as a key player in encouraging such efforts. Palestinians were to be given options: they could return to a newly formed Palestinian state, remain in their current locations, move to a third country, or enter Israel under certain restrictions. The Taba peace discussions in 2001 included a detailed Israeli offer, which proposed a 15-year process involving limited settlement in Israel, return to Palestine, and family reunification. However, since 2003, Israel has firmly refused to accept any plans that involve refugee settlement within its borders. Along with this shift, Israel has also increased

criticism of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, which provides help to Palestinian refugees. This reflects the direction of Israel's current policy on the matter².

4.2.4 How Superpower Veto Privileges within the UN Security Council have Affected the UN's Capacity to Resolve the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict between 2014 and 2024

Between 2014 and 2024, the use of veto power by the United Nations Security Council's permanent members has stood as one of the most damaging forces against peace in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This period, marked by multiple escalations of violence and failed diplomatic interventions, has repeatedly exposed how veto power can obstruct justice, shield impunity, and derail consensus in the name of national interest. Of all the permanent members, the United States has been the most frequent and decisive user of the veto in this particular case. While the UN Charter entrusts the five permanent members with this privilege ostensibly to maintain international peace and security, the historical record between 2014 and 2024 suggests that the veto has instead functioned as a diplomatic shield for strategic allies.

One of the most notable incidents occurred in December 2014, when Jordan, acting on behalf of Arab states, tabled a resolution demanding a final peace settlement within a year and the end of Israeli occupation by 2023²⁹. The resolution received the support of a majority within the Security Council. However, the United States voted against it, citing its lack of balance and feasibility. The United Kingdom abstained, and with no chance of passage, the resolution was buried. That single veto did more than block a document; it shattered momentum towards a multilateral resolution and revealed that no diplomatic path could proceed without

explicit American approval. It signalled that peace, even when globally supported, was not a matter of international justice, but of great power alignment.

This trend continued in 2017 when the United States under the Trump administration vetoed a resolution that rejected the unilateral recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital³⁰. The resolution was prompted by the U.S. decision to relocate its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, a move widely condemned across the globe for undermining the status of Jerusalem as a shared capital under future negotiation. Every other Security Council member supported the draft, yet one veto invalidated the will of the international community. The act not only inflamed tensions in the region but also exposed how veto power could be used to legitimize contested actions on the ground by erasing opposition through procedure.

Then in 2023, at the height of one of the deadliest Israeli offensives on Gaza since the 2014 war, a resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire was put forward. The international community, moved by harrowing images of civilian casualties, including women and children, demanded action. The draft resolution was backed by nearly every Council member. Still, the United States once again used its veto to block its passage, citing Israel's right to self-defence³¹. In doing so, it dismissed the widespread demand for a humanitarian halt to violence and allowed hostilities to escalate further. These recurring interventions by the U.S. have created a systemic immunity for Israel at the international level - effectively shielding it from consequence and emboldening it to operate above international norms.

Russia and China, although not actively blocking Israel-Palestine-related resolutions during this timeframe, have used their vetoes in other major conflicts (notably Syria and Ukraine) to protect their own geopolitical stakes³². Russia's repeated vetoes on resolutions addressing its

military actions in Ukraine and alleged war crimes in Syria reveal a parallel misuse of veto power to avoid scrutiny and accountability. This broader context underscores a grim truth: veto power is not a safeguard of global balance, but a strategic tool of dominance. Each of these case studies (whether exercised by the U.S., Russia, or China) reiterates the same message: superpowers will always prioritize their geopolitical alliances, military partnerships, and domestic political agendas above collective peace and moral obligation.

Together, these actions have not only undermined the credibility of the UN Security Council but also reinforced the structural inequality at the heart of international law enforcement. The selective exercise of veto authority serves to reinforce impunity, deepen global cynicism, and entrench injustice, especially in prolonged and politically sensitive conflicts like the Israeli-Palestinian crisis.

Impact on UN Resolutions and Peace Proposals

The direct effect of these vetoes on United Nations resolutions and peace proposals is paralysis. Each time a veto is used to block a resolution that commands global support, the credibility of the Security Council erodes further³³. The body that was created to safeguard peace and uphold international law becomes powerless, not because it lacks consensus, but because one or two states decide to undermine it. This paralysis does not happen in secret; it is visible to the entire world. It signals to the victims of conflict that international justice is not guaranteed, and it tells aggressor states that there will be no consequences if their allies hold veto power. The veto does not simply cancel out a document - it strips the entire Council of its authority.

Even in cases where resolutions are passed, the looming threat of a veto shapes the language, structure, and intent of the documents. Drafters deliberately avoid strong words or direct accusations. References to war crimes, occupation, disproportionate force, and state responsibility are removed before a vote is even held. Timelines for implementation are excluded. Concrete consequences are replaced by vague calls for dialogue. This weakening of resolutions is a form of self-censorship imposed by the knowledge that certain permanent members will veto anything that appears critical of their allies. In the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, this has created an environment where resolutions become ritualistic gestures rather than instruments of accountability.

Resolutions that should have been used to pressure both parties toward compromise are instead softened to avoid offending the United States³⁴. The impact is not symbolic. It has tangible effects on the ground. When the Security Council fails to demand an immediate ceasefire or cannot authorise humanitarian access with urgency, people die. Families are displaced. Infrastructure is destroyed. The veto transforms diplomacy into a tool of delay rather than of prevention. In many cases, it makes basic humanitarian interventions seem controversial, even when global consensus exists.

The 2021 conflict in Gaza illustrates this dysfunction clearly. During the eleven-day war, over two hundred Palestinians were killed, including dozens of children, and more than ten Israelis also died³⁵. The international community, including almost all members of the Security Council, called for an immediate end to hostilities. Yet the Council could not issue even a single public statement because the United States blocked every attempt to do so. It was not a matter of resolution language, nor of legal clarity. It was pure political resistance.

That silence from the world's highest security body sent a loud message that if a permanent member refuses to act, then no action will be taken.

This repeated sabotage of peace proposals also undermines long-term political initiatives, such as the two-state solution. Without pressure, there is no negotiation. Without accountability, there is no change. Over time, this paralysis entrenches injustice, normalises occupation, and fuels radicalism on both sides. By silencing the Council and weakening its documents, the veto ensures that peace remains permanently out of reach. It redefines law as a function of alliance rather than principle. Justice becomes a matter of political permission, not legal entitlement. And in this climate, international diplomacy becomes a theatre of power, not a mechanism of peace.

Critical Reflection on Multilateralism vs. National Interests

At the core of this crisis is the conflict between multilateral values and national interests. The United Nations claims to represent collective action, shared responsibility, and sovereign equality. Yet the veto contradicts this foundation³⁶. It gives five nations the unchecked power to block the will of over 190 others. In theory, the veto exists to prevent rash action. In practice, it has been used to enable inaction. In the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, American vetoes have repeatedly overridden near-unanimous global agreement. This does not protect peace; it protects power. The United States insists its vetoes are used to block biased or unfair resolutions. But if repeated calls for ceasefires, accountability, and human rights are considered biased, then it becomes clear that the problem lies not in the resolutions but in the values of the one opposing them.

The problem is not limited to the United States. Russia and China have also used their vetoes to serve national agendas in other conflicts, turning the Security Council into a site of cold competition rather than shared responsibility. Their silence on Israel-Palestine may seem passive, but it is strategic. They allow the United States to absorb the blame, while quietly supporting anything that weakens American moral authority. This is not multilateralism. It is transactional diplomacy dressed as cooperation. The structure is broken. The promise of the UN has been betrayed by the greed of its most powerful members.

Patterns, Consequences, and Ongoing Implications

Over the ten-year period, the same pattern repeats itself. Israel acts, Palestine reacts, violence erupts, the UN convenes, the United States vetoes, and nothing changes. Each veto deepens despair, not only in Gaza and the West Bank but across the Global South, where many states have come to view the UN as an institution run by and for the powerful. The consequences are bloody and measurable. More than thirty thousand Palestinians have died in this period, many of them children. Hospitals have been bombed. Homes have been demolished. Schools run by the UN itself have been turned to rubble. And through all of this, the Security Council has failed to deliver a single binding resolution capable of halting the violence. This is not a diplomatic failure. It is a political betrayal.

The implications stretch far beyond Israel and Palestine. The misuse of the veto creates a model for other conflicts³⁷. It says to the world that if you are powerful enough or have the right friends, you are untouchable. Accountability is optional. Law is flexible. Human life becomes a matter of negotiation. In such a world, smaller nations lose faith in diplomacy and may turn to resistance or violence, believing that dialogue will never serve them. The United

Nations was created to prevent another world war. But when its structure protects the few at the expense of the many, it plants the seeds of global unrest.

The abuse of veto power also discredits the very concept of international law³⁸. If war crimes can be committed without punishment, if occupation can last decades without resolution, and if aid can be blocked without consequence, then what is the point of law? The Security Council was meant to be the guardian of peace, yet it now functions as a gatekeeper of privilege. The silence it imposes is not neutral. It is deadly. Each blocked resolution is not just a missed opportunity. It is a deliberate choice to allow suffering to continue.

Looking forward, the ongoing use of the veto in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will only worsen divisions. Already, many member states have turned their focus to the General Assembly or to regional alliances, seeking influence outside the Council's deadlock. If this trend continues, the Security Council may become irrelevant.

Summarily, the years from 2014 to 2024 have revealed the full extent of the damage that superpower veto privileges can do. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has suffered not just from political division on the ground but from political cowardice at the global level. The veto has not preserved peace. It has prevented it. It has not balanced power, it has abused it.

4.3 Discussion of Findings

The conflict between Israel and Palestine remains one of the most drawn-out, emotionally sensitive, and politically difficult struggles in global politics today. It continues to reveal the deep flaws and power imbalances within the international system, particularly in how the United Nations Security Council operates. Although the United Nations has long taken an

active role in pushing for humanitarian relief, releasing statements against violence, and calling for temporary halts in fighting, its ability to bring about real solutions has often been weakened. This failure is not mainly due to a lack of global concern, but rather the excessive control held by powerful countries through the veto system in the Security Council. From 2014 to 2024, the use of veto powers, most notably by the United States, has significantly blocked the Council's potential to respond effectively. As a result, the Council has often functioned less as a platform for advancing peace and more as a battleground for competing national interests.

Throughout this ten-year period, the UNSC has witnessed a series of deadlocks on key resolutions concerning Israel and Palestine. The core issue has not been the absence of proposed solutions, but rather the structural paralysis induced by the veto mechanism. The United States has cast multiple vetoes or threats thereof to protect Israel from resolutions that seek to hold it accountable for actions deemed illegal under international law. These include continued settlement expansions in the West Bank, disproportionate use of force in Gaza, and the refusal to comply with Resolution 2334, which reaffirms the illegality of settlements and calls for their cessation. While other Security Council members (such as France, the United Kingdom, and non-permanent members) have generally supported balanced approaches to the conflict, the US veto has systematically diluted or blocked resolutions, preventing the Council from taking collective action that reflects the consensus of the broader international community.

This trend of unilateral blockage by a superpower has undermined the credibility of the UNSC as an impartial body. The veto has allowed national interests to supersede collective

security mandates, creating a situation where powerful states can shield their allies from scrutiny regardless of their actions³⁹. In doing so, the veto system has eroded the legitimacy of the Council in the eyes of many member states and civil society actors, particularly those from the Global South. When the Council cannot even issue statements condemning civilian deaths or calling for humanitarian access because of a single country's objection, it becomes evident that the problem is not international apathy, but institutional design. In 2021, for instance, during the eleven-day conflict in Gaza, the United States blocked the Council from issuing even a symbolic statement calling for de-escalation, despite wide support from other members. This silence was not accidental; it was engineered through veto privilege.

Over this decade, repeated vetoes have also had a chilling effect on the drafting of resolutions themselves. Diplomats have become accustomed to watering down language to avoid the threat of a veto. Words like "occupation," "war crimes," and "accountability" are often replaced with vague expressions like "concern" or "instability," stripping the resolutions of legal weight and moral clarity. This pre-emptive self-censorship, driven by the looming threat of a US veto, has rendered many UNSC outputs toothless. The absence of robust language means that even when resolutions are passed, they lack the strength to compel behavioural change from parties to the conflict. Consequently, not only are fewer resolutions passed, but the ones that survive the diplomatic filtering process are often symbolic rather than strategic.

Between 2014 and 2024, the pattern of vetoes has contributed to a wider international perception that the UNSC is incapable of addressing the root causes of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Council has failed to advance the two-state solution in any meaningful way, despite decades of rhetorical commitment⁴⁰. The two-state framework is still presented as the

most viable path to peace, yet the conditions for its realization (such as halting settlement activity, lifting the Gaza blockade, and recognizing Palestinian sovereignty) are repeatedly undermined by US-backed Israeli policies. Meanwhile, the Council remains paralyzed, unable to respond with either sanctions or meaningful diplomatic consequences. Even when clear violations occur, the UNSC is reduced to a bystander. This erosion of enforcement capability stems directly from the ability of one or two powerful states to dictate the agenda.

The consequence of this institutional stagnation is not abstract. The toll is measured in human lives, destroyed infrastructure, and continued displacement. It is evident in the collapse of Palestinian trust in the international system and the rise of alternative forms of resistance, both peaceful and violent. When international institutions are perceived as biased or impotent, they inadvertently legitimize unilateralism and radicalism. This has profound implications for regional stability, not only within Israel and Palestine but across the Middle East. Refugee flows, cross-border militancy, and shifting alliances have all been exacerbated by the failure of multilateral mechanisms to deliver justice or accountability. The Security Council's dysfunction has therefore allowed the conflict to metastasize into a broader threat to international peace.

The broader geopolitical environment over the past decade has only worsened these dynamics. Since Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014, relations between the P5 members have sharply deteriorated, leading to increased use of the veto for issues beyond the Middle East as well. This deterioration has created an environment of mistrust, making collaboration on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict even more unlikely. Russia and China have occasionally opposed US positions not out of principled support for Palestinian rights, but as a

counterweight to US dominance. These rivalries have turned the UNSC into an arena of power politics where the conflict is used as a proxy issue in the broader strategic competition between global powers. As a result, Palestinian suffering becomes collateral in a larger game of international prestige.

The lack of implementation mechanisms is also glaring. Even when the UNSC adopts resolutions, there is often no follow-through. The Council has no permanent enforcement arm and relies on voluntary compliance and political goodwill. When a veto-wielding power like the United States refuses to apply pressure on its ally, even basic enforcement becomes impossible. The result is a cycle of impunity that emboldens violations of international law. Israel, aware that it has US backing in the Council, continues settlement expansions, military incursions, and annexation attempts with minimal fear of diplomatic consequences. This protective umbrella created by the veto ensures that the international rules-based order is not applied evenly, but selectively.

Ultimately, between 2014 and 2024, superpower veto privileges have turned the UNSC from a potential peacemaker into a procedural obstacle. They have enabled the continuation of a military occupation that the international community overwhelmingly views as illegal. They have blocked urgent humanitarian responses during moments of crisis. They have distorted the meaning of multilateralism, replacing it with transactional diplomacy. And they have deprived both Palestinians and Israelis of a credible path toward peace.

In this context, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict functions as both a case study and a cautionary tale. It shows how institutional tools like the veto, designed to maintain balance, can instead entrench imbalance when misused. The findings of this study strongly suggest that until the

structure of the Security Council is reformed (or until veto power is meaningfully restricted) the prospect of an effective UN-led resolution to the conflict remains minimal. The cost of inaction is not merely diplomatic failure; it is continued conflict, deepening injustice, and the erosion of global faith in the multilateral system.

The UN's inability to act decisively in the face of egregious violations, due to the misuse of veto privileges, has made the promise of peace ever more distant.

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Chapter Five

Conclusion

5.1 Summary of Findings

This study looked at how the veto power of powerful countries in the United Nations affects its ability to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict between 2014 and 2024. The findings show that the United Nations stayed involved in the conflict in different ways, using diplomacy, humanitarian aid, and public calls for respect for international law. The Office of the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process was a key platform for talks between both sides. Humanitarian help came mainly from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), which gave food, schooling, and medical care to millions of Palestinian refugees. The UN Human Rights Council and other agencies also reported on and condemned breaches of international law, especially after violent clashes in Gaza in 2014, 2022, and 2021.

With these efforts, the study found that the United Nations' actions only brought short-term relief. Some ceasefire agreements, like those reached in 2014, 2022, and 2021, stopped the fighting for a while but did not lead to lasting peace. Humanitarian aid helped reduce immediate suffering but could not solve deeper political problems, such as disputes over territory, the building of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, and the blockade of Gaza. The lack of a strong way to make Security Council resolutions binding meant that their success depended on the willingness of both sides to cooperate, which rarely happened.

A major challenge the UN faced was the use of the veto power by permanent members of the Security Council. Records show that between 2014 and 2024, the United States blocked several draft resolutions that criticized Israel. These included a 2022 draft calling for an investigation into civilian deaths in Gaza and a 2023 draft asking for an end to settlement building in the West Bank. Even though most Council members supported these measures, they were not passed because of the veto. This not only stopped action from being taken but also led to claims that the UN was biased, especially from the Palestinian side.

The veto was often used to protect allies rather than to find common ground. This created an imbalance that weakened the Security Council's credibility. It also reduced Palestinian trust in UN talks and gave Israel confidence to continue policies that the international community opposed. This pattern made it harder for the UN to be effective in bringing about peace

The humanitarian situation remained severe throughout the study period. By the end of 2024, more than 1.9 million people in Gaza had been displaced, and over 80 per cent faced serious food shortages. UNRWA and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) carried out large-scale relief operations, but these were slowed or stopped by ongoing fighting, damaged infrastructure, and restrictions on access. While this help saved lives, it could not replace the need for a political solution.

The findings show that the UN's limited success was not because it failed to engage in the conflict but because of the structure of the Security Council. The veto power allowed one country to block action, even when most members agreed, which kept the conflict at a standstill. This problem did not just affect the Israeli–Palestinian conflict; it also raises

questions about the UN's ability to handle other long-running disputes when the interests of powerful states are involved.

5.2 Conclusion

The findings of this study unequivocally demonstrate that the United Nations, despite its foundational commitment to the promotion of international peace and security, remains structurally and politically constrained in its capacity to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Central to these constraints is the entrenched and highly politicized exercise of veto power within the Security Council, which has systematically hindered the Council's ability to intervene effectively in this protracted conflict. Between 2014 and 2024, multiple attempts to pass meaningful resolutions aimed at enforcing ceasefires, facilitating humanitarian aid, and condemning illegal settlement expansions were obstructed by vetoes, predominantly cast by the United States. Such vetoes have not only undermined efforts to establish a unified international stance but have also emboldened involved state actors to act unilaterally with impunity, thereby perpetuating cycles of violence and instability.

This analysis reveals a fundamental institutional contradiction within the United Nations framework: the principles of multilateral cooperation and collective security frequently clash with the geopolitical interests and strategic priorities of powerful states. As a consequence, the Security Council has become increasingly ineffective as a mechanism for conflict management and resolution. Although carefully negotiated resolutions with the potential to foster peace exist, the imbalance of power and the frequent recourse to veto power continue to erode the UN's legitimacy and undermine its role as a neutral and authoritative arbiter in international conflicts. This dynamic has significant ramifications not only for the Israeli-

Palestinian conflict but also for the broader credibility and effectiveness of the United Nations as a global peacekeeping institution.

Moreover, while the United Nations has persistently supported various peace initiatives, notably the widely endorsed two-state solution, these efforts have been consistently stymied by the broader systemic and political barriers imposed by dominant states within the international system. The study underscores how the Security Council's repeated paralysis during moments of acute violence such as the 2022 Gaza border protests and the 2021 escalation reflects a troubling pattern of institutional inaction. These instances serve as clear evidence that the veto power is employed less as a procedural safeguard and more as a political instrument that impedes diplomatic progress, prolongs conflict, and exacerbates the suffering of civilian populations.

Without substantial reform aimed at curbing the misuse of veto privileges, the United Nations will remain severely limited in its ability to respond effectively and impartially to conflicts like that of Israel and Palestine. Structural reforms are urgently needed to restore the Security Council's functionality and credibility, thereby enhancing the UN's capacity to facilitate lasting peace and security. Until such changes are realized, the prospects for a just and enduring resolution to this conflict will remain bleak. The continued dysfunction of the Security Council not only hampers peace efforts but also risks diminishing global trust in the United Nations as an institution capable of upholding international law and fostering cooperative security.

5.3 Recommendations

1. Reforming the Veto Use in the United Nations Security Council:

The findings of this study point to a pressing need for changes in how veto rights are used in the Security Council. A country should not be allowed to use its veto alone in matters involving serious human rights abuse, humanitarian emergencies, or clear breaches of international law. Instead, new rules should be put in place where the use of a veto must be backed by more than one permanent member, such as requiring at least two or more permanent members to agree before a veto takes effect. This would reduce the risk of a single country preventing the Council from acting. These changes could be based on Article 109 of the UN Charter, which allows for reform through a General Conference. Adopting this change would make it harder for one country to keep blocking global attempts to protect peace and uphold justice.

2. Expanding the Role of the General Assembly When the Security Council Is Blocked:

In cases where the Security Council cannot act due to a veto, the General Assembly should be ready to step in with more responsibility through the "Uniting for Peace" resolution. While decisions made by the General Assembly are not legally binding, they still hold moral strength and can shift the views of the international community. There should be clear steps laid out that allow issues stuck in the Security Council to be brought before the General Assembly. The influence of General Assembly decisions should also be increased, especially when they concern the safety of civilians, military occupations, or regional instability like that seen in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

3. Institutionalize a Humanitarian Exception to Veto Use:

A humanitarian carve-out must be introduced, where resolutions focused solely on humanitarian access, ceasefires, or the protection of civilians cannot be vetoed. This principle is vital to ensure that lifesaving aid, medical support, and conflict de-escalation are not blocked due to political considerations. Such a protocol would prevent the recurrence of situations like the 2023 Gaza crisis, where ceasefire resolutions were vetoed despite overwhelming international support.

4. Develop Independent UN Monitoring and Enforcement Mechanisms:

To reduce over-reliance on Security Council enforcement, the United Nations should empower independent agencies or regional offices to monitor ceasefire agreements, settlement expansion, and human rights violations without needing Security Council approval. These agencies, such as UNHCR or OCHA, could publish regular accountability reports, which would keep global attention on violations regardless of the paralysis in the Security Council. Public pressure generated from such independent reporting could contribute to greater diplomatic accountability.

5. Enhance Support for Regional Diplomacy and Multilateral Peace Forums:

Given the limitations of the Security Council, the UN should invest more in supporting regional peace initiatives and multilateral negotiations outside the formal UNSC structure. Forums such as the Arab Peace Initiative, the Quartet on the Middle East (UN, EU, US, Russia), or even African Union and ECOWAS diplomatic efforts can offer alternative

diplomatic spaces that bypass veto-imposed gridlocks. The UN's role should be to amplify and legitimize these efforts, provide mediation expertise, and facilitate consensus.

6. Promote Transparency and Public Accountability on Veto Use:

The United Nations should put in place a formal rule that requires any permanent member of the Security Council to give a public explanation for using its veto power, and this should be done before the General Assembly within a set period. This proposal supports the ideas raised by the Accountability, Coherence, and Transparency (ACT) group. Making it compulsory to explain a veto would increase the political consequences of using it for national interest, and would push countries to follow international rules more closely. This type of openness would also help the public and civil society around the world to understand such decisions better and question veto actions that block peace efforts.

5.4 Contribution to Knowledge

This research adds to existing knowledge by offering a detailed and critical analysis of how the veto rights held by powerful states have shaped the United Nations Security Council's ability to address the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from 2014 to 2024. It presents a thorough historical and political review, highlighting the ways in which the strategic use of veto power, particularly by the United States has seriously undermined the Council's credibility and its capacity to act effectively during key phases of the crisis. The study offers a unique perspective by focusing not only on the repeated failure of resolutions but also on the broader consequences of veto politics, such as the erosion of multilateral diplomacy, the decline in

international confidence in the UN, and the emboldening of state actors to pursue unilateral or aggressive policies without accountability.

Additionally, the research fills a gap in the literature by documenting recent case studies and geopolitical dynamics that shaped Security Council responses over a ten-year period. By integrating the effects of real-time political developments, such as the 2022 Gaza protests and the 2021 Hamas-Israel escalation, the study brings new insights into how veto power distorts conflict resolution processes. It also offers realistic, structured recommendations aimed at institutional reform, making it a valuable resource for scholars, policymakers, and international organizations seeking to address long-standing barriers to peace in protracted conflicts.

5.5 Suggested Area for Further Research

The present study has critically examined how superpower veto privileges within the United Nations Security Council have hindered the UN's capacity to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict between 2014 and 2024. While it has provided valuable insights into the dynamics of power, diplomacy, and conflict resolution within the UN framework, the complexity of the issue opens up further avenues for academic inquiry. To build upon the findings of this research and address some of the broader implications left unexplored, the following areas are recommended for further investigation:

1. Comparative Analysis of Veto Use in Other Protracted Conflicts

Future research could examine how veto power has affected the United Nations' ability to intervene in other long-standing conflicts such as the Syrian civil war, the Rohingya crisis in

Myanmar, or the Russia-Ukraine war. A comparative approach would help determine whether the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is an isolated case or part of a broader pattern of paralysis within the Security Council due to superpower interference.

2. Regional and Sub-Regional Responses to Security Council Inaction

Further research should explore how regional organizations such as the Arab League, the African Union, and the European Union have responded or could respond to the UN's limited effectiveness. This would provide deeper insight into the role of regional diplomacy in peacebuilding where global institutions are compromised by political gridlock.

3. Feasibility and Impact of Veto Reform Proposals

Another important area for further study is the practicality and implications of reforming the Security Council veto system. Future scholars can critically assess existing reform proposals, such as voluntary veto restraint in cases of mass atrocities, and investigate the political will among member states to implement such changes. This would offer grounded insights into pathways for strengthening UN accountability and effectiveness.

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F. Publications

1. Thesis/Dissertations

- a. “Appraisal of The Problems and Prospect of Local Government Finance in Nigeria, A Case Study of Ede South Local Government Area in Osun State” (a Bachelor of Public Administration Project)

2. Scholarly Articles

Amure, Moyin Eunice & Adebayo Ola Afolaranmi. *The Roles of International Organizations in the Resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*. **Advance Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences**, 8(01), 2025, 178-189.
<https://aspjournals.org/ajahss/index.php/ajahss/article/view/148/156>

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The University Compliance Certification

This is to certify that the thesis by, Moyin Eunice AMURE with matriculation number LCU/PG/006793 in the Department of Politics and International Relations, Faculty of Management and Social Sciences, Lead City University, Ibadan, Oyo State is in full compliance with the approved University Format and Style.

Signature

Date