

Israel's Geopolitical Strategy: Strategic Partnership, Territorial Disputes and International Support

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Abstract: This study delves into Israel's geopolitical strategy, with a particular focus on its strategic partnership, territorial disputes, and international support in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict within the broader context of Middle East geopolitics. Israel, as a pivotal player in the Middle East, wields significant influence over regional stability and international politics. First, we examine the robust cooperation between Israel and the United States, a crucial alliance spanning political, military, and intelligence domains. This partnership not only bolsters Israel's national defense but also holds considerable sway in Middle East geopolitics. Next, we conduct an in-depth analysis of the territorial disputes, particularly in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, which constitute the heart of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. These disputes have intricate geopolitical implications and require international intervention, encompassing political and legal dimensions. Lastly, we concentrate on Israel's geopolitical standing on the global stage, emphasizing the influence of the United States and the role of international organizations. U.S. support significantly shapes Israel's international relations, while international entities play pivotal roles in resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. In essence, this study seeks to provide profound insights into Israel's geopolitical strategy and its profound impact on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the broader Middle East geopolitical landscape. By dissecting these critical elements, we aim to offer valuable perspectives and references for the resolution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the advancement of peace and stability in the Middle East.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

The Middle East, a long-standing global hotspot, is marked by conflicts, cultural intersections, and international interests. Within this complex region, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is prominent, involving Israel as a central player due to its location, alliances, territorial disputes, and international support, all shaping regional geopolitics.

Israel's geopolitical strategy carries far-reaching implications for Middle East stability and global politics. The United States, its primary ally, plays a pivotal role regionally and globally. Territorial disputes in the West Bank and East Jerusalem remain core issues, entailing international dimensions, including politics and law.

Given the vital role of the international community, notably organizations like the United Nations, in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, studying Israel's geopolitical strategy and its influence on this conflict and the broader Middle East landscape remains crucial for global peace and stability. These days, the military conflict between Hamas and Israel has once again made the Palestinian-Israeli conflict a topic of world concern.

1.2 Research Status of the Problem

The specific causes of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict are very complex, covering many aspects such as politics, history, religion, geography and society. Territorial disputes are the core of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. This includes disputes over the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem. Palestinians aspire to establish their own state on these territories, while Israel claims to own these territories[1]. Israeli settlement expansion has led to territorial reductions in Palestinian areas, complicating territorial disputes. The historical background of the conflict can be traced back to the early 20th century. With the surge of Jewish immigrants and the rise of Zionism, the Palestinian area became a competitive place between Jewish and Arab nationalism. The West Bank and East Jerusalem contain holy places of Islam, Christianity and Judaism, which are of vital religious and historical significance to different religious groups, which makes territorial disputes particularly sensitive[2]. The conflict is complicated by the involvement of various political entities, including nationalist and political organizations such as the Israeli government, the Palestinian Authority and Hamas, as well as the intervention of international

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forces. The international community plays an important role in resolving conflicts, but it also faces challenges. While supporting different parties, countries are also seeking to safeguard their own interests[3].

1.3 Purpose of Research

With the further study, geopolitics has become the focus of the study of Palestinian-Israeli conflict[4]. This study aims to delve into Israel's geopolitical strategy, emphasizing its strategic partnerships, territorial disputes, and international support. The objective is to uncover how these strategies influence the dynamics of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and Israel's role within the broader Middle East geopolitical landscape. As a significant participant in the Middle East, Israel's geopolitical strategy carries extensive implications for regional stability and international politics.

2. Research Method

2.1 Religious and Cultural Analysis:

While not purely methods of international relations, we also delved into religious and cultural factors as they play a significant role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, especially from a geopolitical perspective.

2.2 Literature Review and Historical Analysis

We conducted an analysis of the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by reviewing historical literature and political events, aiming to understand how it has evolved and been influenced by international relations.

2.3 Geopolitical Analysis

We explored the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from a geopolitical perspective, examining factors such as geographical location, territorial disputes, and international interests and their impact on the conflict.

3. Cooperation and Conflict

3.1 Israel's Relations with Allies and Arab Countries

3.1.1 Israel's Close Military and Political Cooperation with the United States

The United States plays a significant role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by acting as a mediator and providing support. The United States has been a major ally of Israel, offering political, military, and economic assistance. It has also made multiple attempts to mediate negotiations in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, striving to facilitate a peace agreement between the two parties[5]. However, the U.S.'s impartiality has been questioned as it tends to lean more towards supporting Israel in the conflict, leading to a loss

of confidence in the peace process within the international community. In conclusion, the United States assumes a multifaceted role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, serving both as an ally to Israel and a peace mediator, but it remains a subject of controversy in the international arena.

The close partnership between Israel and the United States has been a subject of considerable attention, not only in the military domain but also on the political front. This collaboration is underpinned by various factors.

Firstly, historical ties constitute a significant reason for Israel's partnership with the United States. Israel was established in 1948 and received early recognition and support from the United States. This historical background laid the foundation for robust cooperation between the two nations. The United States played a pivotal role in the establishment and development of Israel, solidifying their historical connection.

Secondly, shared values and political interests drive the cooperation between Israel and the United States. Both countries are democracies that uphold principles of freedom, human rights, and the rule of law. These shared values lead to similar positions on the international stage, fostering mutual understanding and support. Furthermore, the United States has vital strategic interests in the Middle East, and Israel has emerged as a reliable ally in safeguarding regional stability and security.

Thirdly, military cooperation is crucial for Israel's defense. The Middle East region has consistently posed various military threats, including those from potential adversaries like Iran. The United States provides substantial military aid to Israel, including advanced weaponry and military technology. This military support not only helps Israel maintain national security but also plays a pivotal role in regional stability. Israel's military strength also contributes significantly to the strategic goals of the United States in the region.

Moreover, Israel's remarkable achievements in technology, innovation, and the high-tech industry are another factor. It makes Israel an attractive partner, attracting investments and technological collaborations from around the world, with the international community eager to benefit from Israeli technological advancements.

Lastly, Israel symbolizes the nation of the Jewish people and holds profound symbolic importance. In the aftermath of the Holocaust and World War II, there was widespread international support for the establishment of Israel to ensure the safety and self-determination of the Jewish people.

3.1.2 Israel's Cooperation and Conflicts with Neighboring Countries

In addition to its close partnership with the United States, Israel maintains a range of cooperative relationships with other regional states, albeit with some conflicts and disputes. These relationships are influenced by multiple factors.

Cooperation with Egypt is to some extent shaped by the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel. In 1979, Egypt and Israel signed the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty,

ending hostilities between the two nations. While there are certain limitations to their cooperation, this agreement forms the basis for military cooperation and border security. This collaboration is crucial for maintaining regional stability and the peace process. However, recent factors such as the Israel-Palestine conflict and regional instability have led to some tensions in the relationship.

Relations with Jordan, on the other hand, are relatively positive. Both nations have signed a peace treaty and established peaceful border relations. Jordan and Israel cooperate in various areas, including economics, military, and intelligence. This collaboration contributes to regional stability. Nevertheless, similar to Egypt, Jordan is also influenced by regional issues like the Israel-Palestine conflict, which may affect their cooperation.

In summary, Israel's broad geopolitical support on the international stage is multifaceted and extends beyond government support to encompass various forms of collaboration and partnerships within the international community. These factors collectively fortify Israel's steadfast geopolitical position.

3.1.3 Conflict between Israel and Neighboring Countries

However, Israel maintains significant conflicts with several other regional states. Notably, relations with Iran have been consistently tense. Iran has supported Palestinian Islamic resistance organizations like Hamas, leading to heightened tensions with Israel. Iran's nuclear program has also raised international concerns about regional security, posing a potential threat to Israel. Additionally, Israel has experienced significant conflicts with the Lebanese Hezbollah, which is backed by Iran. These dynamics further complicate the regional situation.

3.1.4 In-Depth Analysis of Causes

The close and enduring partnership between Israel and the United States is underpinned by a multitude of intricate factors that merit a deeper exploration:

Historical Foundations: The historical ties between these two nations trace back to Israel's inception in 1948. The United States played a pivotal role in recognizing Israel's sovereignty early on. This historical connection gained further depth after the atrocities of World War II, fueled by a global understanding of the need for a Jewish homeland. American Jewish communities actively lobbied and contributed to shaping U.S. policies towards Israel, leaving an indelible mark on the relationship.

Shared Values and Mutual Interests: Beyond history, a profound alignment of values and interests sustains this alliance. Both Israel and the United States are unwavering democracies that champion core principles like freedom, human rights, and the rule of law. This shared commitment not only unites them ideologically but also fosters a common identity on the international stage. This identity acts as a bedrock, strengthening their bond and fostering trust.

Militarily Fortified: Israel's geographical location in a volatile region, besieged by potential adversaries,

necessitates robust military capabilities. The United States has emerged as Israel's primary military benefactor, providing advanced weaponry, technology, and substantial financial aid. This military support not only safeguards Israel's security but also reinforces U.S. strategic interests in the Middle East, where a dependable ally serves as a linchpin.

Nuanced Regional Dynamics: Israel's relations with neighboring countries are intricately intertwined with the broader regional context. Milestone peace treaties, such as the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty of 1979 and the Jordan-Israel Peace Treaty of 1994, have brought a measure of stability to Israel's immediate borders. However, these agreements are not without challenges, and regional conflicts, especially the Israeli-Palestinian issue and the broader Arab-Israeli conflict, continue to impact these relationships.

Tensions with Iran and Lebanon: Strained relations with Iran and Lebanon stem from Iran's support for groups hostile to Israel, including Hamas and Hezbollah. These groups pose substantial security threats, and Iran's nuclear ambitions have raised global concerns, adding to regional tensions. The intricate web of regional rivalries and alliances further complicates Israel's geopolitical position.

Geopolitical Complexity: The Middle East's intricate geopolitical landscape introduces an additional layer of complexity. The involvement of major global powers, such as Russia, China, and European countries, in regional affairs influences Israel's strategic calculus. Additionally, factors like energy resources, crucial trade routes, and the unresolved Israeli-Palestinian conflict all contribute to the region's geopolitical intricacies.

Persisting Regional Challenges: The Israeli-Palestinian conflict remains a central issue in the Middle East, reverberating through various aspects of Israel's regional relationships. Achieving a comprehensive resolution remains a formidable challenge with profound implications for regional stability.

In conclusion, the close cooperation between Israel and the United States finds its roots in historical bonds, shared values, and mutual security interests. Nonetheless, relations with other regional actors are shaped by an intricate interplay of historical legacies, geopolitical realities, and ongoing regional challenges. Understanding these multifaceted dynamics is paramount to grasping Israel's central role within the intricate geopolitics of the Middle East.

3.2 Application of Geopolitics in International Organizations and Other Regions

3.2.1 Tactics in Israel's international organizations

Israel's diplomatic standing in international organizations and its diplomatic relations with non-Arab countries significantly contribute to its diplomatic advantages. Within the realm of international organizations, Israel is a member of the United Nations (UN) and actively participates in various UN bodies and international cooperative projects, despite facing resistance and criticism from Arab and Islamic countries in the UN

General Assembly. Additionally, Israel holds membership in other international organizations like the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), enabling its engagement in global economic and developmental affairs while strengthening its connections with other nations[6].

3.2.2 Relations with Countries Other than the United States and Arab Countries

In terms of diplomatic relations with non-Arab countries, Israel maintains close diplomatic ties with European nations, which generally support Israel's political, economic, and cultural exchanges. This relationship aids Israel in garnering international support within international organizations and promotes trade and technological cooperation. Israel also actively seeks to establish diplomatic relations with non-Arab Asian and African countries, including India, China, Japan, South Africa, among others[7]. These diplomatic efforts expand Israel's opportunities for international support within international organizations and create prospects for increased trade and technological cooperation.

Overall, Israel's diplomatic standing in international organizations and its diplomatic ties with non-Arab countries provide it with diplomatic advantages, including a multilateral diplomatic network, political support, economic and technological cooperation, and contributions to regional stability. These factors collectively bolster Israel's influence on the international stage and its geopolitical support.

3.2.3 Summary of Israel's Geopolitical Strategy

Security and Escalation of Conflict: Israel's security strategy, including its robust military forces and intelligence agencies, directly impacts the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Israel's military capabilities are employed to counter threats from the Palestinian territories, particularly from terrorist organizations like Hamas and Islamic Jihad. This has led to an escalation of the conflict and an increase in violent incidents, making it challenging to reach a resolution.

Geopolitical Stability and the Peace Process: Israel's geopolitical stability strategy involves establishing peace agreements with neighboring countries like Egypt and Jordan to mitigate geopolitical risks. While these agreements have positively impacted regional stability, the Palestinian issue remains at the core of the conflict. The resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict continues to be pivotal to the regional peace process, and Israel's geopolitical strategy influences the development of this process.

Israel's pursuit of economic prosperity as a strategic objective enhances its international influence but deepens discontent among the Palestinian population. The economic hardships and poverty prevalent in Palestinian territories are integral factors within the conflict, and Israel's economic success may exacerbate societal grievances and tensions.

In summary, Israel's core geopolitical strategies aim to ensure national security, maintain close ties with the United States, pursue geopolitical stability, achieve economic prosperity, engage in multilateral diplomacy, and address the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. These strategic objectives collectively shape Israel's behavior and policies on the international stage. Israel's core geopolitical strategy has had a far-reaching impact on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, which can be deeply analyzed from many aspects: In the realm of international political science, the multifaceted landscape of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is significantly influenced by Israel's security and conflict escalation strategies. Israel's robust military capabilities and intelligence apparatus directly impact the dynamics of the conflict, serving as a response mechanism against threats emanating from Palestinian entities, particularly terrorist organizations like Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Regrettably, this has led to an escalation of the conflict and an increase in violent incidents, rendering the conflict resolution process increasingly challenging.

4. Territorial disputes: disputes between Israel and Palestine in the West Bank and East Jerusalem

4.1 History and Religion

In the context of geopolitics, the territorial dispute plays a central role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, particularly concerning the West Bank and East Jerusalem. The underlying causes of this dispute can be traced back to the early 20th century when a surge in Jewish immigration and the rise of Jewish nationalism, known as Zionism, turned the Palestinian region into a battleground for Jewish and Arab nationalistic aspirations[8]. Despite the United Nations' 1947 partition plan attempting to address the issue of territorial allocation, it failed to gain acceptance from all parties, laying the foundation for the fundamental reasons behind the territorial dispute.

Furthermore, religious factors have added complexity to the territorial dispute[9]. The West Bank and East Jerusalem encompass sacred sites for Islam, Christianity, and Judaism, holding profound religious and historical significance for various religious communities. This religious dimension makes the territorial dispute exceptionally sensitive.

4.2 Analysis and Interpretation

The territorial dispute has far-reaching implications for the evolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Firstly, it fosters continuously escalating hostilities, as both sides hold divergent positions regarding the disputed territories of the West Bank and East Jerusalem, intensifying hostile sentiments and further complicating the peace process.

Secondly, the territorial dispute leads to a proliferation of conflict events, particularly the dispute over settlements in the West Bank, which triggers tensions between the Palestinian population and Israeli settlers. These tensions

result in frequent acts of violence and conflicts, rendering the regional situation increasingly unstable.

The international community plays a crucial role in resolving the territorial dispute, albeit facing challenges. The United Nations has passed numerous resolutions calling for Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank and East Jerusalem to enable Palestinian sovereignty. However, these resolutions have not been effectively implemented, highlighting the limited influence of the international community in resolving the dispute. The United States, as Israel's primary ally, has consistently played a mediating role in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. Nevertheless, its perceived bias towards Israel has raised concerns and eroded international confidence in the peace process. Other international organizations and countries have also made efforts to promote a peaceful solution, but substantive progress has yet to be achieved.

The persistent causes of the territorial dispute encompass political complexity, security concerns, and settlement expansion. Politically, the Israeli government faces domestic political pressures, with certain political factions advocating for the continued occupation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem. On the security front, Israel is apprehensive that these areas could become sources of terrorist attacks. Additionally, Israel's expansion of settlements has resulted in the reduction of Palestinian territory, further complicating the territorial dispute. These factors collectively contribute to the enduring existence of the territorial dispute, introducing new challenges to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

5. Conclusions

5.1 Some Predictions

It is difficult to accurately predict the future trend of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, because the settlement of the conflict is influenced by complex factors and dynamics. However, some possible future trends can be suggested: From the perspective of international political science, the continued pursuit of diplomatic efforts for peace remains a pivotal objective in international policy. The international community as well as regional leadership will persist in exerting efforts aimed at advancing Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, with the aim of achieving a long-term and sustainable peaceful resolution. Such endeavors may encompass the utilization of multilateral diplomatic channels, the engagement of international intermediary institutions, and the implementation of peace initiatives to propel the negotiation and dialogue process.

The influence of regional dynamics within the Middle East will continue to bear significance on the evolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The ever-changing dynamics in the Middle East region will undoubtedly impact the progression of the conflict. International relations with powerful regional entities, notably Iran, and diplomatic interactions with neighboring nations, have the potential to shape and influence the conflict's trajectory.

Internal political factors will also play a crucial role in the future of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Developments

within both Palestine and Israel, including changes in governmental leadership, electoral processes, and intra-political factional struggles, are poised to exert substantial influence on the negotiation and peace process.

Moreover, economic considerations should not be underestimated, as they may have significant implications for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The improvement of the economic conditions within the Palestinian territories holds the promise of alleviating societal tensions, while Israel's economic prosperity may provide substantial support for the peace process to advance.

International pressure, in the form of political and economic measures, imposed upon Israel and Palestine by the international community, is likely to intensify in the future. This may encompass the imposition of sanctions, international legal proceedings, and diplomatic isolation, all of which are intended to incentivize proactive measures from both parties in seeking resolutions.

Furthermore, civil society organizations and advocacy groups will continue to wield substantial influence in the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Within both the international and regional realms, these entities may employ tactics such as demonstrations, peaceful activities, and educational initiatives to promote reconciliation and dialogue.

It is imperative to note that the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a highly intricate and protracted process. A multitude of interwoven factors and conflicting interests have contributed to the persistence of the conflict. Future trends will hinge on policy choices, the international environment, and internal dynamics. Conflict resolution necessitates the demonstration of goodwill and enduring commitment from all parties involved, in the pursuit of a sustainable peace resolution.

5.2 Suggestions for Peace

Resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is an extremely challenging task, which requires comprehensive consideration of the interests of all parties and complex regional dynamics.

The international community should continue to engage in sustained diplomatic efforts to support and facilitate the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, utilizing multilateral diplomatic channels, international intermediary institutions, and peace initiatives to promote negotiations and dialogue.

Additionally, there is a critical need for steadfast international support for the "two-state solution" for Israel and Palestine, whereby an independent Palestinian state is established, coexisting peacefully with Israel—a framework widely recognized and deserving to serve as the foundation for future negotiations.

To alleviate regional tensions and foster peace, international stakeholders should provide financial aid, investment, and technological cooperation to aid in the sustainable economic development of the Palestinian territories. Furthermore, addressing the humanitarian crisis in the Palestinian territories is imperative, necessitating the provision of emergency aid, infrastructure improvements, and enhanced medical

services to ensure the fulfillment of basic human needs.

Simultaneously, all parties must take measures to reduce military conflicts and violent incidents, including the negotiation and adherence to ceasefire agreements, implementation of arms control measures, and enhancing military transparency to de-escalate regional tensions.

International oversight and mediation can contribute to enforcing ceasefire agreements, with the deployment of independent international monitoring teams to ensure compliance and mediate conflicts, facilitating the return of all parties to the negotiation table.

Civil society organizations, religious leaders, and community figures play pivotal roles in conflict resolution, and international support should be extended to these entities to promote peace advocacy, foster intercommunity and interfaith dialogue, and nurture mutual understanding.

Educational programs, cultural exchanges, and youth initiatives are instrumental in advancing mutual comprehension and peace by diminishing hostilities and societal divisions.

Finally, emphasizing the adherence to international law and human rights principles is paramount. Ensuring all parties abide by international law, including ceasefire agreements, border issues, and refugee concerns, is essential. Comprehensive implementation of these policy recommendations can serve as a catalyst for the peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, contingent upon the demonstration of goodwill and concerted efforts by all stakeholders.

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