



# International Terrorism and Global Human Concerns: A Case Study of Israel– Hamas War

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## Abstract

This research paper provides a comprehensive analysis of international terrorism within the context of the ongoing Israel-Hamas war, a critical case study for understanding global human concerns. The paper begins by tracing the historical events leading to the creation of Israel after the World Wars and examines the succession of conflicts and their outcomes, setting the stage for the rise of Hamas. This emergence of Hamas and the new challenges it poses to Israel and also Israel's critical response are scrutinized, particularly in relation to the current humanitarian crisis. A significant focus is placed on the use of terrorism as a strategic tool by both state and non-state actors, which raises complex questions about the nature and definition of terrorism.

The study extends to explore the broader implications of the Israel-Hamas conflict on global human concerns, highlighting how this localized struggle reflects and influences international terrorism trends. It also discusses the impact of these events on global peace and security, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive understanding of terrorism's roots and consequences.

In concluding, the paper proposes global strategies for the elimination of terrorism, stressing the importance of international cooperation and diplomacy. By examining the Israel-Hamas conflict, this research underscores the significance of addressing international terrorism not only as a security challenge but also as a humanitarian and geopolitical issue. Moreover, study aims to contribute to a nuanced understanding of terrorism and its global implications, offering insights that are vital for policymakers, scholars, and international agencies.

**Key Words:** International Terrorism, Israel-Hamas War, Humanitarian Crisis, State- Sponsored Terrorism, Global Strategy

## Introduction

The ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas presents a critical juncture in the study of international terrorism and its intersection with global human concerns. This research paper aims to delve deeply into this complex and contentious issue, exploring its historical roots, evolving dynamics, and broader implications.

The historical roots of the Arab-Israeli conflict lie in the Balfour Declaration (1917), which promised “a national home for the Jewish people.” The State of Israel was established in 1948, following the end of the Second World War and the holocaust, against a backdrop of long standing Jewish-Arab tensions in the region. This historical event marked the beginning of a series of conflicts in the Middle East, involving not only Israel and its neighboring Arab states but also various Palestinian groups. These conflicts have been characterized by a blend of conventional warfare, political strife, and acts that have been widely regarded as terrorism.

Hamas, a Palestinian Islamic organization, emerged in 1987 during the First Intifada (uprising) against Israeli occupation. Classified as a terrorist organization by many countries, Hamas has played a significant role in shaping the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Its ascendancy brought new dimensions to the conflict, particularly

through its use of suicide bombings and rocket attacks against Israeli targets, which have been condemned internationally.

The ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas has not only resulted in significant human suffering and casualties but has also raised critical questions about international law, state sovereignty, and the ethics of warfare. The humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip, exacerbated by blockades and military operations, remains a subject of global concern.

In this paper, we will explore the evolution of this conflict, examining the motivations and strategies of both Israel and Hamas. We will also analyze the broader implications of this conflict for global human concerns, particularly in terms of how it influences and reflects trends in international terrorism. The paper aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the Israel-Hamas conflict, offering insights into the challenges of addressing terrorism in a highly polarized and complex international landscape.

### **Research Objectives and Methodology**

The primary objective of this research paper is to conduct an in-depth analysis of the Israel-Hamas conflict, situating it within the broader context of international terrorism and global human concerns. This study aims to dissect and understand the multifaceted aspects of this conflict, from its historical roots to its present-day complexities. The specific objectives are outlined as follows:

#### **(a) Exploring the Historical Roots:**

A key objective is to trace the historical trajectory that led to the current conflict. This involves delving into the aftermath of the World Wars, particularly World War II, and how they set the stage for the creation of Israel. Understanding the geopolitical shifts and international agreements during this era is crucial to comprehend the genesis of the ongoing conflict.

#### **(b) Analyzing the Creation of Israel:**

The paper aims to examine the circumstances surrounding the establishment of Israel in 1948, including the role of international entities like the United Nations. This section will explore the initial responses from neighboring countries and the global community, setting the stage for successive conflicts.

#### **(c) Successive Conflicts and Outcomes:**

An in-depth analysis of the various Arab-Israeli wars and conflicts, their outcomes, and how they have shaped the current geopolitical landscape of the region is another crucial objective. This includes assessing the impact of these conflicts on both the regional and international levels.

#### **(d) Rise of Hamas and New Challenges to Israel:**

The emergence of Hamas as a significant player in Palestinian politics and its implications for Israel will be explored. The paper seeks to understand Hamas's ideological foundations, its strategic objectives, and how its methods of engagement have introduced new challenges and dimensions to the Israel-Palestine conflict.

#### **(e) Using Terrorism as a Weapon by the State:**

A critical objective is to scrutinize the allegations and instances of state-sponsored terrorism in this conflict. This involves analyzing the tactics and strategies employed by both Israel and Hamas, and how these actions align with or deviate from the broader definitions and norms of international terrorism.

Through these objectives, the paper will endeavor to provide a nuanced and comprehensive understanding of the Israel-Hamas conflict, contributing to the discourse on international terrorism and global security concerns. The method used in this study is factual and analytical based on various primary and secondary sources, experts report, books and paper articles etc.

### **I. World War and Creation of Israel**

The historical backdrop of the creation of Israel is deeply intertwined with the aftermath of the World Wars, particularly World War II, which played a pivotal role in shaping the geopolitical landscape of the Middle East. The end of World War II in 1945 marked a significant turning point, not only in global politics but also in the trajectory leading to the establishment of the Jewish State of Israel in 1948.

Following the horrors of the Holocaust, the plight of Jewish refugees intensified the Zionist movement's call for a Jewish homeland. The Balfour Declaration of 1917 and the British Mandate for Palestine had already set the stage for this, but post-World War II sentiments and the urgent need for a solution to the Jewish refugee crisis catalyzed the movement. The United Nations, in 1947, proposed a partition plan to create separate Jewish and Arab states in the region, a decision met with mixed reactions. While Jewish leaders accepted the plan, it was rejected by Arab leaders, leading to escalating tensions.

The official declaration of the State of Israel in May 1948, following the withdrawal of British forces, sparked the first Arab-Israeli War. This conflict, involving neighboring Arab states, resulted in the armistice lines of 1949, which significantly differed from the UN's proposed partition, expanding the territory under Israeli control and creating a large population of Palestinian refugees.

The creation of Israel and the subsequent Arab-Israeli conflicts were significantly influenced by the global politics of the time. The Cold War era saw the United States and the Soviet Union vying for influence in the Middle East, often through support for different states and movements. This geopolitical rivalry played out in the region, with Israel becoming a strategic ally of the West, particularly the United States, while Soviet support often went to Arab states and leftist movements.

The establishment of Israel fundamentally altered the political landscape of the Middle East. It led to a series of Arab-Israeli wars, each reshaping the region's borders and political dynamics. The conflict also became a central issue in international diplomacy, influencing global foreign policy decisions and becoming a perennial subject in the United Nations and other international forums.

In summary, the creation of Israel post-World War II and its impact on global politics profoundly influenced the Middle Eastern geopolitical landscape. The legacy of these events continues to resonate in the region's ongoing conflicts and the broader international arena.

## II. Successive Conflicts/Wars and Outcomes

The narrative of the Israel-Palestine conflict is marked by a series of significant wars and conflicts, each leaving a profound impact on the region and shaping the course of future events.

**1948 Arab-Israeli War:** Following the declaration of the State of Israel in 1948, neighboring Arab states launched a military intervention, marking the first major conflict in the region. The war ended in 1949 with armistice agreements, resulting in Israel expanding its territory beyond the original UN partition plan, creating a substantial number of Palestinian refugees, and setting the stage for future conflicts.

**1956 Suez Crisis:** The Suez Crisis, or the Second Arab-Israeli War, was ignited by the nationalization of the Suez Canal by Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser. Israel, along with Britain and France, attacked Egypt. The conflict led to a temporary occupation of the Sinai Peninsula by Israel and highlighted the strategic importance of the region to Western powers. The crisis also strengthened Nasser's position in the Arab world.

**1967 Six-Day War:** This war resulted in a decisive Israeli victory and a significant territorial expansion, including the capture of the Sinai Peninsula, the Golan Heights, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem. The war had profound implications, including the displacement of a large number of Palestinians and the beginning of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

**1973 Yom Kippur War:** Launched by Egypt and Syria against Israel, this war aimed to reclaim territories lost in 1967. Despite initial Arab successes, the conflict eventually tilted in Israel's favor. It led to a shift in the geopolitical dynamics of the region and eventually to the 1978 Camp David Accords between Egypt and Israel, marking the first peace agreement between Israel and an Arab country.

**1982 Lebanon War:** Initiated by Israel to combat the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in Lebanon, this conflict resulted in a large-scale Israeli invasion of Lebanon. It led to significant casualties and the eventual withdrawal of the PLO from Lebanon, but also to a long-term Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon.

**First and Second Intifadas:** These Palestinian uprisings against Israeli occupation in the late 20th and early 21st centuries were marked by widespread violence. The First Intifada (1987-1993) led to the Oslo Accords,

which established the Palestinian Authority. The Second Intifada (2000-2005) resulted in high casualties and significant deterioration of Israeli-Palestinian relations.

**Gaza Conflicts:** Since the early 2000s, a series of conflicts between Israel and Palestinian groups in Gaza, particularly Hamas, have erupted. These conflicts have led to significant casualties, widespread destruction in Gaza, and international condemnation. They have further complicated peace efforts and highlighted the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza.

Each of these conflicts has left an indelible mark on the region, shaping the political, social, and economic landscape of the Middle East. The outcomes have contributed to the ongoing complexity of the Israel-Palestine issue, affecting regional stability and international relations. The legacy of these wars continues to influence the discourse and dynamics of peace and conflict in the region.

### III. Rise of Hamas and New Challenges to Israel

Hamas, an acronym for "Harakat al-Muqawamah al-Islamiyya" (Islamic Resistance Movement), emerged in the Palestinian territories during the First Intifada in 1987. Its formation is rooted in the broader context of Palestinian resistance against Israeli occupation. Hamas originated as an offshoot of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood, a transnational Islamic organization. However, it quickly evolved to address more specifically the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, focusing on the struggle against Israeli occupation.

Hamas's charter, initially drafted in 1988, called for the establishment of an Islamic state in historic Palestine, including what is now Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. This objective starkly contrasted with the more secular approach of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), which at the time was the predominant force in Palestinian politics. Unlike the PLO, which eventually recognized Israel and engaged in peace negotiations, Hamas maintained a hard-line stance against Israel's existence.

The rise of Hamas introduced new challenges to Israel and altered the dynamics of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. One of the primary challenges has been Hamas's use of both political tactics and armed resistance, including suicide bombings and rocket attacks against Israeli targets. These methods have been widely condemned internationally, and Hamas has been designated as a terrorist organization by many countries, including Israel, the United States, and members of the European Union.

Hamas's governance of the Gaza Strip, following its victory in the 2006 Palestinian legislative elections and the subsequent violent conflict with Fatah, has also posed significant challenges to Israel. The organization's control of Gaza has led to several military confrontations, notably in 2008-2009, 2012, and 2014. These conflicts have resulted in extensive casualties and destruction, particularly in Gaza, and have been accompanied by international condemnation and calls for restraint.

Furthermore, Hamas's political stance and actions have complicated peace efforts. Its refusal to recognize Israel and its commitment to armed struggle have been major obstacles in peace negotiations. This stance contrasts with the more conciliatory approach of the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank, leading to a fragmented Palestinian political landscape.

In conclusion, the rise of Hamas has not only transformed the Israeli-Palestinian conflict but has also had significant implications for regional and international politics. The challenges posed by Hamas to Israel encompass both security concerns and obstacles to the peace process, underlining the complexity of achieving a lasting solution to the longstanding conflict.

### IV. Ongoing Israel-Hamas War and Humanitarian Crisis

The ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas is a complex and multifaceted issue that has far-reaching humanitarian implications. At its core, this conflict is rooted in the long-standing Israeli-Palestinian dispute, with Hamas, governing the Gaza Strip since 2007, playing a central role.

**Nature of the Conflict:** The conflict between Israel and Hamas is characterized by periodic escalations, often involving rocket fire from Gaza into Israeli territory and retaliatory strikes by Israel. One of the distinctive aspects of this conflict is the asymmetric nature of the warfare. Israel, with one of the most advanced militaries in the world, faces Hamas, which relies largely on guerrilla warfare tactics and rockets. These escalations have led to several intense confrontations, notably in 2008-2009, 2012, 2014, 2021 and more recently in 2023.

**Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza:** The humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip is a critical aspect of this conflict. Gaza has been under a blockade imposed by Israel and Egypt since 2007, significantly restricting the movement of people and goods. The blockades, coupled with repeated military conflicts, have devastated Gaza's economy and infrastructure. The region faces severe issues, including high unemployment, limited access to clean water and electricity, and a crumbling healthcare system. The United Nations has repeatedly raised concerns about the humanitarian situation in Gaza, warning of a potential crisis.

**Casualties and Displacement:** Each round of conflict results in significant civilian casualties and displacement. The high population density of Gaza, combined with the intensity of the military engagements, often results in civilian areas being affected. Schools, hospitals, and other civilian infrastructures have been damaged or destroyed during these conflicts, exacerbating the humanitarian situation. In October 2023, Hamas terrorists' intrusion in Israel, mass scale killing of innocent citizens and kidnapping of over 250 people of Israel and some other countries have sparked all-out retaliation from Israel. With the active support and military assistance from USA and European countries, Israeli PM Netanyahu is determined to finish Hamas. In this full-blown war, heavy human casualties and massive devastation have engulfed Palestinian territory of Gaza Strip and West Bank. Along with Hamas, the terrorist groups Hezbollah from Lebanon and Houthi from Yemen have also launched all-out attack on Israel with counter-offensive attack from the other side.

**International Response:** The ongoing conflict and the resulting humanitarian crisis have drawn widespread international attention. Reactions have ranged from calls for ceasefire and peace negotiations to condemnations of both Hamas's rocket attacks and Israel's military responses. International aid organizations continue to work in Gaza, but their efforts are often hampered by the blockade and security concerns.

In fact, the ongoing Israel-Hamas war is not just a military conflict; it is also a humanitarian crisis with profound implications for the civilian populations, particularly in Gaza. The complexity of the situation, marked by cycles of violence and temporary ceasefires, poses significant challenges to peace efforts and the alleviation of human suffering in the region.

## V. Using Terrorism as a Weapon by the State

The Israel-Hamas conflict presents a complex case in the discourse of international terrorism, particularly concerning the accusations and usage of state-sponsored terrorism. In this context, both Israel and Hamas have been accused of employing tactics that could be categorized under the broad spectrum of terrorism, albeit in different capacities and operational methods.

**Accusations against Israel:** Israel has faced accusations of state-sponsored terrorism, primarily concerning its military actions in Gaza and the West Bank. Critics argue that certain Israeli military operations, characterized by high civilian casualties and the targeting of infrastructure, fall within the realm of state-terrorism. These actions are often justified by Israel as self-defense measures against Hamas's attacks. However, international observers and human rights organizations have sometimes characterized these as disproportionate responses, raising ethical and legal questions under the laws of war and international human rights law.

**Hamas's Strategies:** On the other side, Hamas, designated as a terrorist organization by many countries, employs tactics typical of non-state actors engaging in terrorism. These include suicide bombings, indiscriminate rocket fire into civilian areas in Israel, and the use of civilian areas in Gaza for military purposes. Hamas justifies these actions as resistance against Israeli occupation and aggression. Their tactics aim to challenge the asymmetry of power with Israel and draw international attention to their cause, often at the cost of civilian safety and international norms.

**Analysis of Strategies:** The contrasting strategies of Israel and Hamas highlight the complexities in defining state-sponsored terrorism. Israel's approach, backed by a well-equipped military, often focuses on large-scale operations and targeted strikes, which it argues are necessary for national security and counter-terrorism. Conversely, Hamas's approach reflects the strategies of a non-state actor with limited resources, relying on guerrilla warfare and symbolic acts of resistance.

Broadly speaking, the Israel-Hamas conflict underscores the challenges in addressing accusations of state-sponsored terrorism. The strategies employed by both parties raise significant moral and legal questions,

complicating the international community's response to such conflicts and their classification within the realm of international terrorism.

## VI. Terrorism and Global Human Concerns: The Israel-Hamas Conflict

The ongoing war between Israel and Hamas has significant implications for global terrorism trends and poses various challenges for international organizations and nations. The dynamics of this conflict offer insights into the evolving nature of terrorism and its impact on global human concerns.

### Impact on Global Terrorism Trends:

**1. Asymmetric Warfare:** The Israel-Hamas conflict exemplifies asymmetric warfare, where non-state actors like Hamas, which has captured power, employ guerrilla tactics against a conventionally superior military force like Israel. This model has been mirrored in various other conflicts, influencing global terrorism strategies.

**2. Radicalization and Extremism:** The conflict contributes to radicalization in the region and beyond. The perceived injustices and humanitarian crises can fuel extremist ideologies, leading to a broader spectrum of terrorism beyond the immediate geographic area.

**3. Internationalization of the Conflict:** The widespread media coverage and political discourse surrounding the Israel-Hamas conflict have internationalized it, affecting global public opinion and sometimes inspiring international terrorist acts.

### Role of International Organizations and Nations:

**(a) Peacekeeping and Diplomatic Efforts:** Various international organizations, including the United Nations, have been involved in peacekeeping efforts and diplomatic negotiations. These organizations play a crucial role in mediating between Israel and Palestinian authorities, including efforts to curb hostilities with Hamas.

**(b) Humanitarian Aid:** International organizations and NGOs provide crucial humanitarian aid to mitigate the crisis in Gaza. Their role is vital in addressing the immediate human needs resulting from the conflict.

**(c) Counterterrorism Efforts:** Nations globally, often through multinational coalitions, work on counterterrorism strategies that include intelligence sharing, cutting off funding sources to terrorist groups, and addressing the underlying causes of terrorism.

**(d) Legal and Ethical Challenges:** The conflict poses significant legal and ethical challenges in international law, particularly in terms of defining terrorism, distinguishing between legitimate resistance and terrorism, and addressing state versus non-state violence.

**(e) Policy Formulation:** The Israel-Hamas conflict influences global counterterrorism policies. Nations often adjust their foreign policy and counterterrorism strategies based on the developments in this conflict, impacting international relations and global politics.

In summary, the Israel-Hamas conflict is not just a regional issue but a matter of global concern. It influences global terrorism trends and poses complex challenges for international organizations and nations. The responses to this conflict, ranging from diplomatic efforts to humanitarian aid, reflect the intricate relationship between regional conflicts and global security and humanitarian concerns.

## VII. Negotiating Global Strategies to Eliminate Terrorism

In the context of the Israel-Hamas conflict, negotiating global strategies to counter terrorism involves a multifaceted approach that encompasses diplomacy, international law, and a concerted effort from the global community. Effective strategies must address not only the immediate threats but also the underlying issues that give rise to terrorism.

### 1. Diplomatic Engagement:

**(i) Conflict Resolution:** Diplomatic efforts must focus on conflict resolution between Israel and Hamas. This requires mediation by neutral parties, possibly through international organizations like the United Nations or regional entities. Successful diplomacy involves understanding the grievances and aspirations of both sides and working towards a mutually acceptable solution.

**(ii) International Cooperation:** Global terrorism requires a coordinated international response. Diplomatic channels can be used to foster cooperation among nations, especially in intelligence sharing, border security, and financial controls to curb the funding of terrorist activities.

## 2. Strengthening International Law:

**(i) Legal Frameworks:** Strengthening international legal frameworks to address state and non-state terrorism is crucial. This includes revising international laws to ensure they are equipped to deal with the changing nature of terrorism and to prosecute those who commit terrorist acts.

**(ii) Accountability and Compliance:** Ensuring compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law in conflict zones is essential. This means holding states and non-state actors accountable for their actions that contribute to terrorism or violate human rights.

## 3. Addressing Root Causes:

**(i) Economic and Social Development:** Addressing the socioeconomic conditions that foster terrorism is vital. This includes investing in education, creating job opportunities, and supporting development projects in regions vulnerable to terrorist recruitment.

**(ii) Political Inclusivity:** Promoting political inclusivity and democratic processes can alleviate some of the grievances that lead to terrorism. Supporting fair governance and representation for marginalized communities is the key.

## 4. Preventing Radicalization:

**(i) Community Engagement:** Engaging with communities to prevent radicalization is essential. This involves educational programs, community policing, and initiatives that promote dialogue and understanding.

**(ii) Counter-Narratives:** Developing counter-narratives to challenge extremist ideologies is crucial. This includes leveraging media and online platforms to disseminate messages that counteract terrorist propaganda.

## 5. Multilateralism and United Fronts:

**Global Coalitions:** Building global coalitions against terrorism, involving states, international organizations, and civil society, can present a united front. This collective effort can lead to more effective strategies and resource pooling.

## 6. Balancing Security and Rights:

**Human Rights Protection:** Counterterrorism measures should not infringe on human rights and civil liberties. Maintaining this balance is crucial for the legitimacy and effectiveness of counterterrorism efforts.

In fact, eliminating terrorism, particularly in the context of the Israel-Hamas conflict, requires a comprehensive approach that combines diplomacy, legal measures, socioeconomic initiatives, and global cooperation. These strategies must be nuanced and adaptable to the evolving nature of terrorism, ensuring that they are effective in both preventing immediate threats and addressing long-term challenges.

## Conclusion

This research paper, "International Terrorism and Global Human Concerns: A case study of Israel - Hamas War," has provided a comprehensive exploration of one of the most enduring and complex conflicts in modern history. Throughout the study, various facets of the Israel-Hamas conflict have been examined, from its historical roots post-World War II to the contemporary challenges, it presents in terms of international terrorism and humanitarian concerns.

The creation of Israel, borne out of the aftermath of World War II, and the subsequent Arab-Israeli wars have significantly shaped the geopolitical landscape of the Middle East. The rise of Hamas has introduced new dynamics into the conflict, challenging traditional paradigms of state and non-state actors in conflict. The ongoing war between Israel and Hamas, characterized by a cycle of violence and temporary ceasefires, has not only had profound implications for both parties but also for the global understanding of terrorism and conflict.

This conflict highlights the blurred lines between state and non-state actions within the realm of international terrorism. The strategies employed by both Israel and Hamas raise critical questions about the nature of warfare,

the definition of terrorism, and the ethical and legal frameworks governing armed conflict. Furthermore, the humanitarian crisis, particularly in the Gaza Strip, underscores the severe human costs of prolonged conflicts.

Global responses to the Israel-Hamas conflict, including diplomatic efforts, international law, and humanitarian aid, reflect the complexity of addressing such deep-rooted issues. This study emphasizes the need for multifaceted approaches in negotiating global strategies to combat terrorism, which include addressing underlying socio-political issues, promoting dialogue, and ensuring adherence to international legal and ethical standards.

In conclusion, the Israel-Hamas conflict serves as a crucial case study in understanding the nuances of international terrorism and its wide-ranging human concerns. It demonstrates the need for continued research, policy formulation, and international cooperation to navigate the challenges posed by such conflicts. The learning from this case study are vital in shaping global strategies for peace, security, and the protection of human rights in the face of terrorism and conflict.

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