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## Israel Palestine War: Security Repercussions for Iran

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### ABSTRACT

This study looks closely at Iran's role in the Israel-Palestine conflict and what it means for security in the Middle East. Iran's actions are influenced by a mix of beliefs, historical issues, and regional goals, which affect the course of the conflict. The research examines how Iran supports Palestinian groups through financial help, weapons, and training, which strengthens groups like Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad. It also explores Iran's use of proxy warfare, showing how it uses groups like Hezbollah to extend its influence and challenge its enemies without direct military involvement. The study addresses Iran's nuclear program, which could lead to a regional arms race and increase security concerns, especially for Israel. In addition, the research looks at Iran's growing use of cyber warfare and intelligence to gather information, sabotage, and influence events online, further complicating the conflict. By analyzing these aspects of Iran's engagement, the study aims to provide a clear understanding of how Iran's actions contribute to regional instability. This includes creating sectarian divides, affecting geopolitical changes like the Abraham Accords, complicating international diplomacy, and raising the chances of broader military conflict. The insights gained from this study will help policymakers, scholars, and

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stakeholders develop better conflict resolution strategies, improve regional security, and promote lasting peace in the Middle East.

**Keywords:** Iran, Israel-Palestine Conflict, Regional Security, Proxy Warfare, Nuclear Program

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## INTRODUCTION

One of the longest-standing and most contentious conflicts in the contemporary international relations is the Israel-Palestine issue. The underlying conflict issue consists of conflicting nationalistic claims of a single territory at its core made complication by tensions based on religion, the trauma of the past, and the ongoing occupation and displacement (Edwards, 2020). Since the formation of the State of Israel in 1948, until today, any attempt of resolution had been negated by the points of violence, asymmetry in the balance of power, and external geopolitics. Throughout the decades, the conflict has transformed itself to be not a local territorial fight but the key subject of a regional and global interest and this has attracted major powers and regional players in it, each with varying interests. Iran, as one of such actors, has become one of the most powerful and controversial parts of the formation of the course and the strength of the conflict.

The active participation of Iran in the Israel Palestine conflict cannot exist alone. It is the result of a complicated nexus of ideological beliefs, historic resentments, and territorial desires. After the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Iran has reoriented its foreign policy on the philosophy of resistance to perceived western imperialism and Zionist occupation. This change in ideology saw the Islamic Republic as not just a regional force but also very vocal supporter of the Palestinian cause. The Palestinian struggle has a strong defense as a part of the revolutionary identity of the regime where assistance to Palestine is depicted as a moral and religious duty (Ehteshami & Zweiri, 2020). The slogans of the revolutions like the Death to Israel and the liberation of Jerusalem have since been the slogans of rallying of the Iranian foreign policy efforts and proxy activities.

The Iranian involvement has come in various forms and these include; ideological rhetoric and diplomatic intrigue into the matter to more practical means of offering aid to these extremists like financial assistance, shipment of arms, training and even sharing of intelligence. Overdue time Iran has enhanced strategic partnership with Palestinian resistance groups especially the Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) and has reaped the benefit of using these ties to procure power in the Levant and under pressure Israel. These partnerships are not only beneficial to Iran, its ideological agenda, but also its overall approach of having asymmetric wars with militarily superior nations such as Israel and the United States (Byman, 2021).

The escalation of proxy warfare to become a core element of the Iranian approach to regional politics has far-reaching consequences to the security politics of the conflict. In comparison to the traditional wars between a national state and

another, the proxy warfare allows Iran to confront its opponents in long-term conflicts in the minimum risks. This will enable Tehran to avoid the traditional diplomatic limits and constant low-intensity pressure on Israel, thereby destabilizing the region without necessarily declaring war (Watkins, 2020). This move has redefined the security context of the Middle East and placed the dispute between Israel and Palestine into a bigger paradigm of conflicts in the region with Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Yemen.

Besides, the role of Iran in the conflict should be interpreted within the frames of its current nuclear ambitions and computer capabilities. Tehran may claim that its nuclear program is not related to any kind of war, nevertheless, critics believe that the creation of nuclear deterrence is meant to help develop the nuclear program in case of regime change or even war. Perceived risk of a nuclear-faced Iran magnifies the Israeli security fears, heightens the possibility of a preemptive attack, and results in a regional arsenal arms race (Kaye, 2021). At the same time, the cyber and intelligence warfare of Iran also makes the security environment more complicated, bringing non-conventional threats that do not limit themselves to a national border but cut off the boundaries between peace and conflict.

These are not the ripple effects of the involvement of Iran in the axis of Israel and Palestine alone. Its activities are also extents of events in the Middle East, especially the Sunni Arab world (Saudi Arabia, Egypt and UAE) who regard the ambitions of Tehran with consternation. Some have normalized their ties with Israel due to the Abraham Accords, and these states, among others, view the growing influence of Iran as a disruptive actor and are responding to it accordingly (Lynch, 2021). Hence, the issue of Iran in support of Palestinian groups does not only have to do with the occupation of Palestinian territory it is also a way to project power in the region and counter the hegemony of the western and Israeli powers.

More to the point, the involvement of Iran presents major humanitarian and diplomatic issues. Its assistance to militant groups helps to militarize Palestinian resistance, making the peace negotiations hard to attain, and voice of moderation complicates the peace negotiations. The violence cycle born out of this situation has an outsized impact on civilians, especially in Gaza, where serially launched Israeli aggression has resulted in extensive demolition, loss of human lives, and humanitarian emergencies (Ocha, 2023). Every spurt of violence fortifies both sets of hardliners and driving their hopes of a negotiated settlement further away.

In that regard, the role of Iran cannot be apprehended merely through the task of analyzing the state policy; it is fundamental to the explanation of the larger conflict in the Middle East. The intervention of Iran contributes to the security aspects of the conflict heightening and the resolution of this issue depends on the intervention of this country. The paper is therefore intended to offer a profound evaluation on the complex Iranian involvement in the Israeli-Palestine struggle and its extensive security implications. Investigating Iran motives, military related relations, proxy networks, nuclear advancements and cyber activities, we intend to shed light on overall implications of Iranian activities on regional peace and stability.

In a nutshell, the following research question informs the investigation: How does the role of Iran in the Israel-Palestine conflict affect the region in terms of its security? To answer this, it is necessary to examine the issue in a multidimensional way that takes into consideration the strategic goals of Iran and the activities of its proxies, the efforts of the other states and the development of the warfare in the XXI century. Only in this case, such a comprehensive perception helps policy makers, scholars and stakeholders to come up with effective conflict resolution, regional security as well as sustainable peace.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Katz (2025) also reframes the Iran-Israel-Palestine conflict using structural realist theory, in her view, shifting power asymmetries throughout the region, strategic deterrence, and proxy warfare, not ideology and religion, are at the heart of the instability. The role of non-state actors such as Hezbollah and Hamas, foreign interference from major powers and changing alliances against diplomacy are also highlighted by the study. Concludes that without finding a solution that treats the structural drivers of conflict, the region will be stuck in cycles of conflicts and crisis, the role of Iran in backing Palestinian groups exacerbation security and economic risks.

Khare et al. (2025) discusses the Israel-Palestine conflict from the historical basis and how events such as the Balfour Declaration and later wars resulted in the expansion of territory by Israel and movement of people to and from Palestine, causing the socio-economic problems of the Palestinians lasting into the present in terms of unemployment, freedom of trade and aid dependence in specific Palestinian territories. The authors highlight that Israel's high expenditure on defense also exerts pressure on its economy, while instability in the region negatively affects trade, tourism and investor confidence, with effects on global energy and mineral supply chains. They suggest that economic strategies such as corporate investments in infrastructure, renewable energies and development support to Palestinians could create stability. The study concludes with emphasizing the importance of diverse supply chains, collaborative regional projects, and involvement by global stakeholders to overcome intertwined economic and political challenges of the conflict for long-term peace.

Enodien et al. (2024) traces the effects of the conflict between Israel and Palestine in the Middle East in terms of how this conflict affects the stability of the region in terms of humanitarian and infrastructural consequences of severe. Based on Hans Morgenthau's realist theory, the research is based on secondary data sources, including books, journals, and articles, to examine how the conflict has led to extensive casualties, displacement, and destruction of important infrastructure, such as hospitals and schools. The conflict also has aggravated the refugee crisis in neighboring countries. The paper identifies Iran's strong role in the continuance of the conflict by ongoing support for Hamas which has escalated hostilities with Israel. (Enodien et al.2024) conclude that, although proscribing terrorist organizations is

needed, it is not sufficient alone; international and regional actors should double down to undertake comprehensive efforts in combating terrorism in the bid to promote regional stability and to protect humanitarian interests. This view highlights the role that external factors, such as Iran, can play in complicating efforts to reach a peace settlement and increase instability in the region.

### **Iran's Support for Palestinian Groups**

The ideological and strategic foreign policy of Iran in the Middle East is based on support of Palestinian groups, Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), in particular. Having its base on the post 1979 revolutionary ideology, Tehran has continually established itself as the source of Islamic resistance to western imperialism and Zionism. The form of this ideological fiction is to introduce the Palestinian conflict as not only a political and humanitarian problem but also as a religious and moral duty of the Islamic Republic. The statement of the late Ayatollah Khomeini that implied that Israel should be eliminated off the pages of history planted a ground-breaking faith that it is a religious obligation and a political requirement to support the Palestinian cause (Esfandiary & Tabatabai, 2015). This belief has become a reality through the tangible services over the years, Iran, having become one of the greatest state sponsors of Palestinian militant groups.

Ideologically, Iran is a usurpation of Islamic territories especially Jerusalem (Al-Quds) which is of great religious value among the Shia Islamic religion. The leaders of Iran often use the Islamic solidarity and pan-Islamism in their speeches, requesting Muslims to counter Islam occupation by the Israeli occupation across the world (Ehteshami & Zweiri, 2020). The story does not only attract local readership but also that of wider Arab and Muslim communities allowing Iran to establish itself as ahead of the so-called Axis of Resistance against Israel and the West. Iran strengthens its revolutionary identity by contributing to the Palestinian groups and its interventions in the region are eastward on the cause of Islamic unity and anti-Zionism.

Nonetheless, the ideological commitment per se cannot be fully used to explain why Iran has given long standing and wide-ranged aid to Palestinian factions. Motivations of strategy are equally, indeed, more important. Iran supports the activities of Hamas as well as PIJ, which enables it to exert its influence into the Levant and oppose Israeli and American interests without going to open war. Simply put, Islamic Iran relies on Palestinian organizations as proxies to wage an asymmetric war against the Israeli enemy that has superior military equipment (Byman, 2021). This allows Iran to have a consistent point of pressure on the borders of Israel especially in Gaza and an ability to save face and avoid an actual war.

The funding, weaponry, and logistical supply to Palestinian groups is what Iran has been widely known to support. U.S and Israeli intelligence estimates indicate that Iran has been funding Hamas about one hundred million to seven hundred million dollars every year among other items trainers and technical skills (Levitt, 2020). Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and more specifically the elite Quds Force is at the center in organizing this support. Palestinian organizations have

also been reportedly assisted by Iranian engineers and military advisors in enhancing the range, accuracy and lethality of their rockets. In addition, they have exchanged the technologies that were employed to construct the tunnels and allowed militants to avoid the attention of Israeli military and weapons to perform cross-border operations (Katz, 2021).

Direct and consistent protection is given to Palestinian Islamic Jihad which has much closer ideological relations with Iran than Hamas. PIJ does not acknowledge political powers of Palestinian authority and Hamas but rather is more so connected with the image of armed resistance that Iran has, as the main ally. Financial support, weapons shipment and strategic planning have allowed PIJ to have a good military presence in Gaza, although it is comparatively small (Al-Jazeera, 2021). The fact that Iran has aligned its ideology with PIJ also makes it stronger in the Palestinian front and therefore, where Hamas might be inclined to find political pragmatism or negotiation.

This support has been physically felt to influence the Israel-Palestine conflict. An illustrative case in point is the Gaza War in 2014 and the most recent one in 2021, during which Hamas and PIJ fired thousands of rockets into Israeli soil, most of which were more highly sophisticated in their operations, and exhibited more powerful explosives. Iron Dome defense system was ineffective, despite being effective, to counter the sheer number of projectiles. The Israeli retaliation attacks, frequently directed at populated cities in Gaza, caused massive civilian deaths, exacerbating humanitarian emergencies and triggering international criticism (Berti, 2022). This is due to the fact that Iran has been able to influence the direction and nature of the conflict by providing the instruments and skills to conduct such operations, even at a distance.

Iranian support has many consequences. On the one hand, it enables Palestinian organizations to fight against occupation and have the same military balance in asymmetric war. On the contrary, it contributes to a never-ending spiral of violence that discredits any diplomatics, sympathizes the moderate Palestinian groups and intensifies the instability in the region. So long as Palestinian militancy is kept alive by the support of external parties, especially a major player such as Iran, there is little reason to encourage factions to pursue long-term peace programs and political accommodation (Watkins, 2020). Moreover, the Iranian participation provides Israel with the rationale to increase the military activities that can be justified by indications of preemptive or defensive acts against the aggression of Iran.

The influence of Iran is also extended into the domestic politics of Palestinian groups. The relationship between Hamas and Iran had also been fluctuating, especially in the Syrian Civil War because Hamas had dissociated itself with the Assad regimes which have been a close Iranian ally. Nevertheless, in recent years, the alliance has been generally revived under the impact of purely practical factors, in particular, the more they are enemies and their strategic interests coincide (Nader et al., 2015). This politicking shows just how complicated the role of Iran has become as not only the sponsor but also the mediator of intra-Palestinian politics, tendencies

that tend to direct the actions of the groups based on its overall regional approach.

In addition to this, Iran support acts as the inverse to the increasing normalization between Israel and some Arab states. Isolation of Palestinian groups has rendered the Palestinian groups diplomatically isolated with countries such as the UAE, Bahrain and Morocco putting economic and strategic relationships with Israel ahead, rather than Palestinian unity. Here, Iran is posed as the sole surviving regional force that is resolved to military resistance and liberation of Palestine that in turn strengthens its brand as the anti-normalization group leader (Lynch, 2021).

To conclude, the backing by Iran to Palestinian groups is a major aspect of Iranian regional policy, as well as the ideology. With financial and material assistance, armament and tactical advice, Iran has somehow added extensive capacity to the functioning of Hamas and PIJ. Although this aid is in line with the vision of Tehran on regional opposition, it also contributes to an explosion of the security situation, with frequent geometries, humanitarian emergencies, and waning peace-making, peace prospects. To gain a thorough understanding of the Israel Palestine conflict and the security architecture in the Middle East, it is important to understand this aspect of the role of Iran.

### **Military Proxy Wars and Military Support**

The fact that Iran supports Palestinian organizations militarily is just one among a much larger and centuries old policy of Met a proxy warfare doctrine, which Tehran has honed decades revolving around the Middle East to exert power and gain interests. This approach helps Iran to act indirectly against its enemies like Israel, the United States and Saudi Arabia at a minimum risk of direct military conflict. This empowerment of ideologically likeminded non-state agendas such as Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), and Hezbollah achieves not only the strength of its revolutionary ideals of the ideologies of resistance, but also generates a multi-faceted security problem to their enemies. It is a model of proxy warfare that has been highly organized by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and its Quds Force and has reorganized the balance of power in the region and anchored the conflictual dynamics that are more challenging to settle (Nader et al., 2015).

The Quds Force which is an elite Iranian IRGC that carries external activities is central to the operationalization of the Iranian military doctrine in the Levant. It manages the delivery of arms, organizes training camps, offers technical knowhow and structures infrastructure support around proxy groups. In this case of the conflict between Israel and Palestine, the Quds force agents have developed important supply lines between Iran and the Gaza Strip by mainly using the smuggling routes to Sudan, Sinai Peninsula in Egypt and the Mediterranean Sea. Blockade and international observations have interfered with these routes, but Iran has found a way around such limits through secret sea shipments, drones, and undercover agents (Levitt, 2020). Such activities have enabled organizations such as the Hamas and PIJ to sustain and develop their armories especially in relation to the rockets technologies, anti-tank missiles as well as surveillance systems.

Iran is also using the Hezbollah in Lebanon as a great example of its working proxy model. Hezbollah is a complex political unit and a well-elaborated paramilitary organization. Hezbollah has trained and funded itself over time since the 1980s making it have an arsenal that rivals that of certain national armies, such as precision-guided missiles and advanced drone capabilities (International Crisis Group, 2021). The value of such proxies was demonstrated during the war with Israel in 2006, when Hezbollah caused much damage to the Israeli forces and even the conventional military strength of Israel was not enough to conduct ground operations. Tehran views Hezbollah as the keystone of its deterrence campaign; its presence in the Israeli borders to the north is a constant menace which can participate in large scale war whenever Iran chooses.

This proxy architecture extends beyond Lebanon and Palestine. In Syria, Iran-backed militias such as Liwa Fatemi Youn and Harakat Hezbollah al-Nujaba have played a key role in propping up the Assad regime, securing supply routes, and establishing a land corridor from Tehran to the Mediterranean via Iraq and Syria. This “Shia Crescent,” as it is sometimes called, offers Iran strategic depth and logistical continuity for supporting Palestinian and Lebanese proxies (Ehteshami & Zweiri, 2020). The integration of Palestinian groups into this broader proxy network ensures that the Israel-Palestine conflict cannot be isolated from wider regional tensions. Indeed, every escalation in Gaza has the potential to spark multi-front engagements involving Lebanon, Syria, and even Iraq.

The impact of Iranian military support on the Israel-Palestine conflict is substantial. It has enabled non-state actors in Gaza to evolve from lightly armed militias into well-organized paramilitary groups with regional reach. During the 2021 Gaza conflict, Hamas and PIJ fired over 4,000 rockets into Israeli territory, some of which targeted areas as far as Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. These rockets were more accurate and powerful than in previous conflicts, suggesting significant technological upgrades likely facilitated by Iranian assistance (Katz, 2021). Moreover, Iran has reportedly helped establish domestic production capacities in Gaza, allowing these groups to manufacture rockets, mortars, and drones independently, reducing reliance on smuggling networks (Levitt, 2020).

Such advances have transformed the nature of warfare in the region. Israel is now forced to contend with a high volume of rocket attacks from multiple directions, often in coordination with threats from Lebanon and Syria. The Iron Dome missile defense system, while effective, cannot fully neutralize these large-scale barrages, particularly when confronted with saturation tactics designed to overwhelm its capabilities. Iran’s strategy thus seeks not only to support the Palestinian cause but also to stretch Israeli defense resources and expose vulnerabilities (Byman, 2021). This persistent threat hampers Israeli strategic flexibility and compels significant military expenditure and readiness along multiple borders.

However, the repercussions of Iran’s proxy engagements are not limited to Israel. Regional Arab states many of which have historic rivalries with Iran view its military entrenchment with deep suspicion. Countries like Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and

the UAE fear that Iran's backing of armed non-state actors threatens their own national security and political stability. In response, these states have intensified their military collaborations with the West and pursued normalization with Israel, most notably through the Abraham Accords (Lynch, 2021). The presence of Iranian proxies also fuels Sunni-Shia sectarianism, particularly in countries with fragile governance structures like Iraq, Lebanon, and Yemen. Thus, Iran's military support for Palestinian groups reverberates across the Middle East, contributing to broader geopolitical fragmentation and polarization.

Moreover, institutionalization of proxy warfare makes the diplomatic efforts difficult. It is now a fact that any negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians have to take into account the interests of Iran and the separate agendas of its proxies. That results in a multi-layered conflict dynamic with ceasefires being more likely to be brittle and any perceived provocation, i.e., Israeli activities in Jerusalem or Iranian reactions to sanctions can lead to an escalation in multiple fronts. Also, the further that Iran focuses its proxy warfare toward cyber operation and intelligence warfare, the more the boundaries between conventional and unconventional conflict are erased, which increases the probability that it will unexpectedly escalate (Zetter, 2020).

Critics would contend that the use of proxies by Iran increases the duration of conflicts besides compromising the state sovereignty and international standards. Through the empowerment of armed non-state actors, Tehran is involved in the decline of the central state's authority especially in Palestine where the Hamas and the PIJ are autonomous of the Palestinian Authority. This compromised political cohesion and reduced the chances of a cohesive Palestinian negotiation agenda in peace activities. The use of militant strategies, which the Iranians have been financing and enabling, also makes more violent Israeli interventions, and punitive measures by the international community, usually at the expense of the civilian community in Gaza (Berti, 2022).

Finally, the military assistance and the proxy war approach of Iran can be viewed as one of the staples of the Iranian contribution in the Israel-Palestine conflict. Such a strategy enables Tehran to build considerable impact on the direction of the conflict, destabilize its enemies, and advance its revolutionary agenda without having to engage them in a military conflict. Although this model is effective in strategic terms, it has dire effects of creating both regional stability, prospects of peace, and humanitarian results. The significance of understanding the proxy infrastructure in Iran will therefore not play down in any serious consideration towards an effort to resolve the continuity of cycles of violence in the Middle East and shape a sustainable future towards a peaceful state.

#### **Nuclear Program and Regional Security.**

The nuclear program of Iran is one of the most dangerous and controversial aspects of its foreign policy that has long-term consequences on the security of the region and the world in general and in this case the Israel Palestine conflict. Even though Tehran adamantly denies that it is engaged in nuclear weaponry based on its

assertions that nuclear weapons are used to generate energy and do medical research, skepticism of the entire process prevails among the regional and Western powers. These suspicions are based on the Iranian efforts to keep secret nuclear facilities in past, to enrich uranium in excess of its civilian needs, and the hostile rhetoric of the regime towards Israel. As a likely consequence of the nuclearization of Iran, the security concerns of the region are increasing, especially in Tel Aviv, and adding additional layers of interest to an already unstable security situation in the Middle East (Kaye, 2021).

The Iranian nuclear problem does not occur in a vacuum but it is part of an even greater security issue of Israel, the Arab world and the western community. This is especially the case with Iran and its perceived threat of acquiring nuclear weapons by Russia, a potential danger to the existence of Israel. This has been the policy of preemptive defense against nuclear proliferation in hostile nations dating back to the early 1990s as it has been seen with past airstrikes against nuclear-based plants in Iraq (1981) and Syria (2007) as maintained by Israeli policymakers and military figures (Byman, 2021). The nuclear developments in Iran have hence precipitated Israel into a more agitating stance which involves sabotage, cyber, and the application of military attacks in Iranian bases. The developments contribute to the tension in the region, and the possibility of diplomatic bargaining or maneuvering is lessened.

These anxieties were meant to be allayed by negotiating the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), wherein Iran was set to substantially limit its activity in the realms of the nuclear program in order to have its sanctions lifted by the P5+ 1 country (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Germany). In the accord, Iran committed not to exceed its enriched uranium level by 3.67 percent, decrease its quantity of enriched uranium and allow the inspections to be conducted by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) (BBC News, 2021). The JCPOA based on a diplomatic win was celebrated as a time, which diminished the imminent danger of a nuclear Iran and established the conduits to a wider engagement.

Nevertheless, the unilateral exit of the Trump administration in the JCPOA in 2018 and the maximum pressure campaign rekindled the tension. Iran continued to reduce its cooperation with the agreement in response to renewed sanctions, restarting to enrich uranium more and limiting the inspection of the IAEA. Up until 2023, it is reported that Iran has enriched uranium to 60 percent, more than 60 times the amount allowed by the JCPOA, but only a few degrees off becoming a weapon (Edelman and Takeyh, 2021). These advancements have become a source of Israeli anxiety, and have put the region on the brink of armed conflict. Israeli leaders have publicly expressed their willingness to go unilateral to ensure that Iran does not get its hands on nuclear weapons, without the consent of the international community (Kaye, 2021).

The effects of the Iranian nuclear program have both the direct and indirect links to the Israel-Palestine conflict. To begin with, the perceived nuclear umbrella empowers Iranian-supported parties like Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad. With

the awareness of their patron having nuclear capabilities or being near to getting such capabilities, these groups will be more aggressive in their actions as they think that they will have better strategic advantage or deterrence. The deterrent effect of Iran may change the strategic decision of all parties concerned and may result in Israel being even more hesitant to retaliate, or it may be more prone to preemptive retaliation to avoid that changes the balance of power (Ehteshami and Zweiri, 2020).

Second, the nuclear problem is a contributing factor on the larger security dilemma of the region. In case Iran succeeded in developing nuclear weapons successfully, it will unleash a nuclear arms race in the Middle East. Saudi Arabia has already provided indications of nuclear ambitions in case Iran reaches such an area of advancement, and other Gulf states may do so as well. Such proliferation would completely change the security landscape in the region, raise the possibility of nuclear escalation, and decrease the violability of non-proliferation treaties, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) (Byman, 2021). The resultant insecurity would carry across into other conflicts such as the Israel-Palestine problem which would be even worse in the event of nuclear deterrence and strategic ambiguity.

Besides, the risk of miscalculation is also considerably increased in a nuclearized or near-nuclear area. False alarm or misunderstood military action or even unintentional conflict may culminate into the actual combative war in the region. There is no guarantee that nuclear capabilities will deter conflict, on the contrary, it can make the conventional interactions more high stakes, and challenging to de-escalate. Groups such as Hamas or Hezbollah would be more aggressive in this kind of environment since they consider that the dread of war in the region would prevent Israel to take decisive action against them. Alternatively, the Israelis may be under pressure to launch preemptive attacks to destroy the perceived threats even before the nuclear window lapses (Edelman and Takeyh, 2021).

The diplomacy is also complicated by the nuclear problem. Any move towards peace between Israel and Palestine must now be accompanied by similar move regarding Iranian nuclear issue. The two issues are intertwined to allow Iran to be a spoiler, through its ability to meddle with Palestinian groups using its influence to disrupt the negotiations especially when it feels sidelined or threatened by the developments in the region like the Abraham Accords (Lynch, 2021). By doing this, the nuclear stalemate does not just impact on the open enmity between countries such as Israel and Iran but also jeopardizes the stability and collaboration of the region on the whole.

Inquire of international security, the Iranian nuclear ambition has been an issue of challenge to the world norms and institutions. The continued breach of the terms in the JCPOA, the creation of ballistic missile weapons, and the unwillingness of Iran to cooperate with IAEA inspectors in their fullness has become a serious concern of international actors. The inability to successfully treat the Iranian nuclear problem would undermine the confidence of the world in the multilateral agreements and encourage other nations to develop similar capacities with the citation of the

Iranian government as an example (Kaye, 2021).

What is left to note is that Iran nuclear program has a serious impact upon the Middle East security establishment, and there are far reaching consequences of Israeli-Palestine relations. Although Tehran claims that its intentions are peaceful, its actions and speeches are still creating cause for alarm in the region. The possibility of an Iran which is nuclear empowered will embolden its proxies, spark off a regional arms race and cause increased militarization of all parties. The effects of such developments are a threat to the prospects of peace, a high probability of miscalculation, and a culture of sustained instability. The Iranian nuclear ambitions should hence be at the center of any overall plan that should be undertaken in order to resolve the Israel-Palestine conflict and achieve long-term regional security.

### **Cyber Warfare and Intelligence Operations.**

Alongside the traditional and proxy military policies, Iran has over time depended on the cyber warfare and intelligence missions as part of the multidimensional involvement in the Israel-Palestine conflict. These asymmetric weapons enable Iran to have an influence, gather intelligence, sabotage, and project power over its power considerably broader than its physical borders all with no direct cost of warfare. With the dynamic stage of digital technology, the ability of Iran to cause harm, affect systems, and obtain essential intelligence in the cyberspace has become the unavoidable part of the regional strategy. Not only does this cyber aspect make the security calculations in Israel more challenging; it also shifts the face of the contemporary warfare and extends the combat field between Israel and Palestine into the virtual space (Zetter, 2020).

The organization of Iranian cyber activity is mainly organized by the influence of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and the others with it, such as the so-called Iranian Cyber Army. The units have been reported to have been engaged in many cyber campaigns against Israeli critical infrastructure, Israeli financial institutions, Israeli communication networks, and even Israeli non-defense services. The approach taken by Iran is offensive and defensive cyber, that is, stealing sensitive data, introducing malware and disrupting services. In a famous instance, Iranian hackers tried to poison Israeli water supplies by influencing the control systems of wastewater treatment plants an action with the potential to cause disastrous humanitarian effects in case of success (Sanger, 2021).

The cyber war is not bi-lateral. The highly sophisticated capabilities of the unit knowledgeable with the most advanced cyber warfare Israel, having one of the best, the Unit 8200, has carried out a series of counteroffensive operations and espionage missions against Iran. The Stuxnet attack, largely believed to have been an Israeli-U.S. collaboration effort, which caused major disturbance to the uranium enrichment program in Iran in 2010 by destroying centrifuges at the Natanz nuclear plant deserves mention among the most prominent of such (Sanger, 2012). It was the first publicly noted instance of using a cyber weapon to physically destroy the infrastructure of a sovereign state and established a precedent of using cyber instruments in the current geopolitical context.

Newer incidences are indicative of the tit-for-tat character of cyber warfare in the case between Iran and Israel. In 2020, a group of Iranian-based hackers attacked Israeli railways, exchanges, and election office voter registration database. In retaliation, Israeli cyber warriors were said to have targeted the Shahid Rajaei port in Iran, thus resulting in major delays and havoc on the operational spoilage (Zetter, 2020). These attacks show that cyber warfare allows Iran and Israel to operate in incessant, but low-intensity conflict, without the use of the conventional barriers of war. Nevertheless, they result in escalation, particularly when the damage to life or property is actual in case of the attack.

There are a number of strategic benefits of cyber warfare to Iran. To start with, it can help Iran to counter its relative military disadvantages with Israel. Whereas, Israel has a modern and technologically enhanced military, the conventional forces of Iran are smaller. The cyber capabilities will offer an inexpensive way of Iran balancing the field of play and to exert influence in an asymmetric manner (Byman, 2021). Secondly, plausible deniability is possible through cyberattacks. Contrary to kinetic military actions where footprint is left behind, Cyber-attacks may be hard to officially credit preventing Iran to face the wrath of international community or retaliatory actions and at the same time accomplish its missions.

Thirdly, the cyber instruments enable Iran to provide direct assistance to its Palestinian friends. Iranian hackers are also reported to offer intelligence gathering services to Hamas and PIJ such as intelligence gathering services on Israeli military operations, civilian affairs as well as political institutions. In addition, it is possible to discuss the incidences of digital collaboration, such as mutual phishing attacks targeting Israeli defense officials, whose objective is to steal valuable information which may be used to carry out future attacks (Mansour, 2022). This cyber symbiosis empowers the performance of proxies operated by Iran and allows more coordinated attacks against Israel.

Other than cyber warfare, the other strength of Iran participation in the conflict is its intelligence operations. The Quds Force of the IRGC and the Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS) have vast systems of informants and undercover agents throughout the Middle East, in Gaza and the West Bank, Lebanon, and Syria. They are relevant in the strategic planning, smuggling of weapons and manipulation of politics. It is attributed to the intelligence services of Iran that were able to facilitate the creation of secret communication systems and command structures that enable Palestinian militant groups to conduct their operations despite being constantly monitored and pressured by Israeli forces (Levitt, 2020).

This shadow war also uses targeted assassinations, sabotage attacks and spying activities. The assassination of an Iranian nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhri-zadeh in 2020 He popularly believes that it occurred under the direction of the Israeli intelligence, which marked a vital intensification of the undetected rivalry between the two powers (BBC News, 2020). On the same note, the assassination of both the top-level IRGC officials in Syria and Iraqi often drone strikes or in the role of air raids demonstrates the extent of intelligence work that Israel does to hamper the Iranian

influence networks. These operations are not only deterring the functioning of Iran but also act as a certain strategy, which sends feedback of the readiness and ability of Israel to operate unilaterally.

Nevertheless, there is dangerousness in intelligence operations. Although cyber and intelligence warfare do not cause the short-term loss of life such as the one experienced with a conventional war, there is a level of contributing to the culture of paranoia, suspicion, and ongoing tension. Transparency and attributional uncertainties are ambiguous situations that provide incentives to retaliate due to an alleged threat or circumstances, and this increases the probability of making miscalculations and unintentional escalation (Zetter, 2020). Moreover, all these operations may lead to severe humanitarian implications. Civilian infrastructures including hospitals, utilities, and communication system are a common civilian victim of cyber-attacks, and in those cases, vulnerable groups tend to be more impacted and worsen the state of the people who are already suffering due to military conflicts.

The global legal system on cyber warfare is still in its infancy and hence it is even harder to institute norms and accountability. Currently this does not apply to cyber operations, unlike the traditional warfare that is often not governed by well-laid rules of engagement and in the case of cyberspace there is no clear consensus on the definition of a use of force. This legal grayness makes Iran and other state actors use loopholes and act in a gray zone which erosion of international peace and security (Byman, 2021).

The cyber and intelligence services of Iran in the case of the Israel and Palestine conflict will be a vital continuation of the strategy of the country. These weapons enhance the power of the allied camps, enable Tehran to exert influence outside the nation and establish the new lines of the war that will not depend on a physical geographic location. However, they also increase the threshold of the local confrontations and are major threats to conflict resolution, diplomacy, and civilian protection.

To summarize, Iran is getting more dependent on cyber warfare and intelligence activity, which is an indicator in the behavior of modern warfare. These asymmetric means provide Tehran with a strategic advantage, yet have a risk of further destabilization of the region and triggering a head-on collision with Israel and other enemies. As the digital battlefield turns more central to the art of war that Iran has been employing, it is necessary to have insights into its cyber capabilities and intelligence tactics to come up with comprehensive security reactions and develop resilient systems, able to withstand the dynamic nature of the war in the 21 st century.

### **Regional Instability and Security Repercussions**

The long-standing engagement of Iran in the Israel-Palestine war by ideological backing, proxy warfare, weapons shipments, cyberwarfare and espionage intelligence missions has far reaching implications not only to Israel and Palestine, but also to the Middle East as a whole. Its action has increased the instability of the region, spawned the shifting of security alliances, sectarianism, and escalation of the possibilities of a wider military conflict. Although its aim is to fight against Israeli

aggression and liberate Palestinians, the actions of the Iranian have led to a multifaceted regional security structure of suspicion, militarization, and proxy war (Kaye et al., 2011).

The regional proxy war system is one of the greatest effects of the involvement of Iran. Iran has been able to exercise indirect influence on Israel and the U.S. allies without fighting directly through its support of Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) in Gaza, and other Shia militias in Iraq and Syria. But these non-state actors have also become independent sources of power and tend to have their own interests and take up activities that contribute to escalation of tensions in the regions. The example of the Hezbollah position on the 2006 Lebanon War and the repeated rocket attacks by Hamas in Gaza demonstrates the ability of Iran-oriented proxies to initiate full-scale conflicts with serious humanitarian and security implications (Levitt, 2013).

The Sunni-Shia conflict has also been exacerbated by the Iranian regional policy especially in Lebanon, Iraq, Yemen and Bahrain. Iran has also attracted opposition by the Sunni dominant states, such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Egypt, by fostering the identity politics of Shia and encouraging Shia militia. This has done sectarian conflicts that have spilt into civil wars and insurgencies as witnessed in Syria and Yemen. These wars usually have a dual nature of local disputes of power combined with larger geopolitical disputes between Iran and its Sunni opponents (Nasr, 2006). In Yemen, to give an example, the support of the Houthi by Iran has become a fully-fledged proxy war against Saudi Arabia involving the United States and putting at risk major shipping routes in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden (Salisbury, 2017).

Another security development, which was informed by the perception of Iran as a threat to the region, is the normalization of the relations between Israel and multiple Arab states through the Abraham Accords (2020). The UAE, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan are all drawing nearer to Israel, partially because of the strategic counter to the increasing influence of Iran. These alliances are indicative of a major change in the Middle Eastern geopolitics, as the old hostility towards Israel is being reevaluated amid a similarity of interest in the threat of Iranian expansionism and its destabilizing regional policies (Guzansky&Marshall, 2020). Iran considers these agreements something that betrays the Palestinian cause and dangerously consolidates the U.S.-Israeli hegemony in the region, which makes Tehran take a more aggressive position.

These have resulted in an escalation of security dilemma in the region. Increasing influence and military presence in Syria besides Iraq and Lebanon have led Iran to a more aggressive military policy, called by Israel the campaign between wars (mabam). This doctrine implies the regular airstrikes of the Iranian supply of weapons, bases of the militia and infrastructure in Syria and Lebanon to avoid the creation of a new Iranian front to Israel. Such attacks have killed many IRGC members and Hezbollah fighters, and have in some cases threatened to spiral into an open war especially when Israeli activities lead to the death of civilians or when

Russian or Syrian planes are downed (Mansour, 2021).

Furthermore, the intervention of Iran has made international diplomacy in solving the Israel-Palestine conflict difficult. Iran has so far compromised more moderate peace strategies championed by the Palestinian Authority, Jordan and Egypt by posing itself as a fervent opponent of Israel and arming the resistance. The current intra-Palestinian conflict between Fatah and Hamas is partly because of the differences in their allegiance as Fatah relies on the negotiating methods and the international diplomacy and Hamas tends towards the Iranian model of resistance. This internal division undermines the Palestinian cause in the international arena and frustrates the processes of establishing the united front in negotiations (Khaled, 2020).

Meanwhile, the aggressive stance of Iran has put the risk of wider regional war at the same time. An example of this is the possibility of a new war involving Israel and Hezbollah equipped with more than 150,000 rockets' that may pull Lebanon, Syria, and possibly even Iran itself into the direct warfare. On the same note, in case Iran responded an earringly to Israeli or U.S attack on its territory or even nuclear plants, the resultant escalation would touch on Gulf countries, U.S military bases and the global energy markets. The assassination of the IRGC commander Qassem Soleimani in January 2020 by a U.S. drone strike was another illustration of how specific incidents can almost trigger an all-out war in the region (BBC News, 2020).

The other consequence is the humanitarian cost of regional ambition of Iran. Although Iran tends to justify its involvement as being in favor of suppressed people, it has contributed to the increased wars, displacement of millions of people, and even the misery of civilians. The support that Iran has shown to the Assad regime has enabled it to outlive the ruthless civil war in the country but at the prize of more than half a million deaths and devastation. In Gaza, even as Iranian assistance makes Hamas militarily strong, the same action attracts devastating Israeli retaliatory attacks that contribute to humanitarian crises (Zelin, 2020).

The role of Iran has also attracted increased interest of the world powers especially the United States and Russia. The U.S. has had a robust military base in the region to deter Iran and defend its allies whereas Russia has established a tactical alliance with Iran in Syria. This overlap of local, regional, and global antagonisms unnecessary to mention that the Middle East has become one of the most unstable regions in the world, in which any localized conflict may turn into an international one (Borshchevskaya, 2019).

To sum up, the multiplex nature of Iranian intervention in the Israel-Palestine conflict has created a number of regional ripple effects. It is a source of aggravated sectarian divisions, proxy wars, new alliances, and militarization. Although Iran considers itself as a giver of the oppressed and a foe of the Israeli aggression, its policies have also perpetuated violence cycle, sabotaged peace processes, and promoted a high level of instability. Knowledge about the security consequences of Iranian actions is critical in evaluating its contribution to the conflict as well as in designing policies that enhance the process of de-escalation, regional cooperation and long-lasting peace.

## **Policy Implications and Recommendations on a Global Scale**

The impacts of the Iran intervention in the Israel-Palestine tussle have far-reaching effects outside the Middle East, affecting relationships in diplomacy, security stances, energy systems and international law. The effects are being felt in the multilateral institutions, the superpower rivalry, and movements of refugees, and even in counterterrorism in the course of Iran as it seeks to achieve its ideological and strategic goals. Such international dimensions require well-measured responses of the international community and policy interventions to reduce instability and seek peace.

A significant implication internationally is the instability of international norms on state sovereignty and the force. The extraterritorial activities of Iran such as armament and funding of non-state actors such as Hezbollah, Hamas and other Iraqi and Yemeni militias are a threat to the post-World War two international order which is based on the Westphalian principle of non-intervention. Through allowing such groups to exercise a lot of independence and ability to engage in violence, Iran fosters the decline of state monopoly of the use of force, particularly in weak states (Byman, 2020). This provides an example that can be followed by other revisionist powers and the world will become highly susceptible to asymmetric and hybrid conflicts.

The activities of Iran also have attracted the attention and interest of the world powers but more specifically the United States, Russia and China. The United States is longtime supporter of Israel diplomatically, financially and militarily. Its resistance to the Iranian influence in the region has been converted into the maximum pressure program of sanctions and military placements, which have altered the priorities of the U.S. foreign policy and military budgets (Fulton, 2020). Meanwhile Russia and China have taken less strident positions. Russia sees Iran as an ally in Syria and an effective offset to U.S. influence whereas China wants things to remain reliable in the region to keep its Belt and Road investments as well as energy sources. Accordingly, the Iran-mediated conflict between Israel and Palestine is a proxy battle of great powers, especially in the larger U.S.-China rivalry (Fulton&Leone, 2021).

Energy security is another important issue of global concern. The effects of Iranian regional instability especially its power in the Strait of Hormuz through which approximately 20 percent of global oil flows presents a strategic threat to the global energy markets (Cordesman, 2020). Threats made by Iran periodically to close or strike oil tankers, particularly when tensions are high with the U.S. or Israel, cause oil prices in the world market to spike and commercial shipping insurance rates to go high. These upheavals do not only impact on the oil-importing nations, but they also affect the rest of the world economy, especially in the energy-reliant areas like Europe and East Asia.

The policy of Iran and proxy interactions are also considered one of the factors of global refugees and migration movements. In Syria, Iraq and Yemen where Iran has a great interest, it has displaced millions. It is not the Iranian that is the sole source of these crises, but its military and financial assistance to regimes and militia that

engage in long term warfare has led to increasing the consequences and length of the war. The ensuing refugee flows have led to the massive strain on the existing political and social institutions in Europe, the rise in nationalism, and the difficulty in regional security cooperation (Haas, 2018).

Moreover, the actions of Iran influence counterterrorism in the world. Although Iran has been a victim of Sunni extremism such as the ISIS, its alliance with the groups that are classified as terrorist organizations by the U.S and the EU such as the Hezbollah and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, makes it difficult to work with the international community to combat terrorism. These are usually transnational groups that indulge in arms smuggling, money laundering and cyber warfare. This is the implication of their deep-rooted presence in the warring regions; it creates confusion between resistance and terrorism, impeding global agreement and making implementation strategies difficult (Levitt, 2013).

Iran has created rifts even among major international institutions on the diplomatic front. U.S and Europe have been attacking Iran in the United Nations with efforts to censure Iran often being blocked by Russia and China, derailing any multilateral agreement or investigation. The Iran nuclear deal (JCPOA) is one such example of these tensions. Its failure following the U.S. withdrawal in 2018 and the subsequent breaches of enrichment limits by Iran have increased world worries about the spread of nukes. The Israel-Palestine war, which Iran has been critical in, only exacerbates these fears, especially when it is seen that Iran is expanding its influence in the region, and Israel feels that its existence is at risk, meaning that it must take military action before it is too late (Kaye, 2021).

Considering such extensive implications, there are a number of policy suggestions that need to be made in order to deal with the role of Iran in the conflict and to enhance stability in the world:

- Reform Multilateral Diplomacy by the JCPOA Framework: It is important to revive and expand the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Although the nuclear problem is different as compared to the Israel-Palestine conflict, the overall regional aspirations of Iran are put into consideration by the economic stability and internationalization. A new understanding, potentially in connection with the regional de-escalation mechanisms may open diplomatic avenues toward resolving the issue of Iran assisting non-state actors (Kaye, 2021).
- Empower UN Mediation and UN Peacekeeping Process: The United Nations needs to enhance its role in mediating the Israeli-Palestine conflict by adding more contact group members beyond Israel and Palestine, to include Iran, Egypt, Jordan, and Turkey. An attempt would be to engage Iran diplomatically, though this may prove difficult to achieve, to decrease its motivation to act on its own or through proxies.
- Sign Regional Security Accords: International players like the EU and UN should encourage Iran to sign regional security agreements with GCC countries, including arms control agreements or non-aggression agreements.

Within such structures, the mutual fear might be addressed and security reassurances that decrease the use of militant proxies might be achieved.

- **Invest in Economic Integration and Civil Society:** Long term stability needs to be based in terms of switching the regional emphasis on military deterrence to economic interdependence and grassroots diplomacy. Education, employment, and civil society networks should be assisted by the international development programs to achieve the reduction in the attractiveness of radical ideologies and build mutual understanding.
- **Supply Humanitarian Assistance through Neutral It** should be a depoliticized humanitarian intervention in Gaza, Syria, and Yemen, based on the increased use of neutral actors such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and UNHCR. The sufferings of the civilians can be mitigated through the coordinated efforts and the political capital that Iran acquires through its aid in the contested regions can be curtailed.
- **Increase Cooperation around Cybersecurity and Counter-Disinformation:** As Iran advances its cyber tactics and media propaganda to influence the perception and tension, NATO and allied democracies must invest in mutual cybersecurity measures and counter-disinformation to secure the opinion of people and the integrity of elections.

Finally, the role of Iran in the Israel-Palestine conflict is passed around the globe in political, economies, and institutions. The solutions to these problems lie beyond military containment it does not need a mixture of diplomacy, development, regional communication, and multilateralism. Although the actions of Iran are very dangerous, it is also a chance to reestablish the international cooperation to avoid further division of the international order.

## CONCLUSION

Israel-Palestine conflict is also one of the most complicated and emotional geopolitical conflicts of the present time with deep historical grievances, religious symbolism, land and territory disputes, and strategic differences. The core of this protracted conflict is the involvement of the outside powers that have influenced the course of the conflict at a deeper level than any other ideologically motivated entity; the Islamic Republic of Iran. This thesis has carefully followed the development of the Iranian role in the Israel-Palestine war and has put it into context of the ideological, strategic, economical, and geopolitical interests of Iran and critically analyzed the regional and global impact of the Iran involvement.

The foreign policies of Iran toward Palestine have deep roots in the ideological principles of the Islamic Revolution in 1979 that re-oriented the foreign policy of the country towards fighting western imperialism and supporting the oppressed Muslim populations, and chief among them, the Palestinians. In this perspective, Iran has established itself as the main state sponsor of the Middle East resistance through supporting the Palestinian armed forces such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad, consolidating the regional forces such as Hezbollah. This rhetoric commitment to

rejecting the occupation of Israel has only gone beyond the sphere of rhetoric and transformed into an organized network of military, financial, political and media assistance, which still continues to influence the situation on the ground.

Tactically, the Iran intervention is twofold because it exerts its influence in Arab world and it is a counterargument to the regional supremacy of Israel and its western partners especially the United States. By doing this, the Palestinian cause has become one of the major components of the asymmetrical warfare conducted by Iran. Encouraging the activities of non-state forces in Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, and others, Iran has built a forward position of defense, which allows it to prevent the actions of Israel and the United States without the need to go to war. Although this has strengthened Iran in the region, it has also brought internationalization of the conflict to a larger scale far beyond Palestinian-Israeli relationships, into a larger proxy war throughout the Middle East.

Iranian military and political coalitions have proven to be very destructive to the stability in the region. Its encouragement of armed resistance movements has fueled the periods of violence in Gaza and Southern Lebanon negating ceasefire and peace operations. In addition, the association of Iran with the Shia militias and its interventionist nature in Syrian, Iraqi and Yemen conflicts have led to the sectarian polarization and geopolitical fragmentation of the region. The war is no longer that between occupier and occupied, but an intricate system of antagonisms between Sunni and Shia governments, pro-Western monarchies, nationalist groups, and radical non-state entities.

Economically, Iran has been supporting Palestinian groups and this has resulted in the imposition of crippling sanctions against Iran by the western nations especially the United States who has accused Tehran of sponsoring terrorism. These sanctions have been used to exclude Iran out of the world markets, undermine its growth, and create a circle of economic misery and inflation. However, ironically, these sanctions have only intensified the determination of the Iranian regime to invest in its proxies' network to consider it as one of the means of strategic deterrence and ideological retaliation. The money spent by Iran on external warfare such as the Israel-Palestine situation has remained regardless of internal dissatisfaction and the mounting pressure by the citizens to reform their economies and liberalize the political landscape. On the global scale, the involvement of Iran in the war between Israel and Palestine has led to the polarization of the international system. The Iranian advocacy of the Palestinian liberation at the United Nations and other multilateral forums has been embraced by most of the Global South nations making it difficult to isolate Tehran diplomatically by the West. At the same time, the direct participation of Iran in the process of equipping and training the groups, which in the eyes of the West, are considered terrorist organizations, has increased the legal and ethical problem of what is acceptable resistance and what is evidence of state-sponsored terrorism. Presence of Iran in the conflict has therefore changed the world discourse on conflict, occupation, and self-determination.

Furthermore, the role of Iran has resulted in the wider security implications with far ranging consequences beyond the Middle East. These are the rise of cyber warfare, disinformation campaigns, proxy wars transnationally, and jeopardization of global energy sources. Firmly established as having taken part in various conflict areas at the same time, Iran has emerged as a key participant in the emerging phenomenon of hybrid warfare, which blends the traditional state conflict with non-state militancy. The outcome is that the conflict environment becomes more intricate, decentralized, and unpredictable with high risks of regional spillovers and global instability. Based on the results, there are a number of conclusions that can be made. First, the role of Iran in the war of Israel and Palestine is not accidental or even reactive, but one of the main staples of the overall vision of geopolitics. Second, Iran has had to pay a very high price to its strategies though successful in challenging the influence of Israel and the West, to the Palestinian people as well as stability in the region. Third, the international community should treat Iran as an important stakeholder in a long-term solution to the conflict instead of trying to marginalize and even isolate it. Neglecting the role of Iran will only add to its story of resistance and continue the war.

Lastly, it is crucial that the world leaders should create a delicate balance: to hold Iran responsible due to the violations of peace, but at the same time, it is also very important to acknowledge its power and collaborate with it through positive diplomacy. A way out to peace can only be imagined through inclusive dialogue, respect to international law as well as a good effort to honestly pursue justice to all including Palestinians. With the Israel Palestine conflict revolving over geopolitical dynamics, Iran will always be a final player. It can be either a source of justice or a cause of turmoil based on the decisions it makes, the reaction of the rest of the international community and the desire of the Palestinian people themselves to take their story back out of the grip of regional power politics.

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