



The Intractability Of The Middle East Crisis: The Israel – Hamas War

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ABSTRACT

This paper discussed the intractability of the Middle East Crisis and the Israeli/Hamas war. The paper traced the existence of the countries of the Arab World, and the Israeli to the two children of Abraham, namely: Isaac, and Ishmael. The paper explored the speculation that could the root cause of the crisis be the angelic prediction concerning the fate of Isaac/Ishmael's descendants. Further questions asked in this paper are: could the angelic prediction be a cosmic spell on the descendants of Abraham? Could the war be a result of a dichotomy in religious philosophy? Could the crisis be traced to the aggressive propensities of some rogue nations? Whatever might be the case, other reasons for the crisis were exhaustively discussed, such as the Sunnis/Shia dichotomy, the aggressive propensities of Iran, being the lone sponsorer of terrorist proxies of Hamas, Hezbollah, and Houthis; the Israeli/Palestinian crisis, the self-immolation of Mohammed Bouaziai of Sidi Bouazid in Tunisia that culminates to the Arab Spring was also ex-rayed, etc. This paper also explored the rise of anti-semitism, most especially Hadolf Hitler's aggressive propensities in the second world war that led to the extermination of the lives of about six million Jews. The historical returns of the Israelites to their ancestry home, the roles of individual like Herzl, and the assistance of the Rothschild family in that regard was also a subject matter of discussion. The paper suggested some roadmaps to achieving sustainable peace in the middle East against the background of the envelope of darkness within which the countries of the Middle East sealed themselves and given the recent violent attack by Hamas on the nation of Israel and the eventual declaration of war on Hamas by the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The paper also discussed the legality or otherwise of the IDF's approach to the war against the background of the rules for the conduct of Hostilities under the International Humanitarian Law.

Keywords: Intractability; Middle East, Crisis, Israel, Hamas, War

1.0 Introduction

War is not a new invention in human history. It is as old as mankind itself. Many authors have written volumes on the concept of war. While some discussed the typologies of war, others ex-rayed the tactics of Guerrilla warfare. Other writers concentrated on either the episodic events of the First World War or the Second World war. Few have also engaged or illuminated the war in the Middle East. Meanwhile, few writings exist on the need for well-articulated roadmaps for the resolution of the Middle East Crisis, and the Israel-Hamas War. Hence, this paper. This paper discussed the theories of war, the causes of the intractable crisis in the Middle East, the events that culminated in the return of the Jews to the promised land, the historical background of those events, the Israel/Arab war, the very recent Hamas attack on Israel that was carried out on the 7th day of October 2023, and the declaration of war by the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the legality or illegality of the means and methods of engagements in the war under the International Humanitarian Law. The paper comprehensively discussed the roadmap to peace on the seemingly intractable war in the Middle East.

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2.1 Literature Review:

Conceptual Framework

Intractability is the negative and very difficult situations that are out of control, complex to manage, or devoid of solutions. The implication is that the problematic situations are incapable of being resolved permanently through a sound decision-making process. This means in a government cycle, the problem is unmanageable and incapable of being subdued.

The beginning of usage of the term Middle East started at the beginning of the 20th century. The common term for the countries of the Middle East was originally Near East. The Middle Eastern countries are Cyprus, Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Omar, and Yemen. Inhabiting part of the Middle East is Palestine, which is yet to be a recognized Independent State. The Middle East countries are quite distinct from the Arab countries. Pointedly, most war situations and crises sometimes affect other Arab nations outside the Middle East, and conversely, most crises in the Arab world also spiral into the countries of the Middle East. To this extent, therefore, the effects of this spill over are subjects of discussion in this paper. The people in the Middle East both by Biblical and Quranic traditions are believed to be children of Abraham through Isaac and Ishmael².

The Arab countries consist of 22 countries in the Middle East and North Africa to wit; Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros Islands, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Omar, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

In the discourse of war, various theories have been presented to explain its preparedness, causes, and its aftermath. Some scholars are of the view that war is a subject of nature.³ While other scholars see it as a function of nurture. The debate on the cause of war has generated heated arguments among scholars in the fields of criminology, psychology, and other related disciplines. The view that causes of war are embedded in the nature of man is insufficient because there exist some non-natural factors which aggravate aggressive or violent behaviour in man which leads to war.⁴ This is clear in Hamas's aggressive propensities in Israel which leads to the present Israeli-Hamas war. Relying on nurture as the main cause of war is also inadequate to explain the causes of war. One basic truth that has emerged is that there are many causes of war which can be explained by both. Nature and Nurture variables.⁵

2.2.1 The Malthusian Theory

Thomas Malthus presented an essentially different approach in the study of the cause of war. This theory focuses on the grand function of war, rather than the origin of war. Another focus of the Malthusian theory is the relationship between human nature and war or violence. The conscious and deliberate motive behind the aggressive behaviour of man is basically to check the growing population which available resources cannot take care of. Malthus wrote that the population will continue to increase until they are limited by war, disease, or famine. Members of this School of Thought opine that the essence of war is to decimate or reduce the rising population such that population outbursts can be prevented to prevent the available resources from being overstretched⁶.

Malthus maintained that violence or war is of greater function, not intentionally articulated by man due to his invisibility but it is deliberately engineered by God to check population outburst. This function of violence or war is cosmic. Warfare remains the plan of God and nature to reduce any population outburst at necessary intervals. Malthus also argues that the situation of war is beyond human intentions, but a grand function designed by God to regulate human population. Though it could not be true that the Israeli-Hamas war is to check the population outburst of the Israelis over the Palestinians, the agenda is to exterminate the Jews from the surface of the earth. However, the Malthusian Theory of War is relevant to the Crises in the Middle East

² Surah 37 details the birth and near sacrifice of Ishmael by Abraham, while Surah 25 speaks to the building of the Kaaba the edifice located in Mecca that represents the absolute centre of the Islamic faith. Ishmael's birth is narrated in verse 101 of Surah 37.

³ Robert Plomin (2018) *Blueprint: How DNA Makes Us Who We Are*, MIT Press and Allen Lane. as one of the leading behavioural geneticists whose groundbreaking work shows how genetic and environmental influences our behaviour and psychological traits.

⁴ Scott Barry Kaufman (2019) 'Beautiful Minds- There is no Nature-Nurture War', January, 18, 2019, Retrieved from <https://blogs.scientificamerican.com>

⁵ Nelson, S (1974) *Nature and Nurture Revisited*, University of Michigan Library, Retrieved from <https://deepblue.lib.umich.edu>

⁶ Thomas Malthus (1798) *Theory on Population Growth* Retrieved on the 12th day of December, 2023. utilized in his book *An Essay on the Principle of Population*, Retrieved from <http://www.investopedia.com>

in general, and the Israeli-Hamas war concerning Malthus's position that war might not be intentionally articulated by man, but rather by cosmic force beyond man.⁷

2.2.2 Historical Theories

This is another macro-level theory of violence, which explains the cause of violence in the context of war. In the historical theories of violence, historians seem to be wary of making any sweeping explanation for all wars. Historical theories like A.J.P. Taylor often see wars as traffic accidents. There are some circumstances or situations that make the occurrence of war more likely but there can be no system for predicting where and when each one will occur.⁸ This theoretical approach is criticized by social scientists basically because political leaders sometimes make careful decisions before adopting a war policy. Clausewitz stresses the need to keep the political leaders informed before adopting a military strategy.⁹ The war might be carefully planned. The Hamas war strategy against Israel was carefully planned and launched on a Saturday which fell on the Jewish Sabbath holiday, entering the Israelite's territories by breaking the defense wall and flying in through paragliders. Also, before the IDF started its war campaign in Gaza, the war cabinet met to adopt comprehensive policies for the annihilation of Hamas, and the destruction of its infrastructure.

2.2.3 Hobbesian Theory of war

In early modern Europe, it was believed that violence or war was inherent in mankind. Meaning that aggression forms part of human nature. The experience of war in civilized states is being an offshoot of the wars of savages. This view is expressed in the Hobbesian theory. This theory is credited to the intellectual artistic of Thomas Hobbes. Thomas Hobbes in his theoretical construction articulated through his social deterministic description that man by his nature is violent, egoistic, and controlled by an *animus dominandi* i.e. intention to exercise control. Hobbes drew his theoretical inspiration from Thucydides. According to Hobbes; *like man, we find three principal causes of quarrels. first, competition, second, diffidence, and third, glory.* Competition makes men invade for gain, diffidence for safety, and glory for reputation. These three passions are responsible for the rivalry among men as each tries to gain a relative advantage over the other which often results in violent hostilities.¹⁰ Two of the Hobbesian indices explain the war in Israel. First, competition over the land, and the need for safety. These two factors are crucial for explaining the catastrophic war between Israel, and Hamas.

The scenario is evident in his state of nature which was a state of war. This theory stresses the importance of violence in the maintenance of peace and security of any state. It is expected of every state to uphold the principle of defensive violence, such that before the enemy carries out its attack, the state should act fast to undermine the threat of military capability of the enemy. It is noteworthy that Israel and Hamas are employing the instrumentality of armed violence to protect their respective enclave. Thus, the theory advocates for the principle of first attack as a security strategy. The relevance of this Hobbesian theory could be seen in the war strategies of both Hamas and the Israeli Defence Forces. Hamas built large expanse of tunnels underneath the Gaza strip to serve as its escape route in its hit-and-run tactic against Israel, while in preparedness the IDF developed the Iron Dome Defense System to capture the barrage of Missiles being hurled from Gaza by Hamas, and Hezbollah from Lebanon. Now the Israeli government is introducing a Laser Beam Defence System with the capability to engage any ballistic missiles in the war of space.

2.2.4 Rousseau Theory

This theory was propounded by J.J. Rousseau. Rousseau contributed to the subject of social contract where he presented an opinion contrary to the one provided by Thomas Hobbes about the prevailing situation on the state of nature.¹¹ According to Rousseau, man could not be said to be naturally violent. The state of nature was peaceful, with no aggression among men. He also claimed that every man went about his or her normal business and social engagements without being harassed physically by another person. The affairs of people were regulated by golden rules and there was peace among men. Meanwhile, violent hostility and warfare erupted in human social intercourse when there was a rise or introduction of (individual) property acquisition and inequality. The rise of property and inequality propelled the situation of war and violence among men against communal philosophy and absolute pacificism that characterized the golden age. Rousseau

⁷The Angelic Prediction Concerning what would be the Character of the Descendants of Ishmael as recorded in the book of Genesis 16: 11, 12 to be uncivilized wildmen must be a cosmic spell.

⁸Taylor, A.J.P. (1961) *The Origins of the Second World War*, Hamish Hamilton, United Kingdom.

⁹Nielsen, S.C. (2001) *Political Control over the Use of Force: A Clausewitzian Perspective, Monograph*. 117. Retrieved from <https://press.armywarcollege.edu> Clausewitz recognized two levels of war, namely, strategic, the well-planned use of battle to achieve military objective; and tactical, which is the act of winning the battle.

¹⁰Hobbes on the State of Nature, Retrieved from <https://carneades.pomona.edu>, notes from class on Thursday, February 1, 2018 for *Political Philosophy* (Philosophy 33)

¹¹Rousseau, Jean-Jacques (1712-1778) (1974) *The Essential Rousseau: The Social Contract Discourse on the Origin of Inequality, Discourse on the Arts and Sciences, The Creed of a Savoyard Priest*. New York; New American Library, (1974).

therefore concluded that violence is not inherent in human nature. Man has only cultivated the habit of violence as a result of the emergence of the modern state. The main factor responsible for man's inhumanity against fellow man is not located in human nature but in human nurture.¹² In concluding this part, it is apt to state that several theories have presented various sources of violence defined by the nature and nurture of man. Both schools of thought have been able to present necessary facts to support their positions, but the basic fact is that both nature and nurture viewpoints could be used to explain the violent behaviour among men in our understanding of the various causes of violence. This Rousseausian postulation that violent hostility and warfare erupted in human social intercourse when there was a rise or introduction of (individual) property acquisition is very Germaine for this study. Lies underneath the Israeli-Hamas war is the acquisition of the Landed property which the Israelites claimed as their promise land, and over which the Palestinians also claimed belongs to them by subsequent occupation.

2.2.5 Rationalist Theory

Rationalist theory argues that perpetrators of aggression are rational. Here, the aggressor uses war as a platform to meet his goals.¹³ Therefore, each party that engages in war tries as much as possible to minimize the loss of life and property in its camp, while trying to outsmart the other party in achieving the best outcome for itself. War according to rationalist theorists, operates largely on the corridor of reciprocity i.e. violence is a situation where each party tries to attack the other, while at the same time, trying to defy each other's attack or control the offensive coming from the other.

This theoretical proposition has become popular in international relations in the explanation of war since the writing of Carl Von Clausewitz's *On War*.¹⁴ The important question is: When parties are aware of the nature of attacking and defensive variables, in the articulation of violence, why don't they empower themselves to focus mainly on the possible outcome of war rather than engaging in aggression? The rationalist theory presents three reasons why some states cannot take solace in bargaining or diplomatic settlement but resort to war. These reasons may include issue indivisibility, information asymmetry with incentive to deceive, and inability to make credible commitments.¹⁵ The issue indivisibility arises when parties in conflict cannot prevent their conflict relation from degenerating into war. Parties will fail to adopt diplomatic bargaining because the issue over which they are fighting cannot be shared between them. Essentially, it is one of the parties that can have control of the object of conflict e.g. there is a conflict between two men over a woman it is only one of them that can have the woman.

The problem of information asymmetry with incentives to deceive involves a situation whereby the parties in conflict don't bother to appreciate diplomatic alternatives. This is because each of them has mutual conviction about the possibility of having a favourable war outcome. In the international arena, each of these parties believed that through the military secrets of its capabilities and the need to maintain such secrecy, it is unnecessary to adopt bargaining because such diplomatic bargaining is capable of exposing its military strength to the enemy. Nevertheless, the enemy party can capitalize on the situation, if it appears that it enjoys a strategic advantage over the other party. Sometimes a state may call up a large number of its civilian population and dress them like regular soldiers when a potential enemy state representative is visiting her. The perceived enemy state representative may be required to see her standing army with an overwhelming population, for deceiving him about the size of his army. Seeing a large number of regular soldiers may make the enemy party succeed. The inability of a state to bargain may be due to the state's inability to create credible commitments. During a process of bargaining one of the parties is likely to feel that it is not getting enough from the diplomatic process. If the attitude of great commitment to mutual recognition of interest and need is reinforced in the peace process among the parties, the one with strong bargaining capability may likely consider its diplomatic advantage as an incentive to take undue advantage over the other party even in the nearest future.

This kind of attitude is capable of germinating to war among the parties because the party with weak bargaining power may decide to adopt violent means to settle their conflict, especially when it discovers that it also enjoys a military advantage over the other party. The relevance of the above theory to the Israeli-Hamas war could not be underestimated. Needless to say, issue indivisibility plays a prominent role in this crisis. The landed properties over which the parties are fighting could not be conveniently divided to accommodate both parties. The central issue in this crisis is the status of Jerusalem. Essentially, both parties could not believe that this issue is resolvable by diplomatic means, and also both parties could not make any lasting credible commitments that could engender peace.

¹²Ibid.

¹³This is more like the Theory of Bounded Deterrence, See Doran, C. F. (1973) A Theory of Bounded Deterrence. *The Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 17, No. 2 (June, 1973. Pp. 243-269.

¹⁴Clausewitz Carl von, et al. *On War*. (1984) Princeton, N. J., Princeton University Press.

¹⁵Fearon, J. D. (1995) *Rationalist Explanation for War*. *International Organization*. Pp. 49, 379-414.

2.2.6. Hans Joachim Morgenthau's Realist Theory on the Role of Power in International Politics

All the above theories cannot explain the crisis that engulfed virtually all the countries in the Middle East exhaustively, most especially in the Arab World. Here comes the relevance of the Realist Theory of Hans Morgenthau, a political scientist, and a leading figure who carefully analyzes the role of power in International Politics. Morgenthau's six principles that form the fundamentals of his realist theory are as follows¹⁶: first, that politics is governed by objective laws rooted in human nature; second, that the main signpost of political realism is national interest defined in terms of power; third, interest conceptualized in terms of power is an objective category that is universally valid, viewing power as the control of man over man; fourth, that universal moral principle cannot apply to the action of the state in International Political arena; fifth, that the moral aspiration of a state could not be equated with the moral law that governs the universe, and sixth, that the political sphere is autonomous in that a political man at the international political sphere must be abstracted from human nature, he must be a beast replica, and be lacking in moral constraints. This explains the behavioural patterns of the aggressive tendencies of one state over another, the strive to be a nuclear power to perpetrate aggressive tendencies, and to have a say in the International political spheres, the competition for supremacy among the nations of the Arab World, and the Iranian aggressive propensities while shielding calamities to itself as a nation, but sponsoring proxy wars against neighbouring countries as the major patronizer of terrorist activities.

2.2.7 The Devil's Theory

The Devil's Theory is not an intellectual handwork of anybody. It was the official philosophy of the Nye's Commission. The Commission was chaired by Professor Nye. The reference of the commission was to identify the causes of International wars, and those who are responsible. The commission in its submission identified two elements. These elements referred to as The Devils are, the Wall Street Managers, and the Munition Makers. The Wall Street Managers finances war, whilst the Munition Maker sells ammunition to warring factions¹⁷. It is true that for the Israel-Hamas war, Iran qualified as both.

3.0 Intractability of the Middle East Crisis.

3.1 Crisis and War is not a New Invention in Human History.

Crises and war are as old as human beings itself. In the Bible was recorded war among the Angels, beings in themselves superior human beings. Saint John, the Revelator recorded in the book of Revelation, the war in heaven between the Angels led by the Archangel Michael against Lucifer, identified as Satan who was defeated and banished to the earth¹⁸.

The crisis in Abraham's Tent commences when the anticipated child of promise is not forthcoming as Abraham and Sarah are growing old. Thinking that age was not on their side, and thinking about descendants, Sarah counseled Abraham to go into her maidservant, Hagar who in the process beget Ishmael. When Haggai and Ishmael were later thrown out, an Angel met them in the bush and prophesied to Hagar, Ishmael's mother that her son would be "a wild man", his hands would be against every man, and every man's hand against him¹⁹. The book of Genesis also recorded the blessings for Ishmael and his descendants: and as for Ishmael, I will hear you: I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers²⁰. He will be the father of twelve rulers, and I will make him into a great nation. It was, therefore, against this background that many writers have traced the history of the intractable conflict between the Middle Eastern Arabs and the Jews to this Biblical prophesies. It could be easily suggested that the above explains the wealth and crisis in the countries of the Middle East.

3.2 The Opposed Islamic Religious Sect of the Shiites, and the Sunnis.

The Sunni and Shia Muslims share two beliefs; first, the oneness of Allah, and second, that Prophet Mohammed (S.A.W) was the last Messenger of Allah who received the divine revelations that were recorded in the Holy Quran. One of the fundamental differences between the two Muslim sects centers on whether the prophet Mohammed explicitly designated a successor. While the Sunni Muslims believed that the Prophet did not explicitly designate a successor. The Shia Muslim affirms that through several pronouncements, the Prophet Mohammed designated a successor in the person of Hazrat Ali²¹.

¹⁶ Morgenthau, H. J. (1948) *Politics Among Nations. The Struggle for Power and Peace*. New York, Knopf.

¹⁷ The Devil's Theory, the official Philosophy of the Nye's Commission. Political Science, Philosophy, International Affairs, Published on 1st day of March, 1936.

¹⁸ Revelation 12:7 – And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. Isaiah 14:12. "How you have fallen from heaven O Star of the morning Son of the dawn": You have been cut down to the earth. You who have weakened the nation.

¹⁹ Genesis 16:12

²⁰ Genesis 17:20

²¹ The Ismail, 10th June 22/Global. Shia and Sunni: Understanding Different Muslim Interpretations: Retrieved on the 20th day of November, 2023 from the Ismail Newsletter at <https://the.Ismail'snews>.

The spread of transnational Jihad networks poses a threat to the stability of the countries of the Middle East. Two countries compete for the leadership of Islam nations, the Sunni Saudi Arabia, and the Shia Iran. Amid this unhealthy rivalry, both used the sectarian divide to further their ambitions which affected the religious and political landscape of Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Bahrain, Yemen, and the yet-to-be-independent state of Palestine. The Shia Muslim is rooted in the legitimacy of the Successor to the prophet Mohammed's position to be based on the Prophet's bloodline, whilst the Sunnis reject the legitimacy of the Prophet's line but rather believe that Ali and his descendant form the legitimate divine order. Soldiers of Shia killed Ali's son and many of his successors in Karbala, modern-day Iraq. The Shia, worried that the Shia Imam who led prayers in Mosques would use this massacre to capture the sympathy of the public, which could be used to ferment trouble and overthrow the Monarchs resorted to further persecution, annihilation, and marginalization of Shia.

According to Mohammed Aly Sergie, Shia constitute the majority in Iran, Iraq, Azerbaijan, and Bahrain, with a plurality in Lebanon. Sunni Muslim led by Saudi Arabia consists of more than forty countries²².

3.3 The Rivalry Between Saudi Arabia and Iran

As Sergie puts it, the transformation of Iran into a Shia power following the Islamic Revolution that led to the fall of the Shah of Iran renewed the age-long rivalries that prompted the Saudi power to accelerate the propagation of Wahhabism. Meanwhile, the sharing of common belief and identity could not obliterate the power struggle and crisis between the two antagonist religious sects of the Sunni and the Shia. This reality comes to the fore as Iraq Shia, which forms the bulk of the Iraqi military fought Iran in the Iran/Iraq war for 8 years between 1980 – 1988, the Shia militant groups of Amal and Hezbollah clashed during the Lebanese Civil War. The Houthi, a Zaydi Shia militant in Yemen engaged the government of Ali Abdullah Saleh, also a Zaydi Shia in the bloody conflict between 2004 – 2010. In 2014, the Houthi Rebel captured the capital city of Sana'a and ousted President Salah. Also, Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, the Saudi government battles Al-Qaeda, a Sunni-related military grouping. In essence, Sergie rightly puts it, 'sharing a common identity could not eliminate power struggle and fierce conflict among both religions sect inter-se, and between the opposing sides.

Sergie ex-rayed pieces of evidence showing that confessional identity has resurfaced, wherever sectarian violence has taken root. First, in Iraq, after the 2003 U.S invasion led by General Powell that ousted Saddam Hussein, who was a dictator from the Sunni minority in Iraq, the bombing of the Shia Shrine in Samarra led to a cycle of sectarian violence that compelled Iraqis to take sides along religious sect. The competitive election following post-Saddam's adoption of democracy brought the Shia majority as the dominant force in the Iraqi parliament, with a Shia Prime Minister. Ignoring President Obama's advice that the Shia Prime Minister should not marginalize the Sunni minority, remnants of Saddam's Ba'athist regime, the remnants of Saddam's combatants that remained that were not disarmed metamorphosed into the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria²³ terrorist grouping. They employed the Sunni rhetoric to launch the most powerful resistance terrorist grouping ever known in history. They unleashed unimaginable terrors on foreigners and in Iraq's towns and cities, such as Ramadi, Fallujah, and Mosul, the ancient city of Palmyra in Syria, the Iraqis suffered irreparable harm when ISIS overran it, looting the cultural treasures that sparked global outrage.²⁴ The Syrian's northern city of Raqa served as the seat of power of ISIS for four years, under the leadership of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi as Caliph²⁵. The group highly publicized the killing of many hostages of Western origin and its heinous crime knows no bounds. These activities triggered the campaign of air strikes, combined with a ground offensive by the United States of America and its regional allies of Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates²⁶.

3.4 Crisis throughout the Middle East Spiralling

Within the Arab world, Shia groups under Iran enjoyed a wide political landscape. First, the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad which has been in power since 1970 places heavy reliance on the Alawis, who make up about 13% of Syria's population. The chief fighting force sustaining Assad's regime²⁷. Second, Hezbollah, the Lebanese Shia terrorist group forms a strong party in Lebanon. Third, Houthi, one of Iran's proxies based in Yemen ousted the recognized government in Yemen. The Kata in Sayyid al-Shulada, a KSS Harakat al-Najuba, and Kataib Hizballah KH are the other specially Designated Global Terrorists being sponsored by Iran, that U.S. Treasury Department targeted their leadership for new sanctions. The activities of the above

²² Mohammed Aly Sergie (2023) "An Overview of the Sunni Shia Divide": Retrieved on the 20th day of November, 2023.

²³ Sergei, Loc.cit.

²⁴ Urban Warfare project case study: Battle of Mosul United States Institute of Peace, Retrieved in the 20th day of November, 2023 from www.usip.org.

²⁵ 'How Raqa Became the capital of ISIS – Executive Summary', Retrieved on the 20th November, 2023 from <https://www.newamerica.org>.

²⁶ Palmyra: The modern Destination of an Ancient city – *khan Academis*.

²⁷ Sergei, Ibid

terrorist groupings as Iran proxies, have threatened the lives of both the US and global coalition to defeat ISIS personnel in Iraq and Syria, thereby frustrating the Middle East Peace process²⁸

Unitedin Sectarian killings differ in terms of Political Aspirations. Very common among the extremist groups operating in the Middle East is their unification in acts of violence and sectarian killing. Though terrorist groupings like Sunni al-Qaeda, Shia. Hezbollah has defined their movements as being anti-zionist, anti-American, or anti-imperialist, their activities in the Syrian uprising fully pinned their activist to terrorists and specialists in sectarian violence²⁹. Apart from this area of common, Hezbollah has developed a political wing and forms part of the Lebanese government. A counterpart, a non-state actor like Hamas, won the election in the yet-to-be-independent state of Palestine. ISIS attempted to establish a caliphate by annexing the major Iranian cities of Mosul and Fallujah. The activities of these terrorist groupings have led to the loss of millions of lives. Sectarian killing is a form of communal violence inspired by sectarianism embedded in discrimination, hatred, or prejudice between different groups of varying ideologies imbibing separatist

ideologies, or different religious beliefs, wherein common among the sect is the philosophy of violence.

3.5 Tunisia Uprising, the Arab Spring, and Spiraling Violence in the Middle East

Mohammed Bouazizi of Sidi Bouzid in Tunisia was the Hero of the Arab Spring. Bouazizi was a street vendor who set himself ablaze on the 17th day of December 2010, in reaction to an assault committed on him by the local authorities that confiscated his hard-earned fruits three times, and in the last incident when one of the local officials, a woman spat on his face. He had reported these incidents to the Governor on two occasions without reaction, action, and steps to curb these excesses of the local Government officials. Frustrated by this confiscation of his source of livelihood and the assault committed on him, he bought highly inflammable fuel at the filling station and set himself ablaze. Bouazizi was in a coma at the intensive care unit of the Hospital, unaware of the unprecedented protests resulting from his self-immolation. His death sparked violent protests across the Islamic world starting from Tunis. Ben Ali, the Tunis leader, and his family were forced to flee to Saudi Arabia. The protest sparked what later became known as the Arab spring, inspiring a similar revolution in Egypt leading to the ousting of Hosni Mubarak, Libya, leading to the revolution that forced Gaddafi out of power, Iran, where the uprising was brutally suppressed, Bahrain, Yemen and Syria, where the fire still rages on a wider pro-democracy protest across the Middle East.

In the Middle East, the uprising cataclysm into very dangerous and volatile dimensions in Syria, Bahrain, and Yemen, and the trouble that leaves with them to date. Saudi Arabia and Iran have committed enormous resources to the battles. In Bahrain, Saudi Arabia with other Gulf nations deployed their forces to suppress a huge Shia uprising in Bahrain. Saudi Arabia also gathered a coalition of ten Sunni countries, supported by the United States of America to fight the Iranian – backed Houthi Rebels terrorist group in Yemen³⁰.

3.6. Why are Jews Targeted?- TheGenesis of Anti-Semitism

According to Sharma, in January 1939, the tension of the 2nd world war was on the rise, Hitler and Nascist Germany for expansion, set their eyes on Poland. Hitler decided to address his parliament as the Third Reich. His propaganda minister helped him to write a speech. Here was it: the notorious, Joseph Gobl 'If the international finance inside and outside of Europe should succeed in plunging the people of the world, once again into a world war, the result will not be the Bolshevization of the world, a thus a Jewish victory, but the annihilation of the Jewish race in Europe. Hitler's war eventually took the European Jews, the Nascists killed 6 million Jews in the Holocaust. Yet, Hitler did not start this hatred, hatred for the Jews is often called the most ancient hatred. The oldest form of discrimination. Today we call it anti-semitism. In each period of history, it took different forms. Hitler was the most hateful one. He converted anti-semitism into genocide. One would wonder how it all begins. Why have Jews been historically targeted, and why does it prevail today?In providing answers, reliance was placed on Sharma's scheme.

3.6.1. The Roman Empire

Starting from the Roman Empire, and this was before Christianity, the Roman subjects were pagans. They believed in several gods and forces. The Jews did not. Early Romans worshipped many gods. The Jews believed in one God. So, the Romans were suspicious of the monotheistic Jew. Everything by the Jews seems like a red flag to them:

- i. They wouldn't inter-marry
- ii. They observed the Sabbath
- iii. They circumcised their young ones.

²⁸ US, Announces New Sanctions against Iran – backed Militia Groups, designated them as Global Terrorists. *The Times of Israel*, November 18th, 2023.

²⁹ Sergei, *Op. cit*

³⁰ Mohammed Bonazizi: Biography, 'History, Immolation, Death and Arab' Retrieved from *www.britannica.com*. on the 20th day of November, 2023.

Today, if you don't understand something you learn about it. But in the first century B.C., if you don't understand something, you villainised it. And that was what happened to the Jews. You can find examples in many Roman writings. The Poet Hinaï, said Jews are Drunken Rowdy, the later Cicero talked about how Jews always stick together, and how they had power in assemblies. All classic anti-semitic tropes things became worse after the death of Jesus Christ. Now, we know who crucified Jesus. It was the Romans. But Christians propaganda hid that for a long long time.

3.6.2. Christians versus Jews

Jesus was crucified and the Romans did it. Years later in 70 A.D., the Romans destroyed the Temple of Jerusalem. It was like a watershed moment, Christians and Jews saw it as Divine punishment. The New Testament reflected that instead of the Romans, it now blamed the Jews. Jews were depicted as killers of Jesus. It's a myth, an absolute falsehood. But, back then, even today, many people believe it. Such sentiments led to a religious rivalry – Christians versus Jews and the church played a key role in this. They taught all kinds of anti-semitic things like: Jews had no reason to exist anymore, their whole job was to prepare for Jesus Christ's arrival and since that was done, Jews had nothing more to do; their existence was seen as an anomaly. Many of them were forced to flee. But fleeing did not mean a life of freedom, anti Semitism followed them. In 312 A.D. Rome moved closer to Christianity. Their Emperor Constantine converted to Christianity, and pretty soon, the Roman Empire became Christian. So, the Church now had more powers. It could influence the Emperor. As a result, new laws were created. Jews were shunned to the margins of society. They were also denied basic rights and freedoms. In some places, Jews had to wear markers like a yellow badge or a hat called *huden hut*. The idea was to identify and stay away from them. Remember, all this was over religion because the Jews refused to accept Christianity.

3.6.3. The Role of Propaganda

Propaganda played an important role in this hatred. Giving some examples: in 1144, a twelve-year-old boy was found murdered in Norwich, his name was William. There was no evidence of who killed him. No leads, so the case was a dead end. But four years later, a Monk turned up in Norwiche and he said the Jews had killed William. That allegation was like a Spy A.R.³¹ Pretty soon, everyone pointed fingers at Jews. They were accused of blood lies, of killing Christian boys and using their blood for rituals. Today, we call all of this fake news. Another example is from the Black Death Plague in the 14th century. Christians said it was the work of the Devil. What's more, the devil had a partner, no prizes for guessing, the Jews. They were accused of poisoning the wells in Europe, and none of this is backed by pro-proof. But the more people said it, the more it became a fact much like propaganda today in most of these cases. There was a logical explanation for the whole thing about Jewish money lenders. They were shown as evil and cunning holding more and more wealth. Even writers of this time fell for the strobe. Like William Shakespeare. You may have heard of his play-The merchant of Venice; it has a Jewish lender, named Shylock. He lends money to the Christian protagonist. He gives it on one condition if the money is not repaid, he will take a pound of his flesh, and guess how the play ends in shylock's defeat, he ends up converting to Christianity. But it is interesting to know how Jews ended up as money lenders in the first place. Because Christians refused to do it. In early Christianity, lending for interest was forbidden. But someone had to do it, and that someone was the Jews. It wasn't some devious plan to conquer the world, it was just economics.

3.6.4. European Leaders and Persecution of the Jews

European leaders never understood that they feared and persecuted the Jews. They were banished from European kingdoms. In the year 1290, Jews were expelled from Britain. In 1306, from France, in 1348, from Switzerland, and in 1394 from Germany. We are talking about an entire religions group expelled in many ways. Anti-semitism was a convenient tool. You could use it anywhere; children going missing, blame the Jews, Christians not getting rich, blame the Jews, a deadly plague wiping out your population, blame the Jews. So anti-semitism became the answer to Europe's problem – an easy and hateful answer.

3.6.5. Some Period of Respite Frustrated by Mah's Misinterpretation of Darwin

Things improved slightly in the 1670s. This was the age of enlightenment, and also the time of the French Revolution. So freedom and science with catchphrases such as 'Jews were emancipated', they became citizens for the first time. Yet anti-semitism persisted, and citizenship did not guarantee equal rights for the Jews. In many places, they were second-class citizens. And until now, anti-semitism was based on religion. It was Christianity versus Judaism. But in 1859 that changed. Charles Darwin published his book on Evolution. It talked about survival of the fittest. Now Darwin's theory was about organisms. Some eat their surroundings to reproduce, and others perish. That was what he said. However, some thinkers applied Darwin's Theory to race. They said some races are superior, while others like the Jews are not. They were not fit to survive. It was around this time that the word anti-semitism emerged. Until then, Jewish hatred had no single term. It was first used by a German journalist, William Mah. He represented a new sort of Jewish hatred. It wasn't

³¹ Car mounted with a camera which councils use to monitor illegal activities.

just about killing Christ or kidnapping Christian Children. His hatred was rooted in race. He believed Jews could change the racial structure of Germany and Hitler used this theory later on.

3.6.6. Violence Across Europe Climaxed by the Rage of the Third Reich

Such beliefs led to violence across Europe. Take the Russian Revolution for example, it was followed by hundreds of Jewish pilgrims, between 30 and 70 Ukrainian Jews were killed in Poland and Belarus. Nazi Germany was the culmination of every thing we're just said of centuries of anti-semitism. Hitler blamed Jews for Germany's defeat in the first world war. He wanted a pure Arian Germany. At first, his policies were focused on marginalization; Jews were fired from government services, and their businesses were shut down. But after 1939, the policy changed. It was extermination, what Hitler called the final solution to the Jewish problem. Millions of Jews were packed off at killing centers. Six-million were murdered. It is one of the darkest chapters in Human History.

3.6.7. Improved History

History has things improved since then. The Church has tried to make amends. It exonerated Jews for the murder of Jesus Christ, Pope John Paul II played a key role in this outreach. He visited a Synagogue in 1986. He also established the Vatican's relationship with Israel. Later, the Pope visited Israel's Holocaust Museum. He said anti-semitism is anti-Christian. Yet it thrives in 2017. Neo-Nazis marched through the U.S. town of Charlottesville. They carried Nazi flags. Their chant was this; Jews will not replace us. Anti-semitism has become a rallying call for Western far-right leaders. It increases wherever Israel is at war. Just to be clear, criticizing Israel is not automatically anti-semitic, but if that criticism is based on race or religion, it can be looking back. What Europe did to Jews was unforgivable. But is it also a lesson? Everything alien to us is not wrong. Everything we can not comprehend is not wrong. It is just different, and that is the beauty of life and Humanity. The world should try to understand and value such differences, not stigmatize them. That is the best tribute we can give as humans to those millions of Jews to make sure that no one goes through that pain again.

4.0 Developments in Israelis' Return to their Homeland and War in the Middle East.

The fundamental question is: Who are the Jews? In a simple answer, the Jews are the followers of a religion, named, Judaism. The Jews traced their ancestry to three people namely; Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jews in ancient times and the present referred to themselves as the Israelites. They originated about 1000 B.C. The Jews held on to the belief that God made a promise to Abraham. This is the promise of a homeland in Canaan, present-day Israel. Thus, whenever the Israelites talk about the promised land, they refer to the land given to them by God. The Jewish in essence speaks about the period of entering the promised land as a golden age of ancient Israel.

Two Kings are prominent in the political and religious lives of the Israelites, and they are King David and Solomon. King David Founded Jerusalem as the eternal capital of the Jewish State, while King Solomon built the first Temple. The often-asked question is: why should the Jews leave their homeland? Palki Sharma illuminates this while explaining the reason for the enmity between Israelis, and Palestinians.³² According to Sharma, the Israelites Departed from their homeland because of multiple invasions:

- a. Invasion by the Assyrian Empire in 722 B.C.³³
- b. Invasion by the Babylonians in 598 B.C.
- c. Invasion by the Persian Empire in 539 B.C.
- d. Invasion by the Roman Empire in 63 B.C.
- e. Invasion by the Ottoman Empire in 1517 A.D.

According to Sharma, each of these invasions forced the Jews out of their homeland. The peak was during the Roman Empire. Jews tried to revolt against Rome. This was followed by a brutal crackdown. Roman Gendarmes besieged Jerusalem, massacred the population, and destroyed the Temple. Those who survived fled. As a result, the Jews fled their homeland. Only a few remained in vestiges, while the rest spread across countries and continents. This is talking about the diaspora. The population of Jews across Europe stood as follows:³⁴

³² Palki Sharma, 'How Israel and Palestine Became Enemies'. www.youtube.com Lecture Series.

³³ When people refer to the "lost tribes of Israel," they usually have in mind the ten tribes of the Northern Kingdom that fell to Assyria about 722 BC. These tribes are Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, and Joseph (whose tribe was divided into the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh). Most of the people of the Northern Kingdom were deported to ancient Assyria (2 Kings 17:6). Many of the Jews who remained in the land intermarried with people from Cush, Ava, Hamath, and Sepharvaim who had been sent by the Assyrian king to inhabit Samaria (2 Kings 17:24; Ezra 4:2-11). Thus, the story goes, the ten northern tribes of Israel were "lost" to history and either wiped out or assimilated into other people groups. This narrative, however, is based on inference and assumption rather than on direct biblical teaching

³⁴ Palki Sharma, *op. cit.*

- a. Poland 3 Million.
- b. Russia 2.5 Million
- c. Britain 300 Thousand.
- d. Germany 500 Thousand.

4.1 The Spread of Anti-Semitism and The Beginning of Nationalistic Move.

Sharma in her narratives further explained that in 1891, an Austrian journalist of Jewish origin arrived in Paris. He worked for a Newspaper in Vietnam. His name was Theodor Herzl. In Paris, Herzl had expected quality and free thought but he was in for a surprise. At this time anti-semitism was everywhere in France. As a Jew, Herzl knows about it better. Then came the famous military scandal- The Dreyfus Affair. A French Captain was accused of selling military secrets to Germany. The Captain also was a Jew. The accusation later turned out to be false. Herzl felt he had seen enough. As Jews became objects of abuse and provocative insults, he realized his life mission as that of finding a home for the Jews in the face of the massive outpouring of anti-semitism. As anti-semitism spread, Zionism emerged. The call for a separate Jewish home arises. Theodor Herzl championed the course. He decided to organize a World Congress of Zionists. Herzl had wanted Munich to oust it, but, Jewish in Munich rejected the decision. But, it was settled in Basel, Switzerland. About 200 Zionists attended. They decided to create a Jewish homeland in their ancestral homeland in Israel. But there was a problem. Now, there are thousands of Arabs on that land. Then, the vexed ancient question is: how would the Jews make the place their homeland when Palestine their homeland was under the control of the Ottoman Empire?³⁵

In 1896, Herzl traveled to Constantinople, now Istanbul in Turkey. He waited there for eleven days, but he could not see the Sultan. Nonetheless, he pushed on. Finally, Herzl presented an offer to the Ottoman Sultan: "We will pay our external debt, let us colonize Palestine." This was in an attempt to buy Palestine back. Herzl thought that he had presented the God-father of all offers to the Ottoman Sultan which could not be refused. But the Sultan rejected the offer. In the end, colonizing Palestine reached a dead end. The Zionists turned to Option B- Individual Purchases. Jews decided to embark on the purchase of lands from Ottoman Landlords in Palestine. Jews bought the land and started farming on them. This saw the first era of Jewish migration. But to the Arab population, Jews were not there to assimilate, but they were there to rule. After buying the land, they find Arabs's workers and farmers. They found their centers and towns. Tel Aviv was established in 1909. The settlement was not like the Arab one. They looked European. Jewish in dispersion had flourished fine in abroad. Like we have the Rothschild Family, arguably, the most powerful European banking dynasty family from many others who funded the Jews from outside to engage in massive purchase of land in Palestine.³⁶

Still, it was intriguing. The British later got involved before the first world war. The Zionist solicited the help of Britain as the Super Power of that time. But, the reply was not as enthusiastic. British however suggest an alternative to Palestine like Uganda and Argentina. But, the Zionists said no, as they wanted their ancestral homeland. Then came the first world war, at which time, it was certain the British needed the help of the Jews. So, in 1917, the British offered complete support. The British Foreign Secretary, Arthur James Balfour wrote a letter to the Rothschild Family, stating that; first, Jews would have their homeland in Palestine back, second, that Britain commit herself to this promise, and third, that after the war, they would have the chance to do just that. The Ottoman was defeated, and the British was given the control of Palestine. By this time, the Jewish migration had picked up. Though they were still the minority in Palestine, but, yet they had the strength. They were more organized, had more money, and more support. An example was the Haganah- a Jewish para-military outfit established in 1920. Its job is to protect Jewish settlements in Palestine. The Arabs have no match for the Haganah. The Haganah had better intelligence and training.³⁷

In the 1930s, Jewish migration picked up again. This was because of the anti-semitic drive in fascist Germany. Hitler targeted the massacre of Jews in their thousands. Those who could flee fled the onslaught. As the Jewish population in Palestine exploded, Palestinians revolted. Jewish settlements and trades were attacked. Consequently, the British did what they felt was best. As they arrived at a solution; let's partition the land- a Jewish State for the Jews, then, a Palestinian State for the Arabs. But, the Arabs rejected the offer. Their leader was divided, even when the proposal was more favorable, they refused to capitalize on it. The back and forth continued during the second world war. So, Britain was fed up. They were financially and politically drained. They packed up from Palestine and left. Britain handed over the crisis to the United Nations Organisation for resolution. The U.N. came up with another solution. First, The Jewish State will get 55 percent of the Palestinian land, including the Negev Desert. The State will have 500,000 Jews and 400,000 Arabs. Second, the Arabs would get 44 percent of the land. This state would have around 10,000 Jews, including the West Bank, and Gaza. Third, the remaining 1 percent is Jerusalem. The city would be controlled by the International Regime, particularly, the United Nations. The Arabs rejected the offer. But, the Jews accepted.³⁸

³⁵ *Ibid.*

³⁶ *Ibid.*

³⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁸ *Ibid.*

When Adolf Hitler assumed the position of the German Reich. According to Koen Smilde, anti-semitism played a major role in Adolf Hitler's thinking and the Nazi ideology. What inspired Hitler's hatred of Jews and what life events played a role in its development? There are countless imaginative explanations for the reasons for Hitler's anti-semitism. Hitler was said to have been ashamed of his partly Jewish roots. Another explanation links his hatred of Jews to trauma caused by a poison gas attack in the First World War. Yet other theories suggest that Hitler had contracted a venereal disease from a Jewish prostitute. Smilde opined that there are, however, no facts to support these explanations.³⁹

4.2 Jews as the Scapegoats for the Lost War

In the first world war, the German defeat was hard to swallow for many Germans, and for Hitler, too. In nationalist and right-wing conservative circles, the 'stab-in-the-back legend' became popular. According to this myth, Germany did not lose the war on the battlefield, but through betrayal at the home front. The Jews, Social Democrats, and Communists were held responsible. The prejudices about the role of the Jews in the war were false. An investigation carried out by the German Government proved as much. Over one hundred thousand German and Austrian Jews had fought for their fatherland. Otto Frank, who had fought in the Battle of the Somme in 1916, was just one of them.⁴⁰

4.2.1 Radicalisation of Hitler's Antisemitism

Against the backdrop of revolution and violence, Hitler's antisemitism was becoming increasingly radical. It is noteworthy that he said he did not support uncontrolled 'emotional' pogroms (outbursts of anti-Jewish violence). Instead, he argued for an 'antisemitism of the mind'. It had to be legal and would ultimately lead to the 'removal' of the Jews. As early as August 1920, Hitler compared the Jews to germs. He stated that diseases cannot be controlled unless you destroy their causes. The influence of the Jews would never disappear without removing its cause, the Jew, from our midst, he said. These radical ideas paved the way for the mass murder of the Jews in the 1940s.⁴¹

4.2.2 Capitalism and Communism: a Jewish Conspiracy?

Hitler blamed the Jews for everything that was wrong with the world. Germany was weak and in decline due to the 'Jewish influence'. According to Hitler, the Jews were after world dominance. And they would not hesitate to use all possible means, including capitalism. In this way, Hitler took advantage of the existing prejudice that linked the Jews to monetary power and financial gain. Hitler was not bothered by the apparent contradictions in his thinking. He held that communism was a Jewish conspiracy, too, as the larger part of the communist leaders were Jewish. Nevertheless, only a small proportion of the Jews were communists. This idea of 'Jewish communism' was to have awful repercussions in the war with the Soviet Union that started in 1941. The population and prisoners-of-war were treated brutally by the German's power, these ideas led to the forced sterilization and killing of human beings. Following the outbreak of the second world war in 1942, the government imposed new restrictions on Jews remaining in Germany. One of the first wartime ordinances imposed a strict curfew on Jewish individuals and prohibited Jews from entering designated areas in many German cities. Once general food rationing began, Jews received reduced rations; further decrees limited the periods in which Jews could purchase food and other supplies and restricted access to certain stores, with the result that Jewish households often faced shortages of the most essentials.⁴²

German authorities also demanded that Jews relinquish property "essential to the war effort" such as radios, cameras, bicycles, electrical appliances, and other valuables, to local officials. In September 1941, a decree prohibited Jews from using public transportation. In the same month came the notorious edict requiring Jews over the age of six to wear the yellow Jewish Star (Magen David) on their outermost garment. Hitler established the Concentration Camps, the places for the extermination of the Jews. At the end of the Second World War, over six million Jews, young, and old, men, women, and children were murdered gruesomely.⁴³

In 1948, following Israel's demand for independence that was granted by the United Nations, the State of Israel was declared an Independent State. Almost immediately, they were attacked by five Arab countries of Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Iran. However, these Arab nations were divided, and each entered the war with its objective. Their supply line was stressed. Israel, on the other hand, was motivated. They were fighting for their existence. Israel won the war in 1949. With this victory, they have 77 percent of the land of Palestine. After the war, there were three different parts: the state of Israel, the West Bank controlled by Jordan, and Gaza controlled by Egypt. For the Palestinians, it was a nightmare. A quarter of a million population of Palestine were displaced and forced out. The Arabs used the Term Al-Nakbar to describe them. Meanwhile, issues relating to the map are yet to be settled. In 1967, another war broke out. The Arab world faced Israel. Israel won an even more comprehensive victory. In six days, they captured three important territories of the West Bank, Gaza, all of the Sinai Peninsula, and Golan Heights. Israel captured all of the

³⁹ *Ibid.*

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

⁴¹ *Ibid.*

⁴² *Ibid.*

⁴³ *Ibid.*

Palestinian land and more. Later, Israel returned the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt and formalized their border with Jordan. The question of the Palestinians, however, remains.⁴⁴

Palestine wants a state based on the 1967 borderline, meaning the whole of West Bank. Israel stated no. The question remains: where do we go from here? Palestine wants a state based on pre 1967 border- meaning the whole of West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem. Israelites said since the demography has changed, this is impossible, the country is always expanding, and any Jews anywhere in the world can come and become Israeli citizens. This is called 'the Jewish Law of Returns'. The Arab/Israel conflicts from 1948 are numerous.⁴⁵

4.3 Some Highlights

The Palestinian and the Jews both cite Jerusalem as their capital. Both groups blame each other for terror attacks that kill civilians. Officially, Palestine is yet to be recognized as a state. Several countries have pushed for more peace agreements in recent years. Many have suggested a two-state solution. Meanwhile, there is wide acknowledgement that Israelis and Palestinians are unlikely to settle on borders.

4.3.2 The status of Jerusalem The status of Jerusalem remains one of the most vexing – and volatile – sticking points in efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Israel annexed the territory, and its Israel political leaders proclaimed that the city of Jerusalem is Israel eternal, undivided capital.

Most foreign nations, including the U.S., continue to maintain their embassies in Tel Aviv. Jerusalem and Bethlehem were designated as *corpus separatum*, as they are regions given special status under international rule. The special status was decided based on Jerusalem's religious importance to all three Abrahamic faiths, as home to Al-Aqsa Mosque, Church of Holy Sepulchre, and the Western Wall of the Jewish temple built by Herod. The leaders of what became Israel indicated acceptance of the partition plan, but it was rejected by Arab leaders, who responded to Israel's declaration of independence the following year by going to war.

The war of June 1967, however, left Israel in control of the remaining 22 percent – the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza. Israel then annexed East Jerusalem, redefining the municipal boundaries of the city to incorporate other West Bank towns and villages, making it the largest city in the country

In 1914, the First World war led to turmoil, destruction, and the need for expansion and conquest by the European powers. So, in 1917, Jerusalem was captured by British forces under General Edmund Allenby. The same year, British Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour signaled the British Government's support for a Jewish homeland in Palestine to the wealthy and influential Zionist Lord Rothschild.⁴⁶

⁴⁴*Ibid.*

⁴⁵ Arab-Israeli Conflict

Numerous wars and acts of violence between Arabs and Jews have ensued since the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. Some of these include:

- Suez Crisis: Relations between Israel and Egypt were rocky in the years following the 1948 war. In 1956, Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser overtook and nationalized the Suez Canal, the important shipping waterway that connects the Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea. With the help of British and French forces, Israel attacked the Sinai Peninsula and retook the Suez Canal.
- Six-Day War: In what started as a surprise attack, Israel in 1967 defeated Egypt, Jordan and Syria in six days. After this brief war, Israel took control of the Gaza Strip, Sinai Peninsula, the West Bank, and Golan Heights. These areas were considered "occupied" by Israel.
- Yom Kippur War: Hoping to catch the Israeli army off guard, in 1973 Egypt and Syria launched air strikes against Israel on the Holy Day of Yom Kippur. The fighting went on for two weeks, until the UN adopted a resolution to stop the war. Syria hoped to recapture the Golan Heights during this battle but was unsuccessful. In 1981, Israel annexed the Golan Heights, but Syria continued to claim it as territory.
- Lebanon War: In 1982, Israel invaded Lebanon and ejected the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). This group, which started in 1964 and declared all Arab citizens living in Palestine up to 1947 to be called "Palestinians," focused on creating a Palestinian state within Israel.
- First Palestinian Intifada: Israeli occupation of Gaza and the West Bank led to a 1987 Palestinian uprising and hundreds of deaths. A peace process, known as the Oslo Peace Accords, ended the Intifada (a Arabic word meaning "shaking off"). After this, the Palestinian Authority formed and took over some territories in Israel. In 1997, the Israeli army withdrew from parts of the West Bank.
- Second Palestinian Intifada: Palestinians launched suicide bombs and other attacks on Israelis in 2000. The resulting violence lasted for years, until a cease-fire was reached. Israel announced a plan to remove all troops and Jewish settlements from the Gaza strip by the end of 2005.
- Second Lebanon War: Israel went to war with Hezbollah—a Shiite Islamic militant group in Lebanon—in 2006. A UN-negotiated ceasefire ended the conflict a couple of months after it started.
- Hamas Wars: Israel has been involved in repeated violence with Hamas, a Sunni Islamist militant group that assumed Palestinian power in 2006. Some of the more significant conflicts took place beginning in 2008, 2012, 2014, 2021 and 2023.

⁴⁶Palki Sharma, *Op. cit.*

4.3.3 The Capital Question.

After the war, Jerusalem was made the capital of Palestine but held under British mandate. As the end of the mandate neared, Arabs and Jews both sought to hold possession of the city. However, the minorities in the city, such as the Christians, favored a city open to all three religions. There have been many resolutions of the United Nations as a result of the complex crisis.⁴⁷

4.4 The Agonizing Periods in Jewish History.

Pondering and reflecting on the lives of the Jews, here is a race deserving our pity and sympathy. Anywhere they were while in dispersion, though they offended no one, but, were made to suffer unimaginable depravity and agonizing moments, old, and young regardless of gender. The first thing to realize is the right to exist. The second issue is the right of all to inhabit a portion of the world. Why on earth should a race be considered a filthy rag without a right to exist? The Jewish people had been slaves in Egypt and suffered tribulations at the hands of their Egyptian masters before they were led out of Egypt by divine instructions under the leadership of Moses, Aaron, and finally Joshua. They inhabited the Promised Land of Canaan, and the Land was expanded when King David drove out the Jebusite from Jerusalem which was made the capital of the Jewish state.⁴⁸

Meanwhile, while Jews were in dispersion, whenever things were going badly and leaders needed a scapegoat, it was useful for them to blame and expel Jews from their cities as a way of "taking action." In 1391, in Spain, during the Holy Week of Easter, without authorization from the Catholic Church, the Christians attacked the Jews and gave them the option of either converting to Christianity or being killed. Consequently, many Jews were killed, many fled the region, and many converted. Following these attacks, several areas of Spain no longer had a Jewish population. But, as David Nirenberg points out in his book, "That didn't mean that anti-Judaism and anti-Jewish prejudice came to an end. Following this mass conversion, everyone who had converted from Judaism to Christianity was suspected of not being a true convert."⁴⁹

⁴⁷ UN resolutions

Such has been the controversy surrounding the status of Jerusalem as the capital for Muslims and/or Jews that it has been the subject of numerous United Nations resolutions and remains the make or break point in any final status talks. Jerusalem was discussed as a third directive of UN Resolution 181 in 1947, which tackled the issue of the city as a separate entity (corpus separatum).

A plan was submitted to the UN on 4 April 1950 outlining the management of the holy places, which were to be controlled by the UN through a legislative council:

1. Jerusalem should be divided into two sectors: one run by the Arabs and the other run by the Jews.
2. Jerusalem should be an unarmed, neutral region and nobody would have the right to declare it as his or her capital.
3. A public council should be formed from the whole region, and a special system should be laid down to defend the holy places.

Further to this, the most important resolutions issued by the UN and the Security Council concerning Jerusalem have been:

1. Resolution 2253, issued by the General Assembly on 4 July 1967, considered all the Israeli activities in Eastern Jerusalem illegal and should, therefore, cease. Ninety members adopted it, 20 abstained. Israel did not take part in the discussions or the voting.
2. Resolution 2254, issued by the General Assembly on 14 July 1967, condemned Israel's failure to apply the previous resolution, and asked Israel to cancel all activities in Eastern Jerusalem and especially not to change the features of the city.
3. Resolution 250, issued by the Security Council on 27 April 1968, asked Israel not to hold a military parade in Jerusalem.
4. Resolution 251, issued by the Security Council on 2 May 1968, condemned the holding of the military parade in Jerusalem.
5. Resolution 252, issued by the Security Council on 21 May 1968, asked Israel to cancel all activities in Jerusalem, and condemned the occupation of any land through armed aggression. It also considered all of these activities illegal and insisted that the situation in the city should remain as it was
6. Resolution 267, issued by the Security Council on 3 July 1969, confirmed resolution 252.
7. Resolution 271, issued by the Security Council on 15 September 1969, asked Israel to safeguard al-Aqsa mosque and to cancel all activities that may change the features of the city.
8. Resolution 298, issued by the Security Council on 25 September 1971, regretted Israeli nonchalance toward international laws and resolutions concerning Jerusalem. The resolution confirmed that all administrative and legislative procedures taken by Israel in the city, such as estate transfer and land confiscation, were illegal, as well as confirming that no more activities that may change the city features or demography should be undertaken.

⁴⁸2nd Samuel 5:6-10.

⁴⁹"Anti-Judaism: A Western Tradition, Business Office, JSIS Computing Services Website
LoginPrivacyTermsMake a

4.5 Hamas Invasion of Israel On October 7, 2023.

A series of coordinated attacks were carried out by the Palestinian Islamist Jihadist militant group Hamas that invaded more than 20 communities in the border towns of Israel on October 7th, 2023, which fell on the Jewish Sabbath holiday. The militants numbering about three thousand broke through the well-secured border wire-fenced barriers and entered through motorcycles, vehicles, and paragliders. They killed over 1400 people, including Israelites, and foreign nationals. They also captured about 240 hostages, males, females, young, and aged, mostly civilians into their den, in Gaza. The launching of this unprovoked vicious surprise attack on the civilian population is a flagrant violation of International Humanitarian Law. The Hamas had carried out this monstrous rampage that involved killing about 260 attendees of a well-organized Music Festival, slaughtering and burning small babies alive, and killing infants, old and young by spraying them with guns. Some who fled in their hundreds with their vehicles were ambushed, bombed, or gunned down with many vehicles uncontrollably scattered through the roads, leaving many in their cold blood. Many buildings belonging to civilians were destroyed.⁵⁰

Consequently, the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu made an immediate broadcast to the Israelites that 'Israel is at War.' The Israeli Defence Force zoomed into action. Over 360,000 Israeli Forces, including the reservists, were called up into action against Hamas, their military infrastructures, and their tunnels otherwise known as Hamas's underneath spider-web subterranean city network hiding their numerous stockpiles of ammunition. Within two days of the invasion, the IDF killed around 1,000 terrorists in Israel territory and captured over 200. Now, the reality unfolds, as Jesus Christ puts it, who among you would have his sheep fell inside a well, on a Sabbath would not go to rescue it. This is now a reality for the IDF and other Israeli Forces on the rescue mission to free the over 240 hostages captured by Hamas.

While executing this war, Hamas has been using the civilian population in Gaza as human shields, converting Schools, Hospitals, Refugee Camps, and other civilian infrastructures for military purposes. Meanwhile, before the commencement of the ground invasion, air strikes, and firing from Seas, in land, air, and ground battles, the IDF had issued warnings and given the civilians in Gaza 48 hours to vacate the combat zones and move to the South. Leaflets were also distributed with instructions in Arabic Language, telling the civilians to vacate the combat zones and move to the South. But, Hamas, wanting to use the civilians as human shields instructed the Gazans not to leave, Israel on its part had evacuated its civilian populace inhabiting its border towns within the combat zones. There have been many civilian casualties, and Israel was accused of committing war crimes by targeting civilians through the bombardment of protected areas like schools, hospitals, mosques, and refugee camps. The question is: to what extent is this true under International Humanitarian Law?

4.6 Examining Customary International Law or Rules Governing the Conduct of Hostilities concerning the Execution of the War Between Israel and Hamas.

Below are certain principles and rules of International Humanitarian Law applicable to the conduct of Hostilities. This paper examined these rules to determine the legalities or otherwise of the means, and methods of engagements in prosecuting the war by the warring factions of Israel and Hamas.⁵¹

4.6.1 Principle of Distinction

The fundamental principle underlying the legal framework applicable to the conduct of hostilities is that of distinction. Parties to a conflict must at all times distinguish between civilian objects and military objects and between civilians and combatants. Operations might be directed only against military objects and combatants. It is prohibited to target civilian objects or civilians. Thus, any targeting operation directed at a civilian object or civilian is prohibited, unless the protection has been suspended due to the civilian directly participating in hostilities or the civilian object being used to engage in acts harmful to the enemy. A civilian object is defined as all objects that are not military objects. Military objectives are those objects which by their nature, location, purpose, or use make an effective contribution to military action and whose partial or total destruction captures or neutralizes the using at that time it offers military advantages. The Israeli Defence Forces have shown to the whole world how the Shifa Hospital apart from being used as Terror Headquarters, had been used to stockpile weapons. In this circumstance, the Hospital has been used to serve military purposes offering Hamas a Military advantage. Any war within that vicinity is therefore lawful under International Humanitarian law.⁵²

4.6.2 Principle of Proportionality

The principle of proportionality prohibits the launching of an attack that may be expected to have caused incidental loss of civilian lives, injury to civilians, damage to civilian objects, or a combination of these which would be excessive concerning the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated. Meanwhile, before

⁵⁰The Times of Israel of 1st of November, 2023.

⁵¹Jean-Marie Henckaerts, Louise Doswald-Beck (2009) *Customary International Humanitarian Law*, Volume 1, Cambridge University Press, U.S.A.

⁵²*Ibid*.

targeting a military object, if damage to civilian objects or civilian death or injury is anticipated, or military advantage to be gained is weighed against the collateral damage to protect civilians or civilian objects that is anticipated, it offends against the principle of proportionality under International Humanitarian Law. Thus, under IHL, not every attack that results in civilian death or injury or the destruction of a civilian object is prohibited.⁵³

Whether a strike was legal depends in part on whether the principle of proportionality was respected when the operation targeting the military objects was carried out. It is submitted under this heading that no amount of damages to civilian or civilian objects would be unjustifiable considering the motive behind Hamas's attack on Israelis territories after it's evil attack on the civilian population in the land of Israel. How could one explain the firing of over 5000 rockets, and the raining of missiles on a particular territory, But for the Iron Dome Defense system of the Israelites, the whole population would have been roasted. More so, the injury to the civilian population of Gaza would have been avoided if the civilians in Gaza had heeded the warning by the IDF. It is on record that the IDF waited for about three weeks before the commencement of the massive invasion of Gaza. For the Gazan population, it is purely a case of *volenti fit non injuria*.

4.6.3 Prohibition of Indiscriminate Attacks

Under this principle, indiscriminate attacks are prohibited. Indiscriminate attacks are described in Additional Protocol as follows; i. attacks which are not directed at a specific military object, ii. attacks which employ a method or means of combat that cannot be directed at some specific military objectives; or iii. attacks that employ a method or means of combat, the effect of which cannot be limited by IHL and are thus of a nature to strike military objectives and civilian or civilian objects without distinction. Additionally, an attack is considered indiscriminate and therefore prohibited if it is an attack by bombardment by any means or methods that treat as a single military object several separated and distinct military objects located in a city, town, village, or other areas containing a similar concentration of civilians or civilian objects. Thus, in the context of carrying out military operations parties to a conflict must ensure that the means and methods employed are of such a nature as to avoid indiscriminate targeting.⁵⁴ In Gaza where Hamas hides, dangerous munitions of war are stockpiled in houses, mosques, schools, hospitals, and under kiddies' bedrooms, and a barrage of rockets is fired on daily bases in civilian territories even this continues unabated despite the intensity of the war resulting out of their October 7 unprovoked attacks on the civilian population of Israel. Under this situation, indiscriminate attack might be unavoidable where virtually everywhere is used in furtherance of military advantages.

4.6.4 Precautions in Attack

International Humanitarian Law requires an attacker to undertake feasible precautions to avoid and /or minimize any incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians, and damage to civilian objects. Relatedly, parties to a conflict must do everything feasible to verify that targets are military objects. Additionally, parties must take all feasible precautions in selecting the means and methods they use intending to avoid and in any event minimize incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians, and damage to civilian objects. Further, parties are obliged to do everything feasible to cancel or suspend an attack if the party learns that the target is either; i. not a military object or the attack would violate the principle of proportionality. Parties must also give effective warning of attacks to the civilian population unless circumstances do not permit. Though these rules do not appear in treaty law regulating the conduct of hostilities in NIACs, they are widely considered reflective of customary law and are included in several military manuals.⁵⁵ In the process of prosecuting its war against Hamas, the Israeli Forces have exercised enough precautions in giving adequate notices to the civilian population of Gaza to the hearing of every world inhabitant where information moves with the speed of light. Also, the fact remains that prohibited weapons of war have not been used so far, so good.

4.6.5 Additional Rules

Several related rules provide additional guidance concerning targeting. Below are non-exhaustive list of these rules;⁵⁶

- i. In case of doubt as to whether an individual is a civilian, that person shall be considered to be a civilian
- ii. In case of doubt as to whether an object that is normally dedicated to civilian purposes is being used to make an effective contribution to the military, that civilian object shall be presumed to be civilian and not be making such an effective contribution
- iii. The parties to the armed conflict must take all feasible precautions to protect the civilian object under their control against the effects of attacks. Israeli Forces take reasonable precautions by giving the civilians more time to vacate the combat zones.

⁵³*Ibid.*

⁵⁴*Ibid.*

⁵⁵*Ibid.*

⁵⁶*Ibid.*

- iv. The parties to the armed conflict must, to the extent feasible, remove civilian persons and objects under their control from the vicinity of military objects. The IDF did well by giving humanitarian assistance to the Gaza Al Shifa Hospital, providing incubators, and supervising the evacuation of the many premature babies in the Gaza hospital to a facility in Egypt.
- v. The presence of civilians shall not be used to render immune from attack military objects. Similarly, the parties to a conflict shall not direct civilians to move or congregate in such a manner as to shield military objects from attack. Hamas was guilty of this in all absolutist sense as they instructed the civilians in Gaza not to vacate the combat zones.

It should be noted that a violation of one of these rules by one party to the conflict does not release the opposing party to the conflict from their legal obligations vis-à-vis protection-owned civilians and civilian objects.

4.6.6 Special Protection Afforded Hospitals, Medical Units and Medical Personnel

Generally, hospitals, medical units, and medical personnel are afforded special protection under the International Humanitarian Rule, in so far as a result of their status they have heightened protections and parties to a conflict are under additional obligation when considering targeting, directly or indirectly, not to attack hospitals, medical units and medical personnel. In line with the above, they shall be protected, and respected and may not be the object of attack. Also, conflictual parties are to actively take measures to ensure that medical units and transports can perform their functions and to give them assistance where necessary. The commentary to Additional Protocol II explains further or goes on to affirm that this obligation shall apply at all times, even when the medical units or hospitals are not used to accommodate wounded or sick patients, provided that the medical unit is used exclusively or medical purposes. The general term of 'medical personnel' covers both the permanent and temporary categories. Included in these categories are:⁵⁷

- i. Medical personnel of a party to the conflict, whether military or civilian, including those assigned to Civil Defense Organizations
- ii. Medical personnel of National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies and other voluntary organizations or voluntary aid societies duly recognized and authorized by a party to the conflict, including ICRC.
- iii. Medical personnel made available to a party to the conflict for humanitarian purposes by a neutral or other state which is not a party to the conflict; by a recognized and authorized aid society of such a state or by an impartial intentional Humanitarian Organization. Under this head, the nefarious activities of Hamas terrorist in building their massive tunnels under hospitals removes these facilities from the ambit of being protected medical facilities by International Humanitarian Law.

4.6.8 Circumstances Under which Medical Units Lose their Special Protection Under International Humanitarian Law

The prohibition or directing attacks against hospitals and other medical units is not absolute under customary International Law, applicable to NIACs, as IAC. The special protections accorded to hospitals and medical units cease when they are used outside their humanitarian function to commit acts that are harmful to the attacker.

Accordingly, an attack against medical units will be lawful only if two conditions are present:

- i. The medical unit is used to commit harmful acts; and
- ii. These harmful acts are not related to humanitarian function.

In this regard, virtually all the Hospitals in Gaza have underneath them a Hamas network of armory.

The question is, what are those acts that could be harmful to the enemy? Neither the Geneva Conventions nor their additional protocols define expressly 'acts harmful to the enemy'

Additional protocol, however, provides a non-exhaustive list of acts that are not to be considered harmful to the enemy;⁵⁸

- i. Personnel of the unit are equipped with light individual weapons for their defense or for that of the wounded and sick in their charge
- ii. The unit is guarded by a picket or by sentries or by an escort
- iii. Small arms and ammunition taken from the wounded and sick, and not yet handed to the proper service, are found in the units.
- iv. Members of the armed forces or other combatants are in the unit for medical reasons.

Generally, International Commissions of Inquiry and ad-hoc international criminal tribunals have adopted the view that medical units lose their protected status if they are used for military purposes. For example, in assessing the legality of an attack against a medical facility by the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) during the 2006 conflict with Hezbollah, the inquiry commission on Lebanon condemned the attacks because it was not able to find any evidence that the hospital was being used for military purpose. The commission was not

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*

persuaded by the IDF's general explanation that Hezbollah's fighters were using the medical infrastructure for military purposes.

4.7 The Roadmaps to Peace

Pondering the lives of the Jewish people, the first thing to realize is that every race has the right to exist and inhabit a particular place in the world. The Jewish people have been slaves of the Egyptians and made to go through tribulations under the tyrannical rule of the Pharaoh only to be saved through God's miraculous hands. Led by Moses and later Aaron, they inhabited the promised land. King David later captured Jerusalem from the Jebusites and made it the capital of Israel. The division of the kingdom, post King Solomon exposed the kingdom to danger. The two kingdoms were plundered by the Assyrians and Babylonians and carried into exiles. The Roman Government also colonized the Jewish nation and maintained its presence in Israel during Jesus's times. It was the Roman procurator, Pontius Pilate who ruled over the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus. It was, therefore, the reality of History that at the commencement of civilization, the Jewish people had their home in the Middle East from Galilee, Bethlehem Jerusalem, to Jericho, and up to Samaria. The colonial exploitation and the axe of the Roman Government led to the banishment of the Jews from their home land and then we talk of Jewish dispersion. The Jewish people were dispersed to all the nooks and crannies of the important cities in Europe. The agonizing moments of the Jewish in history as a race deserving of pity and sympathy could be illuminated thus;

- i. When the Northern kingdom of Israel fell to Assyrians about 722 B.C., 10 Tribes of Israel were lost.
- ii. In AD 135, the Jewish people revolted against their invader, the Roman colonial Government following this failed revolt, the Roman Emperor Hadrian expelled the Jews from Jerusalem and decreed that the city and the surrounding territory be part of a larger entity called Syria – Palestinians. Palestine took its name from the coasted territory of the ancient Palestine considered Israel's ancient hostile enemy. There should be a permanent departure from the road to solferino which paved the way for the Modern International Humanitarian Law. The ruse to resolving conflict in the whole of the Middle East generally would involve a general reconciliatory move by the United States of America and Russia should find a way to placate the Government of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Syria, and Ukraine letting them know that their attitudes of the past were dictated by the events of the moment. Apart from this general placation, assurance must be given for a renewed attitude of non-interference in the territorial affairs or integrity of foreign nations. This would reduce the tension in the Middle East.

4.7.1 Some Crucial Boundary Issues

Meanwhile, the resolution of the Israeli's Palestinian Hamas conflict must entail the consideration of many issues.

i. The status of Jerusalem: No doubt about it, the encroaching postures of some rogue states, and the aggressive propensity of rampaging empires drove the Jews out of Jerusalem into foreign nations. As a result, we talk about Jews in the diaspora. No race has an authentic claim to the city of Jerusalem more than the Israelites. No student of History would forgive the United Nations without a resolution in this right direction. The status of Jerusalem as the capital of the Israelite state should not be in doubt. However, the resolution of the status of Jerusalem as the eternal capital of the Israelites should also give a right of access to Christians, and Muslims to pray in their respective monuments at the Jerusalem Temple.

ii. Resolving the status of Bethlehem and Galilee

Bethlehem was the place of birth of the Lord Jesus Christ believed to be one of the centers of Jesus' Ministry. The status of Bethlehem and Galilee should not be in doubt as undoubted parts of the Israelite nation.

4.7.2 Complete Decimation of Hamas

It is a fact of history that Democracy might not overwhelmingly translate to an assurance of the fact that democracies can never go to war with one another. Put differently, the notion of democratic peace implies that democratic nations never wage war against one another. We derive testimonies from history that they might not be wholly correct. For there to be democratic peace, you must never trust the men of the guns and a tyrant with democracy. Adolf Hitler was elected to the German Reich under a well-organised election. His reign was a disaster to the Germans, and the whole world. Hamas also assumed authority in Palestine through the electoral process and today, Hamas constitute a disastrous machine for the people of Gaza, and the entire Palestine. To have peace in Palestine, Hamas, its military infrastructure together with its subterranean city of thousands of kilometers of tunnels must be decimated to have a long-lasting peace in Gaza and Palestine.

4.7.3 Demilitarization of Gaza

The most fundamental error made by the Allied forces in their military crusades in Libya, and Iraq was the neglect of post – the war programme of demilitarization, disarmament, and reintegration programme for the remnants of Ghaddafi's armies, and Saddam's forces numbering about one million military men. The effect of this neglect led to the emergence of ISIS and ISIL and many factions of insurgent groupings that made Libya almost a failed state, and even Iraq. These non-demobilized forces metamorphosed into many insurgents

and terrorist groupings. This should be avoided in Gaza. A post war Gaza must place emphases on demilitarization, disarmament and reintegration of the remnants of Hamas warriors into the civil society and the mainstream of the Palestinian Society.

4.7.4 Deradicalization of Gaza and the Palestinian Society

Deradicalization is an action or process of causing a person with extreme views to adopt more moderate positions on political, religious and social issues⁵⁹. This must obviously involve gathering some of the best brains in the diaspora to study important documents on that enclave, letting the inhabitants of Gaza know the truth of history, where they are coming from, where they are, the reasons for the present crisis, why the crisis should be annihilated, why they should leave in peace with their Jews neighbours and the benefits of living together in peace to achieve common aspiration. This assignment might involve the intervention of a great psychologist to produce a genuine change of attitude.

4.7.5 Closing all the Tunnels in Gaza

To avoid the Mouse and Cat race between Hamas, and the Israeli forces all the Hamas Tunnels in Gaza, otherwise known as the subterranean city must be destroyed and closed. There is a saying within the Yoruba of Nigeria that when a Rat stays afar, abusing a Cat, telling the Cat that your eyes are like 1000 watts bulb, your mustache spreads like the light emanating from the welder's electrode firework, the rat has the knowledge that he remains the best cat food, but the rat could confidently continue its abuse because of having his hole by its side. Thus, at the slightest move of the cat toward the rat's position, it retreats to its hole, knowing fully that no cat can hunt inside the rat's hole. The Hamas Tunnel, no doubt about it enhances the hit-and-run tactics of Hamas terrorist groupings in Gaza, hoping that its well-fortified tunnel will be beyond the reach of the Israeli Defence Force. But, the tunnels were nothing of substance to the IDF's well-equipped force with their sponge bombs, robots, and dogs well-trained for such advance

4.7.6 Caging Iran Aggressive Propensity

Iran as a nation has been playing the destabilizer, the leading nation supporting and sponsoring global terrorists, and its extremist proxies, but a coward sympathizer. In the history of Iran's existence as a nation, the Jews as a race, or the Israelites as a nation have never engaged in any war with Iran. Apart from the Iranian revolution that led to the fall of the Shah of Iran and the Iraq – Iran war between 1980 – 1988, there have never been other neighboring countries constituting a threat to the Iranian Territorial Integrity. According to Green, Israel, and Iran were once allies for at least 30 years to the extent that after the Islamic revolution of 1979, when Iran severed its diplomatic ties with Israel, there was a military cooperative between the two nations for several years, during which period Iran looked up to Israel for arms in its devastating war with Iraq between 1980 – 1988⁶⁰. The turn to hostility from friendly ties began shortly after the 1990s, after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the defeat of the Iraq in the Gulf war when Yitzhak Rabin's government adopted an aggressive posture against Iran. The second reason for the conflict between the two nations was the inflammatory statement made by the then Iranian President Mohammed Ahmadeneja. Other factors, were Iran posture against Israel as a result of the building of settlement in Palestine, Iran's development of nuclear programme and the state sponsorship of terrorist activities of Hamas, Hezbollah, and Houthi by Iran against Israel. Given these dangers, there is the urgent need for the U.N. to stop Iran's aggressive propensities.

4.7.7 Demilitarization, Demobilization and Reintegration of Hezbollah Forces

Hezbollah was established during the 1982 Lebanon war after Israel's invasion of Lebanon by Lebanese clerics. The organization adopted the model set forth by Ayatollah Khomeini after the Iranian Revolution of 1979. It is the foremost political force in Lebanon. It was formed to drive Israel out of the Islamic Republic in Lebanon. It derives substantial logistics and stockpiles of ammunition from Iran. Hezbollah though a nonstate actor and a foremost Iran proxy is a reckoning force within the mainstay of Lebanese polity. Hezbollah to date has sustained guerrilla warfare against Israel⁶¹. To maintain peace in the Middle East, Hezbollah Forces as a non-state actor should be demilitarized, its massive tunnels should be demolished, and its military infrastructure should be destroyed while its members should be demilitarized, and reintegrated within the mainstream of Lebanese politics.

4.7.8 Demilitarization, Disarmament, and Reintegration of Houthi Rebels

The Houthi movement is one of Iran's proxies in Yemen-based terrorist organizations. It is a Zaydi Shiite movement that has been fighting the Yemen's Sunni-majority government since 2014. The Houthi took over the Yemen capital, Sanaa, in September 2014. The Houthi movement emerged in Northern Yemen, as a reaction to the Saudi's support for the Sunni-led government in Yemen. The Houthis crossed into Saudi

⁵⁹Retrieved from www.collinsdictionary.com

⁶⁰ David B. Green (2018) .From friends to foes: How Israel and Iran turned into Arch – Enemies', Retrieved on the 21st day of November, 2023 at www.haaretz.com

⁶¹ Hezbollah: 'Formation, Political Orientation, and Conflict with Israel'. Retrieved on the 21st day of November, 2023 from www.oritannica.com

Arabia, and consequently, the Saudis launched air strikes against the rebels and engaged them in ground skirmishes. In 2017, a Ballistic Missile was fired at King Khalid International Airport. Riyadh and the Saudi government accused Iran of involvement being Iranian Missiles, fired by Hezbollah. Though both Iran and Hezbollah denied the allegation. Meanwhile, sequel to the October 7, 2023 invasion of Israel by Hamas terrorists from Gaza, and the Israeli force bombardment of Gaza, the Houthi terrorist from Yemen has been firing missiles from Yemen to Israeli territories. However, the missiles were intercepted by the U.S. Forces and the Israeli Iron Dome Defense system. To douse the tension in Yemen and on Israelities territories, there is an urgent need to disarm, demilitarize, and reintegrate the Houthi rebels into the mainstream of Yemenese politics, and with a government of National unity put in place more so since China had succeeded in restoring the diplomatic ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia, the two nations within the Sunni Arab, and the Shia dichotomy.

4.7.9 Non-State Actors Must be Outlawed by International Convention

The existence of all nonstate Actors must be outlawed by the International Convention. This should be barked up by the World High Command Military Force of Allied nations which should serve as the global military force for promoting global peace. Wherever nonstate actors exist, they should be rooted out and national reconciliation promoted.

4.7.10 Prohibiting the Activities of Rogue States

Rogue states are those states considered to be a threat to global peace by International Political Theorists. In essence, they are states considered very dangerous to other nations. Any state that embarks on state-sponsored terrorist project fits into the category of a rogue state. Any rogue state therefore ought to be excommunicated from the global community and heavily sanctioned both economically, and otherwise.

Declaring Munition Makers Patronizing Non-State Actors, and Insurgent Groupings as Number 1 World Criminal.

After the Second World War, the United States of America set up a commission led by Senator Nye's. The mandates of the Commission are first, to trace the causes of International war, and second, to determine who is responsible. The Nye's Commission was not the intellectual handiwork of anybody. It was the official philosophy of the Nye's commission. In its report, the Commission submitted that two devils are responsible for international wars⁶²; namely, the Wall Street Managers and munition makers. The Wall Street Managers are those who finance war and insurgent activities, while the munition makers are the sellers of munition who sell assorted brands of ammunition to warring factions. These ought to be dubbed as the number one world criminal. They are the candidates for Guetamalania prison. They are the number one world enemy.

4.7.11 The Age Long Sunnis/Shia Dichotomy Should be Completely Annihilated

Surprisingly, the Arabs are the enemies of themselves, and the explanation for the intractability of the Middle East crisis. While the Iranian government gives support to terrorists with Shia affiliation, the Saudi government defends the Sunni Groupings in the Arab world. With the restoration of diplomatic ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran, there should be an end to this Sunni/Shia divide that tears the Middle East asunder into disintegration as the axis of evil.

4.7.12 Exploring Multi-Track Diplomacy in Resolving the Intractable Middle East Crisis, and the Complexities of the Israel/Hamas War

Multi-Tract Diplomacy⁶³ involves consultations on nine tracts for the resolution of intractable problems. This involves conflict resolution at the multi level of all segments of the society capable of promoting total reconciliation and appeal to the psyche of individuals, organization, professional and religious bodies, down to the grassroots etc. The nine tracts consultation involves; government, professional conflict resolutionists, businesses, private citizens, research training and education, activism, religious funding, and public opinion through effective communication⁶⁴. But, whether this track could resolve this complex problems is debatable.

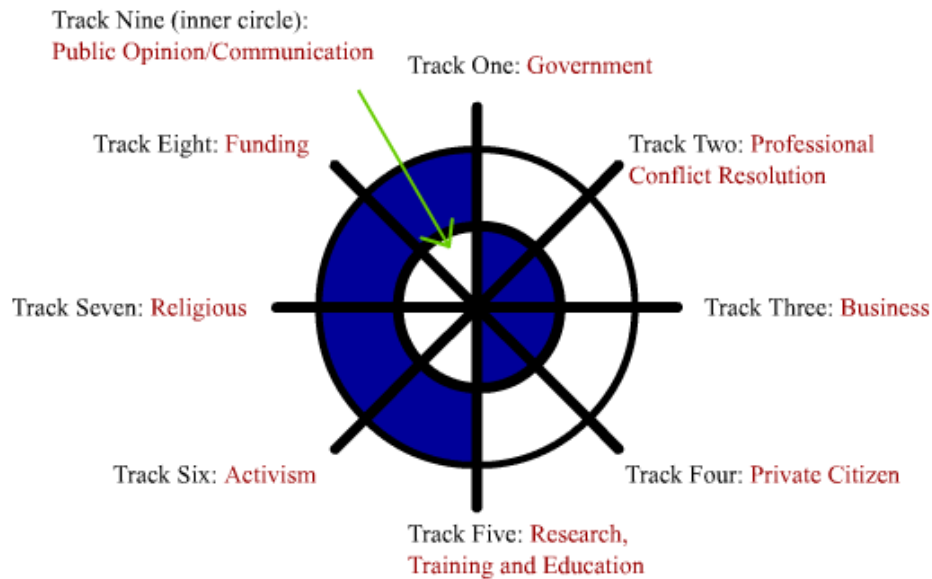
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⁶² Rogue state: 'Definition and Deaning', Retrieved on the 21st day of November 2023, from <https://www.collinsdictionary.com>

⁶³ Multi-Tract Diplomacy is a concept developed and put into practice by Louise Diamond and John W. McDonald. It was expanded from Joseph Montville and Tract two Diplomacies approaches to conflict resolution.

⁶⁴ Source: Diamond and McDonald, The Institute for Multi-Tract Diplomacy (IMTD)

⁶⁵ *Ibid*.



Source: Diamond and McDonald, The Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy (MTD).

5.0 Conclusion

Now, where do we go from here? The Middle East countries are profoundly the religious states of the world, yet, their existence resides in the envelope of darkness. In these milieu, the common scenario is for everyone to carry guns. One wonder whether the precepts of religion is to propagate violence. Why should people of God be offering their citizens, even children on the altar of munitions? It is therefore high time that the leading nations in the Middle East, (most especially Israel, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Egypt, and Qatar etc.) explore the possibility of making the Middle Eastern countries sign the Abraham's Children Peace Accord. This paper advocates through its context the roadmaps to that adventure. In the Israel/Palestine war, Palestine wanted a state based on the Pre-1967 border. Israelites said no, that is impossible. The demography has changed. The country is always expanding. Any Jew, anywhere in the world can become an Israeli citizen. This is called 'the Jewish Law of Returns. In essence, the resolution looks far away, the crisis is seemingly intractable. Could it be the Angelic prophecies about the relationship that would exist between Isaac's descendants, that of Israel, and Ishmael offspring is a cosmic spell? That should not, and God forbid. If the existence of two states seems impossible, there can exist a Federation whereby political appointments, sharing of power, and availability of opportunities within the Israeli/Palestinian enclave would be a constitutional matter. Israel could not be categorized as a stranger in the Middle-East. The Temple Wall shows to every inhabitants of the world that Isrealis portion in the MiddleEast can not be compromised. Israel is at war on many fronts; fighting Heshbollah in Lebanon, Houthis in Yemen, and Hamas in Palestine. The world leaders have no option than to work out a peace plan for the Middle-East. The Middle-East nations have the enormous responsibilities to champion this task, otherwise, the problem would remain intractable.