

기사 제목: **The Lasting Conflict Between Israel and Palestine**

본문: The conflict between Israel and Palestine is infamous for its complex and enduring nature. While some may think the conflict was caused by only religious differences, that is not always the case; modern conflict has several underlying political and historical reasons that are arguably more prominent than religious ones. It is also important to note that not all Israelis or Palestinians think the same thoughts. Palestine has also been divided amongst itself, and Hamas does not always reflect the thoughts of Palestinians, nor does the Israeli Government for Israelis.

Religious tensions between Jews and Muslims have always existed, as both claim the land. Judaism marks it as a “Promised Land”, one that God promised to the descendants of religious figures such as Abraham and Moses. However, it is also a Holy Land for Muslims. Thus, both groups claim the land and this is one of the reasons why conflict has been so common.

Before World War I the region of modern-day Israel and Palestine was under Ottoman rule. The area was religiously diverse, but primarily occupied by Muslims and Christians. However, many changes took place during the early 1900s. First, increasingly ethnic Arabs developed a sense of nationality as Palestinians. In Europe, a movement called Zionism, which argues that Jews are a nationality and deserve their own nation, began to grow. After centuries of persecution in Europe, many also believed it was the only way to acceptance and peace.

After World War I, the Ottoman Empire collapsed, and France and Britain took control of the Middle East, with Britain gaining control over the Israel and Palestine region. As more and more Jews arrived and settled into farming, the conflict between Jews and Arabs, particularly Palestinians, grew, with some turning violent. Britain then began limiting Jewish immigration, which resulted in Israel forming military groups against both Arab and British rule.

After World War II and the Holocaust (which resulted in the murder of over 11 million people, including 6 million Jews) many more Jews fled Europe and settled in Palestine with global support. However, as conflict between the two groups grew, the United Nations developed a plan to divide British Palestine between the Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem as an “International Zone”. This established both a country for Israel and independence for Palestine, and hoped to end violence on both sides. However, many Arab states saw this as just another extension of Western colonialism and attacked Israel, leading to the Arab-Israeli War. The Arab states hoped to create a Palestinian nation with all the land of the former Palestine under British rule. Israel won the war, but they pushed past their borders and

expelled Palestinians from their territory. Palestine was pushed back to Gaza, in control of Egypt, and the West Bank, in control of Jordan. This marked the beginning of the Arab-Israeli conflict when many Jews fled or were expelled from other Arab countries and settled in Israel. When the conflict ended, Israel claimed more territory, leading to them taking over all of Gaza, the West Bank, and Jerusalem. Israel now governed the Palestinians.

In 1978, Israel and Egypt signed the Camp David Accords, brokered by the United States, and gave back Sinai and Gaza to Egypt. With this, the conflict between Israel and the Middle East gradually subsided, but Israel still was in control of Gaza and the West Bank, both of which used to be Palestinian territories. Palestine, through the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), fought against Israel, sometimes through terrorist attacks. As the attacks occurred, Israelis started moving into the West Bank and Gaza for numerous reasons including religious and political reasons, as well as cheap housing. With settlers came soldiers to guard them and sometimes even push Palestinians off the land. By the 1980s, the First Intifada (Arab word for Uprising) began, and soon, it turned violent. Israelis also responded with violence, and soon, hundreds died on both sides.

Around the same time, a group in Palestine who considered the PLO too secular created Hamas, an extremist group whose goal was to destroy Israel. It became more and more clear that the two groups would need peace, and the leaders both signed the Oslo Accords in 1993 to begin a first step in an independent Palestinian state. It allowed a bit more freedom and power by establishing the Palestinian Authority but faced opposition on both sides. The Hamas launched suicide bombing to stop the process, and Israel also criticized the Prime Minister as a traitor and a Nazi. As he signed the second round, an extremist Israeli assassinated him in Tel Aviv. Ever since negotiations and peace talks have been almost always unsuccessful. Palestinians who believe peace isn't possible launched the Second Intifada, which increased in violence, and thousands on both sides died. From this point, both sides feel hopeless about peace.

In 2005, Israel withdrew from Gaza and gave Palestinians authority over it. Immediately afterward, Hamas gained power but split from the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank after a civil war. Israel then put Gaza under an extremely strict blockade, and Palestinians in the West Bank also faced oppression. Death tolls, especially for Palestinians, including many civilians, rose significantly, and more and more Israelis are left feeling apathetic as conflict is removed from their vicinity. Moreover, after the rocket attacks, Israel is using this blockade to cut off supplies such as fuel and food from the 2 million Palestinians living there. Furthermore, because there are only two ways to get out of the Gaza Strip (the North border with Israel and the South with Egypt) and Israel has closed the northern border, the crossing with Egypt is now the only way out. However, Egypt has rejected Palestinian refugees because they are worried they may never go home and because Hamas may be disguised as refugees who continue fighting

in Egypt once they get in. However, this led to civilians now effectively trapped in an area that is turning more and more into a warzone.

The War in Gaza is perhaps not unexpected. It started at a music festival when there was a rampage with Hamas gunmen that killed more than 260 people, with many still missing after being abducted by Hamas. As conflict still continues, different groups perceive it very differently. More Muslim-sympathetic sources such as Al Jazeera place the blame on Israel and argue that Hamas had a justifiable reason for the attacks, while Western sources tend to label it as terrorism. The war has also created division all around the world, with both Israel supporters and Palestinian supporters protesting and raising awareness. However, it is clear that both Israel and Palestine committed acts that should not have been committed which has led to the deaths of civilians. Many have lost their lives or the lives of a loved one. More than 700 Israelis, most of them civilians, have been killed, and thousands more are wounded. Israel immediately declared war on Hamas and dropped bombs on hundreds of Palestinian civilians. Israel is getting its forces ready for more conflict and promises this is just the beginning. If Israel invades Gaza, it may turn into another urban warfare similar to the one the US Army fought after 9/11, and urban warfare makes it extremely hard to engage in combat without inflicting major harm on civilians. Humanitarian aid and peace talks between both sides are desperately needed.