



Israel-Hamas Conflict and its Global Impact

For Prelims: [Israel-Hamas conflict](#), [Gaza Strip](#), [Strait of Hormuz](#)

For Mains: Impact of [Israel-Palestine Conflict](#) on India and International geopolitical scenario, Global Trade War, Oil Prices Manipulation.

Source: IE

Why in News?

The ongoing [Israel-Hamas conflict](#) has escalated due to Israel's **ground offensive in the Gaza Strip**, to eliminate **Hamas**. This has raised concerns about the post-conflict phase and its potential **impact on the global economy**.

- Bloomberg, a global media company has outlined three scenarios for the conflict and how each could affect countries around the world.

What are the Three Possible Scenarios for the Conflict and their Potential Effects?

- **Limited Conflict in Gaza:**
 - In this scenario, the conflict remains primarily **localized in the [Gaza Strip](#)**, with limited expansion into other regions.
 - **Potential Effects:**
 - Limited direct impact on the global economy. Nevertheless, this is unwelcome news for a world economy recovering from various setbacks, as central banks struggle between **addressing inflation and preventing economic slowdowns**.
 - The conflict can result in an increasing humanitarian crisis in Gaza, marked by significant casualties, with the death toll already surpassing 8,000.
- **Regional Conflict with Iran-backed Militants:**
 - This scenario involves a broader regional conflict, with the potential involvement of **Iran-backed militant groups in Lebanon and Syria**, as well as the [Houthis](#) in Yemen.
 - **Potential Effects:**
 - This could lead to escalation of violence in multiple regional locations, leading to increased instability and conflict..
 - Oil prices could rise to around the mid-USD 90s, higher than the current USD 90 per barrel,
 - Higher inflation rates globally, potentially denting global economic growth by 0.3% points.
- **Full-scale War Involving Israel, Iran, and Major Powers:**
 - The most extreme scenario envisions a full-scale war between regional powers Israel and Iran, with the possible involvement of major world powers such as the United States, China, and Russia.
 - **Potential Effects:**

- The conflict could disrupt **trade and global crude oil supply** in the Middle East, affecting countries in the region and their trading partners.
 - Over 20% of the world's crude supply comes from West Asia, conflict in the region may drastically push up the **Crude oil prices up to USD 150 per barrel**.
 - Even with potential capacity from Saudi Arabia and the UAE, if they do not align with Iran, oil shipments may still face challenges in passing through the [Strait of Hormuz](#), a 48-kilometer shipping chokepoint through which nearly **one-fifth of the world's total oil production transits**.
- **Global inflation could rise to about 6.7%** in 2024, potentially causing **global economic growth to slow by almost 2% points** and leading to a possible worldwide recession with significant implications for countries like India and the US.

Hamas

▪ About:

- Hamas is a **Palestinian political armed group that was founded in 1987**. It's a militant group that emerged as a resistance movement against Israeli occupation.

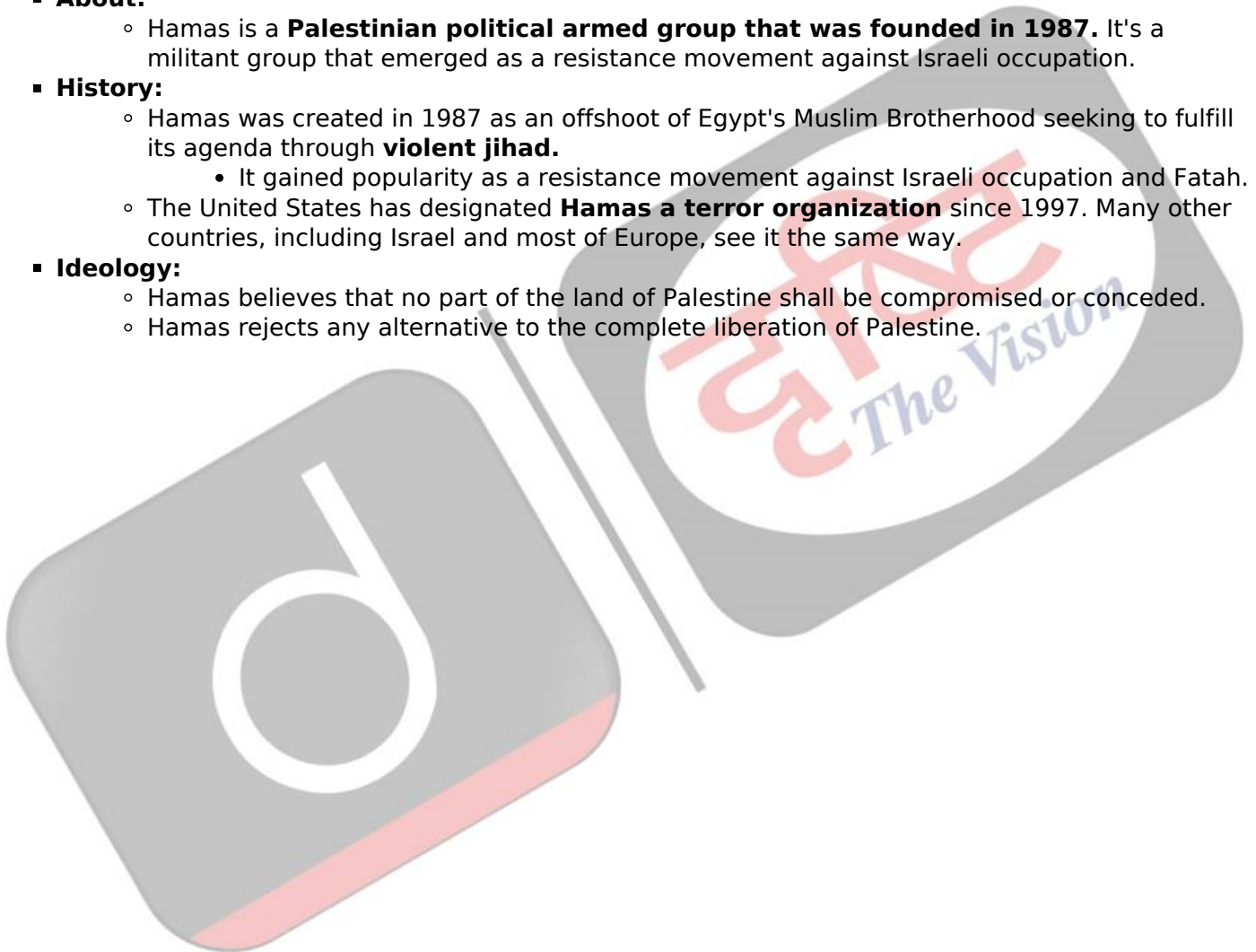
▪ History:

- Hamas was created in 1987 as an offshoot of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood seeking to fulfill its agenda through **violent jihad**.
 - It gained popularity as a resistance movement against Israeli occupation and Fatah.
- The United States has designated **Hamas a terror organization** since 1997. Many other countries, including Israel and most of Europe, see it the same way.

▪ Ideology:

- Hamas believes that no part of the land of Palestine shall be compromised or conceded.
- Hamas rejects any alternative to the complete liberation of Palestine.

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ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT

The Israel-Palestine conflict is a long-standing geopolitical dispute over territory and self-determination in the Middle East.

BEGINNING

- UN adopted **Resolution 181** - the Partition Plan in 1947
- State of Israel created in 1948, sparking the **first Arab-Israeli War** (Israel won)
 - Palestinians displaced
 - Division of territory into - State of Israel, West Bank and Gaza Strip

INITIAL TENSIONS AND CONFLICTS (1956-1979)

- Suez Crisis** and Israeli **invasion of Sinai Peninsula** in 1956
- Six-Day War (1967)** - Israel gained control over Sinai Peninsula, Gaza Strip, West Bank, East Jerusalem and Golan Heights

Controversy over Jerusalem as Capital

- Israel view:** Complete and united Jerusalem
- Palestinians view:** East Jerusalem future capital

- Yom Kippur War (1973)** - Surprise attack by Egypt and Syria
- Camp David Accords (1979)** b/w Egypt and Israel

Intifada (Arabic for 'shake off')

- First Intifada - 1987 to 1993**
 - Led to the foundation of Hamas (1987) - a Palestinian political party designated as a foreign terrorist org by US
 - Response - **Madrid Conference 1991** (chaired by the US and Russia)
- Second Intifada - 2000-2005**
 - The latest escalation (2023) is being called the beginning of "Third Intifada"

OSLO ACCORDS (MEDIATED BY US)

- First (1993)**
 - Estd framework for **Palestinian self-governance** in West Bank and Gaza
 - Enabled mutual recognition between Israel and Palestine

Second (1995)

- Expanded on Oslo I Accords
- Mandated **complete Israeli withdrawal** from several cities and towns in **West Bank**

POST 2000 CONFLICT AND RESPONSES

- 2013** - US-led peace process began
- 2014-18** - Gaza Conflict (2014)
 - Palestine announced break from territorial divisions under Oslo Accords (2015)
- 2018-20** - US Cancelled funding for Palestinian refugees under UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)
 - US proposed "**Peace to Prosperity**" plan
- 2020 - Abraham Accords**
- 2022-2023:**
 - Israel raids on **Jenin refugee camp**
 - Hamas launched "**Operation AL-Aqsa Flood**" and Israel launched "**Operation Iron Swords**" (both in 2023)
 - Israel declared a **State of War**
 - India's Stand:**
 - Supports a **Two State solution** for Israel and Palestine
 - Condemned the recent attack** by Hamas on Israel



UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q1. Mediterranean Sea is a border of which of the following countries? (2017)

- Jordan
- Iraq
- Lebanon
- Syria

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1, 2 and 3 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 3 and 4 only
- 1, 3 and 4 only

Ans: (c)

Q2. Which one of the following countries of South-West Asia does not open out to the Mediterranean Sea? (2015)

- (a) Syria
- (b) Jordan
- (c) Lebanon
- (d) Israel

Ans: (b)

Q3. The term “two-state solution” is sometimes mentioned in the news in the context of the affairs of (2018)

- (a) China
- (b) Israel
- (c) Iraq
- (d) Yemen

Ans: (b)

Mains

Q. “India’s relations with Israel have, of late, acquired a depth and diversity, which cannot be rolled back.” Discuss. **(2018)**

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