



**Futuristic Military Committee of Nato  
HpaIMUN 2018  
Study Guide**

## 1. Introduction

In the last month of 2017, defying dire, worldwide warnings, U.S. President Donald Trump broke decades of U.S. and international policy by recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital. After this declaration, the clashes between Palestinian protesters and Israeli security forces began. Some leaders made declarations in order to show where they stand towards this issue.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has called the decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel "a violation of international law.". Erdogan said he believed the current situation would lead to serious issues. *"This was an unfortunate declaration by President Trump for peace in the world and in the region,"* he added.

Also, the leader of Hezbollah -- the Iranian-backed Lebanese Shia militant group -- said President Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel puts Christian and Muslim holy places, especially the al-Aqsa mosque, in danger. *"There is no security or safety in this world, it is now a world that is ruled by a man that acts on his whim,"* Hezbollah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah said in reference to Trump. *"We are facing naked American aggression on Jerusalem, its people, its holy places and its cultural identity and on Palestine."*

Trump's move was appraised as a careless insult on nearly two billion Muslims worldwide. There were also millions of Christians who did not accept this step and felt insulted. Their holy places, the city that contains their historic and sacred places was given to an artificial Zionist country.

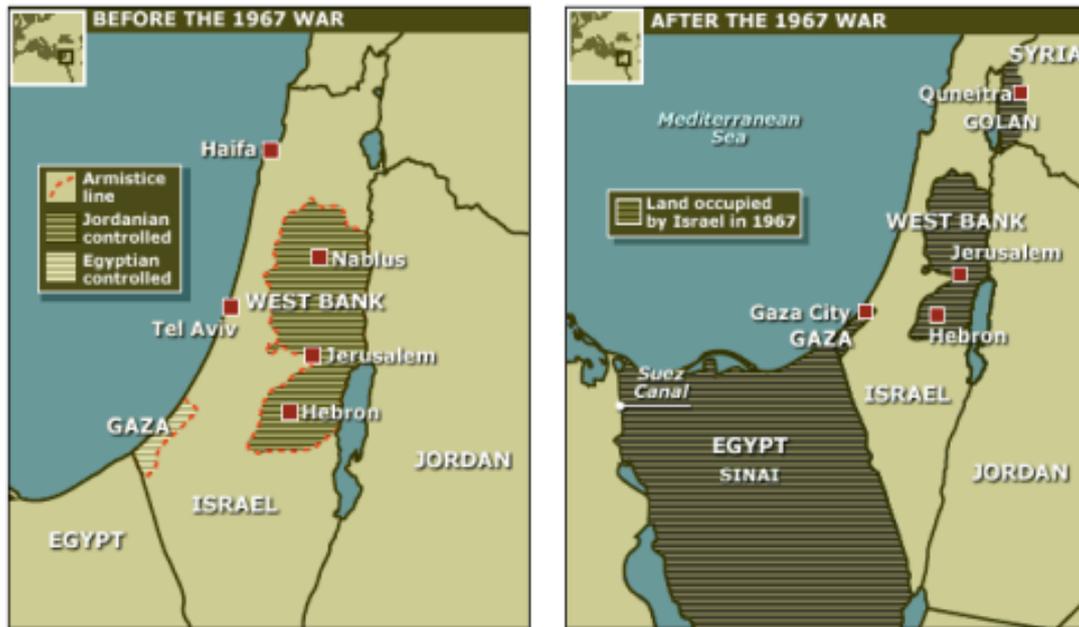
Despite all the backlashes, Mr. Trump insisted that after repeated peace failures it was past time for a new approach, starting with his decision to recognize Jerusalem as the seat of Israel's government.

### 2.1 History of Israel and Palestine Conflict

Israel is the world's only Jewish state, located just east of the Mediterranean Sea. Palestinians, the Arab population that hails from the land Israel now controls, refer to the territory as Palestine, and want to establish a state by that name on all or part of the same land. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is over who gets what land and how it's controlled.

Though both Jews and Arab Muslims date their claims to the land back a couple thousand years, the current political conflict began in the early 20th century. Jews fleeing persecution in Europe wanted to establish a national homeland in what was then an Arab- and Muslim-majority territory in the Ottoman and later British Empire. The Arabs resisted, seeing the land as rightfully theirs. An early United Nations plan to give each group part of the land failed, and Israel and the surrounding Arab nations fought several wars over the territory. Today's lines largely reflect the outcomes of two of these wars, one waged in 1948 and another in 1967.

The 1967 war is particularly important for today's conflict, as it left Israel in control of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, two territories home to large Palestinian populations:



Today, the West Bank is nominally controlled by the Palestinian Authority and is under Israeli occupation. This comes in the form of Israeli troops, who enforce Israeli security restrictions on Palestinian movement and activities, and Israeli "settlers," Jews who build ever-expanding communities in the West Bank that effectively deny the land to Palestinians. Gaza is controlled by Hamas, an Islamist fundamentalist party, and is under Israeli blockade but not ground troop occupation.

The primary approach to solving the conflict today is a so-called "two-state solution" that would establish Palestine as an independent state in Gaza and most of the West Bank, leaving the rest of the land to Israel. Though the two-state plan is clear in theory, the two sides are still deeply divided over how to make it work in practice.

The alternative to a two-state solution is a "one-state solution," wherein all of the land becomes either one big Israel or one big Palestine. Most observers think this would cause more problems than it would solve, but this outcome is becoming more likely over time for political and demographic reasons.

## 2.2 Nakba

The 1948 war uprooted 700,000 Palestinians from their homes, creating a refugee crisis that is still not resolved. Palestinians call this mass eviction the Nakba — Arabic for "catastrophe" — and its legacy remains one of the most intractable issues in ongoing peace negotiations.

Not surprisingly, Palestinians and Israelis remember the birth of the Palestinian refugee crisis very differently (here's a helpful side-by-side comparison). Palestinians often see a years long, premeditated Jewish campaign to ethnically cleanse Palestine of Arabs; Israelis tend to blame spontaneous Arab fleeing, Arab armies, and/or unfortunate wartime accidents.

Today, there are more than 7 million Palestinian refugees, defined as people displaced in 1948 and their descendants. A core Palestinian demand in peace negotiations is some kind of justice for these refugees, most commonly in the form of the "right of return" to the homes their families abandoned in 1948.

Israel can't accept the right of return without abandoning either its Jewish or democratic identity. Adding 7 million Arabs to Israel's population would make Jews a minority — Israel's total population is about 8 million, a number that includes the 1.5 million Arabs already there. So Israelis refuse to even consider including the right to return in any final status deal.

One of the core problems in negotiations, then, is how to find a way to get justice for the refugees that both the Israeli and Palestinian people can accept. Ideas proposed so far include financial compensation and limited resettlement in Israel, but the two sides have never agreed on the details of how these would work.

## **2.3 West Bank**

The West Bank is a chunk of land east of Israel. It's home to 2.6 million Palestinians, and would make up the heart of any Palestinian state. Israel took control of it in 1967 and has allowed Jewish settlers to move in, but Palestinians (and most of the international community) consider it illegally occupied Palestinian land.

In 1967, Israel fought a war with Egypt, Syria, and Jordan. Israel fired the first shot, but claims it was preempting an imminent Egyptian attack; Arabs disagree, casting Israel as an aggressor. In six days, Israel routed the Arab powers, taking the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan.

Israel has controlled the West Bank since the Six-Day War (as it's called). For many Jews, this is wonderful news in theory: the West Bank was the heartland of the ancient Jewish state. It's home to many Jewish holy sites, like the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron, that Jews were previously cut off from. In practice, Israeli control of the West Bank means military administration of a territory full of Palestinians who aren't exactly excited about living under Israeli authority.

The border between Israel and the West Bank would probably have to change in any peace deal. There are about 500,000 Jewish settlers living in the West Bank, many of whom live near the border with Israel proper. In a two-state deal, some of these settlers would have to leave the West Bank, while some border settlements would become Israeli land. In exchange, Israel would give over some of its territory to Palestine. These would be called "land swaps." No set of Israeli and Palestinian leaders have agreed on precisely where to draw the border.

## 2.4 Jerusalem

Jerusalem is a city that straddles the border between Israel and the West Bank. It's home to some of the holiest sites in both Judaism and Islam, and so both Israel and Palestine want to make it their capital. How to split the city fairly remains one of the fundamental issues dividing Israelis and Palestinians — and on December 6 2017, President Donald Trump weighed in on Israel's side.

For the first 20 years of Israel's existence, Jerusalem was divided. Israel controlled the parts of Jerusalem and its suburbs inside the red dotted line on this map, while Jordan controlled everything outside of it (blue dotted lines separate Jerusalem proper from suburbs):



Jordan controlled the Temple Mount, a hill in the map's brown splotch. The hill hosts the Western Wall, a retaining wall of an ancient Jewish temple and one of Judaism's holiest sites, and two of Islam's most important landmarks, the al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock. Israeli Jews weren't allowed to pray in the area while Jordan controlled it. During the 1967 war, Israel took control of East Jerusalem.

The United States consistently refused to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, believing that a formal announcement could spark violence and would fatally undermine the US' position as an honest broker between Israelis and Palestinians. President Trump decided to change that longstanding position in December. The new American policy recognizes Jerusalem as Israel's capital and begin the process of moving the embassy, but still allows for negotiations over what parts of the city would be permanently Israeli and what parts would be given to Palestine in the event of a peace agreement.

Assuming Trump's policy doesn't completely derail any chances for a peace process, there are still serious practical issues surrounding the division of Jerusalem. Not only is there an issue of ensuring Israeli and Palestinian access to the holy sites, but Jews have moved in and around Jerusalem in substantial numbers. They now make up about two-thirds of the city:



## 2.5 The History of USA and Israel

Though American support for Israel really is massive, including billions of dollars in aid and reliable diplomatic backing, experts disagree sharply on why. Some possibilities include deep support for Israel among the American public, the influence of the pro-Israel lobby, and American ideological affinity with the Middle East's most stable democracy.

The countries were not nearly so close in Israel's first decades. President Eisenhower was particularly hostile to Israel during the 1956 Suez War, which Israel, the UK, and France fought against Egypt.

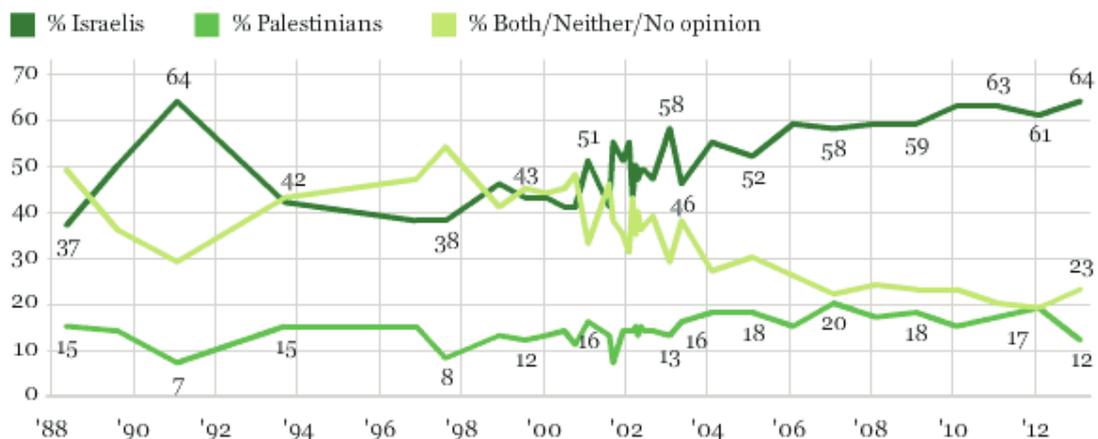
As the Cold War dragged on, the US came to view Israel as a key buffer against Soviet influence in the Middle East and supported it accordingly. The American-Israeli alliance didn't really cement until around 1973, when American aid helped save Israel from a surprise Arab invasion.

Since the Cold War, the foundation of the still-strong (and arguably stronger) relationship between the countries has obviously shifted. Some suggest that a common interest in fighting jihadism ties America to Israel, while others point to American leaders' ideological attachment to an embattled democracy. Perhaps the simplest explanation is that the American public has, for a long time, sympathized far more with Israel than with Palestine

The US has given Israel \$118 billion in aid over the years (about \$3 billion per year nowadays). Half of all American UN Security Council vetoes blocked resolutions critical of Israel.

### *Americans' Sympathies in Mideast Conflict*

In the Middle East situation, are your sympathies more with the Israelis or more with the Palestinians?



GALLUP'

Despite this fundamentally close relationship, there are occasionally tensions between Israeli and American officials. This was particularly true under US President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu; the two leaders clashed regularly over issues like settlements and Iran. The relationship reached a particularly nasty point when Netanyahu planned, with congressional Republicans, a March 2015 speech to a joint session of Congress that was highly critical of Obama's approach to Iran. The Obama administration was furious over what it saw as Netanyahu conspiring with Obama's domestic political opposition to undermine his policies.

The Trump administration has led to renewed warmth in the Israeli-American relationship, culminating in Trump's December decision to formally recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital. The stark difference between Obama and Trump approaches to Netanyahu reflects a growing partisan gap inside the United States, with Republicans taking an increasingly hardline "pro-Israel" position.

## 2.6 The Approach of Israel and Palestine to the Conflict

Neither side thinks the other is in any position to make a real deal, and it's not exactly clear how the US government could change their mind.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas doesn't trust the Israeli government, which is currently led by a right-wing coalition. Settlement expansion is one of the main reasons; settlement construction reached a seven-year high under Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's leadership. Abbas sees the rapid expansion during Netanyahu's time in office as strong evidence that Israel is attempting to make a Palestinian state impossible. While Netanyahu did freeze settlement expansion everywhere but Jerusalem for 10 months starting in November 2009, Palestinians wanted a total freeze, and so only sat down to talk in the ninth month (the talks went nowhere).

Netanyahu has been a critic of a two-state solution to the conflict for decades, and while he's expressed support for one now in theory, many believe his commitment isn't genuine. He's the first leader of Likud, Israel's major right-wing party, to endorse a two-state solution while in power, which he did under heavy American pressure in 2009.

However, while campaigning during the 2015 Israeli election, which his party won fairly resoundingly, Netanyahu announced that there would be no Palestinian state under his watch. It's a statement he's tried to walk back, but one that's consistent with his long-held belief that Palestinians can't be trusted to be peaceful neighbors.

Israel has real reasons to be skeptical of the Palestinian side. One major one is the Hamas-Fatah split. Since Hamas took control of Gaza, Israel has been concerned that any peace agreement with the Palestinian Authority wouldn't stick in Gaza, where it has no real control. That's especially worrying for the Israeli leadership given Hamas's public commitment to Israel's destruction. Moreover, it's not clear that Abbas could sell Palestinians on the concessions he'd inevitably need to make in order to make a deal with Israel.

The two sides' basic skepticism of each other's willingness and ability to make peace is the fundamental reason that the peace push led by US Secretary of State John Kerry fell apart in April 2014. Since then, the Palestinians have turned toward a pressure campaign designed to isolate Israel internationally and put pressure on the Israeli leadership to make peace, which has had little success.

## **2.7 What are the “two-state solution” and the “one-state solution”?**

The "two-state solution" would create an independent Israel and Palestine, and is the mainstream approach to resolving the conflict. The idea is that Israelis and Palestinians want to run their countries differently; Israelis want a Jewish state, and Palestinians want a Palestinian one. Because neither side can get what it wants in a joined state, the only possible solution that satisfies everyone involves separating Palestinians and Israelis.

The "one-state solution" would merge Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip into one big country. It comes in two versions. One, favored by some leftists and Palestinians, would create a single democratic country. Arab Muslims would outnumber Jews, thus ending Israel as a Jewish state. The other version, favored by some rightists

and Israelis, would involve Israel annexing the West Bank and either forcing out Palestinians or denying them the right to vote. Virtually the entire world, including most Zionists, rejects this option as an unacceptable human rights violation.

Most polling suggests that both Israelis and Palestinians prefer a two-state solution. However, the inability of Israelis and Palestinians to come to two-state terms has led to a recent surge in interest in a one-state solution, partly out of a sense of hopelessness and partly out of fear that if the sides cannot negotiate a two-state solution, a de facto one-state outcome will be inevitable.

## **2.8 What is the “Peace Process”?**

Sometimes called "Oslo" after the 1993 Oslo Accords that kicked it off, the peace process is an ongoing American-mediated effort to broker a peace treaty between Israelis and Palestinians. The goal is a "final status agreement," which would establish a Palestinian state in Gaza and the West Bank in exchange for Palestinians agreeing to permanently end attacks on Israeli targets — a formula often called "land for peace."

Many people believed the peace process to be over in January 2001. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat had just rejected his Israeli counterpart Ehud Barak's peace offer (there's huge disagreement as to just what that offer entailed). Moreover, renewed talks failed to generate an agreement, and worsening violence during the second intifada violence made another round of talks seem impossible.

Despite the 2001 failure, the general Oslo "land for peace" framework remains the dominant American and international approach to resolving the conflict. The Bush administration pushed its own update on Oslo, called the "road map," and the Obama administration made the peace process a significant foreign policy priority. The Trump administration has not formally abandoned this formula, but has yet to take any significant actions to advance it.

Any successful peace initiative would need to resolve the four core issues that have plagued the peace process: West Bank borders/settlements, Israeli security, Palestinian refugees, and Jerusalem. So far there's been little success, and there are three major hurdles to any agreement.

First, Israel continues to expand West Bank settlements, which Palestinians see as a de facto campaign to erase the Palestinian state outright. Second, the Palestinians remain politically divided between Fatah and Hamas, and thus are unable to negotiate jointly. And even if it worked, Israel still has shown zero indication that it would negotiate with a government that includes Hamas.

Third, and finally, it's not actually clear how to get talks started. The current right-wing Israeli government is skeptical of concessions to the Palestinians. The Palestinians, having essentially decided that Israel isn't serious about peace, have launched a campaign for statehood in international institutions aimed at pressuring Israel into peace — which might well backfire by convincing Israelis the Palestinians are done with the US-led peace process.

To restart talks, the US needs to somehow get the two sides to start taking each other's commitment to peace a little more seriously. It's not at all clear how it could do that, or even if the Trump administration wants to.

### 3. Timeline of Events

**December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017-** President Trump formally recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, reversing nearly seven decades of American foreign policy and setting in motion a plan to move the United States Embassy from Tel Aviv to the fiercely contested Holy City.

**December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017-** World leaders from all around the world condemned President Trump's formal announcement, Islamic religious and political leaders called for uprisings in the area.

**January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018-** Punctuating America's increasing international isolation, the United Nations Security Council demanded on Monday that the Trump administration rescind its decisions to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and to put the United States Embassy there. The demand, in a resolution that its backers knew would likely offend the United States, was vetoed by the American ambassador, Nikki R. Haley. Even America's staunchest allies on the 15-member Council, the most powerful body in the United Nations system, voted for the resolution.

**February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018-** With President Trump insisting on his decision, despite all the reaction from all over the globe, violence in the region has escalated. There have been at least 27 rocket attacks from Gaza and clashes between Israeli security forces and Palestinian demonstrators, along with calls by some for a new Palestinian uprising from Islamic leaders.

**March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018-** U.S successfully puts its embassy to Jerusalem.

**April 22<sup>th</sup>, 2018 –** Despite all the measures of safety, two suicide bombers simultaneously blow their selves up along with the embassy's west half.

**May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018-** United Nations Security Council gathers in Brussels, Belgium to discuss to even more increasing violence in the Middle Eastern Region.

**May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018-** A Jihadist terrorist group publishes a public statement saying, if Mr. Trump does not repel his decision there will be consequences.

**May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018-** Security Council decides to send in the Peace Keepers to the region to sustain the order in the area.

**June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018-** While returning to U.S.A from Israel President Trump's Presidential Plane crashes to the Trans-Atlantic Region with no one surviving but the cook, Alan Smith in the plane. (Details will be shared.)

**June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018-** Alan Smith gets interrogated by the U.S officials and makes an appearance on TV saying "It is a miracle that I have survived. My condolences to all Americans for the loss of our President. The plane was on the autopilot while I was serving dinner to our cabin crew and the pilots. Then, suddenly, we felt like we were losing altitude. Our pilots rushed to their cockpit, but the control of the plane was not at them. It felt like someone else was controlling the plane from outside. Then I heard a very loud voice and I don't remember the rest."

Also, with the death of the President and his Vice President in the unfortunate crash, Paul Ryan, the current Speaker of the United States House of Representatives becomes the president as this title is the third in United States presidential line of succession.

**June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018** – The jihadist terrorist group makes another public statement and own up to the killing of the former president of USA, saying they were funded by the Arab League.

**July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018** – Arab League denies all the accusations by making a statement. The group who assumed liability of the attacks called “New Spring” and which includes Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Líbya, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Syria and Yemen.

**July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018** - Paul Ryan officially became the President of the United States of America.

**August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018** - The tension continues in Israel - Palestine borders. Some offensive occurring happened. Nearly 30 Palestinians are harmed.

**August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018** - The group called “New Spring” made a declaration that if more Palestinians are harmed, they will not take responsibility for the things which may occur.

**September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018** - 2 Palestinian teenagers died in the borderline while protesting the events.

**November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018** - An another attack toward the US embassy in Jerusalem occurred.

**November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018**- United States of America and Israel officially declared war. US requires sending NATO troops to the areas where tension is the highest such as. (Will be shown on a map) The troops will be 80% American, 5% British, 5% French, 5% German and 5% from other NATO member countries.

**December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018**- Since the decision was taken in a NATO council, Turkey also had to send military forces as they are a member of NATO. The nation was not delighted by this news. Some protests started to take place.

**January 2019**- Protests in Turkey keeps growing. Now the country is on the edge of civil war.