***REGIONAL AND GLOBAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI WAR***

***REGIONAL CONSEQUENCES***

***1. FOR PALESTINIANS***

1. **Statelessness.** The displacement of Palestinians and their refugee status due to Israeli expansionist policy and Jewish immigration into Palestine were serious outcomes of the AI conflict leading to long term tensions in the Middle East region. By the end of the 1948 war alone, the UN estimated that the total Palestinian refugee population was 940,000. There was a significant number of Palestinians who were left homeless as a result of Israeli expansionist policy. The Jewish argument was that Palestinians should be integrated into the Arab states, whereas the Arabs argued that refugees should be able to return to their rightful homes (Schulze 1999, p. 16). This contributed to the rise of cross-border terrorism against Israel. Note that the issue of Palestinian displacement and statelessness is a long term constant outcome of the AI conflict. The Palestinians still do not possess a homeland and those areas that are self-governing under the “Palestinian Authority” fall very far short of a contiguous viable Palestinian state.
2. **Rise of Palestinian Nationalism.** The oppression and displacement of the Palestinians by the Israelis led to the rise of Palestinian nationalism. Hamas regards nationalism (*wataniyya*) as part and parcel of the religious faith and Article 12 of the Hamas Charter clearly states that it is the duty of all Muslims, including women, to fight against the Jews for the liberation of Israel from Zionism and the influence of the “Imperial forces”. The discrimination, humiliation, and brutal treatment the Palestinians received at the hands of the Israelis further heightened their sense of injustice that fuelled their quest for revenge.

***2. FOR ISRAEL***

1. **Heightened sense of insecurity.** A constant long term underlying outcome of the AI conflict. Israel gained land but lost peace and became even more insecure. Bomb shelters are all over Israel. A state surrounded by the Muslim world and highly vulnerable vis-à-vis safeguarding its national security and sovereignty. It has been to 4 major wars since 1948 and has suffered multiple military attacks from Arab states such as Egypt, Lebanon and Syria and this have shaped Israel’s national security apparatus to be at constant vigilance and to be at a heightened sense of alert.
2. **The conflict has a negative impact on Israel’s tourism industry and its economy.** The Israeli tourism industry and economy suffers from fluctuations due to wars, terror events, and other forms of violence inflicted upon it by its neighbors. Any sort of calamity or adversity that is deemed worthy of reporting by the international media has its impact on reducing tourist arrivals. Tourists with spiritual pilgrimage motivation have come to Israel in large numbers during peaceful periods while avoiding the Holy Land in times of tension (Collins-Kreiner et al, 2006).

***3. FOR ISRAELI-PALESTINE CONFLICT***

1. **One main obvious consequence was of course the destruction and loss of life.** Not only was there the loss of life from soldiers in both sides, but also innocents were murdered. For example, the Deir Yassin massacre on 9 April 1948 witnessed the death of 245 men, women and children. The narrative of the massacre was embellished and used by various parties to attack each other—by the Palestinians against Israel. News of the killings sparked terror within the Palestinian community, encouraging them to flee from their towns and villages in the face of Jewish troop advances, and it strengthened the resolve of Arab governments to intervene, which they did five weeks later. Moreover, the same month, the Arabs retaliated, killing 77 mainly Jewish doctors and nurses (Ovendale 1999, p. 135).
2. **Another consequence is territorial changes.** Palestinian Arabs lost the lands given by the United Nations. In the 1948 war, the Jewish state conquered 78% of Palestine, with a population of 600,000 Jews and 133,000 Arabs. A total of 727,000 Arabs were expelled from Israel, of which 470,000 entered refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, while the remainder were repatriated to other Arab countries. Meanwhile, the Israelis redrew the map, abolishing Arab place names in favor of Hebrew names, in an attempt to extinguish the remnants of Palestinian Arab culture. The participating Arab states in the 1948 war gained territories from the Palestinians, who were more interested to grab Palestinian territories than solely to help them. Trans-Jordan got the West Bank and East Jerusalem, Syria got the Golan Heights, and Egypt got the Gaza Strip. *“Arab solidarity in the struggle for Palestine was more apparent than real. Behind the rhetoric, the reality was one of national selfishness and dynastic rivalries” – Avi Shlaim.* In the 1967 war, Israel took over and occupied the Golan Heights from Syria, Gaza Strip and Sinai from Egypt, and West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan with a Palestinian population of 665 000. They became the Occupied Territories (OT). In the OT, Jewish settlements were set up to dilute the identity and to control the Palestinians, especially from 1977 under the Likud Party’s “creeping annexation”. It turned another 400 000 Palestinians into refugees.

***4. FOR THE ARAB-ISRAELI RELATIONS & CONFLICT***

**i.** **Instability in the Middle East region.** The Arab-Israeli conflict has a destabilizing effect on the entire Middle East region. The 4 major Arab-Israeli wars and the omnipresent Arab States’ disdain towards the Jewish state is a testament to the fact that they collectively regard Israel as a ‘foreign’ presence in the Arab region and quest for its elimination and destruction. The Palestinian problem has always been, and remains, at the very heart of the conflict in the Middle East region. But besides the Palestine issue, Israel was and still is regarded as an alien presence in the Arab world. Besides the cultural differences that the Jews had in relation to the Arabs in the Middle East, the fact that Israel was created with the aid of Western powers further exacerbated the tensions between the Jews and the Arabs. Israel, so closely associated with the West, was an anomaly that could not be tolerated.

**ii. Secret Nuclear Buildup by Israel**

Israel is widely believed to possess weapons of mass destruction, and to be one of four nuclear-armed countries not recognized as a Nuclear Weapons State by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The US Congress Office of Technology Assessment has recorded Israel as a country generally reported as having undeclared chemical warfare capabilities, and an offensive biological warfare program. Officially Israel neither confirms nor denies possessing nuclear weapons. It is believed that Israel had possessed an operational nuclear weapons capability by 1967, with the mass production of nuclear warheads occurring immediately after the Six-Day War. Although no official statistics exist, it has been estimated that Israel possesses from 75 to as many as 400 nuclear weapons, which are reported to include thermonuclear weapons in the megaton range. Israel is also reported to possess a wide range of different systems, including neutron bombs, tactical nuclear weapons, and suitcase nukes. The Israeli government maintains a policy of deliberate ambiguity on whether it has nuclear weapons, saying only that it would "not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons in the Middle East.” The Jewish state’s towards acquiring nuclear weapons has created much fear amongst the Arab states in the region and has has contributed to a heightened state of tensions and insecurities in the Middle East.

**iii. Rise of pan-Arabic Nationalism and anti-West sentiments in the 1950s and 60s.** Israel was regarded as the defender of Western interests in the region. This did not sit well with the Arabs and the 1950s and 60s saw the emergence of Arab nationalism, most notably under the leadership of Egypt’s Gamal Abdul Nasser. Leaders such as Nasser wanted to get rid of the last remnants of Western influence and interference in the Arabic world and wanted to reengineer the Arabic societies via modernization and renaissance. Nasser and likeminded leaders promised Arab renewal, revival, and resurgence. Examples: The nationalization of the Suez Canal in July 1956, turning the Arabs against the West, threatening western position/empire and oil supplies in the Middle East, supporting the Algerian nationalist movement fighting against the French with arms supply. Note that the aftermath of the 1967 war saw the beginning of the decline of pan-Arabic nationalism due to the military defeat of the Arab coalition.

***INTERNATIONAL CONSEQUENCES***

1. **ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY**

The 1973 Arab-Israeli war had an adverse impact on the global economy. The 1973 oil crisis started in October 1973 when the members of **Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries or the OAPEC** (consisting of the Arab members of OPEC, plus Egypt, Syria and Tunisia) proclaimed an oil embargo. OAPEC initiated the embargo in response to US involvement in the 1973 Yom Kippur War. Six days after Egypt and Syria launched the surprise military campaign against Israel to regain territories lost to Israel in the Six Day War, the United States chose to re-supply Israel with arms. OAPEC decided to retaliate, announcing an oil embargo against Canada, Japan, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

IN By the end of the embargo in March 1974, the price of oil had risen from US$3 per barrel to nearly $12. The oil crisis, or "shock", caused many global short-term and long-term economic and political effects.

The crisis had a large impact on global relations. A strong rift was created within NATO. The Arab nations' actions were seen as initiating the oil embargo, and a long-term possibility of high oil prices, disrupted supply, and economic recession were seen to follow. Additionally, some European nations and Japan sought to disassociate themselves from the U.S. policy in the Middle East. Arab oil producers had also linked any possible end of the embargo with successful U.S. efforts to create peace in the Middle East, which complicated the situation. To address these developments, the Nixon Administration began negotiations with Arab oil producers to end the embargo, and with Egypt, Syria, and Israel to arrange an Israeli pull back from the Sinai and the Golan Heights. By January 18, 1974, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger had negotiated an Israeli troop withdrawal from parts of the Sinai. The promise of a negotiated settlement between Israel and Syria was sufficient to convince Arab oil producers to lift the embargo in March 1974.

1. **IMPACT ON THE COLD WAR**

The Cold War competition between the superpowers and their role in the AI conflict led to both stability and instability in the region.

The Cold War added a strategic overlay which helped to sustain, and at times, escalate the conflict. As the Cold War progressed, the two superpowers competed for influence. By the early 1950s, the Soviets made the choice to back the Arabs, hoping to capitalize on the wave of nationalist, anti-colonial, anti-Western sentiments that flowed through much of the Middle East. The US had a more difficult course to follow due to its objective of securing friendly relations with oil producing Arab states and its need to please the vocal pro-Israel lobby at home.

Note that the Cold War didn’t cause the conflict, but it militarized it. Thus, by doing so, it increased tensions and insecurities, and at times may have directly contributed to the outbreak of wars and instability in the region.

* The 1956 Suez Crisis was partly triggered by the Arabs’ receiving arms from Czechoslovakia in 1955 and the Czechs fall within the Soviet empire in Eastern Europe.
* The 1967 war was partially triggered by the Soviets supplying first rate military hardware to Sadat, thus boosting his confidence to attack Israel.
* In the 1967 war, the US supplied Israel with vast quantities of arms and money and political backing.
* By the 1980s, the US became the most frequent user of the UN veto to counter critical measures of Israel. The UN and the international community found it hard to censure Israel in the face of strong US opposition.

The Cold War powers have also helped to end wars between Israel and the Arabs. Neither power actually wanted war in the Middle East as they were acutely aware of the dangers of these wars escalating to the point where the superpowers themselves might be completely drawn –in in a full-scale proxy war. In 1967 and 1973, the US applied pressure for a cessation of hostilities. So did the Soviets. Both worked to broker ceasefires because they wanted to limit the possibilities of a wider escalation of tensions. Another example would be the US key role in the Camp David Accords of 1978 that helped to establish peace between Israel and Egypt.

1. **RISE OF ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALIST ORGANISATIONS AND TRANSNATIONAL TERRORISM (THIS CAN BE TIED TO ANTI-US AND ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS)**

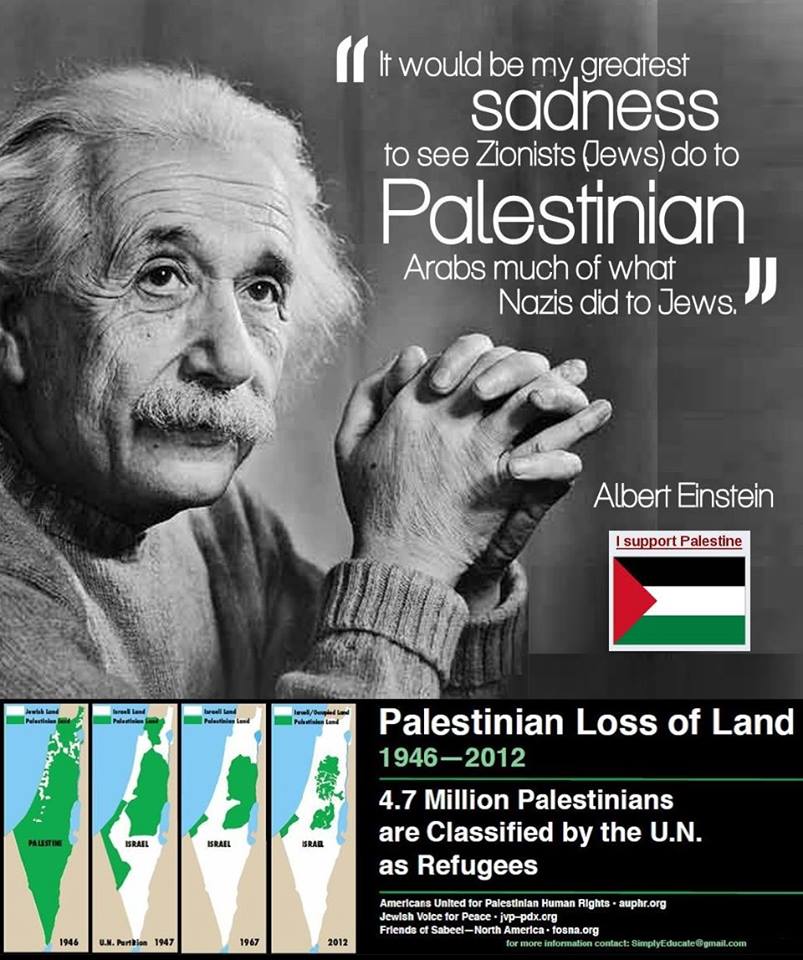
The 1980s saw the emergence of a more overtly religious brand of politics becoming evident in the Middle East. The ascension of religious politics, by its nature more uncompromising, has made an already intractable conflict even more intractable. The 1980s saw the emergence of a new form of Islamic based Palestinian resistance. This was due to the failure of secular politics in Palestine and elsewhere and was also inspired by the Iranian Revolution of 1979.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad among others employ violence as a legitimate tool against their enemies Israel and the West. Religion helps to justify and adds legitimacy to the Palestinians and the other Arab states’ fight against Israel because the end goal is to bring justice to the oppressed Muslims in Palestine. In the 1980s, the Muslim Brotherhood emerged as a powerful political factor challenging the influence of the PLO, and in 1987 adopted a more nationalist and activist line under the name of Hamas. Hamas went on to conduct numerous suicide bombings against the Jews in the 1990s and 2000s.

1. ***DIPLOMATIC HOSTILITY***

The **international recognition of Israel** refers to the [diplomatic recognition](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diplomatic_recognition) of the [State of Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_of_Israel), which was established by the [Israeli Declaration of Independence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli_Declaration_of_Independence) on 14 May 1948. 160 of the 192 [UN member states](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UN_member_states) (700183000000000000083%) currently recognize the state of Israel. The following 32 countries do not formerly recognize the state of Israel and do not have diplomatic relations with the Jewish state.

1. Afghanistan
2. Algeria
3. Bahrain
4. Bangladesh
5. Bhutan
6. Brunei
7. Chad
8. Comoros
9. Cuba
10. Djibouti
11. Guinea
12. Indonesia
13. Iran
14. Iraq
15. North Korea
16. Kuwait
17. Lebanon
18. Libya
19. Malaysia
20. Mali
21. Morocco
22. Niger
23. Oman
24. Pakistan
25. Qatar
26. Saudi Arabia
27. Somalia
28. Sudan
29. Syria
30. Tunisia
31. United Arab Emirates
32. Yemen

***[](http://www.thelibertybeacon.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Einstein.jpg)***