BIMUN XXIII

Security Council

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1. Welcoming Words by the Chair

I. Words by President Barrios

Dear faculty advisors, sponsors, delegates, ladies and gentlemen:

"True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice."

– Martin Luther King Jr.

I'm grateful to welcome to you all to the 23rd Model United Nations of the Fundación Colegio Bilingüe de Valledupar, BIMUN.

Participating in Model United Nations is a beneficial activity for those who choose to belong to it, as it actively contributes to the betterment of the world by providing a broad view of its challenges and issues to current generations. Interest in an issue, depending on what it is, can become the beginning of change.

Me, who have had the benefit of being on many committees, can say that each committee topic has given me a clearer picture of what awaits us if we do not make the right decisions, as it has given me a deep insight into my own capabilities, instilled self-confidence and fostered a strong commitment to achieve my goals through discipline and dedication.

I thank God for this wonderful opportunity. BIMUN is indeed an incredible model that everyone should have the opportunity to experience.

Without a doubt, this year's Security Council promises to be an exceptional committee. Rest assured that we are fully committed to providing you with unwavering assistance and support throughout this memorable journey.

Rosa Nicoll Barrios Daza,

President of the Security Council.

II.   Words by President Castro

Dear Esteemed Delegates, Sponsors, and Guests,

With great pride and enthusiasm, I extend a warm welcome to each of you to the twenty-third edition of BIMUN, where I have the distinct privilege of serving as the President of the Security Council alongside my co-president, Rosa Barrios.

My own journey in this committee began at the age of 12, filled with nerves, in what seemed like a completely new experience. However, through perseverance and an open mind, I embraced it and discovered a profound passion for MUNs, particularly within the Security Council, which I have been a part of non-stop since that day. Participating in MUN ignited a passion within me, leading me to develop many of the skills I am proud to possess today, and it is more than an honor for me to be your guide in your own journey, one that I am confident will lead you to great achievements if approached with responsibility.

In a changing world, we hold the responsibility to shape the future, to navigate challenges and pave the way for progress, and whether you are aware or not, here you are fostering those abilities that will make you the voice of change in a future where we have the power to speak up. As we convene to address pressing global issues in this committee whose function is to work towards maintaining international peace and security, address conflicts and prevent acts of aggression to safeguard the well-being of nations worldwide, let's remember the profound impact our actions can have on society, and let's work together to find solutions to the challenges we face today. Each of you, whether delegate, sponsor, or reader, plays a crucial role in shaping the future of our world. I invite each of you to approach this experience with willingness to collaborate.

As your president this year, I expect your full commitment and compromise to fulfill your duties as delegates. During this journey, my co-president and I are committed to providing support and guidance throughout the proceedings to make your experience within the model as pleasant as possible. For any information or questions you may have, do not hesitate to contact me.

With sincere regards

Cristina Castro Pretelt,

President of the Security Council.

2. General Information

I.   History of the United Nations Security Council

The Security Council is the first committee of the United Nations Organization, and it was created in 1945. Its first session occurred on January 17, 1946, at Church House, Westminster, London. Since then, the permanent residence has been the United Nations Headquarters in New York City.

When the committee first started, it only had nine members. With the years it was then expanded to fifteen in which five of them are permanent, these are also known as vetoes, these were the victors of World War II; the United States of America, the Republic of China, the Soviet Union, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the French Republic.

There have only been two changes regarding the G5, the first one occurred in 1949 when the Republic of China had a communist revolution which led to the creation of the People's Republic of China and the second modification was made in 1991 with the fall of the

USSR, its seat was replaced by Ukraine, but it was then assigned to the Russian Federation due to its relevance.

The primary goal of the Council is maintaining global peace and security, meaning that when a threat to the international community is brought, the recommendation is to reach a conjoint agreement on peaceful terms. Nevertheless, the parties may execute enforcement

measures like economic sanctions, detachment of diplomatic relations, blockade, and military action as the last resource.

II.   Committee Powers

The Veto power is one of the most important honors between permanent and non-permanent members in the UN charter. The veto powers of the Security Council are: the United States of America, the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the French Republic. The UNSC is the only committee capable of emitting mandatory resolutions. For this to happen, there are a series of requirements that the Council must meet. The first one is to count with the vote of half of the session members plus one (50%+1), and then count with the approval of all five permanent countries.

The Security Council wants to promote influence between the ten non-permanent members, that is why the committee's presidency rotates every month. It is important to recall that the non-permanent members are elected through the UN General Assembly, the elected members should contribute to the maintenance of international peace and Security, these are also defined by financial or troop contributions to peacekeeping operations or leadership on matters of regional security.

III.   List of Countries

1. Arab Republic of Egypt
2. Commonwealth of Australia
3. Democratic People's Republic of Korea
4. French Republic
5. Japan
6. Islamic Republic of Iran
7. People's Republic of China
8. Palestine Liberation Organization
9. Republic of India
10. Russian Federation
11. Socialist Republic of Vietnam
12. State of Israel
13. Syrian Arab Republic
14. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
15. United States of America

It is important to note that the Palestine Liberation Organization does not possess a right to vote, since it is not a member of the United Nations, and thereby of the Security Council.

3. First Topic: "Ensuring Stability and Security in the Indo-Pacific by Managing the Military and Economic Engagement of Global Powers in the Region."

I. Introduction to the Topic

The Indo-Pacific region is a vast and strategically significant area that encompasses the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean, extending from the eastern Indian Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. Geopolitically, the relatively new term "Indo-Pacific" has gained increasing prominence, with countries like the United States, Australia, Japan, India, and others

adopting it as a policy symbol of regional engagement. This region is home to more than half of the world's people, nearly two-thirds of the world's economy, and seven of the world's largest militaries.

The Indo-Pacific region is made up of a vast number of countries such as Vietnam, North Korea, Thailand, and other global powers such as China, United States, Australia and India.

II. Historical Context

a. Ancient History

The term Indo-Pacific itself dates to the early 20th century, when German geopolitician Karl Haushofer used the term to envision an alliance between India and China against Western maritime dominance. The region's strategic significance can be traced even back to the era of explorers like Marco Polo, who traveled through Southeast Asia, the Indian Ocean, and the Persian Gulf in the 13th century in an attempt to establish a long-term Chinese presence there.

He provided a detailed portrait of the broad web of trade relations that existed between Chinese mainland ports and cities in modern day Indonesia, India, and along the Persian Gulf.

b. Cold War Legacies

During the Cold War era, the Indian Ocean and its surrounding regions became a key battleground for influence between the United States and the Soviet Union. This period of rivalry and competition shaped the security and power dynamics in the region, with both powers seeking to expand their influence and control over strategic territories. This is evident in the strategic alliances and military presence established by the United States and its allies to stop Soviet influence. The U.S. military presence in countries like Japan, South Korea, and Australia, as well as its naval bases in the Indian Ocean, reflects the enduring impact of Cold War strategies on regional security dynamics.

c. Recent History

In more recent history, the rise of the Indo-Pacific has been motivated by two key factors: the growing footprint of China across the region and the relative decline of the U.S. alliance system, leading to a need for the U.S. to reassert its influence in the region. The region's significance stems from its critical sea routes, high energy demands, and global economic importance, making it a center of global politics and economics.

Maintaining the status quo and managing the military and economic engagement of global powers in the Indo-Pacific has become a key priority for regional actors. Countries like The U.S. have articulated its Indo-Pacific strategy, aiming to advance a free and open Indo-Pacific, build connections within and beyond the region, drive prosperity, bolster security, and build regional resilience to reassure the establishment of the status quo and manage the influence of other major powers, such as China, in the region.

III.   Importance of the Region

Overtime, the concept of the Indo-Pacific region has gotten more recognized, this is because of the importance of the region in the following aspects:

a. Trade and Economics

The Indo-Pacific region is home to some of the world's largest and wealthiest states, accounting for over 40 economies, 4 billion people, and $47.19 trillion in economic activity. This vast economic landscape makes the Indo-Pacific a crucial epicenter for global trade and commerce, with the region's critical sea routes, high energy demands, and global economic importance positioning it as a center of global politics and economics.

The rise of the Indo-Pacific concept has been influenced by factors beyond just the United States, such as the growing footprint of China across the region and the relative decline of the U.S. alliance system.

THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION

38	At least 38 countries
44%	World's Surface Area
65%	World's Population
62%	World's GDP
46%	World's Merchandise Trade
55%	World's Container Trade
70%	Ship Borne Energy Transport

Indo-Pacific Region

This has led to a complex geopolitical landscape, with various regional actors, including Australia, India, and Japan, presenting their own visions and strategies for the Indo-Pacific. The economic and strategic significance of the Indo-Pacific has also attracted the attention of other global powers, such as

Russia and Iran, who see the region's emergence as an opportunity to potentially expand their own influence and maneuver in their respective neighborhoods. This highlights the broader geopolitical dynamics at play in the Indo-Pacific, beyond just the competition between the United States and China, these two being the major competitors.

b. Military Strategy and Actions

The Indo-Pacific has become a major field for military competition and strategic maneuvering among global powers, particularly the United States and China. The region's strategic importance is underscored by the need for military presence. The Indo-Pacific region's military actions and strategies are influenced by historical legacies, the region's vast expanse, critical sea routes, and strategic significance make it a focal point for military activities and strategic planning.

Even though the major competitors are the U.S. and China, they are not the only ones with military presence in the region, with countries like Japan being strong military actors. Japan's expansion during World War II showed a military trajectory toward Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean, underscoring today's long-standing strategic importance of the Indo-Pacific for the country. Other countries like Australia, and India are also key players in the region, each with their own military strategies and alliances to navigate the complex security environment.

The increased military activities can lead to economic instability, trade disruptions, and broader global security implications, as the Indo-Pacific is a crucial hub for international commerce and a key component of global security. Addressing these risks and promoting a more peaceful and stable Indo-Pacific is more than necessary to manage the complex geopolitical dynamics.

c. Climate Change

The Indo-Pacific region faces significant climate change challenges as this one is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of global warming, including rising sea levels, ocean acidification, and the increased frequency and intensity of natural disasters.

Many countries in the Indo-Pacific, such as small island nations and coastal communities, are experiencing the devastating effects of sea level rise, coastal erosion, and extreme weather events that not only endanger local ecosystems and livelihoods but also have the potential to trigger humanitarian crises, mass migration, regional and political instability with its critical sea routes and global economic significance, making the region's climate resilience a matter of international concern.

The Indo-Pacific also experiences climate and natural related problems because of overfishing and illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing practices that disrupt marine food chains, impacting not only local economies but also global food security. Other problems such as habitat destruction, particularly from coastal development and pollution, threaten the delicate balance of marine ecosystems, leading to loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Climate change exacerbates these issues by causing coral bleaching, sea level rise, and ocean acidification, further endangering marine life and coastal communities.

d. Cultural Exchange

The Indo-Pacific region is not only strategically and economically significant, but also culturally diverse and interconnected as this one has long been a site of cultural diffusion, with the movement of people, ideas, and traditions across the Indian and Pacific Oceans. From the ancient maritime trade networks to the modern flows of migration and tourism, the Indo-Pacific has facilitated the exchange of art, religion, language, and cuisine among its diverse societies. This cultural interconnectedness has enriched the region and fostered a shared sense of identity and community among its peoples. However, nations currently navigate issues of cultural preservation, minority rights, and the impacts of globalization.

e. Nuclear Dynamics

Nearly all nuclear-weapons states are located in the Indo-Pacific or have a regular military presence there, which clearly represents a danger and threat to security and stability in the region, considering current rivalries between some nations like China and United States, issues such as Taiwan and countries such as North Korea and their nuclear program.

North Korea regularly acts in defiance of United Nations Security Council Resolutions by attacking South Korea, kidnapping Japanese citizens, raising funds through illicit and criminal activities, and making direct nuclear threats against Japan, South Korea, The United States and their allies. This is why this nation continues to pose the most pressing risk to regional and global security through its unconstrained development of nuclear weapons and missiles that consistently sought confrontation, and a conflict in this region may result in a devastating war.

But North Korea is not the only one representing the threat in the region, China has embarked on a significant modernization and build-up of its nuclear arsenal, including advanced intercontinental ballistic missiles launched from land and submarines. This modernization effort also involves increasing civil production of plutonium, a crucial component in nuclear warheads. All of this, added to China's lack of engagement in bilateral arms control with the United States and its refusal to disclose information on its warhead totals raise concerns about transparency and strategic stability in the region.

IV.   Regional Alliances
a. Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue)

Alliances in the Indo-Pacific region involve major global powers, regional actors, and strategic partnerships that influence security dynamics and cooperation in the region. These alliances are defined by economic, military and strategic interests.

Formed by The United States, Japan, India, and Australia after the 2004 Tsunami. The Quad is a strategic forum focused on promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific. The Quad members engage in discussions on regional security, economic cooperation, and maritime security.

b. ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)

ASEAN is a regional organization consisting of ten members: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. These countries work towards promoting economic growth, social progress, and regional stability. ASEAN plays a significant role in fostering dialogue and cooperation among its member states and with external partners in the Indo-Pacific. The group has played a central role in Asian economic integration, by joining negotiations to form the world's largest free trade agreement.
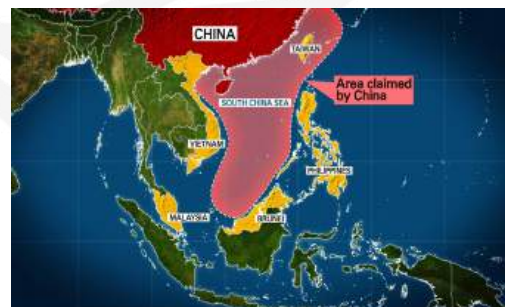
V. Territorial Disputes

The Indo-Pacific is known for its territorial disputes around the region, with some of the most known being the ones in the South China Sea and Kashmir Conflict. These territorial disputes in the Indo-Pacific region are significant sources of tension and have the potential to escalate into larger conflicts, impacting regional stability and security taking into account these territorial disputes in the region are complex and multifaceted, involving various countries and overlapping claims.

a. South China Sea

The South China Sea is probably the most known territorial dispute in the region, being this one of the most prominent. Involving China, Taiwan, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Brunei. The dispute centers around competing claims over islands, reefs, and waters in the South China Sea, with China asserting historical rights over most of the area through its Nine-Dash Line.

b. Kashmir Conflict

The territorial dispute over the Kashmir region involves India, Pakistan, and China, with all three countries claiming parts or the entirety of the region, resulting in ongoing tensions and occasional military clashes. The dispute has its roots in the partition of India in 1947, when the British Empire divided its colonial territory into two separate countries, India and Pakistan, along religious lines.

The Kashmir region was a Muslim-majority area that was initially part of India, but it was also claimed by Pakistan due to its geographical proximity and cultural ties. This led to a series of military conflicts and skirmishes between India and Pakistan over the years, including the Indo-Pakistani War of 1947 and the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965.

c. East China Sea Dispute

The East China Sea dispute involves territorial disagreements primarily between China and Japan over the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands. Both countries claim sovereignty over these uninhabited islands, known as the Senkaku Islands in Japan and the Diaoyu Islands in China.

The dispute has led to heightened tensions and occasional maritime confrontations between the two countries. The strategic importance of the East China Sea, rich in natural resources and vital shipping lanes, adds complexity to the territorial dispute. Efforts to manage and resolve this dispute have been challenging, with both countries asserting historical and legal claims to the islands, contributing to ongoing regional tensions and security concerns.

d. Taiwan Strait Dispute

The Taiwan dispute is a longstanding political and territorial conflict between Taiwan and China over Taiwan's political status. Taiwan, officially the Republic of China, maintains its independence, while China claims it as part of its territory. Tensions have escalated, with China increasing military activities around Taiwan, prompting Taiwan to strengthen its defenses. The dispute is a key factor in the broader US-China competition and has significant implications for regional security in the Indo-Pacific.

e. Spratly Islands Dispute

The Spratly Islands dispute involves overlapping territorial claims among multiple countries including China, Taiwan, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Brunei. These countries claim sovereignty over various islands, reefs, and waters in the Spratly Islands, leading to tensions and disputes over maritime boundaries, resources, and strategic control in the region. The dispute is significant due to the islands' strategic location, rich fishing grounds, and potential oil and gas reserves, making it a focal point for geopolitical competition and maritime security concerns in the South China Sea.

f. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) Disputes

This last one is not an actual specific dispute, but it is very important to note that territorial claims because of Exclusive Economic Zones are very common in the Indo-Pacific region. An Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is a sea zone given by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which states the special right each state has regarding the exploration and use of marine resources, including energy production from water and wind. It typically extends 200 nautical miles (370 km) from the coast of the state in question. Some of the countries claiming and negotiating between Exclusive Economic Zones are India, Japan and Tonga.

VI. Current Situation

The current situation in the Indo-Pacific region is characterized by a delicate balance of power among global powers, with the United States, China, and other nations engaging in a complex military and economic diplomacy panorama. The region is crucial for global trade and economic growth, with the Indo-Pacific accounting for 60% of the world's GDP and hosting two-thirds of the global population by 2030.

The United States has been actively engaged in the region, strengthening alliances and partnerships through initiatives like the Quad, AUKUS, and the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement with the Philippines. This strategic alignment aims to counterbalance China's growing influence and assertiveness, particularly in the South China Sea. China, on the other hand, has been expanding its military presence and economic influence through the Belt and

Road Initiative (BRI), which has raised concerns among regional nations about the potential for debt-trap diplomacy and erosion of sovereignty. The US has strongly opposed the BRI, viewing it as a tool for China to exert its power and influence globally. India, a key player in the region, has been strengthening its security posture and strategic partnerships with the US, Japan, and other nations to counterbalance China's rise.

India's military modernization and its role in the Quad have significantly enhanced its regional influence. The European Union has also been increasing its engagement in the Indo-Pacific, focusing on maritime cooperation, security dialogue, and economic partnerships. The EU's efforts aim to promote a rules-based order and stability in the region, while also addressing the challenges posed by China's growing influence.

North Korea's nuclear activity is a point of concern in the region, as well as military activity of other nations, taking into account the level of competition in the region between global powers, this makes the Indo-Pacific an urgent matter to maintain stability not only in the region but in the world.

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VII.   Relevant Actors

China

The Chinese delegation views the concept of Indo-Pacific as the product of American efforts to contain its own rising economic and military capabilities, and its participation in the region is characterized by its strategic competition with the United States, particularly in the context of the US-China conflict. China is one of the countries in current territorial disputes in the South China Sea, and also with countries like Japan on the Spratly Islands. Many countries such as The United States have accused China of its military aggression on the region by accusing them of using military and economic coercion to bully its neighbors, advancing unlawful maritime claims, threatening maritime shipping lanes, and destabilize territory along the periphery of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

United States

The United States has outlined the Indo-Pacific as a key priority, emphasizing the importance of a free and open Indo-Pacific for the future prosperity and security of nations within and beyond the region. The Indo-Pacific region is characterized by strategic competition with China and the need to maintain influence and alliances in the face of China's growing presence. The U.S. seeks to counter China's influence and maintain stability through alliances with countries like Australia and India, while also tackling the complexities of nuclear dimensions in regional security. Efforts such as the Quad and the Indo-Pacific Strategy aim to address these challenges, but the effectiveness of these initiatives in

managing military and economic engagement in the region remains a key concern for U.S. policy in the Indo-Pacific.

Japan

As a member of the ASEAN, Japan has consistently worked and emphasized the importance of a safe, and stable Indo-Pacific . This country, currently faces territorial disputes with some countries, where Japan is concerned about China's growing influence in the region, especially in the East China Sea where it has territorial disputes with China over the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands. To counter China's influence, Japan has strengthened its security cooperation with the U.S., India, and Australia through the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad). Japan has also been actively involved in regional infrastructure development projects, such as the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor, as an alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative.
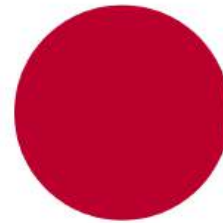
Australia

As a key regional actor, Australia has been at the forefront of discussions on the Indo-Pacific concept, emphasizing the need for a "free and open" regional order and has advocated for a multilateral approach to addressing regional challenges, working with partners such as the Quad (United States, Japan, and India) and ASEAN.

Australia is a part of the U.S. alliance system and favors a strong American presence in the Indo-Pacific to counter China's growing influence. However, Australia is also aware of the gradual decline of the U.S. alliance system and the need to balance its relations with both the

U.S. and China. Australia has sought to maintain a delicate balance, echoing the concerns of the U.S. regarding issues such as freedom of navigation and territorial disputes, while also engaging with China economically.

Vietnam

Vietnam holds a strategic position in the Indo-Pacific region, recognizing its significance for national security and prosperity. The nation advocates for a peaceful, cooperative, and integrated Indo-Pacific, valuing the United States' role in fostering economic development in the region. While Vietnam is cautious in its engagement with the Indo-Pacific Strategy (IPS) to maintain its complex relationship with China, it supports a rules-based regional order that contributes to peaceful resolutions of disputes, particularly in the South China Sea. Vietnam has been enhancing diplomatic, economic, and defense ties with the United States while maintaining stable relations with China and avoiding actions that could be perceived as aligning against it.

As a key player in the Indo-Pacific, Vietnam emphasizes the importance of cooperation and coexistence in the region. With the belief that the Indo-Asian-Pacific is vast enough for all nations to thrive, Vietnam seeks to contribute to building a common space for development, fostering partnerships, and ensuring security in the region.

India

India's growing role in the Indo-Pacific is acknowledged by key nations like Australia, Japan, and the United States, recognizing its importance in shaping the region's future. Despite historically prioritizing continental security, India is now addressing maritime concerns in the Indo-Pacific, reflecting a strategic shift. Partners such as Canberra, Paris, Tokyo, and Washington, DC, consistently support India's increased presence in the region.

India's Indo-Pacific strategy involves bolstering partnerships with like-minded countries and forming issue-based coalitions to address evolving security challenges. This is evidenced by India's deepening engagement with countries like the US, Japan, and Australia, both through multilateral platforms like the Quad and bilateral relationships. India's expanding outreach in Southeast Asia and the South Pacific underscores its growing influence.

VIII.   QARMAS

1. What alliances or partnerships does your country have in the Indo-Pacific region, and how do they influence your engagement?

2. What is your country's stance on the rise of the Indo-Pacific as a new geopolitical concept? Do you support or oppose its emergence?

3. How does your country view the growing footprint of China across the Indo-Pacific region? Do you see it as a threat or an opportunity?

4. Does your country have a military presence in the Indo-Pacific? Where? Since when does it have it? Why?

5. What economic interests does your country have in the Indo-Pacific?

6. How does your country view the Quad nations (United States, Japan, India, and Australia) and their role in the Indo-Pacific? Do you support or oppose their involvement in the region?

7. What diplomatic, economic, or military initiatives has your country undertaken to address challenges in the Indo-Pacific

8. What is your country's approach on the South China Sea Dispute?

9. Does your country have nuclear weapons? Does it plan on using them in the region?

10. Does your country support independent movements such as the ones in Taiwan in the region?

11. How does your country perceive the strategic competition between major global powers in the Indo-Pacific and its impact on regional security?

IX.   Useful Study Material

➢ Clingendael Institute. Why does the Indo-Pacific matter? Youtube. ▶ Why does the Indo-Pacific matter?

➢ DW News. Could China soon be facing a NATO-like alliance in the Indo-Pacific? DW News. Youtube. ▶ Could China soon be facing a NATO-like alliance in the Indo-Pacific? | D…

➢ Endowment, C. Indo-pacific islands: Caught in between U.s.-China competition. Youtube. ▶ Indo-Pacific Islands: Caught in Between U.S.-China Competition

➢ The Pacific Report. Why the Indo-pacific is important? Youtube. ▶ Why the Indo-Pacific is Important?

➢ TLDR News Global. Why China and the US are Fighting over the Pacific. Youtube. ▶ Why China and the US are Fighting over the Pacific

➢ Vox. Why China is building islands in the South China Sea. Youtube. ▶ Why China is building islands in the South China Sea

4. Second Topic: "Evaluating Possible International Military Involvement in the Palestine-Israel Conflict as a Breaking Point for the Maintenance of Global Security and Stability."

I. Introduction to the Topic

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has created tension for decades in the Middle East, and it is deeply rooted in historical, religious, and territorial grievances that have shaped the modern-day geopolitical landscape of the Middle East. From the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, leading to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians and the creation of a large refugee population. The competing claims to the land, including the status of Jerusalem, the right of return for Palestinian refugees, and the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel, have been central issues in peace negotiations and diplomatic efforts.

Over the decades, the conflict has seen periods of intense violence, including wars, uprisings, and acts of terrorism, further deepening the animosity and distrust between Israelis and Palestinians. The construction of Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories, the ongoing security concerns for Israel, and the lack of agreements for a lasting peace agreement continue to fuel tensions and hinder progress towards a resolution. International efforts, including peace initiatives led by the United Nations, the United States, and other actors, have aimed to facilitate dialogue and negotiations between the parties.

II. Historical Context

The origins of the conflict can be traced back to the early 20th century, when the region known as Palestine was under the control of the Ottoman Empire. Following the defeat of the Ottomans in World War I, the British took control of the area. In 1917, the British government issued the Balfour Declaration, which expressed support for the establishment of a "national home" for the Jewish people in Palestine. This declaration, which was later enshrined in the British mandate over Palestine, laid the groundwork for increased Jewish immigration and settlement in the region.

The land was inhabited by a Jewish minority and an Arab majority, as well as other smaller ethnic groups. Tensions grew between the two populations as the number of Jewish immigrants arriving in Palestine increased, particularly those fleeing persecution in Europe, including the Holocaust during World War II. Violence between Jews and Arabs, as well as against British rule, escalated during the 1920s through the 1940s as the competing national aspirations of the two groups came into conflict over the control and sovereignty of the land. This set the stage for the eventual declaration of the State of Israel in 1948, which triggered a war between Jewish and Arab forces and the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, known as the Nakba or "Catastrophe."

In 1947, the United Nations adopted Resolution 181, known as the Partition Plan, which sought to divide the British Mandate of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states. On May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was created, sparking the first Arab-Israeli War. The war ended in 1949 with Israel's victory, but 750,000 Palestinians were displaced, and the territory was divided into 3 parts: the State of Israel, the West Bank (of the Jordan River), and the Gaza Strip.

In the aftermath of the 1967 war, Israel gained control over East Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Syrian Golan Heights, Gaza, and the Egyptian Sinai Peninsula. This military occupation led to the displacement of Palestinian refugees and their descendants, who primarily reside in Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. Despite international calls for their right of return, Israel has not allowed them to come back, citing concerns about overwhelming the country and jeopardizing its identity as a Jewish state. The status of Jerusalem remains a contentious issue, with Israel claiming the entire city as its capital, while Palestinians aspire to establish East Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state. Notably, the United States is among the few countries recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Over the past five decades, Israel has constructed settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, where over 700,000 Jewish settlers now reside. These settlements are considered illegal under international law, a stance supported by the UN Security Council, the UK government, and other nations. Despite international condemnation, Israel maintains and expands these settlements, contributing to ongoing tensions and complicating efforts to reach a peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

III.   Conflict Timeline

Nov, 29 1947: UN Partition Plan

The UN General Assembly passes Resolution 181 calling for the partition of the Palestinian territories into two states, one Jewish and one Arab.

May 14, 1948: Israel declares independence, Arab-Israeli War begins

Dec 11, 1948: UN addresses Palestinian displacement

The UN General Assembly passes Resolution 194, which calls for the repatriation of Palestinian refugees. The Palestinians will later point to Resolution 194 as having established a "right of return" for Palestinian refugees and their descendants.

Jun 5-10, 1967: Six-Day War

Israel and several of its Arab neighbors fought the Six-Day War. Israel wins a decisive victory and emerges with control of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip—areas inhabited primarily by Palestinians—as well as all of East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights.

Nov 22, 1967: UN Security Council Resolution 242

The UN Security Council passes Resolution 242 calling for Israeli *"withdrawal … from territories occupied in the recent conflict" and for the termination of "states of belligerency and respect for and acknowledgement of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of every state in the area and the right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries."*

Sep 1, 1978: Camp David Accords

Israel and Egypt sign the Camp David Accords, which establish a basis for a peace treaty between the two countries and also commit to negotiate the disposition of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Mar 26, 1979: Israel withdraws from Sinai Peninsula

Dec 1, 1987: First Intifada begins

An Israeli driver kills four Palestinians in a car accident that sparks the first intifada, or uprising, against Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza.

Oct 30, 1991: Madrid Peace Conference begins

Sep 13, 1993: Oslo Accords

Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) mutually acknowledge each other's existence through a formal exchange of correspondence. They jointly establish the Palestinian Authority to oversee the administration of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank on an interim basis. Israel commits to initiating the withdrawal of its forces from certain areas in the West Bank, although significant portions of land and Israeli settlements remain under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Israeli military. The Oslo Accords outline a framework for achieving a comprehensive peace agreement by the year 1999. In recognition of their collaborative work on the Oslo Accords, Palestinian leader Arafat, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1994.

May 4, 1994: Gaza-Jericho Agreement

The Israelis and the Palestinians sign the Gaza-Jericho Agreement, which begins implementation of the Oslo Accords

Sep 28, 1995: Oslo II Accord

Oslo II gives the Palestinians control over additional areas of the West Bank and defines the security, electoral, public administration, and economic arrangements that will govern those areas until a final peace agreement is reached in 1999.

Jul 11-25, 2000: Camp David Summit

President Bill Clinton hosted talks at Camp David between Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Barak offered significant concessions, including Palestinian sovereignty over 91% of the West Bank, but the negotiations failed to produce an agreement. President Clinton blamed Arafat for the breakdown. Despite continued talks and proposals, no deal was reached before Clinton left office.

Sep 28, 2000: Second Intifada begins

Israeli politicians visit the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif, the Palestinians view the visit as an effort to change the status quo at the holy site. Resulting in violence, marking the beginning of a second intifada.

Mar 27, 2002: Passover Massacre

A terrorist attack kills thirty people at a Passover celebration in the Israeli city of Netanya. As a result, the Israeli military retakes portions of the West Bank.

Jun 23, 2002: Israeli West Bank Barrier building begins

Israel begins building a security barrier in the West Bank to protect Israeli cities and towns from terrorist attacks, as a result some Palestinians are cut off from Jerusalem because it cuts deep into West Bank territory, in order to protect settlements

Apr 30, 2003: Road Map for Peace

The Quartet, composed of the United States, Russia, the United Nations, and the European Union, proposes a Middle East peace plan based on President George W. Bush's 2002 outline.

Aug 15, 2005: Israeli disengagement with Gaza

Israel begins a unilateral withdrawal of settlers and military forces from the Gaza Strip, except for some Gaza borders (not the Gaza-Egypt border, which is controlled by Egypt)

Jan 29, 2006: Hamas expands power in Gaza

Hamas defeats Fatah, a Palestinian political faction founded in the 1950s, and they make a deal to govern the West Bank and Gaza Strip together. The deal quickly fails, and Hamas takes over the Gaza Strip in 2007.

Jun 25, 2006: Hamas takes hostage Gilad Shalit

Hamas operatives kidnap an Israeli soldier named Gilad Shalit on Israeli soil near the Gaza Strip with the help of Egypt and the United States, Israel negotiated his release in 2012.

Dec 27, 2008: Israel attacks Gaza Strip

Israel launches a military operation in the Gaza Strip in response to nearly 800 rocket attacks from Gaza targeting Israeli towns in November and December. The conflict, lasting less than a month, resulted in the deaths of hundreds of civilians and hundreds of combatants, prompting widespread international condemnation.

Jul 8-Aug 26, 2014: Operation Protective Edge

Following a series of retaliatory attacks by extremists on both sides, Israel launches Operation Protective Edge, a 50-day invasion of the Gaza Strip. The conflict results in the deaths of approximately 2,000 Gazans, 66 Israeli soldiers, and 5 Israeli civilians. Unlike previous conflicts, Palestinian rocket fire targets major Israeli cities. The war concluded after the United States, in consultation with Egypt, Israel, and other regional powers, facilitated a ceasefire.

Dec 6, 2017: US formally recognizes Jerusalem as Israel's capital

Changing long-standing U.S. policy, U.S. President Donald Trump formally recognizes Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. This also sparks protests and violence throughout East Jerusalem, Gaza, and the West Bank, as well as in Egypt, Iran, Iraq, and Jordan.

Mar 25, 2019: US recognizes Israeli sovereignty over Golan Heights

Jan 28, 2020: Trump administration launches proposed peace plan

President Trump unveiled his administration's proposed Israeli-Palestinian peace plan, which was developed by U.S. and Israeli diplomats without any input from Palestinian leaders. The plan envisions a two-state solution, with significant economic aid to the Palestinians. However, many analysts have criticized the plan as being one-sided, as it sets unrealistic conditions for Palestinian statehood and potentially paves the way for Israeli annexation of the West Bank. In response, Palestinian authorities immediately rejected the plan. Following the plan's announcement, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced Israel's intention to annex parts of the West Bank, as outlined in Trump's proposal.

2021: Israel-Hamas Crisis

Violent clashes between Israeli police and Palestinian worshippers at the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem have escalated tensions between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. The conflict began over the potential eviction of Palestinians from homes in East Jerusalem, claimed by Jewish settlers. The violence has resulted in over 200 injuries and has led to international calls for calm and restraint.

2022: Deadly year in Israeli-Palestinian conflict

Israel conducts a counterterrorism operation in the West Bank in response to Palestinian attacks against Jewish Israelis, leading to a surge in violence that makes 2023 the deadliest year for both sides since 2005.

Oct 7, 2023: Hamas launches surprise attack on Israel

On October 7, 2023, Hamas launched an unprecedented surprise attack on Israel, leading to an explosion of violence. According to Israeli media, the conflict's initial strikes led to at least 250 people killed and 1,500 injured in Israel, making it the deadliest attack in the country in decades. Some 250 people in Israel were also taken by Hamas as hostages.

a. Gaza Strip

Gaza is a small, densely populated region situated between Israel and the Mediterranean Sea, with a short southern border with Egypt. It is approximately 41 kilometers (25 miles) long and 10 kilometers wide, housing more than two million inhabitants, making it one of the most densely populated areas globally. Following the 1948-49 war, Gaza was occupied by Egypt for nearly two decades. Israel occupied Gaza during the 1967 war and maintained control until 2005, during which time it established Jewish settlements. In 2005, Israel withdrew its troops and settlers, although it retained control over Gaza's airspace, shared border, and shoreline. The United Nations still considers Gaza to be occupied by Israel.

IV.   Current Situation

In October 2023, Hamas launched deadly attacks on Israel, prompting the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) to engage in aerial campaigns and ground operations within the Gaza Strip. This has led to a severe humanitarian crisis, with almost two million Gazans fleeing their homes and an estimated 34,000 casualties in Gaza. Efforts to secure the release of over 100 Israeli hostages taken by Hamas have been unsuccessful and more than 85 percent of the population—have fled their homes since October 2023.

Following the outbreak of war between Israel and Hamas on October 7, 2023, President Joe Biden made a strong statement of support for Israel. The United States announced that it would send renewed shipments of arms and move its Mediterranean Sea warships closer to Israel. The UN Security Council called an emergency meeting to discuss the renewed violence, but failed to come to a consensus statement. International groups expressed concern for the safety of civilians in Israel and the Palestinian territories, as well as those being held hostage by militants in Gaza. In the first month of fighting, approximately 1,300 Israelis and 10,000 Palestinians were killed.

The United States said there was no direct evidence that Iranian intelligence and security forces directly helped Hamas plan its October 7 attack, but Iran has a well-established patronage relationship with Hamas and other extremist groups across the Middle East. Israel has exchanged artillery fire with Iran-backed Hezbollah almost daily and struck Syrian military targets and airports, prompting concern that the war could expand north. Yemen's Houthi rebels have launched multiple rounds of missiles at Israel as well. The Islamic Resistance of Iraq, a coalition of Iranian-backed militias, has claimed responsibility for dozens of attacks on U.S. military targets in Iraq and Syria since the war began.

A 2023 effort by the United States to help broker a normalization accord between Israel and Saudi Arabia was thrown into chaos by the October conflict. Saudi Arabia has long advocated for the rights and safety of Palestinian Arab populations in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza. However, the United States says the Saudis have indicated they are still interested in the deal.

Recent developments include the Israeli cabinet formally declaring war against Hamas, followed by a directive from the defense minister to the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) to carry out a "complete siege" of Gaza. Israel ordered more than one million Palestinian civilians in northern Gaza to evacuate ahead of a ground invasion that began on October 27th. The ground invasion began in the north in conjunction with Israel's continued aerial assault. The first stage of the ground invasion ended on November 24 with the hostage-for-prisoner swap that also allowed more aid into Gaza. After seven days, the war resumed—particularly in Khan Younis, the largest city in southern Gaza that Israel claims is a Hamas stronghold.

Under pressure from its principal ally, the United States, Israel announced it would begin to withdraw soldiers from the Gaza Strip in January 2024. Since then, military analysts speculate that the IDF has pulled out at least 90 percent of the troops that were in the territory a few months ago, leaving one remaining brigade. Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, however, is unwavering in his position that an Israeli offensive in Rafah, the southernmost city in the Gaza Strip where over one million Palestinians have taken refuge, is essential to eradicating Hamas.

In mid-March, Israel conducted a two-week raid on al-Shifa Hospital, the largest medical center in Gaza. Israel claimed Hamas was operating out of al-Shifa, and it reportedly killed 200 fighters and captured an additional 500. The U.S. intelligence community later determined that Hamas had used al-Shifa as a command center and held some hostages there, but the Islamist group evacuated the complex days prior to the Israeli operation. In late April, two mass graves were discovered at al-Shifa and Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, another target of an Israeli operation. More than 300 bodies were found among the two sites; the United Nations has called for an independent investigation.

On April 1, Israel launched an airstrike on an Iranian consular building in Damascus, Syria, killing multiple senior Iranian military officers. In response, Iran engaged directly in the war by launching over 300 drones and missiles at Israel on April 13. Though Israel was able to ward off the attack and only sustained minor damage to an air base, the escalation marked Iran's first-ever direct attack on Israel. As Israel weighed an extensive counter strike on multiple military targets in Iran, the United States and other allies advised against actions that they feared

would further widen the war. Israel ultimately launched a more limited aerial strike on military bases in Isfahan and Tabriz on April 19. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi later downplayed the response, suggesting Iran aimed to avoid further escalation.

Gaza is desperately low on water, fuel, and supplies as Hamas has rejected the most recent cease-fire proposals mediated by the United States and Egypt, while Israel has limited the amount of aid that can enter. Many humanitarian agencies suspended their operations after Israel killed seven World Center Kitchen employees in an airstrike. The World Food Programme warns famine is now imminent in Gaza. Only eleven out of thirty-five hospitals in the strip remain partially functional due to attacks on medical infrastructure and a lack of basic supplies. The World Health Organization has warned of disease spread in addition to mounting civilian casualties.

The displacement of millions more Palestinians presents a challenge for Egypt and Jordan, which have absorbed hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in the past but have resisted accepting anyone during the current war. They fear that Gazans, many of whom were already displaced from elsewhere in Israel, will not be allowed to return once they leave. Egypt also fears that Hamas fighters could enter Egypt and trigger a new war in the Sinai by launching attacks on Israel or destabilizing the authoritarian regime of Abdel Fattah el-Sisi by supporting the Muslim Brotherhood. So far, negotiations have resulted in only 1,100 people exiting Gaza through the Rafah border crossing to Egypt. The other 1.5 million displaced Gazans—70 percent of the territory's population—remained confined to southern Gaza and face increasingly dire living conditions and security risks.

The conflict between Israel and Hamas has escalated significantly since October 2023, with Hamas launching a deadly attack on Israel, prompting the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) to engage in aerial campaigns and ground operations within the Gaza Strip. The fighting has resulted in the deaths of over 34,000 Palestinians and 1,300 Israelis, with thousands more injured. Efforts to free hostages taken by Hamas have been unsuccessful, leading to uncertainty

about their location and well-being. The conflict has resulted in a massive displacement of Gazans, with over two million people fleeing their homes.

V.   Palestine Recognition

The recognition of Palestine as a sovereign state has been a long-standing issue in international relations. The PLO made significant gains in its international relations during the 1970s, and the Arab summit conference in Rabat, Morocco, in 1974 played a crucial role in the recognition of Palestine. The United States has continued to refuse to recognize Palestine, citing the PLO's refusal to recognize Israel's right to exist. However, the recognition of Palestine has continued to evolve, with the European Union recognizing Palestine as a sovereign state in 2014 and several other countries following suit.

a. Palestine Liberation Organization

The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), known in Arabic as Munaẓẓamat al-Taḥrīr al-Filasṭīniyyah, is an umbrella political organization that represents the Palestinian people in their pursuit of a Palestinian state. Established in 1964 to unify the leadership of various Palestinian groups, the PLO took on a more distinctively Palestinian agenda after the Six-Day War of 1967.

The PLO engaged in guerrilla attacks on Israel from bases in Jordan in the late 1960s, leading to its expulsion from Jordan in 1971. Subsequently, the PLO relocated its headquarters to Lebanon. In 1974, ʿArafāt advocated for limiting PLO activities to direct attacks against Israel, leading to the Arab community recognizing the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of all Palestinians. The organization was admitted to the Arab League in 1976. Following Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982, PLO forces were expelled from Lebanon. In 1988, the PLO leadership, then based in Tunis, declared the establishment of a Palestinian state and elected ʿArafāt as its president.

The PLO also acknowledged Israel's right to exist, although some militant factions within the organization dissented. In 1993, Israel recognized the PLO through an agreement that granted Palestinian self-rule in parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This agreement led to the PLO becoming an integral part of the Palestinian National Authority. The PLO's history is intertwined with key events in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including the Lebanese civil war, the rise of Ḥamās, and the intifāḍah (uprising). The organization has played a central role in advocating for Palestinian statehood and representing the Palestinian people on the international stage.

b. Fatah

Fatah is a Palestinian guerrilla organization and political party, founded by Yāsir ʿArafāt and Khalīl al-Wazīr in the late 1950s. The name "Fatah" means "conquest" in Arabic. The movement relied on guerrilla warfare and occasional acts of terrorism to try to wrest Palestine from Israeli control. Fatah eventually became the largest faction within the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and attacked Israeli interests worldwide.

In 1993, Fatah reached a political agreement with Israel, which led to the establishment of the Palestinian Authority. Fatah dominated the governing body of the Palestinian Authority for more than a decade. However, in the 2006 elections for the Palestinian Legislative Council, Fatah was unexpectedly defeated by the rival organization Hamas. Fatah has been led by several prominent figures, including Yāsir ʿArafāt, who served as the organization's chairman from its founding until his death in 2004. Other notable leaders of Fatah include Mahmoud Abbas, who has served as the organization's chairman since 2004 and has also served as the President of the Palestinian Authority. Fatah has been involved in several conflicts with Israel, including the First Intifada, the Second Intifada, and the Gaza War. The organization has also been involved in internal conflicts with other Palestinian factions, including Hamas.

c. Hamas

Hamas is a Palestinian Sunni-Islamic fundamentalist terrorist organization and political party that has been engaged in an armed struggle against Israel since its founding in 1987 during the First Intifada. The group's goal is to establish an independent Islamic state in historical Palestine through violent means.

Hamas has been designated as a terrorist organization by Israel, the United States, the European Union, and other countries. However, it also functions as a political party and provides social services to Palestinians. The group won the 2006 Palestinian legislative election, gaining control of the Palestinian National Authority government. This led to a violent conflict with the rival Fatah party and a split between Hamas-ruled Gaza and the Fatah-ruled West Bank.

Since 2007, Hamas has de facto ruled the Gaza Strip, while the Palestinian National Authority under Fatah controls the West Bank. Tensions and occasional violent clashes continue between the two factions. Hamas has been involved in numerous attacks against Israeli civilians, including suicide bombings and rocket attacks. It has also fought several wars with Israel, most recently in 2014, 2021, and the current conflict that began in October 2023.

The current conflict between Israel and Hamas escalated significantly in October 2023 when Hamas launched a deadly attack on Israel, prompting the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) to engage in aerial campaigns and ground operations within the Gaza Strip. The fighting has resulted in the deaths of over 34,000 Palestinians and 1,300 Israelis, with thousands more injured. The conflict has also sparked increased regional tensions, with Hezbollah, Yemen's Houthi rebels, and other Iran-backed groups engaging in attacks against Israel and U.S. military positions.

VI.   UN and Diplomatic Efforts

To this day, many resolutions and treaties have been done in order to put a cease to the violence between Israel and Palestine, but regarding the efforts made by the international community the conflict each day worsens.

Some of the most important UN Resolutions and Treaties regarding this problematic are:
➢ *UN Resolution 181 (1947):* The Partition Plan, which sought to divide the British Mandate of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states.
➢ *UN Resolution 242 (1967):* Called for Israel to withdraw from occupied territories and recognized the right of all states in the region to exist in peace and security.
➢ *UN Resolution 338 (1973):* Called for a ceasefire in the Yom Kippur War and established a framework for peace negotiations.
➢ *Camp David Accords (1978):* A peace treaty between Israel and Egypt, brokered by the United States, which led to the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Sinai Peninsula.

➢ *Oslo Accords (1993):* Framework for peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), which established the Palestinian Authority and provided for Palestinian self-governance in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

➢ *Oslo II Accords (1995):* II Oslo Accords, providing for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from additional territories in the West Bank.

➢ *UN Resolution 1397 (2002):* Called for a two-state solution to the conflict, with Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security.

➢ *Annapolis Conference (2007):* A peace conference hosted by the United States, which aimed to revive the peace process and establish a framework for negotiations.

➢ *UN Resolution 1860 (2009):* Called for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza and for the reopening of border crossings.

➢ *UN Resolution 194 (2014):* Called for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza and for the reopening of border crossings.

➢ *UN Resolution 2334 (2016):* Called for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza and for the reopening of border crossings.

➢ *Abraham Accords (2020):* A normalization agreement between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, which established diplomatic relations between the two countries.

VII. Relevant Actors

Israel

With ongoing clashes between Israeli forces and Hamas militants, and the potential for further escalation. The international community, particularly the United States, has been critical of Israel's handling of the conflict, with some calling for greater international involvement to address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.In recent developments, the Biden administration has announced that it is "reasonable to assess" that US weapons have been used

by Israeli forces in Gaza in ways that contradict international humanitarian law. This assessment has been met with criticism from some quarters, who argue that it does not go far enough in holding Israel accountable for its actions. Israel is focused on maintaining its military campaign against Hamas, while the international community continues to urge a peaceful resolution and greater accountability for Israel's actions.

Palestine

The Representative of the State of Palestine at the UN has condemned violence in the territory, and has actively asked for help and support to the International Community. Palestine highlighted the urgent need for de-escalation in the current Israel conflict, emphasizing the importance of protecting civilian lives and upholding international humanitarian law to prevent further civilian casualties. In terms of military actions, it has been called for an immediate cessation of hostilities, and pointing out the considerable impact on the civilian population. Regarding alliances, the representative mentioned working closely with relevant parties and the international community, including through the Middle East Quartet, to end the hostilities and support mediation efforts.

United States

The United States of America has adopted a position of support to the Israeli delegation towards defending themselves, but this one has made it very clear that they condemn and do not support the excessive use of force against Palestinian people. The American President Joe Biden has reaffirmed U.S. support for a two-state solution, supporting the idea of

two Israeli and Palestinian states with borders resembling those that existed before the 1967 war, which includes the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and parts of East Jerusalem.

Egypt

Egypt is deeply concerned about the humanitarian crisis and potential destabilization of the regional order resulting from the conflict between Hamas and Israel. The growing possibility of a major refugee outflow from Gaza into Egypt poses an existential threat to the country's stability. Egypt has long played a diplomatic role in Arab-Israeli peacemaking and has supported a two-state solution for Palestinians and Israelis.

Since the outbreak of the Hamas-Israel war in Palestine, Egypt has been prominently featured in international news as a key actor on Gaza. There are three factors that shape the Egyptian regime's response to the crisis: Cairo's role as a mediator and the leverage it draws from it, the Egyptian territorial security concerns related to Sinai, and the sudden revival of street protests at a time when the country is going through a severe economic crisis.

VIII. QARMAS

1. What stance does your country take on international intervention in the Palestine-Israel conflict and why?

2. Does your country recognize Palestine?

3. Is your country part of the Middle East, and if it is, has it been involved or affected by the conflict?

4. What strategies does your country propose to de-escalate tensions and promote dialogue between conflicting parties without resorting to military intervention?

5. What diplomatic efforts has your country engaged in to promote a lasting and peaceful resolution to the conflict?

6. Does your country support the idea of a two-state solution?

7. Is your country willing to be militarily involved in the conflict?

8. Does your country support the idea of international intervention as a means to facilitate a two-state solution in the region?

9. What impact does your country believe international military involvement could have on the stability of the Middle East region as a whole?

IX.   Useful Study Material

Academia Play. El conflicto palestino-israelí (resumen histórico). Youtube.
▶ El conflicto palestino-israelí (resumen histórico)

AJ.   How   Israel   was   created.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6foH3Zc82ZQ&pp=ygUQaXNyYWVsIHBhbGVzdGluZQ%3D%3D

AJ.   Is   Israel   guilty   of   apartheid   against   Palestinians?   Youtube.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MknerYjob0w&pp=ygUQaXNyYWVsIHBhbGVzdGluZQ%3D%3D

Channel 4 News.   Israel, Palestine and Hamas explained in two minutes. Youtube.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1H1SA0F_wY&pp=ygUQaXNyYWVsIHBhbGVzdGluZQ%3D%3D

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5. Open Agenda

I. What is an Open Agenda?

An open agenda is the part of the debate where there is no topic assigned to discuss. That is where it gets its name from, it is open, meaning that the chair can pick any topic which is threatening international security. It is important to only make use of authorized resources, as these are the sources which the chair recognizes as legitimate and true.

II. Authorized Resources

➢ BBC
➢ CNN
➢ The New York Times
➢ Washington Post
➢ .org pages such as HRW and Amnesty International
➢ UN news and UN source pages

III. Possible Topics

➢ "The Situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Efforts to Address the Root Causes of Conflict in the Region."
➢ "The Use of Biological Weapons by Some Countries in the Modern World."
➢ "Revising and Updating the United Nations Charter to Better and More Fairly Represent the Current International Situation, Prioritizing the Functioning of the Security Council."

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