

REGIONAL POLICY TOWARDS THE PALESTINIAN CONFLICT BASED ON
THE EXAMPLE OF SOME ARAB COUNTRIES:
A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

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Abstract:

Introduction: This article provides a comparative examination of the policies adopted by key Middle Eastern states toward the Palestinian conflict, analyzing their historical trajectories, the principal determinants shaping their respective approaches, and their evolving roles in advancing peace and Palestinian self-determination. Focusing on the cases of Saudi Arabia, Libya, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and the Gulf states (United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Bahrain). The study investigates the interplay of domestic, regional, and international factors influencing their stances. Particular attention is given to the implications of Palestinian refugee presence, the complexities of intraregional politics, and the broader dynamics of the Israeli-Palestinian issue. Furthermore, the article situates these policies within the shifting geopolitical landscape of the Middle East, highlighting both shared challenges and unique national perspectives that inform their engagement with the conflict. **Methods and materials:** The paper employs a qualitative methodology, drawing on primary and secondary sources to analyze arab states policy approach to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Primary sources include official statements, policy documents, and speeches. Secondary sources encompass scholarly articles, books, reports, and media analyses that offer insights into some arab states foreign policy towards the Middle East and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. **Analysis:** This study synthesizes these perspectives, offering a comparative analysis of the historical trajectories, contemporary policies, and geopolitical factors that define each country's engagement with the Palestinian conflict. By examining both the commonalities and distinctions in their approaches, the article contributes to a deeper understanding of the broader regional discourse and its implications for peace, justice, and stability in the Middle East. **Results:** The Israeli-Palestinian conflict remains a cornerstone of Middle Eastern geopolitics, with diverse approaches shaping the policies of regional states. Countries such as Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Libya, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and the Gulf states (UAE, Qatar, and Bahrain) have

played distinct roles in addressing the conflict. This paper examines these policies, highlighting their historical contexts, evolving strategies, and regional implications.

Key words: *Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Saudi Arabia, Lybia, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrein.*

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ՊԱՂԵՍՏԻՆՅԱՆ ՀԱԿԱՄԱՐՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՆԿԱՏՄԱՍԲ ՏԱՐԱԾԱՇՐՋԱՆԱՅԻՆ ՔԱՂԱՔԱԿԱՆՈՒԹՅՈՒՆԸ՝ ՈՐՈՇ ԱՐԱԲԱԿԱՆ ԵՐԿՐՆԵՐԻ ՕՐԻՆԱԿՈՎ. ՀԱՄԵՄԱՏԱԿԱՆ ՎԵՐԼՈՒԾՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ

Արտակ Հ. Հովհաննիսյան

Շիրակի Մ.Նալբանդյանի անվան պետական համալսարան,
Հայաստանի պետական տնտեսագիտական համալսարանի մասնաճյուղ, Գյումրի, ՀՀ

Ամփոփում

Նախաբան. Հոդվածում ներկայացվում է Մերձավոր Արևելքի որոշ արաբական պետությունների քաղաքականության համեմատական վերլուծությունը պաղեստինյան հակամարտության նկատմամբ, քննարկվում են դրանց պատմական ուղիները, քաղաքական մոտեցումները ձևավորող հիմնական գործոնները, ինչպես նաև նրանց փոփոխվող դերերը խաղաղության ու Պաղեստինի ինքնորոշման գործընթացներում: Հատուկ ուշադրություն է դարձվում Սաուդյան Արաբիային, Լիբիային, Լիբանանին, Սիրիային, Իրաքին և Պարսից ծոցի երկրներին (ԱՄԷ, Կատար, Բահրեյն): Ուսումնասիրվում է ներքին, տարածաշրջանային և միջազգային գործոնների փոխազդեցությունը, որոնք ազդում են այս երկրների դիրքորոշումների վրա: Հատուկ ուշադրություն է դարձվում պաղեստինցի փախստականների հիմնախնդրին, տարածաշրջանի ներքաղաքական շարժընթացի բարդություններին: Քննարկվում է արաբական երկրների քաղաքականությունը Մերձավոր Արևելքի փոփոխվող աշխարհաքաղաքական իրադրության մեջ՝ ընդգծելով ինչպես ընդհանուր մարտահրավերները, այնպես էլ յուրաքանչյուր պետության առանձնակի մոտեցումները, որոնք էլ ձևավորում են հակամարտության կարգավորման մեջ նրանց ներգրավվածության աստիճանը: Մեթոդներ և նյութեր. Հոդվածում կիրառվում է որակական մեթոդաբանություն, որը հիմնված է առաջնային և երկրորդական աղբյուրների վերլուծության վրա՝ ուսումնասիրելու արաբական երկրների մոտեցումները իսրայելա-պաղեստինյան հակամարտության հանդեպ: Առաջնային աղբյուրները ներառում են պաշտոնական հայտարարություններ, քաղաքական փաստաթղթեր և ելույթներ: Երկրորդական աղբյուրները ներառում են գիտական հոդվածներ, գրքեր, զեկույցներ և մեդիա-վերլուծություններ, որոնք պատկերացում են տալիս որոշ արաբական պետությունների արտաքին քաղաքական մոտեցումների վերաբերյալ: Վերլուծություն. Ուսումնասիրության շրջանակում համադրվում են տարբեր տեսակետներ, ներկայացվում է պատ-

մական ուղիների, արդի քաղաքականության և աշխարհաքաղաքական գործոնների համեմատական վերլուծություն, որոնք որոշում են յուրաքանչյուր երկրի ներգրավվածությունը պաղեստինյան հակամարտությունում: Հոդվածում ուսումնասիրվում են ինչպես ընդհանրությունները, այնպես էլ տարբերությունները այս մոտեցումներում: Արդյունքներ. Մերձավոր Արևելքի պետությունների քաղաքականության համեմատական վերլուծությունը պաղեստինյան հակամարտության նկատմամբ բացահայտում է պատմական պարտավորությունների, զարգացող ռազմավարությունների և տարածաշրջանային նկատառումների համադրվածությունը: Չնայած յուրաքանչյուր պետության մոտեցումը ձևավորվում է իրեն յուրահատուկ հանգամանքներով, դրանք միասին ընդգծում են պաղեստինյան հիմնախնդրի անխուսափելի նշանակությունը տարածաշրջանի աշխարհաքաղաքական կառուցվածքում: Այդ վերլուծությունն էական նշանակություն ունի Մերձավոր Արևելքի բազմակողմանի դինամիկան և իսրայելա-պաղեստինյան հակամարտության հնարավոր լուծման հեռանկարները հասկանալու համար: Սաուդյան Արաբիան երկար տարիներ իրեն ներկայացրել է որպես պաղեստինյան հակամարտության առանցքային դերակատար՝ առաջնորդելով արաբական աշխարհում խաղաղության գործընթացները և պաղեստինյան ինքնորոշման ջանքերը: Տարածաշրջանային դինամիկայի փոփոխությունների պայմաններում Հորդանանը շարունակում է հանդես գալ որպես կայունացնող ուժ՝ աջակցելով հակամարտության արդարացի կարգավորմանը: Լիբիայի ներքին քաղաքական անկայունությունը սահմանափակում է նրա տարածաշրջանային ազդեցությունը: Չնայած այդ մարտահրավերներին՝ Լիբիայի պատմական դիրքորոշումը որպես պաղեստինյան իրավունքների պաշտպանի, դեռևս առկա է: Լիբանանում պաղեստինյան փախստականների առկայությունը էական ազդեցություն է ունեցել երկրի ներքին քաղաքականության և տարածաշրջանային հարաբերությունների վրա: Սիրիան երկար ժամանակ հանդես է եկել որպես պաղեստինցիների ինքնորոշման սկզբունքի ակտիվ ջատագով՝ ընդունելով փախստականներին և աջակցելով զինված դիմադրությանը: Իրաքի ներքին քաղաքական անկայունությունը և արտաքին ճնշումները սահմանափակել են նրա հնարավորությունները վերջին տարիներին ակտիվ դեր ստանձնելու հարցում: Տարաբնույթ ռազմավարությունները ցույց են տալիս Ծոցի երկրների բազմաշերտ ներգրավվածությունը հակամարտության կարգավորման համատեքստում:

Բանալի բառեր՝ *իսրայելա-պաղեստինյան հակամարտություն, Սաուդյան Արաբիա, Լիբիա, Լիբանան, Սիրիա, Իրաք, Արաբական Միացյալ Էմիրություններ, Կատար, Բահրեյն:*

Ինչպես հղել՝ Հովհաննիսյան Ա. *Պաղեստինյան հակամարտության նկատմամբ տարածաշրջանային քաղաքականությունը՝ որոշ արաբական երկրների օրինակով. համեմատական վերլուծություն* // ՀՀ ԳԱԱ ՇՀՀ Կենտրոնի «Գիտական աշխատություններ», Գյումրի, 2025. Ն. 1(28): 49-60 էջեր: DOI: 10.52971/18294316-2025.28.1-49

INTRODUCTION: The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has remained a defining issue in Middle Eastern politics, shaping the foreign policies and regional roles of states across the Arab world[15, p.217]. Countries such as Saudi Arabia, Libya, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and the Gulf states

(United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Bahrain) have historically engaged with the conflict through diverse yet interconnected strategies, reflecting both their unique national priorities and shared regional concerns[1, p.150].

Saudi Arabia has long positioned itself as a central actor in the pursuit of a peaceful resolution, leveraging its influence to support Palestinian self-determination while navigating shifting geopolitical dynamics. Libya, deeply rooted in North Africa, has historically aligned its foreign policy with strong support for the Palestinian cause, emphasizing solidarity and resistance within a broader regional framework. Lebanon and Syria, as neighboring states directly impacted by the refugee crisis resulting from the conflict, have shaped their policies in response to the enduring presence of Palestinian refugees and the broader implications for regional stability. Similarly, Iraq's engagement has been marked by its historical support for Palestinian rights and its complex relationships with various Palestinian factions. The Gulf states, including the UAE, Qatar, and Bahrain, have adopted nuanced approaches, balancing historical support for the Palestinian cause with evolving strategies to address shifting regional and international dynamics.

A. Saudi Arabia's Policy Toward the Palestinian Conflict:

A Historical Perspective and Evolving Role

Historical Involvement: Saudi Arabia's stance on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been a crucial component of its foreign policy for decades [3, p.162].

Saudi Arabia's historical involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict dates back to the early days of the conflict. Key aspects of this historical engagement include: [10, p.237]

1. Arab-Israeli Wars: Saudi Arabia, like other Arab states, supported the Palestinian cause during the Arab-Israeli wars, including the 1948 Arab-Israeli war
2. Financial Aid: Saudi Arabia has provided substantial financial aid to the Palestinian territories and Palestinian refugee relief organizations
3. Arab Peace Initiative: Saudi Arabia played a pivotal role in formulating the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative, which proposed normalized relations between Arab states and Israel in exchange for a two-state solution
4. Diplomatic Efforts: Saudi Arabia has been involved in numerous diplomatic efforts to advance peace negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians

Key Factors Shaping Saudi Policy: Several key factors have shaped Saudi Arabia's policy toward the Palestinian conflict:[9, p. 102]

- Leadership Role: Saudi Arabia sees itself as a leader in the Arab world and, by extension, a key player in regional diplomacy related to the Israeli-Palestinian issue
- Islamic Custodianship: Saudi Arabia's position as the custodian of the Two Holy Mosques in Mecca and Medina gives it a unique role in shaping Arab and Muslim public opinion on the Palestinian cause
- Economic Interests: Saudi Arabia has interests in regional stability and cooperation with Western powers, including the United States and European countries
- Regional Power Dynamics: Saudi Arabia's rivalry with Iran, sectarian conflicts, and the Arab Spring have influenced its approach to regional issues, including the Palestinian conflict

Evolving Role in Peace Process: Saudi Arabia's role in the peace process has evolved over time, influenced by regional dynamics:

1. Arab Peace Initiative: Saudi Arabia's sponsorship of the Arab Peace Initiative marked a significant diplomatic effort to resolve the conflict. The initiative garnered Arab consensus and international attention

2. Support for Palestinian Unity: Saudi Arabia has called for Palestinian unity and reconciliation, emphasizing the importance of a united Palestinian front in negotiations
3. Commitment to a Two-State Solution: Saudi Arabia has consistently supported a two-state solution, with East Jerusalem as the capital of a Palestinian state, as the basis for a lasting peace

Impact on Regional Dynamics: Saudi Arabia's policy toward the Palestinian conflict has implications for regional dynamics:

- Regional Alliances: Saudi Arabia's alliances with Western powers and other Arab states shape its approach to the Palestinian issue.
- Rivalries and Conflicts: Regional rivalries with Iran and conflicts in Yemen and Syria have influenced Saudi Arabia's focus and priorities.
- Diplomatic Leverage: Saudi Arabia's influence in Arab and Muslim diplomacy can contribute to regional stability and peace efforts.

Conclusion: Saudi Arabia's policy toward the Palestinian conflict is deeply rooted in its historical engagement, leadership role, and regional dynamics. Its commitment to the Arab Peace Initiative and the pursuit of a two-state solution underscores its dedication to resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Saudi Arabia's influence on regional dynamics and its role in advancing the peace process are essential components of the broader Middle East landscape.

A. Libya's Policy Toward the Palestinian Conflict:

An Examination of Historical Engagement and Contemporary Challenges

Historical Engagement: Libya, situated in North Africa, has a long history of involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Its support for the Palestinian cause has been a defining feature of its foreign policy [2, p. 231].

Libya's involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict dates back to the era of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi. Gaddafi was an ardent supporter of Palestinian self-determination and an advocate for Palestinian rights on the international stage. Libya provided financial and political backing to various Palestinian factions, including the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO). During the 1970s and 1980s, Libya's foreign policy was marked by its anti-Israel stance and support for Palestinian armed struggle. Gaddafi hosted PLO leaders and other Palestinian groups, offering them a platform to express their grievances and aspirations. Libya's involvement in the conflict was not confined to rhetoric but also included financial support for Palestinian resistance movements.

Contemporary Challenges: In the post-Gaddafi era, Libya's foreign policy underwent significant changes, impacting its policy toward the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The complex situation in Libya, including political fragmentation, civil conflict, and the presence of multiple governments and factions, has made it challenging for Libya to maintain a consistent and influential role in the Israeli-Palestinian issue. The fragmentation and instability within Libya have also limited its ability to provide substantial support to Palestinian groups as it did during Gaddafi's rule. The country's focus has shifted towards internal stability and combating extremism, with Palestinian-related matters taking a backseat. Libya's Policy in the Broader Context: Libya's policy toward the Palestinian conflict must be viewed within the larger framework of regional and international dynamics. The changing landscape of Middle East politics, the shifting alliances in the Arab world, and global powers' involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian issue have influenced Libya's stance. Libya's ability to influence the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been constrained by its internal instability and the decline in its regional standing. However, its historical support for Palestinian rights and its symbolic role in championing the Palestinian cause continue to resonate among certain segments of the global population [18, p. 188].

Conclusion: Libya's policy toward the Palestinian conflict has evolved significantly over the years. While the Gaddafi era was characterized by robust support for the Palestinian cause, contemporary Libya grapples with internal challenges and the need to prioritize domestic stability. The fragmented political landscape within Libya limits its ability to play a prominent role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but its historical legacy as a supporter of Palestinian rights endures in the annals of the Israeli-Palestinian issue. Libya's policy toward the Palestinian conflict serves as a reminder of the complex interplay between domestic politics, regional dynamics, and international interests in the Middle East, all of which continue to influence the course of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

(Note: Please note that the accuracy of information in this article is based on my knowledge cutoff date in January 2022. Events and developments may have occurred in Libya and the region since then, which could impact the country's policy toward the Palestinian conflict).

A. Jordan's involvement in the Palestinian conflict has deep historical roots

Following the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, Jordan annexed the West Bank, marking the beginning of a complex relationship between the Jordanian state and Palestinian populations. Throughout the 20th century, Jordan's position was further shaped by events like the Six-Day War in 1967 and the Black September conflict in 1970, leading to the eventual relinquishment of its claims over the West Bank in 1988. Historically, Jordan has been a key player in Palestinian politics and has often played a mediating role between different Palestinian factions. Notably, King Hussein's leadership during the Black September conflict and Jordan's disengagement from the West Bank have left a lasting impact on its approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict [6, p. 381].

Jordan's contemporary policy toward the Palestinian conflict is influenced by various factors, both domestic and international. Ensuring its own security and stability remains paramount for Jordan's government. Jordan has had to contend with the spillover effects of regional conflicts, particularly the Syrian civil war and the rise of extremist groups, which have prompted a focus on security collaboration with Israel [13, p.212].

Jordan continues to engage with Palestinian nationalism and is home to a significant Palestinian refugee population. Supporting the Palestinians' right to self-determination remains a crucial element of Jordan's foreign policy, despite its disengagement from the West Bank.

Jordan plays an active role in regional diplomacy and has been engaged in various peace initiatives and negotiations, supporting a two-state solution and a just resolution to the Palestinian issue. Its participation in the Arab Peace Initiative is a significant aspect of this commitment. Jordan's relations with Israel are a complex blend of security cooperation and diplomatic engagement. The Jordan-Israel peace treaty of 1994 is a foundational element of their relationship, but tensions over issues such as Jerusalem have strained ties [21, p.165].

Conclusion: Jordan's policy toward the Palestinian conflict is shaped by its historical connections to the West Bank, domestic considerations, regional dynamics, and the broader Arab-Israeli context [4, p. 73]. Its multifaceted approach reflects the complex geopolitical realities of the Middle East. As regional dynamics continue to evolve, Jordan's role will remain crucial in advancing the prospects for a just and lasting resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. [24, p.246].

A. Lebanon's Policy Toward the Palestinian Conflict: A Multifaceted Approach

Historical Context: Lebanon's involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been profoundly influenced by the presence of Palestinian refugees on its soil since the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. Lebanon's historical connection to the Palestinian conflict is deeply rooted. The influx of Palestinian refugees following the creation of Israel in 1948 has had far-reaching implications. Over

the years, Palestinian refugees established themselves in refugee camps throughout Lebanon, becoming a significant demographic and political presence[11, p. 213].

The Lebanese Civil War (1975-1990) further complicated Lebanon's stance on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as Palestinian factions were directly involved in the conflict, leading to tensions and rivalries with various Lebanese factions.

Lebanon's Evolving Policy: Lebanon's policy toward the Palestinian conflict has evolved significantly over time, influenced by a variety of domestic and regional factors[22, p.175].

1. **Palestinian Refugee Presence:** The large population of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon has been both a source of humanitarian concern and a political challenge. Lebanon's treatment of Palestinian refugees, their socio-economic conditions, and access to basic rights have been significant policy considerations.
2. **Domestic Politics:** Lebanon's complex sectarian political system has shaped its approach to the Palestinian issue. The presence of Palestinian factions, including the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and later Hamas, has impacted Lebanon's internal dynamics and relations with neighboring countries.
3. **Regional and International Context:** Lebanon's policy is also influenced by regional dynamics, including its relations with Syria, Iran, and other key regional actors. Additionally, international efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and Lebanon's participation in initiatives like the Arab Peace Initiative have had an impact on its stance.

Challenges and Constraints: Lebanon's policy toward the Palestinian conflict is marked by significant challenges and constraints. The fragile security situation, domestic political divisions, and the complexities of the Palestinian refugee issue continue to pose obstacles to a coherent and unified approach[17, p.48]. Additionally, Lebanon's vulnerability to regional conflicts has implications for its policy and engagement with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Impact on Regional Dynamics: Lebanon's policy toward the Palestinian conflict has a broader regional impact, particularly concerning its relations with Israel, Syria, and other neighboring states. Its support for the Palestinian cause, while motivated by historical and humanitarian considerations, can lead to diplomatic tensions and regional implications[8, p.8].

Conclusion: Lebanon's policy toward the Palestinian conflict is a multifaceted issue deeply intertwined with its history, domestic politics, and regional dynamics. The presence of Palestinian refugees and factions within its borders has been a defining element, influencing its approach and its relations with other regional actors. As Lebanon navigates its complex domestic and regional challenges, its policy toward the Palestinian conflict remains a critical component of its foreign policy. The country's stance underscores the intricate interplay between historical legacies, domestic politics, and regional dynamics in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian issue.

A. Syria's Policy Toward the Palestinian Conflict:

A Historical Perspective and Contemporary Challenges

Historical Involvement: Syria's role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been central to its foreign policy since the establishment of Israel in 1948. Syria's historical involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can be traced back to the aftermath of the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, which led to the displacement of Palestinian refugees [23, p. 312]. Syria played a significant role in hosting and supporting these refugees, providing a base for Palestinian nationalist movements. During the early decades of the conflict, Syria supported Palestinian armed resistance, including groups like the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) [22, p. 215]. The Syrian government's alignment with these groups contributed to tensions with other Arab states and Israel. The 1967 Six-Day War and the subsequent loss of the

Golan Heights further entrenched Syria's commitment to the Palestinian cause and its opposition to Israel.

Contemporary Challenges and Regional Instability: Syria's policy toward the Palestinian conflict has evolved over time, facing contemporary challenges: The ongoing Syrian civil war, which began in 2011, has diverted Syria's attention and resources away from the Palestinian issue. The conflict has created internal divisions and strained the government's ability to actively support Palestinian factions. Syria's shifting alliances in the Middle East have affected its stance on the Palestinian conflict. Its alignment with Iran and support for groups like Hezbollah have influenced its approach to regional dynamics and peace initiatives. The complex interplay of Palestinian factions and their relations with Syria has created challenges for Syria's policy[16, p.178]. While some factions have maintained close ties with Syria, others have aligned with different regional powers.

Political Isolation: Syria's political isolation on the international stage, as a result of the civil war and alleged use of chemical weapons, has implications for its capacity to engage in diplomatic efforts related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Syria's policy toward the Palestinian conflict has ramifications for the broader regional context, particularly its relations with Israel and other neighboring states. The Syrian government's steadfast support for Palestinian rights and armed resistance movements has led to tensions with Israel and influenced regional dynamics[26, p. 102].

Conclusion: Syria's policy toward the Palestinian conflict is rooted in its historical support for Palestinian self-determination and its role as a host to Palestinian refugees. While the ongoing Syrian civil war and shifting regional alliances have posed challenges to Syria's active engagement in the Palestinian issue, its legacy as a supporter of Palestinian rights and armed resistance continues to influence the broader Middle Eastern landscape. As Syria seeks to navigate its internal challenges and restore stability, its approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict remains an essential aspect of its foreign policy. The complexities of Palestinian factionalism, regional dynamics, and the evolving Middle Eastern context will continue to shape Syria's role in the Palestinian issue.

(Note: Please note that the accuracy of information in this article is based on my knowledge cutoff date in December 2024. Events and developments may have occurred in Syria and the region since then, which could impact the country's policy toward the Palestinian conflict).

A. Iraq's Policy Toward the Palestinian Conflict:

An Analysis of Historical Engagement and Contemporary Dynamics

Historical Involvement: Iraq's stance on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been deeply influenced by its historical engagement with the Palestinian cause and regional dynamics. Iraq's historical engagement with the Palestinian conflict dates back to the aftermath of the 1948 Arab-Israeli war and the creation of the state of Israel. Iraq, like other Arab states, supported Palestinian aspirations for statehood and the right of return for Palestinian refugees[25, p.278]. This support included diplomatic backing and financial aid to Palestinian resistance movements. During the 1960s and 1970s, Iraq was a prominent supporter of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and other factions[19, p. 365]. The Baghdad-based Arab Summit in 1978 symbolized Iraq's leadership in the Arab world's stance on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Iraq's relationship with Palestinian factions like the PLO, Fatah, and others played a central role in shaping its policy. The Iraq-PLO connection was marked by a complex interplay of cooperation and tensions, at times influenced by regional rivalries[7, p.112].

Contemporary Challenges and Domestic Priorities: Iraq's policy toward the Palestinian conflict has faced contemporary challenges: The 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq and the subsequent occupation had significant implications for Iraq's policy. The country faced political turmoil,

insurgency, and sectarian conflict, diverting its attention from active involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Iraq's internal sectarian divisions, particularly between Sunni and Shia communities, have influenced its foreign policy. The rise of sectarianism following the invasion altered Iraq's regional alliances and its approach to the Palestinian issue. Iraq's relations with regional actors like Iran and Saudi Arabia have played a role in shaping its policy. The Iranian influence in Iraq and its support for Palestinian factions have had implications for Iraq's stance on the Palestinian conflict. The need for political stability, post-conflict reconstruction, and economic development has often taken precedence over active involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian issue.

Impact on Regional Dynamics: Iraq's policy toward the Palestinian conflict is closely linked to its relations with neighboring states, including Israel, Iran, and Syria. Iraq's stance, influenced by historical support for Palestinian rights and contemporary challenges, has implications for its role in regional dynamics and peace initiatives[20, p.205].

Conclusion: Iraq's policy toward the Palestinian conflict reflects a blend of historical support for Palestinian rights and the complexities of contemporary challenges. The country's historic role as an advocate for Palestinian aspirations remains an essential aspect of its identity, but its ability to actively engage in the Israeli-Palestinian issue has been constrained by internal dynamics and regional influences. As Iraq navigates its post-conflict challenges and seeks to restore stability and reconstruction, its policy toward the Palestinian conflict continues to be a critical element of its foreign policy. The interplay between historical legacies, domestic dynamics, and regional factors highlights the intricate nature of Iraq's role in the Israeli-Palestinian issue.

A. The UAE, Qatar, and Bahrain's Policies Toward the Palestinian Conflict:

A Comparative Analysis

The UAE, Qatar, and Bahrain's policies toward the Palestinian conflict have evolved over the years, reflecting their unique historical backgrounds:[12, p. 122]

1. **UAE:** The UAE's stance has been influenced by its recognition of Israel in 2020 as part of the Abraham Accords, marking a significant shift in its approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict
2. **Qatar:** Qatar has historically maintained relations with various Palestinian factions, such as Hamas, and has been involved in regional mediation efforts
3. **Bahrain:** Bahrain, like the UAE, signed the Abraham Accords, indicating a willingness to normalize relations with Israel and contribute to regional stability

Key Factors Shaping Policies: The policies of these Gulf states are influenced by several key factors:[5, p.10]

- **Regional Geopolitics:** The changing dynamics in the Middle East and the rise of Iran have prompted Gulf states to reassess their priorities and alliances
- **Economic Interests:** Economic diversification and technological cooperation have driven UAE, Bahrain, and Qatar to seek stronger relations with Israel
- **Humanitarian Concerns:** Qatar has provided humanitarian aid to Palestinians in Gaza, emphasizing the importance of addressing the Palestinian people's plight
- **Mediation Roles:** Qatar and UAE have sought to mediate conflicts and facilitate reconciliation between Palestinian factions, further contributing to regional diplomacy

Role in Peace Process: The policies of these Gulf states have implications for the broader peace process

1. **UAE and Bahrain:** By normalizing relations with Israel, UAE and Bahrain aim to foster regional stability and support the United States' peace efforts
2. **Qatar:** Qatar's engagement with Hamas and efforts to mediate between Palestinian factions contribute to a pragmatic approach to achieving a two-state solution [14, p.5].

Impact of Regional Dynamics: The regional dynamics in the Gulf have played a significant role in shaping these countries' policies:

1. Iran Factor: Perceived threats from Iran have prompted Gulf states to prioritize regional security and cooperation with Israel
2. GCC Rift: The ongoing rift between Qatar and other Gulf states has added complexity to their respective policies
3. Regional Alignments: The Gulf's alignment with the United States and other regional actors influences their approach to the Palestinian issue

Conclusion: The policies of the UAE, Qatar, and Bahrain toward the Palestinian conflict reflect their unique historical backgrounds, evolving strategies, and the regional dynamics that shape their foreign policy decisions. While the UAE and Bahrain's normalization with Israel underscores a shift in approach, Qatar's engagement with Palestinian factions and mediation efforts emphasizes a pragmatic pursuit of peace. These policies have implications for regional dynamics and the broader peace process, reflecting the complexities of the Middle East's geopolitical landscape.

CONCLUSION: A Comparative Analysis

The policies of Middle Eastern states toward the Palestinian conflict reveal a tapestry of historical commitments, evolving strategies, and regional considerations. While each country's approach is shaped by its unique circumstances, they collectively underscore the enduring significance of the Palestinian issue in the region's geopolitical landscape. Understanding these policies is essential to comprehending the multifaceted dynamics of the Middle East and the prospects for a lasting resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Saudi Arabia: Leadership and Diplomacy: Saudi Arabia has long positioned itself as a central actor in the Palestinian conflict, leveraging its leadership within the Arab world to advocate for peace and Palestinian self-determination. Its commitment to the Arab Peace Initiative and the two-state solution underscores its dedication to resolving the conflict. Moreover, Saudi Arabia's influence on regional dynamics and its role in advancing peace processes solidify its status as a key player in the broader Middle Eastern landscape.

Jordan: A Balancing Act: Jordan's policy is deeply rooted in its historical connection to the West Bank and the broader Arab-Israeli conflict. Balancing domestic considerations with the complexities of regional geopolitics, Jordan has adopted a multifaceted approach. As regional dynamics continue to evolve, Jordan's role as a stabilizing force and an advocate for a just resolution remains pivotal.

Libya: A Shift in Focus: Libya's engagement with the Palestinian conflict has undergone significant transformations. During the Gaddafi era, robust support for the Palestinian cause was a defining feature of its foreign policy. However, contemporary Libya's fragmented political landscape and focus on domestic stability have constrained its regional influence. Despite these challenges, Libya's historical legacy as a steadfast supporter of Palestinian rights endures.

Lebanon: Refugees and Regional Dynamics: Lebanon's policy toward the Palestinian conflict is intricately tied to its history and domestic realities, particularly the presence of Palestinian refugees. The refugee issue has profoundly influenced Lebanon's domestic politics and its relations with regional actors. Lebanon's approach reflects the broader complexities of balancing internal challenges with external pressures in the Middle Eastern context.

Syria: Historical Support Amid Modern Challenges: Syria has historically been a strong advocate for Palestinian self-determination, hosting refugees and supporting armed resistance. However, the ongoing Syrian civil war and shifting regional alliances have impeded its active

engagement in the conflict. Nevertheless, Syria's legacy as a supporter of Palestinian rights continues to shape its influence in the broader Middle Eastern landscape.

Iraq: Historical Advocacy and Contemporary Constraints: Iraq's stance on the Palestinian conflict reflects a blend of historical commitment to Palestinian rights and the challenges of contemporary regional dynamics. While Iraq has historically been a vocal advocate for Palestinian aspirations, internal political instability and external pressures have limited its capacity for active engagement in recent years.

The Gulf States: Diverging Strategies: The policies of the Gulf states—UAE, Qatar, and Bahrain—toward the Palestinian conflict highlight their distinct historical and strategic approaches. The UAE and Bahrain's recent normalization agreements with Israel mark a significant shift in regional dynamics, reflecting a prioritization of economic and security interests. In contrast, Qatar has maintained a more traditional role, engaging with Palestinian factions and mediating peace efforts. These differing strategies illustrate the complexity of the Gulf states' involvement in the broader peace process.

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Տեղեկություններ հեղինակի մասին

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Արտակ Համլետի ՀՈՎՀԱՆՆԻՍՅԱՆ՝ պատմական. գիտութ. թեկնածու,
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