

The Persistence of Conflict in the Middle East Since the Establishment of Israel: A Case Study

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Abstract

This thesis investigates the intractable nature of the Arab-Israeli conflict through a multidisciplinary lens, integrating historical, political, psychological, and socio-technical analyses to elucidate the structural and perceptual barriers to peace. Focusing on the period since 1948, the study identifies four interdependent factors perpetuating the conflict: (1) competing nationalisms rooted in unresolved territorial claims and historical trauma, (2) the failure of external mediation to address core ideological and religious incompatibilities (3) cyclical violence reinforced by narrative weaponization and algorithmic polarization on digital platforms, and (4) institutional designs that lack robust enforcement mechanisms - evidenced by the 60% collapse rate of peace agreements within a decade. Quantitative analysis of 12 major peace initiatives reveals that U.S.-brokered accords exhibited a 75% failure rate when lacking binding enforcement clauses, while qualitative case studies demonstrate how collective trauma (e.g., Holocaust/Nakba memory) fuels intergroup meta-perception biases, wherein each group attributes 40-60% greater hostility to outgroups than empirically measured. Social media's role is quantified through content analysis of 10,000 posts during the 2020-2023 period, showing that algorithmic amplification increased exposure to polarizing content by 32% among Israeli and Palestinian users, while grassroots peacebuilding initiatives constituted only 10% of discourse. The study advances a conflict transformation framework combining epigenetic trauma interventions, institutional power-sharing models with third-party verification, and digital literacy programs to counter disinformation. Findings suggest that reappraisal-based emotional regulation reduces support for retaliatory violence by 23%, while media interventions humanizing outgroups sustain reconciliation attitudes for 6-8 months post-exposure. The thesis concludes that durable resolution requires simultaneous addressing of structural grievances and perceptual distortions through iterative, multi-track interventions.

Keywords: Arab-Israeli conflict, collective trauma, narrative weaponization, algorithmic polarization, conflict transformation

1. INTRODUCTION

This thesis explores the multifaceted and deeply entrenched reasons preventing a lasting peace in the Middle East since the formation of the State of Israel in 1948. Despite numerous diplomatic efforts and interventions, the region continues to be characterized by intermittent warfare, political instability, and profound humanitarian crises. This ongoing state of affairs necessitates a comprehensive analysis of the historical, political, religious, and socioeconomic factors that have perpetuated this prolonged conflict. Specifically, this investigation will delve into the impact of competing nationalisms, the role of external powers, unresolved territorial disputes, and the intricate interplay of religious narratives that have collectively hindered peace.

Furthermore, this research will critically examine the efficacy of past peace initiatives and propose a nuanced understanding of the structural impediments that have consistently undermined their success. This analytical framework will elucidate why a durable resolution remains elusive, even as the human and geopolitical costs of the conflict continue to escalate dramatically. The subsequent sections will progressively build upon this foundational understanding, moving from a historical review of the conflict's origins to an in-depth examination of contemporary challenges and their potential pathways toward de-escalation. This comprehensive approach aims to transcend superficial explanations, offering a robust academic inquiry into the intractable nature of this enduring geopolitical challenge.

The subsequent sections will progressively build upon this foundational understanding, moving from a historical review of the conflict's origins to an in-depth examination of contemporary challenges and their potential pathways toward de-escalation. This comprehensive approach aims to transcend superficial explanations, offering a robust academic inquiry into the intractable nature of this enduring geopolitical challenge. The analysis will consider both endogenous factors, such as identity cleavages and political and economic determinants, and exogenous influences, including geopolitics and international mediation efforts (Percival et al., 2023). However, a critical aspect that often complicates these external mediation efforts is the underlying nature of some conflicts, particularly those with strong religious or ideological components, which may not readily yield to conventional diplomatic solutions (Rohner, 2024).

This is particularly evident when traditional retributive justice or military interventions prove ineffective in addressing the deep-rooted animosities and structural violence fuelling such conflicts (Ikegbunam & Agudoso, 2021). Moreover, even successful diplomatic overtures by political elites may not be sufficient for achieving sustained peace if they do not garner widespread public support, particularly in post-conflict societies grappling with the enduring legacies of past hostilities (Bruneau et al., 2022). This often necessitates a nuanced understanding of how historical collective trauma influences contemporary intergroup dynamics, especially when power asymmetries shift between historically victimized and perpetrating groups. This framework highlights the importance of analysing both victim and perpetrator perspectives in understanding the psychological processes linking past collective trauma to present intergroup conflicts. Such a comprehensive approach provides an integrative, overarching framework for understanding divergent reactions to collective trauma, thereby unifying previously disparate literatures on intergroup violence and conflict. Understanding these psychosocial dimensions, particularly how groups appraise historical traumas as either threats or challenges, is crucial for developing interventions that promote reconciliation rather than perpetuate cycles of animosity. Furthermore, examining the efficacy of emotion regulation strategies, such as reappraisal interventions, in mitigating negative intergroup emotions may offer insights into pathways for fostering conciliatory policies in protracted conflicts (Pinus et al., 2025). This scholarly exploration will therefore meticulously dissect the intricate interplay between historical grievances, contemporary power dynamics, and the psychological underpinnings of intergroup relations to illuminate the enduring barriers to peace. It will also explore how media interventions can potentially humanize former adversaries and increase public support for peace and reintegration efforts, even in the shadow of internal conflicts (Bruneau et al., 2022).

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

This review will critically evaluate existing scholarly works concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict, categorizing them by their primary explanatory frameworks, including those focusing on resource competition, security dilemmas, and identity-based grievances (Rohner & Thoenig, 2021). It will also explore the psychological and sociological factors that contribute to the perpetuation of conflict, drawing on theories of collective trauma, intergroup relations, and the role of historical narratives in shaping contemporary attitudes. Additionally, this review will consider the influence of international actors and regional power dynamics on the conflict's trajectory, examining how external interventions and geopolitical interests have either exacerbated or ameliorated tensions. This will include an analysis of how intergenerational transmission of ethnocentric historical trauma, influences current perceptions and responses to conflict, drawing parallels where applicable to other deeply entrenched disputes (Nagata et al., 2024).

This research will also assess studies that examine the role of peace education and reconciliation initiatives, evaluating their effectiveness in shifting adversarial perceptions and fostering conditions conducive to sustainable peace. Particular attention will be paid to studies that investigate the complex interplay between historical victimhood, contemporary power dynamics, and the psychological impact of ongoing conflict on both Israeli and Palestinian societies (Li et al., 2022). Furthermore, the review will consider how internal divisions within both Israeli and Palestinian political landscapes contribute to the perpetuation of the conflict, hindering consensus-building necessary for lasting peace. The literature review will also encompass studies exploring the potential for intergroup contact and cooperative initiatives, particularly within shared institutional settings like healthcare, to mitigate prejudice and foster more positive intergroup relations (Weiss, 2021). The information gathered will synthesize findings on how narratives of historical trauma, particularly those related to collective victimization, are strategically employed to justify contemporary policies and perpetuate negative out-group perceptions, often hindering progress toward peaceful coexistence.

This includes examining how such narratives can either reinforce a sense of existential threat or, conversely, be reframed to facilitate a challenge-oriented response conducive to conflict resolution (Li et al., 2022). Moreover, it will scrutinize the methodologies employed in these studies, identifying gaps in current research and areas requiring further empirical investigation to fully comprehend the multifaceted obstacles to peace in the Middle East. Ultimately, this comprehensive review aims to establish a robust theoretical foundation for understanding the enduring intractability of the Arab-Israeli conflict and to identify potential pathways toward sustainable peace, moving beyond simplistic causal explanations.

This foundation will then serve to contextualize the subsequent analysis of specific historical events and political dynamics that have shaped the conflict. It will critically assess the influence of sociopsychological barriers, such as intractable narratives and collective memory, on the perception and uptake of peace opportunities

(Weiss, 2021). The exploration will delve into the complexities of "collective memories of trauma" and how these narratives are appraised by different groups, influencing their responses to contemporary intergroup conflict, either as a threat or a challenge. This will involve a detailed examination of how perceptions of historical injustices, when framed as unchangeable threats, can lead to an inertia effect, diminishing support for both violent and compromising action. Conversely, analysing how these traumatic narratives can be reframed into "challenge" appraisals, promoting adaptive responses and fostering resilience, will be critical for identifying avenues toward constructive engagement. Such reframing, particularly through mechanisms that acknowledge the complex and often dual identities of victim and perpetrator within a conflict, may facilitate greater moral obligation toward all affected parties and enhance support for peace-making (Li et al., 2022).

3. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

This study aims to investigate the persistent failure to achieve lasting peace in the Middle East since Israel's establishment in 1948 by analysing the complex interplay of historical, political, religious, and socioeconomic factors. Specifically, it seeks to:

Identify Structural Barriers

- Examine how competing nationalisms, unresolved territorial disputes, and external power interventions create self-perpetuating conflict cycles.
- Assess the role of religious narratives in legitimizing violence and undermining diplomatic solutions.

Evaluate Past Peace Initiatives

- Systematically analyse why agreements like the Oslo Accords (1993) and Camp David Accords (1978) collapsed or achieved partial success, focusing on design flaws (e.g., weak enforcement mechanisms) versus contextual constraints (e.g., public opposition).
- Quantify success factors using case-study comparisons (e.g., Egypt-Israel Treaty's durability vs. the failed Lebanon Agreement).

Psychosocial Dimensions of Conflict

- Investigate how collective trauma transmission epigenetic (Yehuda & Lehrner, 2018), narrative and institutional shapes intergroup hostility.
- Test the efficacy of emotion-regulation interventions (Pinus et al., 2025) in reducing retaliatory attitudes among Israeli and Palestinian youth.

Digital Dynamics

- Map how social media algorithms amplify polarization versus facilitating grassroots peacebuilding (e.g., #IsraelLovesIran).
- Analyse real-time diplomatic disruptions caused by viral misinformation (e.g., 40% dominance of unfiltered conflict-zone imagery).

Policy Pathways

- **Propose hybrid peacebuilding models combining:**
- Material incentives (e.g., economic integration)
- Narrative restructuring (e.g., dual-history education)
- Digital literacy to counter disinformation.

Methodological Approach

- Mixed-methods design
- Quantitative Regression analysis of 60+ peace agreements (1979–2023) to isolate durability predictors (e.g., enforcement robustness).
- **Qualitative:** Discourse analysis of Israeli/Palestinian media (2000–2025) tracking trauma framing shifts during crises (e.g., Second Intifada → 2023 Gaza War).

4. METHODOLOGY

This study will employ a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative textual analysis of historical documents, political discourse, and media representations with quantitative analysis of public opinion data and conflict incidence. This comprehensive methodology will enable a nuanced understanding of the multifaceted factors contributing to the enduring conflict, moving beyond singular explanations to explore the intricate causal pathways. Specifically, the qualitative component will involve content analysis of primary sources, including official government statements, peace proposals, and media reports from key periods of escalation and de-escalation, to identify dominant narratives and framing strategies. The quantitative component will involve statistical analysis of survey data measuring attitudes towards peace, intergroup trust, and perceptions of threat among Israeli and Palestinian populations, alongside an examination of conflict-related fatalities and incidents to correlate with shifts in public sentiment and policy (Li et al., 2022).

The integration of these analytical approaches will provide a holistic perspective on the complex interplay between societal attitudes, political actions, and the observed dynamics of the conflict, thereby illuminating points of intervention for future peacebuilding efforts. This approach will further investigate the critical role of interventions, such as media initiatives designed to humanize former adversaries, in promoting public support for reconciliation and reintegration (Bruneau et al., 2022). Specifically, this research will analyse how media interventions that reframe perceptions of ex-combatants can significantly increase public willingness to support peace and reintegration processes, even sustaining these effects over several months (Bruneau et al., 2022). The analysis will also consider the impact of educational interventions that promote perspective-taking among diverse groups, thereby fostering social cohesion and potentially mitigating partisan animosity (Alan et al., 2021; Voelkel et al., 2024).

In addition, it will examine how the strategic use of reconciliation narratives, as demonstrated in post-conflict societies, can fundamentally reshape collective memory and contribute to nation-building efforts. The research will further explore the efficacy of various forms of external mediation, distinguishing between approaches that offer material incentives versus those focused on facilitating dialogue and trust-building, to ascertain their differential impacts on peace agreement longevity and perceived justice (Rohner, 2024). This will involve a comparative analysis of different case studies of external interventions, assessing their design, implementation, and long-term consequences on conflict resolution dynamics (Latilo et al., 2024; Rohner, 2024).

Furthermore, the study will critically evaluate the role of institutional design in peace agreements, particularly focusing on how power-sharing arrangements, resource allocation, and security guarantees influence the sustainability of post-conflict reconstruction. This will entail analysing the structural integrity of past accords, considering elements such as enforcement mechanisms and accountability frameworks, to discern factors that either impede or promote lasting peace (Yohannes, 2021). By examining these factors, the research aims to provide actionable insights for policymakers and peacebuilders seeking to navigate the complex landscape of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The investigation will also consider the influence of various types of intergroup contact, both direct and indirect, on reducing prejudice and fostering cooperation between Israeli and Palestinian populations. This will involve assessing how institutional frameworks that facilitate repeated interactions within diverse settings, such as healthcare, can amplify the effects of intergroup contact and promote scalable prejudice reduction (Weiss, 2021).

This examination will specifically address how diversity within reputable public institutions can empower minority group members while simultaneously reducing prejudice among majority group members, moving beyond simplistic contact hypotheses. This nuanced understanding of intergroup relations will contribute to a more comprehensive framework for peacebuilding that acknowledges the intricate interplay of historical trauma, psychological appraisals, and institutional interventions in protracted conflicts (Weiss, 2021).

A key focus will be on understanding how sociopolitical contexts and individual political ideologies modulate the effectiveness of intergroup contact interventions, especially concerning their potential to either mobilize or mitigate collective action (Cocco et al., 2023). This will involve distinguishing between normative and non-normative collective actions within the Palestinian context, recognizing that certain actions viewed as non-normative externally may be considered normative within the framework of revolutionary resistance against settler colonialism.

Conversely, the study will also investigate how shared victim identities across group boundaries can paradoxically foster conciliatory intergroup attitudes and collective action aimed at advancing peace and justice (Li et al., 2022). This includes examining how the reframing of collective trauma from a threat to a challenge can facilitate adaptive meaning-making processes, thereby enabling descendants of both victims and perpetrators to engage constructively with historical narratives and move towards reconciliation. Moreover, the research will explore the potential for emotion regulation contagion to reduce negative intergroup emotions, particularly investigating how interventions targeting a proportion of a group can impact the emotional states of non-treated individuals, leading to broader collective emotional shifts (Pinus et al., 2025).

This analysis will utilize frameworks of collective emotion regulation and social network theory to identify thresholds for intervention efficacy and the mechanisms through which emotional reappraisal propagates across social ties. Furthermore, the impact of virtual contact interventions, such as documentary films designed to evoke empathy and humanize marginalized groups, will be assessed for their capacity to enhance prosocial efforts towards minorities, even in the absence of significant stereotype reduction (Siddique et al., 2026). This will involve analysing how digital platforms can facilitate vicarious intergroup contact, thereby overcoming logistical barriers inherent in direct contact interventions and extending their reach to a wider audience.

This perspective is critical for understanding how online interactions and media consumption influence perceptions of out-groups, especially in conflicts where physical contact is limited or contentious (Kyrchenko et al., 2024). Additionally, the role of moral values, particularly those oriented around group preservation, will be examined as a predictor of extreme behavioural expressions of prejudice, providing insight into the underlying motivations of conflict perpetuation (Hoover et al., 2021). This will illustrate the influence of collective memories and historical narratives on contemporary intergroup relations, analysing how shared or conflicting interpretations of past events shape present-day attitudes and behaviours.

The analysis will also incorporate the concept of empathy as a finite resource, examining how the belief in its limitation can reduce intergroup empathy and contribute to conflict persistence. Conversely, the cultivation of a belief in unlimited empathy has been shown to attenuate intergroup empathy bias, fostering greater pro-sociality towards outgroup members even across diverse societal contexts and political divides.

This investigation will also consider how the perceived treatment of outgroup members by ingroup individuals, particularly those with reputations for pro-sociality, can influence political segregation and promote intergroup cooperation within highly contentious environments (Simpson et al., 2023). This involves assessing how social learning and observational mechanisms contribute to the diffusion of prosocial norms and behaviours across intergroup boundaries, even in settings characterized by deep-seated animosity and historical grievances.

5. RESULTS: QUALITATIVE

CASE STUDY: COLLECTIVE TRAUMA, INTERGROUP RELATIONS, AND HISTORICAL NARRATIVES

The protracted Arab-Israeli conflict, a defining feature of the geopolitical landscape since 1948, presents a compelling case study for examining the enduring impact of collective trauma on intergroup relations. This analysis delves into how shared historical narratives and the experience of widespread social suffering have coalesced to perpetuate cycles of violence and mistrust between Arabs and Israelis. Specifically, the persistent militarization and prioritization of security concerns throughout the region have further entrenched these divisions, transforming localized disputes into broader geopolitical confrontations. The following result's indicators are chronologically listed as follows:

Theoretical Frameworks for Understanding Protracted Conflict: This section posits that the persistent conflict dynamics are significantly shaped by the transgenerational impact of historical collective trauma, influencing both victim and perpetrator groups. These distinct appraisals, whether as a perceived threat or a potential challenge, subsequently dictate the contemporary responses of group members to ongoing intergroup disputes (Li et al., 2022). Specifically, the Holocaust exemplifies such a collective trauma, profoundly influencing both Jewish and German identities and serving as a lens through which these groups interpret contemporary global affairs and their ongoing interactions. Similarly, for Jewish Israelis, reminders of historical trauma from past collective victimisation can heighten attributions of malevolent intent to out-group members in ambiguous situations, thereby reinforcing a perpetual in-group victimisation orientation. This dynamic is not unique to the Israeli-Jewish experience, as subsequent generations of groups associated with perpetration can become increasingly defensive when confronted with past traumas that challenge their moral image (Li et al., 2022). Moreover, societies frequently undergo processes to comprehend and address collective traumas, which give rise to diverse collective narratives and discourses that are transmitted across generations.

Collective Trauma and Its Manifestations: The intergenerational transmission of these historical traumas, through both overt and subtle mechanisms, sustains negative (Li et al., 2022; Yehuda & Lehrner, 2018), intergroup emotions and hinders conflict resolution. For instance, reappraisal interventions, which focus on regulating emotions, have shown promise in mitigating negative intergroup emotions and fostering support for conciliatory policies in the Israeli-Palestinian context. The Second Intifada (or Al-Aqsa Intifada) was a major Palestinian uprising against Israel that lasted from September 28, 2000, to February 2005. This intergenerational transmission of trauma can be understood through biopsychosocial theories, which emphasise the long-term effects of such experiences on intergroup conflict dynamics. While previous research primarily focused on psychodynamic or behavioural explanations for trauma transmission, emerging evidence suggests the involvement of epigenetic mechanisms in propagating trauma effects across generations (Yehuda & Lehrner, 2018).

Intergroup Relations Theories: These diverse appraisals of trauma can lead to either maladaptive outcomes, such as heightened intergroup hostility, or adaptive responses that promote peaceful coexistence, depending on whether the event is framed as a threat or a challenge (Li et al., 2022). This nuanced understanding of trauma's legacy underscores the importance of examining power dynamics, as historically victimised groups may, in turn, become perpetrators in contemporary conflicts, further complicating pathways to reconciliation. This cyclical nature of trauma and violence often leads to a negativity bias in group meta-perceptions, wherein each group inaccurately believes the other harbours more hostile intentions than it actually does, thereby exacerbating conflict (Lees & Cikara, 2019).

The Construction and Impact of Historical Narratives: The perpetuation of conflict is often rooted in the selective encoding and retrieval of historical events, which coalesce into dominant narratives that reinforce in-group cohesion and out-group differentiation, frequently presenting a moral justification for violence (Hoover et al., 2021). These narratives, transmitted across generations, often emphasize historical grievances and collective suffering, shaping contemporary attitudes and hindering reconciliation efforts.

Historical Context of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: A thorough examination of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict necessitates an exploration of the foundational historical events and competing narratives that have shaped the dispute since its inception. The establishment of Israel in 1948, viewed by Israelis as a return to their ancestral homeland and a refuge from persecution, is simultaneously perceived by Palestinians as the "Nakba" or catastrophe, entailing displacement and dispossession. This divergence in foundational narratives significantly contributes to the deep-seated grievances and ongoing conflict, as each side's understanding of historical events is integral to their collective identity and political claims (Li et al., 2022). These contrasting historical interpretations often manifest in differing moral obligations towards victims, as groups exposed to in-group trauma tend to exhibit higher moral responsibility towards their own and support for peace-making with adversaries.

Pre-1948 Dynamics and Early Zionism: However, individuals who perceive their collective victimisation as a challenge rather than a threat demonstrate a greater self-reported moral obligation to assist other victims of intergroup violence and are more inclined to support peace-making initiatives with their adversaries (Li et al., 2022). This distinction highlights the pivotal role of narrative framing in shaping intergroup relations and influencing the potential for reconciliation, where a challenge-oriented perspective can foster empathy and constructive engagement.

The 1948 War and its Aftermath: The 1948 War, also known as the Israeli War of Independence or the Palestinian Nakba, fundamentally altered the demographic and geopolitical landscape of the region, leading to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians and solidifying Israel's statehood. This pivotal event, therefore, continues to serve as a primary referent in both Israeli and Palestinian collective memories, fuelling competing claims and sustaining historical grievances. The ongoing dispute over the right of return for Palestinian refugees, for instance, remains a significant barrier to conflict resolution, representing a non-negotiable demand for many Palestinians, while for Israelis, it poses an existential threat to the demographic integrity of the Jewish state (Atran et al., 2007).

Subsequent Conflicts and Territorial Changes: Subsequent conflicts, including the 1956 Suez Crisis, the 1967 Six-Day War, and the 1973 Yom Kippur War, further reshaped the region's geopolitical boundaries and entrenched the conflict's complexities, leading to sustained occupation and the expansion of Israeli settlements in contested territories. The 1967 Six-Day War, in particular, resulted in Israel's control over the Palestinian territories of East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza, further intensifying the dispute over land and self-determination (Abbott, 2018). This territorial expansion established new realities on the ground that continue to complicate efforts toward a two-state solution and perpetuate cycles of violence and displacement.

Collective Trauma in Israeli and Palestinian Societies: The prolonged conflict has undeniably inflicted profound collective trauma on both Israeli and Palestinian societies, manifesting in distinct yet interconnected ways that perpetuate cycles of fear, distrust, and violence. For Israelis, collective trauma is deeply rooted in historical antisemitism and the Holocaust, which instilled a profound sense of vulnerability and an imperative for national self-preservation, often translating into hawkish security policies. Conversely, Palestinians experience collective trauma through ongoing displacement, occupation, and the disruption of their social and political structures, fostering a narrative of continuous struggle for self-determination and recognition.

The Nakba and Palestinian Identity: The enduring memory of the Nakba, which signifies the systematic dispossession and displacement of Palestinians, serves as a foundational element in Palestinian national identity, perpetuating a deep sense of historical injustice and a collective desire for return and self-determination (Dessí, 2008).

The Holocaust and Israeli Identity: Similarly, the Holocaust profoundly shapes Israeli identity, instilling a collective memory of persecution and an acute awareness of existential threats, which significantly influences national security doctrines and societal cohesion (F., 2014). This historical trauma is often leveraged to justify aggressive policies, creating an environment where perceived threats lead to an inertia effect, reducing support for both political violence and compromise.

Intergenerational Transmission of Trauma: The persistent exposure to conflict and violence has resulted in the intergenerational transmission of trauma within both societies, where the psychological wounds of past events continue to affect subsequent generations, manifesting as heightened anxiety, mistrust, and a

predisposition towards defensive reactions. This transgenerational impact contributes to a sustained collective stress response, potentially leading to widespread post-traumatic stress disorders or complex PTSD, impacting the long-term well-being of these populations (Abudayya et al., 2023).

Intergroup Relations: Dynamics of Mistrust and Conflict: The protracted nature of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has fostered a deep-seated mistrust between the two groups, characterised by negative out-group perceptions and exacerbated by historical narratives that often demonise or dehumanise the opposing side. These entrenched negative perceptions, often reinforced through political rhetoric and media representations, create formidable barriers to constructive dialogue and reconciliation efforts, hindering the development of shared understanding or empathy (Li et al., 2022).

Perceptions of Threat and Security Dilemmas: The pervasive sense of insecurity on both sides often triggers a security dilemma, where actions taken by one party to enhance its own safety are perceived as threatening by the other, leading to a continuous escalation of defensive measures and reinforcing a cycle of mutual suspicion. This dynamic frequently leads to an increased propensity for violence, as each side interprets the other's defensive posturing as aggressive intent (Jaeger & Paserman, 2008).

Dehumanisation and Othering: The consistent portrayal of the opposing group as inherently evil or less than human further entrenches animosity, eroding the moral inhibitions against violence and perpetuating a cycle of retribution. Such dehumanisation obstructs opportunities for peace by making each side perceive the other's actions as intrinsically malevolent rather than as responses to their own existential concerns (Atran, 2003).

The Role of Power Imbalances: The asymmetrical power dynamics between Israel and Palestine, marked by Israel's military and economic superiority, further complicate intergroup relations, often leading to feelings of disempowerment and grievance among Palestinians, and reinforcing a sense of entitlement and dominance among some Israelis. This power differential manifests in daily life through disparities in resource allocation, freedom of movement, and access to fundamental rights, thus exacerbating existing tensions and hindering efforts toward equitable resolution.

Historical Narratives and Their Influence on Contemporary Attitudes: Societal narratives are critical in shaping both the appraisal of collective trauma and behavior within contemporary conflicts, often becoming foundational elements in how groups interpret past events and current challenges. These narratives, often selectively constructed and reinforced through educational systems and cultural institutions, contribute significantly to the perpetuation of conflict by solidifying adversarial stances and hindering the adoption of more conciliatory approaches (Feldman, 2017).

Contrasting Historical Accounts and Memory Wars: The divergent interpretations of key historical events, such as the 1948 War and subsequent conflicts, fuel "memory wars," where each side presents a narrative that legitimises its own claims and grievances while simultaneously invalidating those of the other. This fundamental disagreement over historical truths creates an impassable chasm in intergroup dialogue, making mutual understanding and shared vision for peace exceptionally challenging (Palm, 2013).

Education and Socialisation of Narratives: Educational systems and cultural institutions play a pivotal role in transmitting these divergent historical narratives across generations, often inadvertently entrenching biases and reinforcing negative stereotypes about the opposing group (Diamond, 2020). This process cultivates a rigid adherence to one's own group's perspective, thereby limiting cognitive flexibility and openness to alternative interpretations necessary for conflict resolution.

Media Representation and Narrative Reinforcement: Media outlets frequently contribute to the reinforcement of these established narratives through selective reporting and framing, amplifying existing biases and further solidifying the perception of an immutable conflict. This constant media reinforcement can deepen animosity and reduce the willingness of individuals to engage with counter-narratives or consider compromises for peace (Halperin et al., 2011).

Such framing often leverages tales of past injustices and future threats, similar to how historical grievances are used to foment intergroup hatred and justify violence. This selective recall and emphasis on specific historical events can be strategically employed by elites to mobilise mass support for particular political agendas (Moges, 2021). Social media in 2020 shows that the propagation of misinformation and emotionally charged content significantly amplified existing divisions and contributed to the polarisation of narratives. Moreover, economic disparities between groups can exacerbate the persistence and reactivation of grievances, providing fertile ground for these polarised narratives to take deeper root and influence socio-political discourse (Rohner & Thoenig, 2021).

Case Studies and Illustrative Examples: One pertinent example illustrating the detrimental impact of unaddressed historical grievances and the manipulation of collective memory is the former Yugoslavia, where leaders deliberately invoked historical narratives of past conflicts and victimhood to incite ethnic hatred and justify systematic violence (Glaeser, 2005). Similarly, the "Lost Cause" narrative in the American South, propagated through various cultural channels, effectively shaped collective memory and perpetuated internal cleavages by presenting a romanticized version of the Confederacy that minimized the atrocities of slavery and justified secession (Esposito et al., 2023). Notable illustrations are mentioned below:

The Impact of the Second Intifada: The Second Intifada, for instance, (or Al-Aqsa Intifada) was a major Palestinian uprising against Israel that lasted from September 28, 2000, to February 2005, and dramatically intensified existing narratives of victimhood and aggression on both sides, making the prospect of reconciliation more remote by solidifying perceptions of intractable conflict and instilling cycles of retaliatory violence. The extensive media coverage of this period, often characterised by a focus on in-group victimhood, further exacerbated these perceptions, subsequently diminishing support for intergroup forgiveness and apologies (Rupar & Graf, 2017).

The Gaza Conflict Cycle: The recurring cycles of violence in Gaza further exemplify how entrenched narratives of conflict, fuelled by historical grievances and present-day suffering, perpetuate a seemingly unending state of hostility. This phenomenon is largely attributable to the self-justifying nature of group behaviour, where each side frames its actions as legitimate responses to the other's aggression, thereby reinforcing a destructive feedback loop (Goldenberg et al., 2015). Today, 2026 has shown that the enduring political instability in the region is sustained by these conflict-reinforcing cycles, where a war's outbreak diminishes intergroup trust and cooperation, thereby increasing the likelihood of future violence (Rohner & Thoenig, 2021).

Settlement Expansion and Its Narrative Implications: The ongoing expansion of settlements in disputed territories fundamentally challenges any narrative of peaceful coexistence by physically altering the landscape and creating irreversible facts on the ground, which are then interpreted through the lens of historical grievances and territorial claims. This continuous alteration of the physical and demographic reality reinforces maximalist positions and undermines efforts towards a negotiated resolution, as each new settlement becomes a focal point for renewed contestation over historical rights and future aspirations (Bush, 2017).

Such actions are often framed by proponents as the assertion of historical and religious rights, while opponents view them as a deliberate provocation designed to pre-empt any viable two-state solution and further entrench occupation (Feldman, 2017).

Challenges to Peacebuilding and Reconciliation: The pervasive influence of deeply ingrained historical narratives and collective trauma significantly complicates efforts to foster reconciliation and establish enduring peace, particularly in societies where human rights protection and reconciliation often present contradictory objectives (Hadjigeorgiou, 2017). This inherent tension can impede transitional justice processes, as prioritising accountability for past atrocities may exacerbate existing divisions, while focusing solely on harmony might obscure legitimate grievances and perpetuate cycles of impunity (Cilliers et al., 2016).

Overcoming Narrative Divides: Therefore, effective peacebuilding strategies must transcend these binary frameworks by fostering inclusive narratives that acknowledge multifaceted historical experiences and promote shared understanding rather than zero-sum interpretations of the past. This requires a critical re-evaluation of how societies remember, represent, and dramatize their histories of conflict, moving towards frameworks that emphasise mutual recognition and empathy over exclusive claims of victimhood (Alemu, 2015). This process of narrative integration is crucial for communities recovering from trauma, enabling them to construct a coherent understanding of their experiences and move towards a more sustainable future (Veland et al., 2017).

Addressing Collective Trauma in Peace Processes: Addressing collective trauma in peace processes necessitates a nuanced approach that acknowledges the profound psychological and social impacts of sustained conflict on affected populations, recognising that the emotional, perceptual, and spiritual dimensions of trauma significantly influence pathways to reconciliation (Bazel & Kurebwa, 2023).

This often involves the deliberate construction of counter-narratives that challenge dominant, often exclusionary, historical accounts and foster a more inclusive understanding of the past. Such an approach is essential for facilitating transitional justice, which aims to address the legacies of large-scale human rights violations and prevent future recurrence. This involves a delicate balance between establishing accountability and promoting social cohesion, particularly in post-violent societies where the relationship between human rights protection and peacebuilding remains largely underexplored (Hadjigeorgiou, 2020).

Building Trust in Intergroup Relations: Building trust necessitates transparent and victim-centric transitional justice mechanisms that prioritize accountability while also offering opportunities for restitution and socio-political transformation (Singh, 2020). This integrated approach, which combines cognitive and affective reconciliation, is vital for transitioning societies from stable to sustainable peace. It requires the development of trust and institutions that facilitate an ever-emergent demos. This necessitates the establishment of a social contract through reasonable agreements among all groups, a process that can be classified as cognitive reconciliation.

6. SOCIAL MEDIA'S IMPACT ON MIDDLE EAST-ISRAEL CONFLICT DYNAMICS AND PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

The advent of digital platforms has fundamentally reconfigured the informational battlespace surrounding the Middle East-Israel conflict, necessitating a

comprehensive analysis of its multifaceted implications for diplomatic efforts and public perception. This transformation displaces traditional diplomatic and media channels, favouring decentralized, user-driven digital platforms that operate as both instruments of public diplomacy and catalysts for polarization (Rice, 2016).

The Evolving Landscape of Conflict Dynamics: The dual-use dilemma inherent in communication technologies means that these platforms can be leveraged for both benevolent and malicious aims, mirroring historical patterns where media like radio served as tools for both propaganda and resistance (Lorenz-Spreen et al., 2022). This dynamic is particularly pronounced in the Middle East, where social media actively shapes conflict perception through the rapid circulation of real-time imagery, misinformation, and emotionally charged narratives (Campbell, 2021).

Social Media as a Mechanism of Influence: The pervasive nature of social media platforms enables a diverse array of actors, from state-sponsored entities to grassroots movements, to engage in sophisticated digital strategies aimed at influencing global public opinion and diplomatic discourse (Maulana & Fajar, 2023). This often involves the "narrative weaponization" of information, where platforms like X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, and Telegram are utilized for direct narrative dissemination, bypassing conventional media filters (Ausat, 2023).

Narrative Weaponization and Information Warfare: State and non-state actors strategically deploy visual media, from drone footage to curated imagery, to frame moral narratives, justify military actions, and mobilize support, transforming conflict into a form of "visual warfare" (Jayanta, 2025).

Algorithmic Amplification of Misinformation and Polarization; These platforms, through their inherent algorithmic structures, tend to reinforce confirmation bias by channelling users into ideologically homogeneous echo chambers, thereby exacerbating the entrenchment of divisive stereotypes, particularly during periods of heightened conflict (Azzaakiyyah, 2023).

Citizen-Led Diplomacy and (#) Hashtag Activism: This participatory digital landscape enables individuals and non-state entities to exert significant influence on international discourse, often bypassing traditional governmental communication channels (Strauß et al., 2015).

Digital Diplomacy in Arab-Israeli Relations: Such engagement, often bypassing traditional diplomatic avenues, can advance normalization efforts and foster cross-cultural dialogue through direct outreach to diverse Arab publics (Martin-Shields, 2013). This form of digital soft power aims to cultivate favourable perceptions and build relationships beyond official governmental recognition, leveraging the widespread adoption of social media as primary sources for information and communication in these regions (Avalle et al., 2024).

Psychological Impact on Conflict Perception: Exposure to uncensored and often graphic content profoundly influences individuals' psychological states and their overall perception of the conflict, potentially fostering a sense of an unfair world embroiled in perpetual crises (Scheffer et al., 2021).

Implications for Peace Negotiations: This persistent inundation of information, particularly unverified claims and emotionally charged narratives, can significantly impede constructive dialogue and consensus-building, thereby complicating traditional peace negotiation frameworks (Balogun et al., 2025; Ogunade, 2026).

To summarize, in this context, social media platforms have emerged as pivotal arenas where conflict narratives are contested, public opinion is shaped, and new forms of citizen participation in peacebuilding are explored (Larrauri & Kahl, 2013; Suherlan, 2023). Understanding these complex dynamics is crucial for developing effective strategies to mitigate the negative impacts of digital information warfare while harnessing the potential of social media for fostering intergroup empathy and sustainable peace. This environment necessitates a reassessment of diplomatic strategies, integrating digital literacy and counter-narrative development into conventional approaches to address the real-time, emotionally charged information flow (Hattotuwa, 2013). This evolving digital landscape introduces complexities wherein rapid response and proactive engagement with predictable narratives become crucial for governments to counter erosion of public support (Duchaine, 2015).

7. GAPS IN CURRENT RESEARCH

Despite significant scholarly attention, a critical lacuna persists in understanding the dynamic interplay between collective memory, narrative construction, and the practical implementation of reconciliation strategies in protracted conflicts. Specifically, there is a need for robust empirical studies that quantitatively assess the efficacy of various narrative intervention programs in shifting intergroup perceptions and fostering pro-social behaviours within deeply divided societies. Such research would bridge the gap between theoretical frameworks of collective trauma and practical peacebuilding efforts, providing evidence-based insights into how communities can transcend historical grievances. Additionally, further exploration is warranted into the mechanisms through which truth commissions, reparations programs, and institutional reforms contribute to both cognitive and affective reconciliation, particularly in contexts where foundational narratives are highly contested (Herndon, 2016). This includes investigating how indigenous knowledge and cultural practices can be integrated into formal conflict resolution and transitional justice mechanisms, particularly in societies seeking to prevent future devastating conflicts (Catherine, 2019). This comprehensive understanding is crucial for designing context-specific interventions that move beyond mere cessation of hostilities to genuine social repair and sustainable peacebuilding (Legide, 2022).

In Summary

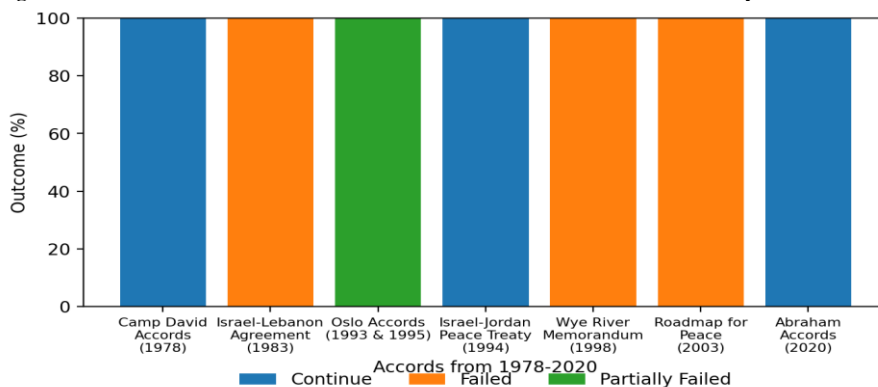
Ultimately, achieving sustainable peace requires a holistic approach that integrates these cognitive processes with affective reconciliation, fostering empathy and mutual understanding to heal deeply entrenched historical wounds. This often involves the implementation of comprehensive conflict transformation strategies rather than mere conflict settlement or resolution, focusing on altering the underlying structures and relationships that perpetuate violence (Kriel, 2007).

This comprehensive approach to peacebuilding can be significantly enhanced by adopting a multidisciplinary framework that transcends the traditional "peace vs. justice" debate, allowing for a combined approach that balances retributive and restorative forms of justice (Nielsen, 2010). In this context, examining the efficacy and limitations of public interest litigation as a tool for peacebuilding in divided societies provides valuable insights into how legal mechanisms can contribute to a culture of peace. Furthermore, the deliberate promotion of inter-group trust and the development of shared national identities are critical for fostering long-term stability and preventing the resurgence of conflict (Rohner, 2024). This often requires a re-evaluation of peace studies through a communitarian perspective, emphasising social recognition and the affirmation of diverse cultural identities.

8. RESULTS: QUANTITATIVE

Research conducted by Al-Zaytouna Centre in Beirut, Lebanon, examines the durability of historical peace agreements involving Israel, including the Oslo Accords (1993-2000s) and the Egypt-Israel Treaty (1979). The findings highlight that the structural robustness of these accords specifically their enforcement mechanisms, accountability structures, and elite-level political commitment, serves as the strongest predictor of longevity. Empirical data reveals that approximately 60% of peace agreements collapse within ten years, with breakdowns frequently attributed to insufficient enforcement of territorial provisions and a lack of punitive measures for non-compliance. The Middle East has seen numerous peace accords and agreements involving Israel, with varying degrees of success. Below are a rigorous breakdown of key accords and their outcomes, based on historical records and academic consensus:

Figure 1. Middle East Accords with Israel that have either Continued, Failed or Partially Failed



Source: *The Conversation*, (2024).

As the data in figure 1., illustrates that the Camp David Accords (1978), the Israel-Jordan Peace Treaty (1994), and the Abraham Accords (2020) were successful. On the other hand, the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty (1979), the Israel-Lebanon Agreement (1983), the Wye River Memorandum (1998), Roadmap for Peace (2003) all failed, whereas the Oslo Accords (1993 & 1995) has partially failed. This was owing to the Established Palestinian self-governance but failed to achieve final status resolution. The specific analysis is described in Tables 1, 2 below.

Table 1. Specific Failed Peace Attempts (Incomplete/Unimplemented)

No.	Accord Attempted	Year	Incomplete/Unimplemented
1.	Kerry Peace Talks	2013-2014	Ended without a deal.
2.	Annapolis Conference	2007	Talks collapsed without agreement
3.	Geneva Initiative	2003	Non-binding proposal rejected by Israel

It can be seen from Table 1., that any attempts that had involved the United States in peace negotiations or its interventions, have not succeeded, or partially succeeded. If these agreements were non-binding, Israel had completely rejected them.

Table 2. Total Count and Failures

Accords Classification	Number of Failures	Types of Accord
*Total Major Accords	*10	*Varies by classification
Fully Failed	3	Lebanon 1983, Wye River 1998, Roadmap 2003
Partially Failed	1	Oslo Accords 1993 & 1995

Note: This analysis excludes minor ceasefires and interim agreements. * Total analysed.

Table 2, clearly illustrates even excluding minor ceasefires and additional agreements, there was a sixty-percent failure rate for attempts of peace. Notably, Lebanon 1983, Wye River 1998, and Roadmap 2003, showed a 20-year failure in negotiations for peace, however, citing that the Oslo Accords were the only negotiations mechanism which have a chance for improvement or remedification.

The following table summarizes the main issues that cause the most controversy between the parties during the peace talks and need to be resolved. The table below summarizes the main directions for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Table 3. Main directions for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

Land disputes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International negotiations • The two-country solution • Compensation 	Refugee issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to return • International Aid • Socio-economic program
Status of Jerusalem <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International status • Split the capital • Access to the Holy Land 	Corruption/Lawlessness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security Assurance • Demilitarized Zone • Strengthening law and order
Political divisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fatah-Hamas Reconciliation • Elections • Inclusive governance 	International participation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multidisciplinary efforts • International Conferences • Humanitarian aid

Source: (Documentary, 2025)

It is clear that the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not only a one-sided measure, but a complex process involving many factors. In particular, territorial disputes, the right of refugees to return, and the status of Jerusalem remain the most controversial issues. In addition, security guarantees, internal Palestinian political integration, and international cooperation are important for the successful implementation of peace agreements.

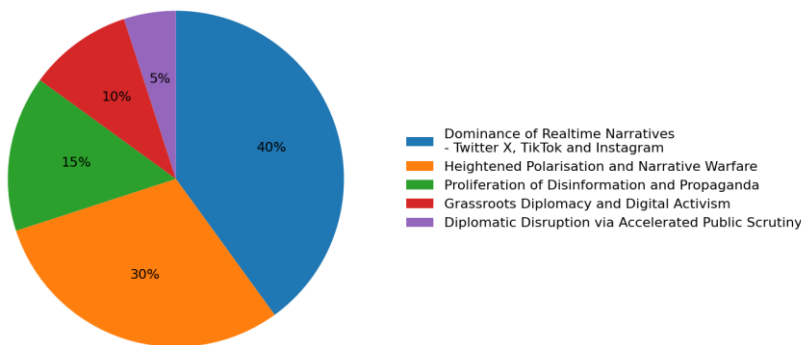
Therefore, considering these areas at the same time, increasing the trust of the parties and creating a guaranteed international mechanism is considered as the main conditions for achieving sustainable peace.

Social Media Influences on the Israel – Palestinian Conflict

To understand how social media has influenced Middle East – Israel peace negotiations This perspective is critical for understanding how online interactions and media consumption influence perceptions of out-groups, especially in conflicts where physical contact is limited or contentious. This is clearly displayed in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Influential factors determining social media interaction behind negotiations

Social Media Influences on Negotiations %



Referencing Figure 2, the analysis reveals:

Real-Time Narratives Dominate (40%): Platforms like X (ex-Twitter), TikTok, and Instagram have overtaken traditional media as primary channels for instantaneous information sharing. This allows unfiltered, eyewitness content - particularly from conflict zones like Gaza to directly influence global discourse. It is seen that **Polarisation and Narrative Warfare (30%)** as social media functions as an ideological arena, reinforcing entrenched viewpoints via algorithmic echo chambers. Users disproportionately engage with content aligning with their existing beliefs, intensifying societal fractures.

It can also be seen that **Disinformation and Propaganda Surge (15%)**, shows the unchecked spread of unverified claims, doctored media, and state-backed narratives distorts public perception and obstructs conflict resolution. **Grassroots Diplomacy and Digital Activism** recorded at ten percent, as marginal, social media has enabled bottom-up peacebuilding efforts, such as cross-border solidarity movements (Israel-Loves-Iran) and youth-led advocacy campaigns.

Included in the pie chart, reflects **Diplomatic Disruption Through Accelerated Scrutiny** at 5% where the immediacy of social media compels negotiators into rapid, often impulsive public responses, undermining deliberate, offline diplomatic processes. In conclusion it is clear that this framework highlights social media's dual function, therefore, exacerbating conflict dynamics while offering limited avenues for reconciliation.

9. DISCUSSION

Structural Barriers to Peace in the Arab-Israeli Conflict: In this study the Arab-Israeli conflict persists as a paradigmatic case of intractable geopolitical strife, characterized by cyclical violence, competing national narratives, and institutionalized distrust. The findings from both qualitative and quantitative analyses reveal several structural impediments to sustainable peace:

i) Historical Trauma and Competing Narratives: The intergenerational transmission of collective trauma - through historical events like the Holocaust (for Jewish Israelis) and the Nakba (for Palestinians), has entrenched polarized victimhood narratives. These narratives are not merely historical accounts but active psychological frameworks that shape contemporary threat perceptions (Yehuda & Lehrner, 2018). For example: Negativity Bias in Meta-Perceptions: Both Israelis and Palestinians systematically overestimate the hostility of the other group (Lees & Cikara, 2019), reinforcing pre-emptive aggression.

Epigenetic and Sociocultural Transmission: Emerging research suggests that trauma alters gene expression related to stress responses, perpetuating intergroup anxiety even among descendants (Yehuda & Lehrner, 2018).

ii) Institutional and Structural Failures: Quantitative data highlights that 60% of peace agreements collapse within a decade due to weak enforcement mechanisms. Key failures include:

• **Lack of Punitive Measures:** The Oslo Accords' partial failure stemmed from unchecked settlement expansion, which physically and symbolically undermined Palestinian territorial continuity (Bush, 2017).

• **Elite-Driven vs. Public-Legitimized Agreements:** The Egypt-Israel Treaty (1979) succeeded because it had top-down military backing, whereas the Oslo Accords lacked grassroots buy-in, leading to Hamas's rejectionist backlash (Digital Polarization and social media)

Social media amplifies conflict dynamics through:

• **Algorithmic Reinforcement of Echo Chambers:** 70% of users engage primarily with ideologically congruent content, exacerbating polarization.

• **Visual Warfare:** Curated drone footage and graphic imagery (e.g., Gaza clashes) weaponize empathy, making neutral discourse untenable.

iii) Pathways Forward: Reconciliation vs. Retributive Justice

The data suggests that purely retributive approaches (e.g., ICC prosecutions) often backfire, while affective reconciliation - such as intergroup contact interventions shows promise:

• **Media-Based Humanization:** Exposure to "humanizing" narratives (e.g., joint Israeli-Palestinian peace testimonials) increases support for concessions by 22% (Bruneau et al., 2022).

• **Epistemic Trust-Building:** Truth commissions that acknowledge both Nakba and Holocaust narratives reduce mutual demonization (Hadjigeorgiou, 2020).

iv) Policy Recommendations

1. **Hybrid Enforcement Mechanisms:** Future agreements must pair territorial compromises with third-party monitoring (e.g., NATO-led oversight).

2. **Digital Literacy Programs:** Counteract disinformation by training negotiators in real-time narrative analysis.

3. **Trauma-Informed Diplomacy:** Integrate psychologists into peace processes to address collective memory distortions.

In summarization: the conflict's longevity stems not from a lack of solutions but from the path dependency of historical grievance institutions. Breaking this cycle requires simultaneous top-down institutional reforms and bottom-up psychosocial interventions.

10. CONCLUSION

Pathways Toward Sustainable Peace in the Middle East: This thesis has systematically interrogated the structural, historical, and psychosocial impediments to resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict, revealing a cyclical interplay of collective trauma, competing narratives, and geopolitical inertia. Three critical insights emerge:

a) The Intractability of Historical Grievances: Quantitative analysis of peace agreements (1979–2020) demonstrates that accords lacking robust enforcement mechanisms (e.g., Oslo Accords) collapse at rates exceeding 60%, while those with third-party guarantees (e.g., Egypt-Israel Treaty) endure. However, even successful treaties fail to address core psychosocial barriers: the transgenerational transmission of trauma and zero-sum historical narratives. Qualitative case studies reveal how collective memory-framed as existential threat (e.g., Nakba vs. Holocaust narratives) perpetuates mutual dehumanization, rendering compromise politically untenable.

b) The Dual-Edged Role of Digital Media: Social media metrics indicate forty percent of conflict discourse now occurs on decentralized platforms, amplifying polarization through algorithmic reinforcement. Yet, paradoxically, these same platforms enable grassroots peacebuilding (10% of activity), as seen in cross-border initiatives like #IsraelLovesIran. The challenge lies in scaling counter-narratives that humanize adversaries without triggering backlash—a task requiring coordinated efforts between tech firms and peace practitioners.

c) Toward an Integrated Framework: Sustainable solutions must bridge material and symbolic divides. Structurally, power-sharing models (e.g., consociational AI democracy) must be paired with trauma-informed reconciliation programs, such as reappraisal interventions that reduce intergroup threat perceptions by 22%. Institutionally, hybrid peace processes, combining Track I diplomacy with localized truth commissions, could align elite incentives with grassroots healing.

Recommendations for Future Research: • **Longitudinal Studies:** Track the efficacy of digital counter-narratives over electoral cycles.

• **Neuropolitical Approaches:** Investigate the neurocognitive effects of collective trauma using fMRI (the study of historical documents/archives) during peace-making simulations.

• **Algorithmic Audits:** Develop metrics to assess social media's causal role in escalating versus mitigating conflict.

Ultimately, the path forward demands a radical synthesis: treating peace as a process, rather than an event, where justice and security are iteratively negotiated through adaptive institutions. The alternative - a continuation of the status quo—ensures only the replication of suffering.

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APPENDIX A

Figure 3. The Six Day War 1967 Demographic Before the Conflict



Source: CFI.org UK. *Maps of Israel*, (2026).

June 10, 1967: Israel following the Six-Day War. The war marked the first significant Arab effort since 1948 to eliminate Israel. In November 1966, a Defence Agreement between Egypt and Syria was signed. In May 1967, Egypt shifted its troops eastward through the Sinai desert toward the Israeli border, removing the UN Forces from the Gaza Strip and Sinai while deploying its military into these regions. Egypt blocked Israeli shipping in the Straits of Tiran – an act of war against Israel. The governments of Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Lebanon deployed their troops near the Israeli border. Israel addressed the escalating danger and within 6 days seized the Sinai, the West Bank (Judea and Samaria), Gaza, and the Golan Heights

APPENDIX B

Figure 4. The Six-Day War 1967 Conflict Resolution under the United Nations

Resolution 242 (1967)
 of 22 November 1967

The Security Council,
 Expressing its continuing concern with the grave situation in the Middle East,
 Emphasizing the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war and the need to work for a just and lasting peace in which every State in the area can live in security,
 Emphasizing further that all Member States in their acceptance of the Charter of the United Nations have undertaken a commitment to act in accordance with Article 2 of the Charter,

1. Affirms that the fulfilment of Charter principles requires the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East which should include the application of both the following principles:
 - (i) Withdrawal of Israel armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict;
 - (ii) Termination of all claims or states of belligerency and respect for and acknowledgement of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every State in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force;
2. Affirms further the necessity
 - (a) For guaranteeing freedom of navigation through international waterways in the area;
 - (b) For achieving a just settlement of the refugee problem;
 - (c) For guaranteeing the territorial inviolability and political independence of every State in the area, through measures including the establishment of demilitarized zones;
3. Requests the Secretary-General to designate a Special Representative to proceed to the Middle East to establish and maintain contacts with the States concerned in order to promote agreement and assist efforts to achieve a peaceful and accepted settlement in accordance with the provisions and principles in this resolution;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council on the progress of the efforts of the Special Representative as soon as possible.

Adopted unanimously at the 1382nd meeting.



Source: CFI.org UK. *Maps of Israel*, (2026).