

! THE EVER-GROWING CONFLICT !

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Many people are aware of the war between Hamas and Israel, however very few know why it is happening and where it comes from. This conflict can be dated all the way back to 1896, which is when the idea of a Jewish State was published by Theodor Herzl as a response to antisemitism. Antisemitism is prejudice towards Jewish people. However, Palestine was primarily made up of Arabs at the time, with Jews being the minority. This idea of a Jewish State was made somewhat of a reality in 1917, when Britain declared in the Balfour Declaration to help establish a Jewish State, and Britain took control of Palestine from the Ottoman Empire. With the League of Nations mandate in place, Britain controlled Palestine, and tried to facilitate the migration of Jewish people into Palestine. But the Palestinians were against the mandate because they believed it did not recognize their independence. They feared that the increased migration would lead them to be pushed out of the country. By the end of World War II, the United Nations decided to split Palestine into two independent states, but Palestinians refused to acknowledge the resolution creating tension. When Israel declared independence in 1948, the Israeli-Arab War began. The Israeli-Arab War was the first of many wars between Israel and Palestine. Daniel Cox, a history and govern-

ment teacher at Madison Central, characterized the historical significance of this war when he said, "The Arab-Israeli War of 1948 set the stage for subsequent conflicts and shaped the geopolitical landscape of the Middle East, leaving a lasting impact on the region's history and contributing to ongoing tensions." This war continues to leave an effect on the world today. Before Israel declared independence, conflict had already begun to break out between the two groups, eventually turning to war. Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon all supported Palestine efforts, while Israelis slowly took more and more control of Palestine, despite the Arab states' efforts. In February of 1949, a tentative agreement was made that created a border between Israel and the five main Arabic powers fighting for Palestine which lead to many being displaced. Egypt held control over the Gaza Strip, and Jordan held control over the West Bank. Violence would break out again in 1956 with the Suez Crisis, and then in 1967 there was the Six-Day War. The Six-Day War resulted in Palestine losing control of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Even though the war technically only lasted five to six days, the conflict never fully resolved, and violence persisted until the Yom Kippur War in 1973. After that was the Lebanon War of 1982. The Lebanon War of 1982 caused what is known as the First Intifada. This Intifada was a movement of Palestinians resisting the Israeli government through means of protests, boycotts,



Above: Community in Palestine protesting their rights and for peace.
Photo Courtesy of Carnegie Endowment For International Peace

and physical attacks. Part of the upset also had to do with the continued displacement of the Palestinian people and how many, even now, are under the refugee status. Eventually, the protests stopped because of the signing of the Oslo Accords. The Oslo Accords stated that Palestine would be given rights of self-government, and it would also be given governmental authority over the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The Oslo Accords also affirmed Israel's right to exist as a country. However, later negotiations between the Israeli and Palestinian leaders slowly dissolved, and a second Intifada broke out in 2000. Violence grew between the two states, and many were killed in the Intifada protests. In 2006, the Second Lebanon War broke out. Hamas became the main political party in power in Gaza in 2006, and there was another war in 2014 coined the Gaza War. All these events set the stage

to where the conflict is now. Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, 2023, and since then the situation has only intensified. Kristen Stephenson, the AP United States Government teacher, discussed why this modern-day conflict is the way that it is. Stephenson said, "There is a deeply rooted resentment on both sides that has been building for 70 years." This is partly why the war has captured the eye of international news. After the attack on Israel and the hostages taken by Hamas, Israel announced a siege on Gaza as a defense against Hamas. Israel began airstrikes on Gaza to weed out Hamas, and they warned civilians in Gaza to leave. Palestinians are saying that leaving the country is proving to be very difficult. There are many discussions on humanitarian efforts because thousands of citizens in Israel and Gaza are getting caught in the crossfire. This war is ever-changing, and, in a situation like this, it is

highly suggested for people to do their own research. Cody Logan, the ninth grade AP World History teacher, said "Students should know that the war is more complicated than it seems on the surface. It is important to do your own research and understand as many facts and points of view before confirming your own belief." Logan would like to emphasize the fact that when trying to find information on the war, they should search through multiple sources to find the consistent facts. This way students can avoid as much bias as possible. Logan reiterates, "It is important to stay vigilant about what you learn, and also how you learn it." Which is not just good advice to follow when researching about this war, it is also good advice to follow when researching in general. Some sources that are great places to start are Britannica.com, Associated Press, the Wall Street Journal, and Al Jazeera.