



DAILY EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

TOPIC

**RIFT IN THE WESTERN WORLD
OVER GAZA – AND ITS POSSIBLE
IMPACT**

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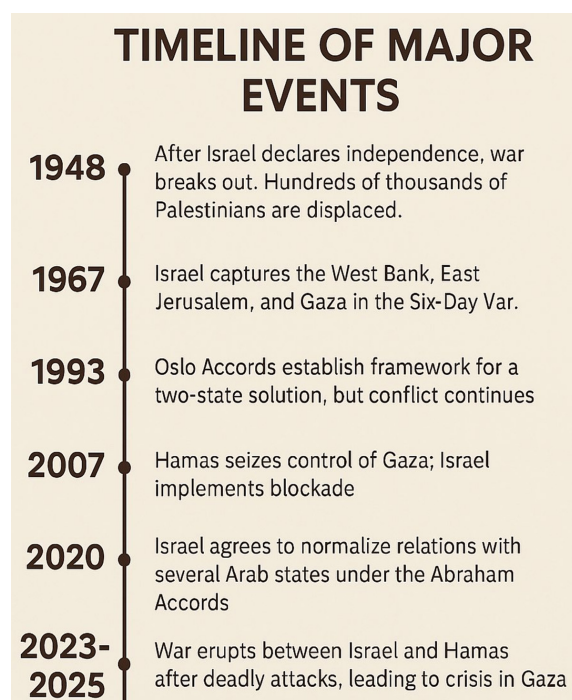
RIFT IN THE WESTERN WORLD OVER GAZA — AND ITS POSSIBLE IMPACT

Context

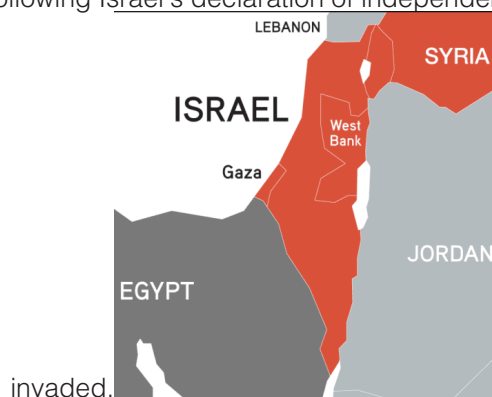
- As Israel's military campaign in Gaza intensifies, a growing divide has emerged within the Western world over how to respond — a rift that could reshape global diplomacy, humanitarian policy, and the future of the **Israeli-Palestinian conflict**.

Overview of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

- Historical Background:** The **Zionist movement** (Late 19th Century) emerged in **Europe**, advocating for a Jewish homeland in **Palestine** — then part of the **Ottoman Empire**.



- Jewish immigration increased, especially after World War I.
- British Mandate (1920–1948):** Britain took control of Palestine and supported the creation of a Jewish national home through the **Balfour Declaration (1917)**, sparking tensions with the Arab majority.
- UN Partition Plan (1947):** UN proposed **dividing Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states**.
 - Jews accepted the plan; Arabs rejected it.
- Arab-Israeli War (1948):** Following Israel's declaration of independence, neighboring Arab states



- Over 700,000 Palestinians were displaced — an event known as the **Nakba** ('Catastrophe').
- Six-Day War (1967):** Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem, and other territories, intensifying the occupation and settlement issues that persist today.

Root Causes of the Conflict

- **Territorial Claims:** Both Israelis and Palestinians claim historical and religious ties to the same land.
- **Displacement and Refugees:** The 1948 and 1967 wars led to mass displacement of Palestinians, many of whom still live in refugee camps.
- **Jerusalem:** A city sacred to Jews, Muslims, and Christians — both sides claim it as their capital.
- **Security and Violence:** Repeated cycles of violence, including suicide bombings, airstrikes, and rocket attacks, have deepened mistrust.
- **Political Fragmentation:** The Palestinian leadership is divided between Fatah (West Bank) and Hamas (Gaza), complicating negotiations.
- **International Involvement:** U.S. support for Israel and Arab backing of Palestine have globalized the conflict, often polarizing diplomatic efforts.
- **Other Causes of the Crisis** include the prolonged blockade and siege by Israel; destruction of aid supplies; dangerous aid distribution system; collapse of civil infrastructure; malnutrition and famine risk.

Concerns & Challenges:

- **Global Rift & Western Division Over Gaza:**
 - ♦ **United States:** It has withdrawn from ceasefire negotiations and continues to support Israel's military and political objectives, including its controversial plan to relocate Gaza's population into a **'humanitarian city'** — described by some experts as resembling a concentration camp.
 - ♦ **European Pushback:** Western leaders, including the UK's Keir Starmer, Canada's Mark Carney, and Australia's Anthony Albanese, have issued strong public rebukes of Israel's actions.

The recent Declaration of Palestinian statehood by the French President faced criticism from both the US and Israel.

- ♦ **Joint Statement of Dissent:** Recently, 25 countries including the UK, France, Italy, Japan, Canada, and the EU issued a joint statement declaring: **'The war in Gaza must end now'**.
- **Global South and Arab States:** Nations in the **Global South** and the **Arab League** overwhelmingly call for an **immediate ceasefire** and a return to **negotiated two-state talks**.
 - ♦ However, these states have **limited leverage**, and most have **refrained from punitive actions** like sanctions or diplomatic isolation of Israel.
- **Two-State Solution Under Pressure:** Recently Israel has passed **resolutions rejecting Palestinian sovereignty** and approved 22 new settlements in the West Bank.
 - ♦ France and Saudi Arabia are co-chairing a UN conference to revive the two-state framework, but the US and Israel remain resistant.
- **Humanitarian Crisis Escalates:** Over 1,000 Palestinians have died since the Israeli-American Gaza Humanitarian Foundation began operations in May 2025.
 - ♦ The **World Food Program** reports that a third of Gaza's population is going multiple days without food.
 - ♦ Aid convoys have become deadly zones, with civilians reportedly shot while lining up for supplies.

Implications of the Global Rift

- **Diplomatic Realignment:** Countries like France and Canada may recalibrate their Middle East policies, potentially leading to new coalitions that **challenge US-Israeli dominance**.
- **UN Dynamics:** Growing support for Palestinian statehood could pressure the UN to take more assertive action, though **veto powers remain a hurdle**.
- **Global South Influence:** The rift highlights the rising influence of non-Western nations in shaping global narratives around justice and sovereignty.
- **US Isolation:** Continued American support for Israel may deepen its diplomatic isolation, especially among younger democracies and civil society movements.

Diplomatic Efforts and Reactions

- Ceasefire talks, mediated by Qatar and Egypt with U.S. backing, have stalled repeatedly.
 - ♦ The U.S. envoy is currently pushing **for a 60-day truce**.

- France announced it will **recognize Palestine as a state at the UN** in September, joining over 140 countries in support of Palestinian statehood.
- A joint statement from 28 Western-aligned nations condemned Israel's aid policies and civilian casualties, signaling a growing rift among traditional allies.

India's Role in the Gaza Conflict

- **Immediate Ceasefire & Humanitarian Access:** At the UN Security Council, India's Permanent Representative urged an 'immediate ceasefire', safe aid corridors, and release of all hostages, stressing that 'ongoing human suffering must not be allowed to continue'.
- **Two-State Solution:** India supports 'a sovereign, independent, viable Palestine' alongside Israel within secure, recognized borders.
- The Palestinian Ambassador to India accused Israel and the U.S. of committing genocide and highlighted the destruction of schools and libraries funded by India.

Way Forward

- **Immediate Humanitarian Relief:** Open border crossings and restore UN-run aid networks.
 - ♦ India, Egypt, and other regional powers must pressure Israel to comply with international law.
- **Revive the Two-State Solution:** Despite setbacks, the two-state framework remains the most viable path.
 - ♦ A reformed Palestinian Authority, backed by international monitors, could govern Gaza and the West Bank.
- **Global Accountability:** International courts must investigate alleged war crimes. Countries must condition military aid on compliance with humanitarian norms.
- **Reconstruction and Recovery:** A UN-led multi-year plan should rebuild Gaza's infrastructure, homes, and schools. India could play a key role through development aid and technical expertise.

Source: IE

Mains Practice Question

- Q. To what extent does the growing division among Western nations over the Gaza conflict challenge the traditional notions of collective diplomacy, and what implications might this have for global humanitarian accountability?

