

Analyzing the United Nations' Performance in the Palestine-Israel Conflict; ower or Law

Javad Salehi¹
Hosein Mohseni²

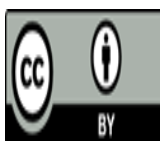
1-Introduction

The Middle East has long been recognized as a region plagued by conflicts and struggles among various groups and states. One of the most enduring sources of these conflicts is the ongoing strife between the Zionist regime and Palestine, which remains one of the most complex and contentious issues in the region. The 2023-2024 war in Gaza represents one of the most intricate and devastating confrontations between the two sides. This conflict began with Hamas's attack on the Zionist regime on October 7, 2023, an operation known as the 'Al-Aqsa Storm'.

The United Nations, particularly its Security Council, is an international institution mandated to maintain global peace and security. In response to the Gaza war, it has sought to halt the violence and establish a ceasefire. However, due to the interference of major powers, such as the United States, and the use of veto power, the UN has been unable to achieve these objectives. This context raises critical questions about the effectiveness of the United Nations in addressing such crises, making it essential to analyze and evaluate its performance in the most recent critical situation in the Middle East. The central question of this research is: How can the performance of the United Nations in response to the Gaza war be evaluated? The research hypothesis is that the United Nations' performance during the Gaza crisis highlights the dominance of political power over legal authority. The Gaza war underscores the reality that peace cannot be maintained or established without the consent of these powers.

¹ Associate Professor, Department of International Relations, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran. saleh_j@yahoo.com

² PhD Student of political science at Shiraz University. hoseinmohseni52@gmail.com



2- Methodology and Theoretical Framework

The research employs an explanatory-analytical method, with data collected from library and internet sources. Neorealism, as a school of thought, emerged as a response to classical realism. Kenneth Waltz, a foundational figure in neorealist theory, rejects reductionist approaches to international politics, emphasizing instead the structural constraints of the international system. According to neorealism, the anarchic nature of the international system compels states to prioritize security and survival. This security-seeking behavior makes states cautious about international cooperation and skeptical of the effectiveness of international organizations.

Neorealists argue that international organizations cannot operate independently of state interests. Instead, it is the interests of states—particularly major powers—that dictate the actions of these organizations and determine whether states will cooperate or compete. Therefore, from the perspective of neorealism, due to the existence of anarchy and distrust in relations between states, cooperation becomes fragile or collapses altogether. From this viewpoint, international phenomena including international regimes, are seen as dependent variables. Their existence, effectiveness, or absence is ultimately determined by the interests and actions of major powers or systemic agents. In other words, international regimes are not autonomous entities but are shaped by the logic of power and the dynamics of the international system.

3- Discussion

This article seeks to evaluate the performance of the Security Council, the General Assembly, and the Secretary-General in addressing this crisis. The Security Council issued several resolutions aimed at maintaining international peace and security during the Gaza crisis. However, these resolutions were unsuccessful due to the United States' use of its veto power. The conflict of interests among major powers and their lack of coordination in removing obstacles to peace, on the one hand, and the unjust nature of the United Nations Charter's provisions, on the other, are the most significant challenges facing the organization in maintaining international peace and security. The

consequences of these challenges primarily affect weaker nations. Accordingly, the Palestinian people have always been the primary losers of any resolution that has been vetoed by major powers. Since the permanent members of the Security Council are responsible for financing UN peacekeeping operations, such missions often become subject to the political interests of these powers. As a result, the Palestinian people have consistently suffered the consequences of resolutions vetoed by major powers.

Regarding the General Assembly, it should be noted that although the adoption of such resolutions with a high number of votes (120 countries) reflects the general will of UN member states and the demands of the international community from the warring parties and their supporters, the non-binding and symbolic nature of General Assembly resolutions makes it unlikely that they will have a significant impact on the battlefield. While the General Assembly is a large council with a high number of member countries and fair voting rights, its decisions are recommendatory in nature. The Charter does not provide for the immediate and mandatory implementation of any action or decision by the General Assembly, nor does it foresee penalties for those who violate peace.

4- Conclusion and Recommendations

The lack of consensus in the Security Council, the frequent use of veto power, the inefficacy of the Secretary-General's mediation efforts, and the non-binding nature of General Assembly resolutions all stem from the prioritization of national interests over international peace by major powers, particularly the United States. This analysis underscores that the role and performance of the United Nations in addressing crises like the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are dependent variables affected by the actions and interests of major powers.

To address these challenges and enhance the UN's effectiveness in maintaining international peace and security, the following solutions are proposed:

4-1- Establishing Joint Management in the United Nations

A more collaborative and inclusive decision-making process should be established within the UN to reduce the dominance of a few powerful states.

4-2-Enhancing the Power and Authority of the UN General Assembly

The General Assembly's role should be strengthened by making its resolutions binding in specific contexts. This would create a counterbalance to the Security Council and enable the General Assembly to exert greater influence over international peace and security matters, particularly when the Security Council is deadlocked.

4-3- Reforming the UN Charter

The UN Charter should be revised to address the issue of veto power, which has often been used to block resolutions for political or self-interested reasons.

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