



he Palestinian and Israeli disagreements over the occupation of the Palestinian land by Israel have been going on for decades and it was only its escalation in the form of wars involving the Arab nations that commanded global attention. Some of these wars were from as far back as 1948 and are still ongoing presently. The first war, in 1948-49, began when Israel declared itself an independent state following the United Nations' partition of Palestine and five Arab countries—Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria—attacked Israel. The conflict ended with Israel controlling all of the Negev up to the former Egypt-Palestine frontier, except for the Gaza Strip. The 1956 Suez Crisis began after Egypt nationalized the Suez Canal. A French, British, and Israeli coalition attacked Egypt and occupied the canal zone but soon withdrew under international pressure. The Six-Day War of 1967 began when, in response to Arab neighbors' apparent mobilization for war, Israel attacked and destroyed Egypt's and Syria's air forces. Israel also defeated Jordanian attacks. The war ended with Israel in control of the Gaza Strip, the Sinai Peninsula, the West Bank, and Jerusalem. Egypt and Syria attacked Israel in 1973 (the Yom Kippur War), and fighting continued for several weeks. In 1979 Egypt made peace with Israel, formally ending the 30-year state of war between the two countries. In 1982 Israel invaded Lebanon in order to expel the Palestine Liberation Organization from its bases there. Israel withdrew from Lebanon by 1985. In 2006 Hezbollah launched an operation against Israel and, over the ensuing month, fought Israeli forces to a standstill. In 2023 Hamas led an attack against Israel, killing some 1,200 people and taking more than 240 others hostage.

Israel declared war the next day and carried out air strikes in the Gaza Strip followed by a ground invasion. The war leveled much of the Gaza Strip and resulted in a humanitarian crisis there.

The main concern globally is about continuous unrest in the Middle East, most of which involve Israel and the root cause of which is nothing other than the continuous occupation of the Palestinian lands by Israel. The question that agitates the minds of those who are genuinely concerned and desirous of lasting peace in Israel is why did all the peace initiatives held in the past fail? Some of which include the UN Resolution 242 of 1967, Camp David Accords of 1978, Madrid Conference of 1991 and the Oslo Accords of 1993. Recall that all these peace initiaves aimed at achieving one important goal which is peace but not being able to make Israel to agree on the major route through which to achieve the desired peace which is a twostates solution where Israel and Palestine will live side by side as two independent states. It is important at this juncture to try to understand why Israel is averse to the two-states solution even when common sense has it that by the time the state



Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel

of Palestine is established and becomes a full fledge member of the United Nations, all the international laws of the United Nations that are binding on all the member states who are also sovereign automatically become binding on Palestine. It is of utmost importance to look at the direction of the allies of Israel in order to make sense of the saying that; "if the character of a man is not clear and there is a need to know better, the right thing to do is to look at his friends." What are the big and powerful Nations such as the United States of America, France, United Kingdom, Germany allies of the state of Israel for if not to broker peace between Israel and Palestine? We cannot add Russia and China in this regard because their mindset are well known, for had they the opportunity of being allies of Israel, justice would have prevailed and a lasting peace achieved in the Middle East.

One may be tempted to castigate Russia and question its integrity and the respect it commands in the global space because of the invasion of Ukraine but suffice to state here that the masquerade that engages in a dance of war and madness has it's drummers as the United States, France



Greatness without peace is nothing other than living in hell while on earth, the Israelis do not only want to live as an independent nation but are desirous of living in peace also. Hypocrisy that is still going on against Palestine is nothing other than a miscarriage of justice.

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and the United Kingdom just to mention but a few. International diplomacy which ordinarily should aim at preventing wars and engendering peaceful coexistence has been corrupted by the quest for supremacy and the lust for ego among the superpower countries. Peace in the world is achievable if those countries at war can be allowed to remain who they are and exercise their rights to think independently from those who pretend to be mediators but who in reality are the enemies of peace.

Why does the political thussle and impasse between Taiwan and China, Russia and Ukraine, and Israel and Palestine linger, making the situations in those places look intractable? Democracy as a system of government which America is pushing across the world is the bait being used and the causation of misunderstanding even among brother-nations living as neighbours.

It is time for countries of goodwill and good conscience to step up and take over the mediation task between Russia and Ukraine, China and Taiwan, and Israel and Palestine, if peace will ever be in view, let alone achieved. Ukraine is the grass that is suffering from the fight of the elephants and it is important also for Taiwan to look inward and reach an amicable settlement with China. Israel should take cognizance of the fact that a two-states solution has nothing to take from it, for it is the only path to a lasting peace.

It does not matter what the United States under the able leadership of President Joe Biden does alone or in conjuction with the other allies of Israel to bring about a ceasefire in the Israeli-Palestinian war, all the interventions only amount to a means to an end, for until a two-states solution is achieved, all the efforts are tantamount to a job not well done or completed. It is important also that all the relevant international organs, both the judiciary and diplomatic use the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu as an example for his disregard for the international laws and rules of engagement in war as seen in the genocide committed by Israel against Palestine.



