

Theme III 1a: Arab Israeli Conflict (1948-1979)



“We have to go along a road covered with blood. We have no other alternative. For us it is a matter of life or death, a matter of living or existing. We have to be ready to face the challenges that await us”

-Gamal Abdel Nassar, speech to Egypt’s National Assembly, Cairo (November 6, 1969)

“If I were an Arab leader, I would never sign an agreement with Israel. It is normal; we have taken their country. It is true God promised it to us, but how could that interest them? Our God is not theirs. There has been Anti-Semitism, the Nazis, Hitler, Auschwitz, but was that their fault? They see but one thing: we have come and we have stolen their country. Why would they accept that?”

-David Ben-Gurion, First Prime Minister of Israel

¹ <https://en.majalla.com/node/301431/documents-memoirs/milestones-arab-israeli-conflict-over-years>

² <https://magill.ie/world/academics-call-%E2%80%99one-state-solution%E2%80%99-israel-palestine-conflict>

Key Concepts

1. Peace: The determining factor to evaluate the effectiveness of conflict management
 - a. Absence of War
 - b. Interest of different actors to be proactively catered to without the need of resorting to conflict
2. Cooperation
 - a. State and non-state actors adjust their behaviour to the anticipated or actual preferences of others through policy coordination
 - b. Exhibited by
 - i. Participation in peace negotiations and processes
 - ii. A few actors allying themselves over a common enemy
3. Conflict
 - a. Actors have incompatible or competitive interests, hence they strive to reduce the gains available to other states or impeding their achievements
 - b. Attributed to divergence in political, security, economic or ideological interests
4. Conflict Development
 - a. How different actors influence the
 - i. Outbreak
 - ii. Protraction
 - iii. End of conflict

Causes (Outbreak of **Conflict**)

1. **(Religion)** Distinct identities and religious significance of the Levant made Arabic and Israeli culture incompatible with each other. Consequently, while they compete over religious narrative of the land, the uncompromising claims on religious lines made coexistence impossible as they view each other as increasingly antagonistic.
 - a. Arab viewed Jewish presence as a subversion of traditional family and communal life, regarding the Zionist as trespassers who come to subvert and corrupt the Arab culture. Jews viewed Arabs as a representation of fatalistic passivity, social and cultural stagnation, and political tyranny. The Jews sought to recreate their European culture in Palestine as they viewed themselves as cultural and moral emissaries
 - b. To Israel, much of Palestinian Land was promised to them in the Book of Genesis as Abraham's descendants. The entire narrative arc of the Torah is built around Palestine. To Arabs, Palestine was the territory blessed by Allah and where Prophets Ibrahim and Isaac were buried. **Both expressed purported "special relations with the land" as part of their claim over Palestine, provoking strong emotions**
2. **(Economic Interests)** As Zionist settlements economically marginalise the Arabs, the Arabs saw Jews as an alien source of economic peripheralisation and impoverishment, deepening animosities and strengthening Arab Palestinian determination to halt the Zionist enterprises
 - a. Due to the Great Depression, many Arab cultivators lost their land to foreclosures. The Jews utilised the opportunity to dispossess the Palestinian Arabs by land purchases. 30% of farmers became landless and 70% had inadequate land. **Jews seen to be aggressive and capitalising to Arab misfortune to use their economic prowess to take Arab land**
 - b. As Zionists sought economic autonomy in Palestine, the Zionists consciously severed their economy from the Arabs by refusing to employ Arabs. **Jews seen**

as an alien tumour that invasively competes with the Arabs over economic control

3. (Nationalism)

- a. Modern Arab nationalism believed that the Arab people should constitute a single political community or nation which should be independent. Championing this ideal led to the birth of Palestinian nationalism which advocated for an independent Palestinian land, resulting in conflict when their demands are unmet
 - i. Hussein-McMahon Correspondence embodied British promise that the Arab territory of the Ottoman empire would be returned to Arab sovereignty. Arab nationalist would use this to form the basis of their claims and resort to violence against the Jews as they **felt betrayed when Palestine became a “twice promised land”**
 - ii. The 1920 San Remo conference excluded Palestine from the Wilsonian principle of self determination and parts of the Levant were mandated to colonial powers. The hope of founding an Arab Palestine collapse and pan-Arab nationalism centred around unity, championing the Palestinian cause to justify their involvement in the conflict.
- b. Modern political Zionism saw the Jewish people as constituting one nation and saw a Jewish state as the solution for the Jewish problem in Europe. Scarred by the holocaust, modern political Zionism centred around the notion of a safe space for Jews. The irreconcilable conflict with Palestinian nationalism would set the stage for the Arab Israeli conflict.
 - i. After the war when Britain was Mandatory authority over Palestine, Britain established the Balfour Declaration, which committed Britain to Jewish nationalism. Britain turned into a legally binding statute that backed Jewish immigration into Palestine. **Encroached upon Arab land which perceives Jews as invasive**
 - ii. The exodus of Jews in Europe and the Nazi regime were examples that rabid antisemitism in Europe was rising, making the Zionist need for a Jewish state more pressing. Compounded by the Holocaust, there emerge a strong desire amongst survivors to secure their own future through a Jewish statehood and this has been supported by international sympathy.

4. (Decolonisation)

- a. Mechanisms set to materialise the 2-state solution and formalise partisans were riddled with unacceptable trade offs to Arabs and Zionist. Hence, they were rejected by both sides, resulting in the issue being unresolved.
 - i. 1937 Peel Report recommended a partition of Palestinian territory to resolve the tensions developing between the native Arab population (**desire for national independence**) and the immigrant Jewish population (**conflict between Arab nationalism and Zionist goals**) The Zionist congress, although agreed to partition, rejected the boundaries while Arab nationalists rejected any kind of partition
 - ii. The United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP)’s plan for partition was rejected outright by the Arab as most of ancient Jewish

territory was given to Arabs and vice versa while the Jews were awarded with 55% of the land area albeit constituted less than 10% of the population.

- b. Declining British empire made Britain start looking for a way out. This left a power vacuum which local and foreign actors pounced on, advocating for more radical and polarised ideals that deteriorated the fragile balance that the British maintained and leading Palestine closer to conflict.
 - i. Truman, endorsed by Jews, took international Zionist activism to a new level in terms of its support for the creation of Jewish state, setting the stage for US foreign policy which advocated for lifting drastic restriction on Jewish immigration and endorsing further Jewish immigration. **Went against a unitary state in Palestine with a permanent Arab majority.**
 - ii. Due to the Sergeant affair which saw the hanging of 2 British intelligence officers. Palestine was deemed unsafe and the permanent evacuation of all British Forces, along with the Palestinian Police Force left a power vacuum in the area. **On the same day that the British abandoned the area, David Ben-Gurion, unimpeded and without worry for British intervention, declared Israeli independence on the same day.**

Al Nakba (1948)

Outbreak of Conflict

1. **(Arab Nationalism: Egypt, Syria, Transjordan)** Arab nationalism became intolerant to a new Jewish state and was further antagonised due to the indignity towards Israeli atrocities, strengthening their resolve to erase Israel,
 - a. The 1947 Partition plan rejected by the Arab states as it created a noncontiguous border and isolated populations, was passed with a 2/3 majority. To prevent the creation of a Jewish state, the regular armies of Egypt, Jordan and Syria invaded Israel on 15 May 1948.
 - b. Israeli militia massacred 250 people in Deir Yassin, accelerating Palestinian exodus. To make Arab governments send troops, the Palestinian National Committee exaggerated the atrocity in a subsequent radio broadcast, **inflaming Arab anger towards this grave injustice and stoke their determination to punish the Jews**
2. **(Arab Nationalism: Egypt, Syria, Transjordan)** Arab nationalism was used as a front for leaders to pursue their own national interests. When antithetical, Arab countries prioritised themselves over the Palestinian cause and even over each other. This resulted in inter-rivalry between Arab states, fracturing the Arab coalition with internal division.
 - a. Arabs viewed Israel as a Jewish reincarnation of the medieval Crusader State and a beach head for western imperialism; thus it was a colonial instrument and illegitimate regime. To uphold their political legitimacy, Arab leaders were forced to intervene to be seen as serving Islamic interests
 - b. Arab states had their own territorial and political agenda

- i. King Farouk of Egypt wanted to keep Transjordan's King Abdullah's leadership ambitions in check
 - ii. Jordan's King Abdullah conducted a secret deal with the Zionist to partition Palestine
 - iii. Syria sought to annex certain areas of Northern Palestine
- 3. **(Zionist nationalism, confrontationalist policies: Israel)** Zionist nationalism and confrontational policies radicalised Arab-Israeli tensions by provoking the ire of Arab countries.
 - a. The Haganah militia had to pacify Arab villages that dominated key roads by getting them to surrender or depopulating and destroying the villages. Plan Dalet carried out 8/13 successful operations, displacing 800,000 Palestinians and destroying hundreds of villagers. **Alarmed the Arabs as other than its violence, the nature of the conflict transformed from sporadic attacks to a systematic ethnic cleansing.**³
 - b. When the British evacuated all British troops and the Palestinian Police Force, the Zionists, without any British presence to oppose them, was able to declare Israeli independence. Consequently, after midnight, the regular armies of Egypt, Syria and Transjordan invaded Palestine.

Protraction and Resolution of Conflict

1. **(Diplomacy: UN)** Various United Nations organs embarked on diplomacy between Israel and the Arab states, providing guidance and avenues for both sides to share their interests. This created a conducive environment that stopped both sides from fighting and facilitated their cooperation, making sound progress in managing the Arab Israeli conflict
 - a. Ralph Bunche, UN negotiator facilitated the Israeli-Egyptian armistice and the Israeli-Transjordan agreement and Israeli-Syrian agreement, resulting in a series of various armistices that resulted in the end of hostilities.
 - b. Lausanne Conference was a 3 member Conciliation Commission for Palestine to engage in separate negotiations with Arab and Israeli representatives. The Lausanne Conference set the basis of discussion regarding the UN General Assembly Resolution 181 and 194 (which called on Israel to allow the return of Palestinian refugees)
2. **(Diplomacy: UN, Egypt, Syria, Transjordan)** UN initiated truces and ceasefire brought about short-lived peace as they did not address the root causes of the conflict. Combatant states used momentary peace to consolidate their strength while unaddressed root issues made them a recurring factor of subsequent conflicts
 - a. In both truces under the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO), both sides used the ceasefire to regroup. Israel was able to obtain illegal European firearms and a Czech provided airfield, **bolstering their offensive capability and giving them confidence to break the ceasefire and seize Galilee.**

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plan_Dalet

- b. State instability (Assassination of King Abdullah and overthrowing of King Farouk) discouraged risk taking by political representative, shifting the political agenda towards consolidation rather than peace. Compounded by territorial ambitions the Palestinian dimension of the conflict was unaddressed. **Hence an exiled Palestinian population became a destabilising force within the middle east and Pan-Arab nationalism became a driving factor for both the 6 Day and Yon Kippur war.**

Suez Crisis (1956)

Outbreak of Conflict

1. **(Willingness to use armed forces, Israel)** Israeli confrontationist policies deteriorated relations with the Arab Countries as Arab states saw them as antagonistic and dangerous, increasing tensions as both sides inch towards unrestrained use of force
 - a. 1954 Levon affair: Israeli agents in collaboration with Egyptian Jews tried to sabotage British and American property in Egypt were arrested. **Illustrated that Israel is undertaking active efforts to subversively undermine Egyptian-Western relations, creating distrust**
 - b. **Israel was motivated by the view that they were encircled by hostile Arabs who sought to wipe them out of existence. This siege mentality encouraged Israel to deter the Arab, resulting in a “strike-first” decision.** Hence when Nassar nationalised the Suez Canael, Israel did not hesitate to seize the Suez Canal and capture the Sinai Peninsula and Gaza Strip.
2. **(Confrontationist Policies: Egypt)** To punish the foreign policy of other nations, Nassar’s unilateral actions made Egypt to be perceived as a threat, antagonising other actors. This opened the necessity of the military option to deal with Egypt’s actions. Inching the Middle East closer to war
 - a. When Nassar recognised the PRC, the US, already soured with Nassar’s rejection to join the Baghdad pact due to alleged Israeli membership, withdrew the initial funding offer of 56 million to build the Aswan dam. Nassar, in need to complete the dam for his own prestige and personal legitimacy, nationalised the Suez Canal, prompting Britain, France and Israel to attack Egypt
 - b. In response to Israel’s policy of retaliatory killings, Egypt closed the Straits of Tiran to undermine Israel’s port of Eilat. **Thus undermines Israeli trading access to the Indian ocean but also tilts the balance of power to Nassar.** Israel responded that it would not hesitate to use force.
3. **(Cold War Dynamics: USA, USSR)** In order to advance cold war interests, both superpowers sought to undermine the influence of the other and buff up their own ideological allies’ strength by dint of cutting aid as punishment or providing arm as a show of support
 - a. Initially supportive of Nassar, Egypt-US relations soured as Cairo refused to join the Baghdad Pact due to alleged Israeli membership and distancing from US’s orbit of influence as evidenced by the founding of the NAM. Nassar’s recognition of the PRC proved to be the last straw as US withdrew its initial funding offer for the Aswan dam, pushing Nassar to nationalise the Suez Crisis

- b. To increase its Middle Eastern standing, the Soviets agreed to provide Egypt with military aid through Czechoslovakia (Tanks, Mig 15s and Il-28 bombers). Israel responded by courting French military aid. **Illustrates an aggressive Soviet foreign policy willing to expand its influence into the Middle East can spark an arms race, intensifying mistrust and increasing tensions.**

Resolution of Conflict

1. **(Diplomacy: UN)** UN adopted resolutions that forced the combatants to a ceasefire and subsequently created safeguards that enforced this peace by preventing skirmishes that might flare up to wider conflict through peacekeepers
 - a. Despite initial paralysis, “Uniting for Peace” enabled the UNGA to adopt resolution 997, calling for immediate ceasefire, withdrawal to armistice lines and reopening of the canal. **Both sides seeing the resolution as legally binding, still accepted the resolution, illustrating the power of the UN.**
 - b. Under UNGA resolution 1000, the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF 1) was created. UNEF 1 supervised the withdrawal of British, French, and Israeli forces from Egyptian territory and ensured that ceasefire was observed. **UNEF acted as physical manifestation of UN mandate, ensuring that UN resolution 997 was observed** resulting in a relatively quiet border
Probe: UNEF 1’s deployment into sovereign territory was only with the host’s consent and it had a limited mandate. Consequently, it could not resolve underlying tension between Israel and Egypt. When Egypt requested withdrawal, UN had to comply. Without UN supervision, the 6-Day war broke out
2. **(Diplomacy: US)** US leveraged on its strong political and economic prowess to threaten cutting of its economic support and political consequence on combatant states. Due to the significance of the US, the combatant states were forced to stop fighting and agree to the various UN resolutions
 - a. Direct contacts by Eisenhower with Israeli, French and British Prime Ministers softened their positions and won their reluctant acceptance of Resolution 997 and subsequent calling for ceasefire. **Demonstrates how the US personal diplomatic connection was able to coax combatant states to accept the ceasefire agreements, illustrating US diplomatic prowess**
 - b. US refused to shore up the struggling British pound. To Israel, it threatened to cut off American aid and impose and enforce UN sanction, opening a possibility to expel Israel from the UN. **This would result in severe economic consequences for the British while it threatens Israel legitimacy as a sovereign state if it was expelled from the UN body. Both are significant towards both countries, illustrating how US held significant power to threaten severe enough penalties.**
3. **(Diplomacy: USSR)** To serve its strategic concerns, supported UNEF as
 - a. Defuse the conflict and withdraw foreign forces from Egypt

- b. Play up its anti-imperialist credentials to cultivate better ties with Arab countries
- It supported the US's initiative for UNEF 1 but refused to pay its assessments

Six Day War (1967)

Outbreak of Conflict

1. **(Arab Nationalism: Egypt)** Arab Nationalism, dissatisfied with Israeli control over Palestinian land sought to assume a more aggressive posture to restrict Israel through the formation of Palestinian militia and open support for Palestinian nationalism.⁴
 - a. Nasser, with the Suez crisis victory, was hailed as the unanimous champion of Arab unity. Nasser would exploit this prestige and using various mediums, such as *Voice of the Arab* would broadcast pro-Palestinian and Anti-Israeli rhetoric, **riling up the Arabic world in supporting the Palestinian cause and increasing animosity against Israel**
 - b. In 1964, Nasser accepted the Palestinian Liberation Organisation at the Cairo summit as an official political body **and what it symbolised**. Nasser provided funding, arms and legitimacy to the PLO, feeding the escalating militancy felt by these Palestinian militia due to inaction. These Palestinian groups turned to armed struggle
2. **(Economic Interests: Jordan, Syria)** As Israeli action continue to undermine Palestinian sovereignty and threaten the economic interests of the Arab countries, they became more radical and hostile in their approach towards Israel.
 - a. Israel's National Water Carrier would irrigate the arid sections of Israel, enabling a large amount of Israelis to settle in Israel's Southern region, consolidating its existence. Syria threatened war over this, and the Syria-Fatah alliance agitated close to a hundred border incidents in 1966. **Increased Israeli determination to punish and deter the regime**
 - b. King Hussein of Jordan pleaded to Nasser about Israel beginning to divert the rivers of Jordan to irrigate the desert. Unable to ignore, the 1964 first Arab summit conference decided to divert the sources of the Jordan River before they reached Israeli territory and formed a unified Arab military command to fight an anticipated Israeli action. **Israel was now in turn threatened as Arabs seem to be more confrontational by boosting their military capability before carrying out actions that would undermine Israel.**
3. **(Willingness to use Armed Forces: Israel)** Israel's harsh responses and confrontationist policies meant to punish the Arab states egged Israel to attack its neighbours or pursue conflict
 - a. Due to Syrian initiated border incidents, Israel was determined to punish and deter the regime. The IDF raided 3 West Bank villagers, killing 3 Jordanian civilians and 15 Arab League Soldiers. **Israel's vicious aggressiveness echoed**

⁴ Additional Reading: https://researchers-admin.westernsydney.edu.au/ws/portalfiles/portal/94887365/uws_71227.pdf

its actions in Al Nakba with its cruelty, pushing the Arabs state towards further conflict.

- b. In May 1967, USSR falsely warned of Israeli plans to invade Syria, causing Egypt to expel the UNEF, move troops into Sinaia and sign a defensive pack with Jordon. **This series of movements was perceived by Israel as an imminent Arab attack when it was meant as a show of power to deter an alleged Israeli action.** Israel launched a pre-emptive attack.
- 4. **(Superpowers: USA, USSR)** To undermine the influence of the other and expand their influence, the superpowers used the conflict as an opportunity to increase their standing to “rollback” the other’s influence. The product is increasing military aid that bolstered combatant state’s capability and confidence, edging the middle east to war.
 - a. The USSR provided 2.8 billion in military aid to the Arab state. Egypt, with Soviet, help developed a defensive plan for invading the Sinai and were able to modernise its Airforce due to Soviet aid. **This resulted in Egyptian vice-president erroneously believing that it held the military upper hand. Egypt to practice less caution before going to war with Israel**
 - b. “Eisenhower Doctrine” pledged armed forces against communism. It thus responded to the USSR’s support of the Arabic states by abandoning its initial distancing from Israel and supplying Israel with Hawk missiles and committing itself to Israel’s National Water Carrier. Israel, with newfound missile capability and guaranteed US backing, was confident and assured to go to launch its pre-emptive attack

Resolution of Conflict

- 1. **(Diplomacy, Security, Arab Nationalism: UN)** UN diplomatic efforts were effective in conflict management as they were able to broker a ceasefire deal as well as subsequently establish peace build upon catering to both Israel’s and Arab’s interest, ensuring that their needs are met and eliminate the reasons for conflict
 - a. After 6 Days, the UN was able to broker to a ceasefire deal, ending the 6-Day War
 - b. Resolution 242 established the concept for “land for peace”. Israel to withdraw from occupied territory in exchange for peace with her Arab neighbours. Satisfying Israeli security interest while affirming the necessity of a just settlement of the refugee problem. Appeasing the Arab nationalists. **With international acknowledgement, Arabs more likely to turn to the UN for a diplomatic solution instead of resorting to war over the Palestinian refugees.**
- 2. **(Diplomacy, Security, Arab Nationalism: UN, Israel, Egypt, Syria, Jordan)**

Effectiveness of UN resolutions were undermined by mutual mistrust. Furthermore, due to the enormous asymmetry of Israel and the Arab States (Israel made huge territorial gains), the conditions for successful negotiations were non-existent as both sides became more determined to achieve their own goals

 - a. Israel refused to return the Sinai, Golan Heights and Palestinian territory as they were vital for Israel to live within secure boundaries. They also became reluctant to withdraw even if their objectives of secure borders, non-belligerency were

conceded. **Israel gains placed it at a superior position on the negotiating table as it did not have to worry about the consequences of its refusal.**

- b. While Israel refused to return and withdraw from all territories, Arab leaders decided on the 3 infamous “no’s” during the Khartoum Summit before any just settlement of the Palestinian issue:
 - i. No peace with Israel
 - ii. No negotiations with Israel
 - iii. No recognition of Israel

And planned to zealously defend the rights of Palestinian Arabs. **Israel refusal to cooperate has only provoked the ire of the Arab states, emboldening them to punish Israel**

Yon Kippur (1973)

Outbreak of Conflict

1. **(Palestinian Nationalism: Jordan)** As Palestinian nationalism overstepped their boundaries to openly challenge the authority of the host countries, they were expelled, weakening the strength of Pan-Arab nationalism. Apart from its physical strength, its ideological strength was also diminished with the death of Nassar.
 - a. By 1970s, PLO had established a “state within a state” in Jordan, challenging King Hussein’s authority. This was made apparent when the PLO mounted 2 failed assassination attempts and 4 airline hijackings, promoting the Jordanian army to move against Palestinian positions, killing up to 30000 Palestinians and expelling the PLO from Jordan. **Made it clear that the Arab world was not a cohesive force in supporting Palestinian nationalism.**
 - b. 1967 Nassar died of a heart attack. As Nassar passed, so has pan Arabism with no one to carry it on. When Sadat reversed Nassar’s work of centralising Egypt to Arabism and the Palestinian cause and By signing the Camp David Accords, Egypt effectively severed ties with the Arab people and surrendered the Palestinians to their fate.⁵
2. **(Willingness to Use Armed Forces: Egypt, Syria)** Due to territorial loses during the 6 Day War, both Egypt and Syria were determined to regain their prestige and reclaim the territory. With similar interest and knowing that they were unable to win independently, both countries agreed to cooperate to fulfil their objectives by attacking Israel
 - a. Prior, 1969 Egypt launched a prolonged long-intensity War of attrition against Israel to reclaim the Suez Canal. However heavy losses led Nasser to accept a ceasefire in 1970. In 1972, when his diplomatic initiatives fail, Sadat again opted to go to war to further his political, diplomatic, and economic objectives. **With failed attempts to reclaim its territory, through war or diplomacy, Egypt was further strained of options, deciding to war**
 - b. As defense minister when the Golan Heights were lost during the 6 Day War, Asad was determined to reclaim this territory from Israel. He agreed to cooperate with Sadat to start a double front against Israel. **Determined to reclaim lost**

⁵ Ibid 4

prestige, Asad was emboldened to attack Israel to retake the Golan Heights.

3. **(Superpowers: USA, USSR)** To undermine the influence of the other and expand their influence, the superpowers used the conflict as an opportunity to increase their standing to “rollback” the other’s influence. The product is increasing military aid that bolstered combatant state’s capability and confidence, edging the middle east to war.
 - a. After the 6 Day war, USSR resumed arms supplies to restore its influence in the Arab world. During Egypt’s War of Attrition, the USSR was directly engaged in the air defence of Egypt while promising Egypt support in the UN if Egypt declared war on Israel
 - b. US and Israel grew closer as US recognised that Israel military might was an asset to contain Soviet influence. Under this relationship, US sold 50 Phantom fighter-bombers to Israel **to keep Israel stronger than its enemies and hoped that the Arabs would no longer have the option to war, instead having to negotiate or approach the US, increasing US influence.**

Resolution of Conflict

1. **(Diplomacy: USA)** The US bypassed the UN to broker peace and consensus between the Arabs and Israelis. Through Kissinger’s shuttle diplomacy, both sides agreed to a ceasefire and further steps to peace. It also provided a platform for both sides to air their demands and find concessions, resulting in peace
 - a. To weaken Soviet influence, Kissinger pursued direct talks with Egypt and Israel. He acted as a mediator through which Arabs and Israelis communicated while conducting shuttle diplomacy to disengage armies and start peace talks. The product were the 2 Sinai agreements that saw Israeli withdrawal from the Suez and greater Egyptian control over the Sinai.
Probe: However, no final peace as the Palestinian issue remained unaddressed and peace treaties based on “land for peace” (Sinai) required Arab Israeli talks
 - b. 1978 US-sponsored Camp David Summits produced 2 key accords
 - i. Normalisation of relations between Egypt and Israel in return from complete Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai
 - ii. “Framework for Peace in the Middle East” to provide full Palestinian autonomy for eventual self-government
Ensuring that the long-standing Israel’s security issue and the Palestinian refugee problem was addressed.
2. **(Diplomacy: UN)** As superpower interests in the Middle East limited UN involvement, no UN peacekeeping efforts were present until the American initiated peace. Hence even though the UN was able to broker a ceasefire and enforce peace, subsequent UN efforts were only a product of superpower initiatives
 - a. United Nations Emergency Force II (UNEF II) deployed and efficiently supervised the ceasefire and in subsequent redeployment as per the 1974 and 1975 agreements, controlling buffer zones established by Israel and Egypt. **While managing to enforce the pace, UNEF 2 was an American Soviet initiative**

to manage the Arab Israeli conflict, reducing the UN to a superpower détente element

- b. United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) maintained calm along the Israeli Syrian border, serving as a crucial buffer between hostile parties and supporting regional stability. **However, like the UNEF 2, UNDOF acted as an extension of superpower diplomacy, authorised only after the US brokered the Israel-Syria truce**
3. **(Diplomacy, Arab Nationalism, Territorial Sovereignty: Egypt, Israel)** Separate attempts by Israeli and Egypt ended in failure as both sides harboured irreconcilable differences. Hence attempts towards concessions ended in failure as both sides were unable to agree to a common ground, producing nothing out of the Ismailia Conference
 - a. While the Egyptian proposal called for a return to the 1967 east/west division of Jerusalem and offered guaranteed access to holy places for Israelis, Israel intended to maintain control of Jerusalem with the exception of Muslim holy places. **This echoes the religious significance of Jerusalem to both Israel and the Arabs, resulting in Israel unwilling to compromise over their religious connections with Jerusalem.**
 - b. Israel blocked any proposed clauses that would be interpreted in favour of an independent Palestinian entity, illustrating its desire to control the West bank against Egypt's demand of Israeli recognition of Palestinian right to self-rule. Begin's only willing concession was to grant administrative autonomy. **This portrays Israel's desire to retain its control over the West Bank and disallow any separate political entity that might challenge this.**
4. **(Diplomacy: Egypt, Israel)** Both Egypt and Israel were willing to attain peace, resulting in an attempt to improve bilateral relations after 3 decades of no contact. Subsequently, overtures towards peace ensued, resulting in a peace treaty that was able to address the national interests of both sides.
 - a. Sadat sought peace with Israel to end Egypt's resource drain and improve his domestic support by regaining the Sinai. Consequently in 1977, Sadat surprised the world by addressing the Israeli Knesset in Jerusalem, **breaking new ground in Arab-Israeli relations and fostering goodwill**
Probe: However, apart from breaking the diplomatic no-contact, Sadat still failed to get the Israelis on the same ground as illustrated by the failed Ismailia Conference
 - b. 1979 Despite condemnation from the Arab States and Palestinians, Begin and Sadat signed a peace treaty in Washington. Israel agreed to return Sinai to Egypt in return for peace, full diplomatic relations and shipping through Egyptian controlled territories. **This managed to address the security concerns of Israel and the territorial sovereignty concerns of Egypt**
Probe: However, the Palestinian issue remained as negotiations on Palestinian autonomy was suspended eventually, illustrating that Begin had no intention of relinquishing Israeli control over the West bank and Gaza Strip. Furthermore, the Arab League also imposed a political and

economic boycott on Egypt, proving that this peace was hailed only in Egypt and did nothing to improve the greater Arab Israeli relations.