

FROM STRATEGIC SHOCK TO GEOPOLITICAL REALIGNMENT: THE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF OPERATION AL-AQSA FLOOD

Rabah ZAOUÏ,* Hocine BOUSALAH**

ABSTRACT: This study examines the geopolitical repercussions of Operation Al-Aqsa Flood (7 October 2023) and its impact on regional power dynamics, Israeli deterrence, and the international positioning of the Palestinian question. The research investigates how the operation reshaped diplomatic alignments, influenced Arab-Israeli normalisation trajectories, and contributed to shifts in international legal and political discourse regarding Palestine. Using a descriptive-analytical approach supported by document analysis and comparative geopolitical assessment, the study analyses developments related to international recognition of Palestine, proceedings before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC), transformations in regional alliances, and the evolving perception of Israeli security capabilities following the operation. The findings indicate that Operation Al-Aqsa Flood generated significant geopolitical consequences extending beyond the military dimension. These include increasing international pressure on Israel, the relative erosion of Israeli deterrence, renewed global attention to the Palestinian issue, and a slowdown in normalisation initiatives between the Zionist state and several Arab states. The study also highlights the growing role of non-Western actors and emerging geopolitical blocs in reshaping Middle Eastern power configurations. The research concludes that the operation represents a strategic turning point with long-term geopolitical implications. However, the extent to which these developments may produce sustainable political gains for the Palestinian cause depends on the effectiveness of regional diplomatic, legal, and media strategies.

KEYWORDS: Al-Aqsa Flood, Geopolitics, Israeli deterrence, Palestine, Regional realignment, Middle East politics.

INTRODUCTION

Operation Al-Aqsa Flood or *Tufan al-Aqsa*, launched on 7 October 2023, marked one of the most significant geopolitical developments in the contemporary “Middle East”. Beyond its immediate military consequences, the operation generated profound political, diplomatic, legal, and strategic repercussions that

* Lecturer in Political Sciences, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Akli Muhand Oulhadj University- Bouira, Algeria, r.zaoui@univ-bouira.dz, ORCID: 0009-0000-1744-2292.

** Lecturer in Media and Communication, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Akli Muhand Oulhadj University- Bouira, Algeria, h.boussalah@univ-bouira.dz, ORCID: 0009-0009-1043-4340.

extended far beyond the Israeli-Palestinian conflict itself. The event reshaped regional alignments, intensified debates regarding Israeli deterrence, and revived international attention toward Palestine following relative diplomatic stagnation.

The operation occurred within a rapidly transforming international environment characterised by shifting global power balances, the gradual erosion of unipolarity, and the increasing influence of emerging actors such as China, Russia, and BRICS-aligned states. Simultaneously, the region had been witnessing accelerating normalisation initiatives between the Zionist state and several Arab countries under the framework of the Abraham Accords (Madani, 2024). In this context, Operation Al-Aqsa Flood introduced a strategic shock that disrupted existing geopolitical trajectories and reopened debates concerning regional security, resistance movements, and the future of Palestinian statehood.

Crucially, the operation was deliberately named after al-Aqsa Mosque, which had become the focal point of repeated incursions, restrictions, and violent assaults. These escalated particularly in the aftermath of the Deal of the Century and the Abraham Accords, both of which emboldened attempts to erode the mosque's sanctity and alter the historical status quo (El-Awaisi & Yavuz, 2020). By invoking al-Aqsa, the operation underscored that the confrontation was not merely political or territorial, but a defence of one of Islam's holiest sites against systematic desecration. The name served to galvanise regional and global solidarity, framing the confrontation as a defence of sanctity and justice against encroachment, and highlighting al-Aqsa as the epicentre where the fate of Jerusalem, Palestine, and broader regional dynamics converge.

Recent developments following the operation have revealed profound transformations in international political positions regarding Palestine. In 2024, several key European nations broke with long-standing hesitation and officially recognised the State of Palestine, marking a decisive diplomatic shift that challenged entrenched Western consensus. At the same time, international legal institutions such as the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC) intensified their engagement, addressing the genocide in Gaza and signalling a growing willingness to confront Israeli actions through judicial mechanisms. Together, these developments not only renewed international scrutiny of Israeli policies but also elevated debates on accountability, deterrence, and legitimacy to the forefront of global discourse. They underscored that the Palestinian question had re-emerged as a central test of the credibility of international law and the moral authority of the global order.

Despite the growing body of political commentary surrounding Operation Al-Aqsa Flood, existing academic literature remains largely focused on military developments, humanitarian consequences, conflict escalation, and ceasefire diplomacy. Comparatively fewer studies have examined the operation's implications for regional geopolitical restructuring, deterrence dynamics, and international legal developments. Accordingly, this study seeks to address this

gap by analysing the geopolitical repercussions of the operation from a strategic and international relations perspective.

The central research problem of this study concerns the extent to which Operation Al-Aqsa Flood reshaped regional and international geopolitical dynamics. More specifically, the study investigates how the operation influenced Israeli deterrence, Arab-Israeli normalisation processes, international diplomatic alignments, and the strategic positioning of regional and global actors.

This study is guided by the following research questions:

- How did Operation Al-Aqsa Flood affect international diplomatic positions toward the Palestinian question?
- To what extent did the operation alter perceptions of Israeli deterrence and regional security?
- How did the operation influence Arab-Israeli normalisation dynamics and regional alliances?
- What legal and geopolitical transformations emerged following the operation?
- How can these transformations be interpreted within broader geopolitical shifts in the international system?

The study advances the following hypotheses:

- Operation Al-Aqsa Flood contributed to measurable changes in international diplomatic discourse regarding Palestine, reflected in increased recognition of Palestinian statehood and heightened criticism of Israeli policies.
- The operation exposed structural limitations in Israeli deterrence and security perceptions.
- Regional normalisation initiatives experienced political and diplomatic slowdown following the Gaza genocide.
- Emerging geopolitical actors and international legal institutions gained greater influence in shaping regional political dynamics after the operation.

The study adopts a descriptive-analytical methodology combining geopolitical analysis, document analysis, and comparative assessment of political and diplomatic developments following October 2023. The research relies on official statements, reports issued by international institutions, policy papers, media sources, and recent academic literature addressing regional security and “Middle Eastern” geopolitics.

The theoretical framework of this study draws primarily upon Deterrence Theory and Neo-Realist approaches in international relations. These frameworks help explain the relationship between military shocks, balance-of-power transformations, and the reconfiguration of regional alliances in periods of geopolitical instability.

The significance of this research lies in its contribution to contemporary debates on the region’s geopolitics, security, and international legitimacy. By examining Operation Al-Aqsa Flood as a geopolitical turning point rather than merely a military confrontation, the study seeks to provide a deeper

understanding of how strategic shocks may reshape regional orders and influence international political structures.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Israeli Deterrence and Asymmetrical Warfare

The concept of Israeli deterrence has occupied a central position in “Middle Eastern” security studies for decades. Traditional Israeli security doctrine has historically relied on military superiority, rapid mobilisation, intelligence dominance, and pre-emptive strategies designed to prevent prolonged conflict and maintain regional deterrence (Lupovici, 2024). However, recent scholarship has increasingly questioned the sustainability of classical deterrence models in the context of asymmetrical warfare involving non-state armed actors such as Hamas and Hezbollah.

Several studies argue that asymmetric conflicts challenge conventional deterrence frameworks because non-state actors often operate according to ideological, political, and symbolic motivations rather than traditional state-centred calculations of cost and benefit (Levite, 2024). Research published by the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace suggests that the events of October 7 exposed structural vulnerabilities within Israeli intelligence and deterrence systems, particularly regarding strategic anticipation and border defence mechanisms.

Other scholars emphasise that repeated military confrontations in Gaza have gradually weakened the credibility of cumulative deterrence. Rather than reducing the military capabilities of Palestinian armed factions, successive conflicts may have contributed to the adaptation and expansion of asymmetric operational strategies (Lupovici, 2024). These debates have become increasingly relevant following Operation Al-Aqsa Flood, which many analysts consider a major challenge to traditional Israeli security assumptions (Baram & Ben Israel, 2025).

2.2 Regional Geopolitical Realignments

Recent scholarship on regional geopolitics has focused extensively on shifting alliances, the decline of unipolar American influence, and the growing role of emerging international actors such as China and Russia. The Abraham Accords were widely interpreted as a strategic transformation in Arab-Israeli relations, reflecting broader geopolitical and economic priorities among several Arab states (Ghuloom, 2025). At the same time, studies examining BRICS expansion and Chinese regional engagement argue that the “Middle East” is increasingly becoming part of a multipolar international order. Scholars have noted that China’s economic diplomacy and Russia’s strategic presence have contributed to the diversification of regional partnerships beyond traditional Western alliances.

Following the Gaza genocide, several researchers observed growing tensions within normalisation frameworks and increasing public pressure across Arab societies regarding relations with the Zionist state. Studies conducted by regional

research centres indicate that the genocide accelerated debates concerning regional legitimacy, political representation, and the future of strategic alliances in the region.

2.3 International Legal Accountability and the Palestinian Question

The legal dimensions of the Gaza genocide have generated increasing academic attention, particularly regarding the role of international judicial institutions in addressing armed conflict and allegations of violations of international humanitarian law (Mengüaslan, 2025). Scholars examining the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC) have argued that recent legal developments may represent an important transformation in the internationalisation of the Palestinian question.

Research on international accountability mechanisms highlights the growing significance of legal discourse in shaping global political legitimacy and diplomatic pressure. Several studies suggest that legal proceedings initiated after October 2023 contributed to renewed international debates concerning state responsibility, civilian protection, and the limits of military conduct during armed conflict.

At the same time, other scholars remain sceptical regarding the practical effectiveness of international legal institutions, arguing that geopolitical power asymmetries continue to shape the implementation of international law. This debate reflects broader tensions between legal legitimacy and geopolitical realities within the international system.

2.4 Research Gap

Despite the growing body of literature examining the military, humanitarian, and legal dimensions of the Gaza genocide, there remains limited scholarly attention devoted to analysing Operation Al-Aqsa Flood as a multidimensional geopolitical turning point. Existing studies tend to fragment the analysis –isolating military operations, humanitarian crises, or legal accountability– without situating these developments within the broader architecture of regional realignment, deterrence transformation, and international geopolitical restructuring. This narrow focus has left a critical gap in understanding how the operation reshaped both the regional balance of power and the global discourse on Palestine.

Accordingly, this study seeks to contribute to the literature by providing a comprehensive geopolitical analysis of Operation Al-Aqsa Flood and its far-reaching implications for regional alliances, the recalibration of Israeli deterrence, the evolving role of international legal institutions, and the repositioning of the Palestine question within the contemporary international system. By bridging fragmented perspectives into a holistic framework, the study underscores the operation as a pivotal moment in the reconfiguration of the region and global politics.

3. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

3.1 Deterrence Theory

Deterrence Theory constitutes one of the central analytical frameworks in security and strategic studies. Traditionally associated with state-centred military competition, deterrence refers to the ability of a political or military actor to prevent adversaries from undertaking hostile actions through the threat of retaliation or unacceptable costs. Classical deterrence theory emphasises military superiority, credibility, and the capacity to impose severe consequences on potential opponents.

Within the Israeli security doctrine, deterrence has historically represented a foundational strategic principle. Israeli military strategy has relied extensively on rapid response capabilities, intelligence superiority, technological dominance, and the projection of overwhelming force in order to discourage hostile actors from initiating attacks. This approach became particularly important given Israel's limited strategic depth and complex regional security environment.

However, contemporary scholarship increasingly argues that traditional deterrence models encounter significant limitations in asymmetrical conflicts involving non-state armed actors. Organisations such as Hamas and Hezbollah often operate according to ideological, symbolic, and political motivations that differ substantially from conventional state behaviour (Anouti & Fleming, 2026). As a result, deterrence based solely on military superiority may prove insufficient in preventing asymmetric operations or long-term insurgent strategies.

From this perspective, Operation Al-Aqsa Flood represents a critical case for reassessing the effectiveness of Israeli deterrence. The operation raised important questions regarding intelligence failure, strategic anticipation, border defence vulnerabilities, and the capacity of non-state actors to challenge technologically advanced military systems. Consequently, Deterrence Theory provides a useful framework for analysing the transformation of regional security perceptions following October 2023.

3.2 Neo-Realism and Regional Geopolitical Realignment

In addition to deterrence theory, this study draws upon Neo-Realist approaches in international relations, particularly the structural realism developed by Kenneth Waltz. Neo-Realism maintains that international politics is primarily shaped by the anarchic structure of the international system, competition among states, and the pursuit of power and security within shifting balances of power.

According to Neo-Realist perspectives, geopolitical transformations emerge when significant events alter regional or international distributions of power. States and regional actors continuously reassess alliances, strategic partnerships, and security priorities in response to changes in the balance of power. Within this framework, regional conflicts often extend beyond local dimensions and become connected to broader international rivalries and geopolitical competition (Waltz,

2007). The region after October 2023 provides an important example of such transformations. Operation Al-Aqsa Flood occurred within a broader context characterised by declining American influence, the growing role of China and Russia, the expansion of BRICS, and evolving regional alliances. Simultaneously, the crisis generated tensions within Arab-Israeli normalisation frameworks and contributed to renewed geopolitical polarisation across the region.

Neo-Realism therefore offers a useful analytical lens for understanding how Operation Al-Aqsa Flood contributed to regional geopolitical realignment, reshaped diplomatic relations, and influenced strategic interactions among regional and international actors. The theory also helps explain how military shocks may accelerate shifts in alliance structures and strategic calculations within periods of international transition.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 Research Design

This study adopts a descriptive-analytical research design to examine the geopolitical repercussions of Operation Al-Aqsa Flood and its impact on regional and international political dynamics. The descriptive dimension aims to identify and document the major diplomatic, legal, security, and geopolitical developments that emerged following the events of 7 October 2023. The analytical dimension focuses on interpreting these developments within broader frameworks of deterrence theory, regional realignment, and international power transformation. Given the complexity of the subject matter, the study also incorporates elements of qualitative geopolitical analysis in order to examine interactions among regional and international actors, shifting alliance structures, and evolving security perceptions in the “Middle East”.

4.2 Data Collection and Sources

The study relies primarily on qualitative data collected from multiple categories of sources in order to ensure analytical diversity and triangulation. These sources include:

- Official statements issued by governments and international organisations;
- Reports published by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC);
- Policy papers and strategic assessments issued by research institutions such as the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, INSS, Atlantic Council, and regional geopolitical research centres;
- Academic articles addressing deterrence theory, “Middle Eastern” geopolitics, and international legal accountability;
- Statistical reports and economic indicators related to regional trade, displacement, and diplomatic recognition.

To strengthen analytical credibility, the study prioritises peer-reviewed academic literature and institutional reports over purely journalistic sources whenever possible.

4.3 Analytical Procedure

The analytical process was conducted through thematic geopolitical analysis. The study classified developments following Operation Al-Aqsa Flood into three principal analytical dimensions:

1. International diplomatic and legal transformations;
2. Reassessment of Israeli deterrence and security perceptions;
3. Regional geopolitical realignment and the future of normalisation.

Each dimension was examined through comparative analysis of pre- and post-October 2023 developments. The study also employed interpretive analysis to evaluate how these transformations affected regional balances of power and international political discourse concerning the Palestinian question.

4.4 Temporal and Spatial Scope

Temporally, the study focuses on the period extending from October 2023 to June 2025, covering the immediate and medium-term geopolitical repercussions of Operation Al-Aqsa Flood. Spatially, the research concentrates on the “Middle East” region while also examining international reactions from key global actors, particularly European states, the United States, BRICS countries, and international legal institutions.

4.5 Research Limitations

This study faces several methodological limitations. First, the rapidly evolving nature of the conflict means that geopolitical developments remain subject to continuous change. Second, some available data concerning military operations and intelligence assessments remain contested or politically sensitive. Third, the study focuses primarily on geopolitical and strategic dimensions rather than humanitarian or sociological aspects of the conflict. Despite these limitations, the research seeks to provide a comprehensive analytical framework for understanding the broader geopolitical implications of Operation Al-Aqsa Flood within the contemporary international system.

5. SHIFTING GLOBAL PARADIGMS

5.1 European Recognition of Palestine and Diplomatic Transformation

Operation Al-Aqsa Flood contributed to renewed international diplomatic engagement with the question of Palestine, particularly within several European states. The Gaza genocide generated increasing political and public pressure across Europe, leading some governments to reconsider previously cautious positions regarding Palestinian statehood and the broader trajectory of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (Syarif & Prabandari, 2025).

In May 2024, Spain, Norway, and Ireland officially recognised the State of Palestine based on the 1967 borders, with Eastern Jerusalem designated as its capital (Landale, 2024). Although these recognitions did not immediately alter the legal realities on the ground, they represented an important diplomatic shift within the European political environment (Kyriss, 2025). The decisions reflected growing dissatisfaction with existing conflict-management approaches and increasing concern regarding the humanitarian and political consequences of the Gaza genocide.

From a geopolitical perspective, these recognitions signalled a relative erosion of the traditional Western diplomatic consensus that had long favoured a cautious approach toward Palestinian statehood (Kurt, 2025). The European shift also demonstrated the increasing influence of public opinion, humanitarian discourse, and international legal debates on foreign policy decisions within democratic political systems.

Israeli reactions to these recognitions revealed the strategic sensitivity of the issue. Israel responded through diplomatic protests, the temporary withdrawal of ambassadors, and warnings concerning possible unilateral countermeasures in the occupied West Bank (Boxerman et al., 2024). These reactions reflected broader Israeli concerns regarding diplomatic isolation and the gradual weakening of unconditional political support among certain Western actors.

The significance of these developments extends beyond symbolic recognition. The growing number of states recognising Palestine strengthened the diplomatic legitimacy of the Palestinian question within international institutions and reinforced broader legal initiatives involving international courts. In this context, diplomatic recognition became increasingly connected to international legal accountability and geopolitical legitimacy within the evolving international system (Syarifa & Prabandari, 2025).

Furthermore, these developments can be interpreted within broader transformations associated with the transition from unipolarity toward a more fragmented and contested international order. As Western political unity regarding the “Middle East” becomes increasingly fragile, regional conflicts are progressively influenced by wider geopolitical competition and changing global alignments.

5.2 International Legal Accountability: ICJ and ICC Developments

The legal dimensions of the Gaza genocide emerged as a major component of international political debate following Operation Al-Aqsa Flood. For the first time in decades, the Zionist state faced growing legal scrutiny before major international judicial institutions, particularly the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC). These developments represented an important shift in the internationalisation of the Palestinian question beyond traditional diplomatic frameworks.

South Africa's case against Israel before the ICJ in December 2023 marked a significant legal and political development. The case accused Israel of violating the 1948 Genocide Convention through its military operations in Gaza (Berg, 2024). Although the Court did not issue a final ruling regarding genocide allegations, its provisional measures and acknowledgment of plausible legal concerns intensified international discussions regarding accountability, civilian protection, and compliance with international humanitarian law (Chipkin, 2025).

Simultaneously, the ICC's decisions concerning arrest warrants for senior Israeli officials further amplified debates surrounding international legal responsibility and state accountability during armed conflict (Abdul Azeez & Ali, 2025). These legal developments challenged long-standing assumptions regarding the political immunity traditionally enjoyed by major regional actors under Western diplomatic protection.

The geopolitical implications of these shifts suggest, the increasing role of international legal institutions reflects broader transformations in the relationship between international law and global politics (Samuel, 2023). Legal proceedings became part of a wider struggle over legitimacy, narrative construction, and international influence within the post-October 2023 geopolitical environment (van Steenberghe, 2024).

At the same time, the practical effectiveness of international legal mechanisms remains contested. Several scholars argue that geopolitical power asymmetries continue to limit the implementation of international legal decisions, particularly when major powers maintain strategic alliances with parties involved in the conflict (Stefănoaia, 2025). Consequently, the legal developments following Operation Al-Aqsa Flood should be understood not only as judicial processes, but also as components of broader geopolitical competition within the international system.

5.3 Erosion of Western Diplomatic Consensus

One of the most significant geopolitical consequences following Operation Al-Aqsa Flood has been the gradual fragmentation of the traditional Western diplomatic consensus regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Although the United States and several European governments initially reaffirmed strong support for Israel after October 2023, the prolonged Gaza genocide generated increasing political divisions, humanitarian concerns, and public pressure across Western societies.

Within Europe, debates intensified regarding the humanitarian consequences of the conflict, the proportionality of military operations, and the application of international humanitarian law. Public demonstrations, parliamentary discussions, and growing criticism from civil society organisations contributed to mounting pressure on European governments to reassess aspects of their diplomatic positions toward Israel (Akgül-Açıkmeşe & Özel, 2024).

These developments became particularly visible through discussions concerning the future of the European Union-Israel Association Agreement, especially regarding clauses related to human rights and democratic obligations. While a complete suspension of the agreement remains politically improbable, the emergence of such debates reflected a noticeable shift in the European political environment and increasing discomfort with unconditional diplomatic alignment.

At the strategic level, the evolving European position suggested a relative weakening of the unified Western approach that had traditionally characterised responses to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This fragmentation does not necessarily indicate a complete geopolitical rupture between Western governments and Israel; rather, it reflects growing divergence regarding the management of the conflict, the role of international law, and the limits of military responses in contemporary international politics.

From a Neo-Realist perspective, these tensions may also be interpreted as part of broader transformations within the international system. As global power structures become increasingly multipolar, regional conflicts are no longer shaped exclusively by traditional Western influence (Akgül-Açıkmeşe & Özel, 2024). Emerging actors, international legal institutions, and transnational public opinion increasingly contribute to the reconfiguration of geopolitical legitimacy and diplomatic alignments.

Despite these transformations, it remains important to recognise that Western support for Israel continues to retain significant strategic, military, and institutional dimensions, particularly through the continued role of the United States. Consequently, current developments should be understood as a relative adjustment in diplomatic discourse rather than a complete reversal of long-standing geopolitical alliances.

6. CONTOURS OF STRATEGIC VULNERABILITY

6.1 Intelligence Failure and Strategic Surprise

Operation Al-Aqsa Flood represented one of the most significant security and intelligence challenges faced by Israel in recent decades. The operation exposed vulnerabilities within Israeli intelligence assessment, border surveillance systems, and strategic anticipation mechanisms, generating extensive debate within Israeli political and security circles regarding the effectiveness of existing security doctrines.

The scale and coordination of the attack surprised Israeli military and intelligence institutions despite Israel's long-standing reputation for technological superiority and advanced surveillance capabilities. Several reports issued after October 2023 suggested that warning indicators may have been underestimated or insufficiently integrated into operational decision-making processes (Fabian, 2025).

From a strategic perspective, the operation challenged key assumptions underlying Israeli security doctrine, particularly the belief that technological superiority and intelligence dominance could prevent large-scale attacks. The breach of multiple military sites exposed the limitations of relying exclusively on advanced surveillance systems without sufficient adaptation to evolving asymmetric operational tactics.

Within the framework of Deterrence Theory, intelligence credibility constitutes a central component of strategic deterrence. Consequently, the operational surprise associated with October 7 contributed not only to immediate security disruption, but also to broader psychological and political debates concerning institutional preparedness, strategic anticipation, and public confidence in national security structures (Arce & Sandler, 2009).

At the domestic level, the operation intensified political criticism directed toward Israeli military and political leadership. Discussions concerning accountability, intelligence reform, and strategic reassessment became increasingly prominent within Israeli public debate, reflecting broader concerns regarding the sustainability of existing security approaches in confronting non-state armed actors.

6.2 Crisis of Israeli Deterrence

Operation Al-Aqsa Flood generated renewed debates concerning the effectiveness and credibility of Israeli deterrence within the context of asymmetrical warfare. For decades, Israeli security doctrine relied heavily on the assumption that overwhelming military superiority, rapid retaliation, and technological dominance would discourage adversaries from initiating large-scale attacks. However, the events of October 2023 challenged several dimensions of this strategic framework.

The operation demonstrated that non-state armed actors may continue to undertake high-risk military actions despite significant disparities in military capabilities. This development supports arguments within contemporary deterrence studies suggesting that classical deterrence models encounter substantial limitations when confronting ideologically motivated asymmetric actors (Gannon et al., 2024).

The crisis of deterrence extended beyond the military dimension into psychological and political spheres. Public perceptions of security vulnerability increased following the attack, particularly in areas surrounding Gaza. The operation also generated broader debates regarding the credibility of deterrence strategies based primarily on military punishment rather than long-term political conflict management.

Several strategic analyses published after October 2023 argued that repeated military confrontations in Gaza had failed to establish sustainable deterrence despite Israel's military superiority. Instead, armed Palestinian resistance

continued adapting operational tactics, missile capabilities, and asymmetric warfare strategies over successive rounds of conflict.

Nevertheless, it remains important to distinguish between tactical disruption and the complete collapse of Israeli deterrence. Israel continues to possess overwhelming military capabilities, advanced technological infrastructure, and substantial strategic support from international allies, particularly the United States. Its genocide in Gaza and assaults on neighbouring countries were not acts of strength but desperate attempts to re-establish a deterrence posture already shattered by Operation Al-Aqsa Flood. These campaigns of mass violence and regional escalation reveal the fragility of its deterrence rather than its restoration. Accordingly, the post-Flood developments are best understood as a relative reassessment of deterrence effectiveness, a recognition of its erosion, rather than the complete disappearance of Israel's strategic superiority.

6.3 Population Displacement and Security Pressure

The security repercussions of Operation Al-Aqsa Flood extended beyond military and intelligence dimensions to include significant social and demographic consequences within the Zionist state. One of the most notable outcomes was the large-scale displacement of Israeli populations from areas surrounding Gaza and parts of the north, on the borders of Lebanon, following continued military escalation and cross-border attacks.

Reports issued after October 2023 indicated that tens of thousands of residents were temporarily evacuated from border communities due to security concerns and ongoing missile threats. This displacement generated substantial political, economic, and psychological pressure within the Zionist society and contributed to broader public debates regarding their protection, crisis management, and long-term security preparedness (Isakov et al., 2025).

From the perspective of deterrence theory, citizen displacement carries symbolic and strategic implications that extend beyond immediate military calculations. The inability to guarantee a sense of security among populations would affect public confidence in state institutions and influence perceptions regarding the effectiveness of national security policies.

At the same time, it is important to recognise that population displacement recurs throughout prolonged regional confrontations, and is not unique to the Israeli context (Lichtenheld, 2026), the Palestinians have experienced worst, where entire communities were uprooted under conditions of siege and bombardment. Nevertheless, the scale of Israeli displacement following Operation Al-Aqsa Flood generated multidimensional security pressures that transcended conventional battlefield considerations. These developments also intensified internal political discussions concerning the sustainability of existing security doctrines and the broader challenges associated with managing prolonged asymmetric conflicts in densely contested regional environments.

6.4 The Limits of Missile Defence Systems

Operation Al-Aqsa Flood renewed strategic debates concerning the effectiveness and limitations of modern missile defence systems in the context of asymmetrical warfare. Although the Zionist state possesses one of the most advanced multi-layered air defence systems in the world, including the Iron Dome, the events following October 2023 demonstrated that even technologically sophisticated defence infrastructures face operational challenges when confronted with sustained and large-scale missile attacks.

The intensity and frequency of rocket launches placed considerable pressure on Israeli interception systems and highlighted broader strategic questions regarding the relationship between technological superiority and long-term security effectiveness. Several security analyses published after the conflict emphasised that missile defence systems may reduce damage and increase interception rates but cannot entirely eliminate security threats in asymmetric conflict environments.

From a strategic perspective, the operation illustrated the growing complexity of contemporary warfare, where relatively low-cost offensive capabilities may impose significant economic, political, and psychological pressure on technologically advanced states. This dynamic reflects broader debates within security studies concerning the sustainability and economic burden of prolonged missile defence strategies (Elbahtimy, 2022).

Despite operational pressures, Israeli interception technologies continued to prevent levels of destruction that would otherwise have been more catastrophic. Yet the conflict laid bare the operational constraints and strategic adaptation challenges facing these systems; they could mitigate damage but not neutralise the threat. Consequently, the issue is better understood as exposing the limits of effectiveness under sustained pressure, rather than proving the outright ineffectiveness of missile defence systems.

Within the broader framework of deterrence theory, the conflict revealed that military technology alone could not guarantee absolute security protection in prolonged asymmetric confrontations. The illusion of invulnerability collapsed under sustained pressure, revealing that contemporary deterrence rests not merely on advanced weaponry but instead, on the dynamic interplay of military capability, political strategy, intelligence coordination, and conflict management mechanisms.

6.5 Strategic Dependence on the United States

The developments following Operation Al-Aqsa Flood highlighted the continued strategic importance of the United States within Israel's security and geopolitical framework. Throughout the conflict, American military, political, and diplomatic support remained central to Israel's capacity to manage both regional escalation and international political pressure.

The United States provided extensive military assistance, intelligence cooperation, and diplomatic backing in international institutions during the Gaza genocide. This support reinforced the depth of the strategic alliance between the two countries and demonstrated the enduring role of Washington as Israel's principal international partner.

However, the escalation of the conflict in Gaza further complicated the political environment surrounding normalisation initiatives led by the USA. Although public opinion across many Arab societies had already been critical of Israeli policies prior to Operation Al-Aqsa, the intensity of this criticism increased significantly following the genocide (Hallward & Biygautane, 2024). This shift placed additional pressure on governments engaged in diplomatic or economic cooperation with the Zionist state. Consequently, this dynamic contributed to a noticeable slowdown in normalisation momentum.

From a Neo-Realist perspective, strategic alliances emerge primarily from security considerations and balance-of-power calculations. In this context, the USA-Israeli alliance reflects broader American geopolitical interests in maintaining regional influence in the "Middle East". At the same time, evolving international dynamics, including the growing influence of China, Russia, and BRICS-related actors, have introduced new complexities into regional geopolitical competition.

This further demonstrated that contemporary "Middle Eastern" geopolitics can no longer be understood exclusively through traditional bilateral alliances. Instead, regional dynamics increasingly involve overlapping security networks, non-state actors, emerging powers, and transnational political pressures that collectively reshape strategic calculations across the region (Furia & Lucas, 2006).

Consequently, Operation Al-Aqsa Flood highlighted not only immediate military and security challenges, but also broader geopolitical transformations affecting alliance structures, regional deterrence, and the future balance of power in the whole region.

7. CONTOURS OF REGIONAL TRANSFORMATION

7.1 The Slowdown of the Abraham Accords

Operation Al-Aqsa Flood and the subsequent Gaza genocide generated significant pressure on the regional normalisation process initiated through the Abraham Accords. Prior to October 2023, normalisation agreements between the Zionist state and several Arab states had been increasingly presented as a strategic framework for regional stability, economic cooperation, and security coordination within the "Middle East".

However, the escalation of the genocide in Gaza complicated the political environment surrounding normalisation initiatives. Public opinion across many Arab societies became increasingly critical of Israeli military operations, placing additional pressure on governments engaged in diplomatic or economic cooperation with the Zionist state (Hallward & Biygautane, 2024). This dynamic

contributed to a noticeable slowdown in normalisation momentum, most evident in the case of Saudi Arabia, which was reportedly on the verge of establishing diplomatic relations.

Although states participating in the Abraham Accords did not formally suspend diplomatic relations with Israel, the conflict exposed the fragility of normalisation processes in the absence of a broader political resolution to the Palestinian question. The Gaza genocide demonstrated that regional normalisation remains closely connected to developments in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and continues to face important political and societal constraints.

The slowdown of normalisation initiatives reflects broader tensions between state-centred strategic calculations and transnational public opinion within the Arab world. While governments may prioritise economic and security cooperation, prolonged regional conflicts continue to shape political legitimacy and influence regional diplomatic behaviour.

At the same time, it is vital to recognise that Operation Al-Aqsa Flood rendered open normalization with the Zionist state politically impossible. The genocide in Gaza and regional assaults shattered the legitimacy of engagement, compelling states that had flirted with normalisation to retreat, conceal, or downplay any existing ties (Yetim & Kaşıkçı, 2025). While certain forms of strategic cooperation in economic, technological, and security sectors persist discreetly, the post-Flood environment transformed normalisation from a public project into a hidden, fragile arrangement. Accordingly, these developments should be understood not as a total collapse of normalisation frameworks, but as a forced retreat into secrecy and strategic reassessment.

7.2 The Emergence of New Regional Actors

The regional repercussions of Operation Al-Aqsa Flood also highlighted the increasing strategic role of non-state armed actors within the region's geopolitics. Groups aligned with Iran, including Hezbollah and the Houthis, became more visibly involved in regional escalation dynamics following the Gaza genocide, contributing to the expansion of interconnected security fronts across the region.

These developments reflected the growing complexity of regional conflict structures in the "Middle East", where state and non-state actors increasingly interact within overlapping security environments. The conflict demonstrated that regional deterrence dynamics are no longer determined exclusively through conventional state-to-state military relations, but also through decentralised networks of armed actors operating across multiple geographic arenas.

The growing involvement of these actors also intensified concerns regarding regional escalation and maritime security, particularly in relation to attacks affecting Red Sea navigation routes. These developments generated broader

international reactions and reinforced the strategic importance of maritime trade corridors within global geopolitical competition.

From a Neo-Realist perspective, the increasing influence of non-state actors may be understood within the context of regional power competition and shifting alliance structures. Regional actors frequently employ indirect strategic networks to expand influence, manage security pressures, and enhance deterrence capabilities without engaging in direct large-scale interstate confrontation. At the same time, alternative interpretations frame the support provided by states such as Iran to certain non-state entities as a form of backing for groups perceived as victims of imperialism or armed aggression (Valbjørn et al., 2024). This highlights how the role of non-state actors can be understood through competing analytical and normative perspectives.

By acknowledging that stability is contested at the regional level, audiences grasp the decisive influence of armed non-state actors and are compelled to pay closer attention. Far from being mere sources of instability, their actions are framed by many as resistance to Zionist aggression, challenging the assumption that their absence would yield greater order or predictability. Indeed, the period leading up to Operation Al-Aqsa Flood was hardly more stable, with Israel's aggression in the West Bank and further afield. The Flood of Al-Aqsa revealed that resistance forces are not peripheral but central to shaping outcomes, and reshaping the trajectory of the conflict. Their persistence signals the progressive breakdown of the conventional regional security architecture, transforming the geopolitical landscape into one where resistance has become an indispensable actor in defining the future balance of power.

7.3 The Expanding Role of BRICS and Emerging Powers

The geopolitical repercussions of the Gaza genocide unfolded within a broader international context characterised by the gradual transition toward a more multipolar global order. In this environment, emerging powers such as China and Russia, alongside expanding frameworks such as BRICS, have increasingly sought to strengthen their political and economic influence within the “Middle East”.

The expansion of BRICS membership to include several Arab states reflected broader transformations in international geopolitical alignments. These developments indicated the growing willingness of regional actors to diversify strategic partnerships beyond traditional Western-centred alliances.

Within this context, Operation Al-Aqsa Flood accelerated discussions concerning the future of regional order, strategic autonomy, and the declining exclusivity of American influence in “Middle Eastern” geopolitics. China's diplomatic engagement, Russia's regional positioning, and the broader emergence of alternative geopolitical blocs contributed to increasing international competition over regional influence.

Nevertheless, it remains important to recognise that emerging powers have not replaced the strategic role historically played by the United States in the region. Rather, current developments suggest a gradual diversification of geopolitical partnerships within an increasingly competitive international system. From a Neo-Realist perspective, these transformations reflect broader processes of balance-of-power adjustment occurring within periods of international systemic transition. In this context, regional conflicts are inseparable from global geopolitical rivalries, binding the struggle of resistance forces to the wider strategic competition among major powers.

7.4 Declining American Influence and Regional Complexity

The Gaza genocide contributed to renewed debates regarding the future of American influence in the region. Although the United States remained the principal external actor during the conflict and in diplomatic management, the crisis revealed growing challenges confronting Washington's traditional regional leadership. What once appeared as uncontested dominance now faces erosion, as resistance movements and shifting geopolitical dynamics steadily undermine the credibility and sustainability of USA regional authority.

The prolonged nature of the conflict, increasing international criticism, and the expansion of regional tensions highlighted the limitations of unilateral influence within an increasingly fragmented geopolitical environment. Simultaneously, regional actors demonstrated greater strategic flexibility through diversified diplomatic and economic partnerships involving China, Russia, and emerging multilateral frameworks. However, the notion of a complete American withdrawal from the "Middle East" remains analytically inaccurate. The United States continues to maintain substantial military presence, strategic alliances, and institutional influence across the region. What appears to be emerging instead is a more complex geopolitical environment characterised by competitive influence rather than exclusive dominance.

Consequently, Operation Al-Aqsa Flood may be interpreted as part of a broader process of geopolitical transition in which regional and international actors increasingly operate within a multipolar and strategically contested "Middle Eastern" order.

8. DISCUSSION

8.1 Operation Al-Aqsa Flood as a Geopolitical Turning Point

The findings of this study suggest that Operation Al-Aqsa Flood should not be understood solely as a military confrontation, but rather as a broader geopolitical turning point that generated multidimensional regional and international repercussions. The operation reshaped diplomatic discourse, intensified legal debates, and contributed to renewed geopolitical polarisation across the "Middle East".

Unlike previous rounds of confrontation between Israelis and Palestinian resistance, the post-October 2023 environment demonstrated the extent to which localised conflicts may rapidly acquire international geopolitical significance within an increasingly interconnected and contested global system. The conflict became linked not only to regional security concerns, but also to broader questions involving international legitimacy, multipolarity, and strategic competition among global actors.

The study's findings therefore support the argument that contemporary geopolitical shocks can accelerate transformations already emerging within the international system, particularly during periods characterised by declining unipolar dominance and increasing fragmentation of global political authority.

8.2 Rethinking Deterrence in Asymmetrical Conflicts

The findings also contribute to contemporary debates within deterrence theory, particularly regarding the limitations of classical deterrence models in asymmetric warfare environments. The events following Operation Al-Aqsa Flood demonstrated that overwhelming military superiority does not necessarily prevent non-state armed actors from undertaking large-scale operations or generating significant political and psychological effects.

This observation supports arguments advanced in recent security studies literature suggesting that asymmetric actors frequently operate according to strategic logics that differ from traditional state-centred deterrence calculations. Ideological motivations, symbolic objectives, and long-term political narratives may reduce the effectiveness of deterrence strategies based exclusively on military retaliation.

At the same time, the study does not support simplistic interpretations suggesting the disappearance of Israeli military advantage. Rather, the findings indicate the emergence of a more complex deterrence environment characterised by continuous adaptation, operational flexibility, and evolving asymmetric capabilities on both sides of the conflict.

Consequently, the study suggests that future regional security dynamics in the "Middle East" are likely to depend increasingly on hybrid forms of deterrence combining military, technological, political, psychological, and informational dimensions.

8.3 Regional Realignment and Multipolar Transition

The study further demonstrates that the geopolitical repercussions of Operation Al-Aqsa Flood unfolded within a broader context of international systemic transition. Regional developments following the Gaza genocide reflected growing multipolar dynamics characterised by the diversification of alliances, the expansion of emerging geopolitical actors, and the gradual erosion of exclusive Western influence in the "Middle East".

The increasing visibility of China, Russia, BRICS-related frameworks, and regional non-state actors indicates that “Middle Eastern” geopolitics is becoming progressively more fragmented and strategically contested. This transformation does not necessarily imply the disappearance of American influence, but rather the emergence of a more competitive geopolitical environment involving multiple regional and international centres of influence.

From a Neo-Realist perspective, these developments illustrate how regional conflicts frequently become interconnected with wider balance-of-power transformations within the international system. Strategic alliances, diplomatic alignments, and regional normalisation processes are therefore increasingly shaped by broader geopolitical competition rather than exclusively local dynamics.

The findings also suggest that normalisation initiatives in the “Middle East” are structurally fragile, collapsing under the weight of major regional crises. The Gaza genocide and the Flood of Al-Aqsa made it politically untenable for states to openly pursue normalisation with the Zionist state, forcing them to retreat, conceal, or downplay any ties. Unresolved political conflicts continue to shape public opinion, regional legitimacy, and strategic stability, ensuring that normalisation remains vulnerable to disruption and incapable of providing a durable framework for regional order.

8.4 International Legitimacy and the Palestinian Question

One of the most important implications emerging from this study concerns the renewed internationalisation of the Palestinian question following Operation Al-Aqsa Flood. The increasing involvement of international legal institutions, renewed diplomatic recognition initiatives, and expanding global debates concerning accountability indicate that the Palestinian issue regained significant visibility within international political discourse after years of relative marginalisation.

The findings suggest that international legitimacy has become an increasingly central dimension of contemporary geopolitical conflict. Legal discourse, humanitarian narratives, diplomatic recognition, and international public opinion now play a more influential role in shaping political perceptions and strategic positioning within the international system.

However, the study also highlights the continued gap between legal legitimacy and geopolitical power realities. Despite growing legal and diplomatic pressure, major international actors continue to shape the practical limits of international accountability through strategic alliances and geopolitical interests.

Accordingly, the future trajectory of the Palestinian question is likely to depend not only on military developments, but also on the ability of regional and international actors to transform symbolic legitimacy into sustainable political and diplomatic influence within an evolving international order.

9. CONCLUSION

Operation Al-Aqsa Flood was a large-scale geopolitical event with regional and international implications, highlighting vulnerabilities in deterrence frameworks. Recognising these impacts can help policymakers understand the urgency of adapting strategies amidst ongoing developments at the regional and global levels, whether in diplomacy, law, security, or geopolitics.

The study also showed that the conflict has revived international interest in the Palestinian question, as reflected in the multiplication of diplomatic recognition efforts, the broadening of legal arguments debated in international adjudicative fora, and the heightening of international discourse on humanitarian law and political legitimacy. The regional level of the war heightened tensions in evolving normalisation efforts, underscoring the vital role that non-state actors – such as Hamas, Palestinian civil society groups, and regional militias– play in moving states toward war or peace, and fuelling important discussions among policymakers and analysts about the future balance of power in the region. Further exploration of these actors' influence can enhance understanding of conflict escalation and resolution strategies.

From a security standpoint, the results indicate that Operation Al-Aqsa Flood revealed vulnerabilities in deterrence frameworks. This highlights the importance of adopting multifaceted security strategies that include political, psychological, informational, and societal elements, encouraging policymakers and analysts to feel empowered to develop more resilient approaches.

Additionally, the study demonstrated that the conflict's geopolitical consequences unfolded against a backdrop of a slow multipolar transition and increased geopolitical fragmentation. Additionally, the growing influence of new powers, global legal institutions, and transnational public opinion underscores the increasingly multifaceted nature of both current geopolitical phenomena and conflict-resolution mechanisms.

In theory, this research builds on existing scholarship on deterrence theory and Neo-Realist frameworks by demonstrating that regional militarised shocks trigger trans- and inter-state reconfigurations of geopolitical alignment by altering situated diplomatic and strategic interactions during periods of global-scale systemic transition.

However, the study has several limitations. The nature of the conflict changes too quickly for geopolitical developments to remain static. In contrast, some military and some intelligence data remain politically controversial or hard to evaluate. Moreover, it focused mainly on geopolitical and strategic aspects, while not covering humanitarian, sociological, and economic effects in much detail.

The durable impact of Operation Al-Aqsa Flood on regional security configurations, asymmetric warfare, and the transformation of deterrence, Arab-

Israeli normalisation and prospects for the future, and international legal institutions and the quest for geopolitical legitimacy in the Middle East: these and much more are topics that cry out for engagement and policy development.

The study ultimately proposes to consider Operation Al-Aqsa Flood not only as another military operation in the space, but as an outgrowth of a series of related ruptures that speak to a new set of geopolitical drivers fundamentally changing the way “Middle Eastern” states align politically, the nature of international legitimacy, and the new balance of power within the broader context of the contemporary region.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Abdul Azeez, I.A., & Ali, M.B.T. (2025). Diplomatic immunity and Human Rights: A Critical Analysis. *International Journal of Applied and Advanced Multidisciplinary Research (IJAMR)*, 3(2), 71–80.
- Akgül-Açıkmeşe, S., & Özel, S. (2024). EU Policy towards the Israel-Palestine Conflict: The Limitations of Mitigation Strategies. *The International Spectator*, 59(1), 59–78. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03932729.2024.2309664>
- Anouti, H., & Fleming, A. L. (2026). Al-Aqsa Flood: Misstep or Grand Strategy? The Geopolitics of Non-state Actors in a Globally Unstable Paradigm. *Contemporary Review of the Middle East*, 13(2), 261-290. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23477989251405562>
- Arad, S. (2025). Israel's national security concept: Functional incoherence and the October 7 disaster. *Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)*. www.inss.org.il/strategic_assessment/perception
- Arce, D., & Sandler, T. (2009). Deterrence: Credibility and proportionality. *Economics & Politics*, 21(3), 384–408. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-0343.2009.00352.x>
- Baram, G., & Ben Israel, I. (2025). Redefining vigilance: reevaluating the meaning of early warning in Israel's security doctrine and the October 7 attack. *Intelligence and National Security*, 40(3), 470–485. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02684527.2025.2466267>
- Berg, R. (2024, April 24). Former head of ICJ explains ruling on genocide case against Israel brought by South Africa? BBC News. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-68906919>
- Boxerman, A., Bubola, E., & Levenson, M. (2024, May 22). Spain, Norway and Ireland recognize Palestinian state, further isolating Israel. *The New York Times*. www.nytimes.com/2024/05/22/world/middleeast/spain-norway-ireland-palestinian-statehood-israel.html
- Chipkin, I. (2025). From revolution to anti-imperialism: Does South Africa's ICJ case against Israel help resolve the organic crisis within the ANC? *South African Journal of International Affairs*, 32(4), 531–551. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10220461.2025.2587021>
- El-Awaisi, K., & Yavuz, C. (2020). The Future of Al-Aqsa Mosque in the Light of Trump's Deal of the Century. *Insight Turkey*, 22(3), 215-236.
- Elbahtimy, H. (2022). *Ballistic and cruise missiles in the Middle East: the current landscape and options for arms control*. London: The International Institute for Strategic Studies.

- Fabian, E. (2025, February 27). IDF's Oct. 7 probes show it misread Hamas for years, left southern Israel utterly vulnerable. *The Times of Israel*. www.timesofisrael.com/idfs-oct-7-probes-show-it-misread-hamas-for-years-left-southern-israel-utterly-vulnerable
- Furia, P.A. & Lucas, R.E. (2006). Determinants of Arab Public Opinion on Foreign Relations, *International Studies Quarterly*, 50(3), 585–605, <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-2478.2006.00415.x>
- Gannon, J. A., Gartzke, E., Lindsay, J. R., & Schram, P. (2024). The Shadow of Deterrence: Why Capable Actors Engage in Contests Short of War. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 68(2–3), 230–268. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00220027231166345>
- Ghuloom, M. (2025). Between Arab Solidarity and the Abraham Accords: Bahrain at the UNSC. *Observer Research Foundation*. www.orfonline.org/research/between-arab-solidarity-and-the-abraham-accords-bahrain-at-the-unscc
- Hallward, M. C., & Biygautane, T. (2024). Arab State Narratives on Normalization with Israel: Justifying Policy Reversal. *Contemporary Review of the Middle East*, 11(1), 23–49. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23477989231220444>
- International Court of Justice (ICJ). (2024). *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel): Provisional measures*. www.icj-cij.org/case/192
- Isakov, N.F., Levi-Shahar, M., Balmakov, Y., Yunis R.M., Endevelt, R. & Magnazi, M. B. (2025). Detrimental Changes in Individual Health-Promoting Behaviors Among Internally Displaced Israelis. *International Journal of Public Health*, 70 (1607794). <https://doi.org/10.3389/ijph.2025.1607794>
- Kassir, K. (2023). *The Phrases “Unity of Fields [of Battle]”, “Unity of Fronts” or “Axis of Resistance”*: Between Slogan and Reality. Policy Paper, Issue: 001. Institute for Palestine Studies. www.palestine-studies.org/en/node/1654679
- Kyris, G. (2025). The Recognition of a Right to Statehood and Palestine. *Ethnopolitics*, 24(5), 511–521. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17449057.2024.2362510>
- Kurt, M. (2025). Review: Al-Aqsa Flood as a Turning Point: Historical Roots, Israel's Response, and the Colonial Question. *Insight Turkey*, 27 (3), 315–326. <https://doi.org/10.25253/99.2025273.17>
- Landale, J. (2024, May 28). Spain, Norway and Ireland recognise Palestinian state. *BBC News*. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cl77drw22qjo>
- Levite, A. E. (2024, February 21). Israeli security after October 7. *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*. <https://carnegieendowment.org/research/2024/02/israeli-security-after-october-7>
- Lichtenheld, A. (2026). Armed Conflict and Internal Displacement. In D.Cantor et al. (Ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Internal Displacement*, (pp. 83–96). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Lupovici, A. (2024). Israeli Deterrence and the October 7 Attack. *Strategic Assessment*, 27(1), 60–80. www.inss.org.il/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Amir-Lupovici.pdf
- Madani, L. (2024). Reassessing Peace: The Implications of the Abraham Accords for Conflict Resolution in the Gulf Region. *Asian Journal of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies*, 18(3), 260–281. <https://doi.org/10.1080/25765949.2024.2416845>
- Mengüaslan, H. (2025). Aksa Tufanı Sonrası Filistin Meselesi: Küresel Üstünlük Mücadelesinin Yansımaları [The Palestinian Question in the aftermath of the ‘al-Aqsa Flood’: The Implications of the Struggle for Global Supremacy]. *İletişim ve Diplomasi, Filistin Özel Sayısı*, 39–58. <https://doi.org/10.54722/iletisimvediplomasi.1631725>

- Mercan, M. (2023). Operation al-Aqsa Flood: A Rupture in the History of the Palestinian Resistance and Its Implications. *Insight Turkey*, 25(4), 79–90. <https://doi.org/10.25253/99.2023254.6>
- Samuel, M. T. (2023). The Israel-Hamas War: Historical Context and International Law. *Middle East Policy*, 30:3–9. <https://doi.org/10.1111/mepo.12723>
- Stefănoaia, M. (2025). The Challenges of International Justice Amid Geopolitical Realities. *Proceedings of the International Conference on Future of Social Sciences and Humanities*, 3(1), 1–9.
- Syarifa, N., & Prabandari, A. (2025). Palestine’s Struggle for Statehood in the Pursuit of International Recognition. *International Journal of Social Science Research and Review*, 8(4), 65-72. <https://doi.org/10.47814/ijssrr.v8i4.2608>
- The Guardian. (2025, September 22). Israeli politicians react bitterly to international recognitions of Palestinian state.
- Valbjørn, M., Bank, A., & Darwich, M. (2024). Forward to the past? Regional repercussions of the Gaza war. *Middle East Policy*, 31(3), 3-17.
- van Steenberghe, R. (2024). The armed conflict in Gaza, and its complexity under international law: Jus ad bellum, jus in bello, and international justice. *Leiden Journal of International Law*, 37(4), 983–1017. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0922156524000220>
- Waltz, K. N. (1979). *Theory of International Politics*. New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Waltz, K. N. (2007). *Theory of International Politics* (pp. 167–212). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Original work published 1979).
- Yetim, M., & Kaşıkçı, T. (2025). Revisiting normalization dynamics between the Gulf Cooperation Council and Israel from ‘other’ to ‘regional partner’? *Middle Eastern Studies*, 61(3), 329–342. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00263206.2025.2455384>