The Role of International Organizations in Promoting Peace and Security in the Middle East

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Abstract

This study aims to enhance the effectiveness of international organizations in promoting peace and security in the Middle East. It examines current international cooperation and the growing hesitance of states towards these organizations. The research evaluates how international governmental organizations contribute to world peace, the validity of their claims, and the theories explaining their actions. It also explores the role of these organizations in regional security and recommends ways to improve their effectiveness. Using the "shorthand to absurd" method, the study highlights that international actors often face complex situations without clear solutions and cannot rely on force. Instead, it advocates for a peaceful approach by simplifying these complexities. Ultimately, the article emphasizes the need to address peace, security, development, and human rights in the Middle East. The article asserts that the international community must intensify its efforts to secure lasting peace in the region. The United Nations Security Council, along with the League of Nations, the General Assembly, and various international organizations, has been essential in establishing the critical norms that uphold global peace and security, especially in the Middle East.

Keywords: *International organizations, Middle East, Peace and security, United Nations (UN), Development.*

Introduction

Context and Background

International organizations have been playing an increasingly important role in the promotion of peace and security on a global level. Through their work, international organizations have made prominent efforts to help their member states live free from war and to maintain international peace and security, which underlines the preamble of the United Nations Charter. This is a pursuit that requires the active cooperation of all nation-states as well as many other entities formed with sufficiently similar interests, so long as they are respectful of the prevailing principles of international law and norms governing the behavior of sovereign states. While the role of international organizations has been pivotal in different regions of the world, the

purposes of Article 1(1) of the United Nations Charter are crucial in the Middle East due to human suffering and war.

The history of the Middle East is marred with consistent geopolitical tensions, as well as social-political unrest and conflict. The region is at civil war, plagued with sectarian violence and intractable territorial disputes jeopardising the peace and security of the region for regional governments as well as the global community.
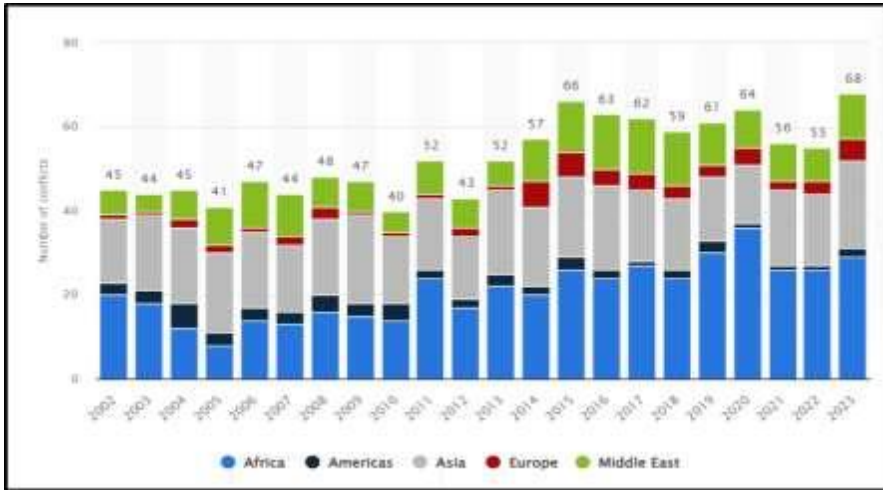

Figure 1: *Number of state-based conflicts worldwide from 2002 to 2023, by region*
(Source: Statista.com, 2024)

It is a dispute, resulting from the relationship between civil war in Syria and Arab Israelis engulfed in war. In this regard, International Organizations such as the United Nations (UN) NATO and International Regional organizations suffer despite their impact on a long-term basis. They are very limited in their ability to mitigate the escalation of violence during conflicts or assist after a conflict (Chakhava, 2022). They deploy peacekeeping operations, and diplomacy, and strategically interpose their military to keep security challenges under control and enhance regional stability. The effectiveness and bona fides of these interventions are still a hotly debated issue.

Research Objectives

This study aims to address key aspects of international efforts in the Middle East, specifically:

● To assess the effectiveness of international interventions, such as military presence and peacekeeping missions, in mitigating conflicts within affected regions.

● To evaluate the significance of peacekeeping and diplomatic initiatives as preventive strategies for maintaining long-term peace and avoiding future conflicts.

● To analyse the legitimacy and role of these organisations in building sustainable security frameworks and promoting regional stability.

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Literature Review

Historical Role of International Organizations

International organisations have largely been decisive in managing the conflicts which have arisen in the Middle Eastern region. With a record of not only managing peacekeeping missions, observing truces and providing humanitarian assistance in violent theatres like Lebanon, Syria and Palestine for decades, the United Nations (UN) also made some of these flash-war fires better known (Myers & Dorn, 2022). NATO has increased security in the region with military interventions, training and partnerships often in Afghanistan or Iraq. As a regional body, the Arab League has been working towards mediation and ceasefires. Rival organisations have been less successful, and political instability and deep-seated ethnic tensions present major hurdles to any lasting peace.

Economic Development and Peace

Economic Development is instrumental in Peace and Stability, particularly in conflict-prone areas like the Middle East. Economic growth, by reducing socio-economic disparities and offering gainful employment and avenues for social mobility, is one way to increase the likelihood of conflict (Fakoussa & Kabis-Kechrid, 2022). Efforts to build peace have also envisaged international organisations, such as the -UN and World Bank, promoting initiatives for infrastructural reconstruction, trade and investment in South Asia. Economic dependencies among mutual nations can also create leverage for cooperation, as economies tend to benefit from peaceful co-dependencies. Investigating this through an economic development lens has long been seen to contribute to long-term peace if not also slowly tackling the roots of conflict by lifting living standards and eradicating poverty.

Challenges Facing International Organisations

International organisations and peace in the Middle East faced different challenges. Peacebuilding is further complicated by the presence of entrenched ethnic and sectarian divisions; this has led to deep divides between Sunni and Shia groups (Zaiter, 2020). The political fragility (due to regime changes) and governance vulnerability also prevent the necessary long-term strategies to achieve peace in conflict-prone societies. Prime among these are socio-economic disparities where poverty and unemployment often lead to discontent and extremism. Limited resources, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and competing interests within organisations such as the UN and NATO also impede their ability to address crises efficiently; all combine to delay or limit the success of peace initiatives (Coleman, Lundgren & Oksamytna, 2021).

Previous Studies on Conflict Resolution

Several new studies suggest that the role of international actors in addressing regional tension in the Middle East may be more limited than often assumed. UN peacekeeping missions, like UNIFIL in Southern Lebanon, can help low-tier actors remain compliant with escalatory dynamics between state-indirect adversaries (such as preventing direct hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah), though achieving enduring stability is much more difficult (reuters.com, 2024). On the other hand,

created in 1978, UNIFIL has enforced the cease-fire line along the Israel-Lebanon border and its 2024 report said it was vital for both sides to cooperate more to avoid a new round of fighting. But their ability to do these missions is also limited by political considerations and a lack of means.

Other recent results of the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2023 reveal an increase in military expenditures in the region, but peace indicators are worse due to political instability and external conflicts (sipri.org, 2024). The report also emphasises tackling socio-economic inequalities and encouraging economic development, as economies growing countries are more likely to sustain peace.

The literature is increasingly replete with calls for comprehensive peacebuilding globally, but less dramatic than the idea of intervention in military form encompassing inclusion, diplomatic interventions and on-the-ground military activities where international organisations like the U.N. cooperate with national governments to address root causes of conflict. This serves as a critically important caution that, though international organisations may have aided in conflicts which are based here to some extent, Middle Eastern civil wars must be addressed using a multifaceted approach.

The author of this article clarified that The future of security in the Middle East is of vital interest, not only to the countries in the region but also to the entire world. The Middle East region holds significant strategic importance due to its vast energy resources, which are essential for global needs. The free movement of these resources through key sea lanes is an international responsibility and concern. Additionally, the Middle East has the potential to become a focal point for a nuclear balance between global superpowers.

Essentially, the security and peace of the Middle East represent a major international interest that cannot be left solely to the region's governments. The Arab-Israeli conflicts—particularly concerning Palestine, the Golan Heights, Southern Lebanon, and the West Bank—have led to wars and numerous official Arab summits, impacting the international standing and perspectives of the involved nations.

Theoretical Framework

Peace and Security Theories:

The question of the role of international organizations in promoting peace is not a new topic. The issue of how to ensure security has not been satisfactorily resolved. Major efforts to address security and peace at the international level have mainly been framed in theoretical or "legalistic" terms. Until now, concepts and insights from reality theory have primarily been applied to relations among states, with a focus on power distribution as the key factor influencing behavior. This approach is based on socio-psychological assumptions that have been validated for understanding individual and group behavior.

However, in a world characterized by interdependencies among states, these perspectives increasingly conflict with the actual dynamics of our global situation. This raises an important question: Is there not a need for a reality theory of international relations that acknowledges and incorporates the current realities of the world?

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When states acquire extensive knowledge, institutional complexes tend to develop around specific functions. As a result, the decision-making areas of individual states become increasingly interdependent. This interdependence does not always stem from urgent pressures that necessitate immediate action. In situations where the urgency is not as pronounced, the consequences of inaction can later be perceived as disastrous.

In recent years, the effectiveness and relevance of international organizations have been called into question. This has prompted me to apply concepts and insights from reality theory to the widely debated principle that international organizations are expected to help maintain peace.

The first challenge is determining whether an overview of international organizations, referred to as "legal," can be better understood through the lens of reality perspectives. The subsequent challenge is to explore whether various proposed methods for addressing their "malfunctioning" might also be subject to similar criticisms.

Only after establishing positions based on reality theory can we discuss the implications of the increasing recognition of international organizations as potential peacekeepers.

Theories of peace and security seek to examine methods that can prevent or respond most successfully to conflicts by stressing the importance of collective action in maintaining global peace and deterring aggression at a level through institutions, e.g., the United Nations (UN). Conflict resolution theory views negotiation and mediation as a way to work out agreements in conflict without the use of violence (Ruhe, 2021). In this situation, given how people understand citizens and governance tools that could help build peace and stability is by use a peacebuilding framework which aims for sustainable peace to address the root causes of conflict e.g., poverty, and inequality with programs which advocate for social justice like development programs.

Role of International Organizations:

International organisations such as the United Nations (UN) North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Arab League on the other hand contribute towards peace and stability in conflict-ridden places like the Middle East through mediation missions offering humanitarian needs to bolster support for peace accords (Costantini & Hanau Santini, 2022). Today they help with campaigns and peacekeeping, negotiating ceasefires and delivering humanitarian aid between warring groups. These organisations focus on keeping peace operations, and regional stability to help in reconstruction endeavours to keep a secure environment for the long term. However, they face hindrances like unstable nature and social diversity. To get the most out of the security results efficiently as a firm, international organizations need to enhance collaboration as well as fuse innovation with adversarial thinking and fine-tune strategies interior upon regional peculiar circumstances.

Methodology

This research starts by evaluating the impact of international organisations in terms of peace and security through measures of conflict reduction and peace treaty effectiveness, as well as economic development following surveys with organisations like the United Nations (UN) and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) for policy analysis in Middle East issue areas. In that case, the deductive approach was used to examine the real facts.

This study will examine international involvement in the region through research focused on Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon. An online survey will be conducted with both community members and government officials, involving a total of 89 respondents. They will provide their perceptions regarding peace-building processes. The study will analyse the data to reveal correlations between interventions and security trends, as well as to identify lessons learned for future projects.

Analysis and Findings

Statistical Analysis

Demographic analysis

	frequncy	Gender Percent	Vaild Percent	Cumulative Percent
Female	12	13.3	13.3	14.4
Male	72	80.0	80.0	94.4
Others	5	5.6	5.6	
Total	89	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 1: Gender Distribution
(Source: IBM SPSS)

The tables do show very high male over-representation where 80 percent of respondents were men). The sample contains 13.3 percent of females, and "Others" accounted for 5.6 percent.
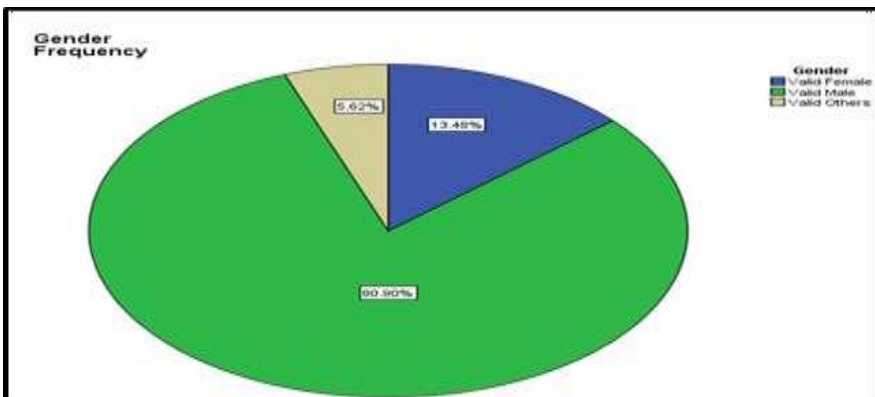

Figure 2: Gender Distribution
(Source: IBM SPSS)

Such underrepresentation of females and non-binary individuals might impact the completeness of data. It may also provide different insights, albeit gendered ones, into how well international organisations have worked.

Age_Group				
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	25-30	5	5.6	5.6	6.7
	31-35	33	36.7	36.7	43.3
	36-45	33	36.7	36.7	80.0
	46-55	18	20.0	20.0	100.0
	Total	89	100.0	100.0	

Table 2: Age Distribution
(Source: IBM SPSS)

As for the distribution table, most of the respondents belong to the 31-35 and 36-45 groups, with 20 percent from the 46-55 group. Only 5.6 percent of survey takers are the 25-30 group. In this case, the 25-30 age group might have been more influenced by global geopolitical shifts and continuous international actions, which could explain the results for this group.
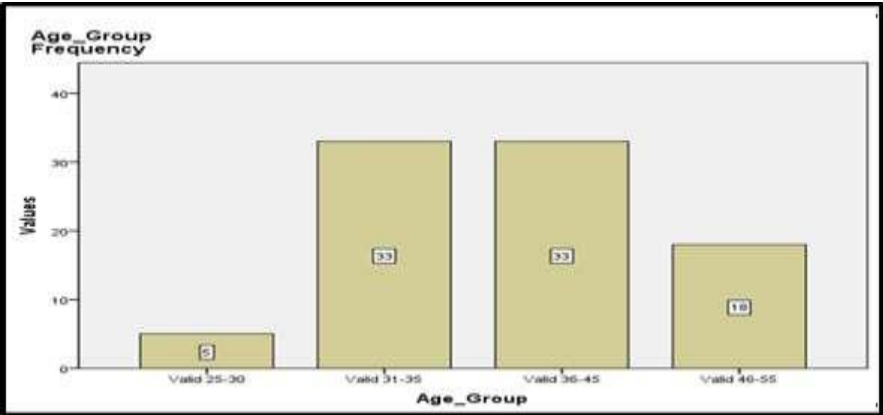

Figure 3: Age Distribution
(Source: IBM SPSS)

The 31-45 group is represented and presumably reflects a slightly more experienced understanding of conflict resolution and peace formation.

Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
DV_Security_Outcomes	89	3.00	15.00	10.8764	4.66812
IV1_Conflict_Reduction_Rates	89	3.00	15.00	11.4831	4.66640
IV2_Peace_Agreement_Success	89	3.00	15.00	11.4607	4.63940
IV3_Economic_Development	89	3.00	15.00	8.5281	4.93155
Valid N (listwise)	89				

Table 3: Descriptive analysis
(Source: IBM SPSS)

Descriptive statistics are shown; the highest mean score (11.48) is for Conflict Reduction Rates, meaning that respondents see very favourably how much international organisations can contribute to reducing conflict. Peace Agreement Success follows closely behind with a modest average of 11.46, indicating that peace agreements are also well valued for how they contribute to stability. Improvements by Security Outcomes score slightly lower where the mean value was 10.88. While Economic Development lags, the mean value was 8.53 reflective of satisfaction with efforts to grow the economy Standard deviations are of moderate size across all variables, ranging from 4.64 to 4.93. This is base information to be analysed further.

Hypothesis Testing

H1: Increased interventions by international organisations lead to higher security outcomes in the Middle East, mediated by successful peace agreements and economic development initiatives.

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.978ᵃ	.957	.956	.98452

a. Predictors: (Constant), IV3_Economic_Development, IV1_Conflict_Reduction_Rates, IV2_Peace_Agreement_Success

ANOVAᵃ

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	1835.252	3	611.751	631.142	.000ᵇ
	Residual	82.388	85	.969		
	Total	1917.640	88			

a. Dependent Variable: DV_Security_Outcomes

b. Predictors: (Constant), IV3_Economic_Development, IV1_Conflict_Reduction_Rates, IV2_Peace_Agreement_Success

Coefficientsᵃ

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	-.504	.288		-1.751	.084
	IV1_Conflict_Reduction_Rates	.314	.140	.314	2.251	.027
	IV2_Peace_Agreement_Success	.656	.140	.652	4.667	.000
	IV3_Economic_Development	.031	.024	.032	1.271	.207

a. Dependent Variable: DV_Security_Outcomes

Table 4: Regression analysis
(Source: IBM SPSS)

The model has a very high R-value of 0.978 which means the independent variables (Conflict Reduction Rates, Peace Agreement Success and Economic Development) are strongly correlated with dependent variables (Security Outcomes). The R Square value of 0.957 shows that the model explains 95.7 percent of the variance in security outcomes meaning a very good fit. The ANOVA shows a highly significant F-statistic of 631.142 with a p-value of 0.000, confirming that the model is statistically significant and the independent variables combined explain a sizable percentage of variation in a dependent variable Security Outcomes.

β coefficient value of 0·314 and a p value of 0·027 for conflict reduction rates under research (β coefficient), reflects the significance of those answers in improving safety results. However, the significant predictor with highest p value is success of peace agreements: B = 0·656; SE = 0·075 where the p value is less than 0·001. In

comparison, the effect of economic development is statistically non-significant (B = 0·031; p = 0·207).

Discussion

The analysis shows a very significant positive relationship (coefficient = 0.656; p = 0.000) between success in peace agreements and security in the eastern regions of DRC On the other hand one more thing which could be noticed is also reducing conflicts has a highly considerable effect on security (coefficient = 0.314; p = 0.027) showing how it is essential to decrease violence in order to gain stability Yet economic indicators has a significant and negative impact (p = 0.207) suggesting that concentrating only on the economy may not lead expected result without applying political and social policies International organisations should struggle with mitigating conflicts all over the world including developing peace agreements in the region so as to increase standard of security (MacFarlane, 2023).

Territorial clashes are multifaceted retiring from a long-standing sense of getting short-thrift and political reasons as well as intrinsic social imbalances in societies crosswise; solutions should challenge fundamental questions including basic issues like governance difficulties and destitution, alongside significant financial progress, along with strong diplomatic endeavours to bring peace all-inclusive.

Significant procedures and norms are established at the international level to ensure fairness and acceptance within the global community. The intergovernmental nature of many international organizations facilitates faster exchanges and common positioning during crises. Various multilateral institutions have developed strategies for prevention, response, and recovery, particularly financial organizations and the European Union, which leverage community resources and cooperation.

Political and security organizations play an essential role in mediating conflicts and helping parties find common political solutions. The international community often looks to these organizations for peacekeeping and peace-building efforts. However, effective crisis management requires a strategic, operational, and consensus-driven framework, along with improved articulation and efficiency among these structures.

Attempts to secure peace and stability in the Middle East have significant implications. The influence of international organizations has typically been analyzed through liberal and realist perspectives, necessitating reevaluation within this context. This paper discusses their role in promoting regional security and highlights the importance of international mediation, particularly with the deadlock in negotiations since the 1990s.

Achieving complete peace and security in the Middle East seems unlikely due to ongoing tensions, disputes, and terrorism, which escalate the regional crisis and affect global security. The United Nations has a longstanding commitment to peace in the region, addressing issues like the Israeli-Arab conflict and nuclear non-proliferation, particularly with Iran. Economic sanctions have been imposed to uphold non-proliferation agreements, driven by the potential global impact of crises in the region.

In addition, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons is engaged in discussions on creating a comprehensive legal framework for chemical disarmament, especially in light of their tactical use during the Iran-Iraq War. The

international community remains focused on developing legal structures to foster peace and security, seeking agreements for both chemical and nuclear disarmament.

Conclusion

Summary of Key Findings

In today's volatile world, international peace and security are vital themes on the global agenda. Throughout history, these objectives have challenged leaders, officials, and strategists with various complex problems. While significant efforts go into maintaining international stability, a single event can trigger disastrous consequences. Although not every incident requires a large-scale response, the international community must recognize threats emerging from smaller, isolated situations and work to contain potential escalations. Currently, the emphasis should be on understanding the nature of these threats and their impact on the future of the global system.

The security challenges of nuclear proliferation and terrorism in the Middle East demand global attention. Equally vital are the issues of poverty, high youth unemployment, and lack of economic development, which contribute to instability. Economic prosperity and improved governance are essential for sustainable security. This article examines the connection between peace agreements, economic improvements, and security outcomes. It highlights the importance of relevant policy knowledge to enhance the global debate on Middle East peace initiatives and recognizes the roles of key stakeholders. Additionally, the paper explores how economic reforms can address youth unemployment, a significant factor in regional instability.

The increased complexity of global security has led to significant growth in international organizations, enhancing their capacity to promote global peace and security. As international cooperation has become more essential, these organizations have evolved to be broader and more multipurpose. A vital area of focus in international political science and law is understanding the dynamics of these organizations, including their structures, processes, and potential for further development.

Since World War II, international organizations have seen growth in membership and activities aimed at fostering peace and security among nations. Many specialized and regional organizations have developed specific roles to address various challenges in this realm. The enhanced capabilities of these organizations have created optimism about advancements in international security.

Their contributions to managing and resolving conflicts are notable, with the prevention of major wars and superpower confrontations often attributed to their influence in promoting principles that alleviate security dilemmas. Thus, supporting international organizations should be a top priority for the global community to help prevent conflict.

The importance of peace agreements and lower conflict rates in enhancing security outcomes in the Middle East is highlighted by this study, however, economic development appears to be somewhat influential. The evidence indicates that they

have been good at securing peace agreements and lowering the probability of conflict but rather less effective in delivering prosperity.

Implications for Future Peace Efforts

To improve peace efforts, international institutions should focus more on advancing peace agreements and adopt a coherent approach to link governance and economic development programs with conflict resolution initiatives.

In 2001, many global trouble spots continued to face setbacks in achieving peace, particularly in the Middle East. In Israel and the Palestinian Territories, violence from October 2000 escalated, and mediation efforts struggled to find success, collapsing after the tragic events of September 11. This turmoil has allowed extremists on both sides to gain strength, diminishing the populations' ability to meet demands for security, peace, and prosperity.

Attempts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict often focus on Palestine, but this is only one aspect of a broader issue. A comprehensive approach that encompasses diverse systemic conflicts—such as interstate rivalries and external influences—is essential. To avoid repeating past mistakes, future peace-making must learn from historical failures. Only by addressing these complex issues can the nations in the Middle East hope to live peacefully and work toward mutual economic benefits.

Recommendations for Policy and Practice

The objective of this paper is to examine the role of international organizations in promoting peace and security in the Middle East. Like other regions in international relations, the Middle East has historically seen significant involvement from the international community. However, efforts to address the security concerns of regional actors and the various interests at play have not been particularly successful. This lack of success is largely due to the polarized nature of regional politics and the structure of the international organizations involved. Unsuitable and ineffective policies have emerged as a result.

International organisations should prioritise improving relations and conflict resolution responses in the Middle East region by co-working at economic and political levels that cater to different social political landscapes toward fostering lasting security solutions.

At the end of this article, we conclude that major international organizations, such as the United Nations, the League of Arab States, and the two superpowers—the United States and the Soviet Union—have historically played significant roles in promoting peace and security in the Middle East. The four key organizations involved in this effort are the UN, the Quartet, the United Nations International Staff College, and UNRWA. Together, they contribute to the institutional framework for peacebuilding and conflict resolution regarding the Palestinian-Israeli conflicts.

These organizations are recognized as leading contributors to peace development in the region, as they provide essential intellectual support and material resources aimed at fostering peace, reducing conflict intensity, and enhancing overall security in the area.

Additionally, other regional entities, such as the European Union, are also engaged in peace development initiatives in the Middle East, notably by providing financial

backing for the Arab-Israeli peace process. These projects are typically administered by private policy entrepreneurs. Furthermore, transnational advocacy networks, represented by international non-governmental organizations, are actively mobilized to promote peaceful resolutions. They utilize strategies such as rational choice, norms, persuasion, and a solid knowledge base to influence the political landscape.

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Survey Questionnaire

Link:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdQQUWr9fExZvXAibOham
pvx_eCpbrOZrKZS5-H2J-JsxOE3g/viewform?usp=sf_link

1. What is your gender?

Male

Female

Others

2. What is your age group?

25-30

31-35

36-45

46-55

3. Since the intervention of international organizations, I feel that the security situation in my region has improved significantly.

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Neutral

Agree

Strongly Agree

4. The presence of international organizations in my area has contributed to a long-term sense of safety and stability.

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Neutral

Agree

Strongly Agree

5. I believe that international organizations have played a crucial role in preventing potential conflicts in my community.

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Neutral

Agree

Strongly Agree

6. I believe that international organizations have been successful in decreasing the frequency of violent conflicts in my region.

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Neutral

Agree

Strongly Agree

7. International interventions have led to a noticeable reduction in local tensions and hostilities.

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Neutral

Agree

Strongly Agree

8. I feel safer in my community now than I did before international organizations intervened.

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Neutral

Agree

Strongly Agree

9. The peace agreements brokered by international organizations are often implemented effectively in my region.

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Neutral

Agree

Strongly Agree

10. I believe that peace agreements are crucial for long-term stability in conflict-affected areas.

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Neutral

Agree

Strongly Agree

11. Successful peace agreements in my region have led to improved relationships among conflicting parties.

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Neutral

Agree

Strongly Agree

12. Economic development initiatives supported by international organizations are crucial for reducing conflict in my region.

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Neutral

Agree

Strongly Agree

13. Improved economic conditions have led to increased cooperation between different community groups.

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Neutral

Agree

Strongly Agree

14. I believe that economic growth initiatives help address the root causes of conflict in my area.

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Neutral

Agree

Strongly Agree