Forum: Historic Crisis Committee

Issue: Third Arab Israeli War

Student Officer: Ayush Jain

Position: Deputy President

Introduction

The Third-Arab Israeli War, popularly known as the 'Six Day War', was a multilateral military conflict between the countries of Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, and Israel. This war occurred shortly after the preceding Arab-Israeli Wars, while foreign relations between Israel and neighbouring Arab States were yet unstable. The war was fought between 5th and 10th June, 1967. The conflict started with a large scale Israeli invasion of the Sinai peninsula of neighbouring Egypt, on the alleged pretext of the closure of the Straits of Tiran to Israel for shipping by Egypt. Taking control of the Sinai Peninsula guaranteed the availability of the Straits of Tiran to Israel. This event occurred in 1956, and was followed by a UN mandated ceasefire, along with the guarantee that the straits would remain open. Despite the deployment of United Nations Emergency Forces along the border, there was no demilitarisation agreement. [1]

The conflict further escalated in 1967, and reached its apex in June 1967. Israel reiterated its stance on the Straits of Tiran, and threatened war if Egypt continued the blockade of the straits for Israeli vessels. President Nasser refused to heed the warning of war, and kept the straits closed for Israeli vessels, along with total mobilisation of forces along the Egypt-Israel border. A week prior to the conflict, under threat of war, Egypt signed a defence pact with Jordan wherein the Jordanian forces would stop Israel from making any territorial gains and provide defensive forces in the likely case of war [2]. War finally broke out in June. It remains unknown which side struck first, with both countries giving contrasting accounts of military intelligence. Egypt, with the support of the Soviet Union, charged Israel with aggression due to a series of air strikes carried out against Egyptian airfields. However, Israel responded to these

---

[1] Norman G. Finkelstein, *Image and Reality of the Israel-Palestine Conflict,* 2nd ed. (London and New York: Verso, 2003)
[2] "Six Day War - 1967 Arab-Israeli War." *Six Day War - 1967 Arab-Israeli War,* 2004, www.sixdaywar.co.uk/.

allegations with claims that the strike was pre-emptive due to Egyptian armoured columns moving in an offensive thrust against Israel's borders [3].

The surprise attack left nearly the entire Egyptian air force in shambles, effectively giving Israel aerial supremacy. Israel followed this up by a ground invasion into the Gaza Strip and Sinai peninsula. The element of surprise worked heavily in the Israeli forces' favour, and after initial losses, President Nasser ordered an evacuation of the Sinai peninsula. The Israeli forces continued their conquest westward, and inflicted heavy losses on the Egyptians before taking over the Sinai peninsula. The commander of the Jordanian army was ordered to begin the counteroffensive against Israel, but failed to do so due to confusing and poor military intelligence and leadership. In the ensuing chaos, Israel struck with unbelievable precision and captured the West Bank from the Jordanians and Golan Heights from Syria. The Arab nations agreed to a ceasefire with Israel on 11th June. However, the damage inflicted upon them was tremendous, with the Arab states losing over 20 times as many troops as Israel [4].

This humiliating defeat was the worst Arab nations had witnessed in the past decade. The loss was a result of poor strategy and communication from Arab states, as well as brilliant planning and combat from the Israelis. The war cemented Israel's place in global politics, and led to international humiliation and condemnation for Egypt. The war went on to highlight the systemic oppression of the Jews and their unrelenting, repeated opposition and resilience. The main consequences of some events of the war were as follows:

Political impact [5]:

This war revealed the limits of Arab military and political power and led to further fragmentation among the Arab powers. As stated above, the war went on to highlight the regional dominance that Israel held in that Arab-populated area. More importantly than any of the military outcomes, the war created a crucial moral crisis that had important repercussions. First, it displayed the eventual decline and death of the idea of Pan-Arabism, not to be confused with Arab nationalism, as endorsed by the Arab League with Egyptian President Nasser at the forefront. Most countries took individualistic paths after realising the idea of Pan-Arabism was

---

3 Segev, Tom *1967: And the land changed its visage* (1967: *veha'aretz shinta et paneiha)*, Keter Publishing Co. Jerusalem, 2005 (in Hebrew)

4 Iseroff , Ami. "Israel and Palestine: A Brief History - Part I." *Brief History of of Palestine, Israel and the Israeli Palestinian Conflict (Arab-Israeli Conflict, Middle East Conflict)*, 2009, www.mideastweb.org/briefhistory.htm.
5 Voxara. "Middle East." *The Israel Project*, 2016.

simply a farce and an ill-conceived illusion. A significant paradigm shift took place in the region, with the oil rich nations gaining increasing power due to a demand for oil, and Egypt isolating itself from the rest of the Arab World [(6)].

Social impact[7]:

The biggest social outcome of the Third Arab-Israeli War was the strong resurgence of Islamist movements and ideology. Following the string of successive military adversities during the war, some key figures and officials in the Arab League and Middle East region began to think that the adversities faced by them while fighting against Israel was in direct relation with their weak observance of religion, compared to Israel's strong Jewish beliefs. In some countries and upper-class social circles, the Pan-Arabic mentality progressively gave way to resurgent Islamist beliefs. These religious movements articulated the yearning for more authentic solutions to a selection of contemporary problems and an alternative to secularism. The mission for genuine independence and authenticity were still ongoing and the seeds for the next critical turning point were being sown. Albeit religion had been an important underlying factor before the war, and parties advocating the same had existed for quite a long time, with the gradual dissipation and dismissal of Pan-Arabism after the defeat, this movement became not only more evident, but also more credible.

Economic impact [8]:

The closure of the Straits of Tiran to Israel served to be detrimental to the Israeli economy. Furthermore, the expenditure of the war left all the nations debt heavy, especially Egypt, still recovering from the Suez Crisis. The foreign debt to Soviet Union and the United States increased too. Not being oil-rich, Egypt suffered from a recession in the following years. The other economies eventually stabilized and living conditions improved.

---

6 P. Mansfield (1992), The Arabs, 3rd edn (London: Penguin Books), pp. 281–2.

7 https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1057%2F9780230306769_5

8 Avi Shlaim; William Roger Louis (13 February 2012). The 1967 Arab-Israeli War: Origins and Consequences. Cambridge University Press. p. 224.

Definition of Key Terms

Aggression[9]

The practice of carrying out unprovoked attacks or encroachments against another country, threatening its territorial integrity or independence.

Anti-Semitism[10]

Hostile behaviour or discrimination against Jews as a racial or religious group.

Blockade [(11)]

The isolation of a strategically important area (such as a straits, sea, harbour etc) carried out by troops or warships of an opposing nation to prevent passage of persons or supplies.

Laws of War [12]

The component of international law that regulates the conditions for war and the conduct of warring parties, addressing sovereignty, occupation, genocide, and other key terms as required

Proxy War[13]

A conflict or war fought between groups or smaller countries that each represent the interests of other larger powers providing support to them

War Crimes[14]

An act that constitutes a severe violation of the law of wars as defined by the aforementioned, leading to individual or collective criminal responsibility

---

[9] https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/

[10] https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/

[11] https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/

[12] The Program for Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research at Harvard University, "IHL PRIMER SERIES | Issue #1"
[13] https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/
[14] Cassese, Antonio (2013). *Cassese's International Criminal Law* (3rd ed.).
Oxford University Press. pp. 63–66. Archived from the original on April 29, 2016.

Background Information

The Middle East is a geographical and cultural region located primarily in western Asia, but also in parts of northern Africa and south-eastern Europe. The western border of the Middle East is defined by the Mediterranean Sea, where Israel, Lebanon, and Syria rest opposite from Greece and Italy in Europe. Egypt in Africa also borders the Mediterranean and is sometimes considered as part of the Middle East, while Turkey and Cyprus literally connect Europe to Asia. [15]

The roots of this geopolitical conflict trace back to the rise of Arab nationalism and Zionism in the 19th century. The conflict between the two religions primarily stems from conflicting land claims, in relation to the 'Holy Land' or 'Promised Land'. The Promised Land is the land which, according to the Tanakh was promised and subsequently given by God to Abraham and his descendants. It represents a home land for Jewish people with profound ideas of salvation and liberation [16]. The conflict comes into play when Muslims also claim rights to that land in accordance with their holy book, the Quran. According to the Quran, contrary to the Jewish claim that this land was promised only to the descendants of Abraham's grandson Jacob, the Land of Canaan (the Holy Land) was promised to the eldest son of Abraham, Ishmael, from whom Arabs claim descent. This contrasting interpretation of religious texts has led to the Jewish – Islam tensions prevalent today. Muslims also worship many sites considered holy by Israelis, such as the Temple Mount and Cave of the Patriarchs, making it a conflict of interest. Further adding to it, Muslims have erected Islamic landmarks on these ancient Israelite sites, most notably the Temple Mount, the holiest site in Judaism. This has brought the two groups into conflict over the rightful possession of Jerusalem. [17]

The religious armed conflict between Jews and Arabs emerged in the early 20th century, transforming into a full-scale war in 1948 in the form of the First Arab-Israeli War. Large-scale hostilities mostly ended with the cease-fire agreements of 1949 known as the Armistice Agreements. It was considered an Israeli victory due to the possession of land following the war. In 1956, Egypt closed the Straits of Tiran to Israeli exports and imports, and blockaded the Gulf

---

[15] https://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/me.htm

[16] Sura 17, "The Night Journey", verse 103

[17] 'Jerusalem in the Qur'an', Masjid Dar al-Qur'an, Long Island, New York. 2002

of Aqaba in violation of the Armistice Agreement of 1949. Israel responded by invading the Sinai peninsula with European support. Israel successfully captured the Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula. The United States and the United Nations soon convinced both nations to sign a ceasefire. Israel agreed to withdraw from the Egyptian territory it had encroached upon. Egypt agreed to allow Israel the freedom of navigation and trade in the region along with demilitarization of the Sinai Peninsula. The United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) was created and deployed to oversee the demilitarization on the Egyptian side since Israel refused to allow them on Israeli land.

Thus the Six-Day War happened during an era of uplifted pressure among Israel and its neighbouring Arab nations. The Third Arab-Israeli War is a multifaceted issue with various underlying political, social, economic and religious issues at its core. There were several longstanding as well as immediate issues leading to the war. These causes and their consequences will be discussed under the sub-headings below.

Closure of Straits of Tiran[18]

The Straits of Tiran are narrow waterways and sea passages between Sinai and Arab peninsulas. These sea passages hold strategic and economic importance for Israel as well as the Arab nations. Jordan's only access to the sea was through the town of Aqaba and the Gulf of Aqaba, and Israel's only seaport was Eilat and the Gulf of Aqaba. Ninety percent of Israeli oil passed through these straits in the years preceding the war. After the Second Arab-Israeli War ended in 1956, Egypt reopened the Straits of Tiran as a part of the peace agreement. However, Egypt and Jordan threatened to close the straits in May. In May 1967, Israel Prime Minister Levi Eshkol reiterated that closure of the straits would be considered a declaration of war. Egypt ignored this threat and blockaded the straits on 22nd May. Oil tankers due to pass through the straits were required to show documents verifying their final destination wasn't an Israeli port. This lack of oil and resources resulted in stagnated growth in a southern region of Israel known as the Negev, which turned into a semi-arid desert region. The U.S. President Lyndon Johnson condemned this, and later deemed the arbitrary closure of this waterway the primary reason for the start of the war [19].

---

[18] Segev, Tom *1967: And the land changed its visage* (1967: *veha'aretz shinta et paneiha),* Keter Publishing Co. Jerusalem, 2005 (in Hebrew)

[19] US Government Archive. "Arab-Israeli War of 1967." *U.S. Department of State*, U.S. Department of State, 20 Jan. 2001, 2001-2009.state.gov/r/pa/ho/time/ea/97187.htm.

Territorial Disputes [20]

The end of the First Arab-Israeli War had resulted in the creation of demilitarized zones or DMZ between Israel and Syria. However, Israel constantly acted in violation of these created zones and gradually occupied parts of the region. This led to numerable borderline skirmishes between Syria and Israel as a build up to the war in 1967. Israel justified these accusations and charges in the United Nations by denying them, as well as pointing out that they regarded the DMZ in the north as part of their sovereign territory in the first place. Syria claimed that the escalating skirmishes were a part of Israel's long term strategy to raise tensions and justify a large scale invasion in Syria in the future.

Water Disputes [21]

In 1955, Egypt, Jordan and Israel agreed on the Johnston Plan – a plan put forth by the UN – for the unified development of water resources in the Jordan Valley to benefit all parties involved.

In 1964, Israel started drawing water from the Jordan River in accordance with the Johnston Plan. This reduced the flow of water reaching the Hashemite territory in Jordan. The Arab League viewed this as a sign of aggression from Israel, and decided to reduce the water reaching Israel. They planned to divert the Jordan River headwaters to the Yarmouk River to accomplish this. The following year, holding true to their discussion, the construction of the Headwater Diversion Plan was commenced which would divert the waters of the Banias Stream into Mukhaiba Dam for use by Jordan and Syria, and the Hasbani into the Litani River in Lebanon. The Israel Defence Forces attacked the diversion project in Syria and started border conflicts which spilled over into the war.

Israel's relations with Arab states [22]

No Arab State recognized Israel as a legitimate state. Syria started funding guerrilla raids on Israel in 1960 to aid to the liberation of a territory it thought to be illegitimate. The Arab League took inspiration from this idea. In 1964, the Arab League initiated the creation of an

---

20 Moshe Gat (2003). *Britain and the Conflict in the Middle East, 1964–1967: The Coming of the Six-Day War*. Greenwood Publishing Group. p. 101.

21 Oren, Michael, *Six Days of War*, Oxford University Press, 2002.

22 Voxara. "Middle East." *The Israel Project*, 2016.

organisation to represent the Palestinian people affected by Israel. This was the birth of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, which was officially created on June 2nd. This organization would strictly operate in Israeli territory.

In 1960, tensions along the Israeli–Syrian border forced Egypt to deploy Egyptian armed forces in the northern Sinai region. A week after troop movements had begun, Israel learnt of the presence of the Egyptian armed forces, its undefended southern border. Both sides eventually stood down, yet both had varying perspectives about the incident. Israel came to see any mass deployment of Egyptian forces on its border as unacceptable, and believed new rules had been set in place. Egypt on the other hand viewed the 'crisis' as a great success. Egypt believed the deployment had prevented an Israeli attack on Syria, and it was thus possible to deter Israel with the mere deployment of forces and the threat of going to war. These were both dangerous assumptions and precedents.

Immediate Pre-Conflict Escalation [23]

Following the Second Arab-Israeli War, Egypt and Israel agreed to the stationing of United Nations Emergency Forces or UNEF in the Sinai Peninsula. This was done to keep the border region demilitarized as well as prevent Palestinian guerrillas from crossing the border into Israel.

After a progression of back and forth military strikes, it was driven on further by Soviet knowledge reports that demonstrated Israel was arranging a military crusade against Syria. Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser increased rhetoric against Israel and mobilised Egyptian powers in anticipation of war. The war started on June 5, 1967, when Israel propelled a pre-emptive ambush against the Egyptian and Syrian aviation based armed forces.

Prior to the start of the conflict, attacks conducted against Israel by Palestinian guerrilla groups based in Syria and Jordan had increased, leading to Israeli reprisals. In November 1966, an Israeli strike on the village of Al Samu located at the Jordanian West Bank left 18 dead and 54 wounded, and during an air conflict with Syria in April 1967, the Israeli Air Force shot down several Syrian fighter jets.

On May 14, 1967, Nasser activated Egyptian powers in the Sinai; on May 18 he officially asked for the evacuation of the UNEF positioned there; and on May 22 he shut the Gulf of Aqaba to Israeli transportation, thus establishing a compelling barricade of the port city of Elat in

---

23 "From Six-Day War to October War." *The Middle East in Modern World History,* 11 May 2018, pp. 258–271.

southern Israel. On May 30, King Ḥussein of Jordan came to Cairo to sign a shared protection agreement with Egypt, setting Jordanian powers under Egyptian order; presently, Iraq too joined the coalition. [24]

Summary of War Events[25]

In light of the preparation of its Arab neighbors, at the crack of dawn on June 5, Israel arranged a preemptive air attack that obliterated in excess of 90 percent Egypt's aviation based armed forces on the landing area. A similar air attack crippled the Syrian aviation based armed forces. Without cover from the air, the Egyptian armed force was left powerless and defenceless against assault. Within three days the Israelis had accomplished a staggering triumph on the ground, catching the Gaza Strip and the majority of the Sinai Peninsula up toward the east bank of the Suez Canal.

An eastern front was additionally opened on June 5 when Jordanian powers started shelling West Jerusalem—ignoring Israel's warning to King Ḥussein to keep Jordan out of the battle—only to be faced by a devastating Israeli counterattack. On June 7 Israeli powers drove Jordanian powers out of East Jerusalem and the greater part of the West Bank.

The UN Security Council called a ceasefire on June 7 that was quickly acknowledged by Israel and Jordan. Egypt acknowledged it the next day. Syria waited, and kept on shelling towns in northern Israel. On June 9 Israel propelled an attack on the strengthened Golan Heights, capturing it from Syrian powers following a day of overwhelming battling. Syria acknowledged the truce on June 10. The Arab nations' misfortunes in the contention were tragic. Egypt's setbacks and casualties numbered more than 11,000 soldiers, with 6,000 for Jordan and 1,000 for Syria. In contrast, only 700 soldiers died from Israel. The Arab armed forces additionally endured devastating misfortunes of weaponry and gear.

When Arab powers represented a noteworthy risk to Israel's security, Israel's acquisition and gains in the Six-Day War managed to impose an unequivocal hit to their capacity to do dangers, particularly by crippling Egypt's aviation based armed forces. Israel also caught territory held by Egypt, Syria, and Jordan, none of which was recovered by military methods.

---

24 U Thant, The United Nations Secretary-General (26 June 1967). "Report of the Secretary-General on the withdrawal of the United Nations Emergency Force, General Assembly A/6730 & Add.1-3 & A/6730/Add.3/Corr.1"

25 Quigley, John (2005). *The Case for Palestine: An International Law Perspective*. London: Duke University Press. p. 163

Our crisis will commence on 5th July 1967 at 6 a.m. Universal Standard Time (UST), an hour after the initial attack by Israel. The delegates of Israel and Egypt at this point will be actively engaged in the war, and the delegates of Syria and Jordan will be pre-empting an attack and possibly making preparations.

Timeline of Events[26]:

Date	Description of Event
June 5th, 1967	Israeli air strikes against Egypt begin,
	Israel also begins air strikes in Jordan,
	Israel targets Syrian air force bases,
	Iraq begins air assaults on Haifa,
	Syria and Jordan join the air assault on Haifa,
	Jordan launches air assaults on Netanya,
	Jordan and Iraq attempt airstrikes on Tel Aviv,
	Jordan begins artillery fire against Tel Aviv.
June 6th, 1967	Syrian forces fortify the border with Israel,
	Israel takes Gaza, Ras el Naqeb and Jebel Libni from Egypt,
	Israel captures Ramallah, North East Jerusalem, Ammunition Hill and Talpiot,
	Jordanian forces retreat from West Bank.
June 7th, 1967	U.N. Security Council presents a cease-fire initiative which Gamal Abdel Nasser rejects,
	Israeli Prime Minister Levi Eskol sends a proposal to Jordan's King Hussein for a cease-fire and peace talks,
	Bir al-Hasna and Al Qazima in Egypt are captured by Israel,
	Israel takes over Old City of Jerusalem, Nablus and Jericho in Jordan,
	Jordanian forces are ordered to retreat,

---

26 "Timeline: The Six Day War." *NPR,* NPR, 4 June 2007, www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=10694216.

Fighting between Syria and Israel continues at Golan.

June 8th, 1967	Egypt finally accepts the cease-fire,
	Israel captures Hebron.
June 9th, 1967	Full-fledged Israeli attack on Golan Heights is ordered and carried out.
June 10th, 1967	Israel captures Kuneitra and Mas'ada,
	Syria agrees to a ceasefire,
	War ends, with Israel claiming the Gaza Strip, West Bank, Golan Heights and the region from Sinai Peninsula to the Suez Canal.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved[27][28]

Israel

Israel was allegedly the aggressor of the conflict, having conducted attacks into Egypt following the blockade of the Straits of Tiran by Egypt. The conflict was primarily fought between Israel and Arab nations like Egypt and Jordan. The Third Arab-Israeli War simply served as a continuation of the two preceding wars fought in the Middle East within the past 20 years. The wars can be viewed as a one-country defence by Israel against a unified front of Arab powers in the Middle East, as a by-product of the ideological, political, and territorial clash between the two. Israel was not originally a part of the Non-Aligned Movement

Egypt

Egypt refused to lift the blockade on the Straits of Tiran due to unstable foreign relations with Israel. President Gamal Abdel Nasser didn't heed the Israeli warnings of aggression, and continued with the blockade. This promptly led to the attack by Israel on the Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula. Egypt is considered a major party in this conflict due to the heavy involvement it had in subverting Israeli interests, and continuing the Arab policy of discrimination and active

---

27 sixdaywar.org/players.asp

28 US Government Archive. "Arab-Israeli War of 1967." *U.S. Department of State,* U.S. Department of State, 20 Jan. 2001, 2001-2009.state.gov/r/pa/ho/time/ea/97187.htm.

resistance against Israel's existence as a state, and Zionism as a movement. Many of the actions and policies developed by Egypt during this war were in complete violation of the agreed Ten Bandung Principles of the Non-Aligned Movement. Egypt was a large part of the Non-Aligned Movement and thus has active involvement in committee

Jordan

Preceding the war, Jordan and Israel's deteriorating foreign relations served as a major cause for conflict. As a part of the Arab League, it refused to recognize Israel as a legitimate state, and would often engage in minor battles and skirmishes against the state. Despite having bad relations with Egypt – Egyptian intelligence had tried to assassinate King Hussein of Jordan multiple times – Jordan followed suit when the rest of the Arab world lined up to destroy Israel under Gamal Abdel Nasser's leadership. The King of Jordan had signed a defence pact with Egypt ensuring that they would defend Egypt from Israel in the case of war. Jordan and Syria joined the Non-Aligned Movement together in 1964

Syria

Syria was the only country actively involved in any sort of combat with Israel preceding the war. They had vested interests in the region, with the hopes of extending the Golan Heights region into Israel. Syria also had exceedingly good relations with the Soviet Union, who often provided them aid. Syria shelled Israeli communities from strategic positions in the Golan Heights and allowed its territory to be used as a staging area for incursions into Israel by Palestinian terrorists. On May 13, 1967, the Soviet Union deliberately relayed incorrect information to Syria and Egypt that Israeli forces were carrying out aggressive movements and gathering up on Syria's border. This prompted Syria and Egypt to activate the military defence pact they had agreed on earlier, and led to Nasser's subsequent steps towards war. Syria was a large part of the Non Aligned Movement and joined in 1964

United States of America

The 1967 Arab-Israeli War marked the failure of the Johnson administration's efforts to prevent Arab-Israeli conflict following the 1956 Second Arab-Israeli War. President Johnson's administration called for Israel's withdrawal from the territories it had occupied in exchange for peace settlements with the Arab nations. In the 1960s, Soviet arms sales to Arab states like Egypt and Syria threatened to erode Israel's military superiority established after the Second Arab-Israeli War. President Johnson was concerned that if the United States did not offset this shift in the balance of power, Israel's leaders might launch a preventive war or develop nuclear

weapons. Thus, in 1965, President Johnson authorized the selling of M48A3 tanks to Israel. Subsequently in 1966, they sold Israel A–4 Skyhawk aircrafts. President Johnson of USA provided Israel by air with a variety of arms systems, despite an embargo on weapons shipments to the Middle East. They also sent reconnaissance aircrafts to track night-time movements of Egyptian ground forces to facilitate Israeli air attacks. Being one of the main proponents for the establishment of NAM in the first place, the United States plays a crucial role in highlighting the role of Cold War era power blocs and the Non Aligned Movement's moderating effect on them.

Soviet Union

The Soviet Union was crucial to the start of the Third Arab-Israeli War and the advent of Arab aggression towards Israel. The Soviet Union did not view Israel as a favourable instrument to forward their Communist views in the Middle East. Thus, turning their attention to the Arab League, they would frequently supply Egypt and Syria with modern tanks, aircrafts and arms. These weapons along with Soviet war tactics were heavily used by the two nations in the Six-Day War. In an attempt to raise suspicions and heighten tensions, the Soviet Union would often feed into Egypt and Syria's growing suspicion of Israel. A lesser known ulterior motive that the Soviet Union had was intentionally sparking a war to justify an attack on Israel's nuclear facility in Dimona[29]. An Israeli win in the war would also commence a Jewish exodus from Soviet Union's Communist regime, and they were determined to prevent this from happening. Being in direct contention with the United States, the Soviet Union was not a part of NAM either.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)

The Palestine Liberation Organization was founded by the Arab League in 1964. It was headed by Ahmad al-Shuqayri, and largely controlled by Egypt. In 1964, the Arab League summit in Cairo discussed and ultimately called for the deployment of a Palestine Liberation Army as another front for the Palestinian guerrilla forces. Starting in 1965, the Syrian government funded and extensively planned Palestinian Fatah guerrilla ('fedayeen') attacks across the border with Israel, greatly exacerbating Syrian-Israeli tensions preceding the Six-Day War. Palestinians were actively involved during the war too, as the Palestinian Division held the first line in the Gaza Strip, along with three Egyptian divisions. The aftermath of the war turned the fedayeen into the only remaining focal point for Arab resistance to Israel at a time of defeat. This largely increased their base and resulted in an exceedingly high amount of new recruits after the war.

Arab League

Representatives from Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Yemen meet in Cairo to establish the Arab League, a regional organization of Arab states, in 1945. A few of the goals included fostering economic growth in the region, resolving disputes between its members, and coordinating political aims. Members of the Arab League formed a council, with each state receiving one vote. When the State of Israel was created in 1948, the league countries jointly agreed on and attacked the Israelis. Fifteen more Arab nations eventually joined the organization by 1965. The Arab League viewed the conflict as an ideological war, with the hopes of fully exterminating the Jewish State of Israel. They provided aid to Jordan and Egypt. Since their formation in 1945, they have actively pushed for the Palestinian Arab cause and boycotted Israel. During this war, they imposed an oil embargo on Israel.

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- Customary International Law, 1950. Customary international law is a topic of international law involving the principle of custom. Along with universal principles for law and treaties, custom is considered by the International Court of Justice, the United Nations, and all member states to be a primary part of international law
- Armistice Agreements, 1949. Signed by Israel and Egypt following the First Arab-Israeli War, these agreements were the basis for a ceasefire.
- The situation in the Middle East, June 6 1967, **S/RES/233**

Possible Actions

Allowing Israel to access the Straits of Tiran: The core of this conflict is the escalating tension between Israel and Egypt due to the closure of the straits to Israeli vessels, adversely affecting their economy. If the straits are opened, the conflict could quite easily be deescalated and resolved. However, this seems highly improbable due to Egyptian refusal to facilitate Israeli trade in the region

Removal of Egyptian forces from border: Israel's attack was labelled a pre-emptive strike urged by the presence of provocative offensive formations undertaken by the Egyptian army. Eliminating this could possibly prevent the attack, or delay it at the very least. However, the

attack still seems inevitable given the rising tension between Arab nations and Israel as well as the other reasons.

Demilitarisation and presence of UNEF at border: Egypt asked for the withdrawal of UNEF at the border. If these forces had stayed stationed there, a war could have possibly been prevented. This would be a more global solution, with focus shifted from the powers of NAM to the powers of the UN.

Withdrawal of US forces and foreign intervention: Foreign intervention by the US has often ended badly, as is the case here. Without the technical and military support of USA, Israel would not be able to carry out such precisely planned air strikes, and the war could potentially be turned in Egypt's favour, or stopped altogether due to Israel's lack of offensive power and reluctance to confront Arab powers.

Allowing Jews entry in holy places of East Jerusalem: A point of friction between Jordan and Israel is the religious artifacts in East Jerusalem and their availability to Israelis. If a basic religious right such as this could be restored to the Jews, chances of a military offensive would decrease as their religious sentiments would be upheld and tensions would be eased.

Citations and bibliography

1. https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/anti-semitism
2. https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/blockade
3. Sura 17, "The Night Journey", verse 103
4. "From Six-Day War to October War." *The Middle East in Modern World History*, 11 May 2018, pp. 258–271.
5. "Six Day War - 1967 Arab-Israeli War." *Six Day War - 1967 Arab-Israeli War*, 2004, www.sixdaywar.co.uk/.
6. "Timeline: The Six Day War." *NPR*, NPR, 4 June 2007, www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=10694216.
7. Avi Shlaim; William Roger Louis (13 February 2012). *The 1967 Arab-Israeli War: Origins and Consequences*. Cambridge University Press. p. 224.
8. Cassese, Antonio (2013). *Cassese's International Criminal Law* (3rd ed.).
9. Ginor, Isabella; Remez, Gideon (2006). The Spymaster, The Communist, and Foxbats Over Dimona: The USSR's Motive For Instigating The Six-Day War. Israel Studies.

10. pp. - https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/proxy-war

11. https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1057%2F9780230306769_5

12. https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/aggression

13. https://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/me.htm

14. Iseroff , Ami. "Israel and Palestine: A Brief History - Part I." *Brief History of of Palestine, Israel and the Israeli Palestinian Conflict (Arab-Israeli Conflict, Middle East Conflict)*, 2009, www.mideastweb.org/briefhistory.htm.

15. 'Jerusalem in the Qur'an', Masjid Dar al-Qur'an, Long Island, New York. 2002

16. Moshe Gat (2003). *Britain and the Conflict in the Middle East, 1964–1967: The Coming of the Six-Day War*. Greenwood Publishing Group. p. 101.

17. Norman G. Finkelstein, *Image and Reality of the Israel-Palestine Conflict*, 2nd ed. (London and New York: Verso, 2003)

18. Oren, Michael, *Six Days of War*, Oxford University Press, 2002.

19. P. Mansfield (1992), The Arabs, 3rd edn (London: Penguin Books), pp. 281–2.

20. Quigley, John (2005). *The Case for Palestine: An International Law Perspective*. London: Duke University Press. p. 163

21. Segev, Tom *1967: And the land changed its visage* (1967: *veha'aretz shinta et paneiha)*, Keter Publishing Co. Jerusalem, 2005 (in Hebrew)

22. Segev, Tom *1967: And the land changed its visage* (1967: *veha'aretz shinta et paneiha)*, Keter Publishing Co. Jerusalem, 2005 (in Hebrew)

23. sixdaywar.org/players.asp

24. The Program for Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research at Harvard University, "IHL PRIMER SERIES | Issue #1"

25. U Thant, The United Nations Secretary-General (26 June 1967). "Report of the Secretary-General on the withdrawal of the United Nations Emergency Force, General Assembly A/6730 & Add.1-3 & A/6730/Add.3/Corr.1"

26. US Government Archive. "Arab-Israeli War of 1967." *U.S. Department of State*, U.S. Department of State, 20 Jan. 2001, 2001-2009.state.gov/r/pa/ho/time/ea/97187.htm.

27. US Government Archive. "Arab-Israeli War of 1967." *U.S. Department of State*, U.S. Department of State, 20 Jan. 2001, 2001-2009.state.gov/r/pa/ho/time/ea/97187.htm.

28. Voxara. "Middle East." *The Israel Project*, 2016.

29. Voxara. "Middle East." *The Israel Project*, 2016.

30. Oxford University Press. pp. 63–66. Archived from the original on April 29, 2016.
    - 88–130.

31. Morris, Benny, *Righteous Victims*, Alfred Knopf, 1999.

32. Ruben, Michael. "Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East." *Middle East Policy Council*, 2002, www.mepc.org/six-days-war-june-1967-and-making-modern-middle-east.

33. "Six Day War." *Six Day War - 6 Day War - Definition, History*, 2006, www.zionism-israel.com/dic/6daywar.html.

34. "1967 Arab-Israeli War." *U.S. Department of State*, U.S. Department of State, history.state.gov/milestones/1961-1968/arab-israeli-war-1967.

35. "The 1967 War: Six Days that Changed the Middle East." BBC.