**REVIEW ESSAY: USA APPROACHES TOWARDS ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT**

**CRITICAL THINKING**

**Introduction**

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been one of the most significant geopolitical issues of the modern era, and the United States has played a critical role in shaping the course of this conflict. As such, understanding the approaches of the US towards this conflict is of paramount importance in comprehending the intricacies of the ongoing conflict. In this essay, we will review and critically evaluate three sources, a book, an internet source, and a journal article, on the topic of the USA approaches towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Through this review, we aim to gain an in-depth understanding of the US policy towards this conflict.

**Journal Article**

**Title:** U.S. Policy toward the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Under the Trump Administration

**Author/Year published:** (Erdogan, A., & Habash, L., 2020)

**Publisher:** JSTOR digital library

The journal article provides a critical analysis of the U.S. policy towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict during the Trump administration. The authors contend that the Trump regime's strategy was skewed strongly in favor of Israel and ignored Palestinian complaints, which eventually hurt chances for a two-state resolution.

The authors begin by outlining the Israeli-Palestinian conflict's historical context and American policies towards it. They point out that the U.S. has been instrumental in efforts to mediate a settlement between the sides and has historically viewed the dispute with more objectivity. They contend, nevertheless, that the Trump administration deviated from this precedent and adopted a strategy that strongly backed Israel over Palestine.

The authors then explore the adjustments made to American policy toward the crisis by the Trump presidency. They point out that the move of the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem marked a significant change in U.S. policy because it effectively acknowledged Israeli authority over the contentious city. Additionally, they contend that the suspension of American aid to the Palestinians and the shutdown of the Palestinian office in Washington, D.C. were done so in an effort to persuade the Palestinians to embrace a peace initiative spearheaded by the United States.

The authors contend that the Trump regime's favoritism for Israel over Palestine and its disregard for international treaties are made clear by these policy developments. They point out that the General Assembly and Security Council of the UN System have passed resolutions declaring that the Golan Heights' annexation by Israel is unlawful under international norms and that the status of Jerusalem is a final status issue that needs to be settled through negotiations between the disputants. The authors contend that the Trump presidency damaged the chances of a two-state settlement and gave Israel an unfair edge in deliberations by acknowledging Israeli authority over these lands.
The authors also examine the consequences of the Trump regime's unilateralism on the war, concluding that "the Trump government's goal of peace via unilateralism has not resulted in any concrete advance in the conflict." They note that Israeli-Palestinian talks have been stalled since the Trump government unveiled its "Deal of the Century," which would substitute the two-state resolution with an unfair one-state arrangement excessively skewed in favor of Israel. Additionally, the authors contend that Trump's "unilateral measures have only contributed to aggravate hostilities among Israelis and Palestinians, while emboldening those who have long worked to destroy any chances for a peaceful outcome to this dispute."

The authors also look at Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and confidant, and his role in shaping US policy toward the Israeli-Palestinian dispute. They claim that Kushner's personal ties to Israel and lack of diplomatic expertise made him unsuited for the post. They claim that Kushner's "peace initiative" benefited Israel while ignoring crucial Palestinian issues, such as the sovereignty of Jerusalem and the question of Palestinian refugees.

The authors highlight that foreign actor, notably the European Union and the United Nations, have strongly condemned the Trump government's approach to the Israeli-Palestinian dispute. They contend that the Trump administration's attitude to the issue has harmed the United States' reputation as an impartial arbiter and has led to the deterioration of the global rules-based system.

While the authors present a thorough and well-supported examination of US policies toward the Israeli-Palestinian dispute during the Trump regime, the article has a few significant flaws. For instance, the article does not provide a thorough examination of the broader geopolitical framework in which US policy toward the conflict is developed. Furthermore, the article's emphasis on the Trump government's approach to the issue may conceal the consistency and complexities of US policy toward the dispute over time.

Ultimately, Erdogan and Habash's article gives a critical appraisal of the Trump regime's attitude toward the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They contend that the strategy was significantly biased in favor of Israel and neglected fundamental Palestinian concerns, undermining hopes for a two-state solution. While the paper has limits, its research is useful in giving insight on the intricacies of US policies toward the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and its ramifications for the wider global system.

**Internet Source**

**Title:** *What is U.S. policy on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?* By *Robinson, K. (2020, September 14)*

**Source Name:** Council on Foreign Relations.

**Webpage:** <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/what-us-policy-israeli-palestinian-conflict>

The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) published an article titled "What Is U.S. Policy on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict?" that provides a critical analysis of U.S. policy towards the conflict. The post starts with a historical overview of the dispute, noting that the United States has typically played a crucial role in seeking to mediate a peace deal between the sides.

The post then examines the Trump regime's adjustments to US strategy toward the conflict. It mentions the administration's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and relocation of the US embassies to the city, which was strongly denounced by global organizations as damaging hopes for a two-state solution. According to the editorial, the Trump government reduced budgets to the United Nations Relief and Works2 Agency2 for Palestine Refugees2 in the Near East2 (UNRWA) and the Palestinian2 Authority, a move that was derided as harmful to the well-being of Palestinian refugees2 and as a means of pressuring the Palestinians to acknowledge US peace propositions.

According to the paper, the Trump regime's approach to the dispute was strongly prejudiced toward Israel and neglected key Palestinian complaints. It points out that the government's peace plan, termed the "Deal of the Century," was rejected by Palestinians and heavily ridiculed by the world society for being one-sided and unachievable.

The CFR paper also examines the Biden regime's stance on the dispute. The government has expressed its support to a two-state settlement and has restored funds to UNRWA and the Palestinian Agency, according to the article. According to the publication, the Biden presidency has taken efforts to reverse several of Trump's policy decisions, including reinstating the US embassy in Jerusalem and reinstating diplomatic ties with the Palestinian Administration.

Generally, the CFR paper offers a thorough and well-supported examination of US policy toward the Israeli-Palestinian dispute. The article's merits are its focus on details and breadth of coverage. Nevertheless, there are certain limits to the work that should be considered. For instance, the article does not include an in-depth examination of the role of the United States Congress in establishing conflict policy, nor does it discuss the wider geopolitical framework in which conflict legislation is developed in the United States.

One of the strengths of the CFR article is its attention to the changes made by the Trump administration to U.S. policy towards the conflict. The article notes that the Trump administration's policy was heavily biased towards Israel and ignored key Palestinian concerns. This is exemplified in the recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and the relocation of the U.S. embassy, which were widely criticized as undermining prospects for a two-state solution. The article's analysis is supported by numerous sources and provides a nuanced understanding of the implications of these policy changes.

The second strength of the CFR report is its appraisal of the Biden regime's strategy to the crisis. The government has expressed its support for a two-state solution and taken efforts to reinstate funding for UNRWA and the Palestinian Authority. This is a good development because it indicates that the administration is ready to approach the situation more diplomatically and work for a peaceful resolution. The article offers a positive prognosis for the future of U.S. policies towards the conflict and is reinforced by remarks from senior U.S. authorities.

In conclusion, the CFR publication offers a thorough assessment of U.S. policy towards the conflict with strong justification. The article has certain flaws, but its detail-oriented approach and breadth of topics addressed make up for those. The article clarifies the complexity of U.S. policy toward the dispute and its ramifications for the larger international system by comparing and contrasting the approaches taken by the Trump and Biden presidencies to the conflict.

**Scholarly Book**

**Title:** *The Routledge handbook on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict* (2nd ed.)

**Author:** Peters, J., & Newman, D. (2013).

**Publisher:** Routledge

The Routledge Handbook on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict is a comprehensive guide to the various aspects of the conflict. The book is divided into numerous chapters, each of which focuses on a different facet of the dispute, such as its political, economic, social, and cultural aspects. The book seeks to give readers a comprehensive grasp of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the numerous elements that have influenced it.

One of the handbook's strengths is its detailed examination of the conflict's multiple factors. The authors have done a great job of covering a wide range of conflict-related themes, including the conflict's historical origins, effects on community, governance, and the economy, and the involvement of the global system. The book is an invaluable resource for academics, decision-makers, and students alike because each chapter offers a thorough investigation of the particular topic and presents a variety of ideas and viewpoints.

The book's concentration on differing perspectives is also one of its main strengths. The authors have made an effort to give a variety of perspectives on the conflict instead of presenting a single point of view. For instance, in the chapter on social issues, the writers talk about the difficulties that both Israelis and Palestinians experience, covering challenges such as human rights,, healthcare, and education. They also accept the complicated dynamics of the dispute and the various causes of it, such as nationalism, religion, and other elements. The book provides a sophisticated and impartial assessment of the intricate problems involved by offering many viewpoints on the conflict.

However the book's emphasis on academic language is one of its weaknesses. Although the book is a fantastic resource for academics, some of the notions and ideas offered in the text could be challenging for non-specialists to comprehend. Readers unfamiliar with academic language may find some of the chapters challenging because the authors employ a variety of technical jargon. For readers who are looking for a more approachable introduction to the conflict, this can be perceived as a drawback.

Furthermore, the book could have benefited from a more critical examination of a certain topics. For instance, in the chapter on the economy, the writers talk about how the conflict has affected Israel and Palestine's economies, but they don't get into the underlying problems of the region's economic inequality. Similar to this, the chapter on cultural aspects gives a general summary of how culture affects conflict without going into detail into how cultural differences affect conflict. The text would have been deeper and more complex if these themes had been examined critically.

In summary, the book is a useful tool for anyone looking for a thorough understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. While the book has some flaws, such as academic language and a lack of critical analysis on some subjects, overall it provides a nuanced and fair view of the intricate issues at hand. The book is a crucial tool for academics, decision-makers, and students alike because the authors give a variety of viewpoints on the issue. The book is a must-read for anyone seeking to deepen their understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

**Reference**

Erdogan, A., & Habash, L. (2020). U.S. policy toward the Israeli-Palestinian conflict under the Trump administration: Continuity or change? *Insight Turkey*, *22*(1), 125-146. <https://doi.org/10.25253/99.2020221.09>

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