

Considerations of condemnation and balance of Palestine's position on the war in Ukraine



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Policy Paper:

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In classic wars, we waited for the military result, and then we formed a political response. In new wars, there is not a final resolution; there is only the stronger party imposing its conditions. Additionally, there is also geographical control, regime projection, or behavior modification goals. Russia is seeking to maintain its national security and enhance its regional and international position. It has a deep fear that NATO will expand, bringing weapons to its border with Ukraine.

Now that the first shock of the war has receded, the world realizes that the war will not exceed Ukraine's borders. Russia has given indications that it will limit itself to the minimum that preserves its national security by preventing Ukraine from joining NATO. Global concern about the consequences of war is high. People are wondering if it will continue or stop. Additionally, sanctions have been announced.

In this context, developing and poor countries are affected by conflict because they depend on foreign aid. Their positions on the war will determine where they are positioned, and how the political, economic and security consequences will affect them. Trying to show a neutral position would not endear them to the great powers. On the face of it, it may seem to be a war fought on Ukrainian lands only, but it is a world war of influence. The survival of developing nations depends on the strength of the international community and the extent to which it supports these nations in the light of political realism, not because of their strength and resources. Many places cannot survive without traditional international support.

This position looks at the consequences of the Russian-Ukrainian war on the Palestinian endowment. The Palestinians are facing diplomatic pressure to show a position. Often, any Palestinian position depends on the choices available to Palestinians from the E.U and the U.S, either by neutrality or by forcing them to build a position.

Condemnation Scenario considerations

If the Palestinians consider the current crisis only as a bilateral conflict, they will take the Russian side, but when choosing between Russia and the rest of the world led by the United States, the Palestinians will choose political realism and their best interests.

The Palestinians want the principle of reciprocity and the same support as Ukraine against Russian military intervention. This revealed the contradictions of the official European-

American position on the Palestinian issue. They used boycotts and sanctions against Russia as they never have before against any country. Imagine the use of such policies against Israel—such actions may force it to recognize Palestinian’ s rights.

On the other hand, the condemnation is an opportunity for the Palestinians to put the issue of their national project on the global agenda, which would help to create a position similar to the Ukrainian situation in the event of a war in the Palestinian territories because of Israel’s policies. Americans and Europeans would face serious embarrassment if they condemn the Palestinian resistance and support the same resistant behavior in Ukraine.

Morally, the Palestinians do not support the injustice that Russia is visiting upon Ukraine. Palestinians have experienced the consequences of wars, ethnic cleansing, and apartheid for decades, so they are best able to sympathize with anyone suffering a similar fate. It is also too early for Russia to return as a rival pole to the United States as only four countries voted against a resolution condemning Russia. (Notably, China abstained.) The worst-case scenario would be if the war ends without a clear agreement on the status of sanctions—whether to lift, modify, or repeal. Russia, its allies, and neutral countries would be harmed in the case of continuing sanctions.

Considerations of the silence scenario

The Palestinians enjoy good relations with Russia and stay silent, so they don't anger Europe and America. If pressed diplomatically, it will be important for Palestine to issue a balanced and accurate statement. Indicators of the Palestinian position appear in the prime minister's remarks: *"We look forward to the war being put there to ensure international security and peace, to preserve the safety of civilians who are victims of war, and we also look forward to the international community applying international law to Israel and implementing United Nations resolutions related to Palestine."* The Palestinians have considerations that force them to present a balanced position. In short, they don't want to be caught in the trap of alliances.

The distinction in dealing with the Ukrainian crisis and the Palestinian issue seems clear, but it is difficult for the Palestinians to mobilize these positions in the way Ukraine has. Because the United States and the world fully support the Israeli occupation state, the situation in Ukraine is not parallel to that in Palestine.

The Palestinians’ battle isn't that easy. They need to develop formal and popular efforts, which collide with divided, complex, and unstable political circumstances that prevent them

from being combined in the foreseeable future. There is also international interest in the Ukrainian crisis that distracts from media coverage of outside issue such as the fate of the Palestinians. This reality gives the Palestinians the opportunity to remain silent on the crisis until the nature of global positioning becomes clear.

The Palestinians adhere to the rules of international law and the principle of reciprocity; they have the right to not publicly take a side in the conflict. Other countries have not been demanded to state their position as Palestine has. Frankly, it is immoral to exploit Palestinians' need for (conditional) assistance and frame the issue that in a simple with-us-or-against-us binary.

There is an optimistic consideration that may give the Palestinians space in the long run due to the multipolarity expected by current international competition. Russia's preoccupation with the war does not mean that it will not prove its power internationally. Rather, Russia will classify nations according to their positions on Ukraine and use this classification to pressure them. It will also expand its influence in the Middle East by cutting off Europe from oil and gas, forcing countries to diversify their energy sources.

There are growing doubts about Europe's ability to continue sanctions against Russia, particularly because of its dependence on Russian gas, and the promise of Europe's readiness to diversify sources, so it will adopt a strategy to avoid a clash.

Russia may adopt contact with neutral or silent parties such as the Palestinians and may offer clearer positions towards Israel's policy as a state opposed to Russian intervention, as happened with its unrecognized position on the annexation of the Syrian Golan. This position indirectly supports the Palestinian position, and there are those who support the Palestinians' their rights in accordance with international resolutions.

Conclusion

Where silence in politics is a position, the Palestinians find themselves walking the tight rope: on the one hand there are strong historical relations with the Russian Federation, and on the other hand, they do not want any hostility from supporting Ukraine and its American and European allies. Palestinians' interest is based on a silent position with a high degree of restraint, which is the safest position. This restraint protects against angering any party, and this is in the best interests of the Palestinian people.