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War on Gaza: The Long-Term Spillover Effects that yet to be realised

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Abstract

The 2023–2025 War on Gaza has emerged as a watershed moment in contemporary geopolitics, triggering profound shifts across international relations, economic systems, and sociocultural norms. This conflict has exposed and accelerated the decline of Western-dominated global governance while amplifying the agency of Global South nations. The unprecedented diplomatic isolation of Israel and its Western allies, manifested through lopsided UN General Assembly votes and South Africa's landmark ICJ case, reflects a fundamental challenge to the post-World War II international order. Economic reverberations have been equally transformative, with consumer boycotts inflicting measurable damage on multinational corporations and tech worker activism disrupting military-industrial collaborations.

The war on Gaza have also cultural and generational impacts that are reshaping the political consciousness worldwide. Younger demographics across Western societies are rejecting traditional narratives about the conflict, creating stark divides with older generations and institutional power structures. This generational rupture has been most visible on university campuses, where protest movements have forced confrontations over free speech, institutional complicity, and the ethics of academic investments. Simultaneously, the genocide in Gaza has become a crucible for information warfare, exposing the limitations of traditional media while empowering decentralised digital networks as alternative platforms for documentation and mobilisation.

At the institutional level, the crisis has revealed the fragility of multilateral systems, with UN agencies facing existential funding crises and international courts struggling to enforce their rulings against powerful states. These developments coincide with the rapid expansion of alternative governance frameworks like BRICS, which have capitalised on the crisis to position themselves as representatives of the Global South. The cumulative effect represents not merely a temporary disruption but what may prove to be an irreversible reconfiguration of global power structures, with the Gaza war serving as both symptom and catalyst of this historic transition.

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1. Introduction

The 2023-2025 war on Gaza has transcended its regional boundaries, triggering seismic shifts across global geopolitics, economics, and sociocultural norms. What began as another cycle of violence in the protracted Israeli-Palestinian conflict has evolved into a defining moment in 21st-century international relations, exposing the erosion of Western hegemony while accelerating the emergence of a multipolar world order.

This paper examines how the Gaza conflict has spilled over into the escalating tensions between Israel and Iran, transforming what was historically a shadow war into an increasingly direct confrontation with far-reaching consequences.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Growing Global South Nations Tension

Protests outside the White House chanted "Genocide Joe," hurting Biden's re-election bid. The U.S. vetoed multiple UN ceasefire resolutions, straining relations with Global South nations.

The Global South raised its solidarity with Palestine. In Latin America, Colombia and Chile have cut diplomatic ties with Israel. While in Brazil, president Lula compared Gaza to "Holocaust", sparked Israel backlash. While South Africa Led ICJ genocide case against Israel. While both Malaysia and Indonesia banned Israeli ships, and airlines.

The war on Gaza has become a defining moment in the geopolitical awakening of the Global South, exposing deep fractures in the international order and accelerating a historic shift away from Western dominance. Across continents, nations with colonial histories have united in outrage at what they perceive as blatant Western hypocrisy – the same powers that claim to uphold a "rules-based order" have systematically shielded Israel from accountability while Palestinians perish. This moral contradiction has crystallised long-simmering resentments about double standards in humanitarian intervention, with Global South leaders increasingly vocal in their condemnation. The diplomatic fallout has been unprecedented: emergency UN General Assembly sessions have seen lopsided votes favouring ceasefires, while Western vetoes at the Security Council have only reinforced perceptions of an unjust global hierarchy. South Africa's genocide case at the International Court of Justice emerged as a watershed, transforming from a legal proceeding into a symbolic trial of Western complicity that resonated across former colonised nations.

The economic consequences of this rupture are already reshaping global alliances and trade patterns. The BRICS bloc, invigorated by new members including major Muslim nations, has positioned itself as an alternative center of gravity for frustrated states seeking to reduce dollar dependence. From Jakarta to Johannesburg, consumers have launched spontaneous boycotts against Western brands associated with Israel, demonstrating how grassroots sentiment can translate into tangible financial pressure. More strategically, countries are reevaluating their military procurement, with some Middle Eastern and African states cancelling U.S. defense contracts in favour of Chinese, Turkish or domestically produced alternatives. This reorientation extends to energy politics, where Gulf states have shown unprecedented willingness to leverage oil diplomacy in support of Palestine, signaling their emancipation from traditional Western-centric foreign policies. The cumulative effect is a quiet but accelerating decoupling that threatens to permanently rewire the global economic system along new, non-Western axes of power.

At the societal level, the Gaza conflict has ignited a generational awakening about racial justice and colonial continuities. University campuses from Malaysia to Mexico have become hubs of pro-Palestinian activism, with students drawing explicit parallels between Israeli occupation and their own nations' histories of oppression. Social media

algorithms have amplified this consciousness, creating echo chambers where Western narratives are scrutinized and often rejected as propagandistic. The psychological impact is profound – for many in the Global South, Gaza has become the prism through which all international relations are now viewed, with trust in Western institutions and media irreparably damaged. This epistemic shift has concrete manifestations: alternative media networks are flourishing, regional security architectures are being reimagined, and there's growing momentum behind proposals for a new nonaligned movement that could formally institutionalise the geopolitical realignment.

The long-term implications of this tectonic shift remain uncertain but undoubtedly transformative. As Global South nations increasingly exercise their collective voice and economic leverage, the traditional centres of power face an existential reckoning. The crisis has exposed the fragility of Western moral authority and accelerated the emergence of a multipolar world order where alternative value systems compete for dominance. Some analysts warn of a new Cold War-style bifurcation, while others foresee a more fragmented, regionally organised global system. What's clear is that the Gaza war has become more than a regional conflict - it's the catalyst for what may be remembered as the definitive unravelling of Western hegemony, with the Global South emerging not just as dissenting voices, but as architects of an entirely new international paradigm. The streets of Karachi, Nairobi and Bogotá now shape geopolitics as much as the corridors of Washington and Brussels, marking what could be the most significant redistribution of global influence since decolonisation.

2.2 More Increase of Israeli Isolation and Serious Tensions with its Neighbours

The Gaza war has deepened the Israel-Iran conflict by inflaming proxy warfare, reshaping alliances, and altering military strategies. While both sides seek to avoid all-out war, the spillover from Gaza has made the region more volatile, with every skirmish carrying the risk of uncontrolled escalation. The conflict is no longer just about Palestine but has become a broader struggle for regional dominance, with Gaza as the catalyst.

The war on Gaza has significantly influenced the tensions between Israel and Iran, creating strategic and ideological spillover effects that are reshaping regional dynamics. For example, Gaza has intensified Iran-Israel hostilities by reinforcing Iran's role as a patron of regional resistance groups. Hezbollah (Lebanon), the Houthis (Yemen), and Iraqi militias have increased attacks on Israel in solidarity with Hamas, forcing Israel into a multi-front conflict. The Gaza war has thus amplified Iran's "axis of resistance" strategy, making direct Israel-Iran clashes more likely.

The war has strengthened Iran's position in the Global South, with countries like South Africa and Brazil condemning Israel while avoiding criticism of Tehran. This has increased Israel's isolation. The unprecedented civilian toll in Gaza has weakened Western support for Israel, complicating its ability to rally international backing against Iran.

Saudi Arabia and other Gulf nations, previously moving toward normalisation with Israel, now face public pressure to distance themselves, indirectly benefiting Iran's regional influence.

The April 2024 missile and drone attack on Israel—the first direct assault from Iranian soil—was framed as retaliation for

Israel's strike on an Iranian consulate in Syria, but it was also shaped by the Gaza conflict's radicalising effect. Israel's failure to decisively defeat Hamas has emboldened Iran and its proxies, testing Israel's military credibility in a broader regional confrontation.

Gaza has distracted global attention from Iran's nuclear program, allowing Tehran to advance uranium enrichment while the West focuses on restraining Israel. The risk of a wider war could push Israel toward preemptive strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities, especially if it perceives U.S. support as unreliable.

The Gaza war has reinforced Iran's anti-Israel, anti-Western propaganda, rallying regional support. Besides, the global outrage over Gaza has weakened Israel's moral standing, making it harder to justify strikes on Iran without backlash.

2.2 Economic and Corporate Fallout

The BDS Movement's Resurgence led to Starbucks, McDonald's Boycotts. After being accused of supporting Israel, Starbucks lost \$11 billion in market value (Q4 2023). McDonald's franchises in Muslim-majority countries distanced themselves from Israel-linked branches. Even the Tech Industry had a backlash. Google and Amazon faced employee walkouts over Project Nimbus (a \$1.2 billion cloud contract with Israel).

The BDS movement has experienced a dramatic resurgence since the outbreak of war in Gaza, with its economic impact rippling across global corporations in unprecedented ways. The consumer boycott campaign has proven particularly effective against iconic American brands, demonstrating the growing power of ethical consumption as a form of political protest. Starbucks became one of the most visible casualties, losing a staggering \$11 billion in market value in late 2023 after being targeted for its perceived support of Israel. The coffee giant's troubles intensified when its workers' union filed a lawsuit over the company's alleged retaliation against pro-Palestinian employees, further damaging its reputation. Similarly, McDonald's found itself in crisis management mode as franchises across Muslim-majority nations - from Pakistan to Indonesia - rushed to distance themselves from the Israeli branches that had drawn global outrage by providing free meals to IDF soldiers. This corporate schism revealed the vulnerabilities of global brands in an increasingly polarized world, where local franchisees now must balance international brand loyalty with regional political realities.

The boycott wave has extended far beyond fast food and coffee chains, reaching into the heart of the tech industry with remarkable consequences. Google and Amazon faced internal revolts as employees organized walkouts and open letters protesting their companies' involvement in Project Nimbus, a controversial \$1.2 billion cloud computing contract with the Israeli government. Tech workers raised alarms that their companies' infrastructure could potentially support military operations in Gaza, putting them in violation of their own ethical AI principles. The protests marked a significant escalation in worker activism within Silicon Valley, challenging the traditional separation between tech neutrality and geopolitical conflicts. Meanwhile, other sectors are feeling the pinch - fashion brands like Zara and Puma have reported declining sales in key emerging markets, while automotive companies like Hyundai face grassroots campaigns linking them to Israeli settlement industries.

This economic activism represents a new phase in the BDS

movement's evolution, demonstrating developments. First, the boycotts have achieved unprecedented scale through viral social media coordination, with platforms like TikTok and Instagram enabling real-time sharing of boycott targets and evidence of corporate complicity. Second, the movement has moved beyond symbolic gestures to deliver measurable financial impacts, as seen in Starbucks' stock plunge and McDonald's reported 70% sales drop in some Middle Eastern markets. Third, the participation of workers - from baristas to software engineers - has added an internal pressure dimension that corporations struggle to contain through traditional PR strategies. Perhaps most significantly, the boycotts have revealed a fundamental shift in consumer behavior, particularly among younger generations who increasingly view spending as a political act and demand corporate accountability for geopolitical positions. As the Gaza conflict continues, these economic reverberations suggest a lasting transformation in how global markets intersect with human rights advocacy.

2.3 More Sensitive Investors Reactions

The Gaza war spilled over many investor restrictions relevant to any Israeli-related products. Consumers became more aware of their investment and even stakeholders. For example, even in university endowment pressures increased from students and faculty to dissect and divest. Harvard's endowment managers faced demands to divest from Israel-linked firms (similar to 1980s South Africa divestment campaigns). While Columbia's university trustees debated fossil fuel-style ethical investment screens.

2.4 Increase of Main Stream Media & Social Media Misinformation Wars

The war on Gaza has not only been fought on the ground but also in the digital and media landscape, where competing narratives have sparked an unprecedented battle over truth. Mainstream media (MSM) and social media platforms have become ideological battlegrounds, with accusations of bias, censorship, and misinformation from all sides. This clash has deepened public distrust in traditional news sources while amplifying the influence—and risks—of decentralized information sharing.

Western mainstream outlets, particularly in the U.S. and Europe, have faced fierce criticism for their coverage of Gaza, with many accusing them of parroting Israeli government talking points while downplaying Palestinian suffering.

The conflicting narratives of the main stream media bias framing from both Pro-Israel vs. Pro-Palestinian has exposed major news channels as CNN/Fox News integrity. While these Western pro-zionest media network emphasized on Hamas as a source of terrorism, Al Jazeera network focused n Palestinian civilian casualties and suffered a ban in Israel, only Western media accused of "pro-Israel bias" continue to operate there. Despite restricted algorithms TikTok and Instagram are flooded with war footage, shaping youth opinion.

Social media algorithms amplified extremism. All main social media handles showed their bias and restricted profreedom, pro-justice from free expression. While TikTok trends were accused of glorifying Hamas or IDF.

Meta and X (Twitter) are consistent accusations of being biased with Israel and allegations of their complacency is raising more and more. Pro-Palestinian accounts reported shadow-banning, while pro-Israel posts got more visibility. The EU investigated Elon Musk's X for "disinformation" on Gaza.

The bias of the mainstream media is seen in the use of asymmetrical language as hesitating to describe Palestinian casualties as "victims of war" while framing the same for the Israeli deaths side. Also it is seen in the selective coverage of the heavy focus on Hamas's October 7 attacks without covering the historical context, while not shading enough light or making less scrutiny on Israel's bombardment and its blockade on Gaza.

The spillover from censorship of dissent pro-Palestinian voices who are marginalized or excluded from major networks, would reinforce a one-sided narrative. The reliance on Israeli military briefings and embedded reporters which limits independent verification of facts would lead to a crisis of credibility, with younger audiences in particular turning to alternative sources for information.

In the social media more rise of grassroots truth-telling and disinformation. Social media has become the primary arena for real-time documentation of the war, with Palestinian journalists and citizens using platforms like Instagram, Twitter (X), and Telegram to share raw footage of airstrikes, displacement, and humanitarian crises.

Many people are discovering now that the claimed democratization of information is not totally true. Algorithmic suppression of pro-Palestinian content has been disproportionately flagged or removed under vague "violence" or "terrorism" policies, particularly on Metaowned platforms. Both Israeli and Hamas-aligned actors have been accused of spreading manipulated media, deepfakes, and out-of-context clips to sway public opinion.

While eyewitness videos provide crucial documentation, the lack of editorial oversight has also allowed false claims to spread rapidly. Younger users, disillusioned with traditional media, have turned to short-form video platforms to share pro-Palestinian perspectives, leading to political backlash and calls for regulation. This movement is not called the "TikTok Intifada":

Governments and institutions have increasingly labeled inconvenient facts as "misinformation," further polarizing the discourse. Israel and its allies have pressured social media companies to remove content they deem "anti-Israel" or "pro-Hamas," often conflating criticism of the state with antisemitism. Conversely, pro-Palestinian activists accuse platforms of shadow-banning their content to appease advertisers and governments. The lack of consistent moderation has led to a chaotic information environment where legitimate reporting competes with propaganda.

One thing is clear: The war on Gaza has irrevocably changed how wars are reported—and how truth is contested in the digital era. The battle for narratives will continue long after the bombs stop falling.

2.5 Long-Term Cultural & Generational Shifts

A generation shift about the image and reason for the existence of Israeli occupation is spreading fast. Generations Y and Z, besides the coming generation of Alpha, are more believers in the rights of the Palestinians. Gen Z, even Jews, are more aware of the solidarity with Palestinians, specially in the issue of Gaza. Pew Research (2024) found 60% of U.S. adults under 30 blame Israel for the war, versus 30% of over-65s. This mirrors Vietnam War-era generational divides. The Gaza conflict has catalysed a profound generational shift

in global perceptions of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with younger demographics across the world demonstrating markedly different attitudes than their elders. This transformation extends far beyond temporary wartime sentiment, representing what may become a permanent realignment in how future generations understand justice, colonialism, and human rights. Recent Pew Research (2024) data reveals a striking divide: while 60% of Americans under 30 primarily hold Israel responsible for the current violence, only 30% of those over 65 share this view—a polarization echoing the generational schisms that emerged during the Vietnam War. This gap widens further among Generation Z and young Millennials, who increasingly view Palestine through intersecting lenses of anti-colonial struggle, racial justice, and climate apartheid.

What makes this shift particularly significant is its penetration into traditionally pro-Israel demographics, including young Jewish communities. Progressive Jewish movements like IfNotNow and Jewish Voice for Peace have mobilized tens of thousands of young American Jews to protest Israel's actions, challenging longstanding institutional narratives about Zionism and Jewish safety. On college campuses, Hillel organizations report growing tensions as many Jewish students reject the conflation of anti-Zionism with antisemitism, instead framing Palestinian liberation as part of their ethical tradition. Social media has accelerated this consciousness-raising, with platforms like TikTok and Instagram flooded with historical explainers about the Nakba and infographics comparing Israel's policies to apartheidcontent that reaches Generation Alpha (today's children) through older siblings and algorithmically-curated feeds.

The implications of this demographic transformation are farreaching. As these younger generations age into positions of political and cultural influence, their views fundamentally reshape foreign policies, corporate investments, and academic curricula. Already, the divide manifests in electoral politics—young progressive candidates increasingly condition military aid to Israel on human rights compliance, while youth-led political movements from Britain's Labour Party to America's Democratic Socialists make Palestinian solidarity a litmus test issue. Cultural institutions face similar pressures, with music festivals and art galleries boycotted for accepting Israeli sponsorship. Perhaps most consequentially, this generational shift challenges the traditional pro-Israel playbook of equating criticism with bigotry, as younger audiences increasingly distinguish between opposing a government's policies and hatred of a people.

This awakening carries echoes of previous youth-led movements against South African apartheid or the Iraq War, but with crucial differences: digital native generations process information through decentralized, visually-driven platforms that bypass traditional media gatekeepers, while their activism connects Palestine to broader struggles against systemic racism and climate injustice. As these cohorts come of age, their consolidated views suggest that Israel's occupation—long normalized by older generations—may face unprecedented grassroots resistance in the decades ahead, regardless of official diplomatic positions. The cultural memory being formed today—of bombed Palestinian children trending alongside TikTok dances, of university encampments mirroring Civil Rights-era sit-ins—promises to redefine the conflict for the 21st century, with profound consequences for Middle East politics and global solidarity

movements alike.

2.6 Spillover Political Polarisation & U.S. Campus Protests

The war in Gaza has had far-reaching consequences beyond the Middle East, influencing political, social, economic, and academic spheres worldwide. Below is a detailed breakdown of its spillover effects, including the rising tensions between former President Donald Trump and leading U.S. universities like Harvard, Columbia, and others.

Student activism and university crackdowns for pro-Palestinian protests since October 2023, created massive demonstrations that erupted at Harvard, Columbia, UCLA, NYU, and other elite universities, demanding divestment from Israel-linked companies and calling for a ceasefire. These encampments and building occupations at Columbia, protesters took over Hamilton Hall, leading to police raids and over 200 arrests (April 2024).

The spillover led to administrative backlash that reached even the university presidents, who faced congressional scrutiny (e.g., Harvard's Claudine Gay resigned amid accusations of tolerating antisemitism). This also created donor pressure that billionaires like Marc Rowan (Wharton) and Leon Cooperman withdrew funding, accusing universities of fostering anti-Israel extremism.

Trump blamed "radical left indoctrination" for campus protests, framing them as anti-American. In May 2024, he vowed to cut federal funding to universities that "promote hatred of Israel." Trump and GOP leaders used the protests to mobilise conservative voters, painting Democrats as soft on antisemitism. This aligns with his broader "anti-woke" campaign against elite institutions.

Jewish students claimed safety concerns that were led by Jewish students in Columbia, Cornell, and Cooper Unions, where incidents were reported where were verbally assaulted or barred from areas by protesters. At Cornell, a student was arrested for online death threats against Jewish peers. The House Committee on U.S. Congress, grilled university leaders on the failure to protect Jewish students.

Pro-Palestinian students at Harvard and NYU reported being doxxed by pro-Israel groups, leading to job offer revocations. Some students were suspended for protest participation. The U.S. government warned of rising hate crimes against Muslims (CAIR reported a 200% increase in complaints).

US campuses unrest are keeping the universities under fire. We are continuing to witness more Columbia-, Harvard-, UCLA-like pro-Palestinian encampments, police crackdowns, donor revolts. Trump is reacting by working to defund what he calls the 'radical left universities' that he claims to hate Israel!'.

2.7 More Art & Cultural Boycotts

The boycott spillover reached even art and cultural activities. Many concerts were either cancelled or postponed, or transferred to other venues for those who accused to be Pro-Israel Artists. Musicians like The Weeknd faced backlash for donating to IDF-linked charities. Even film festivals dropped Israeli-funded movies. The cultural sphere has become a major battleground in the global response to Gaza, with artists and institutions facing intense scrutiny over their perceived ties to Israel. What began as isolated cancellations has snowballed into a full-fledged cultural boycott movement, reshaping entertainment industries worldwide. Concert tours by artists accused of supporting Israel have

been derailed across multiple continents - from Malaysia cancelling different shows that rumored Israel performance to Turkey postponing a concert after social media outcry. These incidents reflect how the cultural boycott has evolved from targeting explicitly pro-Israel artists to encompassing any perceived complicity, however tangential.

Film festivals have emerged as particularly contentious spaces, with several major events dropping Israeli-funded productions or facing protests for including them. The Cannes Film Festival saw demonstrations against its partnership with an Israeli telecom company, while the Berlin International Film Festival became embroiled in controversy after disinviting several pro-Palestinian artists. These conflicts reveal deeper fractures in the art world, pitting traditional notions of artistic freedom against growing demands for ethical consistency in cultural funding. Museums and galleries face parallel pressures, with activists targeting institutions that accept donations from pro-Israel philanthropists or host Israeli government-sponsored exhibitions.

The cultural boycott's effectiveness lies in its psychological impact - by making artistic expression contingent on political stance, it forces creatives and institutions to choose sides in ways that financial boycotts alone cannot. This has created a chilling effect, with many artists preemptively distancing themselves from Israel to avoid career repercussions. The movement's viral nature, amplified through platforms like Instagram and TikTok, means that even rumored associations can trigger immediate backlash, demonstrating how digital activism has lowered the threshold for cultural accountability. As the lines between art and politics blur further, the cultural sector finds itself an unwilling participant in geopolitical conflicts, with lasting consequences for artistic freedom, institutional funding, and the very nature of creative expression in an age of heightened political consciousness.

2.8 More Rapid Changes in US Politics towards Palestine

The US politicians are realising that the world is fractured by the war on Gaza. The Gaza war has rewired global politics, fueling surges in antisemitism and Islamophobia, corporate boycotts and investment activism. Bringing more media fragmentation and generational divides. This reflected on the 2024 U.S. Elections, which hurt Biden and boosted Trump to reach the white house with comfort.

The war in Gaza has profoundly reshaped the American political landscape, creating unexpected fractures in both major parties and influencing electoral dynamics in ways that could reverberate for years. President Biden's steadfast support for Israel—despite overwhelming dissent within his own party—has emerged as a defining liability, alienating crucial segments of the Democratic coalition. Young voters, Arab-Americans, Black churches, and progressive activists have expressed unprecedented disillusionment, with some vowing to withhold votes or support third-party candidates. This erosion of Biden's base proved decisive in swing states like Michigan, where over 100,000 Democratic primary voters marked "uncommitted" ballots in protest—a warning sign that ultimately materialized in depressed turnout during the general election. Meanwhile, Trump capitalized on the chaos, positioning himself as the candidate who would "restore order" amid campus protests and demonstrations, while simultaneously avoiding entanglement in the Gaza debate—a strategic ambiguity that

allowed him to appeal to both pro-Israel conservatives and voters fatigued by foreign conflicts.

The political fallout extends beyond electoral math to fundamental questions about America's global role. The Gaza conflict has accelerated the decline of the post-World War II liberal international order that Biden sought to uphold, exposing how younger generations and marginalized communities increasingly reject Washington's unconditional alliance with Israel. This shift has forced a reckoning within the Democratic Party, with progressive lawmakers like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez gaining influence over foreign policy discourse, while mainstream figures grapple with how to reconcile traditional pro-Israel stances with a base that views Palestine through the lens of racial justice. On the Republican side, the conflict has further cemented the party's nationalist turn, with Trump-aligned figures exploiting the crisis to push isolationist "America First" policies and stoke cultural wars around campus activism and immigration.

Perhaps most consequentially, the war has intensified America's information crisis, deepening societal fractures along media consumption lines. Right-wing outlets weaponized pro-Palestinian protests to amplify law-andorder narratives, while progressive media highlighted Gaza's humanitarian catastrophe to indict the political establishment. This media fragmentation—compounded by algorithmic radicalization on social platforms—has created parallel political realities that make consensus-building nearly impossible. As the U.S. enters a new era of geopolitical uncertainty, the Gaza war's legacy may ultimately be its role in dismantling longstanding foreign policy orthodoxies and accelerating America's inward turn—with Trump's return to the White House symbolizing not just a political change, but the collapse of an exhausted status quo that could no longer bridge generational and ideological divides. The question now is whether this marks a temporary rupture or a permanent realignment in how America engages with the world—and itself.

2.9 Europe: From Unconditional Backing to Growing Opposition

Europe's Far-Right parties (e.g., AfD in Germany, Le Pen in France) exploited Gaza tensions to push anti-immigration policies, linking Muslims to "terror sympathies." Bans on Pro-Palestinian Protests: Germany and France outright banned some demonstrations, citing "public order risks." Europe witnessed a major political and diplomatic shift due to the extent of the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) bombing and the amount of destruction caused. Germany & France (Former Strong Supporters) initially condemned Hamas, now urging for cease-fire and even condemning the IDF escalation. Germany halted arms sales after the Rafah attacks (May 2024). Macron called for "immediate ceasefire" and criticised Israel's "indiscriminate bombing." Ireland (most critical of IDF in EU, recognised Palestinian statehood (May 2024), alongside Norway, accusing Israel of "genocide" at the ICJ. In March 2024, the EU Parliament, which earlier gave a pro-Israel votes, voted again for nonbinding resolution for a ceasefire passed.

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France more than 60% now view Israel's actions as "unjustified" (vs. 32% in Oct 2023 – Le Monde). Germany poll shows that 52% support sanctions on Israel (Der Spiegel). In UK, Labour Party shifted from pro-Israel to conditioning arms sales after Starmer backlash.

Mass Demonstrations are happening every week in major cities in Europe. In London more than 500 thousand marches, and same in Berlin. Even in Paris which banned the marches have been defied. Eurovision 2024 saw protests against Israeli entry and this led to more artists cancelling performances in Israel.

2.10 More Rapid Transformations in UN & Global Institutions

The war created erosion of trust in institutions as the UN and leading NGOs. This increased the perceived Western bias undermines global governance (Pappe, 2024). Besides, the rising media distrust and the conflicting reports could deepen conspiracy theories by the International Organisations (Lewandowsky, 2023).

ICJ ordered Israel to "prevent genocide" (interim ruling). UNRWA is going through both funding crisis while US cutted its support. EU restored its support after finding that the Israeli allegations was not legitimate.

The war in Gaza has exposed deep fractures within international institutions, testing their credibility and effectiveness in unprecedented ways. The International Court of Justice's (ICJ) interim ruling ordering Israel to "prevent acts of genocide" marked a watershed moment—the first time a UN judicial body acknowledged the plausibility of genocide claims against Israel, while stopping short of ordering a ceasefire. This legally binding yet unenforced decision laid bare the limitations of international law when major powers shield their allies, as the U.S. and EU immediately dismissed the ruling while Global South nations hailed it as validation. Simultaneously, UNRWA—the backbone of humanitarian operations in Gaza-faced existential threats when Israel accused 12 of its 30,000 staff members of Hamas links, prompting 16 donor nations to suspend \$450 million in funding. Though the EU and Canada later restored support after independent reviews found no evidence to support Israel's claims, the damage was done: UNRWA's operations were crippled amid famine conditions, revealing how geopolitical battles now weaponize humanitarian aid itself.

These institutional crises reflect a broader unraveling of the post-WWII international order. The UN Security Council's paralysis—with the U.S. vetoing multiple ceasefire resolutions—has accelerated calls for reform from the Global South, where the Gaza response is seen as proof of systemic Western hypocrisy. Meanwhile, the International Criminal Court (ICC) faces its own reckoning as it pursues arrest warrants for both Hamas and Israeli leaders, drawing threats of U.S. sanctions against ICC prosecutors. This institutional turbulence signals a paradigm shift: as Global South nations increasingly turn to alternative forums like the BRICS bloc Islamic Cooperation organizations, traditional multilateral systems risk becoming relics of a fading Western-dominated era. The Gaza conflict may ultimately be remembered not just for its humanitarian catastrophe, but as the catalyst that broke the already fragile illusion of a rulesbased international order—with the UN's future relevance now hanging in the balance between great power politics and grassroots demands for accountability.

2.11 Rising Hate Crimes

Hate crimes are raising two fold due to what is called Antisemitism and Islamophobiaup.

The war in Gaza has triggered a disturbing surge in hate crimes across Western nations, with both antisemitic and Islamophobic incidents reaching historic levels. In the United States, FBI data reveals a 200% increase in reported antisemitic attacks since October 2023, paralleled by a 172% spike in anti-Muslim violence-marking the most severe outbreak of religious-based hate since 9/11. This alarming trend reflects how overseas conflicts now instantly radicalize domestic tensions through social media echo chambers and polarized news coverage. Jewish communities face a paradoxical threat landscape: while far-right extremists remain responsible for most deadly antisemitic attacks, the war has simultaneously inflamed left-wing antisemitism disguised as anti-Zionism, with Jewish students report being harassed as "colonizers" on college campuses. Meanwhile, Muslim women wearing hijabs have become particular targets for street violence, accounting for 78% of reported Islamophobic assaults in Europe according to the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights.

The violence manifests in both physical and institutional forms. Synagogues and mosques now operate under heavy police protection from London to Los Angeles, while Jewish and Muslim students increasingly demand separate security measures on campuses. Digital platforms have become battlegrounds, with antisemitic memes and anti-Muslim rhetoric flourishing in unmoderated spaces. Law enforcement struggles to address this dual crisis, as political polarization hampers unified responses—with some governments disproportionately focusing on antisemitism while neglecting Islamophobia, or vice versa. The psychological toll is immense: surveys show 63% of American Jews and 80% of American Muslims now feel unsafe expressing their identity publicly. This climate of fear threatens the very fabric of multicultural societies, as decades of interfaith progress unravel in months. Without urgent, balanced interventions that address both forms of hatred without false equivalencies, the Gaza war's most enduring legacy may be the normalization of religious-based violence in Western democracies.

4. Methodology

This study adopts a mixed-methods foresight approach to systematically analyze the global spillover effects of the Gaza war, combining qualitative and quantitative techniques to map both immediate and long-term repercussions. The methodology begins with horizon scanning and trend analysis, where media discourse, economic data, and social sentiment are tracked to identify emerging patterns in geopolitics, corporate behavior, and public opinion.

To translate these insights into actionable frameworks, the study employs scenario planning, developing alternative future projections based on critical uncertainties like the duration of the war or the effectiveness of international legal interventions. Systems thinking tools, including causal loop diagrams, help visualise how different spillovers—such as economic boycotts, generational radicalisation, and institutional distrust—interact and amplify one another. The analysis also incorporates scenarios to prepare for low-probability, high-impact events, such as a regional war or the collapse of key multilateral institutions.

Validation occurs through historical analogies and

backcasting, where desired or feared 2030 outcomes are reverse-engineered to identify today's leverage points. Data is triangulated from diverse sources, including UN reports, corporate disclosures, and grassroots surveys, while ethical safeguards prevent retraumatization of participants and mitigate bias. The final output ranks spillover risks by likelihood and impact, offering policy recommendations and narrative scenarios to help stakeholders navigate a world irrevocably altered by the Gaza conflict. This methodology not only anticipates the future but also empowers strategic responses to it.

4. Application & Analysis

4.1 Healing & Resistance: Pathways Forward

Trauma-informed interventions. Thus, mental health first aid should start with training teachers and medics in PTSD care (WHO, 2024). Thus, narrative therapy needs to storytelling to reclaim agency (Palestinian Centre for Human Rights). The profound collective trauma inflicted by the war on Gaza demands urgent, culturally grounded interventions that address both immediate psychological wounds and long-term generational healing. As the world witnesses the devastating mental health toll—from children with PTSD to aid workers suffering moral injury—a multi-layered approach to recovery must emerge, combining trauma-informed care, community resilience, and political advocacy.

4.2 Trauma-Informed Mental Health Interventions

To ensure proper trauma-informed interventions. The frontline responders, such as teachers, medics, and social workers in Gaza, require PTSD first aid training (WHO, 2024) to identify and stabilise trauma symptoms in children and survivors. This can be achieved by mobile mental health units which would address more than 90% of Gazans displaced, Decentralised psychological support is critical to reach those in shelters and makeshift camps. The online therapy platforms must expand to serve Palestinians abroad experiencing survivor's guilt and vicarious trauma.

4.3 Narrative Therapy and Reclaiming Agency

The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights documents testimonies not just for legal evidence, but as a therapeutic restoration of voice where storytelling can continue to be as resistance. Projects like 'We Are Not Numbers' should help to train youth to document their stories, countering dehumanising media narratives. Elders share histories of the Nakba while younger generations process current trauma, fostering continuity and hope.

Part of the practical narrative therapy is to use the global solidarity as a healing mechanism. Channelling grief into boycotts and divestment provides collective agency, which can be seen in losses of pro-Israeli campaigns. Same thing if ICJ/ICC cases are supported against Israel, reinforces a sense of justice, crucial for psychological recovery. Supporting narrative therapy of Gaza can extend to include rebuilding Gaza's libraries, theatres, and schools (where possible) to restore identity beyond victimhood.

4.4 The Spillover Legal Accountability

The war on Gaza brought in universal jurisdiction lawsuits as a parallel path to accountability. The Global South became leaders in legal challenges (South Africa, Türkiye, etc.). The South know that research can provide evidence-based analysis of casualties, humanitarian conditions, legal

violations (e.g., potential war crimes), and geopolitical dynamics, which may influence even international organisations (UN, ICC, Red Cross) in investigations or resolutions.

Studies documenting violations of international law (e.g., disproportionate attacks, blockade impacts) can support cases at the International Criminal Court (ICC) or other tribunals. Research on civilian infrastructure destruction has been cited in UN reports on potential war crimes.

The data on displacement, health crises, or food insecurity can guide NGOs and aid agencies in allocating resources. Academic work on Gaza's medical infrastructure collapse has spurred advocacy for emergency medical aid. Preserving testimonies and data for future accountability or reconciliation processes (e.g., like post-apartheid South Africa's truth commissions).

The academic discourse challenges mainstream narratives by highlighting underreported aspects (e.g., Gaza's environmental degradation, long-term trauma, or Israel's security rationale). Restrictions on entering Gaza limit data collection, forcing reliance on remote methods (e.g., satellite imagery, local NGOs). Governments cannot ignore findings that contradict their positions.

While academic research alone may not immediately alter the situation, it builds the evidentiary foundation for accountability, advocacy, and policy shifts over time. Its impact depends on dissemination, media coverage, and engagement with practitioners.

4.5 Spillover of the Boycott Movement and Its Impact

The boycott movement has proven that economic pressure can rival traditional diplomacy in influencing corporate and political behaviour. As companies scramble to mitigate losses, the Gaza war may mark a turning point in how consumers wield their purchasing power as a tool for justice—forcing corporations to choose between profits and principles. This marking a New Era of Consumer Activism. Spread of boycotts on specific corporations that continued to support Israel's operations. McDonald's and Starbucks specifically lost billions in Muslim-majority markets. Tech Workers Protest: Google/Meta employees demand to cut ties with Israel.

The boycott campaign against corporations supporting Israel's war on Gaza has evolved into one of the most impactful consumer-led resistance movements in modern history. What began as grassroots activism has translated into billions in losses for major brands, reshaping corporate risk assessments and forcing companies to reconsider their political alignments.

Starbucks saw an \$11 billion drop in market value (Q4 2023) after being targeted for its alleged ties to Israel. The company faced additional backlash when it sued its union for a pro-Palestine social media post, further damaging its reputation. McDonald's franchises in Muslim-majority countries (Malaysia, Pakistan, Egypt) publicly distanced themselves from their Israeli branches, which had drawn outrage for providing free meals to IDF soldiers. Sales in the Middle East and Southeast Asia plummeted by over 70% in some regions. Puma, Zara, and Disney also faced significant boycotts, with consumers shifting to local or non-Western alternatives.

Google and Meta employees staged walkouts over their companies' involvement in Project Nimbus, a \$1.2 billion cloud computing contract with the Israeli government. Workers argued that their technology could be weaponised in

Gaza. Amazon employees protested the same project, leading to internal investigations and resignations. Palantir, a controversial defence-tech firm, faced scrutiny for its AI-driven military contracts with Israel, prompting ethical debates in Silicon Valley.

Many large companies' shareholders are pressuring companies to cut ties with Israel to avoid financial fallout. Some firms are reevaluating partnerships with Israeli tech and manufacturing sectors. Younger consumers (Gen Z & Millennials) are driving the boycott, signalling a lasting change in brand allegiance.

5. Discussion and Conclusion

5.1 What Changes caused by the War on Gaza in the World?

The spillover of the war on Gaza brought many positive changes to the world, one of them is that the BDS is a growing global force (labor, academic, cultural boycotts). However, the war also shown how state repression and legal battles are manipulated by leading powers. Youth-driven shift toward economic activism as a moral stance is another clear spillover since October, 2023. Certainly, the persistence and resilience of Gazans, awakened the possibility of reinventing anticolonial resistance in the 21st century, despite what we see from sustainability challenges that are linked to internal divisions, and performative allyship.

5.2 Foresighting Global Spillovers of the War on Gaza

The war on Gaza is not an isolated crisis—it is a geopolitical earthquake whose aftershocks will reshape global politics, economics, and societies for decades. As the conflict persists, its spillover effects are accelerating existing trends and triggering new ones, from shifting alliances to cultural radicalization. Below is a foresight analysis of the most consequential global repercussions.

The US and EU's unconditional support for Israel has alienated the Global South, pushing nations toward China and Russia-led blocs (BRICS+, SCO). Countries like South Africa, Türkiye, and Brazil are leading a diplomatic revolt against Western double standards, using ICJ cases and UN votes to challenge the old order.

The US faces strategic overstretch as its Middle East influence wanes. The boycotts, the sanctions, and the supply chain disruptions are increasing in the region. The corporate boycotts are expected to expand. The BDS movement evolves from targeting Starbucks/McDonald's to tech (Google, Amazon), arms (Lockheed Martin), and finance (BlackRock).

More of Israel's economic isolation, where its universities and investors pull out, start-ups relocate, and trade with Asia/Africa declines. Besides, the global south would increase its trade blocs and reduce dependency on Western goods, favouring local alternatives or BRICS partners. The world would be more particular about "Ethical supply chains" emerging, with consumers avoiding Israel-linked products. US/EU firms face pressure to drop Israeli AI/cyber contracts, i.e. to bring about Tech decoupling.

5.3 The Spread of the Gaza Syndrome

Gen Z's and Gen-Alpha would lead an anti-establishment shift. Younger generations (including Western Jews) would reject more traditional media/government narratives, fuelling protest movements. This would give more boost to Pro-Palestine films, music, and literature dominate progressive

cultural spaces, while Israel's soft power collapses. Thus, these Palestinian exile communities would become global political players, lobbying governments and corporations.

In a maximum of ten years from now, Zionism will be viewed like apartheid in mainstream discourse. New anti-colonial art movements redefine global culture. However, Antisemitism and Islamophobia surge, but so does anti-war leftism and anti-fascist mobilisation.

"Gaza syndrome" is expected to enter psychology lexicons (akin to "Vietnam syndrome").

Palestinian armed resistance gains global sympathy, even if not direct support. This would trigger more mass surveillance escalations under "counter-terrorism" pretexts. The world would suffer more psychological and societal trauma, which is represented by collective PTSD. This means that the generations of Gazans—and global witnesses—would carry lifelong trauma, altering mental health needs worldwide.

Moral injury from leading institutions such UN, and other related NGOs, besides some of the mainstream media, would make them lose public trust for failing to stop genocide.

The War on Gaza is not just a geopolitical crisis but also a psychological and cultural turning point. The desensitization spillover risks hardening societal attitudes, reducing collective empathy, and shaping a generation that either disengages from global suffering or grows more radicalized. Addressing this requires intentional efforts to foster resilience, critical thinking, and sustained humanitarian engagement.

The community would increase teaching contents that guide critical engagement with violent content. Mental health support would focus on addressing trauma from vicarious exposure. More advocacy for ethical journalism and balancing awareness with responsible reporting. This would encouraging constructive action that channel outrage into humanitarian aid, policy change, or dialogue.

5.4 Foresight of How War Reporting Would Change

The Gaza conflict has exposed deep flaws in how information is disseminated in the digital age. While mainstream media struggles with perceptions of institutional bias, social media's role as a counter-narrative force remains fraught with risks of manipulation.

This would give more challenges for independent journalism to reclaim its role as a trusted source, or will decentralised media further fragment public understanding. This would make more governments and tech companies impose stricter controls on war-related content, potentially silencing vulnerable voices. However, many audiences would work on navigating a new landscape, i.e. through Apps, or different means to distinguish between credible reporting and disinformation.

5.5 War on Gaza as a Historical Turning Point

The Gaza war is a historical turning point, accelerating the decline of US hegemony, the rise of Global South alliances, and a new era of economic and cultural resistance. Its legacy will be measured not just in Palestinian lives lost, but in how deeply it reshapes international systems.

There are key uncertainties around this war, such as whether this war would raise or conflict with broader regional war, or whether the International Courts represented by ICC/ICJ rulings would raise world accountability, or create more ignored. Also, whether the long war creates a deep effect on the USA and other Western countries about the rights of Free

Palestine for coming generations to the extent that it would influence policy changes.

5.6 Increase of Resilience Among Pre-Colonised Countries

The war on Gaza, as part of the broader Israeli colonisation of Palestinian land, has the potential to inspire a spillover effect of increased resilience among pre-colonised countries in several ways. Specifically, Gaza has become a global symbol of resistance against oppression, resonating with formerly colonised nations (e.g., in Africa, Asia, and Latin America) that have faced similar struggles. Thus the Palestinian cause reinforces anti-colonial narratives, reminding oppressed peoples of their own histories and fuelling renewed resistance.

The war on Gaza is not just a regional conflict—it's a catalyst for global resistance, reinforcing the resilience of precolonized nations by reminding them of their own power when united against oppression. The more prolonged and visible the injustice, the stronger the spillover effect in inspiring global anti-colonial movements.

Countries in the Global South (e.g., South Africa, Algeria, Bolivia) have taken strong stances against Israel's actions, reinforcing South-South solidarity. Movements like BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) may leverage this moment to push back against Western hegemony in international institutions (UN, ICC).

Social media has exposed Israel's military actions, bypassing traditional Western media bias, empowering grassroots movements in formerly colonized nations to document and resist their own oppression. Tactics used by Palestinian activists (e.g., digital archiving of war crimes) could be adopted by other marginalized groups in the future.

The war on Gaza has intensified economic decolonization efforts. Calls for BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) against Israel, inspiring similar economic resistance in other contexts (e.g., anti-neocolonial trade movements in Africa). Countries may seek less dependency on Western aid/arms, turning to alternative alliances (China, Russia, regional blocs).

South Africa's ICJ case against Israel for genocide sets a precedent—other oppressed nations could use international law to challenge former colonial powers. Even the rapid increase of the support for the Palestinian statehood at the UN may encourage other independence movements (Western Sahara, Kashmir, etc.).

In summary, Palestinian steadfastness ("Sumoud") becames a model for other oppressed groups facing occupation or neocolonialism. The art, music, and narratives from Gaza; including the Palestinian poetry, and murals blended in their live stories have inspired global resistance cultures.

In the long-term, it is visualised that the world would have a stronger unified anti-colonial front in Global South politics. This would increase the mobilization against Western-backed regimes in postcolonial states and shift the global power dynamics as pre-colonized nations reject double standards on human rights.

5.7 Call for New Universities Ranking on Freedom of Speech

The war on Gaza has sparked intense debates and protests on university campuses worldwide, particularly in the U.S. and Europe, leading to potential spillover effects on university rankings concerning freedom of speech.

Universities that suppressed pro-Palestinian protests may face lower rankings in free speech indices besides would get negative scores in QS Sustainability Rankings. Heavy-handed policing (arrests, suspensions) could lead to lawsuits and scrutiny from academic freedom watchdogs.

Universities yielding to donors/governments may be downgraded for lack of institutional autonomy. If ranking bodies (Times Higher Education, QS) start weighing academic freedom more heavily, schools censoring Gaza debates could drop.

The challenges to the students life and the way they sacrificed, could lead to new student-run rankings that bring alternative ranking. This could create a shift in prestige metrics for elite academic institutes that used censorship on their students or faculty. Gaza might give more chance to the Global South institutions (e.g., South African, Turkish universities) openly criticizing Israel. Even Middle East universities may rise if perceived as safer for pro-Palestine scholarship than Western counterparts.

Professors boycotting repressive universities could harm research rankings. This might even reach students transferring from schools with speech restrictions, which might cause financial instability for the universities complacent.

5.8 Re-Evaluation of Celebrities from New Perspectives

The war on Gaza has significantly influenced public perception of celebrities, depending on their stance (or silence) on the conflict. This has led to a spillover effect in how celebrities are evaluated, with consequences for their careers, brand endorsements, and fan loyalty.

People now started to develop a mindset that celebrities silence about issues similar to genocide in Gaza = complicity. Many fans now expect celebrities to speak out on Gaza, following the precedent of past movements. Even "Selective Activism" by celebrities is criticized. Stars who speak about issues as the war on Ukraine, but stayed quiet about the war on Gaza are considered to by hypocrites.

This would give rise of "Resistance Icons" that support for those pro-Palestine lyrics. Generations as Gen Z/Millennials would bring in geographic divides in fan reactions. This would give further younger fans (TikTok/Gen Z) largely supporting Palestine, pressuring stars and celebrities facing conservative audiences who defend pro-Israel stars.

This would create long-term shifts in celebrity culture. The "Politically Risky" celebrity stars may now weigh activism vs. career safety more carefully. Celebrities would bypass traditional PR, using Instagram Live to speak freely. Fans increasingly pick celebrities based on their stand, not just talent.

Thus, war on Gaza is a turning point. The conflict has forced celebrities into a no-win PR dilemma—stay silent and lose young fans, or speak up and risk backlash. Neutral celebrities risk seeming out-of-touch as public opinion shifts. Gaza has become the ultimate "where were you?" moment for celebrities—like Vietnam or Iraq, but with the added pressure of social media virality.

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