

Israeli Aggression on Gaza and the Crisis of Western Human Values: An Analytical Study of Double Standards

Brahim BENDAIKHA^{1*}, Habiba ZELLAGUI²

¹ University of Constantine3 -Salah Boubnider, (Algeria), brahim.bendaikha@univ-constantine3.dz

² University of Constantine3 -Salah Boubnider, (Algeria), habiba.zellagui@univ-constantine3.dz

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1. Introduction

International humanitarian law establishes rules together with frameworks through which international relations between peace and conflict periods are regulated under international law. The foundation of international humanitarian law consists of legal rules, agreements, and treaties, which form the base of the international legal system and operate as a public international law branch.

The protection of non-combatants during armed conflicts stands on international humanitarian law as its fundamental guarantee. The law aims to reduce all kinds of conflicts and tensions because they produce grave effects on human populations, mainly affecting civilian casualties. The process involves developing binding protection systems for civilians and determining what military actions are acceptable and what actions are forbidden. The legal system establishes protective standards for human beings during military operations through defined rules of conduct that all combatants must follow. The rules focus on specific targets within the military operations and infrastructure that support basic civilian needs. International humanitarian law holds the dual names of armed conflict law and war law because of its fundamental nature. The primary goal of this legal framework is to limit the methods of warfare employed by conflicting parties while safeguarding the welfare of persons who are not directly participating in military operations. International humanitarian law derives its fundamental principles from international legal standards, which establish humanitarian norms for all armed conflicts.

The Israeli war on the Gaza Strip has caused immense human suffering and serious violations of international laws and conventions, particularly those related to the protection of civilians and the prevention of damage to essential civilian infrastructure. In this war, humanity has witnessed some of the gravest atrocities and unchecked violence against all aspects of life in a region that has been under siege for decades. In an assault on an unarmed population deprived of self-determination and lacking state institutions and a regular army, the people of Gaza have experienced killing, hunger, and displacement amounting to one of the largest acts of genocide and extermination in human history. Despite the ongoing scenes of killing and destruction for over a year, the international community has responded with total silence. Meanwhile, the Western system its countries, laws, and institutions aligned with the Israeli narrative, framing the Events of the Al-Aqsa

Flood as a terrorist act devoid of human values, targeting a state claimed to have the right to exist. It rushed to provide various forms of support to the occupying government, ignoring the humanitarian crimes committed against the Palestinian people.

In the face of these biased positions and double standards in applying values and principles that have long been the cornerstone of the liberal thought embraced and defended by Western governments - and which positioned themselves as moral guardians of the world, claiming ethical and moral superiority over other nations - the suffering of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip has exposed a value crisis within the Western system. It has introduced a new understanding of truth that reveals much of the falsity and selectivity the West employs in addressing global issues, and has opened the door to serious and decisive intellectual reconsideration of the liberal value system.

Through this contribution, we aim to analyze Western positions on the flagrant violations committed during the Israeli war on the Gaza Strip and to assess the status and fate of the values of humanity and justice reflected in these positions. This is based on the understanding that concepts such as humanity, the right to life, justice, equality, and the obligation to respect international charters are of global relevance and are not limited by gender, race, or color.

To achieve these aims, this study pursues four specific objectives:

- to critically analyze Western positions toward the Israeli aggression on Gaza, using the Ukraine case as an illustrative reference point to highlight selective application of humanitarian principles.
- to document systematic patterns of bias in Western political, military, financial, and media responses to Gaza.
- to assess the failure of international institutions to enforce humanitarian law with regard to Gaza, examining institutional paralysis and accountability gaps.
- to evaluate the erosion of proclaimed liberal values and humanitarian responsibilities in Western responses to the Gaza crisis.

Given the importance of international law and international charters - especially those related to humanitarian law in times of armed conflict - and by examining the nature of the Western response to the wars in Ukraine and Gaza, this study raises urgent questions about the place of human values within the priorities of the Western liberal system. It attempts to move beyond the traditional human rights discourse toward a critical review of the knowledge system itself. This leads to the following key question:

- How are the values of humanity applied in the Western liberal system's response to the war in Gaza?
- What underlies the bias in these positions, despite the universality of these principles?

This study employs a descriptive-analytical approach as its primary methodology, complemented by critical analysis to examine Western responses to the Gaza crisis. The descriptive method is used to systematically document governmental positions, institutional actions, media narratives, and legal frameworks, while the analytical method critically interprets these documented positions to reveal patterns of bias and double standards. The critical approach enables the examination of contradictions between proclaimed liberal values and actual practices. References to the Ukraine case serve as an illustrative analytical tool to illuminate patterns of selectivity rather than as a primary comparative Framework. The analysis is structured across three interconnected dimensions: Section 1: uses selective references to expose misleading Western framing; Section 2: analyzes systematic bias in Western responses to Gaza across political, military, financial, and media domains ; and Section 3 : assesses international institutional failures in addressing Gaza and the resulting accountability crisis.

2. The War in Ukraine and Gaza: Correlations and Misleading Comparisons

This section acknowledges the distinct historical, legal, and geopolitical contexts of the conflicts in Gaza and Ukraine. The comparative analysis presented here does not seek to equate the nature, origins, or trajectories of these conflicts. Rather, it examines the differential application of international humanitarian law

principles and the selective invocation of human rights discourse in Western governmental and institutional responses. The methodological justification for comparison lies in several parallel dimensions : both conflicts involve significant civilian casualties and infrastructure destruction ; both feature claims regarding territorial sovereignty and self-defense ; both have engaged the same international institutions (UN Security Council, International Criminal Court); and both have invoked identical legal frameworks (Geneva Conventions, international humanitarian law). The analysis therefore focuses not on the conflicts themselves but on the consistency-or lack thereof- in how international law and humanitarian principles are applied and enforced by Western actors.

Many political and academic voices have attempted to draw comparisons between the Russian-Ukrainian war and the destruction experienced by the Gaza Strip and the Palestinian people, including the heinous crimes committed against all aspects of life, claiming that there are many similarities between the two cases. However, even considering a comparison between the situation in Ukraine and what is happening in Gaza and the Middle East more broadly is in itself misleading, obscuring the truth and diverting global attention from events in the Strip. Can Russia's war on Ukraine truly be compared to Israel's war on Gaza? Is such a comparison even valid? Especially when those advocating the comparison focus only on the suffering of Ukraine and its people, and equate it with the eradication of all aspects of life endured by the Palestinian people, without drawing parallels between the Russian and Israeli roles. Below are the bases and justifications for such a comparison.

Neither in terms of the parties involved nor in terms of parity can the two cases be compared. The Ukrainian case concerns a war or armed conflict between two sovereign states and two regular armies. In contrast, the war in Gaza involves an army equipped with the latest weapons and technology facing a popular resistance with minimal capabilities. Moreover, Ukraine is supported politically, militarily, and economically by the most powerful countries in the world, while the residents of the besieged Gaza Strip are deprived of the most necessary items: water, food, and medicine. On one side is Ukraine, a country with considerable resources; on the other is the Gaza Strip, under siege for more than a decade, lacking even the most basic infrastructure and necessities of life.

As for the nature of military operations in both cases, the Russian side in its

war on Ukraine appears largely committed to directing its strikes at specific military targets, in addition to some infrastructure and government buildings. In contrast, the Israeli army carries out strikes indiscriminately, without regard for the most densely populated areas. It identifies its bank of military targets across the entire Gaza Strip, including residential complexes, health institutions, refugee camps, and UNRWA schools.

The comparison between Gaza and Ukraine, on one hand, and Israel and Russia, on the other, under this framing, is in fact an insult to public intelligence a failed attempt to conceal bias toward one cause over another. It constitutes a deliberate distortion of facts and is, ultimately, an unjust comparison.

The victims in Ukraine and the martyrs in Gaza cannot be compared for several reasons. Perhaps the figures themselves clarify the matter. According to reports from the Palestinian Ministry of Health, the number of martyrs in the Gaza Strip has exceeded 65,000, with more than 200,000 injuries since October 7 2023 the majority of whom are women and children. On the Ukrainian side (Russia Today Channel, 2024), United Nations reports confirm a relatively limited number of dead and wounded since the beginning of the war (Al Jazeera Net, 2024), especially when compared to the scale of aggression against Gaza.

If we consider the population of the Gaza Strip as of the Al-Aqsa Flood, estimated at about 1.9 million people in an area of approximately 365 square kilometers, a simple comparison with the number of martyrs reveals that over 4 percent of the total population has been killed. Meanwhile, the population of Ukraine is estimated at 42 million, and the percentage of war victims there represents about 0.030 percent of the total population.

Without any subjective bias, the number of victims should not be underestimated, as humanity requires the denunciation of all acts of violence as a matter of principle- regardless of identity or affiliation. This principle was absent among those advocating the comparison.

The geographic factor is critically important in highlighting the stark differences between the two cases. Gaza is not a recognized state but a sector of occupied Palestine- besieged and exhausted- while Ukraine is a sovereign country that has received billions of dollars in aid. Moreover, Israeli attacks in the Gaza

Strip have been concentrated in densely populated and displaced areas within a small and besieged geographical zone, which explains the high number of casualties.

That said, what is happening between Russia and Ukraine is unacceptable from a humanitarian perspective and in terms of commitment to the values of peace and security among nations.

In this context, the Russian Permanent Representative to the United Nations criticized some parties for exaggerating comparisons between the events in Ukraine and the situation in the Gaza Strip, saying:

"You are screaming and complaining about the destroyed Ukrainian cities and the alleged indiscriminate Russian strikes. I would like to ask you to use the Internet to read Ukrainian news you will find many reports about life, restaurants, and clubs in Kyiv, Odesa, Kharkiv, Dnipro, and other Ukrainian cities; government institutions and municipal buildings are functioning almost everywhere, along with transportation, schools, and hospitals - except in places damaged by Ukrainian air defense (Russia Today Channel, 2023)."

This reflects the image the West relies on in forming its positions and responses to many issues, revealing its bias and selectivity. In reality, there is a significant difference between the wars in Ukraine and the Gaza Strip, as demonstrated by consistent facts and indicators though each side interprets them differently.

Such unjust comparisons mark the beginning of shameful and biased Western positions, serving as an unconvincing justification for their divergent and contradictory reactions to two issues that may share a common human tragedy, but whose differences are so vast that any attempt to compare them is more appalling than the bias itself.

On this basis, we seek to explain the contradictory Western positions on the Ukrainian and Palestinian issues, and to expose the West's double standards and selectivity in addressing humanitarian crises when variables such as location, affiliation, and interests differ as will be discussed in the content of the third axis.

3. Biased Western Positions: Between Defending Ukraine's Integrity and Granting Israel the Right to Self-Defense

In this section, we examine international reactions to the brutal Israeli war against the Palestinians, in order to identify the positions and responsibilities of Western countries and international institutions, alongside their responses and engagement with the events of the Russian-Ukrainian war.

This is done with the aim of assessing the objectivity of these positions, in light of the liberal Western values that have been - and continue to be promoted by the system of Western states and the institutions aligned with them.

Given that concepts such as human rights, freedoms, the right to life, and respect for international laws and charters are universal values with a human dimension, not subject to limitation or exception, we attempt to explore how Western attitudes, through their conduct, strip these values of their essence and reduce them to mere slogans used to protect specific interests and allegiances.

The West's double and contradictory positions have revealed the true weight of liberal principles, as demonstrated by a series of reactions and stances regarding both the events in Gaza and those concerning the Russian-Ukrainian war.

The Russian-Ukrainian conflict since February 2022 has united the entire worldwide community through the United States and its Western partners while showcasing the war's destructive impact on Ukraine. The United Nations data shows that thousands of civilians have perished in Ukraine while Western leaders have formally accused Russian military units of committing war crimes alongside genocide. The Israeli military has caused the death of 43,000 Palestinians through their actions and caused injuries to over 100,000 people while leaving thousands unaccounted for with 75 percent of these victims being women and children. The war in Gaza has led to greater destruction than any conflict in Ukraine or Afghanistan as well as Iraq and Syria because Israeli forces specifically target civilians and infrastructure in their attacks, which has not been witnessed by the United Nations since the aftermath of World War II.

The United States and other Western countries supported Israel through both military aid and diplomatic protection methods which included blocking Security

Council resolutions and defending Israel's actions in international platforms against the recommendations of the UN Secretary-General and various world leaders.

Although the double standards and selectivity shown by the United States and, in Israel's case, by Western countries - are extreme, they are not unprecedented. The United States has built an international system biased in favor of certain countries, peoples, and cultures, continuing the legacy of European imperial powers that has existed for centuries.

In its effort to project its superior culture and values, the West engages in stark contradictions, employing a discourse centered on democracy, the rule of law, human rights, freedom of expression, international institutions, the right to self-determination, and respect for diversity. However, whenever these principles stand in the way of asserting dominance over the vulnerable or advancing narrow interests, the West turns a blind eye to them.

It often boasts of and promotes its liberal values when applied within its own societies, but shows little commitment to spreading or upholding them globally. These values are selectively promoted according to rankings and frameworks that reflect the West's self-serving vision and identity preferences around the world (Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, 2023, p. 07).

This is the logic by which Israel is judged by a separate standard and considered a democratic state a label that, in the West's view, grants it various privileges and advantages. Because of this one-sided perspective and refusal to acknowledge Israel's oppressive regime or its blatant racist attitudes toward non-Western peoples, the United States and its Western allies continue to show unwavering support.

Perhaps this is what led the American thinker Noam Chomsky to say: "For the powerful, crimes are those committed by others. This is the basic principle that the United States uses to maintain its supremacy in the world - thus overlooking Israel's crimes and allowing it to dominate its victims. If double standards are required to achieve this, then so be it. Liberal values are cursed (Al-Arian, 2024)."

Western countries, led by the United States, have continued their bias toward the Israeli-Ukrainian axis at the expense of the rights of the Palestinian people, who are deprived of freedom, self-determination, and even the most basic necessities of

life.

In the face of the documented civilian casualties and destruction of infrastructure emerging from the Events in Gaza - including war crimes in the full sense of the term: killing, abuse, starvation, siege, genocide, and ethnic cleansing there are also efforts to alter the demographic balance in favor of the Israeli occupation by forcibly emptying the Gaza Strip of its population and pushing them to flee both north and south.

This is in addition to repeated violations of international charters and humanitarian law (Khattab, 2023, p. 19), including the targeting of hospitals, relief organizations, UNRWA schools, civil defense teams, and journalists, who have all been included in the list of military targets by the Israeli army.

Yet none of this has compelled the West, led by the United States, to confront its legal and moral responsibilities or to adopt consistent positions toward the tragic events in Gaza.

The positions of US officials regarding the targeting of hospitals, infrastructure, civilians, and journalists during the Russian-Ukrainian war and the war waged by Israel on the Gaza Strip have been contradictory. While US. officials do not hesitate to accuse, condemn, and sanction Russia over its military operation in Ukraine, they take the opposite stance when it comes to Israeli attacks on Gaza (Torunlu, 2023).

US officials make statements that imply Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip are legitimate acts, without denouncing or exerting any pressure on the occupation government. Although the number of civilian casualties from Israel's bombing of Al-Ahli Al-Arabi Baptist Hospital in northern Gaza, for example, was much higher than the casualties from Russia's targeting of a hospital in Mariupol, Ukraine, on March 9, 2022, the US administration did not react as strongly toward Tel Aviv as it did toward Moscow. The US leadership did not even acknowledge the responsibility of the occupying power for the hospital explosion.

By contrast, Western and American voices strongly condemned the Mariupol Hospital incident. US President Joe Biden commented: "The attack was unjust and shameful to the entire world," and that "the whole world united to

support Ukraine and to make Russian President Vladimir Putin pay a heavy price (Torunlu, 2023).”

After the attack on the hospital in Gaza, the US president expressed sadness but blamed the Palestinian resistance. In a press conference with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, he stated: “Based on what I saw, it seems as if the other team did this, not you,” referring to Israeli claims that Islamic Jihad was responsible (Saul & Seymour, 2024).

These atrocities carried out by the Israeli occupation forces constitute a clear violation of international humanitarian law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. It is frustrating to witness the reluctance of Western countries and the United States, which applied international law to pressure Russia in its conflict with Ukraine but failed to hold Israel accountable for its actions in the Gaza Strip. These countries continue to provide unwavering support to Israel, which only encourages it to commit further acts that amount to war crimes or genocide against a vulnerable population, disregarding all humanitarian values.

Western nations provide their support to the occupying power despite its illegal status while delivering different kinds of military help to Israel throughout its violations. The leaders from United States and France and Germany and Italy and Britain joined together to declare their unwavering support for Israel self-defense capabilities during their joint statement. These same countries employed their veto power within the Security Council to prevent resolutions which aimed to stop the ongoing aggression (Kahlout & Hedayah, 2023).

The United States stands as the leading financial supporter of the occupation government through its millions of dollars which fund Israel's extensive military expenses while European countries also supply economic assistance. At the same time, they rejected fundraising initiatives for Palestinian people defying basic humanitarian principles.

The United States together with specific Western nations have granted visa-free access to Israeli nationals yet they have refused to use their influence to open medical evacuation corridors from Gaza for patient treatment.

The policies implemented by the United States together with Western countries demonstrate both their steadfast Israel support and their inconsistent

treatment of the Gaza Strip conflict. These countries supported Ukrainian resistance against the Russian army yet they treated Palestinian factions as terrorists when these groups fought against occupation forces. The European nations permitted Israeli supporters to hold demonstrations yet they refused to grant identical protest rights to Palestinian supporters (Kahlout & Hedayah, 2023).

The double standards of the West are also evident in the selective responses to gatherings and demonstrations held on its territory. Some European countries - such as France, Germany, the Netherlands, Britain, and Canada allowed demonstrations in support of Israel, while at the start of the bombing they imposed restrictions on demonstrations supporting the Palestinian cause and condemning violations against civilians in the Gaza Strip. Western countries were clear in banning peaceful gatherings in support of Palestinians, while permitting pro-Israel demonstrations, dismissing individuals sympathetic to Palestine from their jobs, and canceling conferences and events led by individuals of Arab origin (Mohamed & Hamid, 2023, p. 3).

Truth is often the first victim of war - a statement that clearly applies to Western media coverage of the events in Gaza. After the Al-Aqsa Deluge, Western media outlets began promoting stories that were completely untrue. Perhaps the most widespread was the unproven claim that Palestinian factions had beheaded 40 children - a narrative initially echoed by US President Joe Biden, but later retracted by the White House due to a lack of confirmation.

Mainstream Western media have continued to adhere to the Israeli narrative, with some outlets comparing the events to the September 11 attacks - except this time, portraying Israel as the victim - in an attempt to generate more sympathy, while the opposing narrative remains absent: the ongoing and devastating bombardment of Gaza, which kills civilians daily, including women and children. Even when individual journalists within these institutions attempt to present the other side, they are subjected to arbitrary dismissal or investigation (Al-Tuwaisi, 2023, p. 5).

At the level of social media platforms, particularly those with Western and American affiliations, double standards became evident after the bombing of the Gaza Strip - especially on Meta's Facebook platform, which removes pro-Palestinian content while allowing the circulation of Israeli content. The platform

deleted the Facebook page of Quds News Network under the pretext of combating disinformation during the Israeli war on Gaza, even though the network documents daily practices of the Israeli occupation forces, similar to other platforms.

In contrast, at the beginning of the Russian war on Ukraine, Meta allowed its platforms, such as Facebook and Instagram, to host content inciting violence against Russia and its president, Vladimir Putin.

Facebook has been accused of manipulating its algorithms to suppress pro-Palestinian content (Mohamed & Hamid, 2023, p. 09), to the point that users began using unconventional methods to bypass these restrictions. It was observed that interaction with content Condemning the Israeli bombing of Gaza decreased, due to Facebook's restriction of access to such content.

The issue extended beyond post visibility: the number of views on visual content related to the Gaza Strip dropped significantly compared to content supporting Israel, in videos published on Facebook. In response, developers in the Arab region created tools to bypass these restrictions, such as removing dots from Arabic letters so Facebook's algorithms wouldn't recognize the words, or substituting certain letters with English characters in pro-Palestinian content (Mohamed & Hamid, 2023, p. 09).

By comparing Palestinian and Israeli content, we find that the platform allowed Israeli content inciting revenge against Palestinian factions, portraying them all as terrorists. At the same time, Meta - including its platforms Instagram and Facebook - did not apply the same policies at the beginning of the Russian war on Ukraine. Facebook instructed its moderators to promote content related to the Russian attack on Ukraine in order to attract support for Ukraine, and the company even funded some Ukrainian content for that purpose (Mohamed & Hamid, 2023, p. 10).

It is important to note that the double standards examined in this study primarily characterize official governmental positions and dominant media narratives rather than representing a monolithic Western consensus. Significant voices within Western societies have articulated sharp critiques of their governments' policies. Prominent Western scholars including Noam Chomsky, John Mearsheimer, Norman Finkelstein, and Ilan Pappé have long documented systematic bias in US and European policies toward Israel-Palestine. Most

significantly, international legal experts such as Francesca Albanese, current UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, has issued detailed reports explicitly condemning the Gaza assault and calling for investigations into potential genocide and crimes against humanity. Richard Falk, former UN Special Rapporteur on Palestinian territories, has also condemned Western double standards in responding to Gaza. Furthermore, widespread public protests across Western cities, statements from academic institutions, and dissenting media voices demonstrate substantial opposition to official policies within Western civil societies. This study focuses on governmental and institutional positions while acknowledging these important counter-narratives that challenge official double standards from within Western democratic discourse.

Albanese's March 2024 report to the UN Human Rights Council explicitly titled "Anatomy of a Genocide" provided detailed legal analysis concluding that Israel's actions in Gaza meet the criteria for genocide under international law. Her reports have documented systematic patterns of destruction, forced displacement, and targeting of civilian infrastructure that constitute violations of the Genocide Convention. These institutional critiques from UN mandate holders demonstrate that the double standards identified in this study are formally recognized at the highest levels of international human rights mechanisms.

This reveals the inconsistency in Meta's policies and procedures and the double standards it follows. It also confirms that the platform's content moderation is neither professional nor objective, but instead aligned with the political agendas of the countries to which the company is connected.

These biased positions and double standards are not limited to political discourse and media coverage, but extend to the realm of international law and institutions, as will be discussed in the following section.

4. Institutional Accountability and Western Military-Political Positions: Between Legal Obligations and Ethical Failure

Beyond political discourse and media narratives, Western double standards manifest most critically in the realm of international law, institutional accountability, and military-political action. While Western states have mobilized unprecedented military and financial support for Ukraine, they simultaneously enable and defend a blockade that subjects Gaza's civilian population to collective punishment - a clear violation of international humanitarian law. This selective application of legal

principles exposes fundamental failures in international institutions: the UN Security Council's paralysis through systematic use of the veto, the International Criminal Court's inability to enforce its mandates against Israeli officials, and the erosion of legal and moral responsibilities that Western states claim to uphold. This section examines how these institutional failures and double standards have precipitated a crisis of credibility that threatens the entire Framework of international law and human rights protection.

On the political-military level, Western bias in favor of the occupying power became clear, ignoring the suffering of the people of Gaza and depriving them of necessities. There is no doubt that the international community has shown blatant selectivity in dealing with the ongoing wars in Gaza and Ukraine - a clear indication of its lack of justice and neutrality.

During the Russian war against Ukraine, the European Union and the United States deployed all their resources to support Ukrainian forces. The United States and European Union delivered an extensive collection of cutting-edge military equipment and provided tens of billions of dollars to bolster the Ukrainian economy during its conflict (Hamshi, 2023, p. 06). The United States increased its assistance to Ukraine against Russia through President Joe Biden's signing of a new law on April 24 2024 (Al-Atwil, 2024).

Western leaders show no concern for the Palestinian population nor for the humanitarian disaster in Gaza as they fail to provide necessary food, water and medical supplies. The Israeli government implemented a blockade which amounted to collective punishment while continuing to implement increasingly strict isolation measures (Action, 2024, p. 34). The operations resulted in the destruction of residential properties and water sources along with educational institutions and medical facilities but the occupation leadership failed to comply with international laws that require measures to reduce civilian deaths. The Israeli military deployed white phosphorus shells against UNRWA properties while launching deliberate attacks against medical facilities with high-explosive artillery munitions.

These actions break the basic rule of international humanitarian law known as the distinction principle along with the occupying authorities' refusal to permit humanitarian organizations to assist the wounded and deliver medical aid according to international law (Baldwin, 2023).

The United States has maintained its support for the occupying power in the United Nations and Security Council by using its veto power to reject multiple

resolutions demanding an end to the Gaza aggression. The US leadership showed discontent toward International Criminal Court initiatives while denying the Court's orders to arrest Israeli officials thus maintaining protective measures for them and enabling violations against Palestinians to continue.

The International Criminal Court has faced difficulties in enforcing its rulings against Israeli officials because the Netanyahu government remains defiant of its orders for preventive measures to protect civilians and stop genocide. The government has intensified its excessive bombardment of the Gaza Strip (Ayoub, 2024, p. 05).

While the US leadership has attempted to pressure the Netanyahu government to identify legitimate bombing targets and reduce civilian suffering, the occupation authorities have continued their approach of destroying all aspects of life in Gaza (Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, 2024, p. 01).

In the face of these tragic events, the leaders of the liberal West remain silent, detached from their values, principles, and humanity. They continue to affirm the right of the occupying power to defend itself while denying this right to the Palestinian resistance, labeling them as terrorist organizations. Meanwhile, they ignore the occupying power's ongoing prevention of aid from reaching the Gaza Strip, even as the humanitarian situation has crossed red lines of famine, pollution, and the spread of infectious diseases - despite these same Western governments having committed to providing aid during crises in other parts of the world.

In this context, Western commitment appears to serve Israeli goals, raising questions about the West's actual adherence to its stated values and principles. Throughout the Israeli aggression on Gaza and the Russian-Ukrainian war, the contradictions and falsehoods underlying Western values - such as human rights, the philosophy of freedom, equality and justice, liberal democracy, adherence to international laws and charters, and reliance on international institutions in the US and Europe - have become starkly evident.

These values have been challenged by contradictory practices at the level of practice, revealing interests stripped of values, and power stripped of ideals and ethics (Alam, 2023). As a result, the Western system - with its institutions, values, and civilizational claims is experiencing a significant credibility crisis, facing growing criticism, widespread doubt, and a decline in public trust in both the West and international law. This is compounded by visible divisions between Western

governments and their own populations.

International humanitarian law, with its universal and comprehensive nature, assumes that its rules are applied in situations of armed conflict wherever they occur, and that the protection of individuals and civilians from various forms of genocide and brutal crimes does not depend on a person's color, affiliation, language, or belief. Accordingly, it should be noted that international humanitarian law and its charters are primarily aimed at mitigating conflicts, sparing humanity the scourge of wars and armed conflicts, and attempting to limit violence and fighting to military objectives only.

Therefore, the defense of these international covenants and the protection of them from any breach should represent a legal and moral responsibility that falls primarily on the international community of states and International Organizations. The legal responsibility arises from the binding nature of these covenants and laws, having been adopted by a large number of countries, and recognized as binding rules for international and regional Organizations - forming a foundational structure for regulating international relations and responding appropriately in cases of tension or armed conflict between entities.

As for moral responsibility, in my opinion, it weighs more heavily on states and international Organizations-particularly Western countries and international bodies that act according to their own agendas. If the liberal value system adopted by Western countries is primarily based on respect for international law as a binding legal foundation, and on turning to international institutions to regulate global relations - relations that the West views as cooperative and rooted in democratic systems that uphold freedom, responsibility, and human rights- then respecting international humanitarian law becomes a specific moral responsibility of the Western system. Defending it arises from its own values and principles, under the banner of ethical and humanized international relations.

It is clear that Western bias toward specific parties and issues, along with the double standards that characterize their regimes, has undermined the status and credibility of Western countries. Perhaps the West's double standards in dealing with the Israeli war in Gaza and the war in Ukraine were the straw that broke the camel's back, revealing many previously hidden truths. These events exposed the denial by Western regimes of human values, international norms, and charters - an attitude that has even affected the credibility of international law and institutions. Many countries and peoples have lost confidence in the West's ability to uphold the

values and principles it has long claimed to champion and defend.

5. Conclusion

This study addressed the widely discussed issue of Western double standards in responding to the Russian-Ukrainian war versus the Israeli war on Gaza. By analyzing Western stances on both cases, we highlighted the clear bias in favor of Israel and Ukraine, while ignoring the unprecedented suffering and destruction in Gaza. The study concluded that:

- Selective Western attitudes expose the illusion of Western superiority and highlight the danger of supporting certain parties while ignoring others. This raises concerns about the future of such practices and their serious implications for international relations and the behavior of global actors, especially those outside the Western system. In light of the selective application of human rights standards and the clear discrimination between victims based on geopolitical considerations, along with the legitimization of blatant violations of international law and basic human values, the West continues to promote false narratives about colonial history and uses them to judge resistance movements today. The massacres committed by the Israeli occupation in Gaza have revived memories of the brutal colonial past of Western powers like the United States, Britain, and France countries that built their civilizations by annihilating the peoples they colonized and subjugating them. The claim that Israel has a right to defend itself has become a modern expression of a colonial Western principle that grants invaders the right to kill indigenous populations.
- The worldwide ethical and knowledge-based crisis of today centers on human rights violations during armed conflicts. Human rights during armed conflicts have developed into an existential threat which endangers the moral structure of the world. The philosophical examination of human rights faces a profound crisis because of present-day conflicts which include the Ukrainian war and the Gaza conflict while the post-World War II universal humanitarian framework faces deep challenges. The Western liberal framework faces an unprecedented destabilization of its core human values during this research period. International practices demonstrate strong contradictions between stated principles and genuine conduct which reveals substantial gaps between theoretical claims and actual results and proves

humanitarian standards cannot be applied universally. The Western system asserts human rights universality yet its visible actions demonstrate this principle remains weak and depends on geopolitical power dynamics. The global dedication to law-based governance and human rights standards and the rules-based order functions as a major factor in the decline of Western power.

- For years, liberal intellectuals have argued for the moral privilege to support worldwide justice except when it involves unconditional allegiance to Israel. Western policy criticism has prompted intellectuals to Rethink their established positions. The intellectual legacy of certain liberal elites will depend on their response to the Gaza events, which will either protect or damage their remaining credibility. History will remember how liberals either defended their core values or faced permanent disgrace from historical judgments.

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