



American Policy in Gaza: Sacrificing Justice for Geopolitical Interests (2023-2025)

السياسة الأمريكية في غزة: التضحية بالعدالة من أجل المصالح الجيوسياسية (2023 - 2025)

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Article Abstract:

The United States of America, as an independent nation, was built on the promise of freedom, equality, and justice. However, the Israeli war on Gaza (2023- 2025) exposes a shocking paradox: preaching freedom and justice while encouraging persecution and subjugation. Therefore, this research paper explores how military aid, diplomatic maneuvering, and even legal manipulation shape American policy regarding Gaza. Furthermore, this research demonstrates that the United States has no trouble justifying its unfair and controversial policy if it helps guarantee its geopolitical interests.

Keywords: American foreign policy, Israel, Gaza, justice, morality, geopolitical interests

ملخص المقال:

تأسست الولايات المتحدة كدولة مستقلة على وعود الحرية والمساواة والعدالة. غير أن الحرب الإسرائيلية على غزة (2023-2025) تظهر تناقضا صارخا: ترويج لخطاب الحرية والعدالة، لكن أيضا تشجيع على الاضطهاد والتبعية. لذلك، توضح هذه الورقة البحثية كيف تبلور المساعدات العسكرية لإسرائيل، والمناورات الدبلوماسية الأمريكية، وحتى التلاعب القانوني، سياسة الولايات المتحدة تجاه غزة. علاوة على ذلك، تظهر هذه الورقة البحثية أن الولايات المتحدة لا تجد حرجا في تبرير سياستها غير العادلة والمثيرة للجدل إذا كانت تخدم مصالحها الجيوسياسية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: السياسة الخارجية الأمريكية، إسرائيل، غزة، العدالة، الأخلاق، المصالح الجيوسياسية.

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Introduction

The United States of America is seen by Western countries as a model of democracy. Yet, it seems that the American domestic model of democracy and justice does not cross the borders to the Arab countries. The surprise attack, launched by Hamas on October 7, 2023, and the subsequent Israeli devastating response on Gaza backed by American unwavering support, resulted on appalling atrocities and brought American foreign policy role under scrutiny. Though the United States claims to be an impartial mediator, its endless support of Israel against its neighboring countries has never wavered. Therefore, this research paper poses two paramount questions: How do American military aid to Israel, political pressure, and legal maneuvering escalate, rather than resolve, tensions in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (2023- 2025)? And what are the strategic motives behind the American use of ideal pretexts that mask geopolitical interests in the Middle East?

To answer these questions, this research paper examines the recent American role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and explains its controversial strategies and international outcomes.

1. American Military Aid for Gaza's Destruction

American policy has consistently prioritized Israel's security over that of its neighboring countries in the Middle East. According to the U.S Congressional Research Service (2023), Israel has received over \$158 billion in bilateral assistance since its creation in 1948 until 2024, making it the largest recipient of cumulative American funding since World War II. Notably, the vast majority of this aid has been military support. American aid enabled Israel to develop a technologically advanced military, considered one of the most powerful in the region.

Since 2016, the U.S. has deepened its unwavering support when the Obama administration signed a Memorandum of Understanding, covering the period from 2019 to 2028. Under this memorandum, the U.S. pledged to provide Israel with \$3.8 billion annually as part of its military assistance program (Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, 2025). The war between Hamas and Israel that erupted on October, 7, 2023, expanded further American support for Israel. The air and ground offensive launched against Gaza marks the first Israel war in which the U.S. in directly involved. During an interview on CBS news, President Joseph Biden openly supported the stated goal of eradicating Hamas (Bose and Jackson, 2023). Accordingly, U.S. military aid to Israel has reached unprecedented levels, with approximately \$30 billion



provided, including an additional \$8.7 billion aid package announced by the Israeli Minister of Defense to support ongoing military operations in Gaza and Lebanon (Reuters, 2024).

The U.S. responsibility for the massacre against Gaza includes providing Israel with a large part of the weapons used to commit it. The Biden administration urgently delivered military equipment to Israel including 15,000 bombs and 57,000 artillery shells between the beginning of the war and December 2023 (Malsin, 2023). The *New York Times* reported the astonishment of American military experts at Israel's unrestrained use of giant bombs capable of reducing a multi-story tower to rubble, contributing to the transformation of the war against Gaza into a massacre of civilians "at a historic pace" (Leatherby, 2023). Ironically, Biden urged Israel to show more humanity in its war on Gaza (Turan, 2023). In this context, Biden's exhortation to Israel to show more humanity is dismissed as hypocritical and hollow.

To dissuade possible regional actors from helping the Palestinians, the Biden administration increased the U.S. military presence in the Middle East. The 40,000 American troops stationed in the region play a crucial deterrent role. Additionally, the U.S. deployed new aircraft carriers, destroyers, and several thousand troops (Brown et al, 2025). This military support raises questions about the U.S. role in the Middle East conflict and the implications of such engagement for regional stability and American policy.

It is crystal clear that the U.S. provided regional cover for Israel, allowing it to devote its force to the war against Gaza. Even if the goal of the war is to eradicate Hamas, the ambition to annihilate a military organization governing a small, densely populated territory could not be pursued without causing genocide among civilians. Still worse, in April 2024, the U.S. House of Representatives voted for a multi-billion dollar aid package to strengthen Israel's "Iron Dome" missile defense system (CNN, 2024). The Palestinian Authority reacted to the military aid, calling it "an aggression against the Palestinian people." President Mahmoud Abbas's spokesman denounced the money as risking "thousands of Palestinian casualties in the Gaza strip" and the Occupied West Bank (Al Jazeera, 2024).

During Donald Trump's second presidency, the U.S.-Israeli relationship has entered a new phase marked by intensified military and diplomatic support. In March 2025, the Trump administration used emergency powers to release approximately \$4 billion in military aid to Israel. This move signaled a clear break from the Biden administration's failures to manage arms transfers (Reuters, 2025). This aid is part of a broader assistance pattern. During a joint press conference with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Trump announced plans to provide an additional \$12 billion in military aid which is substantially added to the billions already earmarked in the 2016 agreement. Trump announced the U.S. unwavering support stating that "Israel will have everything they need to defend themselves and more" (qtd in Livingstone, 2025). Trump's words indicate a significant commitment to protecting Israel and strengthening its military while maintaining its edge in the region.



Alongside financial aid, the U.S. supplied Israel with a vast array of munitions critical to its military operations in Gaza. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio stated that reversing the Biden administration's partial arms embargo, which wrongly withheld weapons and ammunition from Israel, "is yet another sign that Israel has no greater ally in the White House than President Trump" (Rubio, 2025). Accordingly, Israel tries to seize the opportunity to strengthen its regional dominance during Trump's second term. Due to the magnitude and apparent unconditionality of American aid, Israel has never had more autonomy over the political and security landscape of the Middle East. The result is more than 55,000 Palestinians killed, according to Gaza health officials (cited in Shurafa and khaled, 2025).

American military aid to Israel raises legal questions, particularly regarding the Leahy Act, which prohibits the U.S. from providing military assistance to foreign entities involved in serious human rights violations (Harb, 2024). Critics, including within the American Congress, have denounced this aid. Senator Bernie Sanders, for example, called for its suspension due to Israeli policy in Gaza, which violated international law. At the same time, pro-Palestinian demonstrations have proliferated in the United States since the beginning of the conflict, calling for an end to Israeli aggression (Cooper and Hutchinson, 2024). The growing support for the Palestinian cause, particularly on university campuses, contrasts with the repression of these demonstrations by some academic administrations.

However, these demonstrations still do not have a significant impact on the American administration which continues its military support while calling for measures to minimize civilian casualties in Gaza. As a result, American military aid strengthens Israel's ability to conduct operations in Gaza, but it certainly prolongs the conflict by giving Israel the means to continue its offensives.

2. Withdrawing from UN Institutions and Vetoing UN Resolutions

Since the beginning of the war between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist Movement, Hamas, Israel put the whole Gaza Strip under siege and heavily bombarded this densely populated area, reducing the whole strip to rubble. More than 2.2 million Palestinians (around 90% of Gaza's population) were forced out of their homes (Asmar, 2025). Food, water, fuel, and medicine were cut off from the whole population. The United States showed its complicity by withdrawing funding from UNRWA on two stages. First, the Biden administration temporarily suspended all new funding to UNRWA in January 2024 following Israeli allegations that 12 of UNRWA's approximately 13,000 employees belonged to Hamas (News Wires, 2024). Then, the American Congress took a more controversial step in March 2024 and banned all direct American

funding for the UN agency until March 2025. Given the deteriorating situation in Gaza, the bill was a major blow to the UN agency for the Palestinian refugees as the United States was the largest donor with a total contribution of \$344 million in 2022 (UNRWA, 2023).

Still worse, president Trump in his second term signed Executive Order 14169 in February 2025 prohibiting all funding to UNRWA and formalizing the general withdrawal of the United States from some UN organizations including the Human Rights Council and UNESCO (Office of the President, 2025). This American complicity with Israel is an incredible moral failure as it cut funding to the only entity capable of providing services to millions of Palestinians suffering in Gaza. Besides, the American decision to cut funding is far from unanimous in the international community at a time when more than 92% homes and infrastructure were destroyed by Israel (Yilmaz and Yilmaz, 2025) while famine and disease ravaged thousands of Palestinians.

The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres denounced the “collective punishment” inflicted on the Palestinians (Agence France-Presse, 2023). In a letter dated December 6, 2023, he even invoked Article 99 of the UN Charter which allows the Secretary-General to draw the Security Council’s attention to an issue that “could threaten the maintenance of international peace and security” (Guterres, 2023). Accordingly, some countries called for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza, yet the Biden administration vetoed all attempts despite increasing pressure from the international community. On December 8, 2023, the United States vetoed a UN resolution that called for a humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza. The draft resolution, which received 13 votes in favor, one against (the United States), and one abstention (the UK), was prepared by the United Arab Emirates. Besides highlighting the “catastrophic situation in the Gaza Strip,” the draft resolution also called for the protection of civilians, and the “immediate and unconditional” release of all hostages (United Nations Security Council, 2023).

Unfortunately, the United States reiterated its opposition to a ceasefire. Deputy U.S. Ambassador to the UN, Robert Wood, justified his country’s opposition by stating that “[the United States does] not support calls for an immediate ceasefire” as “this would only plant the seeds for a future war because Hamas has no desire to see a durable peace.” Additionally, Robert Wood even denounced the lack of condemnation of the Hamas Attacks of October 7 as a “moral failure” (qtd in Nichols, 2023). Disappointed by the American veto to the resolution, Palestine’s envoy to the UN, Riyad al-Mansour, called the failure “beyond regrettable” and “disastrous” (qtd in Gunerigok, 2023).

It is noteworthy that the UN resolution of December 2023 was the second draft resolution rejected by the Security Council. Even Western allies to Israel expressed disappointment and anger because of the American veto to the resolution. French Ambassador Nicolas de Riviere (2023) said: “In the face of this severe crisis, this Council must continue to act.” Predictably, the failure of the Security Council to pass a



resolution calling for a humanitarian ceasefire and the American veto to it make the United States complicit in the ongoing massacre. At the time Israel commits horrifying atrocities against Palestinians, the U.S. continues to provide diplomatic protection and unwavering political support to it.

Confirming its unconditional support for Israel, the Biden administration once again vetoed another draft resolution on Gaza on November 20, 2024. The draft was prepared by the ten elected members of the Security Council and called for “an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire that must be respected by all parties” and the “immediate and unconditional release of all hostages.” However, the U.S. representative said that his country “could not support the unconditional ceasefire that failed to release the hostages.” (UN Security Council, 2024). This flimsy argument gave Israel the green light to continue its genocide against the Palestinians while the mightiest nation on earth remains willfully indifferent to their suffering.

Under the Trump administration, American support to Israel seems stronger than ever. Despite international pressure, the United States, on June 4, 2025, once again used its veto to prevent the UN Security Council from calling for a ceasefire and humanitarian access to Gaza. The draft highlighted the “catastrophic humanitarian situation” in Gaza and firmly called for the “immediate and unconditional lifting of all restrictions on the entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza” (“UN, The Question of Palestine,” 2025). The United States explained its veto by stating that it would “not support any measure that does not condemn Hamas” (UN Press Releases, 2025). Once again, the Security Council was paralyzed because the U.S. abused its veto right. It is so absurd and utterly illogical that the overwhelming voice of the international community is blocked by the vote of one country that mercilessly supports genocide against innocent Palestinian civilians. It is clear that the cause of the United Nations failure to function humanely is the absence of justice and morality in American foreign policy. The United States is a country driven by its lust for power and strategic interest at the expense of justice and humanity.

3. American Legal Complicity of Israeli War Crimes in Gaza

In times of war, each warring side is responsible for the consequences of its actions. The Fourth Geneva Convention (1949) and additional protocols I and II (1977) make it clear that the laws of war set limits to constrain the use of force and reduce the magnitude of the conflict. Unfortunately, the current war between Hamas and Israel demonstrates a huge number of civilian losses and demolished infrastructure. The outrage of the international community is more than necessary to halt the Israeli hostilities towards the Gaza population.



By November 2023, multiple UN independent experts invoked a risk of genocide (United Nations Regional Information Centre, 2023). The International Commission of Inquiry, the UN Special Committee on Israeli practices, Amnesty International, and Human Rights Watch have all published lengthy and detailed reports concluding that there were reasonable grounds to believe that genocide was being committed in Gaza (Amnesty International, 2024). It is noteworthy that the word ‘genocide’ was coined in 1944 by Raphael Lemkin, a Polish-born Jewish lawyer who had taken refuge in the United States, to highlight the atrocity and systematic nature of Nazi crimes (United Nations Office at Geneva, 2023). The symbolism is very powerful when the accusation is levelled against the very state that claims to be a victim of Nazi brutality. For Israel, such an accusation is obscene.

Legally, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), based in The Hague, Netherlands, found in January 2024 that there is a plausible risk of genocide in Gaza. The ICJ decision was issued following a complaint from South Africa in December 2023 which claimed that Israel was committing genocidal acts in Gaza. The 84-page case accused Israel of violating the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, adopted by the UN in 1948 (“South Africa Files Case at ICJ” 2023). Accordingly, the Court required Israel to protect Palestinians from a possible genocide, stating that “the State of Israel shall ensure, with immediate effect that its military does not commit any acts falling within the definition of genocide” (“Application of the Convention,” 2024, p 2).

This statement meant that South Africa’s complaint against Israel was admissible. Since 1948, the existence of genocide has only been recognized three times: the first time in 1998 regarding Rwanda, then in 2001 regarding the Srebrenica massacre in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and in 2018 against the Khmer Rouge (Borger, 2024). Though Israel claims to be acting in self-defense, nothing could justify violating international law or inflicting collective punishment on the population of Gaza. Defined by the 1948 Convention, genocide requires both material criminal acts and genocidal intent (“Office on Genocide Prevention,” n.d). Despite the fact that Israel prohibited the press from freely accessing Gaza, the horrible death toll of Palestinians, the scale of devastation, whether to homes or essential infrastructure, and the incessant forced displacement of the Gaza population- all constitute supporting evidence of war crimes.

While the first element is certainly established in Gaza, the existence of the second element divides legal scholars. Joan Donoghue, former director of the ICJ, stated on the BBC, on April 26, 2024, that the “ICJ did not make a ruling on whether the claim of genocide was plausible.” However, by accepting to take up the case, the ICJ was not excluding the risk of genocide. Other legal scholars and historians have reached a different conclusion. Given the scale of the destruction in Gaza, the Israeli-American genocide historian Omer Bartov (2025) in his essay titled “I’m a Genocide Scholar. I know it when I see it,” declared: “My inescapable conclusion has become that Israel is committing genocide against the Palestinian people.”

Moreover, statements of the Israeli state leaders are sufficient to convince the International Criminal Court judges of incitement to genocide. Former defense minister Yoav Gallant notably declared that Israel was fighting “human animals” (qtd in Aljazeera, 2023). Such a statement was confounding because it was said publicly by an Israeli state official. This deadly rhetoric was also repeated by other Israeli leaders. On March 19, 2025, Defense Minister Israel Katz threatened the civilian population of Gaza with “complete destruction and devastation” if the hostages were not released (cited in Inocencio, 2025). Moreover, Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said, on May 6, 2025, that due to the ongoing operation, “Gaza will be entirely destroyed” in a few months (qtd in Borger, 2025). Such statements by senior Israeli officials reveal that the crimes against the Palestinians are high-level decisions and official state policy. Besides, Israel’s violation of international law shows that it is not a democratic country but rather a hostile country which believes that peace can only be achieved at the point of a gun and on Israeli terms.

Accordingly, the International Criminal Court (ICC) decided, on November 21, 2024, to prosecute Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former defense minister Yoav Gallant for war crimes and crimes against humanity. The arrest warrants which were issued against Netanyahu and Gallant are clear reminders that accountability is the essential role of justice. The head of Hamas’s military wing, Mohamed Deif, who was killed in Israeli bombings, was the subject of a similar procedure. The ICC judges found that Netanyahu and Gallant “intentionally and knowingly deprived the civilian population of Gaza of objects indispensable to their survival,” using “starvation” as “a method of combat,” and that they were also responsible for “impeding humanitarian aid in violation of international humanitarian law” (“Law and Crime Prevention,” 2024). Yet, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu used this arrest warrant to bolster domestic support. According to CNN’s Ivana Kottasova (2024), “the decision has united the Israelis... this external pressure is a uniting force not a breaking force.” The staggering indifference and blind support of the Israeli public opinion to the bombings that killed tens of thousands of Palestinians is so shocking.

Moreover, denunciations from countries, that are supposedly democratic, give the impression that the world is more interested in geopolitical interests than in fairness and international justice. For example, the Biden administration, though not a member of the ICC, had welcomed the arrest warrant issued by the ICC against the Russian president Vladimir Putin on March 17, 2023, calling it “a very strong point” (qtd in Armstrong, Radford, and Gardner, 2023). This supposedly democratic country denounced the arrest warrants of Netanyahu and Gallant as “outrageous” (qtd in Lukiv, 2024). This double standard policy and selective morality exposes stark inconsistencies in American foreign policy that will remain part of Biden’s legacy. It is worth noting that American military support of Israel resulted in such a huge number of Palestinian casualties. This complicity could open up the United States for legal responsibility.



Unfortunately, as long as America has power, justice is to be delayed for the Palestinians and their just cause.

The accusation of genocide has paralyzed many political decision-makers for fear of taking sides. The vast majority of Western countries have remained silent at the risk of appearing complicit in the atrocities committed in Gaza. Common Article 1 of the Geneva Conventions, though, requires all states, including European ones, to ensure respect for humanitarian law ("Article 1- Respect for the Convention"). As all European nations are members of the ICC, they are expected to use various measures starting with diplomatic and political pressure to put an end to the abuses and even suspend trade agreements with Israel. Unfortunately, European inaction has been more than disappointing. Secretary General of Amnesty International, Agnes Callamard, strongly lamented the European leaders for giving Israel "a greenlight to continue its genocide in Gaza" (qtd in Rettman, 2025). Through continued silence, European powers are deliberately supporting Israel in its genocide against civilian Palestinians. This indirect complicity is truly an insult to the thousands of victims of Israeli abject form of crimes.

Conclusion:

The American ideals of justice and fairness are not exported to the Palestinian people. The American role in Gaza reveals the stark truth of its paradoxical foreign policy: peacemaking rhetoric coexists with militarization strategies that serve geopolitical interests. This role escalates tensions that the United States claims to resolve. In this regard, American military support of Israel is certainly equated with moral depravity, and its policy accomplishes extermination rather than peace. As the war progresses, American withdrawal from international institutions and its veto of UN resolutions allows Israel to dream of wildly ambitious schemes and to deliberately starve the Gazan population, unhindered by moral restraint. Even when the common belief is that Israel is committing genocide against the Palestinian people in Gaza, American blockage of a humanitarian ceasefire means that its allegiance to the ideals of justice and fairness is shallow and merely pretentious. Ultimately, American unconditional support of Israel is unworthy of a nation that claims democracy and fairness but countenance subjugation and injustice.



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