

Gaza Genocide and a New Economic Reality

Wisam A. Samarah

Assistant Director
Business and Economic Research Center (BERC)
Al-Quds Open University
Ramallah, Palestine
00970592708383
wsamarh@qou.edu

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Abstract

This paper explores the possibility of coexistence between two competing populations within a shared geographic space, arguing that domination does not necessitate the eradication of the other group for economic gain. The purpose of this paper is to demonstrate how two competing populations can coexist within the same space. The paper will discuss the economic dimension of the Israeli occupation and argues that Israel, as a colonial power, seeks to expand its control over natural resources in the Gaza Strip. To this end, the paper contends that Israel is willing to pursue policies – including those that may amount to genocide – to eliminate the indigenous Palestinian population and secure access to additional resources. The central idea is that the pursuit of economic enrichment is a key driving force behind these actions. Both theoretical frameworks and empirical data will be used to demonstrate that peaceful coexistence between Israelis and Palestinians is not only possible but has occurred historically. Demographic statistics will illustrate how both populations have, at times, lived side by side, providing a compelling case for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state that addresses the needs and aspirations of its citizens.

Keywords: Gaza, Genocide, Israeli Occupation, Palestinian State

Introduction

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict, particularly the recurring wars in the Gaza Strip (Gaza), has long been a subject of international scrutiny. The most recent escalation in October 2023, following a surprise attack by Hamas and subsequent Israeli military operations, has led to a genocide.

Genocide is defined under the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948) as acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group. These acts include killing members of the group, causing serious harm, imposing life-threatening conditions, preventing births, and forcibly transferring children (United Nations, 1948). Central to this definition is the intent to eliminate a group, which distinguishes genocide from other war crimes or crimes against humanity (Schabas, 2009).

Gaza, governed by Hamas since 2007, has faced repeated military conflicts with Israel. The October 2023 war began after Hamas launched an unprecedented attack that resulted in taking hostages. Israel responded with a large-scale military operation, including airstrikes, a ground invasion, and a blockade that restricted essential supplies like food, water, and fuel. The humanitarian impact has been catastrophic. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), thousands of civilians, including women and children, have been killed, and hundreds of thousands displaced. The destruction of critical infrastructure—hospitals, schools, and residential buildings—has compounded the suffering (OCHA, 2023).

The question of whether the Gaza War constitutes genocide revolves around intent. Critics argue that Israeli military actions, including the disproportionate use of force and the targeting of civilian areas, suggest an intent to destroy the Palestinian population in Gaza. Some point to dehumanizing rhetoric by Israeli officials as evidence of genocidal intent (Pappé, 2014). For instance, labeling

entire populations as "human animals" or treating civilian casualties as collateral damage in pursuit of military objectives can perpetuate a genocidal narrative.

However, others argue that while the violence in the Gaza is severe and may constitute war crimes, it does not meet the legal threshold for genocide. They highlight that proving intent to eliminate a group is a high bar under international law and requires concrete evidence, which is often difficult to obtain in active conflict zones (Akhavan, 2011).

The purpose of this paper is to examine the possibility of peaceful coexistence between Palestinians and Israelis within the same geographic territory. It aims to challenge the notion that two competing populations must be in conflict over resources, or that the dominance of one group necessitates the displacement or elimination of the other for economic benefit. Rather than viewing coexistence as inherently unstable or unsustainable, this paper argues that both populations can share the land and thrive together. To support this argument, both theoretical and empirical approaches will be employed. On the theoretical level, mathematical models will be used to illustrate how two competing populations can coexist within the same inhabitant. Empirically, demographic statistics will be analyzed to highlight historical and contemporary instances in which Palestinians and Israelis have lived side by side in relative peace. These examples will serve to reinforce the main concept that peaceful coexistence is not only possible but a viable and just alternative to ongoing conflict.

Prior to October 7, 2023

The historical roots of the current conflict can be traced back to the First Zionist Congress held in Basel in 1897, where the establishment of a Jewish state was proposed in locations such as Argentina, Uganda, or Palestine (Sha'ban Al Batish, 2015; Neff, 1995). The implementation of the Zionist project gained momentum following the end of World War I in 1919 and the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. The British took control of historic Palestine under the British Mandate, and Britain and France divided the Middle East under the Sykes-Picot Agreement (Kattan, 2016). Subsequently, the Balfour Declaration was issued, supporting the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine (Vereté, 1970). This declaration provoked widespread resistance from the Palestinian population, who revolted against British rule in an attempt to prevent the implementation of the declaration (Hughes, 2009).

During World War II, segments of the Palestinian leadership sought support from the Germans in their struggle against British colonial rule. However, with the Allied victory and the defeat of Germany, the Zionist movement was able to accelerate efforts to establish a Jewish state in Palestine (Herf, 2022). In 1948, the state of Israel was established, accompanied by violent displacement and atrocities, most notably the massacre at Deir Yassin (Rashed et al., 2014). As a result, approximately 85% of the indigenous Palestinian population was forcibly displaced to the West Bank, Gaza, and neighboring Arab countries (Sa'di & Abu-Lughod, 2007; Fischbach, 2003). In response, the Palestinians and their Arab allies launched a military campaign to prevent the formation of the Israeli state. However, the better-equipped and trained Israeli forces prevailed. By the end of 1948, Israel controlled the majority of historic Palestine, with the exceptions of East Jerusalem, Gaza, and the West Bank (Falah, 2003). East Jerusalem and the West Bank came under Jordanian control, while Egypt administered Gaza.

Despite repeated efforts, Palestinians were unable to reclaim their land. In the 1967 Six-Day War, Israel captured East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza (Newman & Falah, 1995). Nevertheless, Palestinian resistance persisted in the pursuit of an independent state. The First Intifada erupted in 1987, marking a large-scale grassroots uprising against Israeli occupation (Aronson, 2024). The Intifada culminated in the Oslo Accords and the establishment of the Palestinian Authority as a step toward limited Palestinian self-governance (Yanovski et al., 2015).

In 1994, the Palestinian Authority was formed with the goal of transitioning into a fully sovereign government over East Jerusalem, Gaza, and the West Bank (Beinin & Stein, 2006). However, the Second Intifada in 2000 severely weakened the Authority, creating a power vacuum that allowed for the rise of rival factions. During this period, Israel targeted and assassinated several Palestinian leaders (Nasrallah, 2013), including Abu Shuhseh, a prominent resistance figure in the Jenin Refugee Camp (Tabar, 2007). These developments marked the decline of Fatah's dominance in Gaza and paved the way for Hamas to rise to power.

After the Second Intifada, the Palestinian Authority was left severely debilitated, lacking control over borders, airspace, and maritime access (Elagraa et al., 2015). In 2007, Hamas won parliamentary elections and took control of Gaza. However, the international community largely rejected the Hamas-led government, imposing sanctions and embargoes (Brown, 2012). This external pressure contributed to a deep division among Palestinians, with the West Bank governed by Fatah and Gaza by Hamas. Israel effectively implemented a "divide and conquer" strategy, leaving Palestinians with two rival governments: one advocating peaceful negotiations, and the other engaging in armed resistance. Despite these divisions, Israel maintained a tight iron grip over both regions. The occupation turned the West Bank and Gaza into two massive open-air prisons, with Gaza suffering under a severe economic blockade that exacerbated overcrowding and poverty.

Leading to October 7, 2023

Natural resources are finite and highly contested across the globe (Scott, 1983). Colonial powers have historically sought to expand control over natural resources to bolster their economic power (The Routledge Handbook of Critical Resource Geography, 2021). The Israeli occupation of Palestine can be understood through political, religious, and economic lenses. This paper discusses the economic dimension, arguing that Israel, as a colonial power, aims to consolidate its control over natural resources, particularly those in Gaza. Like previous colonial regimes, Israel appears willing to employ extreme violence, including genocide, to displace the indigenous population and secure economic gains (Crook, 2018).

The discovery of natural gas off the coast of Gaza intensified Israel's interest in the region (ElBassoussy, 2018, p. 3). The Hamas-led attack on October 7, 2023, was a desperate response to years of economic siege, systematic oppression, and impoverishment imposed by the Israeli blockade. Hamas sought to challenge this status quo and liberate its people from what it views as a racist occupying power. In retaliation, Israel launched a devastating military campaign, which, as of April 3, 2025, resulted in the deaths of over 50,523 people and more than 114,638 injured (State of Palestine Ministry of Health, 2025). In addition, Gaza has become virtually uninhabitable due to the destruction of critical infrastructure, including water systems, food supply chains, and residential and public buildings.

These events underscore the urgent need for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state – one that is free from Israeli control and capable of providing safety, dignity, and sovereignty to its people. The Palestinian population can no longer live under occupation, especially in light of the genocide committed by elements of the Israeli political establishment. A sovereign Palestinian state must have full authority over its land, people, and natural resources – unlike the limited autonomy currently allowed under the Oslo framework.

The rest of this paper is structured as follows: the next section presents a mathematical model that illustrates the potential for coexistence between two competing populations within the same geographic space. This is followed by a Literature Review, which surveys relevant academic contributions. The Empirical Evidence section will present demographic data that demonstrates historical examples of peaceful coexistence between Israelis and Palestinians. Finally, the paper concludes with key takeaways and policy recommendations.

Mathematical Model

In this section, we investigate whether it is possible for two different populations to coexist given the same resources. We define coexistence as follows: for any positive initial function (P_0, I_0) in Ω , the corresponding solution (P, I) of (1)-(3) remains positive for all $t > 0, x \in \Omega$. We will examine the concept of the coexistence of two competing species that are governed by systems (1)-(3) (Pao, 1981, p. 61).

$$\begin{aligned} P_t - D_1 \nabla^2 P &= P(a_1 - b_1 P - c_1 I) \\ I_t - D_1 \nabla^2 I &= I(a_2 - b_2 P - c_2 I) \end{aligned} \quad (t > 0, x \in \Omega), \quad (1)$$

In the above equations, P and I represent the densities of the two competing species, Ω is a bounded domain in R^n ($n = 1, 2, \dots$), representing the habitat, and $D_i, a_i, b_i,$ and c_i are physical parameters that are taken as positive constants. The physical interpretation of Eq. (1) is that in the absence of competition, each population grows according to Malthusian law, and under competition, its growth rate is reduced at a rate proportional to the size of its competitor population as well as the population of its own kind. The terms $D_1 \nabla^2 P$ and $D_1 \nabla^2 I$ represent the effect of dispersion (transportation) in the habitat.

In addition to Eq. (1), there is a boundary condition that is usually taken as the Dirichlet or Neumann type. Here, we consider a more general boundary condition in the form:

$$\begin{aligned} B[P] &\equiv a(x) \partial P / \partial l + \beta(x) P = 0, \\ B[I] &\equiv a(x) \partial I / \partial l + \beta(x) I = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (t > 0, x \in \partial \Omega) \quad (2)$$

together with the initial condition:

$$P(0, x) = P_0(x), \quad I(0, x) = I_0(x), \quad (x \in \Omega) \quad (3)$$

where $\partial\Omega$ is the boundary of Ω , $a \geq 0, \beta \geq 0$, with $a(x) = \beta(x) > 0$ on $\partial\Omega$ and P_0, I_0 , being nonnegative functions in Ω . The consideration of boundary condition (2) includes the Dirichlet type ($a \equiv 0$), Neumann type ($\beta \equiv 0$) and third type ($a > 0, \beta > 0$). Systems (1)-(3) provide a complete mathematical description of the dynamical equations for the two competing species (Pao, 1981, p. 55).

In addition to the time-dependent system (1)-(3), we also investigate the existence and stability of nontrivial solutions of the corresponding steady-state problem

$$-D_1 \nabla^2 P = P(a_1 - b_1 P - c_1 I) \quad (x \in \Omega) \quad (4)$$

$$-D_2 \nabla^2 I = I(a_2 - b_2 P - c_2 I)$$

$$B[P] = 0, \quad B[I] = 0, \quad (x \in \partial\Omega) \quad (5)$$

Special attention will be given to the Neumann boundary condition

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial \nu} = \frac{\partial I}{\partial \nu} = 0 \quad (x \in \partial\Omega) \quad (6)$$

Under these boundary conditions, systems (4) and (5) possess four uniform steady-state solution, namely, $(0,0)$, $(a_1/b_1, 0)$, $(0, a_2/c_2)$ and (η_1/η_2) , where

$$\eta_1 = (a_1 c_2 - a_2 c_1) / \Delta, \quad \eta_2 = (a_2 b_1 - a_1 b_2) / \Delta \quad \text{when } \Delta \equiv b_1 c_2 - b_2 c_1 \neq 0.$$

It is shown from an established general condition that the trivial solution $(0,0)$ is always unstable; among the three nontrivial solutions, only one is asymptotically stable, while the remaining two are unstable. The stable and unstable values are determined by the relative magnitude among the three constants, a_1/a_2 , b_1/b_2 , and c_1/c_2 , are independent of the diffusion coefficient D_i and the domain Ω . The same criteria also determine whether the two competing species coexist or one wipes out the other. It turns out that these two species coexist with (η_1/η_2) as the asymptotic limit when $c_1/c_2 < a_1/a_2 < b_1/b_2$, and otherwise when either $a_1/a_2 < c_1/c_2$ or $a_1/a_2 > b_1/b_2$. The above equations indicated that two species can coexist even when dealing with primitive species. Therefore, coexistence will be easier when dealing with modern-day human species or when people are supposedly more educated and aware of humanity.

Literature Review

A number of papers talked about the Gaza Genocide.

Giroux (2024) had contrasted the October 7th retaliation of Hamas with the Israeli military genocide against Gaza. It was concluded that there's a false equivalency between the two actions, i.e. the October 7th retaliation and the genocide.

Hasan and Buheji (2024) delves into the erosion of global legitimacy, highlighting the complacent observation of escalating human rights violations in Gaza and Palestine without corresponding action. Employing an in-depth analysis, the authors scrutinize the diverse mechanisms, strategies, and practices employed by the Israeli occupation in Gaza, particularly since the onset of the

October 2023 war. Through an extensive review, the paper examines the spectrum of actions undertaken by the Israeli occupation during the initial four months of the conflict, ranging from collective punishment and war crimes to forced displacement, munition testing on Gazans, harsh treatment of prisoners, forced displacement mechanisms, ethnic cleansing, and unmistakable genocidal actions.

Utilizing a qualitative approach, the study draws from various sources including international law documents, human rights organization reports, academic literature, and firsthand testimonies. The legal analysis of instances of collective punishment underscores a significant disjunction between the principles of international humanitarian law and their enforcement realities. The paper identifies a lack of accountability for violations, partly stemming from political and diplomatic complexities, as a major impediment to the effectiveness of existing legal frameworks in protecting civilian populations. This failure challenges the global legitimacy of international legal mechanisms in effectively addressing and deterring atrocities ranging from collective punishment to genocide. Consequently, the paper concludes with a call to the international community for a reassessment of the capacity of existing legal and humanitarian responses to address egregious human rights violations, starting from collective punishment and extending to forced displacement and genocide. Such a reassessment is deemed necessary for the world to reclaim its legitimacy as a more civilized society than that of medieval times.

Helmi (2024) looked at the most important international crimes, such as genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity as violations of human rights. Gaza was taken as a case study of Human rights in light of international law. The study sheds light on the most important international crimes mentioned in the Rome Statute of the Criminal Court. The study also focuses on human rights violations and the Israeli occupation forces committing international crimes in Gaza. Gaza is in violation of the rules of international law and the provisions of international legitimacy. The study showed that the international crimes committed by the Israeli occupation forces in Gaza constitute violations Serious crimes represented in genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, under international humanitarian law.

Lederman (2024) described Gaza as being a laboratory for Israel to test its weapons. Gaza has long served as a testing ground, notably for Israel to experiment with and showcase new weapons and security technologies, which are subsequently marketed globally. Beyond this, it has been a place where the erosion of human dignity is observed through constant surveillance, blockade, isolation, intrusion into personal lives, and limitations on basic freedoms like travel, marriage, and work. However, on 7 October, Gaza tragically transformed into a site of genocidal violence, marking a disturbing new phase in its tumultuous history.

Rifai (2024) talked about the Genocide in Gaza serving as a profound challenge to the human conscience, revealing the stark political hypocrisy of certain Western leaders. It underscores the double standards exhibited by these leaders, particularly in their involvement in the conflict. Furthermore, the war has placed both the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court in a delicate position, along with the UNHR, which is deeply concerned about the grave atrocities occurring in Gaza. These international bodies are tasked with upholding justice and fairness in global conflicts, without discrimination based on nationality, religion, or politics. However, they find themselves hindered by the actions of the Zionist State of Israel and its allies,

who obstruct their mandate to apply the law impartially. A notable example is the legal action taken by South Africa against Israel for its actions in Gaza, which received support from many countries in the Global South but faced dismissal from several Western nations. This dismissal, in the face of clear evidence of genocide, highlights the extent of political discrimination by Western leaders. To fully grasp the severity of this discrimination, one must revisit the principles outlined in the UN's convention on the prevention of the Crime of Genocide.

Sahara (2024) compared the war in Gaza to previous genocides that are recognized by international institutions or Western Authorities. The paper had concluded that there is enough evidence to classify the war in Gaza as a genocide if unchecked.

Nijim (2023) discussed how Israel is committing a slow-motion genocide against the defenseless people in Gaza. The data was collected from interviews of Palestinian students, human rights reports, historical and sociological materials.

Ateş (2011) asserted the military attacks of Israel against Gaz. It was documented that the situation in Gaza will develop into a genocide, and a crime against humanity. This will be a case that will be adopted by the international criminal court.

Rought-Brooks (2009) so the manifestation of a genocide in Gaza. He documented the existence of the necessary conditions for the appearance of a genocide in Gaza.

This paper will contribute to the present literature in its rigorous approach. This study uses partial differential equations to show that it is possible to have two rival populations competing for the same resources living side by side. This paper differs from previous studies in both taking a mathematical approach and focusing on economic dimension of a genocide.

Empirical Evidence

The Palestinian economy operates under a unique and challenging framework shaped by decades of political instability, restricted autonomy, and limited access to resources. The territories of the West Bank and Gaza face significant economic constraints due to the Israeli occupation, internal political divisions, and dependency on foreign aid.

The Palestinian economy is heavily reliant on three main sectors: agriculture, services, and construction. According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the services sector is the largest contributor to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), accounting for nearly 60% of the total in recent years (PCBS, 2022). Agriculture, historically a cornerstone of the economy, has declined in its contribution to GDP, although it remains crucial for food security and rural employment. Manufacturing and construction are other critical sectors, but they operate under severe constraints. The limited industrial base is hampered by restricted access to raw materials and machinery, as well as disruptions in the supply chain due to Israeli-imposed trade barriers (Levin et al., 2018).

The Palestinian economy faces the following economic challenges:

1. **Movement and Trade Restrictions:** One of the most significant challenges is the Israeli-imposed blockade on Gaza and the extensive system of checkpoints and barriers in the West Bank. These restrictions hinder the free movement of goods and people, inflating transaction costs and reducing competitiveness in regional and global markets. According to Arnon (2020), these barriers have led to a fragmented economy, where businesses face delays and increased costs, limiting their ability to expand and innovate.
2. **Dependency on Israel:** The Palestinian economy is deeply intertwined with Israel's, relying on it for trade, employment, and infrastructure. Nearly 80% of Palestinian exports are destined for Israel, making the economy vulnerable to political and economic fluctuations in Israeli policy (World Bank, 2021). Additionally, thousands of Palestinian laborers work in Israel, contributing significantly to household incomes but creating a dependency that undermines long-term economic sovereignty (Kanafani, 2020).
3. **Political Fragmentation:** The political divide between the Palestinian Authority (PA) in the West Bank and Hamas in Gaza has resulted in two separate and poorly coordinated economic systems. This fragmentation limits the effectiveness of economic policies and reduces opportunities for unified growth strategies (Sayre & Kharouf, 2019). Gaza's economy, in particular, has suffered under a prolonged blockade, leading to a humanitarian crisis and one of the highest unemployment rates globally, exceeding 40% (UNCTAD, 2023).
4. **Foreign Aid Dependency:** Foreign aid plays a critical role in sustaining the Palestinian economy. Donor funding supports government budgets, infrastructure projects, and humanitarian assistance. However, the dependency on aid introduces volatility, as aid flows are often subject to political conditions. According to Turner (2021), while aid mitigates immediate economic distress, it also fosters a cycle of dependency, stifling domestic economic development.

Israel's economy is characterized by a high-income, market-oriented structure with strong technological and industrial sectors. According to the World Bank, Israel's GDP per capita reached \$55,530 in 2022, positioning it among the world's most developed economies (World Bank, 2023). The technology sector, often referred to as the "Start-Up Nation," is a cornerstone of the economy, accounting for around 15% of GDP and nearly half of the country's exports (Senor & Singer, 2009).

Several factors drive Israel's economic growth. First, the country's investment in education and research has been pivotal. Israel spends approximately 4.9% of its GDP on research and development (R&D), one of the highest rates globally (OECD, 2023). This focus fosters a highly skilled workforce and attracts foreign direct investment (FDI).

Second, Israel benefits from a strong entrepreneurial culture and government support for innovation. The Office of the Chief Scientist, now known as the Israel Innovation Authority, provides grants and incentives for startups and research initiatives, further enhancing the country's innovative capacity (Trajtenberg, 2002).

Lastly, international trade and investment partnerships, particularly with the United States and the European Union, provide essential markets for Israeli exports and sources of capital. The recently established trade ties with Arab states through the Abraham Accords also present new opportunities for regional economic integration (Feldman, 2021).

The Israeli economy stands as a model of innovation and resilience, leveraging its strengths in technology, R&D, and entrepreneurship to achieve robust growth. However, addressing structural inequalities, geopolitical risks, and labor market disparities is essential for sustainable development. As Israel continues to navigate its economic and political challenges, its capacity for adaptation and innovation will remain a key determinant of its future trajectory.

Looking at the past thirty years, from 1995 to 2025, it is clear that two nations can coexist within the same habitat. The Palestinians had supplied the Israeli state with both cheap skilled and unskilled labor in order to promote its economic growth (Mansour, 2010). In addition, the Palestinians were a market for the Israeli products (Hassouneh, 2017). Finally, the Palestinians used the new Israeli shekel as their currency mandated by the Israeli occupation. As a result, both Israelis and Palestinians were able to live together side by side in peace and harmony.

Table 1 is an indication of how both the Israeli and Palestinian populations grew over time. This is empirical evidence of how two competing populations were able to adapt and coexist with one another.

Table 1: Population of Israelis and Palestinians According to the Region from 1997 to 2024

Year	Palestine	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Israel
1997	783084	1787562	995522	5987000
1998	2871568	1838807	1032761	6038000
1999	2962226	1891171	1071055	6200000
2000	3053335	1943658	1109677	6289000
2001	3138471	1992577	1145894	6460000
2002	3225214	2042306	1182908	6600000
2003	3314509	2093381	1221128	6600000
2004	3407417	2146400	1261017	6780000
2005	3508126	2203738	1304388	6930000
2006	611998	2262735	1349263	7116000
2007	3719189	2323469	1395720	7244000
2008	3820801	2376893	1443908	7337000
2009	3922130	2430170	1491960	7552000
2010	4023462	2483446	1540016	7695000
2011	4124795	2536725	1588070	7746000
2012	4226410	2590152	1636258	7836000
2013	4327751	2643435	1684316	8081000
2014	4429084	2696714	1732370	8345000
2015	4530416	2749990	1780426	8462000
2016	4632025	2803411	1828614	8522000
2017	4733357	2856691	1876666	8630000
2018	4854013	2921170	1932843	8972000

Year	Palestine	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Israel
2019	4976684	2986714	1989970	9092000
2020	5101152	3053183	2047969	9291000
2021	5227193	3120448	2106745	9998000
2022	5354656	3188387	2166269	9656000
2023	5483450	3256906	2226544	9795000
2024	5613463	3325905	2287558	9842000

Note: the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, www.pcbs.gov.ps

The table above shows a population data for Palestine (divided into the West Bank and Gaza), and Israel. The data spans over the years from 1997 to 2024. The population of Palestine has grown steadily from 2.78 million in 1997 to about 5.61 million in 2024. This represents a doubling of the population over 27 years, with an average annual growth rate of approximately 2.5%. The population increase is seen in both the West Bank and Gaza.

Now let us look at the population of the West Bank and Gaza separately. The West Bank's population has grown from 1.79 million in 1997 to 3.33 million in 2024, reflecting a consistent increase. The growth rate for the West Bank is also around 2.5% annually. Meanwhile, Gaza's population has grown from 995,522 in 1997 to 2.29 million in 2024, showing similar growth trends as the West Bank, though Gaza's growth rate might be slightly higher, driven by a young and growing population and a high birth rate.

On the other hand, Israel's population has increased from 5.99 million in 1997 to 9.84 million in 2024. This is also a steady growth, with an average annual increase of around 1.6%. While Israel's population is larger, its growth rate is lower compared to the Palestinian territories, reflecting a more stabilized demographic trend.

The population dynamics between Israel and Palestine (especially the West Bank and Gaza) could have long-term socio-political implications. The faster population growth in Palestinian territories could affect issues such as land, resources, and political representation, especially with the demographic balance between Jewish and Palestinian populations becoming increasingly significant.

Population growth, especially in Gaza, where resources and infrastructure are strained due to political and economic challenges, poses significant challenges for governance, provision of services, and overall living conditions. The West Bank faces similar but somewhat less severe challenges, as it has better access to resources.

Based on the data, the population of Palestine (including both the West Bank and Gaza) will likely continue to grow at a similar pace in the coming years, while Israel's population growth will probably slow. The potential for changes in population growth trends will depend on political, economic, and social factors, including migration, birth rates, genocide and government policies in both Israel and Palestine.

Conclusion

This paper aimed to demonstrate that two competing populations can coexist within the same geographic space. In other words, Palestinians and Israelis are capable of coexisting and thriving within shared borders. To support this claim, a mathematical model was developed to show the feasibility of peaceful coexistence, followed by empirical evidence grounded in demographic data. The findings suggest that Israel does not need to eliminate the indigenous Palestinian population in Gaza to enhance its economic power. On the contrary, both the theoretical model and empirical evidence advocate for a peaceful two-state solution—one in which both Israelis and Palestinians enjoy sovereignty, dignity, and human rights.

The ongoing failure of the international community to prevent the genocide in Gaza and the forced displacement of its indigenous population sets a dangerous precedent. It risks normalizing a global economic model where one nation eradicates another to expand territorial and resource control. If unchallenged, this may push humanity back toward a primitive paradigm where might equates to right, and economic gain justifies extermination.

The Gaza War represents a critical case study in modern conflict, with far-reaching humanitarian and ethical implications. This research provides a foundation for future scholars to explore how genocides around the world can be prevented and to develop methodologies aimed at sustainable peace. Additionally, it opens the door to further research on conflict resolution, particularly regarding how Palestinians and Israelis might build a shared future rooted in coexistence.

While the analysis in this paper has been constrained by limited access to reliable data – particularly regarding the scale of destruction and the full extent of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza – more comprehensive data would further enrich these findings and strengthen the case for justice and peace.

About the Author

Wisam A. Samarah - Masters in Economics from American University in Washington DC. He moved to the University of Iowa completing Ph.D. level Mathematical Economics and Econometrics. Taught at American University in Department of Mathematics and Statistics, and at Kirkwood Community College in the Mathematics and Science Department. Currently an Assistant Director to the Business and Economics Research Center (BERC) in the Faculty of Administrative & Economic Sciences at Al Quds Open University. Published a number of articles in academic peer-reviewed journals. A reviewer for several peer-reviewed journals. Email: wsamarh@qou.edu

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