

ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT: ITS ROOTS AND FUTURE

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Abstract

The conflict between Arabs and Israel, viewed from history been a long time occurs. Conflicts regarding border issues and ancestral lands are still the main issue, and it's still a trigger for conflict and problems nowadays. Until now, the dispute between Arabs and Israel has not been resolved, but a country that is directly in dispute with Israel in 'real' terms is Palestine. The United Nations recognized Israel as a sovereign an independent under international law, but Palestine is only an 'observer' country. On the other hand, Arab countries reject the existence of Israel and support Palestine. Even though Palestine has full support from Arab countries does not mean it automatically gained independence as a sovereign state after Britain left.

Keywords: *Arab, Israel, Palestine*

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INTRODUCTION

After the British left Palestine and divided it into two lands, namely Palestine for areas inhabited by Muslims and Israel inhabited by Jews, the problem got sharper because these countries felt they were the most appropriate to occupy their ancestral lands. After World War II, the conflict continued not only to become an issue in the Arab region but worldwide because of United States (US) and Britain's interventions. However, the causes of conflict heated up are, after the world war, Jewish returned to looking for their ancestral lands after being expelled from the countries involved in the war and seeking protection. So the Jewish felt they needed to establish a state so they would not be driven away and hunted down again by establishing a state founded on land considered ancestral land.

The existence of the Jewish diaspora in the US became important in Israel's founding. The existence of the Jewish as a supporting factor financially and politically. The Jews who came from fleeing European and Arab lands during the war were very influential in the economy and government of the US. It contributes to making the US a hegemon country nowadays. Moreover, King Faisal of Saudi Arabia, in his speech, said, "the Arab countries agree to disagree on the Palestinian issue. It is a reflection of the foreign policy taken by Arab countries regarding the issue of Arab-Israel, especially the issue of Israel - Palestine not being involved in this matter. Geopolitically, of course, this will hinder peace in the Middle East because there is disagreement in Arab countries regarding problems within their region. (Dawisha, 1983)

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The conflict between Arabs and Israel needs to use a theory to explain the causes of the conflict and solutions to problems and challenges faced by Arabs and Israeli in overcoming future conflicts. In responding to the conflict between Arabs and Israel, Liberalism is one of the theories used to analyze the conflict. Based on the theory of liberalism it was starting from the opinion of John Lock stated, great potential for human progress in civil society and modern capitalist economies. Both of them can develop in countries that guarantee individual freedom. Modernity also shapes a newer and better life. (Paul and Mark, 2010) The modernization process launched by the scientific revolution resulted in the rise of technology. Thus more efficient in producing anything and also mastery of nature. So modernization is driven by the intellectual revolution of the liberals who have great wealth, thought, and human rationality. In addition, there are five characteristics of Arab countries, according to Michaelle Ross, which might be able to support peace in the Arab world if they are further updated, including:

1. Responsive but not democratic
2. Open up to globalization but also protectionist
3. Excellent economic and development policies
4. Active energy driven vs. energy centric
5. Active and innovative foreign policy

Then this conflict can be reduced by holding solid economic cooperation and competition between the Arab countries themselves, so gradually, they will forget about the existing conflicts because they are busy taking care of their

respective countries' development and economic competition. Likewise, if there has been good cooperation between Arab countries, the conflict that will occur later will be challenging to escalate into a military conflict. Because, based on liberalism which also refers to the theory of neo-liberalism, countries that have collaborated economically will not sacrifice their economic interests for conflict, because it will destroy both parties economically, affecting each country's political and military strength.

METHODS

The method used in this research is qualitative by using secondary data, which is processed by collecting data from various reading sources, namely books and scientific articles. The book is used as a reference in deepening theory to analyze conflicts between Arabs and Israel, especially between Palestine and Israel. Then data collection through international articles was used as the main reference to find out the escalation of conflicts from time to time. Starting from finding out the causes of problems from the basics to the current modern era. Then the article is also used to find out how the future with the conflict under study. What are the challenges and recommendations given in this paper. (Hancock at all, 2007)

DISCUSSIONS

The Roots of Arab and Israeli Conflict

Conflict in Arab start from Prophets' time. Where Palestine is a land that always been contested by various big empires. Historically, until 800 BC the kingdom of Israel still ruled over Palestine, but when other nations began to fight over Palestine, the Jews began to be expelled from Israel. So the Jews began to move to other areas such as Europe and other areas around Arab. such as Iraq and Iran. In 700 BC Assyria and Babylonia ruled Palestine but after the Romans came to power, the occupation of Palestine began to be carried out on the basis of religious understanding.

The religion that first occupied Palestine was Islam which was brought by the desert troops and then Christianity which was spread by the Crusaders. Not long after the crusade ended, the Ottomans, who at that time became the largest and most respected center of government, took over Palestine. The Ottomans, according to historical records, controlled Palestine for 750 years from 1187 to 1918. During the Ottoman era, the most dominant nation in Palestine was the Arab nation who was Muslim.

Conflict in Arab started in the prophets. At first, Palestine was a land that various big empires had always contested. Historically, until 800 BC, the kingdom of Israel still ruled over Palestine, but when other nations began to fight over Palestine, the Jews began to be expelled from Israel. So the Jews began to move to other areas, such as Europe and other areas around Arabs, such as Iraq and Iran. In 700 BC, Assyria and Babylonia ruled Palestine, but after the Romans came to power, the occupation of Palestine began to be carried out based on religious understanding. (Khalidi,2011)

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However, the weakening of Ottoman power at the end of 18th century triggered European expansion and the Jewish return to "trade politics" by buying vacant land to reoccupy Palestine. This was called the Zionist movement. In 1901 the Jews founded the Jewish National Fund, an organization focused on information about buying land for Jews in Palestine and ensuring the land already bought would never be resold.

This movement is to reoccupy land considered ancestral land and eliminate Arab Muslim domination in Palestine. Due to the weakening of the influence of the Ottomans, making the Ottomans escape monitoring Palestine. So when World War I happened, Ottoman decided to make an alliance with Germany. Germany at that time had a strong military force as well as Ottoman. Although its influence began to decline, its military forces were still able to increase Britain's fear in World War I.

Therefore, the British asked for help from Jews during the war, taking the fact that many Jewish communities in Britain and other British alliance countries owned land in Palestine. By promising independence for Israel as a state from Palestine, the Jewish nation has its own state. And also, in British's alliance with the US, through the Jewish population residing in the US, Britain exerted influence, hoping support provided by the Jewish would bring US' Jews to encourage President Woodrow Wilson to make an alliance with Britain to face Germany and Ottoman.

After World War I ended, the mandate system area to the German and Turkish territories was applied. One of which was Palestine, which has been a dispute. Here the control area was the territory of the Ottoman Turks, which was Palestine. The system stipulates that the area is controlled temporarily by the war winner, so Britain has the right as the ruler of Palestine. Based on the agreement agreed with the Jews and the US, the British decided to divide Palestine into two, namely Palestine as land occupied by Muslim Arabs and Israel by Jewish Arabs.

When World War II ended, Germany lost, and Turkey's territory got smaller. This further opened up opportunities for the Jews to form Israel through British mandate and became an independent and sovereign country. So David Ben Gurion, Israel's Prime Minister at that time, declared the establishment of Israel. With the issuance of UN resolution No. 181 of November 29, 1947, which divided the Palestinian territories by 54% to the Jews, who at that time only amounted to 30% of the total Palestinian people, and 45% to the Arabs, and 1%, namely Al-Quds was made an international territory. This received great support from Britain and the US even though the Arab community and other Arab countries rejected the UN resolution, which placed Israel as a sovereign country but captured more than half of Palestine. (Falah, 1996)

As a response, Arab countries reacted then there was a war between Arab and Israeli. The fear of Jews is also justified for Arab countries because Jew's immigration booming from Europe to the Middle East caused Nazi Germany's slogan who wanted to eradicate Jews everywhere and to show Germany's

existence in the world. Furthermore, there is Arab fear of Jews domination who usually live in groups to create a new influence. So the conflict initially only occurred between Palestine and Israel but expanded to become Arab countries and Israel. Arab countries such as Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, and Jordan declared war on Israel. War broke out from mid-May to 11 June 1948. The United Nations sought a truce approved by the Arabs and Israelis, but the truce ended on 6 July 1948. Syria and Egypt did not want to extend the invasion because they believed it would be victorious against Israel. (Jonah, 2011)

The next war occurred again from 6 to 19 July 1948, but the victory was on the Israeli side. For this victory, Israel took over the western Galilee region, which was included in the Arab region in the separation plan by the British. Due to Israel's success against the military forces of Arab countries, before the UN resumed seeking a second truce through war, Israel had re-expanded its territory beyond what had been in the separation plan between Palestine and Israel previously arranged.

This war ended in 1949 with the signing of an armistice between Israel and Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, and Syria after the UN became a mediator between the Arab countries and Israel. The ceasefire in 1949 did not lead to a peace agreement, but the war continued even in 2007. There were three wars between Arabs and Israel after the ceasefire in 1956, 1967, and 1973. The biggest war occurred in 1967 between Israel, Egypt, and Syria on the Sinai peninsula. It is also called the six days war, caused by Syria's support for the Fatah Movement against Israel. For this support, Israel feels threatened.

Even though Syria got military support from Egypt, Syria still suffered defeat. By attacking Syria, Israel succeeded in occupying the Sinai Peninsula, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights. To end this conflict, the UN issued Resolution No. 242, which stated Israel should withdraw its troops from the occupied territories and respect the rights of all countries on the Arabian peninsula to live in peace. However, Israel still occupied this area until the Camp David Agreement in 1979 agreed.

In fact, currently, West Bank and Gaza Strip are also areas that Israel wants to occupy, thereby hampering Middle East peace due to Israel's unilateral territorial expansion, which violates the sovereignty of each country, although it becomes a polemic because Israel is not recognized as a legitimate state at the organizational level the world's largest, the UN. In 1973 the war between Israel, Egypt, and Syria led to the Camp David negotiations. This war occurred due to the expansion of Israel's occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This war is known as the Yom Kippur War because it was rightly done on the Jewish holy day. The contents of the camp David negotiations are

1. Agreement on the future determination of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as a fully autonomous region for the Palestinian people under Jordanian control
2. The peace agreement between Israel and Egypt, which was signed in 1979, contains in it the return of the Sinai peninsula, which has been occupied since the 1967 war.

In March 1979, an agreement between Egypt and Israel was reached. This event is a major impact between the Arab countries and Israel to this day.

Because for the first time, an agreement was reached between Arabs and Israel in the conflict over the Palestinian territories. (Hallward, 2011)

The Future of Arab and Israeli Conflict

In fact, if we learn from the history of the Arab and Israeli conflicts, it will not be easily resolved, or perhaps peace will be created in the Middle East. With so many civilizations trying to include the Palestinian territories into their areas of control, such as Babylonia, Rome, and the Ottomans. Likewise, religious conflicts also dominate the rise and fall of conflict tendencies in the Middle East, such as between Jews and Muslims. It is undeniable that religious conflicts also affect the existing disputes between Palestine and Israel to survive in the region. Because in the beginning, what created the conflict was that there was a nation that felt expelled from its ancestral land.

Then the religious conflict with the large-scale transmigration of Jews from mainland Europe to Israel with the Nazi decision to exterminate the Jews wherever they are. So in order to survive and profess their faith freely, Jews felt the need to establish a state independent of their own ancestral lands and create their own future without any fear of the past. Wherever the Jewish nation is, they have always driven away and feel uncomfortable wherever they are.

The tendency between Arabs and Israel only can reduce by reducing the involvement of third parties as negotiators, which only takes sides for one party or a country that has a direct alliance with a party in the conflict, because it will only pay more attention to the 'national interest' of, without paying attention to future conflicts effect. It is feared it only creates a permanent agreement that is non-binding for a long period of time. In this case, the US is an agent of human rights and democracy in the world, but In the foreign policy issued towards conflict, Israel is not being sanctioned but provides broad movements in Palestine, even though it has violated human rights and the principles of democracy upheld by the UN. (Rekhess,2014)

Other parties are urgently needed as mediators from non-alliance countries, both Arab and non-Arab, so that the decisions made are impartial because the Jewish lobby is already strong in the United States government to continue to defend Israel's decisions. The United States, in this case, should change the foreign policy issued towards the Middle East regarding Palestine and Israel.

From the conflicts that have existed for a long time, of course, this conflict will not be easy to reduce, especially the status of Palestine, which is not yet a sovereign country. However, this tendency can be reduced through internal Palestine because internal Palestine itself has no harmony to create a stable government. It is still difficult to equalize perception to decide on a policy that will become a Palestinian national policy, such as the conflict between Hamas and Fatah in the body of the Palestinian government. (Susser, 2014)

CONCLUSION

Several things cannot separate from regional conflicts. Moreover, historical factors are the main factor that must observe as to why a conflict can be resolved for a long time. As a result, no one party wants to agree to make peace, and no negotiators are trying to hold negotiations between the two sides. So, The urgent thing that needs to be examined is the historical factors behind the conflict.

Historical factors are crucial in every conflict resolution, like how conflicts are reduced and even resolved. In the case of the Israeli-Arab conflict, historical matters are the main problem. Why, among the Arabs themselves, is there agreement to disagree in addressing region problems and Arab alignments towards its alliance. There is a historical factor where the Arabs consider their nation was the most powerful. So they can follow the rules nowadays.

If we examine it, the understanding adopted by the Arabs is no longer rational in today's modern era. Such as territorial annexation based on ancestral lands and a strong character wanting to win and using force and violence to solve any problems. The complexity of today's world is more conducive to reasoning and competing in a healthy manner, such as economic competition and technological advances, without eliminating the right the civilizations.

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