

Jordan's Geopolitical Position and Its Support for Palestine: A Critical Analysis

Zahra Amalia, Dwi Ardiyanti, Sofi Mubarak

International Relations Department, Faculty of Humanities

University of Darussalam Gontor

e-mail : zahraamalia19@student.hi.unida.gontor.ac.id

Abstract

This study aims to analyze how the geopolitical dynamics of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan influenced its support for Palestine in the context of the Israeli–Palestinian conflict. Using a geopolitical approach, this study examines Jordanian–Palestinian relations before and after the normalization of Jordanian–Israeli relations in 1994, as well as Jordan's response to changes in the regional political landscape, including post-Abraham Accords. This study uses a qualitative method based on literature analysis to examine the political, economic, and strategic factors that shape Jordan's foreign policy. The results show that Jordan's strategic geographical position, limited resources, and historical role as the custodian of Jerusalem's holy sites greatly influenced the direction of its policy. Although Jordan has established pragmatic cooperation with Israel for stability and economic interests, the country maintains diplomatic support for the Palestinians, especially regarding the issue of Jerusalem and the rights of the Palestinian people. The study concludes that regional geopolitics significantly shape and limit Jordan's foreign policy space.

Keywords: critical geopolitics, Israel, Jordan, Palestine, regional power relations

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis bagaimana dinamika geopolitik Kerajaan Hashemite Yordania memengaruhi dukungannya terhadap Palestina dalam konteks konflik Israel–Palestina. Dengan menggunakan pendekatan geopolitik, studi ini mengkaji hubungan Yordania–Palestina sebelum dan sesudah normalisasi hubungan Yordania–Israel pada 1994, serta respons Yordania terhadap perubahan lanskap politik regional, termasuk pasca Abraham Accords. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif berbasis analisis literatur untuk menelaah faktor-faktor politik, ekonomi, dan strategis yang membentuk kebijakan luar negeri Yordania. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa posisi geografis yang strategis, keterbatasan sumber daya, serta peran historis Yordania

sebagai penjaga situs-situs suci di Yerusalem sangat memengaruhi arah kebijakannya. Meskipun Yordania menjalin kerja sama pragmatis dengan Israel demi stabilitas dan kepentingan ekonomi, negara ini tetap mempertahankan dukungan diplomatik terhadap Palestina, khususnya terkait isu Yerusalem dan hak-hak rakyat Palestina. Studi ini menyimpulkan bahwa geopolitik kawasan secara signifikan membentuk sekaligus membatasi ruang gerak kebijakan luar negeri Yordania.

Kata kunci: geopolitik kritis, hubungan kekuasaan regional, Israel, Palestina, Yordania

Introduction

The Middle East is a region that has continued to attract the attention of humanity throughout history, with its rich historical record of the ages (Russell, 2007, p. 7). The Middle East region wields significant influence as the epicenter of global faiths. It serves as a focal point for competition and conflicting interests among regional nations. Furthermore, Western nations have an interest in the Middle East due to its oil resources. The Middle East is a conflict-ridden region due to its strategic geographical significance (Ulrichsen, 2016, p. 12). Consequently, the dynamics of this region are becoming progressively intriguing for study and inquiry in the realms of global politics and other dimensions.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has emerged as a focal point of interest in the Middle East region (Ben-Meir, 2022, p. 20). The Israeli-Palestinian conflict originated during World War I. The Palestinian territory was governed by the Ottoman Sultanate prior to the war. Following the conclusion of World War I, the British assumed control over Palestine. At that time, Palestine had a predominantly Muslim population, with Jews constituting a minority. The tension of the situation increased when British Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour issued the Balfour Declaration in 1917. The agreement promised Jews living in Palestine a "National Home". The Balfour Declaration became the British mandate over Palestine and was endorsed by the League of Nations in 1922 (Gil-Har, 2006, p. 70).

The major turbulence in Palestine known as "An-Nakba" or the catastrophe occurred in 1948. The event was instigated by the United Nations' partition of the State of Palestine in 1947. The partition of Palestine resulted in the partitioning into two distinct regions for Arabs and Jews. Arab officials who believed the program would remain unexecuted dismissed the partition of Palestine. Nevertheless, Jewish leaders

consented to the partition of the nation. Following the British withdrawal from Palestine in 1948, Jewish leaders proclaimed the formation of the State of Israel. This triggered a conflict with the Arab nations referred to as "An-Nakba" (Sela, 1992, p. 624). Israel successfully occupied the majority of Palestine following the conflict that occurred in 1948-1949. At that time, Jordan controlled the West Bank, while Gaza was under Egyptian occupation. Nonetheless, this altered with the Six-Day War in 1967. Israel successfully extended its occupation to East Jerusalem, West Bank, Gaza Strip, Syrian Golan Heights, and Egyptian Sinai Peninsula (Indriasandi and Wargadinata, 2023). Israel removed the Palestinians who remained in the territory and displaced them throughout Palestinian regions. The majority of Palestinian refugees reside in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and neighboring countries, including Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. Jordan is a country that borders Palestine and has an interconnected history (Bauer, 2022, p. 2).

The analysis of the Palestinian issue and Jordanian support highlights the significance of geopolitics. Jordan's strategic position in the Middle East, combined with its historical affiliations with neighboring nations and global powers, significantly influences its foreign policy. As a member of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Jordan confronts a dilemma between supporting Palestine and sustaining peaceful relationships with Israel and Western nations that extend economic and political assistance. The analysis of the relationship between Jordan and Palestine has attracted significant attention from scholars globally, particularly regarding the implications of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. This research presents a novel perspective on geopolitical dynamics, particularly regarding the growing influence of non-state actors and shifts in global foreign policy. This research will concentrate on the geopolitical analysis of Jordan and its influence on the nation's support for Palestine, after previous research that examined the relationships among those countries.

The intricate interplay between geography, power, and politics in the region necessitates a geopolitical examination of this topic. A framework for comprehending how Jordan's distinct position influences its foreign policy and relations with regional and global entities is provided by geopolitics. This method enables a careful examination of the ways in which Jordan's position in the conflict is influenced by its physical location, historical alliances, and current political circumstances. Furthermore, geopolitics is crucial in order to assess the wider ramifications of Jordan's policy. It demonstrates how Jordan's capacity to balance its dual commitment to support Palestine with the need to preserve essential ties with Israel and Western allies is impacted by regional power dynamics, such as the struggle for influence between Middle Eastern states and external powers like the United States and European

nations. This research examines how the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has responded to the humanitarian crisis in Palestine from a geopolitical perspective, particularly in the context of its strategic reliance on economic and security support from the United States.

This research employs a qualitative methodology, concentrating on the examination of literature and policy studies relevant to Jordan's geopolitical position within the framework of the Israel-Palestine conflict. The analysis will focus on uncovering patterns, trends, and the implications of Jordan's involvement in the Israel-Palestine conflict. The research instruments will consist of a structured analytical framework aimed at systematically organising findings derived from pertinent literature and policies. A qualitative analysis will be conducted to gain insights into the geopolitical dynamics that could affect Jordan's position in the conflict.

Critical Geopolitics in International Relations Studies

Geopolitics is a controversial and highly debated concept (Mamadouh and Dijkink, 2006, p. 352). Colint (2021) characterises the rise of critical geopolitics in the 1990s as a reaction against the authority of the state in geopolitical research, shaped by post-modernist ideology (Flint, 2021, p. 5). Sloan (2017) discusses various contemporary definitions of geopolitics that show how broad and complex the field is. Many definitions highlight the importance of modern economic factors, such as the development of transportation technology, access to trade routes, and resource management (Sloan, 2017, p. 2). Gray (2006) focuses on uncovering the essential components that make up geopolitics, highlighting five main elements: physical geography, location, human resources, culture and time. These elements are seen as the basis for understanding how different geopolitical categories, such as the past, legends or maps, influence global relations (Colin S. Gray, 2006, p. 10).

Sloan emphasizes the need to combine these elements to produce a comprehensive explanation. For him, geopolitics is an attempt to understand patterns of power in political history through spatial analysis. As such, explanations must be relevant to the contemporary context and able to provide insights for the future (Sloan, 2017, p. 2). Finally, Grygiel emphasizes the importance of geographical concepts in framing the relevance of modern geopolitics (Grygiel, 2006, p. 16). This reflects that geopolitics is a dynamic discipline, which continues to evolve in accordance with global changes.

Scholvin (2016) proposed the basic idea of contemporary geopolitics emphasizes the importance of anthropo-geographical conditions and intermediary variables in influencing geopolitical outcomes. This critical approach is more in-depth compared to classical geopolitics.

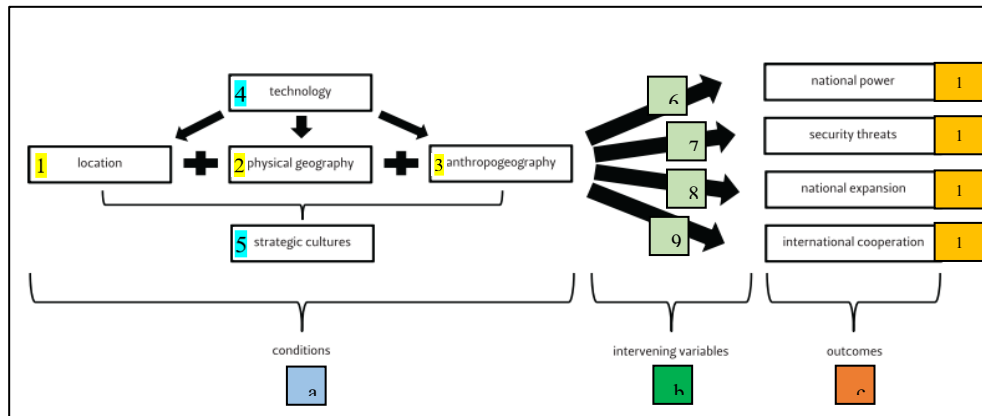


Figure 1 Variable of Critical Geopolitics

Source: (Scholvin, 2016)

As seen in Figure 1, basic conditions (factor a) such as geographic location (factor 1) and the physical characteristics of a region (factor 2) remain important elements, but contemporary geopolitics also incorporates the human aspect, known as anthropogeography (factor 3) which includes culture, population, and social activities. In addition, technological development (factor 4) acts as a link that alters and amplifies the impact of geography on geopolitical outcomes. Other elements such as strategic culture (factor 5) that reflect the values, norms and customs of a country or group are also important factors in determining the response (factor c) to geopolitical challenges. Basic factors (1,2 and 3) and additional factors (4 and 5) are also influenced by other factors (6,7,8 and 9) such as economic, religious, social and other supporting factors. The combination of these basic conditions and intermediate variables produces various geopolitical outcomes, such as the strengthening of national power, successful handling of security threats, expansion of territory or influence, and increased international cooperation (Scholvin, 2016).

With this approach, contemporary geopolitics is more complex and adaptive, taking into account the interaction between human, technological and geographical factors compared to the more deterministic classical approach. A country's geographical landscape is not the only indicator that determines a country's power.

There are other factors that can influence a country's power and position. This suggests that indicators that are tangibly linked to a country's geography also determine its strength.

The Influence of Jordan's Strategic Factors in its Support for Palestine

Jordan's strategy is reflected in its role as the guardian of the holy sites in Jerusalem. In 1924, King Abdullah I of Jordan was given the mandate as custodian of holy sites by Muslim leaders in Palestine, including the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock (*the Hashemite Custodianship of Jerusalem's Islamic and Christian Holy Sites 1917-2020 Ce*, 2023). This role was reinforced after the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, when Jordan took control of the West Bank and East Jerusalem. However, the loss of West Bank territory in the 1967 Six-Day War transferred physical control of East Jerusalem to Israel, although Jordan retained a symbolic claim as custodian of the holy sites (Kattan, 2020). This role is not only a religious symbol but also an important geopolitical tool for Jordan. Guardianship of the holy sites strengthens the domestic and regional legitimacy of the Hashemite family amid growing challenges from Islamist groups and political opposition in Jordan.

Jordan's geopolitical interests have historically and geographically played an important role in its support for Palestine (Safitri, 2021). Jordan, Palestine and Israel have a complex relationship. Jordan has close proximity to Palestine demographically and geographically but also has dependence on Israel in its economic and diplomatic cooperation (Brand, 1995). Jordan occupies a distinctive position in its foreign relations, as explained in the examination of international relations and its involvement in significant regional matters. Its geopolitical position provides negotiation leverage, yet also renders it reliant on regional and international assistance. Jordan's scarcity of natural resources requires it to collaborate with other nations to get the necessary resources and funding for its survival.

In 2017, President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital sparked a huge wave of protests in the Arab world, including in Jordan. As the custodian of Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem, King Abdullah II denounced the move as a violation of international law and UN resolutions, stating that it threatened regional stability (Köprülü, 2021). This action embodies the principles of hegemony theory, wherein the US aims to reinforce its supremacy in the Middle East by endorsing Israel as its primary ally. From a constructivist viewpoint, the symbolism of Jerusalem as a sacred city for Muslims and Jordan's identity as the guardian of these places reinforces King Abdullah II's position in advocating for Palestinian rights and preserving Jerusalem's international status quo. This action demonstrates Jordan's steadfast

commitment to a two-state solution, with East Jerusalem designated as the capital of Palestine, notwithstanding geopolitical pressures.

However, the 2017 move of the United States Embassy to Jerusalem by the Donald Trump administration became one of the most significant events in the history of Jordan's guardianship of the holy sites (Mohammad Khaer Faisal Ahmad Al-Dhmour, 2021). This move profoundly changed the geopolitical dynamics of the region. By recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, the US unilaterally violated the international consensus that the status of Jerusalem is an unresolved issue that must be determined through negotiations between Palestine and Israel. This decision also contradicts UN Security Council Resolution 478 of 1980, which expressly prohibits countries from moving their embassies to Jerusalem (*the Hashemite Custodianship of Jerusalem's Islamic and Christian Holy Sites 1917-2020 Ce*, 2023). As a result, the US move triggered strong reactions from the international community, the Arab world, and Islamic countries, including Jordan which has a strategic role as the custodian of Islamic holy sites in East Jerusalem.

For Jordan, the US decision amplifies domestic, regional and international challenges. As the custodian of holy sites such as the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock, Jordan sees the embassy move as a direct threat to Jerusalem's status quo recognized since the 1967 Six-Day War. King Abdullah II insists that Jerusalem is a non-negotiable "red line" (Sharnoff, 2024). However, Jordan must also balance its response with maintaining a strategic relationship with the US, which is the main backer of the country's economic and military aid. In 2017, Jordan received \$1.3 billion in aid from the US, which is critical to addressing its domestic economic crisis. On the one hand, Jordan must be vocal in its support for Palestine to maintain its political and moral legitimacy in the eyes of the Arab and Islamic world. On the other hand, the economic pressure makes Jordan unable to be too confrontational towards the US. This US decision also worsens Jordan's relationship with Israel, despite the two countries having a peace agreement through Wadi Araba in 1994. The US move is seen as supporting Israel's agenda to accelerate the de facto annexation of Jerusalem, including through the construction of illegal settlements in East Jerusalem (Kattan, 2020). This not only weakens Jordan's historic role as the guardian of sacred places but also affects the stability of the entire region. Tensions between Jordan and Israel have escalated, although ongoing strategic collaboration around security and water matters. Israel has leveraged this momentum to reinforce its claim to Jerusalem, substantially reducing the probability of a two-state solution endorsed by Jordan and the international community.

This decision incited a significant surge of protests throughout the country, particularly among the Palestinian community, which constitutes the majority of Jordan's population. The domestic opposition, comprising the Islamic Action Front and nationalist factions, leveraged the issue to condemn the Jordanian government regarding its association with Israel and reliance on the United States. The protests exacerbated Jordan's internal circumstances, which were already grappling with a profound economic crisis, elevated unemployment, and many social tensions. Nonetheless, the Jordanian government succeeded in preserving stability by adhering to its discourse of support for Palestine while leveraging international help to mitigate local challenges. (Scham *et al.*, 2003).

The relocation of the US Embassy to Jerusalem reinforces Israel's claim to the city, undermines the Palestinian position, and alters the geopolitical dynamics of the Middle East. This action strengthens Jordan's role as the guardian of Islamic holy places while introducing domestic, regional, and international concerns. In light of these pressures, Jordan is endeavoring to preserve domestic stability, bolster its support for Palestine, and sustain its strategic alliance with the United States. Jordan must preserve its strategic capabilities. If Jordan is stripped of its guardianship duties over the holy site, its reputation both regionally and globally may deteriorate. Other Arab nations will attempt to assume roles and responsibilities to distance the Palestinian struggle from achieving independence from Israeli oppression. The relocation of the US Embassy to Jerusalem reinforces Israel's claim to the city, undermines the Palestinian stance, and alters the geopolitical dynamics of the Middle East. This action solidifies Jordan's role as the guardian of Islamic holy places while simultaneously introducing domestic, regional, and international concerns. In the face of these pressures, Jordan is endeavoring to preserve domestic stability, reinforce its support for Palestine, and sustain its strategic alliance with the United States. Jordan must preserve its strategic capabilities. If Jordan is stripped of its powers as the protector of the sacred place, its reputation both regionally and globally may deteriorate. Other Arab nations will attempt to assume responsibilities and roles to distance the Palestinian struggle from achieving independence from Israeli oppression.

War, Displacement, and Geopolitical Reordering

The Arab-Israeli War in 1948 also changed the economic conditions in the Middle East. That year was the beginning of the Palestinian diaspora who were forced to leave their land for refuge. Since the passing of the Balfour Agreement, Palestine has become a coveted place for Jews. The arrival of Jews from all over the world that

intensified after World War II became one of the causes of the forced displacement of Palestinians. The war, which ended in July 1949, provided many benefits for Israel, 50% more than the territory specified in the Balfour declaration in 1917. Israel even managed to control 78% of the former British mandate over Palestine including West Jerusalem (Izak, 2024). This caused around 700,000 Palestinians to seek safe places to flee and leave their homes (Beinin and Hajar, 2014). Jalal (2013) informed that 10% of Palestinian refugees fled to Jordan (Husseini, 2023).

From a critical geopolitics perspective, the 1948 war should not be read merely as a military confrontation, but as a discursive and spatial reconfiguration of power, where colonial imaginaries, legal narratives (Balfour), and geopolitical interests intersected to redefine territorial legitimacy. The forced displacement of Palestinians reflects how geopolitical knowledge and power operate through mapping, borders, and population management, transforming Palestine from a lived homeland into a contested geopolitical object. Jordan, in this context, became not simply a neighboring state but a geopolitical buffer space, absorbing the consequences of regional power struggles shaped by colonial legacies and emerging Cold War alignments. (Sloan, 2017, p. 2).

Jordan as a Geopolitical Buffer and Refugee-Absorbing State

Jordan is the country with the largest number of Palestinian diaspora (Uddin, Muhammad and Masood, 2023). The arrival of Palestinian refugees in Jordan led to a notable expansion in the economic sector. Jordan needs to address the labor supply, reduce food costs, and tackle the absence of subsidies (Ghanem, Al-madi and Alsalman, 2024). This situation creates significant challenges for Jordan, a nation navigating its path as a newly independent kingdom. At that time, Jordan lacked significant experience and knowledge in managing refugees, leading to various internal political challenges. King Hussein, the leader of the monarchy, attempted to make a decision regarding the annexation of the West Bank. He also resolved to engage militarily to safeguard Palestinian interests. The king's decision was taken to accomplish his objective of expanding and uniting Palestine with Jordan (Awwad, 2005).

In critical geopolitical terms, Jordan's refugee policy must be understood as a strategic response to its spatial vulnerability and regime survival concerns. As a newly independent monarchy situated within a volatile "shatterbelt" region, Jordan faced pressures not only from refugee influxes but also from competing regional narratives of Arab nationalism, Palestinian self-determination, and Western geopolitical interests.

King Hussein's annexation strategy can thus be read as an attempt to rearticulate territorial control and political legitimacy, rather than solely an act of solidarity with Palestinians (Brand, 1995).

Labor, Integration, and Socio-Spatial Tensions

During the 1948 refugee absorption initiative, Jordan was in the process of developing its economic infrastructure. The substantial demand for public services and infrastructure resulting from the influx of migrants has impeded Jordan's development. Consequently, the labor market intensified in competitiveness, leading to heightened tensions between refugees and their host communities (Ghanem, Al-madi and Alsalman, 2024). The labor sector at that time was agriculture, which also collaborated heavily with Palestinians. However, the Jordanian government's policy of giving employment rights to the majority of Palestinian refugees succeeded in improving economic conditions in Jordan. Jordan's stance on Palestine is shaped by economic considerations. The escalating economic demands of Jordan following the 1948 War prompted the king to adopt a policy of integrating Palestinians into Jordan. The influx of refugees has imposed an economic strain on the Jordanian population. The king's policy of granting full work rights to Palestinians in Jordan aimed to mitigate persistent domestic turmoil. Incorporating Palestinians into the labor market alleviates Jordan's economic burden.

This integration policy illustrates how economic governance becomes a geopolitical tool, transforming refugees from a security risk into productive subjects. From a critical geopolitics lens, from the the national expansion frame, the labor integration functioned as a mechanism to stabilize internal space, reduce unrest, and consolidate state authority. However, this process also produced new socio-spatial hierarchies, where Palestinians were economically indispensable yet politically marginalized—revealing how inclusion and exclusion operate simultaneously within state strategies. (Colin S. Gray, 2006) .

1967 War, Loss of Territory, and Geopolitical Reorientation

The second wave of the Palestinian refugee diaspora transpired in 1967 due to the Six-Day War. The conflict concluded with the defeat of Arab forces and the loss of a portion of their territory. At that time, Jordan was impacted by the loss of the entirety of the West Bank region it had governed since 1948. The territorial loss significantly influenced Jordan's political landscape and economic conditions. Palestine, significantly impacted by this defeat, was further exasperated. The Palestinians'

aspiration to reclaim their territory must be suppressed once more. Palestinians residing in Palestine were forced to relocate and become refugees in neighboring nations. (Awwad, 2005). That time was hard for Jordan refugees influx.

The loss of the West Bank represents a critical geopolitical rupture, not only in territorial terms but also in Jordan's strategic identity (Flint, 2021). The shift from territorial expansion to regime preservation redefined Jordan's geopolitical priorities. Refugee camps became spaces of containment, reflecting a securitized approach where humanitarian governance intersected with geopolitical anxiety, reinforcing the refugees' political status. The international cooperation, especially for economy support to Palestine, here, can be contradictory with the national interest of Jordan.

Western Alignment, Normalization and Geopolitical Pragmatism

Jordan also suffered from losing almost 38% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This condition changed the focus of Jordan's policy, which was to restore the economic situation and its armed forces that were destroyed by the war. The king lobbied for international aid, especially from the Gulf countries. The king also urged his Arab brothers to support his country materially and morally. The monarch's strategy additionally emphasized the consolidation of the two banks. Nonetheless, his attempts were dismissed by the PLO, as they were viewed as undermining the PLO's status as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Ultimately, the king opted for a strategy to garner support from Western nations, particularly the United States, which was viewed as a viable path to achieving the ongoing efforts. The United States, under the leadership of President Johnson, extended an invitation to the King for direct negotiations with Israel. The monarch persisted in engaging in diplomatic efforts against the PLO. The king's visit to Arab countries acknowledged Israel's presence in the region (Awwad, 2005).

From a critical geopolitics standpoint, Jordan's pivot toward Western alliances reflects how global power hierarchies shape national policy choices. Economic vulnerability constrained Jordan's geopolitical agency, compelling it to align with dominant global actors. This alignment illustrates how states in shatterbelt regions often prioritize economic survival over ideological coherence, reconfiguring their geopolitical narratives to secure aid and legitimacy (Abukishk et al., 2021)

The King's decision undoubtedly created rifts within the Arab world, particularly affecting the PLO. The king's stance is viewed as undermining the PLO's endeavors toward the creation of an Independent Palestinian state. The Jordanian king's decision to adopt a policy that diverges from the PLO and Arab nations cannot be overlooked in light of the economic challenges faced by the country. The

examination of the king's policies reveals a pressing need for improvement in his economic conditions, which currently suffer, while also suggesting that domestic stability should be deprioritized. The king's attention had shifted away from any potential resistance from the PLO. The U.S is in line with the international threat agency since has given Jordan favors forging connections with Western nations. The economic crisis in Jordan must confront the complexities of its strained relationship with Palestine, particularly regarding the PLO (Awwad, 2005).

The economic factors, both nationally and regionally, play a crucial role in shaping Jordan's policy towards Palestine. Jordan has faced significant challenges stemming from the influx of Palestinian refugees since 1948 and 1967. Strategic decisions must be made to alleviate the economic burden while ensuring socio-political stability is upheld. The country's policies on accommodating Palestinian war refugees remain unclear due to a dilemma between two choices. Oil revenue fluctuations in the Persian Gulf significantly affect regional geopolitics. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan considers this a crucial aspect in their calculations. As been explained in the frame of geopolitics graph, that location of Jordan, physical geography, and antherepogeography reflects the complex relation between Jordan and the Palestine. Due to the potential resource and the constrain of citizens on the regions, Palestinian are strongly connected with Jordanian based on the historical aspect, while the economic development, pursued Jordan to hvae strong relations with the U.S.

The economic relationship between Palestine and Jordan is complex, with both countries facing challenges and interdependencies. Foreign direct investment (FDI) has a significant positive impact on salaries and wages in both Palestine and Jordan, while unemployment negatively affects them (Hodrob, 2017). Interestingly, GDP per capita positively influences wages in Palestine but negatively in Jordan. The study recommends that both governments should improve their investment climate to attract FDI, particularly in key economic sectors (Cahyani, Astuti and Salsabila, 2025). Additionally, research indicates that the Palestinian economy is dependent on both Jordanian and Israeli economies, as evidenced by the impact of their GDPs on Palestinian GDP(Bhowmick, 2024). To reduce this dependence, Palestinian policymakers are advised to attract foreign investments, create a stable investment climate, and promote local products and services. These measures could potentially boost confidence in the Palestinian economy and improve its overall economic situation.

The normalization agreement established an economic relationship between Jordan and Israel that was anticipated to yield positive outcomes for both parties.

Jordan was prepared to embrace normalization, believing that this agreement could lead to a durable and advantageous peace. One significant advantage that Jordan experienced was the decrease in foreign debt. In early 1995, the United States forgave Jordan's debt obligations amounting to \$750 million. Britain, Germany, and France also worked to lower the nation's debt. Consequently, Jordan's overall external debt saw a notable decrease, dropping from over \$9 billion in 1991 to approximately \$5 billion by the middle of 1995 (Lucas and Lucas, 2014). Furthermore, Jordan successfully rescheduled a significant amount of its external debt, marking a crucial advancement in enhancing the nation's financial credibility. The direct advantages of the peace agreement between Jordan and Israel are evident in enhanced access to water resources. The issue of water scarcity has emerged as a significant challenge for Jordan, particularly following the June 1967 War. This conflict resulted in the loss of access to water resources in the West Bank, the influx of 400,000 Palestinian refugees, and a surge in population growth. The situation worsened due to the arrival of Iraqi refugees following the US invasion of Iraq in 2003, along with Syrian refugees starting in 2011 (Haddadin, 2011). The peace agreement seeks to address these issues by increasing the allocation of shared water resources, the construction of bilateral projects on the Jordan River and Yarmouk, and desalination initiatives. As part of the agreement, Israel is obligated to provide 55-75 million cubic meters of water annually to Jordan from the Sea of Galilee and the Jordan River (Haddadin, 2011).

Analysis of Jordan's national power lens reveals that Jordan is still heavily reliant on American aid economically, especially after the invasion of Iraq. Therefore, from a geopolitical perspective, this makes it difficult for Jordan to provide direct economic assistance to Palestine, as Jordan is also indirectly heavily dependent on American economic aid. Jordan's economic relationship with Palestine and the direction of its strategy can be analyzed through a geopolitical theory approach. According to Cohen, the Middle East is a "shatterbelt" region that becomes a place of conflict and attraction of global interests, which influences Jordan's decision to normalize relations with Israel through the Wadi Araba Agreement (Cohen and Cohen, 2016).

The normalization provided Jordan with major economic benefits, such as \$750 million in debt relief from the United States in early 1995, an increase in financial aid to \$1.5 billion per year in 2015-2017, and additional access to water resources that are critical to the country's economic stability. These measures demonstrate an application of Cohen's Shatterbelt theory, which states that Jordan is trying to maintain a balance between its need for economic stability and pressure from major powers such as the United States. By taking a pragmatic approach, the country can mitigate internal risks

while integrating its economy into the global market. However, this decision shows that economic interests outweigh ideological commitments.

In any case, this policy undermines Jordan's longstanding solidarity with the Palestinians, a relationship that has been historically strong. The reliance of Palestinians on Jordan, particularly regarding economic and political matters, has evolved into a more symbolic relationship as Jordan prioritizes collaboration with Israel and Western nations. This approach encounters internal obstacles, as Jordan's backing for Palestine is scrutinized by its predominantly pro-Palestinian populace. Nonetheless, Jordan continues to emphasize economic stability by fostering bilateral cooperation with Israel, which yields direct advantages such as trade, tourism, and access to international markets. This observation highlights the influence of economic factors on the dynamics between Jordan and Palestine, which finds itself in a challenging position balancing national interests with the pursuit of Palestinian independence.

Ultimately, Jordan's geopolitical strategy illustrates how power, space, and discourse intersect in shaping Middle Eastern politics. Palestine becomes simultaneously a moral reference, a demographic reality, and a geopolitical liability. Critical geopolitics reveals that Jordan's policies are less about abandoning Palestine than about rearticulating solidarity within the constraints imposed by global and regional power structures.

Conclusion

This research hypothesis posits that Jordan's position in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is rooted in a geopolitical strategy. This stems from Jordan's intricate ties with both nations, particularly regarding its historical and geographical dimensions. This subsequently shapes Jordan's perspective on the genocide carried out by Israel in Palestine. Thus, geopolitics serves as the cornerstone for Jordan in tackling the Israeli Genocide in Palestine. The findings from this analysis reinforce the conclusions drawn from the initial examination. The dynamics of geopolitical influences shape how the Jordanian state interacts with and responds to the situation in Palestine.

The geopolitics of Jordan is fundamentally shaped by a key factors such as its geography, which shares direct borders with Israel and Palestine. Jordan's central location in the Middle East enhances its strategic importance in relations with countries across the Middle Eastern, Asian, and European regions. The limited resources in Jordan create a complex situation, necessitating dependence on Western nations to secure the country's and its citizens' survival. In order Jordan to sustain

itself, it must leverage technology to fully harness its resources' potential. This leads to Jordan collaborating with Israel in technological areas like water desalination and energy exchange.

The fundamental geopolitical elements of Jordan are shaped by various factors, including its economic situation, demographic characteristics, and its position as the guardian of the sacred site of Jerusalem. It generates a range of conditions stemming from fundamental geopolitical elements and additional influences that shape it. Initially, national power manifests in its role as the protector of the Jerusalem trust territory. The nation's power is further demonstrated by its successful annexation of the West Bank in 1967. Secondly, the national security challenges that Jordan faces due to regional instability and its internal dynamics. The geopolitical landscape of Jordan is shaped by numerous events, including Black September, Intifada, Palestinian Refugee Management, and resource scarcity, all of which contribute to the array of threats confronting the nation's security. Third, the trajectory of national expansion is evident from the 1967 occupation of the West Bank, the 1988 policy of secession from the West Bank, to the subsequent normalization with Israel aimed at preserving its regional standing. Fourth, the geopolitical factors surrounding Jordan foster international collaboration, evident in the normalization of relations with Israel, trilateral partnerships with the UAE, and various sectoral cooperation with the United States.

The conclusions obtained from Jordan's geopolitical landscape significantly influence its relationship and preserve for Palestine. In certain situations, Jordan decides for practical approaches by engaging with Israel and Western nations to ensure economic stability and safeguard national security. This influences its support for Palestine by not prioritizing Palestine in its policy decisions. Nevertheless, in various other instances, Jordan advocates for Palestinian independence and peace initiatives. The dynamics of Jordan's geopolitical conditions, shaped by various factors, illustrate the complexities and steadfastness of Jordan in the Palestinian struggle.

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