

## Forum: Special Conference (SPECON) on Rediscovering Diplomacy in an Era of Political Instability

### Issue: Managing the diplomatic implications of state fragmentation in the Levant

Student Officer: Andriana Bartzoka

Position: Deputy President

---

## TOPIC INTRODUCTION

The Levant, a region rich in history and diversity, acts as a bridge between the continents of Africa and Asia as well as the cultural sphere of the Mediterranean Sea.<sup>1</sup> Its geographical location, as well as its prominent role across the span of world history, render the region a global epicenter of cultural exchange while also shaping it into many external powers' object of interest.

Cultural, ethnic and religious plurality have defined the social reality of the region for thousands of years. However, internal conflict as well as the involvement of external actors have since thrown the Levant's sociocultural harmony off balance, paving the way for an age characterized by political instability and state fragmentation. In this environment, centralized national authority is replaced by a variety of differing groups, typically armed, creating an ongoing struggle for control and challenging the legitimacy of previously agreed-upon policy.<sup>2</sup> In other words, state fragmentation in the Levant is mainly the product of unwanted external intervention, which threatens national sovereignty and creates long-term problems.

Such instability not only harms the state and its internal affairs, but also exhibits serious consequences in the diplomatic sector. The systematic deterioration of national authority complicates foreign policy and diplomatic relations, resulting in agreements being made with one of these nonstate actors, but then disregarded by others, and allowing for other nations to further strain the political situation by forming alliances with certain parties for influence in the region. The low rankings of several Levantine countries on the Global Peace Index<sup>3</sup> serve as evidence of how fragmentation affects civilian safety, seeing as a large amount of violence stems from political instability and fragmentation. For instance, the Global Peace Index ranks

---

<sup>1</sup> *What Is Levant? Exploring the Levant Countries and Their Historical and Cultural Significance*, [nuhaira.com/en/what-is-levant-exploring-the-levant-countries-and-their-historical-and-cultural-significance/](https://nuhaira.com/en/what-is-levant-exploring-the-levant-countries-and-their-historical-and-cultural-significance/). Accessed 27 July 2026.

<sup>2</sup> Cambanis, Thanassis, et al. "Hybrid Actors: Armed Groups and State Fragmentation in the Middle East." *The Century Foundation*, 12 Nov. 2019. [tcf.org/content/report/hybrid-actors/](https://www.csf.org/content/report/hybrid-actors/).

<sup>3</sup> Institute for Economics & Peace. *Global Peace Index 2026: Identifying and measuring the factors that drive peace*, Sydney, June 2026. Available from: [http://visionofhumanity.org/resources](https://www.visionofhumanity.org/resources) (accessed 6 July 2026).

Lebanon at 131st and places Syria and Israel in the ten least peaceful countries globally (155th and 159th respectively).<sup>4</sup>

This topic ties perfectly into the conference's theme: "Rediscovering Diplomacy in an Era of Political Instability". It encourages us to examine the existing role of diplomacy in fragmented nations, as well as how diplomacy could be utilized to improve stability in the Levantine region.

## DEFINITION OF KEY-TERMS

### **Levant**

"The Levant is a region situated in the eastern part of the Mediterranean Sea. This includes areas such as the countries of Jordan, Syria, Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, and, in some instances, Cyprus and parts of Turkey."<sup>5</sup>

### **State Fragmentation**

State fragmentation can either refer to the process where a unified, sovereign nation is split into smaller independent territories or the condition where centralized national authority is replaced or challenged by a variety of non-state actors.

### **Non-State Actors (NSAs)**

Non-state actors are entities ranging from organizations or groups to individuals that hold significant political power or influence while not being affiliated with governmental bodies. In the context of state fragmentation, these are the key holders of political or economic power, replacing or challenging centralized national power.

### **Sykes-Picot Agreement**

"The agreement was made secretly in May of 1916 between Great Britain and France, with the support of Imperial Russia, dividing the previously Ottoman Levant region into areas controlled by British and French powers."<sup>6</sup>

### **Militia**

An example of a non-state actor, defined as "a group of people who are not professional soldiers but who have had military training and can act as an army".<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> *Levant | Meaning, Countries, Map, Geography, Arabic, Peoples, & Facts | Britannica*, [www.britannica.com/place/Levant](https://www.britannica.com/place/Levant). Accessed 27 July 2026.

<sup>6</sup> *Sykes-Picot Agreement | Map, History, & Facts | Britannica*, [www.britannica.com/event/Sykes-Picot-Agreement](https://www.britannica.com/event/Sykes-Picot-Agreement). Accessed 17 June 2026.

<sup>7</sup> "Militia." *Militia Noun - Definition, Pictures, Pronunciation and Usage Notes | Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary at OxfordLearnersDictionaries.Com*, [www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/militia](https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/militia). Accessed 17 June 2026.

## **Balfour Declaration**

The term “Balfour Declaration” refers to the pledge made by the British following the events of World War II, supporting the “establishment of a national home for Jewish populations” in the area of Palestine.<sup>8</sup>

## **Mandate**

This term is used to describe “an authorization granted by the League of Nations to a member nation to govern a former German or Turkish colony.” Said territory was also referred to as a mandated territory.<sup>9</sup>

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### ***Historical and Cultural Context***

#### Significant Early Historical Events

The history of the region begins roughly at 6000 BCE with the first fortified settlement at Ugarit, modern-day Syria.<sup>10</sup> Throughout its history, the region has seen a series of settlements and colonial activity, beginning in the years predating the common era, such as the settlement of Hebrew tribes, the conquest of Alexander the Great, and Roman activity in the city of Tyre. The Muslim invasion of the Levant happened in the year 637 CE.<sup>11</sup> All of these events laid the foundations necessary for the region to become exceptionally ethnically diverse as well as characterized by constant change. An example of this change would be Aramaic being the most commonly spoken language in the region until the spread of the Arabic language through Islamic conquests. As a result of this long history of trades and conquests, the Levant is slowly shaped into a culturally, ethnically, and religiously diverse region.

---

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> “Mandate | United Nations, Definition, History, Facts, & Map | Britannica.” *Encyclopedia Britannica*, [www.britannica.com/topic/mandate-League-of-Nations](https://www.britannica.com/topic/mandate-League-of-Nations). Accessed 6 July 2026.

<sup>10</sup> Crabben, Jan van der. “Levant.” *World History Encyclopedia*, <https://www.worldhistory.org/organization>, 28 Apr. 2011, [www.worldhistory.org/timeline/levant/](https://www.worldhistory.org/timeline/levant/).

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.



Figure 1: Image of the ruins of the ancient Levantine city of Jericho.<sup>12</sup>

### Cultural, Ethnic, and Religious Makeup of the Region

The region boasts impressive linguistic diversity, with the dominant language being the dialect of Levantine Arabic. Additionally, the Levantine region has historically been an intersection where the three main Abrahamic religions, namely Islam, Judaism, and Christianity, coexist with one another, even being an area of great historical significance for these religions. Nowadays, the Levant holds a majority of Muslim populations, while still retaining significant Jewish and Christian presence, accompanied by a variety of minority religions.<sup>13</sup> In regards to ethnic diversity, the largest ethnic group present in the region are Levantine Arabs; however, there are also sizable Turkic, Greek, Jewish, Assyrian, Kurdish, and Armenian populations.<sup>14</sup>

### The World Wars and the Sykes-Picot Agreement

For the majority of its history, certain areas of the region have formed part of different empires, even though borders and labels have shifted throughout the years.<sup>15</sup> One of the most important turning points in Levantine history began with the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire during World War I, which until that point held the majority of Levantine states. In that same geopolitical climate, Great Britain and France, supported by Imperial Russia, forged a secret agreement in May of 1916, titled the Sykes-Picot Agreement. This convention aimed to further the Ottoman Empire's dissolution and seize control of previously Ottoman land. The agreement

<sup>12</sup> *Prehistoric Jericho (Tell Es-Sultan): The Oldest City in the Ancient Levant – Ancient Levant*, [ancientlevant.com/blogs/unveiling-the-ancient-levant/prehistoric-beginnings-of-jericho-tell-es-sultan-the-oldest-city-in-the-world](https://ancientlevant.com/blogs/unveiling-the-ancient-levant/prehistoric-beginnings-of-jericho-tell-es-sultan-the-oldest-city-in-the-world). Accessed 5 July 2026.

<sup>13</sup> *Levant | Meaning, Countries, Map, Geography, Arabic, Peoples, & Facts | Britannica*, 9 June 2026, [www.britannica.com/place/Levant](https://www.britannica.com/place/Levant).

<sup>14</sup> "What Is the Levant Region?" *UK*, 31 Mar. 2023, [www.superprof.co.uk/blog/what-is-the-levant-region/](https://www.superprof.co.uk/blog/what-is-the-levant-region/).

<sup>15</sup> "About the Levant Strategic Centre." *About Us - Levant Strategic Centre*, [www.levantstrategy.com/aboutus.html](https://www.levantstrategy.com/aboutus.html). Accessed 17 June 2026.

divided the region into various areas administered by either French or British powers.<sup>16</sup> The Arab populations of the region mostly stood against this decision, seeing as it was done in secret and mainly served the interests of the aforementioned states. Despite this action, the British remained relatively supportive of Arab autonomy for a time, aiding the leader Faisal I of Iraq in the creation of an Arab government in Damascus in 1918. However, in April of 1920, the Allies of World War I decided to divide governance of the Levantine region into various mandates in the Conference of San Remo. The impact of this conference was significant, seeing as the borders of the agreed-upon mandated territories eventually evolved into the modern borders of Levantine countries.<sup>17</sup>

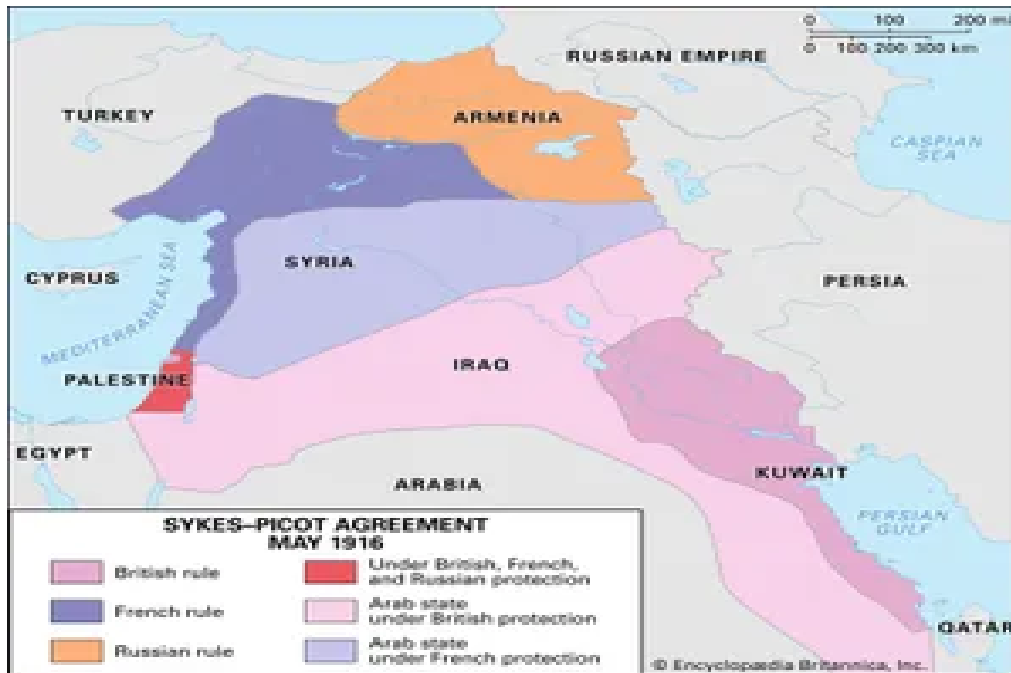


Figure 2: Map depicting the borders of the Levant after the Sykes-Picot Agreement<sup>18</sup>

### The Establishment of Israel and the Following Conflicts

A direct result of the Sykes-Picot agreement was the creation of Israel in 1948, another major event in the region's later history. After the convention, the British obtained and maintained control of the Palestinian region, consisting at the time of an Arab majority and a Jewish minority population, as well as other smaller minority groups. World War II and the events of the Holocaust served as the driving factor of the "Balfour Declaration", a pledge made

<sup>16</sup> Sykes-Picot Agreement | Map, History, & Facts | Britannica, [www.britannica.com/event/Sykes-Picot-Agreement](https://www.britannica.com/event/Sykes-Picot-Agreement). Accessed 17 June 2026.

<sup>17</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>18</sup> *ibid.*

by the British to establish a “national home” for Jewish populations in the area.<sup>19</sup> This sparked tensions between the growing Jewish population fleeing from persecution in Europe, who had historical ties to the land, and the Palestinian Arabs, who opposed the declaration, also having had a long history in the area, dating back centuries. The increasing violence between these two groups and the growing uprising against British rule led to the 1947 UN decision to split the area into designated Jewish and Arab states, leaving Jerusalem as an international city. This saw no support from other Arab states and an abstention from Britain. On the night of May 14th, 1948, the British withdrew from the matter, effectively handing control to the United Nations. A few hours before this action, the creation of the state known as Israel was declared by Jewish leaders in Palestine and recognized by the UN the following year.

Israel's declaration of independence marked the beginning of the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, during which five Arab countries attacked the recently established state. By the time this war saw its conclusion in 1949, Israel controlled most of the territory, leaving the Palestinians in control of Egypt, Jordan in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and Israel in West Jerusalem. The 1948 war is remembered in Arabic as the Nakba (catastrophe), seeing as it was responsible for 750,000 Palestinians becoming refugees after being forced to flee their homes.<sup>20</sup> The 1967 Middle East War saw further changes in the Levant's division of authority, serving as the event during which Israel expanded and solidified its borders, with Israel, Egypt, Syria, and Jordan being the main countries involved. Tensions between Israel and Palestine have not ceased since the previous century, with violence escalating to a full-fledged conflict in recent years.<sup>21</sup>

## **Case Studies**

### The Situation in Syria

Syria is considered a common example of state fragmentation and serves as a defining case, helping us understand how this system came to be and how it affects everyday life as well as diplomatic relations. Syrian state fragmentation began with the Syrian Civil War in March of 2011, which was incited by protests advocating for democracy against the regime of Bashar al-Assad, the Syrian president at the time. The government responded with police, military, and paramilitary violence. Soon, several opposition militias formed, marking the beginning of large-scale fragmentation. Ever since then, this fragmentation has been a cause of political violence in the country, creating concerning internal issues.

---

<sup>19</sup> “Israel and the Palestinians: History of the Conflict Explained.” *BBC News*, BBC, 14 Oct. 2025, [www.bbc.com/news/articles/ckqr71z0jp4o](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ckqr71z0jp4o).

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

Nowadays, Syria is formally under a newly formed authority, following the 2024 protests in Syria and the subsequent ousting of the al-Assad government.<sup>22</sup> However, power in Syria remains divided. The capital maintains little control, and only in select areas, whereas various non-state and regional actors govern larger expanses. For example, Kurdish-led governments in the northeast and Islamist governments in the northwest fill the gaps left by a weakened form of the country's centralized authority.<sup>23</sup> A group named Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) rules through the Syrian Salvation Government (SSG). While originally being a militant organization, the HTS and SSG have managed to provide relative stability to the area by operating various public services, such as schools.<sup>24</sup> Additionally, the Democratic Autonomous Administration of Northeast Syria (DAANES) rules in the north and is led by Kurdish forces.<sup>25</sup> This group prioritizes mainly ethnic cooperation. There are also a few smaller Turkish-backed groups present in certain Syrian areas. The aforementioned progress provides groups such as HTS and DAANES with some legitimacy among local populations, thus making cooperation with the Damascus government even more difficult. Foreign powers also complicate this matter by siding with different groups and strengthening political opposition.<sup>26</sup>

### A Fragmented Lebanon Emerges from the War

The 2006 Lebanon war was a conflict lasting 34 days between the Lebanese Hezbollah militant party and Israel, fueled by border disputes and cross-border attacks by Hezbollah fighters.<sup>27</sup> The conclusion of this war saw instability in Lebanon as well as a lack of a monopoly on authority. Hezbollah managed to retain authority on military matters, leaving the state fragmented with the government having limited control, followed by a financial collapse in 2019.<sup>28</sup> Now, 20 years after the original conflict, Hezbollah and Israel once again find themselves in conflict. More specifically, Hezbollah resumed attacks on Israel after the U.S-Israeli attacks on Iran. At that point, Israel had already been targeting Lebanon and consequently began utilizing air strikes, especially on the country's capital city, Beirut.<sup>29</sup> The involvement of NSAs such as Hezbollah in Lebanon's internal and external matters is telling of the fragmentation present in Lebanon and of how it affects the Levantine region in its entirety.

<sup>22</sup> Tokmajyan, Armenak. *Bashar Al-Assad of Syria Has Been Ousted from Power* | *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*, 9 Dec. 2024, [carnegieendowment.org/middle-east/diwan/2024/12/bashar-al-assad-of-syria-has-been-ousted-from-power](https://carnegieendowment.org/middle-east/diwan/2024/12/bashar-al-assad-of-syria-has-been-ousted-from-power).

<sup>23</sup> Sainz, Victoria. "Fragmented Syria and the Weight of Non-State Rule." *Atlas Institute for International Affairs*, 7 Aug. 2025, [atlasinstitute.org/fragmented-syria-and-the-weight-of-non-state-rule/](https://atlasinstitute.org/fragmented-syria-and-the-weight-of-non-state-rule/).

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> *2006 Lebanon War* | *Summary, Casualties, Hezbollah, & Israel* | *Britannica*, [www.britannica.com/event/2006-Lebanon-War](https://www.britannica.com/event/2006-Lebanon-War). Accessed 17 June 2026.

<sup>28</sup> Ghaoui, Elissa. "Rebuilding without Sovereignty: Why International Aid Has Not Consolidated the Lebanese State in Lebanon." *Atlas Institute for International Affairs*, 27 Apr. 2026, [atlasinstitute.org/rebuilding-without-sovereignty-why-international-aid-has-not-consolidated-the-lebanese-state-in-lebanon/](https://atlasinstitute.org/rebuilding-without-sovereignty-why-international-aid-has-not-consolidated-the-lebanese-state-in-lebanon/).

<sup>29</sup> *Lebanon: How Israel, Hezbollah, and Regional Powers Are Shaping Its Future* | *Council on Foreign Relations*, [www.cfr.org/backgrounders/lebanon-how-israel-hezbollah-and-regional-powers-are-shaping-its-future](https://www.cfr.org/backgrounders/lebanon-how-israel-hezbollah-and-regional-powers-are-shaping-its-future). Accessed 7 July 2026.

## Social and Geographic Fragmentation Observed in Palestine

After the creation of Israel, what was previously known as Palestinian territory was fragmented into areas such as Israel, the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank. Palestinian populations find themselves in a state of fragmentation, with those residing in different areas holding different legal statuses. Palestinians who hold Israeli citizenship often face problems of limited mobility and discrimination, whereas many Palestinians residing in areas such as the Gaza Strip are classified as stateless persons, thus lacking significant legal protection.<sup>30</sup> Certain populations also experience violence and attacks more often than others, based on geographical location and status.<sup>31</sup> The recent conflict has also greatly complicated governmental matters, leaving the country in a state of fragmentation, instability, and violence. The fragmentation of Palestine as a state is directly tied to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, from the Arab-Israeli War of 1948 to the most recent armed escalation in 2023. This can be seen through the involvement of Palestinian NSAs such as Hamas, as well as through the long-standing geographical fragmentation of Palestine.<sup>32</sup> Since 2023, attacks on areas such as the Gaza Strip have created a humanitarian crisis, leaving civilians and national authority in a state of instability and insecurity.<sup>33</sup>

## ***Diplomatic Implications of Levantine State Fragmentation***

Fragmentation complicates diplomacy, seeing as in such an environment, both external and internal diplomatic relations are present and often necessary. In a fragmented climate, diplomacy becomes a complicated, multifaceted affair, during which negotiations must be realized with various actors in order to conclude. The allegiance of different non-state actors holding authority lies with different foreign countries or organizations, furthering political strain and deepening fragmentation on a national and international scale.<sup>34</sup> The differing ideologies of governing groups render negotiations between them exceptionally difficult, and the involvement of external actors further complicates this. Such diplomatic difficulties are mainly seen in the cases of Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine, where foreign intervention initiatives follow their own national interest when negotiating or cooperating with a certain governing group, and in some cases may act as a driving factor of said group's actions or policy.

---

<sup>30</sup> *Palestine | Stateless Hub*, [www.statelesshub.org/country/palestine](http://www.statelesshub.org/country/palestine) Accessed 27 July 2026.

<sup>31</sup> Mizrahi, Daniel. "The Fragmentation of Palestine: How a Settler Minority Rules Over the Entire Country." *Human Rights Research Center (HRRC)*, HRRC, 5 Mar. 2025, [www.humanrightsresearch.org/post/the-fragmentation-of-palestine-how-a-settler-minority-rules-over-the-entire-country](http://www.humanrightsresearch.org/post/the-fragmentation-of-palestine-how-a-settler-minority-rules-over-the-entire-country).

<sup>32</sup> *Israel-Hamas War (Gaza Conflict) | Explanation, Summary, Ceasefire, Casualties, & Map | Britannica*, [www.britannica.com/event/Israel-Hamas-War](http://www.britannica.com/event/Israel-Hamas-War). Accessed 6 July 2026.

<sup>33</sup> *Crisis in Gaza: What to Know and How to Help | the IRC*, [www.rescue.org/crisis-in-gaza](http://www.rescue.org/crisis-in-gaza). Accessed 28 July 2026.

<sup>34</sup> *Breaking the "westphalian" Frame: Regulatory State, Fragmentation, and Diplomacy | Clingendael*, 15 Mar. 2006, [www.clingendael.org/publication/breaking-westphalian-frame-regulatory-state-fragmentation-and-diplomacy](http://www.clingendael.org/publication/breaking-westphalian-frame-regulatory-state-fragmentation-and-diplomacy).

Fragmentation in the Levant may also lead to the creation of “war economies”, such as in the case of Syria, where militias utilize illegal means of financing their operations.<sup>35</sup> This activity endangers civilians and greatly discourages cooperation with centralized authority. This way, tension between governing bodies is intensified, while external actors may be hesitant to form diplomatic relations.

In the case of Palestine, fragmentation has proved to greatly complicate diplomatic matters, especially in recent years.<sup>36</sup> The separation of Gaza and the West Bank as well as tension between Palestinian NSAs, are two factors that don't allow for the creation of a single unified governing body equipped to handle negotiations on the global stage, especially at a time when they are crucial.<sup>37</sup> The opposed ideologies of the governing NSAs, often regarding religious, ethnic, or political differences, place limits and restrictions on any possible diplomatic approach either side makes to solve national issues.<sup>38</sup>

### ***Humanitarian Implications of State Fragmentation***

State fragmentation has a significant impact on the daily life of civilians, often causing or enhancing humanitarian problems.<sup>39</sup> An example of this is the weakening of public service provision. Vital systems like healthcare and education are governed by the ruling group of a certain area instead of being consistent throughout the nation. Humanitarian aid is also delayed or restricted in certain areas due to differing policies or safety risks for humanitarian workers.<sup>40</sup>

Displacement is another prominent issue that often stems from state fragmentation. This is largely due to the political violence that is often present in fragmented societies, which creates an unsafe environment for civilians.<sup>41</sup> Additionally, people pertaining to particular ethnic groups are often driven out of an area governed by NSAs who enforce certain policies resulting in ethnic fragmentation.<sup>42</sup>

---

<sup>35</sup> ICAIEpress. “Today's War Profiteers and Merchants of Violence Make Billions of Dollars from Armed Conflicts and Human Bloodshed: ICAIE - International Coalition Against Illicit Economies.” *ICAIE*, 30 Mar. 2026, [icaie.com/2026/03/todays-war-profiteers-and-merchants-of-violence-make-billions-of-dollars-from-armed-conflicts-and-human-bloodshed/](https://icaie.com/2026/03/todays-war-profiteers-and-merchants-of-violence-make-billions-of-dollars-from-armed-conflicts-and-human-bloodshed/).

<sup>36</sup> *The Strategic Cost of Palestinian Powerlessness* - Middle Eastabout Institute, [mei.edu/report/the-strategic-cost-of-palestinian-powerlessness/](https://mei.edu/report/the-strategic-cost-of-palestinian-powerlessness/). Accessed 28 July 2026.

<sup>37</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>38</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>39</sup> *Strategic Stalemate and Fragmentation Dynamics War of Attrition, External Influence, and the Collapse of Political Mediation Pathways* | African Security Analysis, [www.africansecurityanalysis.com/reports/strategic-stalemate-and-fragmentation-dynamics-war-of-attrition-external-influence-and-the-collapse-of-political-mediation-pathways](https://www.africansecurityanalysis.com/reports/strategic-stalemate-and-fragmentation-dynamics-war-of-attrition-external-influence-and-the-collapse-of-political-mediation-pathways). Accessed 28 July 2026.

<sup>40</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>41</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>42</sup> *Ethnic Fragmentation, Conflict, Displaced Persons and Human Trafficking: An Empirical Analysis*, [www.iza.org/publications/dp/5142/ethnic-fragmentation-conflict-displaced-persons-and-human-trafficking-an-empirical-analysis](https://www.iza.org/publications/dp/5142/ethnic-fragmentation-conflict-displaced-persons-and-human-trafficking-an-empirical-analysis). Accessed 28 July 2026.

## MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

### Lebanon

Lebanon is a nation that faces significant fragmentation and political instability following a series of wars. Today, Lebanon faces problems of internal instability and a need to engage in large-scale negotiations due to its geopolitical climate. Historically, Lebanon has played a protagonistic role in the Levant's regional matters. At the time of the conclusion of World War I, Lebanon was occupied mainly by French forces, who remained in power until 1946, experiencing British involvement as well during those years of occupation.<sup>43</sup> Lebanon was involved in the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, the 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah, and most recently, in another armed conflict between Hezbollah and Israel in 2026.

### Palestine

Palestine is a state fragmented in territory and population due to centuries of unwanted external involvement, the most significant of which was the intervention of the British leading to the creation of Israel. The Balfour Declaration, made by the British, called for the establishment of a “national home” for Jewish populations in the area of Palestine. The various conflicts that followed after, such as the 1948 Arab-Israeli War and the 1967 Six Day War, expanded Israeli settlements and drove a large number of Palestinians to flee to areas such as the Gaza Strip as refugees. Palestine's fragmented geopolitical situation persists today and results in a lack of a centralized government, making negotiations and formal diplomatic relations extremely difficult. Most notably, Palestine has been involved in the 1948 Arab-Israeli War and in the conflict known as the Gaza War beginning in 2023.

### Syria

Syrian authority is fragmented on a large scale, beginning with the 2011 Syrian Civil War. Now, various NSAs such as Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), the Syrian Salvation Government (SSG), and the Democratic Autonomous Administration of Northeast Syria (DAANES) are governing different areas of the country, holding different ideological perspectives, which makes cooperation with the Damascus government difficult and ineffective. The involvement of foreign powers has had a significant impact on state fragmentation in Syria while simultaneously complicating international diplomacy.<sup>44</sup> Historically, Syria was part of the Ottoman Empire for four centuries, until it was placed under French mandate after World War I due to the Sykes-Picot Agreement. Additionally, for a brief period of time (1958-1961), Syria formed part of the United Arab Republic along with Egypt.<sup>45</sup> The governmental system shaped during these

---

<sup>43</sup> *History of Lebanon | Religion, Civil War, Israel, Hezbollah, & Flag | Britannica*, [www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-Lebanon](https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-Lebanon). Accessed 28 July 2026.

<sup>44</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>45</sup> “Colonization and Independence of Syria: From Ottoman Rule to the French Mandate and Beyond.” *Muslim Intellectual Network for Empowerment*,

time periods created the sociopolitical background that allowed for later fragmentation, such as the regional division of the nation during the French mandate era.<sup>46</sup> Diplomatic ties with France were disrupted during the time of the al-Assad regime, but there have been recent talks with hope of relations being resumed.<sup>47</sup> Syria was a key participant in both the 1948 and 1967 wars.

### **United States of America (USA)**

The USA's history of involvement in Levantine politics is a long one, beginning with its support for the creation of Israel, a nation with which it still shares diplomatic ties.<sup>48</sup> The USA has notably demonstrated involvement in the 2006 Lebanese War, among other major events and conflicts in Lebanon.<sup>49</sup> During this time, the US supported Lebanese national authority and the Lebanese Armed Forces in an attempt to counter NSAs such as Hezbollah, thus influencing the country's fragmented status.<sup>50</sup> Activities such as these tend to widen the gap between ruling parties thus strengthening state fragmentation in the region. In general, the USA's involvement in Levantine regional matters mainly aimed to back pro-Western governments and counter Syrian and Iranian influence.<sup>51</sup> Nowadays, the USA continues to be present and involved in the Levant's geopolitical climate, through the US-Iran War and the question of the Straits of Hormuz as well as the US's support of Israel in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

### **Arab League**

The Arab League's involvement in the Levant's regional affairs is deeply connected with the various diplomatic issues caused by fragmentation in the area. For instance, fragmentation in Levantine countries leads to organizational fragmentation within the Arab League, with non-state actors influencing policy and the existence of a rift in interests between member states in relation to their diplomatic ties with Levantine NSAs.<sup>52</sup> Levantine states have been an integral part of the organization since its creation, with the question of Palestine being a unifying point among the member states.<sup>53</sup> However, institutional issues, conflicting interests, and internal fragmentation often leave the League unable to properly respond to Levantine crises,

---

[mineglobal.medium.com/colonization-and-independence-of-syria-from-ottoman-rule-to-the-french-mandate-and-beyond-9825394ce19c](https://mineglobal.medium.com/colonization-and-independence-of-syria-from-ottoman-rule-to-the-french-mandate-and-beyond-9825394ce19c). Accessed 28 July 2026.

<sup>46</sup> Kasouha, Ward. "The Colonial Origins of Syria's Governance Dilemma." *AI*, 16 Nov. 2025, [en.al-akhbar.com/news/syria-s-historical-dilemma-of-governance](https://en.al-akhbar.com/news/syria-s-historical-dilemma-of-governance).

<sup>47</sup> *France and Syria | France Diplomatie*, [www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/information-by-country/syria/france-and-syria](https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/information-by-country/syria/france-and-syria). Accessed 28 July 2026.

<sup>48</sup> *Modern History and U.S. Foreign Policy: Middle East and North Africa | CFR Education*, [www.cfr.org/education/learn/reading/middle-east-timeline](https://www.cfr.org/education/learn/reading/middle-east-timeline). Accessed 28 July 2026.

<sup>49</sup> *America and the Lebanon Issue | The Washington Institute*, [www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/america-and-lebanon-issue](https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/america-and-lebanon-issue). Accessed 28 July 2026.

<sup>50</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>51</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>52</sup> Houry, Nadim. "After the War: Rethinking Regional Security in the Middle East." *Arab Reform Initiative*, Arab Reform Initiative, 13 Mar. 2026, [www.arab-reform.net/publication/after-the-war-rethinking-regional-security-in-the-middle-east/](https://www.arab-reform.net/publication/after-the-war-rethinking-regional-security-in-the-middle-east/).

<sup>53</sup> *The Arab League: Striving for Unity and Cooperation in the Middle East • Polsci Institute*, [polsci.institute/comparative-politics/arab-league-unity-cooperation-middle-east/](https://polsci.institute/comparative-politics/arab-league-unity-cooperation-middle-east/). Accessed 28 July 2026.

such as the Syrian Civil War. This is mainly due to limitations within the Arab League Charter, as well as conflicting national interests within the organization.<sup>54</sup>

### European Union (EU)

The European Union is involved in Levantine politics mostly through support during crises. For instance, between the years of 2011 and 2024, the EU placed sanctions against the al-Assad regime, most of which were lifted in 2025 after the fall of the regime, in support of Syria's economic recovery and autonomy.<sup>55</sup> The EU is also committed to combating the activity of the militant group ISIS.<sup>56</sup> Furthermore, the EU is an active supporter of the Palestinian cause and has donated EUR 647.4 million in humanitarian aid.<sup>57</sup> While the EU is not directly involved in reforms regarding state fragmentation, it supports Levantine countries in crises and conflicts that are intertwined or caused by political or geographical fragmentation.

### Hezbollah

Hezbollah is one of the major NSAs present in the Levantine region, originating in Lebanon. Hezbollah is a Shi'i Muslim political party and militant organization that has close ties with Iran, formed after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982. Since then, they have been involved in two armed conflicts against Israel, one in 2006 and the other beginning earlier this year, in 2026. As an organization, Hezbollah maintains influence in the region and ties with nations and NSAs alike.<sup>58</sup> These connections, as well as Hezbollah's status as a militant organization acting independently, often forming tension with Lebanon's centralized government, act as a driving factor that deepens state fragmentation.

## TIMELINE OF EVENTS

| DATE          | DESCRIPTION OF EVENT                                                       |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 1916      | Signing of the Sykes-Picot agreement by Great Britain and France           |
| 14th May 1948 | Israel declares independence and establishes itself as an autonomous state |

<sup>54</sup> Syria's Civil War in 2023: Assad Back in the Arab League - House of Commons Library, [commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9378/](https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9378/). Accessed 31 July 2026.

<sup>55</sup> Syria - Consilium.Europa.Eu, [www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/syria/](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/syria/). Accessed 28 July 2026.

<sup>56</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>57</sup> EU Humanitarian Support for Palestinians - Consilium, [www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-humanitarian-support-to-palestinians/](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-humanitarian-support-to-palestinians/). Accessed 28 July 2026.

<sup>58</sup> Hezbollah | Meaning, History, Ideology, Iran, Israel, & Flag | Britannica, [www.britannica.com/topic/Hezbollah](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Hezbollah). Accessed 7 July 2026.

|                    |                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15th May 1948      | The Arab-Israeli War begins after five Arab countries send their armies to attack and surround Israel following the declaration of Israeli independence |
| February-July 1949 | A series of armistice agreements effectively ends the first Arab-Israeli War. <sup>59</sup>                                                             |
| 11th May 1949      | Israel was officially recognized by the UN                                                                                                              |
| 5th June 1967      | Beginning of a six-day conflict known as the 1967 Middle East War                                                                                       |
| 10 June 1967       | The 1967 Middle East War ends following a UN-brokered ceasefire. <sup>60</sup>                                                                          |
| 17 July 2000       | Bashar al-Assad takes power in Syria, succeeding his father.                                                                                            |
| 12th July 2006     | Beginning of the 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah                                                                                                  |
| 14 August 2006     | Hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah come to an end, effectively ending the 2006 war. <sup>61</sup>                                                 |
| 25 January 2007    | Paris III Donor Conference for Lebanon takes place.                                                                                                     |
| 15 March 2011      | Beginning of the Syrian Civil War                                                                                                                       |
| 7 October 2023     | Beginning of the most recent escalation of the Israel-Palestine conflict, known as the Gaza War. <sup>62</sup>                                          |

<sup>59</sup> *Arab-Israeli Wars | History, Conflict, Causes, List, Summary, & Facts | Britannica*, [www.britannica.com/event/Arab-Israeli-wars](https://www.britannica.com/event/Arab-Israeli-wars). Accessed 31 July 2026.

<sup>60</sup> "Six-Day War Ends | June 10, 1967." *History.Com*, A&E Television Networks, 28 May 2025, [www.history.com/this-day-in-history/june-10/six-day-war-ends](https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/june-10/six-day-war-ends).

<sup>61</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>62</sup> *Israel-Hamas War (Gaza Conflict) | Explanation, Summary, Ceasefire, Casualties, & Map | Britannica*, [www.britannica.com/event/Israel-Hamas-War](https://www.britannica.com/event/Israel-Hamas-War). Accessed 6 July 2026.

|                  |                                                                                                |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8 December 2024  | Fall of the Assad regime in Syria after a series of protests and uprisings. <sup>63</sup>      |
| 28 February 2026 | USA and Israel launch strikes on Iran, marking the beginning of the US-Iran War. <sup>64</sup> |

## RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

### **UNSC Resolution 2254 (18 December 2015)**

The primary purpose of this resolution is to aid the Syrian people and authorities in finding stability in the midst of civil war. The resolution emphasizes the need to halt terrorist attacks by non-state actors and places responsibility on authorities to protect civilians, while also calling for a ceasefire and immediate aid for local populations. The resolution also supports the mobilization of humanitarian aid to the area. This resolution was based on the Geneva Communiqué of 2012 and the Vienna Statements of 2015, all supporting a Syrian-led transition into a democratic system.<sup>65</sup>

### **UNSC Resolution 2334 (23 December 2016)**

This resolution denies the validity of Israeli settlements acquired from the year 1967 onwards and calls for a cessation of activity in these areas. It specifically states that the changes made after the 4th of June 1967 are not formally recognized according to the UN Security Council. The resolution supports a two state solution for Israel and Palestine and calls upon member states to make a distinction between the land governed by Israel at its creation and the territories occupied since 1967, stating that these have 'no legal validity'.<sup>66</sup> However, in practice, the fragmentation of this region was not mitigated, seeing as conflicts persist to this day, however a large portion of the international community does not recognize these Israeli settlements as legitimate.

### **UNSC Resolution 242 (22 November 1967)**

This resolution was drafted and voted upon after the 1967 Middle East War or the "Six Day War" with the primary objective of creating an environment of lasting peace in the region. The resolution calls for the withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories acquired during the war,

<sup>63</sup> *The Fall of Bashar Al-Assad: Winners, Losers, and Challenges Ahead* | Georgetown Journal of International Affairs | Georgetown University, [gjiia.georgetown.edu/conflict-security/the-fall-of-bashar-al-assad-winners-losers-and-challenges-ahead/](https://gjiia.georgetown.edu/conflict-security/the-fall-of-bashar-al-assad-winners-losers-and-challenges-ahead/). Accessed 28 July 2026.

<sup>64</sup> *Iran War Timeline: Key Moments and Attacks in U.S. and Israel's Campaign - The New York Times*, [www.nytimes.com/article/iran-war-trump-us-oil-hormuz-key-dates-events.html](https://www.nytimes.com/article/iran-war-trump-us-oil-hormuz-key-dates-events.html). Accessed 6 July 2026.

<sup>65</sup> *Security Council Resolution 2254 - UNSCR*, [unsr.com/en/resolutions/2254](https://unscr.com/en/resolutions/2254). Accessed 28 July 2026.

<sup>66</sup> *Resolution 2334 (2016) - the Situation in the Middle East, Including the Palestinian Question* | Unscr, [unsr.com/en/resolutions/2334/](https://unsr.com/en/resolutions/2334/). Accessed 28 July 2026.

and emphasizes the need for negotiation and diplomacy between nations to create peace and ensure that all affected member states remain in a state of political stability under their respective government.

### ***UNIFIL (United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon)***

UNIFIL is a peacekeeping mission established by the Security Council in South Lebanon in 1978. The objective is to ensure that Israeli forces withdraw from the area while simultaneously assisting Lebanon in a political transition.<sup>67</sup> This initiative took on an even bigger role after the 2006 war, responsible for monitoring activity between Hezbollah and Israel. However, it should be noted that UNIFIL operates within a fragmented system where Hezbollah retains a large amount of influence. It would be beneficial if peacekeeping missions such as this one were combined with UN-led diplomatic initiatives with the objective of mitigating the negative impact of state fragmentation.

## **PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE**

### ***Paris III Donor Conference (2007)<sup>68</sup>***

This operation was aimed at aiding Lebanon after the war in 2006. It managed to collect 7.6 billion US Dollars in support.<sup>69</sup> Major donors include Saudi Arabia, the United States, the World Bank, the Arab Monetary Fund, France, and the European Commission.<sup>70</sup> Additionally, the conference helped Lebanon form various reform systems in order to restore its economy after the conflict. While the conference provided significant financial aid, it was not targeted at the country's political instability and therefore failed to tackle the core issue. Initiatives such as this one would be more successful if they took a multifaceted approach that mainly focused on systemic change and political stability, led by Lebanese authority, through means such as enhanced capacity building initiatives.

### ***Global Coalition Against Daesh/Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)***

The Daesh or ISIS militant group has a history of political violence in the Middle East, and has contributed to Levantine state fragmentation. This is why the Global Coalition Against Daesh, formed in 2014, has been so important, especially for Levantine countries. The primary objectives of this coalition include dismantling ISIS networks, weakening the group's financial and human resources, and stabilizing and aiding countries affected by Daesh's activity, such as Syria and Iraq. While the Global Coalition has been successful in achieving their practical goal

---

<sup>67</sup> "Home: United Nations Peace Operations." *UNIFIL*, United Nations Peace Operations, 17 June 2026, [unifil.unmissions.org/en](http://unifil.unmissions.org/en).

<sup>68</sup> *International Conference for Support to Lebanon - Paris III*, [www.finance.gov.lb/en-us/Finance/DC/AC/Documents/Paris%20III%20First%20Progress%20Report.pdf](http://www.finance.gov.lb/en-us/Finance/DC/AC/Documents/Paris%20III%20First%20Progress%20Report.pdf). Accessed 28 July 2026.

<sup>69</sup> *Paris III Conference of Donors*, [archive.unescwa.org/paris-iii-conference-donors](http://archive.unescwa.org/paris-iii-conference-donors). Accessed 28 July 2026.

<sup>70</sup> *ibid.*

of weakening and disarming ISIS, it may fail to face the underlying political issues of the region that cause instability and create the ideal environment for organizations such as Daesh to emerge.<sup>71</sup> Practices could be improved through strong collaboration with major IGOs such as the UN, who are more capable of focusing on the area's long-standing regional political issues.

### ***Brussels VIII Conference on Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region***

This conference discussed matters such as tackling instability and fragmentation in Syria while simultaneously acting as a type of donor conference where billions of US Dollars were gathered in support of the cause.<sup>72</sup> The conference also acknowledged how the situation in Syria affects the political reality of the rest of the fragmented Levantine region, aiming to build a stable future for the Levant as a whole. The primary disadvantage of this initiative is the fact that it was focused on humanitarian aid, which can be very helpful to an extent, but it remains unable to support long-term political rehabilitation.<sup>73</sup> A more sustainable approach would consider capacity building as one of its key characteristics.

## **POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS**

### ***Organizing Diplomatic Operations Between State and Non-State Actors***

This solution proposes the organization of initiatives led by the UN, intending to mitigate the effects of fragmentation on a national level. The main objective would be coordinating negotiations, agreements, and cooperation between the state and NSAs or different NSAs with one another, if safe and possible. This could help create a form of enhanced stability and a character of cooperation, loosening tensions lingering after armed conflict. In an effort to respect the possible ideological differences of said parties, these operations should be encouraged but only carried out upon request, with the aim of tackling urgent national issues that pose a significant threat to any actors involved. UN representatives could be present to ensure that UN values are upheld during the negotiation process.

### ***Creating Common National Contracts***

Upon request, the UN could aid different groups and parties that hold authority in drafting a common national contract or agreement, thus creating a common framework under which all actors are required to operate. Such documents should not contain specific ideologically-charged policies, but rather an agreed-upon set of principles that prioritize civilian safety. This might not be an ideal solution for countries currently experiencing high levels of internal political violence, but countries facing external threats may be interested in forming an agreement prioritizing local safety without directly forcing cooperation. This would relieve

---

<sup>71</sup> Mission - the Global Coalition against Daesh, [theglobalcoalition.org/en/mission/](http://theglobalcoalition.org/en/mission/). Accessed 7 July 2026.

<sup>72</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>73</sup> Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region - Brussels Eight Conference - Consilium, [www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-ministerial-meetings/2024/05/27/](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-ministerial-meetings/2024/05/27/). Accessed 7 July 2026.

tension and improve the lives of civilians, as well as enhance fairness in the legal system and create a sense of stability.

### ***Creating an Advisory Board for Fragmented Levantine States***

Upon request, a country could direct itself to this advisory board, specialized in the matter of fragmentation in the Levant, with extensive knowledge on Middle Eastern and Levantine history, politics, and economics. This board should aid said countries in developing programs and systems regarding economic and political stabilization, as well as civilian safety. Funding could be provided by the UN and responsible agencies. A regional fund could also be created with specific focus on this issue. Once again, this may not be an ideal proposal for some states, but it would be a beneficial option for those weakened by years of political conflict.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

### ***General Bibliography***

Cambanis, Thanassis, et al. "Hybrid Actors: Armed Groups and State Fragmentation in the Middle East." *The Century Foundation*, 12 Nov. 2019, [tcf.org/content/report/hybrid-actors/](https://www.centuryfoundation.org/content/report/hybrid-actors/).

Crabben, Jan van der. "Levant." *World History Encyclopedia*, 28 Apr. 2011, [www.worldhistory.org/timeline/levant/](https://www.worldhistory.org/timeline/levant/).

"A Guide to Levantine Arabic." *Industry Arabic*, 13 Mar. 2023, [industryarabic.com/levantine-arabic-guide/](https://industryarabic.com/levantine-arabic-guide/).

*Levant | Meaning, Countries, Map, Geography, Arabic, Peoples, & Facts | Britannica*, 9 June 2026, [www.britannica.com/place/Levant](https://www.britannica.com/place/Levant).

Li, Jieli. "State Fragmentation: Toward a Theoretical Understanding of the Territorial Power of the State - Li - 2002 - Sociological Theory - Wiley Online Library." *Wiley Online Library*, 17 Dec. 2002, [onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/1467-9558.00156](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/1467-9558.00156).

"What Is the Levant Region?" *UK*, 31 Mar. 2023, [www.superprof.co.uk/blog/what-is-the-levant-region/](https://www.superprof.co.uk/blog/what-is-the-levant-region/).

"About the Levant Strategic Centre." *About Us - Levant Strategic Centre*, [www.levantstrategy.com/aboutus.html](https://www.levantstrategy.com/aboutus.html). Accessed 17 June 2026.

*Sykes-Picot Agreement | Map, History, & Facts | Britannica*, [www.britannica.com/event/Sykes-Picot-Agreement](https://www.britannica.com/event/Sykes-Picot-Agreement). Accessed 17 June 2026.

"Israel and the Palestinians: History of the Conflict Explained." *BBC News*, BBC, 14 Oct. 2025, [www.bbc.com/news/articles/ckgr71z0jp4o](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ckgr71z0jp4o).

Sainz, Victoria. "Fragmented Syria and the Weight of Non-State Rule." *Atlas Institute for International Affairs*, 7 Aug. 2025, [atlasinstitute.org/fragmented-syria-and-the-weight-of-non-state-rule/](https://atlasinstitute.org/fragmented-syria-and-the-weight-of-non-state-rule/).

2006 Lebanon War | Summary, Casualties, Hezbollah, & Israel | *Britannica*, [www.britannica.com/event/2006-Lebanon-War](https://www.britannica.com/event/2006-Lebanon-War). Accessed 17 June 2026.

Ghaoui, Elissa. "Rebuilding without Sovereignty: Why International Aid Has Not Consolidated the Lebanese State in Lebanon." *Atlas Institute for International Affairs*, 27 Apr. 2026, [atlasinstitute.org/rebuilding-without-sovereignty-why-international-aid-has-not-consolidated-the-lebanese-state-in-lebanon/](https://atlasinstitute.org/rebuilding-without-sovereignty-why-international-aid-has-not-consolidated-the-lebanese-state-in-lebanon/).

Mizrahi, Daniel. "The Fragmentation of Palestine: How a Settler Minority Rules Over the Entire Country." *Human Rights Research Center (HRRC)*, HRRC, 5 Mar. 2025, [www.humanrightsresearch.org/post/the-fragmentation-of-palestine-how-a-settler-minority-rules-over-the-entire-country](https://www.humanrightsresearch.org/post/the-fragmentation-of-palestine-how-a-settler-minority-rules-over-the-entire-country).

Houry, Nadim. "After the War: Rethinking Regional Security in the Middle East." *Arab Reform Initiative*, Arab Reform Initiative, 13 Mar. 2026, [www.arab-reform.net/publication/after-the-war-rethinking-regional-security-in-the-middle-east/](https://www.arab-reform.net/publication/after-the-war-rethinking-regional-security-in-the-middle-east/).

"Home: United Nations Peace Operations." *UNIFIL*, United Nations Peace Operations, 17 June 2026, [unifil.unmissions.org/en](https://unifil.unmissions.org/en).

Institute for Economics & Peace. Global Peace Index 2026: Identifying and measuring the factors that drive peace, Sydney, June 2026. Available from: <http://visionofhumanity.org/resources> (accessed 6 July 2026).

"Mandate | United Nations, Definition, History, Facts, & Map | Britannica." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, [www.britannica.com/topic/mandate-League-of-Nations](https://www.britannica.com/topic/mandate-League-of-Nations). Accessed 6 July 2026.

Lebanon: How Israel, Hezbollah, and Regional Powers Are Shaping Its Future | *Council on Foreign Relations*, [www.cfr.org/backgrounders/lebanon-how-israel-hezbollah-and-regional-powers-are-shaping-its-future](https://www.cfr.org/backgrounders/lebanon-how-israel-hezbollah-and-regional-powers-are-shaping-its-future). Accessed 7 July 2026.

Hezbollah | Meaning, History, Ideology, Iran, Israel, & Flag | *Britannica*, [www.britannica.com/topic/Hezbollah](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Hezbollah). Accessed 7 July 2026.

Mission - the Global Coalition against Daesh, [theglobalcoalition.org/en/mission/](https://theglobalcoalition.org/en/mission/). Accessed 7 July 2026.

Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region - Brussels Eight Conference - Consilium, [www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-ministerial-meetings/2024/05/27/](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-ministerial-meetings/2024/05/27/). Accessed 7 July 2026.

Palestine | *Stateless Hub*, [www.statelesshub.org/country/palestine](https://www.statelesshub.org/country/palestine). Accessed 27 July 2026.

*What Is Levant? Exploring the Levant Countries and Their Historical and Cultural Significance*, [nuhaira.com/en/what-is-levant-exploring-the-levant-countries-and-their-historical-and-cultural-significance/](https://nuhaira.com/en/what-is-levant-exploring-the-levant-countries-and-their-historical-and-cultural-significance/). Accessed 27 July 2026.

Tokmajyan, Armenak. *Bashar Al-Assad of Syria Has Been Ousted from Power* | Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 9 Dec. 2024, [carnegieendowment.org/middle-east/diwan/2024/12/bashar-al-assad-of-syria-has-been-ousted-from-power](https://carnegieendowment.org/middle-east/diwan/2024/12/bashar-al-assad-of-syria-has-been-ousted-from-power).

*Ethnic Fragmentation, Conflict, Displaced Persons and Human Trafficking: An Empirical Analysis*, [www.iza.org/publications/dp/5142/ethnic-fragmentation-conflict-displaced-persons-and-human-trafficking-an-empirical-analysis](https://www.iza.org/publications/dp/5142/ethnic-fragmentation-conflict-displaced-persons-and-human-trafficking-an-empirical-analysis). Accessed 28 July 2026.

*Strategic Stalemate and Fragmentation Dynamics War of Attrition, External Influence, and the Collapse of Political Mediation Pathways* | African Security Analysis, [www.africansecurityanalysis.com/reports/strategic-stalemate-and-fragmentation-dynamics-war-of-attrition-external-influence-and-the-collapse-of-political-mediation-pathways](https://www.africansecurityanalysis.com/reports/strategic-stalemate-and-fragmentation-dynamics-war-of-attrition-external-influence-and-the-collapse-of-political-mediation-pathways). Accessed 28 July 2026.

*The Strategic Cost of Palestinian Powerlessness* - Middle East Institute, [mei.edu/report/the-strategic-cost-of-palestinian-powerlessness/](https://mei.edu/report/the-strategic-cost-of-palestinian-powerlessness/). Accessed 28 July 2026.

*History of Lebanon | Religion, Civil War, Israel, Hezbollah, & Flag* | Britannica, [www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-Lebanon](https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-Lebanon). Accessed 28 July 2026.

*“Colonization and Independence of Syria: From Ottoman Rule to the French Mandate and Beyond .” Muslim Intellectual Network for Empowerment*, [mineglobal.medium.com/colonization-and-independence-of-syria-from-ottoman-rule-to-the-french-mandate-and-beyond-9825394ce19c](https://mineglobal.medium.com/colonization-and-independence-of-syria-from-ottoman-rule-to-the-french-mandate-and-beyond-9825394ce19c). Accessed 28 July 2026.

*France and Syria* | France Diplomatie, [www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/information-by-country/syria/france-and-syria](https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/information-by-country/syria/france-and-syria). Accessed 28 July 2026.

*The Arab League: Striving for Unity and Cooperation in the Middle East* • Polsci Institute, [polsci.institute/comparative-politics/arab-league-unity-cooperation-middle-east/](https://polsci.institute/comparative-politics/arab-league-unity-cooperation-middle-east/). Accessed 28 July 2026.

*Modern History and U.S. Foreign Policy: Middle East and North Africa* | CFR Education, [www.cfr.org/education/learn/reading/middle-east-timeline](https://www.cfr.org/education/learn/reading/middle-east-timeline). Accessed 28 July 2026.

*Syria* - Consilium.Europa.Eu, [www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/syria/](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/syria/). Accessed 28 July 2026.

*EU Humanitarian Support for Palestinians* - Consilium, [www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-humanitarian-support-to-palestinians/](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-humanitarian-support-to-palestinians/). Accessed 28 July 2026.

*The Fall of Bashar Al-Assad: Winners, Losers, and Challenges Ahead* | Georgetown Journal of International Affairs | Georgetown University, [gjia.georgetown.edu/conflict-security/the-fall-of-bashar-al-assad-winners-losers-and-challenges-ahead/](https://gjia.georgetown.edu/conflict-security/the-fall-of-bashar-al-assad-winners-losers-and-challenges-ahead/). Accessed 28 July 2026.

Security Council Resolution 2254 - UNSCR, [unsr.com/en/resolutions/2254](https://unscr.com/en/resolutions/2254). Accessed 28 July 2026.

Resolution 2334 (2016) - the Situation in the Middle East, Including the Palestinian Question | Unscr, [unsr.com/en/resolutions/2334/](https://unsr.com/en/resolutions/2334/). Accessed 28 July 2026.

International Conference for Support to Lebanon - Paris III, [www.finance.gov.lb/en-us/Finance/DC/AC/Documents/Paris%20III%20First%20Progress%20Report.pdf](https://www.finance.gov.lb/en-us/Finance/DC/AC/Documents/Paris%20III%20First%20Progress%20Report.pdf). Accessed 28 July 2026.

Paris III Conference of Donors, [archive.unescwa.org/paris-iii-conference-donors](https://archive.unescwa.org/paris-iii-conference-donors). Accessed 28 July 2026.

“Six-Day War Ends | June 10, 1967.” History.Com, A&E Television Networks, 28 May 2025, [www.history.com/this-day-in-history/june-10/six-day-war-ends](https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/june-10/six-day-war-ends).

Arab-Israeli Wars | History, Conflict, Causes, List, Summary, & Facts | Britannica, [www.britannica.com/event/Arab-Israeli-wars](https://www.britannica.com/event/Arab-Israeli-wars). Accessed 31 July 2026.

Syria’s Civil War in 2023: Assad Back in the Arab League - House of Commons Library, [commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9378/](https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9378/). Accessed 31 July 2026.

Kasouha, Ward. “The Colonial Origins of Syria’s Governance Dilemma.” *AI*, 16 Nov. 2025, [en.al-akhbar.com/news/syria-s-historical-dilemma-of-governance](https://en.al-akhbar.com/news/syria-s-historical-dilemma-of-governance).

ICAIEpress. “Today’s War Profiteers and Merchants of Violence Make Billions of Dollars from Armed Conflicts and Human Bloodshed: ICAIE - International Coalition Against Illicit Economies.” ICAIE, 30 Mar. 2026, [icaie.com/2026/03/todays-war-profiteers-and-merchants-of-violence-make-billions-of-dollars-from-armed-conflicts-and-human-bloodshed/](https://icaie.com/2026/03/todays-war-profiteers-and-merchants-of-violence-make-billions-of-dollars-from-armed-conflicts-and-human-bloodshed/).

## **Media Bibliography**

Prehistoric Jericho (Tell Es-Sultan): The Oldest City in the Ancient Levant – Ancient Levant, [ancientlevant.com/blogs/unveiling-the-ancient-levant/prehistoric-beginnings-of-gericho-tell-es-sultan-the-oldest-city-in-the-world](https://ancientlevant.com/blogs/unveiling-the-ancient-levant/prehistoric-beginnings-of-gericho-tell-es-sultan-the-oldest-city-in-the-world). Accessed 5 July 2026.

