



**THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
SOCIAL SCIENCES UNIVERSITY OF ANKARA
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**MOROCCO AND ALGERIA'S POLICIES ON THE ISRAEL-
PALESTINE QUESTION POST-ARAB SPRING: A COMPARATIVE
ANALYSIS**

Master's Thesis

Şeymanur Sultan DEMİRDÖĞEN

QUDS STUDIES

June 2024



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THESIS APPROVAL

This is to certify that the defense examination for the thesis titled Morocco and Algeria's Policies on the Israel-Palestine Question Post-Arab Spring: A Comparative Analysis prepared by Şeymanur Sultan Demirdöğen with student number 215421001 studying in the field of International Relations Department Quds Studies MA Program has been conducted in accordance with the related clauses of the Graduate Studies and Examination Code of YÖK (Council of Higher Education) on 13/08/2024 at 14:00, and has been approved by the majority of votes/unanimous vote.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my profound gratitude to my precious husband Oğuzhan, whose never-ending belief, support, and assistance were crucial throughout this journey. His encouragement, motivation, and understanding provided a solid foundation for my work, and his constant presence was a source of strength and inspiration. His dedication to my success and his boundless enthusiasm for my work has been truly remarkable.

I am also deeply grateful to my mother and my father, for their constant belief in my abilities and their continuous encouragement. Their love, support, and sacrifices have been vital through my academic and personal achievements. Their faith in me has been a guiding light throughout my life and especially this process. I also wish to acknowledge my siblings, for being source of joy and encouragement. Their presence, understanding and support have been a source of immense motivation, reminding me of the importance of family and the strength it provides.

I sincerely thank to my advisor, Prof. Muhittin Ataman, for his patience, support and guidance. His wise criticism, encouragement, and mentoring were instrumental in shaping this research. His dedication and expertise have significantly contributed to the depth and quality of this thesis.

Additionally, I would like to thank the instructors from whom I took lessons. Their knowledge, guidance and willingness for teaching have expanded my perspective, significantly contributing to my academic and intellectual development.

Thank you all for your support, guidance, and belief, which have made this thesis possible.

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ABSTRACT

MOROCCO AND ALGERIA'S POLICIES ON THE ISRAEL-PALESTINE QUESTION POST-ARAB SPRING: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

This thesis provides a comprehensive comparative analysis of Morocco and Algeria's foreign policies towards the Israel-Palestine question from 2011 to 2024, with a specific focus on the period following the Arab Spring. The Israel-Palestine question, deeply rooted in historical, political, and social contexts, has seen varied responses from these two North African states. Morocco, traditionally maintaining a moderate stance, has recently shifted towards "normalization" of relations with Israel, influenced by strategic and economic interests, notably the Abraham Accords of 2020. In contrast, Algeria has upheld a staunchly pro-Palestinian stance, driven by its revolutionary history and anti-colonial identity. This study delves into the historical evolution of the question, exploring key events such as the subsequent conflicts and peace initiatives. It analyzes how regional dynamics, particularly after the Arab Spring, have impacted the distinct policies of Morocco and Algeria. This study illustrates the strategic approaches, underlying motivations, and implications of each country's position through a methodical comparative analysis. By offering a thorough analysis of how Morocco and Algeria navigate the challenges of the Israel-Palestine issue while taking into account their distinct political settings and regional aspirations, it aims to contribute to the existing studies. The findings underscore the importance of comprehending the multifaceted nature of regional politics and the diverse perspectives within the Arab world towards the issue. The objective of this study is to provide insight to larger conversations on Middle Eastern geopolitics and the ongoing challenges of the Israel-Palestine question by presenting a nuanced perspective on the policies of Morocco and Algeria.

Key Words: Morocco's Foreign Policy, Algeria's Foreign Policy, Israel-Palestine Question, Normalization, Arab Spring

ÖZET

FAS VE CEZAYİR’İN İSRAIL-FİLİSTİN SORUNUNA İLİŞKİN ARAP BAHARI SONRASI POLİTİKALARI: KARŞILAŞTIRMALI ANALİZ

Bu tez, Fas ve Cezayir’in 2011’den 2024’e kadar İsrail-Filistin meselesine yönelik dış politikalarının, Arap Baharı’nı takip eden dönemine odaklanarak, kapsamlı ve karşılaştırmalı bir analizini sunmaktadır. Tarihi, siyasi ve sosyal bağlamlarda derin kökleri olan İsrail-Filistin meselesi, bu iki Kuzey Afrika devletinden farklı yaklaşımlar görmüştür. Geleneksel olarak ılımlı bir duruş sergileyen Fas, son dönemde stratejik ve ekonomik çıkarların, özellikle de 2020 İbrahim Anlaşmalarının etkisiyle İsrail ile ilişkilerini “normalleştirmeye” yönelmiştir. Buna karşılık, Cezayir devrim tarihi ve sömürge karşıtı kimliğinden güç alarak, Filistin yanlısı bir duruş sergilemiştir. Bu çalışma, İsrail-Filistin sorununun tarihsel gelişimini inceleyerek, müteakip çatışmalar ve barış girişimleri gibi kilit olayları araştırmaktadır. Özellikle Arap Baharı olarak adlandırılan halk hareketlerinden sonra bölgesel dinamiklerin Fas ve Cezayir’in farklı politikalarını nasıl etkilediğini analiz etmektedir. Bu tez, her iki ülkenin stratejik yaklaşımlarını, temel motivasyonlarını ve meseleye karşı geliştirdikleri politikaların sonuçlarını metodik bir karşılaştırmalı analiz ile ortaya koymaktadır. Bu çalışma, Fas ve Cezayir’in İsrail-Filistin meselesinde karşılaştıkları zorlukları nasıl ele aldıklarına dair bir analiz sunarken, farklı siyasi ortamlarını ve bölgesel isteklerini de göz önünde bulundurarak mevcut literatüre katkıda bulunmayı amaçlamaktadır. Elde edilen bulgular, bölgesel siyasetin çok yönlü doğasını ve Arap dünyasında konuya yönelik farklı bakış açılarını anlamanın önemini vurgulamaktadır. Bu çalışmanın amacı, Fas ve Cezayir’in politikalarına dair incelikli bir bakış açısı sunarak, Orta Doğu jeopolitiği ve İsrail-Filistin sorununun süregelen zorluklarına dair daha geniş tartışmalara katkı sağlamaktır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Fas Dış Politikası, Cezayir Dış Politikası, İsrail-Filistin Meselesi, Normalleşme, Arap Baharı

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. Historical Overview of the Israel-Palestine Question

The Israel-Palestine question, a deeply entrenched and multifaceted struggle, has its roots in the late 19th and early 20th centuries with the rise of nationalist movements among both Jews and Arabs in the Middle East. Driven by the Zionist movement, waves of Jewish immigrants began settling in Palestine, which was then part of the Ottoman Empire and later came under British control following World War I. Jewish nationalism, known as Zionism, sought the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine. This period marked the beginning of significant demographic and political changes in the region, setting the stage for the enduring conflict that would follow.

The Israel-Palestine conflict escalated significantly after the United Nations proposed the partition of Palestine in 1947, recommending the creation of separate Jewish and Arab states. Although this plan was accepted by the Jews, it was naturally rejected by the Arab states and Palestinian Arabs, who opposed the division of their own homeland. Tensions rose sharply as Zionist paramilitary groups began aggressively expanding their control over Palestinian towns and villages, often through forceful displacement of the indigenous people. The situation escalated dramatically when the State of Israel declared itself unilaterally on May 14, 1948. The following day, neighboring Arab states intervened in response to the ongoing aggression, leading to the 1948 Arab-Israeli War (Pirinççi, 2023). The war resulted in the catastrophic displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, an event referred to by Palestinians as the Nakba (catastrophe), and the establishment of Israel within a larger territory than initially proposed by the UN. This influx of Jewish immigrants and the subsequent establishment of the State of Israel exacerbated tensions with the indigenous Arab population, who were forcibly removed from their homes and lands. Over the decades, Palestinian lands saw multiple wars and intifadas

(uprisings), further complicating the conflict. The Six-Day War in 1967 resulted in Israel's occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights, territories still central to the dispute. The 1973 Yom Kippur War, the first and second Palestinian intifadas, and various military operations and peace initiatives have since punctuated the conflict, each reshaping the political landscape. The Oslo Accords in the 1990s marked a significant, albeit fragile, step towards peace, establishing the Palestinian Authority and granting it limited self-governance in parts of the West Bank and Gaza. However, the failure to resolve core issues—such as borders, the status of Jerusalem, the right of return for Palestinian refugees, and security concerns—has perpetuated the conflict. Since the 1993 Oslo Accords, Israel has violated the agreement by continuing illegal settlement construction in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, committing human rights abuses, demolishing Palestinian homes in Jerusalem, and imposing additional restrictions on access to Muslim religious sites.

In the 21st century, the Israel-Palestine question has been influenced by broader regional and international dynamics. In the midst of Israel's ongoing violations and oppression, the Second Intifada, which was sparked by the then opposition leader Ariel Sharon's entry into the Al-Aqsa Mosque, caused serious casualties in the Palestinian lands.

The 2005 withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza and the subsequent control of the territory by Hamas, added another layer of complexity, resulting in frequent clashes and blockades.

The Arab Spring of 2011, a wave of pro-democracy uprisings across the Arab world, significantly impacted the regional context. While the uprisings initially brought hope for democratic reforms, they also led to instability and conflict in several countries, indirectly affecting the Israel-Palestine situation. Regional powers realigned, and new actors, such as Iran and Türkiye, increasingly asserted their influence.

Against this backdrop of shifting regional dynamics, individual countries in North Africa, including Morocco and Algeria, have developed

distinct policies toward the Israel-Palestine issue, shaped by their unique political, social, and regional circumstances. Morocco has historically maintained a relatively moderate stance, balancing its support for Palestinian rights with pragmatic diplomatic engagements. Notably, Morocco's recent "normalization"¹ of relations with Israel under the Abraham Accords in 2020 marked a significant shift, driven by strategic considerations and domestic political calculations. This move has been seen as a bid to strengthen its international standing and leverage economic and security benefits while still asserting its support for Palestinian statehood in international forums. However, this step undermined the country's commitment to the Palestinian cause and was a clear indication of its demise. The fact that Morocco, a Muslim country, has put aside its solidarity with Palestine on the long-standing Israel problem in the region, and has improved relations with Israel under the name of "normalization" renders Morocco's rhetoric of support for the Palestinian cause ineffective.

In contrast, Algeria has consistently maintained a staunchly pro-Palestinian stance, rooted in its revolutionary history and anti-colonial identity. Algerian foreign policy has been characterized by unwavering support for Palestinian self-determination and opposition to Israeli occupation. This position has been reinforced by Algeria's internal political dynamics and its desire to position itself as a leader in the Arab world and a defender of pan-Arab causes. The post-Arab Spring era has further highlighted the divergent paths taken by these two North African nations in their approach to the conflict.

The purpose of this study is to analyze different policies between 2000 and 2024, emphasizing on how regional dynamics, particularly those that followed the Arab Spring, influenced the strategies of each nation. This research

¹ In this thesis, the term "normalization" is used in between quotation marks to highlight the author's belief that these agreements, particularly in context with Israel's ongoing occupation of Palestinian territories, do not represent a truly 'normal' or equitable process. The use of this term is meant to critically engage with the notion of "normalization" as it is frequently portrayed in diplomatic discourse.

aims to provide a thorough understanding of their involvement in the wider Middle Eastern political setting by contrasting and examining their techniques, motivations, and implications. This research aims to provide insight into the ways in which these two North African countries support current discussions and potential pathways for resolving the Israel-Palestine problem. By doing this, this study not only draws attention to the multifaceted nature of regional politics but also emphasizes how crucial it is to comprehend the various viewpoints and behaviors that influence efforts to bring about peace and stability in the Middle East.

1.2. Statement of the Research Problem and Its Significance

The research problem at the heart of this study is understanding the distinct policies of Morocco and Algeria regarding the Israel-Palestine question from the Arab Spring of 2011 to 2024. Both countries hold influential positions within the Arab world, yet their approaches to this enduring conflict are markedly different. Morocco's recent "normalization" of relations with Israel contrasts sharply with Algeria's steadfast support for Palestinian self-determination, offer contrasting perspectives that reflect each nation's unique histories, political landscapes, and regional aspirations.

This study seeks to fill a gap in the existing research by conducting a comparative analysis of the foreign policies of Morocco and Algeria. By examining how each country has navigated the complexities of the Israel-Palestine issue since the Arab Spring, we can gain valuable insights into the broader regional dynamics that influence peace and stability in the Middle East. Understanding these policies is crucial not only for grasping the political maneuvers of these two nations but also for appreciating the diverse approaches within the Arab world toward a conflict that has significantly influenced the region for decades.

The importance of this research lies in its comprehensive analysis of the underlying motivations, strategic approaches, and the implications of Morocco and Algeria's policies. This comparative analysis is not merely descriptive but aims to uncover the nuanced differences and similarities in the two countries' diplomatic stances and actions. Through a detailed examination, the research highlights the intricate web of factors driving the decision-making processes in both nations. This includes historical contexts, political ideologies, economic considerations, and regional influences that shape their international relations strategies.

The study clarifies how divergent national interests and geopolitical strategies can affect the larger effort to bring about peace in the Middle East by contrasting the policies of Morocco and Algeria. It underscores the importance of a multifaceted analysis in discerning the potential pathways to resolving such enduring conflicts. The findings of this comparative study show how important thorough policy analysis is to understand and address global concerns, and they also offer insightful information about the larger subject of world politics and conflict resolution.

1.3. Research Questions and Hypotheses

At the core of this research are some fundamental questions about Morocco and Algeria's policies towards the Israel-Palestine conflict since the Arab Spring in 2011. What drives these two nations to adopt such divergent stances? How have their policies evolved in response to regional dynamics over time? In what respects are their approaches similar or different? Furthermore, how do these policies influence the broader quest for peace and stability in the Middle East?

Morocco and Algeria have been chosen for this comparative analysis due to their distinct historical and political contexts, as well as their contrasting approaches to the Israel-Palestine question. Morocco, with its recent

“normalization” of relations with Israel, represents a strategic pivot influenced by economic and diplomatic considerations. Algeria, on the other hand, maintains a strong stance of solidarity with the Palestinian cause, reflecting its revolutionary heritage and anti-colonial values. Understanding these divergent policies provides insight into the broader regional dynamics and the impact of these nations on Middle Eastern stability and peace efforts.

We hypothesize that Morocco’s recent “normalization” of relations with Israel is primarily motivated by strategic and economic interests, including securing international support for its “Autonomy Plan” regarding the Western Sahara issue. Conversely, Algeria’s unwavering support for the Palestinian cause is rooted in its revolutionary history and anti-colonial values. The Arab Spring has significantly influenced the foreign policies of both countries, positioning them as key players in the Arab world with distinct impacts on regional stability and peace efforts. Algeria’s steadfast commitment to Palestine highlights its dedication to anti-colonial principles and solidarity with liberation movements, while Morocco’s diplomatic efforts seek to strengthen its international support on the Western Sahara conflict.

1.4. Objectives of the Study

The purpose of this study is to examine the reasons behind Algeria’s and Morocco’s foreign policy toward the Israel-Palestine conflict between 2011 and 2024. It seeks to elucidate how post-Arab Spring developments have shaped these policies and to systematically compare and contrast their respective strategies and actions. Additionally, the study evaluates the impact of these policies on regional dynamics and peace efforts in the Middle East. Ultimately, it aspires to contribute to the ongoing discourse on Middle Eastern politics by providing a nuanced understanding of the roles that Morocco and Algeria play in the Israel-Palestine conflict.

1.5. Scope and Limitations of the Research

This research encompasses a comparative analysis of Morocco and Algeria's policies towards Palestine and Israel from the Arab Spring in 2011 to 2024. It explores the historical context, diplomatic initiatives, policy shifts, and their implications for regional stability. The focus is on understanding the motivations behind these policies and their impact on regional dynamics. However, several limitations exist, including challenges in accessing reliable primary sources and official documents, which might lead to gaps in data. The constantly evolving nature of international relations means that some findings might become less relevant over time. Additionally, the qualitative nature of the research may restrict the generalizability of the findings beyond the specific contexts of Morocco and Algeria. Despite these limitations, the study aims to offer valuable insights into the complex interplay of regional politics and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

1.6. Methodology

This study employs a comparative and qualitative analysis methodology to examine the foreign policies of Morocco and Algeria with respect to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The research process involves an in-depth analysis of official declarations, policy documents, and historical data to uncover the underlying methods and intentions of these policies. Through a methodical comparison of the policies of the two countries, the study aims to identify parallels, divergences, and broader implications. Comprehensive case studies of significant events and policy changes from 2011 to 2024 will provide a detailed examination of how these policies have evolved over time.

1.7. Structure of the Thesis

This thesis is organized to provide a thorough analysis, beginning with the Introduction Chapter that sets the stage by providing the background and

context of the Israel-Palestine conflict. It articulates the research problem and its significance, outlines the research questions and hypotheses, specifies the objectives of the study, discusses the scope and limitations, provides an overview of the methodology (qualitative analysis, comparative approach), and presents the structure of the thesis.

The Literature Review chapter reviews the historical context of the Israel-Palestine question and examines the impact of post-Arab Spring developments on regional dynamics. It discusses the role of non-Arab Gulf countries in Arab-Israeli relations, analyzes the foreign policies of Morocco and Algeria towards Palestine and Israel, and explores conceptual frameworks such as regionalism, diplomacy, and conflict resolution.

The third chapter introduces the post-Arab Spring era and its ramifications, analyzing key events and developments from 2011 to 2024. It breaks down the analysis into three periods: 2011-2013 (initial impacts and regional changes), 2013-2020 (mid-term developments and peace efforts), and 2020-2024 (recent trends, “normalization” processes, and emerging challenges). It also examines the international community’s responses and policy shifts during these periods.

The fourth chapter provides a historical overview of Morocco’s stance on the conflict and analyzes its policies from 2011 to 2024. The analysis is divided into two periods: 2011-2020, discussing policy changes, diplomatic initiatives, and regional engagements; and 2020-2024, focusing on the Abraham Accords and Morocco’s “normalization” with Israel. It explores the strategic and economic motivations behind Morocco’s policy shift, including securing international support for its “Autonomy Plan” in Western Sahara. It also addresses Morocco’s reactions to significant events, such as the October 7, 2023 escalation, highlighting how these events influenced Morocco’s foreign policy decisions. The chapter concludes by evaluating Morocco’s role in regional forums and peace initiatives, examining its impact on regional and international diplomacy.

The fifth chapter examines Algeria's historical anti-Israel stance and support for Palestine, analyzing Algeria's policies from 2011 to 2024. It covers two periods: 2011-2020, covering Algeria's policy stances, diplomatic engagements, and regional effects; and 2020-2024, focusing on Algeria's response to the Abraham Accords and broader regional dynamics. This section also discusses Algeria's reactions to the October 7, 2023, conflict escalation. It explores how these events have influenced Algeria's foreign policy, emphasizing its role in the Arab League and contributions to the conflict resolution process. The chapter concludes by examining the factors influencing Algeria's policy decisions and their implications for regional stability and peace efforts.

The sixth chapter provides a comparative assessment of Morocco and Algeria's policies and strategies, analyzing similarities and differences in their approaches. It evaluates the impact of policy shifts on regional dynamics and peace efforts and compares their roles in international forums and diplomatic engagements. The conclusion chapter summarizes the key findings and research outcomes, discussing the study's contributions to knowledge. It offers policy recommendations for enhancing regional stability and conflict resolution, based on the comparative analysis of Morocco and Algeria's policies. The chapter also suggests areas for further research and exploration, highlighting the importance of ongoing analysis in understanding the evolving dynamics of the Israel-Palestine question.

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Historical Overview of the Israel-Palestine Question

The Israeli-Palestinian issue is a protracted and deeply rooted struggle that has significantly shaped the political landscape of the Middle East. The roots of the conflict can be traced back to the late 19th century with the rise of nationalist movements among both Jews and Arabs (Morris, 2008; Shlaim, 2000; Khalidi, 2006). The Zionist movement, founded in 1897, aimed to establish a Jewish homeland in Palestine (Laqueur & Rubin, 2008; Hertzberg, 1959; Vital, 1999). Concurrently, Arab nationalism sought to assert Arab sovereignty and identity in response to foreign influence and control (Gelvin, 2005). During World War I, the British government issued the Balfour Declaration in 1917, expressing support for the establishment of a “national home for the Jewish people” in Palestine (Fromkin, 2009; Schneer, 2010; Segev, 2000). This commitment set the stage for future conflicts.

Under the British Mandate (1920-1948), there was a substantial and controversial increase in Jewish immigration to Palestine, particularly during the 1930s as Jews sought refuge from persecution in Europe (Wasserstein, 2001; Gelvin, 2005; Tessler, 1994). This large-scale immigration, perceived as a threat by the indigenous Arab population, exacerbated tensions and fears of displacement among Palestinians. Feeling marginalized and increasingly threatened by the burgeoning Jewish presence, Palestinians responded with resistance. The 1936-1939 Arab revolt was a significant and widespread uprising against both British colonial rule and the massive influx of Jewish immigrants, which many Palestinians viewed as an illegal encroachment on their land. The revolt was met with severe and violent repression by British forces (Matthews, 2006; Segev, 2000; Krämer, 2008). In response to the intensifying conflict, the British government issued the White Paper of 1939, which sought to limit Jewish immigration and land purchases. This policy aimed

to address the grievances of both communities but ultimately angered both Jews and Arabs, failing to resolve the underlying issues (Cohen, 1970; Smith, 2009).

In 1947, the United Nations proposed a partition plan for Palestine, aimed at creating separate Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem designated as an international city (United Nations, 1947). However, Arab leaders rejected the plan, as it fundamentally unjust. The proposed partition allocated a larger portion of land to the Jewish state, despite Jews being a minority in terms of population. According to the principles of international law, territorial allocation should consider the predominance of population, a criterion that the partition plan failed to meet, thus exacerbating the appearance of injustice (Smith, 2009). Naturally, the Palestinians rejected the proposal, while the Jews accepted it as an interim measure. Soon after, in April 1948, the Jewish militia known as the Haganah began to occupy the rest of Palestine, depopulating it, displacing its residents, and destroying their villages. In the remaining six weeks of the British Mandate, the Zionists attacked and depopulated 220 Palestinian communities, committing massacres (Abu Sitta, 2024).

On May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was unilaterally declared with the end of the British Mandate, and the next day, neighboring Arab states (Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq) intervened, initiating the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. This conflict resulted in a decisive Israeli victory and the establishment of Israel within the 1949 armistice lines, known as the Green Line (Morris, 2008; Shlaim, 2000; Gelvin, 2005). As a consequence, approximately 750,000 Palestinian Arabs were forcibly displaced, becoming refugees in neighboring countries, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip (Pappé, 2006).

The 1948 war and the subsequent displacement of Palestinians, who are the real owners of the land, laid the foundation for the ongoing issue. A number of important wars and events have since shaped the Israel-Palestine and broader Arab-Israeli dynamics (Bickerton & Klausner, 2010; Smith, 2009; Quandt, 2005). During the 1956 Suez Crisis, Israel, in collaboration with Britain and France, invaded Egypt following Egypt's nationalization of the Suez Canal.

This conflict had significant political ramifications, including increased U.S. and Soviet involvement in the region (Shlaim, 2000). Israel took control of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem, Sinai Peninsula, and Golan Heights during the 1967 Six-Day War, drastically altering the territorial status quo and intensifying Palestinian displacement and statelessness (Bregman, 2016). In the 1973 Yom Kippur War, Egypt and Syria launched a surprise attack to reclaim territories lost in 1967. This war led to shifts in international alliances and further peace initiatives, culminating in the Camp David Accords (1978) and the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty (1979) (Quandt, 2005).

The First Intifada (1987-1993) was a pivotal Palestinian uprising against the Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza, sparked by the killing of four Palestinian workers by an Israeli driver at the Erez checkpoint in Gaza (Pearlman, 2011). This mass movement underscored the Palestinian struggle for liberation and self-determination, drawing significant international attention. The intifada was characterized by widespread civil disobedience, including strikes, boycotts, and demonstrations, along with violent confrontations. The Palestinian response to Israeli military and the presence of occupiers highlighted the deep-seated grievances and aspirations for independence and sovereignty. As a consequence, this uprising led to the Madrid Conference (1991) and the Oslo Accords (1993), which aimed to establish a framework for peace and Palestinian self-governance (Said, 1992). However, despite these significant diplomatic efforts in peace talks, the fundamental problems remained unresolved, which resulted in ongoing hostilities. In fact, since the agreement was signed in 1993, Israel has consistently violated the terms of the Oslo accords by continuing to construct illegal settlements in the eastern part of Jerusalem (and the rest of the West Bank); committing gross human rights violations against Palestinians; arbitrarily demolishing Palestinian homes in Jerusalem; and implementing further restrictions on access to Muslim religious sites (Aral, 2019). Israel's persistent obstruction and violations of Palestinian aspirations for independence and freedom set the stage for the outbreak of the 2nd intifada.

The Second Intifada (2000-2005) erupted following the visit of then-opposition leader Ariel Sharon to the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, a site of significant religious and political importance to Muslims (Shlaim, 2009). This visit was naturally perceived by Palestinians as a provocative act, which prompted widespread protests. The second intifada was marked by a higher level of violence compared to the first, including military incursions, and significant casualties on both sides, but especially on Palestinians. The collapse of peace talks at Camp David and the ongoing expansion of Israeli settlements further fueled the conflict. The consequences of the Second Intifada were devastating, with thousands of Palestinians killed and many more injured or displaced. Despite the intensity of the uprising, significant progress toward peace was not made before it ended (Abu-Amr, 2004).

Many peace initiatives, like the Quartet Roadmap (2003) and the Annapolis Conference (2007), have been initiated in the post-2000 era, but none have produced a long-term solution. The continuous expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, the blockade of Gaza, and periodic escalations of violence have perpetuated the conflict and exacerbated the suffering of the Palestinian people. The 2005 Israeli disengagement from Gaza, which saw Israel unilaterally withdraw its illegal settlers and military from the territory, did not lead to peace. Instead, it left Gaza under a crippling blockade and humanitarian crisis, with Israel maintaining control over borders, airspace, and maritime access, effectively imprisoning the Palestinian population. The withdrawal also sparked internal divisions among Palestinians, particularly between Fatah and Hamas, which have hindered the pursuit of a unified Palestinian front for self-determination (Said & Hitchens, 2001).

Major geopolitical changes have occurred recently, such as the Abraham Accords (2020), which saw various Arab nations restore relations with Israel. These accords, which were signed by Morocco, Bahrain, the United Arab

Emirates and Sudan, mostly avoided the main Palestinian issue in favor of strategic and economic alliances. Since it weakens the unified Arab position that previously sought a settlement to the Palestinian question as a prerequisite for “normalization” with Israel, this development has further complicated the path to a just and lasting peace (Karmi, 2023).

The Arab states’ abandonment of the Palestinian cause -and even improvement of their relations with Israel- and the failure of the Palestinian Authority to take an effective action to the killing of many innocent Palestinians and the perpetuation of the occupation by worsening their living conditions left Hamas as the only effective actor in the Palestinian cause (Ataman, 2024). On October 7, 2023, when Hamas and other Palestinian groups attacked in coordination from the Gaza Strip, the Israel-Palestine question saw a major escalation. This operation, which Hamas named “Al-Aqsa Flood,” was a multipronged attack that included the firing of more than 3,000 rockets into Israeli territory as well as the entrance of militants by land routes and powered paragliders. These attacks primarily targeted Israeli military installations and other strategic locations (Human Rights Watch, 2023).

The immediate Israeli military response involved extensive bombardment of Gaza, further worsening the already dire humanitarian situation. The heavy shooting led to significant loss of life and the destruction of vital infrastructure, including homes, hospitals, and schools. This exacerbated the hardships faced by the Palestinian people, who have been living under a blockade that severely restricts their access to essential services and goods (B’Tselem, 2023; OCHA, 2023).

The years-long blockade of Gaza worsened the already dreadful living circumstances by severely restricting the movement of people and goods. Due to the embargo and the damage caused by the most recent military operations, many Palestinians lack access to basic essentials including food, clean water, and medical care (Bouri & Roy 2024). The humanitarian crisis has deepened,

with a growing number of displaced individuals and widespread shortages of essential supplies (Amnesty International, 2023; UNRWA, 2023).

In response, the international community has issued calls for peace and a renewed emphasis on resolving the conflict's underlying issues. Israel's military operations and the continuous siege of Gaza have drawn heavy condemnation since they have worsened the suffering of the Palestinian people. The recent violence has sparked global protests and demands for a just resolution that addresses the fundamental issues driving the conflict, including the Israeli occupation, illegal settlements, and systemic discrimination against Palestinians (Amnesty International, 2023; UNRWA, 2023).

This latest escalation emphasizes the urgent need for a comprehensive and just resolution to the Israel-Palestine conflict, one that recognizes and addresses the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Palestinian people. The international community has a critical role in promoting dialogue and ensuring that any peace process is grounded in principles of justice and equality (Karmi, 2023; Khalidi, 2018).

2.2. The Arab Spring and Its Aftermath: Regional Shifts

The Arab Spring, which began in late 2010, marked a seismic shift in the political landscape of the Middle East and North Africa (Gerges, 2013; Gelvin, 2012; Lynch, 2012). This series of uprisings and protests led to the overthrow of long-standing autocratic regimes, widespread social and political unrest, and significant changes in regional power dynamics. The impact of these events on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the broader Middle East cannot be overstated.

The Arab Spring started in Tunisia in December 2010, when a street vendor's self-immolation sparked nationwide protests against economic hardship, corruption, and political repression (Gelvin, 2012). The Tunisian revolution quickly inspired similar movements across the region, with mass protests erupting in Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Syria, and Bahrain (Robinson &

Merrow, 2020). Each country experienced unique trajectories, but common themes of demand for democracy, human rights, and social justice were evident (Simon, 2022).

In Egypt, the Arab Spring led to the resignation of President Hosni Mubarak in February 2011 after nearly 30 years in power. The initial optimism for democratic transition was tempered by political instability and economic challenges. The rise of the Muslim Brotherhood and subsequent military coup in 2013 brought General Abdel Fattah el-Sisi to power. Egypt's internal focus on political restructuring and economic recovery influenced its regional policies, including its stance on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (Robinson & Merrow, 2020). This shift saw Egypt maintaining its peace treaty with Israel while adopting a more pragmatic approach to regional diplomacy, balancing relations with various Palestinian factions. The broader impact included Egypt's reduced role as a mediator in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as it became more preoccupied with internal issues.

In Libya and Syria, the Arab Spring devolved into brutal civil wars with significant regional implications. In Libya, NATO's intervention helped topple Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, but the country descended into chaos, with competing factions vying for control. This instability has had ripple effects throughout North Africa and the Sahel, exacerbating regional security concerns and migration issues (Zoubir, 2022). Syria's conflict, sparked by government crackdowns on protests, escalated into a protracted and devastating war. The involvement of various international and regional actors, including Russia, Iran, Türkiye, and the United States, turned Syria into a complex battleground. These conflicts created power vacuums, leading to the rise of extremist groups such as ISIS and a significant refugee crisis, altering the regional security landscape and diverting attention from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

While some Gulf states like Bahrain experienced protests, they largely maintained stability through a combination of financial incentives and political repression. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) emerged as key

players, seeking to counter the influence of Iran and the Muslim Brotherhood (Ulrichsen, 2017). Their foreign policies increasingly focused on regional stability and strategic realignment, including normalizing relations with Israel as seen in the Abraham Accords. These Gulf states prioritized economic diversification and security cooperation, reshaping their regional roles and diminishing the centrality of the Palestinian cause in their diplomatic agendas (Ulrichsen, 2023). The shift in power dynamics within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) highlighted a new era of pragmatic alliances over traditional ideological commitments.

Morocco's response to the Arab Spring was typified by a number of constitutional amendments that King Mohammed VI started in order prevent significant demonstrations and political turmoil (BBC News, 2011). King Mohammed VI announced a number of constitutional amendments in March 2011 as a preventative measure to stifle any unrest and show that he was listening to the people's requests. These changes sought to preserve stability and the legitimacy of the monarchy while meeting popular demands for increased rights and political participation. Notable modifications included the affirmation of gender equality, the promotion of human rights clauses, and the inclusion of Amazigh as an official language alongside Arabic (Madani, Maghraoui, & Zerhouni, 2011).

The intended changes were to protect a number of civil liberties, strengthen judicial independence, and give the prime minister and parliament more authority. However, the fundamental power structure remained mostly the same, with the monarchy maintaining a sizable amount of authority. Part of the reason for the high approval percentage was the public's perception of the king and his reforms as a move in the right direction toward modernity and democracy. Critics countered that the changes went too far in addressing fundamental structural issues with the political system and were mainly superficial. Following the referendum, Morocco saw occasional demonstrations and calls for more significant political reforms in the years that followed. The

Islamist Justice and Development Party (PJD) became an influential actor in Moroccan politics after becoming victorious in both the November 2011 and November 2016 parliamentary elections. Even while the PJD's rise to power represented a move toward greater political pluralism, the monarchy's continued influence restricted the party's capacity to implement significant reform.

Compared to many of its neighbors in North Africa, Algeria's response to the Arab Spring was notably different from others (Volpi, 2013). The country, which has a history of political turmoil and a brutal civil war in the 1990s, approached the wave of regional uprisings with a mix of cautious reform and heavy-handed repression. Algeria has a lengthy history of anti-government demonstrations, mostly sparked by socioeconomic concerns, high unemployment, and political corruption, prior to the onset of the Arab Spring. The government, which has been under President Abdelaziz Bouteflika's direction since 1999, was well aware that there may be widespread instability. In February 2011, President Abdelaziz Bouteflika's administration declared an increase in public spending to create jobs and improve living circumstances, in order to prevent major protests. The 19-year state of emergency had been removed. More political parties and increased media freedom were made possible by the introduction of political reforms. These changes, nevertheless, were viewed as mainly cosmetic and insufficient. Public unhappiness persisted in spite of these actions, leading to the Hirak movement in February 2019 (International Crisis Group, 2020). Bouteflika's declaration that he will run for a fifth term served as a spark for the protests, which brought together various social groups calling for political reform and an end to corruption. In April 2019, Bouteflika was forced to resign. In response to the demonstrations, the administration used both force and compromise. Protests were broken up by security forces, and numerous activists were taken into custody. Nevertheless, in order to meet the demands, a presidential election was held in December 2019, which led to the election of Abdelmadjid Tebboune. Nonetheless, a low voter

turnout highlighted the public's discouragement with the election, which was largely perceived as illegitimate.

The Abraham Accords, signed in 2020, marked a significant shift in Middle Eastern geopolitics after the Arab Spring. The UAE and Bahrain normalized relations with Israel, followed by Sudan and Morocco. These agreements were driven by mutual economic interests, security concerns, and a shared desire to counter Iranian influence. For Morocco, the Abraham Accords in 2020 is the result of the Moroccan government's pragmatic stance towards Israel as "normalization" with Israel also came with U.S. recognition of its sovereignty over Western Sahara, a significant diplomatic victory (Link & Baruch, 2023). The Accords have facilitated new economic partnerships, security cooperation, technology exchanges, and tourism links, redefining regional alliances and creating new dynamics in the Middle East. This realignment has reduced the collective Arab pressure on Israel regarding the Palestinian issue, altering the diplomatic landscape. On the other hand, pro-Palestinian groups have condemned it, seeing it as a betrayal of the Palestinian cause.

Algeria, which has a strong anti-Israel position due to its historical support for Palestinian self-determination and its important role in the Non-Aligned Movement, has taken a different approach than Morocco in this regard. Because of the fact that it sees these agreements as betrayals of the Palestinian cause and a threat to the hopes of Palestinian statehood, the Algerian government has regularly denounced "normalization" agreements between Arab governments and Israel (Al Talei et al., 2023). The Arab Peace Initiative, which states that "normalization" with Israel should be conditioned upon the establishment of a Palestinian state within the 1967 boundaries with East Jerusalem as its capital, is highlighted by Algeria's steadfast opposition to this policy. Although this stance has won Algeria the admiration of Palestinian leaders, it has diplomatically distanced Algeria from a number of its Arab neighbors who have opted to restore ties with Israel. Algeria views itself as a

counterweight in the region by resisting the “normalization” trend and adhering to Palestinian rights while navigating the complex geopolitical environment of the Middle East.

The Arab Spring and subsequent regional developments have profoundly affected the Israel-Palestine issue (Asseburg, 2012). On one hand, key Arab states have shifted their focus towards internal stability and strategic alliances with Israel, reducing regional pressure on Israel regarding Palestinian statehood. On the other hand, the conflict has become more marginalized in regional politics, with Palestinian leadership facing internal divisions and declining influence. This diminished support from traditional allies has placed Palestinians in a precarious position, struggling to maintain international attention and support for their cause (Cammack, Brown, & Muasher, 2017). The regional realignments have also encouraged Israel, enabling it to pursue its policies, including settlement expansions and military actions, with less fear of regional backlash, despite these actions being widely condemned as violations of international law.

Within the Palestinian territories, the Arab Spring inspired hopes for change but also highlighted internal fractures. In Gaza, Hamas has continued to assert its control, while the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank has faced challenges of legitimacy and effectiveness (Abusada et al., 2024). Reconciliation attempts between Fatah and Hamas have largely stagnated, further complicating the Palestinian political landscape. The division between the West Bank and Gaza has weakened the Palestinian position in negotiations and diminished their capacity to demonstrate unification on the international stage. This internal disunity, exacerbated by broader regional shifts, has made it harder for Palestinians to leverage regional support effectively.

The post-Arab Spring era has seen significant realignments in Middle Eastern geopolitics. Traditional alliances have been reconfigured, with countries like Saudi Arabia and the UAE prioritizing pragmatic relations over ideological commitments. In March 2014, Saudi Arabia and the UAE formally classified

Hamas as a terrorist organization (Segel, 2015; Reuters, 2014). The designation of Hamas as a terrorist organization by several Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Bahrain (later on), has had profound repercussions on Middle Eastern geopolitics and the Palestinian cause. While these Gulf states pursue strategic alliances with Western powers and seek to enhance their own security, their actions undermine the unity and resilience of the Palestinian struggle for justice and self-determination. By diplomatically isolating Hamas and reducing its financial support, these Gulf countries have exacerbated the humanitarian and political challenges faced by Palestinians, notably in Gaza. This realignment diminishes the collective Arab stance on the Palestinian issue, weakening the broader push for a fair and lasting resolution to the conflict.

As a continuation of this realignment and policy shift, in 2020, The Abraham Accords have facilitated new opportunities for economic and security cooperation for the signatories, but also underscored the diminishing centrality of the Palestinian issue in regional politics (Sorkin, 2021). As these Gulf states strengthen ties with Israel, the regional balance of power continues to evolve, carrying potential to alter the future peace efforts and conflict resolution. The changing regional dynamics have introduced both challenges and opportunities for addressing the Israel-Palestine conflict, depending on how new alliances and priorities are navigated.

Furthermore, non-Arab countries like Iran and Türkiye have played influential roles in shaping Middle Eastern geopolitics in the post-Arab Spring era. Iran, with its strong opposition to Israel and support for pro-Palestinian groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah, has continued to exert a destabilizing influence in the region (Vakil, 2023). Its involvement in conflicts in Syria, Yemen, and Iraq has heightened tensions and prompted a counterbalancing response from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, further complicating the Israeli-Palestinian dynamics. On the other hand, Türkiye, under President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, has sought to position itself as a regional leader and

advocate for Palestinian rights. Although Türkiye maintains diplomatic relations with Israel, its rhetoric and actions, including support for Gaza and condemnation of Israeli policies, have often placed it at odds with Israel. This stance has resonated with many in the Muslim world and has helped Türkiye carve out a leadership role on this issue.

Ultimately, the Arab Spring has left the region in a state of instability as it struggles to find new political and strategic equilibriums while resolving ongoing conflicts and the aftermath of revolutionary movements. Although the Israel-Palestine conflict remains a major issue, it is being influenced more and more by wider regional dynamics and the shifting priorities of Middle Eastern states. The future of the conflict will largely hinge on how these regional transformations are navigated and whether renewed diplomatic initiatives can effectively address the longstanding Israeli occupation, the finalization of critical unresolved issues and a just settlement.

2.3. Foreign Policy Analysis of Morocco and Algeria Towards the Israel-Palestine Question

The foreign policies of Morocco and Algeria towards Palestine and Israel are shaped by their distinct historical contexts, political landscapes, and regional aspirations (Lounnas & Messari, 2018). Both countries have taken distinct approaches to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, reflecting their differing national interests and ideological commitments. Understanding these policies provides insight into the broader regional dynamics and the roles these North African nations play in the Middle East.

2.3.1. Morocco's Approach: Balancing Pragmatism and Support for Palestine

Morocco's foreign policy concerning Palestine and Israel question is characterized by a pragmatic balance between advocating for Palestinian rights

and pursuing strategic national interests (Saddiki, 2023). Historically, Morocco has maintained a relatively moderate stance in the Arab-Israeli conflict, consistently supporting the Palestinian cause and advocating for a two-state solution and Palestinian self-determination. This support is partly driven by Morocco's desire to maintain its leadership role in the Arab and Islamic worlds.

King Mohammed VI, who chairs the Al-Quds Committee of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), has consistently advocated for the preservation of Jerusalem's Islamic heritage and the protection of Palestinian rights (BMAQ, 2024). Morocco has also hosted numerous international conferences and meetings aimed at supporting Palestinian aspirations and fostering dialogue. Additionally, Morocco's significant Jewish population and its cultural heritage play a role in shaping a more nuanced approach to its foreign policy. The Jewish community in Morocco has historically acted as a bridge between Morocco and Israel, facilitating dialogue and mutual understanding (Boudra, 2022).

However, Morocco's foreign policy took a significant turn with the signing of the Abraham Accords in December 2020, "normalizing" relations with Israel (Abdullayev, 2024). This move was driven by multiple factors, including economic incentives, security concerns, and diplomatic advantages. A key element of the agreement was the U.S. recognition of Morocco's sovereignty over Western Sahara, marking a long-sought diplomatic victory for Rabat. This pragmatic shift highlights Morocco's strategic approach to balancing its support for Palestine with broader national interests, including economic development and regional security cooperation.

Despite the "normalization" with Israel, Morocco has continued to voice robust support for Palestinian statehood and rights. The Moroccan government has consistently emphasized that its relationship with Israel does not diminish its commitment to the Palestinian cause. This dual approach allows Morocco to engage with Israel economically and politically while maintaining its traditional support for Palestinian aspirations (Zaaimi, 2023).

Morocco's stance was further highlighted during the Israel-Hamas war and the ensuing suffering in Gaza following the events of October 7th. Morocco condemned the violence and reiterated its solidarity for the Palestinian people, calling for an end to the hostilities and advocating for the protection of civilian lives. The Moroccan government emphasized the necessity of a just and lasting solution that ensures the rights and freedom of the Palestinian people, underscoring its ongoing commitment to their cause despite the new diplomatic ties with Israel.

Morocco has shown a pragmatic approach to foreign policy in its activities after the Abraham Accords, particularly in the context of the most recent Israel-Hamas war (Henneberg, 2023). The level of its diplomatic interaction with Israel is still cautious and largely centered on the country's strategic and economic advantages, despite the fact that its leadership has openly denounced the violence and supported Palestinian rights. Public demonstrations against Israeli policies bring attention to the internal tension Morocco is under to maintain its support for Palestinian solidarity.

2.3.2. Algeria's Approach: Ideological Commitment to Palestinian Cause

In contrast, Algeria's foreign policy towards Palestine and Israel is deeply rooted in its revolutionary history and anti-colonial ideology. Algeria has consistently been one of the steadfast supporters of the Palestinian cause in the Arab world. This unwavering support is a cornerstone of Algerian foreign policy and reflects the country's broader ideological commitment to anti-colonialism and self-determination.

Algeria has connected with various liberation movements, including the Palestinian struggle, since gaining independence from France in 1962 after a brutal independence war. Over the decades, the country has provided political, financial, and military support to various Palestinian factions. On international platforms such as the United Nations and the Arab League, Algerian leadership

has consistently condemned Israeli policies and practices while promoting Palestinian rights (Ghebouli, 2023).

Algeria's ideological stance is also influenced by its domestic politics. The Algerian government has leveraged its support for Palestine to bolster its legitimacy and distract from internal issues such as economic challenges and demands for political reform. By championing the Palestinian cause, Algeria aligns itself with broader Arab and Islamic solidarity, reinforcing its position as a defender of justice and anti-colonialism.

The Arab Spring further solidified Algeria's commitment to the Palestinian cause. Unlike Morocco, Algeria has not pursued "normalization" with Israel and remains firmly opposed to the Abraham Accords. Algerian officials have criticized the accords, viewing them as a betrayal of Palestinian rights and a deviation from the collective Arab stance on the conflict. Algeria's refusal to normalize relations with Israel underscores its ideological steadfastness and dedication to the Palestinian cause.

2.3.3. Comparative Analysis

The divergences between Morocco's and Algeria's foreign policy on Palestine and Israel serve as an important reminder of how intricate regional politics are in the Middle East and North Africa. Morocco's strategic prioritizing of national interests, including economic growth and territorial sovereignty, is demonstrated by its pragmatic approach, as evidenced by its "normalization" with Israel under the Abraham Accords. On the other hand, Algeria's consistent ideological engagement to the Palestinian cause reflects both its domestic political concerns and broader anti-colonial narrative.

Their contrasting strategies additionally impact the roles they play in local, national, and international forums. Morocco is now positioned as a major actor in the shifting geopolitical landscape because to its engagement with Israel, which has created new opportunities for security and economic collaboration.

Conversely, Algeria's firm support for Palestine preserves its standing as an Islamic and Arab organization's defender of justice.

Thus, an understanding of how regional dynamics and national interests shape reactions to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can be gained by a closer look at the foreign policies of Morocco and Algeria. Morocco negotiates a challenging diplomatic landscape by striking a balance between practicality and historic support, while Algeria's ideological position emphasizes the Palestinian cause's ongoing centrality in regional affairs. This comparative analysis provides valuable insights into the broader geopolitical shifts and the evolving roles of North African states in the Middle East conflict.

2.4. Conceptual Frameworks: Regionalism, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution

Several conceptual frameworks might offer insight analyzing the foreign policies of Morocco and Algeria towards Israel and Palestine issue. It is essential to comprehend the political and historical background, as well as the motivations, strategies, and implications of these countries, with the help of these frameworks. The conceptual frameworks of regionalism, diplomacy, and conflict resolution are essential for understanding Morocco and Algeria's foreign policies in the Israel-Palestine conflict. Regionalism sheds light on how the geopolitical and cultural contexts of North Africa shape each country's stance. Morocco's foreign policy has been significantly influenced by its regional alliances and shifts, notably its strategic realignment through the Abraham Accords, which reflect broader trends in Arab diplomacy and regional security dynamics. Conversely, Algeria's policies are deeply rooted in its revolutionary history and anti-colonial legacy, demonstrating a consistent alignment with the broader support for Palestinian self-determination. Diplomacy is critical for understanding how Morocco and Algeria navigate their international relationships, with Morocco's engagement in the Abraham

Accords reflecting a strategic shift towards Israel and global powers, in contrasts with Algeria's enduring advocacy for the Palestinian cause, showcasing differing diplomatic priorities and approaches. Finally, conflict resolution frameworks are essential for analyzing how these policies impact the Israel-Palestine peace process. Morocco's pragmatic approach, involving normalization and bilateral agreements, contrasts sharply with Algeria's resistance to normalization and its support for Palestinian statehood. By examining these frameworks, the study provides a nuanced understanding of how Morocco and Algeria navigate their foreign policies in relation to the Israel-Palestine issue, revealing the broader implications of their strategies on regional and international diplomacy. An overview of regionalism, diplomacy, and conflict resolution as essential frameworks is provided in this section.

2.4.1. Regionalism

Regionalism refers to the process by which regions become significant units of political, economic, and social life. It entails international collaboration and integration within a particular region. Regionalism has had a significant role in determining foreign policy in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). The Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) are examples of regional organizations that affect the policies of their member states, including Morocco and Algeria.

The roles that Morocco and Algeria play in these regional organizations reflect their stances on the Israeli-Palestinian issue. For instance, Morocco's dedication to regional solidarity with Palestine has been emphasized by its leadership in the OIC's Al-Quds Committee. On the other hand, Algeria's strong support for Palestine stems from both its historical anti-colonial position and its standing in the Arab League, which are in accordance with prevailing sentiments in the region.

2.4.2. Diplomacy

The act of negotiating between state representatives is known as diplomacy. It is a fundamental tool for sustaining international relations and implementing foreign policy. Public diplomacy, cultural diplomacy, and bilateral and multinational negotiations are only a few of the strategies utilized in diplomacy.

Morocco has a diplomatic approach that seeks a practical balance between engaging with Israel while supporting Palestinian rights. The signing of the Abraham Accords is a testament to Morocco's diplomatic strategy, which attempts to achieve political and economic benefits while preserving its commitment to Palestinian self-determination. Morocco's diplomatic narrative benefits from the incorporation of Jewish heritage into its culture, which positions it as a mediator and bridge builder in the region.

Algeria, in contrast, possesses a more rigid diplomatic approach. Its steadfast support for Palestinian independence and disapproval to rapprochement with Israel characterize its foreign policy. Algeria's diplomatic efforts concentrate on mobilizing support for Palestine in international forums, such as the African Union and the United Nations, where it stresses the need for a fair and comprehensive resolution grounded in international law.

2.4.3. Conflict Resolution

Conflict resolution encompasses the methods and processes involved in facilitating the amicable ending of conflict and retribution. It involves discussion techniques like mediation, negotiation, and other types of agreement with the goal of resolving conflict at its core and establishing a lasting peace. Although using distinct strategies, Morocco and Algeria have both participated in a number of conflict resolution initiatives regarding the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine. Morocco has adopted a dual strategy to promote peace and discussion, as seen by its participation in the Abraham Accords and its continued support for Palestinian rights. Morocco aspires to establish new opportunities

for political involvement and economic collaboration through restoring relations with Israel, which may indirectly aid in the settlement of disputes.

Algeria takes a more conventional and firmer stance with regard to the Israel-Palestine conflict. It focuses on supporting Palestinian resistance and opposing Israeli policies that are against this cause. Algeria endorses an outcome that completely complies with international law and UN resolutions, stressing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state.

2.4.4. Conclusion

In summary, the foreign policies of Morocco and Algeria towards Palestine and Israel can be understood through the lenses of regionalism, diplomacy, and conflict resolution. To provide a comprehensive analysis, this thesis will rely on empirical data and detailed case studies of Morocco and Algeria's foreign policies. This includes examining key events, diplomatic initiatives, and regional engagements from the Arab Spring to 2024. By focusing on concrete examples and historical context, the study will illustrate how these countries' policies have evolved in response to regional and international developments.

CHAPTER 3: THE POST-ARAB SPRING ERA AND THE ISRAEL-PALESTINE QUESTION

Ignited in late 2010, the Arab Uprisings called as the Arab Spring indicates a noteworthy phase of political turmoil and transformation in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). The widespread demands for political change, social justice, and economic opportunity drove this wave of demonstrations and upheavals. Pervasive problems including economic marginalization, political oppression, and governmental corruption can be connected to the direct origins of the Arab Spring (Anderson, 2011; Gelvin, 2012). These grievances resonated broadly across the region, leading to mass mobilizations that urged profound political change.

The self-immolation of street vendor Mohamed Bouazizi in December 2010 sparked a wave of demonstrations against political oppression, economic hardship, and corruption, which marked the start of the Arab Spring in Tunisia (Alexander, 2011). Similar demonstrations in Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Syria, and Bahrain were swiftly ignited by the Tunisian movement (Bellin, 2012). Though every nation had its own path, the demands for equality in society, democracy, and human rights were universal.

In Egypt, the revolution led to the ousting of President Hosni Mubarak in February 2011 after nearly 30 years in power. During this time, the Muslim Brotherhood had a brief upsurge in popularity, which helped the Palestinian cause temporarily (El-Ghobashy, 2011). However, Egypt's influence in the Israel-Palestine issue had been restricted by its internal unrest and the military coup that followed in 2013, bringing General Abdel Fattah el-Sisi to office (Al-Anani, 2021). In a similar vein, the 2011-started uprising in Syria took regional attention and resources elsewhere. Major powers and other nations were drawn into the dreadful struggle, greatly complicating the regional scenario (Phillips, 2016).

Tunisia's relatively peaceful revolution provided a beacon of hope, demonstrating the potential for successful democratic transitions in the Arab world, although its direct impact on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was barely noticeable (Gana, 2013). Conversely, Libya descended into chaos following NATO's intervention and the overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi, which significantly complicated regional politics and security dynamics (Vandewalle, 2012).

The region saw new diplomatic initiatives and shifting alliances between 2013 and 2020. Israel and a number of Arab nations brought together by a common enemy saw unprecedented collaboration as a result of the emergence of ISIS and related security issues. During this period, the Trump administration made notable policy changes that were criticized by several Arab states and Palestinian leaders as favoring Israel, such as moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem and recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital (Quandt, 2005).

The period from 2020 to 2024 saw some of the most significant developments with the signing of the Abraham Accords. A significant change in regional politics was brought about by these agreements, which "normalized" ties between Israel and a number of Arab nations, particularly the UAE, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco (Vakil & Quilliam, 2023). In addition to fostering new allies, the accords diplomatically isolated the Palestinian leadership and left important issues neglected such as the status of Jerusalem, the right of return for refugees, Israeli settlements, the Gaza blockade, and the broader question of Palestinian statehood. These considerations were driven by economic, security, and diplomatic concerns (Yossef, 2021).

The reactions of Algeria and Morocco to these changes have been especially noteworthy. Algeria's revolutionary background and anti-colonial beliefs form the foundation of its foreign policy towards Israel and Palestine (Yılmaz, 2021). Throughout the Arab world, Algeria has continuously been one of the most passionate supporters of the Palestinian cause. The nation's greater ideological commitment to anti-colonialism and self-determination is reflected

in this unflinching support. Morocco, on the other hand, has adopted a strategy that strikes a pragmatic compromise between advancing strategic national interests and supporting Palestinian rights. Under the Abraham Accords, Morocco “normalized” its relations with Israel due to a number of circumstances, including diplomatic gains, security concerns, and financial advantages (Chtatou, 2023).

The initial reactions of the international community to these developments have been varied. Both the European Union and a number of Western nations have continued to engage with the new “normalization” agreements with the aim of achieving a two-state solution. The geopolitical scenario has become intricate due to Russia’s expanded participation in the region, especially in Syria. Even if the competing interests of its member states frequently limited its power, the UN continued to offer a platform for talks on the Israel-Palestine conflict (Milton-Edwards, 2009).

It is necessary to comprehend the post-Arab Spring developments in order to analyze the Israel-Palestine question as it stands today. The period between 2011 and 2024, impacted by changing international policies, regional dynamics, and alliances, presented both opportunities and challenges for peace. The aftermath of revolutionary upheaval, ongoing wars, and the search for new political and strategic balances characterize the region left behind by the Arab Spring (Achcar, 2013). With evolving interests of Middle Eastern states and the impact of wider regional dynamics, the Israel-Palestine conflict continues to be a central issue. How these regional changes are handled and whether innovative diplomatic initiatives can successfully tackle the long-standing grievances and ambitions of both Israelis and Palestinians will probably determine how the conflict develops in the future.

3.1. Initial Repercussions and Regional Changes (2011-2013)

From 2011 to 2013, the Middle East and North Africa witnessed severe political unrest and transformation during the early stages of the Arab Spring. These popular revolts which were sparked by widespread calls for social justice, economic opportunity, and political reform, overthrew long-standing governments in a number of nations, including Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, and Yemen. This wave of change profoundly altered the political landscape of the area and had a substantial impact on the Israel-Palestine conflict, shaping a number of initiatives and reactions to the problem.

After President Hosni Mubarak was overthrown, Egypt briefly saw a more pro-Palestinian attitude during President Mohamed Morsi's reign as head of the Muslim Brotherhood. The support was demonstrated via a number of projects and activities. On May 28, 2011, Egypt reopened the Rafah border crossing with Gaza, easing the blockade on Gaza and allowing for the flow of goods and people, providing some relief to the oppressed Palestinian population (Masoud, 2014). During the war that was known as the Operation Pillar of Defense in November of 2012, Egypt was essential in mediating a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas. A ceasefire brokered by Egypt was declared on November 21, 2012, effectively bringing an end to eight days of violent warfare that caused many lives (Elad-Altman, 2012). This cease-fire marked a change in the dynamics of the area by demonstrating Egypt's pivotal role in mediating disputes between Israeli and Palestinian factions (Elad-Altman, 2012). However, following a military coup ousted Morsi on July 3, 2013, Egypt turned its attention home and became less involved in the Israel-Palestine conflict as it struggled with domestic tensions (Sayigh, 2012).

In Syria, beginning in 2011, the civil war further complicated the regional politics and drew numerous external actors into the fray, including Iran, Russia, and the United States (Phillips, 2016). The Israeli-Palestinian issue was significantly impacted by the conflict in multiple ways. The Israeli-Palestinian

conflict received less attention and resources from the international community due to the significant focus on the Syrian war. The Palestinian issue has been driven to the margins of regional concerns by the humanitarian catastrophe in Syria and the rise of extremist groups like ISIS (Byman, 2014). Israel's security concerns were heightened by the instability in Syria, particularly considering the involvement of Hezbollah and other militias supported by Iran in the Syrian conflict. This changed Israel's attitude to the Palestinian territories by directing its strategic focus to its northern border (Lynch, 2012). Furthermore, the Syrian conflict promoted the flow of Iranian weaponry and assistance to Hezbollah, thereby endangering Israel and impacting its security objectives and strategies concerning Gaza and the West Bank (Phillips, 2016).

In response to the Arab Spring, Morocco's monarchy implemented constitutional amendments meant to prevent unrest. Stability was preserved by King Mohammed VI's policy of making political concessions in addition to security measures. Morocco continued to express its support for the Palestinian cause throughout this time by taking a number of different steps. Morocco backed the resolution passed by the UN General Assembly on November 29, 2012, which granted Palestine the status of a non-member observer state (Baroud, 2012). This action was an aspect of Morocco's larger diplomatic initiatives to back Palestinian statehood claims internationally. Moreover, Morocco allowed pro-Palestinian public protests. For example, thousands of Moroccans demonstrated in Rabat on November 23, 2012, against Israeli military actions in Gaza and to show support for the Palestinian people. The government's acceptance of these protests demonstrated its alignment with popular opinion and demonstrated the strong public passion that exists in Morocco over the Palestinian issue.

Algeria, which was also experiencing protests of its own, managed to keep the populace tranquil through the use of its security forces and large oil revenues. Internal order was given priority by the Algerian government due to concerns about the turmoil in neighboring Libya and Tunisia. Algeria continued

to be a strong advocate for Palestinian rights in spite of these domestic challenges. Algerian authorities denounced Israeli bombings and showed support for the Palestinian people during the Gaza crisis of 2012. In a statement released on November 14, 2012, Algeria's Foreign Minister Mourad Medelci condemned the Israeli attacks and demanded international action to defend Palestinians (Zoubir, 2012). Following the Gaza crisis in November 2012, Algeria pledged \$25 million in aid to the Palestinian Authority, demonstrating its commitment to offer both financial and humanitarian support to the Palestinian people (Quandt, 2012).

Algeria further strengthened its position on the Palestinian issue by continually employing its diplomatic channels to promote Palestinian rights in international forums including the Arab League and the United Nations. Algeria was a key member of the Arab League that supported Palestinian rights. Algeria supported a resolution denouncing the Israeli airstrikes on Gaza and calling for prompt international intervention on November 12, 2012, during an emergency meeting of the Arab League in Cairo. The resolution also called for a solidarity visit to Gaza by a delegation of the Arab League (Zoubir, 2012). And on March 26-27, 2013, Algeria reiterated its steadfast support for the Palestinian cause at the Arab League Summit in Doha. Algeria signed the declaration during this conference, endorsing the Arab Peace Initiative and denouncing Israeli settlement activity in East Jerusalem and the West Bank (International Crisis Group, 2013). Algeria's support for Palestinian rights extended to the United Nations as well. On November 29, 2012, Algeria co-sponsored and voted in favor of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19, which upgraded Palestine's status to a non-member observer state. This significant diplomatic achievement for the Palestinians was heavily supported by Algeria, which lobbied other UN member states to vote in favor (UN General Assembly, 2012).

Earlier, on October 1, 2012, during the United Nations General Assembly debate, Algerian Foreign Minister Mourad Medelci delivered a

powerful speech condemning Israeli policies and actions in the Palestinian territories. He called for the international community to take decisive steps to protect Palestinian rights and support the establishment of an independent Palestinian state (United Nations, 2012). Additionally, Algeria supported Palestinian diplomacy with a number of diplomatic missions and initiatives. With an eye on the UN General Assembly vote in November 2012, Algeria organized a meeting with Palestinian officials in June 2011 to discuss strategies for gaining wider international support for Palestinian statehood (Al Jazeera, 2011). Algeria held a regional forum on the Palestinian issue on February 22, 2013, a further indication of its commitment. This conference strengthened Algeria's position as a leading regional proponent of Palestinian rights by bringing together diplomats and scholars to develop a unified Arab stance on Palestinian statehood and rights (El-Katiri, 2013).

The Middle East and North Africa's political landscape saw significant transformation in 2011–2013 as a result of the early effects of the Arab Spring. The revolutions affected the regional strategy for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian problem even though they also resulted in notable government changes and domestic unrest in a number of nations. While significant nations such as Egypt and Syria experienced changes in their political environments and redirected their attention to internal stability, Morocco and Algeria persisted in their support for Palestinian rights while navigating their own transformations brought about by the Arab Spring. These differing answers underscore the intricate relationship between long-standing geopolitical concerns in the Middle East and regional instability.

3.2. Mid-Term Developments: Evolving Dynamics (2013-2020)

Between 2013 and 2020, regional upheavals and global diplomacy contributed to a geopolitical environment that was fast shifting and continued to shape the Israel-Palestine conflict. This period saw a mixture of heightened

tensions, sporadic acts of violence, and renewed, though often faltering, peace initiatives. These changes were significantly shaped by the political and social forces that existed in the territories of Israel and Palestine as well as the larger Middle Eastern setting.

Following the Arab Spring, there was a notable shift in the priorities of the region. While the early years were characterized by uprisings and the ousting of regimes, nations such as Egypt and Syria struggled with internal stability during the mid-term era. After Mohamed Morsi was overthrown in 2013, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi took office, launching in a more conventional and circumspect stance toward Israel and Palestine. As seen by the Gaza conflict in 2014, el-Sisi's government frequently served as a mediator between Hamas and Israel and maintained a peace deal with Israel. Egypt's strategic involvement as a mediator throughout this conflict was highlighted by its key role in mediating a ceasefire (Al-Omari, 2015).

The war in Syria, which continued to devastate the region, drew international attention and resources, sidelining the Israeli-Palestinian issue in global diplomacy. However, it also indirectly affected the conflict. Due to the instability in the region and the millions of Syrians who were displaced, Israel was able to gain strategic depth because its neighbors were too busy tackling their own problems to actively participate in hostilities. In addition, Israel's worries over Iranian influence close to its borders were strengthened by Iran's engagement in Syria, which resulted in recurrent Israeli airstrikes against Iranian targets in Syria (Jones, 2019).

Meanwhile, within the Palestinian territories, internal political divisions between Fatah and Hamas remained a significant barrier to a unified Palestinian front. Both the Palestinian position in negotiations and the ability to formulate coherent policies were hampered by the power struggle between these two factions. Although it was a noteworthy attempt, the unity government that was established in 2014 was unable to result in long-lasting cooperation. Presenting

a united front in peace talks and negotiations was difficult due to this internal division.

The United States continued in attempting to broker peace on the global scene by taking the negotiating position. The culmination of the Obama administration's efforts was the lengthy but ultimately unsuccessful peace push in 2013-2014, led by Secretary of State John Kerry. Deep-seated mistrust and political inflexibility on both sides caused Kerry's framework (Indyk, 2014).

Significant changes occurred during the latter half of this period under the Trump administration, which brought in a new paradigm for the U.S. involvement in the conflict. The most controversial of these was the U.S. Embassy's move in May 2018 after Jerusalem was designated as Israel's capital in December 2017. Palestinians strongly denounced this action, which sparked numerous demonstrations and confrontations (Amr, Goldenberg, Huggard and Sachs, 2018). The "Peace to Prosperity" plan -often referred to as the "Trump peace plan"- of the Trump administration, which was made public in January 2020, envisaged the annexation of portions of the West Bank and was largely pro-Israeli, entrenching the U.S.'s pro-Israel bias. Palestinian leaders strongly opposed this plan, viewing it as a departure from previous international accords on a two-state solution (Khalidi, 2018). The rejection also demonstrated the broader international community's hesitance to endorse a plan that heavily favored one side and failed to address the core issues of the conflict, such as the right of return for Palestinian refugees, the status of Jerusalem, and the borders of a future Palestinian state.

The Trump administration's actions highlighted the difficulties associated with taking a unilateral approach to resolving the Israel-Palestine conflict. In addition to failing to achieve peace, these strategies increased tensions and mistrust between the parties by neglecting established international institutions and excluding Palestinian concerns. A just and inclusive strategy that considers the justifiable hopes and worries of both Israelis and Palestinians is desperately needed, as seen by the response to these policies.

Under King Mohammed VI, Morocco strengthened its links with the West, particularly Israel, while concurrently upholding its support for the Palestinian cause. During the Al-Quds Committee conference in Marrakech in 2013, the King of Morocco reaffirmed his support for Palestinian rights, urging the preservation of Jerusalem's Islamic identity and denouncing Israeli settlement activities. Additionally, Morocco hosted multiple rounds of reconciliation negotiations between Fatah and Hamas, serving as a major mediator between the various Palestinian factions.

In spite of these initiatives, Morocco's stance grew increasingly nuanced at the end of the decade as it attempted to strike a balance between its longstanding diplomatic and economic ties with Israel and its historical support for Palestine. This resulted in the "normalization" agreement in December 2020 (Riedel, 2020). For example, Morocco joined the US-led coalition against ISIS in 2015, strengthening its strategic partnership with Western nations. In order to increase trade and investment, Morocco also inked a number of business agreements with the European Union in 2016. These agreements were significant because they improved Morocco's economic standing and brought it into more alignment with Western values, which aided Morocco's geopolitical power. Morocco's broader policy of maintaining a balance between its longstanding support for Palestine and its growing economic and diplomatic interests was reflected in this enhanced leverage, which was vital during negotiations and ultimately in the agreement to normalize relations with Israel.

Morocco responded cautiously to Trump's "Peace to Prosperity" initiative. Morocco emphasized the need for a negotiated settlement based on international law and UN resolutions, while also restating its support for Palestinian rights. Concerns were raised by Moroccan officials regarding the plan's provisions that differed from the accepted international framework for peace, especially those that concerned with the annexation of some West Bank territory. Despite these reservations, Morocco continued to engage

diplomatically with all parties involved, demonstrating its strategic balancing act.

The most momentous shift in Moroccan foreign policy occurred in December 2020 when it consented to “normalize” its relations with Israel as part of an agreement mediated by the U.S. This agreement included American recognition of Moroccan sovereignty over the Western Sahara, a long-standing territorial dispute (Riedel, 2020). Morocco and Israel swiftly established diplomatic and commercial relations after the “normalization” agreement. The Moroccan government announced direct flights between Casablanca and Tel Aviv in January 2021, hence promoting travel and trade (Haaretz, 2021). Furthermore, accords for collaboration were inked by Moroccan and Israeli authorities in fields like agriculture, technology, and water management (Reuters, 2021).

Algeria, in spite of its own domestic problems and the instability of the region, remained a steadfast supporter of Palestinian rights. Algeria was a key player in promoting a resolution that highlighted the Arab Peace Initiative and denounced Israeli settlement activities during the Arab League Summit that took place in Kuwait in March 2014 (Arab League, 2014). Moreover, Algeria has continuously supported Palestinian rights in a number of international conferences by using its position. For example, in 2015 Algeria backed the Palestinian proposal to fly their flag at UN headquarters, a symbolic action that was authorized by the UN General Assembly in September of the same year (UN General Assembly, 2015).

Algeria also hosted international conferences that brought attention to Palestinian issues as part of its diplomatic efforts. The International Conference on Palestinian Youth was held in January 2016 in Algeria with the aim of boosting youth participation and understanding of the Palestinian struggle (Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2016). Furthermore, Algeria’s financial support for Palestine was unwavering, as demonstrated by its 2017 vow to

donate \$30 million in development aid to Palestinian organizations with a particular emphasis on healthcare and education (Middle East Monitor, 2017).

Upon the announcement of Trump's "Peace to Prosperity" proposal in January 2020, Algerian officials explicitly rejected it. The proposal was denounced by the Algerian Foreign Ministry in a statement, which said that it was strongly biased in favor of Israel and that it went against UN resolutions and international law (Algerian Foreign Ministry, 2020). With East Jerusalem being as the capital of an independent Palestinian state, Algeria remained firmly committed to a two-state solution based on the 1967 boundaries.

During this time, the conflict involved other foreign actors as well. In addition to giving the Palestinian Authority significant financial support, the European Union persisted in its advocacy for a two-state solution. Countries such as Türkiye and Qatar increased their support for Gaza, frequently bypassing the Palestinian Authority, which further complicated intra-Palestinian politics (Sayigh, 2018).

Overall, there have been notable geopolitical changes and shifting approaches to the Israeli-Palestinian issue between the years 2013 to 2020. The complicated situation was brought about by internal Palestinian differences, regional instability, and divergent foreign strategies. A long-term solution remained elusive despite several diplomatic efforts and peace initiatives, with each new event adding layers of complexity to an already complex situation.

3.3. Recent Trends, "Normalization" Processes and Emerging Challenges (2020-2024)

With the signing of the Abraham Accords, the Middle East witnessed important diplomatic events between 2020 and 2024. The Trump administration facilitated these deals, which resulted in the reconciliation of relations between Israel and a number of Arab nations, including the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco. The region's political setting underwent a

significant change with the onset of these “normalization” agreements, which altered diplomatic strategies and alliances.

In September 2020, the UAE and Bahrain signed agreements with Israel, marking the beginning of the Abraham Accords. Sudan’s engagement had a little more convoluted route. Sudan and Israel decided to restore diplomatic ties in October 2020, but the Abraham Accords were not formally signed until January 2021. The necessity for legislative approval of the deal and internal political factions within Sudan led to this delay. Economic incentives, the possibility of being taken off the U.S. list of states sponsoring terrorism, and opportunities for foreign investment and help were among Sudan’s driving forces.

In December 2020, Morocco declared a desire to restore diplomatic ties with Israel. The United States’ acceptance of Morocco’s sovereignty over the Western Sahara provided a strong diplomatic inducement that greatly affected this decision (Riedel, 2020). Additionally, a security cooperation agreement that included intelligence sharing and joint military training exercises was signed by Morocco and Israel in March 2021, demonstrating a strengthening of strategic ties. Furthermore, agreements to increase trade and investment in fields including technology and renewable energy were made, marking a major expansion of economic relations.

With its historical ties to Israeli Jews, Morocco’s Jewish community played a significant role in promoting communication and understanding between the two groups. A delegation of Moroccan Jews visited Israel in March 2021 to explore cultural and religious relations, emphasizing the community’s role in linking the two countries, as cultural interactions were encouraged (Cohen, 2021). Morocco kept its support for Palestinian sovereignty and rights in spite of these new diplomatic relations. Reiterating Morocco’s position at the UN in June 2021, King Mohammed VI called for an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital, and a two-state solution based on the

1967 lines (UN, 2021). Acting as a mediator, Morocco also held talks in Rabat in an effort to close differences between the various Palestinian factions.

Algeria, on the other hand, continued to resist the Abraham Accords. These agreements were viewed as a betrayal of the Palestinian cause by Algerian officials, who denounced them. This resistance was in line with Algeria's long-standing anti-colonial beliefs and its backing of liberation movements worldwide. Algeria and other nations in the region that chose "normalization" have entirely distinct ideologies, as demonstrated by Algeria's rejection to normalize relations with Israel.

Algeria continuously expressed its position in international conferences at this time. During an Arab League meeting in January 2021, Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune denounced the "normalization" agreements, stating that they were harmful to the interests of the Palestinian people (Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2021). Algeria persisted in advocating for a two-state solution based on the borders of 1967, with the capital of a future Palestinian state being East Jerusalem.

At the UN General Assembly in September 2021, Algeria sponsored a resolution condemning Israeli settlement expansion and urging the resumption of peace negotiations based on the 1967 borders. In addition, Algeria broadened its diplomatic outreach by having one-on-one discussions with nations in Asia and Africa in an effort to win additional support for the Palestinian cause.

In November 2021, Algeria organized an international conference on Palestinian solidarity in Algiers, bringing together delegates from numerous countries and international organizations to deliberate on strategies for upholding Palestinian sovereignty and rights. Algeria's strong role in maintaining the Palestinian issue on the international agenda was highlighted during this meeting.

The intricacy of Middle Eastern diplomacy in the early 2020s is shown by these disparate approaches. Algeria upheld its principled position, stressing solidarity with the Palestinian cause and refusing "normalization" with Israel,

while Morocco's relationship with Israel yielded substantial diplomatic and economic gains. The divergent approaches used by these two countries in North Africa reflect the complex and diverse character of regional politics in this era.

The Israel-Palestine question reached unprecedented heights of violence on October 7, 2023, thereby initiating the October 7 War, as it was soon named. A string of harsh clashes over controversial Israeli settlement expansions and provocative acts in Jerusalem, especially at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound were the catalyst for this escalation. For a long time, the Israeli government has punished the Gazan people by imposing harsh restrictions, carrying out a thorough and systematic war of attrition against the Palestinian people in general and the Gazan people in particular. The conflict on October 7 was precipitated by a wave of occupation of Palestinian homes and lands, the daily loss of Palestinian lives and land, increased human rights abuses, and Palestinian persecution (Ataman, 2023). The war started when Hamas carried out an enormous operation referred to as "Al-Aqsa Flood." This operation involved fighter incursions into Israeli border areas after a coordinated barrage of rockets was fired into Israeli territory (Mercan, 2023).

Israel responded by conducting massive airstrikes on Gaza as part of a fierce military reaction. Numerous populous areas were affected by these bombings, which caused extensive damage and resulted in a high number of civilian casualties. Important infrastructure, including homes, schools, hospitals, and other buildings, were severely damaged or completely destroyed. The situation was made worse by the embargo placed on Gaza, which led to acute shortages of necessities like food, clean water, and medical supplies. The already grave humanitarian situation was made worse by the fact that many Gazans were left without proper shelter (B'Tselem, 2023).

The Palestinian people were suffering tremendously. A humanitarian catastrophe resulted from the ongoing bombarding, uprooting innumerable families and interfering with vital services. With few resources and continual fear of more assaults, hospitals found it difficult to handle the inflow of

casualties. Humanitarian aid has a harder time getting to individuals in need in the Gaza Strip as a result of the infrastructure devastation (UN OCHA, 2023).

Responses to the events of October 7 differed by region. Even as they kept diplomatic connections with Israel, some Arab countries advocated moderation and restarted peace negotiations. Both Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, who signed the Abraham Accords, voiced their concern about the violence and demanded a peaceful end to the conflict, demonstrating their practical approach to striking a balance between forging new diplomatic ties and maintaining long-standing support for the Palestinian cause.

As a reaction to the crisis, Morocco condemned the violence and reiterated calls for a two-state solution. Moroccan Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita emphasized the critical need for humanitarian aid to the affected Palestinian regions in addition to advocating for an international summit to address the depreciating circumstances and foster communication between the parties involved in the conflict (Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2023). Despite the recent improvement of relations with Israel, Morocco has shown its sophisticated diplomatic strategy by upholding its commitment to Palestinian statehood and rights. However, due to the improvement of its relations with Israel, Morocco had seen certain limitations in showing its support for Palestine and calling for peace. A concrete example of this can be seen in the Moroccan government's statement on the October 7 attacks. The Moroccan government's statement against the attacks on Palestinians is as follows: *"The Kingdom of Morocco expresses its deep concern over the deteriorating situation and the outbreak of military actions in the Gaza Strip and condemns the targeting of civilians by any party. The Kingdom of Morocco, which has long warned of the repercussions of the political impasse on peace in the region and the dangers of increasing [tension] as a result, calls for an immediate cessation of all acts of violence, a return to calm, and the avoidance of all forms of escalation that would undermine the chances of peace in the region. The Kingdom of Morocco, whose King, His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God assist him, chairs the*

Al-Quds Committee, affirms that the approach of dialogue and negotiations remains the only way to reach a comprehensive and lasting solution to the Palestinian issue, on the basis of international legitimacy resolutions and the internationally agreed-upon principle of the two-state solution.” (Waldo et al., 2023). Morocco’s emphasis on “by any party” when calling for peace stands out as an indication that it is trying to avoid damaging its relations with Israel. However, the emphasis on the role of the Moroccan king in the Al-Quds Committee also reflects an attempt to balance domestic politics by avoiding the reaction of the Moroccan society, which is overwhelmingly pro-Palestinian.

On the other hand, Algeria fiercely condemned Israel’s actions and accused it with war crimes against the Palestinian people. Abdelmadjid Tebboune, the president of Algeria, denounced the Israeli government and requested a special meeting of the Arab League to deliberate on a joint reaction. Algeria stressed its steadfast support for Palestinian resistance and promised to provide Gaza with more financial aid in an effort to ease the humanitarian catastrophe. Algeria’s long-standing anti-colonial position and support for liberation movements were congruent with this approach. In this regard, the Algerian government’s statement is as follows: *“Algeria is following with great concern the development of the brutal Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip, which claimed the lives of dozens of innocent sons and daughters of the Palestinian people who fell as martyrs in light of the Zionist occupation’s persistence in the policy of oppression and persecution that it imposes on the brave Palestinian people. Algeria strongly condemns these policies and practices that violate the most basic humanitarian rules and references to international legitimacy. In this context, Algeria renews its demand for the immediate intervention of the international community through the relevant international bodies to protect the Palestinian people from the arrogance and crime that the Zionist occupation has made a feature of its occupation of the Palestinian territories. Algeria also renews its conviction that the Zionist settlement occupation is the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict and that ending the misfortunes, scourges and tragedies*

resulting from this conflict undoubtedly lies in responding to the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people and enabling them to establish their independent state on the 1967 borders with Al-Quds Al-Sharif [Jerusalem] as its capital.” (Waldo et al., 2023). Algeria’s stance on the Palestinian-Israeli issue and its clear emphasis on the Israeli occupation is evident from this official statement.

Internationally, there has been a request for an immediate ceasefire and the delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza by the UN and other humanitarian groups. In order to put an end to the violence and work toward a durable peace, the UN urged for both sides to participate in serious negotiations and emphasized the urgency of addressing the humanitarian crisis that is occurring in the area (United Nations, 2023).

Humanitarian aid groups, such as the Doctors Without Borders and the Red Crescent, raised funds to supply food, housing, and emergency medical care to Gaza’s impacted residents. These groups persevered in providing aid and support to the most vulnerable despite the obstacles presented by the embargo and continued hostilities.

3.4. International Community’s Responses and Policy Shifts

The international community’s response to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, particularly post-Arab Spring, has been marked with inconsistencies and failures. Despite the EU’s nominal support for a two-state solution, its policies have often ignored Israel’s illegal settlement expansion and other violations. Russia’s strategic interests have further complicated efforts to pressure Israel, while the UN, despite its platform for discussion, has been ineffective in enforcing meaningful and just action. The ICC’s investigation into war crimes has faced significant political opposition, reflecting the broader struggle to hold Israel accountable. This section examines these international responses,

highlighting their shortcomings in addressing the ongoing injustices faced by Palestinians.

The European Union (EU) and many Western countries persisted in their support of a two-state solution while negotiating the recent accords on rapprochement between Israel and some Arab governments. Notably, the EU maintained its strategy of drawing distinctions between Israel and the areas it has occupied since 1967 and emphasized the need for a diplomatic solution based on international law.

In 2016, for instance, the EU denounced Israeli settlement activity, which it considered to be unlawful under international law, and reiterated its support for the two-state solution (Council of the European Union, 2016). This position, which reflects a constant policy approach notwithstanding regional changes, was reaffirmed in a number of EU Council conclusions and remarks made by high-ranking officials (European External Action Service, 2020).

Russia's increasing presence in the Middle East, especially with regard to its military presence in Syria, has further complicated the geopolitical landscape. Multilateral diplomatic attempts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian dispute were complicated by Russia's support for the Assad regime and its larger strategic objectives, which frequently ran counter to American and European views. As Barnes-Dacey (2015) notes, Russia's 2015 participation in Syria increased its regional strength and occasionally sided with Iranian objectives, which strained relations with the Western nations.

Notwithstanding the fact that the competing interests of its member states frequently restricted its activities, the United Nations (UN) remained a crucial platform for discussing the war. However, The UN failed to bring about lasting change in spite of multiple resolutions and discussions. The UN General Assembly gave Palestine a non-member observer state status in 2012. This action brought attention to the conflicting international position but had little impact on the actual situation on the ground (United Nations General Assembly, 2012).

The International Criminal Court's (ICC) efforts to investigate alleged war crimes in the Palestinian territories have been highly contentious. In 2021, the ICC faced strong opposition from various international actors as it sought to scrutinize potential war crimes committed by both Israeli forces and Palestinian groups during the conflict. On the evening of February 5, 2021, The International Criminal Court (ICC) announced that it had jurisdiction over Gaza, the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the 1967 boundaries of Palestine. In the perspective of international law, the Court's ruling on "ICC-01/18, February 5, 2021" is one of the most significant and constructive developments in the Israel-Palestine conflict to date. In addition to stating that it has jurisdiction over the Palestinian lands, the court also affirmed the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, thereby indirectly approving Palestine's application for membership in the UN, which was denied by the UN Security Council (UNSC) in 2014 (Oruç, 2021). However, today, Israel is still not being punished for its war crimes and, moreover, it continues to commit war crimes in front of the whole world and continues its occupation.

In conclusion, there have been substantial changes in the Middle East and North Africa since the Arab Spring, which have had a major impact on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In order to comprehend larger regional dynamics and how they affect the conflict, it is helpful to examine the activities and policies of Algeria and Morocco at this time. The U.S. diplomatic efforts enabled Morocco to normalize relations with Israel in 2020, which was in stark contrast to Algeria's maintained strong support for Palestinian rights and denial of "normalization" (U.S. Department of State, 2020).

The complex interplay between regional and global interests that shapes peace chances is highlighted by these developments. The divergent strategies employed by Morocco and Algeria shed light on the obstacles and possible avenues for a long-term settlement of the dispute. Examining these changes helps to imagine workable plans for future peace initiatives and offers important insights into how the Israel-Palestine issue is currently playing out.

CHAPTER 4: MOROCCO'S POLICY TOWARDS PALESTINE AND ISRAEL QUESTION

4.1. Historical Overview of Morocco's Stance on the Conflict

Morocco's position regarding the Israel-Palestine issue has been influenced by a blend of historical experiences, political calculations, and social factors, reflecting its internal dynamics and external aspirations. After gaining independence from France in 1956, Morocco joined the wider Arab campaign against Israel. Morocco, an Arab League member, backed Palestinian self-determination and denounced the creation of Israel in 1948. Morocco started to regularly support Palestinian rights during King Mohammed V (1957-1961), which established a pattern for the country's future foreign policy direction.

During the Six-Day War in 1967, Morocco, led by King Hassan II, joined other Arab nations in condemning Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories. This period reinforced Morocco's support for Palestinian liberation efforts and aligned its stance with the collective Arab League. In the aftermath of the war, Morocco provided diplomatic and political support for Palestinian claims to statehood and self-determination.

The 1970s were a significant period for Morocco under King Hassan II's leadership. In 1975, he established and chaired the Al-Quds Committee within the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). In order to demonstrate Morocco's support for the Palestinian cause, this committee sought to coordinate efforts to maintain Jerusalem's Islamic and Arab identity. The committee gave Morocco a forum to demonstrate its leadership in the Muslim world by defending Islamic holy places in Jerusalem and fighting for the rights of Palestinians (Abu Gehaisheh, 2021). The diplomatic approach of King Hassan II sought a balance between engaging with Western powers to advance regional peace and security and supporting Palestinian aspirations. Morocco strategically used religious and cultural diplomacy to support its position on the

Palestinian question, as demonstrated by its participation in the Al-Quds Committee.

Morocco pursued pragmatic diplomatic relations while upholding Palestinian rights during the 1980s and 1990s. Morocco supported the Oslo Accords in the 1990s, which sought to create a framework for Palestinian self-rule. King Hassan II expressed his support for the peace process and the prospect of a two-state resolution. Morocco maintained covert diplomatic ties with Israel during this time due to shared concerns about economic and security cooperation (Times of Israel Staff, 2020). These interactions, though not officially established, demonstrated Morocco's pragmatic approach to striking a balance between national interests and support for Palestinian statehood (Telhami, 1999).

Morocco remained neutral on the Israeli-Palestinian dispute at the beginning of the new millennium. Throughout the 2000-2005 Second Intifada, Morocco reiterated its backing for Palestinian self-determination and denounced Israeli military operations. Morocco's stance was consistent with its prior support, grounded on the UN resolutions, for a two-state solution.

Morocco was under pressure at the time from both the inside and the outside due to its Jewish community and diaspora. Harboring one of the biggest Jewish communities in the Arab world, Morocco had considerable impact on international policy. Due to the community's historical and cultural ties to both Morocco and Israel, communication and understanding were facilitated, which helped to provide a nuanced perspective on the conflict. Morocco proceeded to strike a balance between traditional support for Palestinian rights and pragmatic involvement as the Arab Spring loomed in 2011. Following in the footsteps of King Hassan II, King Mohammed VI of Morocco pursued regional stability and economic growth, all the while remaining steadfast in his support of Palestinian statehood. Due to its sophisticated approach, Morocco was able to maintain its long-standing support for the Palestinian cause and adjust to shifting regional dynamics (Ottaway & Riley, 2006).

4.2. Policy Changes, Diplomatic Initiatives, and Regional Engagements (2011-2020)

During the period from 2011 to 2020, Morocco's policies towards Palestine and Israel underwent significant transformations, shaped by both regional upheavals and international developments. The onset of the Arab Spring in 2011 marked a pivotal point, impacting Morocco's diplomatic strategies and engagements in the region (Fakir, 2022).

Morocco has historically supported the Palestinian cause, hence its initial position on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was consistent with such support. Both the two-state solution and Palestinian self-determination were still supported by the whole country. As the head of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) Al-Quds Committee, King Mohammed VI underlined Morocco's dedication to defending Jerusalem's Islamic legacy and aiding the Palestinian people. Morocco reaffirmed its support for Palestine during this time in a number of international bodies, such as the Arab League and the United Nations (Aamari, 2023; Maroc.ma, 2022).

Morocco had its own internal problems during the Arab Spring, including calls for political reform. In 2011, the Moroccan government responded by enacting a number of constitutional changes that contributed to national stability and enabled it to continue having an assertive foreign policy. Moroccan support for Palestine during this period was affected by the country's need to negotiate the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region's altering geopolitical environment.

Morocco took a leading role in diplomatic efforts to settle the Israel-Palestine issue through mediation. The country maintained contacts with other Arab countries in order to advance a common position on the matter, and it backed the United States and the European Union's attempts to resurrect peace negotiations (Hamzawy and Brown, 2023). For instance, Morocco supported the

Arab Peace Initiative, which demanded the creation of a Palestinian state inside the 1967 boundaries along with the “normalization” of ties with Israel. While Morocco’s pragmatic stance may be seen as a step to protect its interests, the process of “normalization” with Israel is clearly at odds with its so-called support for Palestine.

Strategic alliances that Morocco maintained with important regional actors also marked its diplomatic activities. With Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in particular, who have a big say in Middle Eastern politics, the nation deepened its ties with the GCC states. For Morocco’s foreign policy goals to be in line with wider regional trends—such as changing perceptions of Israel—these connections were essential (Gordon, 2020).

Morocco saw chances to demonstrate its power and negotiate the challenging geopolitical environment as a result of the wider regional turmoil. Because of their internal unrest, traditional Arab countries like Egypt and Saudi Arabia were able to provide more of a voice to Morocco’s advocacy for Palestinian rights. Morocco’s pragmatist strategy included striking a balance between cautious diplomatic relations with Israel and its support for Palestine (Abouzzohour, 2020). This was partly driven by the need to ensure the internal stability and satisfy the public, which continued to be strongly pro-Palestinian.

Several particular historical examples highlight Morocco’s complex approach: Morocco and Israel engaged in secret intelligence exchange with a specific emphasis on counterterrorism endeavors within the African continent (Times of Israel Staff, 2020). Moroccan and Israeli intelligence services worked together to handle threats to mutual security, even while Morocco openly supported the Palestinian cause and denounced Israeli actions. This behind-the-scenes partnership brought to light Morocco’s pragmatic approach to foreign policy, which prioritizes security considerations over other considerations in real-world interactions.

Morocco and Israel continued to retain their economic connections through indirect means. Commercial middlemen in Europe and the U.S., along

with Moroccan Jews living in Israel, facilitated investment and trade. Although not often openly acknowledged, these economic exchanges were advantageous to both countries and showed Morocco could connect economically with Israel without immediately jeopardizing its public position on the Palestinian issue.

With its long history in Israel, the Moroccan Jewish community has contributed to communication and mutual understanding between Morocco and Israel (Fakir, 2022). Moroccan Jews living in Israel preserved cultural links with Israel, encouraging communication and understanding between people. This cultural diplomacy led Morocco to create a more strategic and pragmatic foreign policy strategy by reducing the force of official political viewpoints. On the other hand, the fact that Morocco, a predominantly Muslim country, has established a cultural relationship with Israel shows that it underestimates the occupation and genocide committed against the Palestinians.

Morocco was able to engage with Israel indirectly through its participation in global organizations. Morocco and Israel collaborated on regional concerns including environmental sustainability and economic development in forums like the Union for the Mediterranean. These forums served Morocco's strategic goals in regional security and development by enabling it to take part in efforts involving Israel without requiring direct bilateral interactions.

Morocco's participation in the Abraham Accords process is a noteworthy illustration of its changing position, even if official "normalization" with Israel didn't happen until December 2020 (Abouzzohour, 2021). Due to their similar security concerns and available economic resources, Moroccan and Israeli authorities appeared to be interacting more behind the scenes during the course of the ten years. These exchanges demonstrated Morocco's realistic approach to foreign policy, which strikes a balance between the country's support for Palestine and its need to adjust to the shifting circumstances in the region.

The reasons behind Morocco's balancing act were multifaceted. Firstly, the country sought to hold onto its position as a leader in the Arab and Muslim worlds, especially as the chairman of the Al-Quds Committee. A strong perspective on Palestinian rights was necessary for this role. Second, Morocco aimed to draw in capital and fortify its economic relations with strong friends like the U.S., which was instrumental in mediating the Abraham Accords. Thirdly, pragmatic partnerships, including covert cooperation with Israel, were required due to regional security concerns, specifically the threat of terrorism and instability in the Sahel. Furthermore, Morocco's foreign policy decisions were impacted by the country's domestic political climate. The public's view remained largely supportive of the Palestinian cause, and the administration had to take that into account. This required careful balancing in order to pursue strategic interests without facing political backlash.

Despite Morocco's historical support for the Palestinian cause, its foreign policy between 2011 and 2020 is open to criticism for perceived inconsistencies and strategic compromises. The country's decision to "normalize" relations with Israel under the Abraham Accords in December 2020 was particularly controversial, as it appeared to undermine its long-standing public commitment to Palestinian self-determination and rights. Morocco's ideological position was overshadowed by its geopolitical and economic goals, which included strengthening connections with Gulf states and using Israel's intelligence cooperation. This pragmatic approach may be seen as prioritizing economic benefits and regional alliances over genuine support for the Palestinian cause. Furthermore, Morocco's cooperation with Israel, while aimed at addressing security concerns, undermines its public advocacy for Palestinian rights and is a perception of hypocrisy. This act, while politically strategic, raises questions about the authenticity of Morocco's commitment to Palestinian interests and the extent to which its foreign policy has been influenced by domestic and international pressures rather than principled support for the Palestinian struggle.

On summary, Morocco navigated a challenging diplomatic environment between 2011 and 2020, seemingly consistent in its rhetoric support for Palestinian rights and careful in its approach to Israel. On the other hand, the lack of support for the Palestinian cause in Morocco, an important Muslim North African country, has a negative impact on unity for this cause. Morocco positioned itself as a major actor in Middle Eastern geopolitics during this period through policy shifts and diplomatic actions that were indicative of its broader regional commitments and strategic ambitions.

4.3. The Abraham Accords Era: A Shift Towards “Normalization” (2020-2024)

The Abraham Accords represent a pivotal shift in Middle Eastern diplomacy, aiming to normalize relations between Israel and several Arab states. These accords, initiated by the United States during the Trump administration, aimed to establish diplomatic and economic ties between Israel and several Arab states, starting with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain in September 2020, and later including Sudan and Morocco.

Morocco’s decision to join the Abraham Accords in December 2020 was the result of strategic diplomatic negotiations. The recognition of Morocco’s sovereignty over the Western Sahara by the United States was the most fundamental strategic driver behind this decision (U.S. Embassy in Morocco, 2020). The Western Sahara, a disputed area since the Spanish withdrawal in 1975, has been the center of a territorial conflict between Morocco and the Polisario Front, a Sahrawi independence movement supported by Algeria. Historically, Western Sahara was a Spanish colony until 1975, when it was decolonized. Afterwards, in 1975, Moroccan and Mauritanian troops seized control of Western Sahara after what became known as the Madrid Accords, as Spain unilaterally withdrew from its colony. With this action, both governments violated the International Court of Justice’s 1975 conviction that neither

Morocco nor Mauritania had territorial control over Western Sahara. The United Nations rejected to recognize the Madrid Accords, and a 2002 decision by the UN Office of Legal Affairs reiterated that colonial powers could not simply transfer control of a region from one country to another (Chograni, 2021).

In 1976, the Polisario Front established the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) in pursuit of Sahrawi independence (Kaya, 2020). The conflict escalated once Morocco's "Green March" in 1975 asserted its claim, resulting in a protracted confrontation with the Polisario. Mauritania withdrew its claims in 1979, leaving Morocco in control of the majority of the region (Bayram, 2020).

Moroccan foreign policy has been heavily influenced by the ongoing conflict over the Western Sahara, which has an effect on both domestic and international connections (Dworkin, 2022). Western Sahara has an autonomy plan proposed by Morocco, which calls for significant self-governance under Moroccan sovereignty. Originally submitted to the UN in 2007, this proposal gives local government authority over administrative, economic, and cultural matters, while Morocco would continue to be in charge of defense and foreign policy. While the Polisario Front, which is still demanding complete independence in Western Sahara, has rejected the autonomy plan, it has received support from a number of nations, including the United States. According to the UN Security Council (2007), the proposal is regarded by the UN as a legitimate and significant foundation for negotiations. Securing international support, particularly from major global actors, has been crucial to Morocco in legitimizing its claims on Western Sahara and enhancing its credibility on the international arena.

Morocco saw a major diplomatic victory with the aforementioned U.S. recognition, which was in line with its long-term national objectives. The Western Sahara issue is significant for Morocco due to its geopolitical, economic, and national identity implications. Morocco views the Western Sahara as an essential component of its territory, and its strategic importance is

increased by important resources like phosphates and possible offshore oil deposits.

The diplomatic recognition was only one aspect -albeit the most fundamental one- of the “normalization” deal between Morocco and Israel. In several areas, including trade, tourism, and technology, it cleared the path for bilateral collaboration. In addition to cooperation in areas including agriculture, water management, and renewable energy, direct flights between the two nations were part of the economic accords. Economic prosperity and regional stability were the goals of these developments.

Both globally and domestically, opinions on Morocco’s involvement in the Abraham Accords were divided. The answers varied greatly within Morocco. Some saw the deal as a practical move toward economic benefit and modernization, emphasizing the possibility for improved technological cooperation and a rise in tourism. For example, soon after the announcement by the Moroccan government, direct flights between Casablanca and Tel Aviv were scheduled by Moroccan and Israeli airlines, which greatly increased travel, both for leisure and commercial purposes (Auquier and Bentaibi, 2023). The first formal visit to Morocco following “normalization” took place in July 2021, when Israel’s Foreign Minister Yair Lapid opened Israel’s diplomatic mission in Rabat.

As a cornerstone of Morocco’s foreign policy for decades, the Palestinian cause has been betrayed, according to those who opposed the “normalization” (Abouzzohour, 2021). Numerous Moroccans, including members of political parties and civil society organizations, expressed concern that Morocco’s long-standing support for Palestinian rights might be compromised by the pact (Times of Israel, 2023). Nonetheless, the Moroccan government justified the choice by emphasizing its unwavering support for Palestinian rights and promoting a two-state solution. In a meeting with Mahmoud Abbas, the president of the Palestinian Authority, King Mohammed VI reaffirmed Morocco’s firm position on the Palestinian problem and promised

that “normalization” with Israel would not weaken Morocco’s support for the Palestinian cause (Middle East Monitor, 2020). The Abraham Accords were regarded as a major change in Middle Eastern diplomacy on an international basis. While some saw the agreements as a positive step toward peace and stability, others argued that addressing Palestinian sovereignty and rights should come first before normalizing relations with Israel. The agreements profoundly changed the power structures and alliances in the area, especially with Iran, which viewed the “normalization” agreements as a betrayal by the participating Arab governments. The accords moreover impacted Morocco’s associations with Gulf nations such as the United Arab Emirates, who had concurrently restored relations with Israel, culminating in amplified collaboration and capital exchange among these governments.

Following the Abraham Accords, Morocco and Israel signed a number of agreements for cooperation in a variety of fields. Morocco and Israel signed a historic deal in February 2021 to collaborate in the areas of technology, agriculture, and aviation. These accords sought to strengthen bilateral economic relations and promote innovation between the two countries. A major step in the two nations’ military and security cooperation was taken in November 2021 when Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz traveled to Morocco to sign a defense memorandum of understanding (Mejdoup, 2021).

Morocco’s participation in the Abraham Accords demonstrates the multifaceted nature of its foreign policy, which aims to strike a balance between domestic concerns and expectations from across the region and beyond. The agreements redefined Morocco’s place in the shifting geopolitical environment of the Middle East and North Africa and gave it tremendous diplomatic influence, especially with regard to Western Sahara. As part of the “normalization” agreement, the United States recognized Moroccan sovereignty over the Western Sahara, which was a major diplomatic victory and strengthened Morocco’s position in its protracted battle with the Polisario Front. Following the US support of Morocco’s autonomy plan to end the conflict in the

Western Sahara, a number of European nations have also backed Morocco's proposal. The autonomy plan proposed by Morocco has been repeatedly seen by France as a serious and viable solution; in January 2021, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated this position. When Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez wrote to King Mohammed VI in March 2022, reiterating Spain's support for Morocco's proposal, Spain signaled a dramatic change in position (European Parliament, 2022). Following some initial tense moments, Germany stated in December 2021 that it was supporting Morocco's efforts and that it considered them to be credible and serious (Morocco World News, 2021). Support for the Moroccan proposal was also demonstrated by the Netherlands, where Dutch Foreign Minister Wopke Hoekstra praised it after talks with his Moroccan counterpart in May 2022 (Asharq Al-Awsat, 2022). Furthermore, in May 2023, following a meeting between Morocco's Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita and Portugal's Prime Minister Antonio Costa, a joint declaration emphasized the necessity for a practical and long-term solution, reiterating Portugal's support for Morocco's autonomy plan (Morocco World News, 2023).

These developments show that there is a growing consensus in Europe in support of Morocco's autonomy plan, especially after the support of the United States, which is a result of Morocco's successful diplomatic efforts to gain international support and acceptance for its proposal. As a result of the Abraham Accords, Morocco's foreign policy has strategically been reoriented to better meet internal and regional needs, as seen by the "normalization" of relations with Israel (Dworkin, 2024). With regard to the Western Sahara dispute in particular, this diplomatic move strengthened Morocco's position internationally and redefined its geopolitical standing in the Middle East and North Africa. As part of the treaties, the United States recognized Morocco's sovereignty over the Western Sahara, which was a historic accomplishment and gave Morocco huge influence over the Polisario Front. Morocco has demonstrated the success of its efforts to garner support for its Western Sahara policy and its skill at diplomacy through the growing amount of foreign support.

In the end, these events highlight Morocco's ability to effectively negotiate challenging geopolitical environments, strike a balance between its interests and those of other countries and regions, and accomplish important foreign policy goals through strategic partnerships and dialogue.

The events of October 7, 2023, drew international attention as a major turning point in the Israel-Palestine issue. Large-scale combat broke out on this day in response to a contentious Israeli military operation in Gaza, resulting in numerous casualties. The incident sparked global protests and renewed calls for an urgent resolution to the long-standing conflict. Morocco reacted to the catastrophe of October 7 with promptness and clarity. In a statement, King Mohammed VI condemned the violence and demanded an early de-escalation and the start of new talks. The Moroccan government placed a strong emphasis on the necessity for all sides to respect human rights and international law.

Following the conflict's intensification, particularly the catastrophic bombing of the Al-Ahli Baptist Hospital in Gaza, Morocco strongly condemned the attack and reaffirmed the necessity for an immediate cease of hostilities, underlining international humanitarian law (Saddiki, 2023). However, these declarations did not represent a significant shift in Morocco's overall policy or stance to Israel.

Morocco's Foreign Minister, Nasser Bourita, has taken a balanced approach to the violence, advocating for de-escalation and civilian safety while without directly blaming any party. This approach reflects Morocco's broader strategy to balance diplomatic connections alongside internal public sentiment (Saddiki, 2023). On the other hand, public rallies in Morocco have demonstrated strong support for Palestinians, with major protests against Israeli activities in Gaza. Despite this, Morocco's leadership has refrained from taking notable diplomatic measures against Israel, reflecting its desire to strike a balance between public sentiment and strategic objectives. Furthermore, Morocco indicated its commitment to easing Palestinian suffering by providing food and

medical supplies to Gaza, which were distributed in coordination of Moroccan and international NGOs (Bentaher & Semerci, 2024).

In essence, Morocco's stance on the October 7 crisis is cautious and balanced, condemning violence and advocating for humanitarian measures while addressing public opinion and geopolitical interests. Moroccan involvement in diplomatic and humanitarian activities strengthened its position as a peace broker and advocate. On the other hand, the country's measured approach, which emphasized its commitment to international law and regional stability while balancing pragmatic diplomatic relations with principled support for Palestinian rights, was reflected.

4.4. Motivations Behind Morocco's Policy Shift and Their Implications

A combination of strategic, economic, and security considerations influenced Morocco's decision to change course and ratify the Abraham Accords, reflecting its evolving geopolitical objectives and its evolving role in regional affairs. Morocco's foreign policy underwent a dramatic shift with its accession to the Abraham Accords in December 2020, mostly due to strategic, economic, and security considerations. The United States' recognition of Morocco's sovereignty over the Western Sahara was a major strategic factor in Morocco's decision to shift its policies. This diplomatic gain was the most significant factor for Morocco because it strengthened its claims to the disputed region, which has long been a source of tension with the Polisario Front, an independence movement supported by Algeria. Securing international support for Morocco's autonomy claims in Western Sahara has long been its primary goal, and this recognition is a key driver in its foreign policy actions.

Following the strategic position of Western Sahara, security concerns also ranked high on Morocco's agenda. The rise of extremist groups in the Sahel region and wider terrorism threats necessitated enhanced security measures. By restoring diplomatic ties, Morocco gained access to advanced Israeli security

and intelligence resources, which are essential for counterterrorism operations. The practical benefits of this security alliance were highlighted by joint operations and intelligence exchanges between Moroccan and Israeli agencies.

Economic concerns were another important, though secondary, driver in Morocco's decision. Opportunities for economic collaboration increased with Israel's normalization, especially in sectors like tourism, agriculture and water management that are vital to Morocco's development. As demonstrated by cooperative initiatives aiming at improving agricultural output and irrigation practices, Israel's advanced technologies in various domains provided Morocco with workable answers to its problems. Additional evidence of the economic advantages came from the possible increase in tourism, which would be made possible by direct flights between Morocco and Israel.

Morocco also attempted to get financial assistance and investments from important allies like the US. It was expected that economic relations with the United States would improve, as American businesses expressed a greater desire to invest in Morocco. This is because funding infrastructure projects and promoting economic diversification are crucial. While economic opportunities were important, they were seen to be complementary to Morocco's overall strategic and security objectives. The anticipated influx of American investments and support for infrastructure development were significant, but they were minor in comparison to the political and security benefits obtained through the accords.

Following the signing of the Abraham Accords, Morocco's diplomatic outreach and actions were aligned with its strategic objectives. Using the Accords as a springboard, Morocco expanded its influence in regional platforms and peace projects, such the Union for the Mediterranean, by fostering collaboration on environmental sustainability, economic growth, and regional security. Morocco was able to promote its interests and support regional stability through these international platforms.

Morocco was able to strike a balance between its new diplomatic engagements and long-standing commitments thanks to its leadership in the Al-Quds Committee, which was presided over by King Mohammed VI. The committee was essential in promoting Palestinian rights and safeguarding Jerusalem's Islamic legacy.

Following the Abraham Accords, there were a number of significant events that demonstrated Morocco's changing foreign policy. Increased economic collaboration resulted from the "normalization" of relations with Israel, with high-profile corporate transactions and cooperative projects in the fields of agriculture, technology, and renewable energy. The level of security cooperation increased as a result of coordinated actions to fight terrorism and improve regional security through information sharing and cooperative training programs. Cultural diplomacy was demonstrated by the rebuilding of synagogues and Jewish cemeteries in Morocco, among other activities that promoted mutual understanding and preserved shared heritage. These endeavors led to a growth of cultural connections.

Morocco's participation in the Abraham Accords exemplifies the multilayered nature of its foreign policy, striking a balance between expectations from outside and inside. The agreements provided Morocco major diplomatic leverage, particularly with regard to Western Sahara, and altered its role in the shifting geopolitical landscape of the Middle East and North Africa. After the United States acknowledged Morocco's sovereignty over the Western Sahara, a number of European countries, notably France, Spain, Germany, the Netherlands, and Portugal, declared their support for Morocco's plan for autonomy. Morocco's diplomatic attempts to secure international support for its proposal have been effective, as seen by the developing consensus in Europe, especially with the help of the United States. These changes demonstrate Morocco's competence at managing intricate international connections while striking a balance between its own interests and the stability of the rest of the region.

4.5. Evaluation of Morocco's Role in Regional Forums and Initiatives

Morocco has a proactive foreign policy that aims to promote balance, economic development, and collaboration throughout the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. This is demonstrated by its strategic participation in regional forums and projects. Morocco has made an effort to strengthen its diplomatic influence and tackle important regional issues by actively engaging in a number of international forums.

Aiming to promote regional integration and socioeconomic development among Mediterranean nations, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) was founded in 2008. The advancement of projects pertaining to renewable energy, economic development, and environmental sustainability has been greatly aided by Morocco. One prominent instance is Morocco's leadership of the Mediterranean Solar Plan, an initiative aimed at advancing renewable energy projects throughout the area. The goal of Morocco is to become a pioneer in renewable energy, especially solar and wind power, and this project fits with that goal. By supporting these programs, Morocco demonstrates its commitment to combating climate change and advancing sustainable development throughout the Mediterranean.

Morocco's 33-year absence from the African Union (AU) until its readmission in 2017 signaled a dramatic change in the country's regional policies. This move was driven by Morocco's desire to strengthen ties with African countries and play a more active role in addressing continental challenges. Following its reunification with the African Union, Morocco has taken part in a number of programs designed to advance economic integration, peace, and security throughout the continent. In the Sahel, for example, Morocco has participated in AU-led peacekeeping operations and waged war against extremist organizations and terrorism. Through this engagement, Morocco's ties

with important African countries are strengthened and regional stability is improved.

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) includes the Al-Quds Committee, which is led by King Mohammed VI and has the responsibility to protect Palestinian rights and preserve Islamic history in Jerusalem. The Palestinian cause and Morocco's larger diplomatic endeavors within the Muslim world are emphasized by the country's leadership in the Al-Quds Committee. According to the OIC (2020), the committee has supported the socioeconomic development of Palestinian communities and promoted a number of programs aimed at protecting Jerusalem's cultural and religious heritage. Moroccan roots to the Palestinian cause go back a long way, and this role helps it strike a balance between them. Morocco has also made an effort to deepen its economic connections with other West African nations by participating in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Morocco, although not being a member, has worked to strengthen ties with ECOWAS by encouraging investment and trade. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Morocco and ECOWAS in 2017 with the goal of strengthening collaboration in fields like renewable energy, agriculture, and infrastructure development. Morocco's aim to strengthen its economic clout in West Africa and promote regional economic unity is exemplified by this engagement.

Morocco has been a leading proponent of regional collaboration and collective action within the Arab League on important topics like the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, economic development, and counterterrorism. Morocco has taken an active role in the Arab League in favor of regional cooperation on important issues such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Morocco demonstrates its commitment to advancing peace and stability in the Arab world while coordinating regional policies with its national interests by supporting initiatives like the Arab Peace Initiative. In an effort to strike a balance between its long-standing alliances and new ventures, Morocco has frequently highlighted

pragmatic diplomacy and economic development in its voice within the Arab League.

Morocco has a number of ramifications from its active participation in these regional forums and initiatives. Firstly, it makes Morocco a more powerful player in regional affairs and increases its diplomatic leverage. Morocco can influence regional policies and promote its national interests by taking part in multilateral platforms. Morocco gains alliances and partnerships through this strategic engagement, which enhances its standing both domestically and globally.

Furthermore, Morocco's participation in these forums promotes economic development and cooperation, which is consistent with its overarching economic strategy. Morocco's economy is growing and becoming more diverse thanks to programs like the Mediterranean Solar Plan and alliances with ECOWAS. For Morocco to fund infrastructure projects, create employment opportunities, and carry out its development plans, these economic benefits are essential.

Moreover, Morocco's engagement in security and peacekeeping endeavors signifies its dedication to maintaining regional stability and combating terrorism. Morocco's alliances with important regional and international partners are strengthened by this proactive approach, which also tackles security threats. Morocco is essential to improving regional security because it fights terrorism and participates in peacekeeping operations.

Despite the fact that the Abraham Accords, signed in December 2020, significantly impacted Morocco's role in regional forums and initiatives, particularly concerning the Israel-Palestine question, it also had implications for its solidarity towards the Palestinian cause. Domestically, opinions on the "normalization" agreement were divided; some saw it as a practical move toward improved security and the economy, while others denounced it as a betrayal of the Palestinian cause. The Abraham Accords were viewed as a major change in Middle Eastern diplomacy on the international level, affecting the

region's power dynamics and alliances. The accords have allowed Morocco to leverage its improved relations with Israel to strengthen its position in international forums.

In summary, Morocco's strategic participation in regional forums and initiatives demonstrates a pragmatic approach to foreign policy. Morocco hopes to promote economic expansion, strengthen its diplomatic standing, and promote stability in the region by making the most of these platforms. Morocco now occupies a prominent position in regional diplomacy thanks to the Abraham Accords, which have allowed it to balance its established alliances with new ventures and take advantage of its improved ties with Israel to strengthen its standing in international fora. Understanding Morocco's policies toward Palestine and Israel—as well as its broader geopolitical strategies—requires a thorough engagement. However, Morocco's involvement in the Abraham Accords has also brought attention to the difficult balancing act that must be struck between furthering domestic goals and preserving support for the Palestinian cause, highlighting Morocco's technique in navigating challenging international relations.

CHAPTER 5: ALGERIA'S POLICY TOWARDS ISRAEL-PALESTINE QUESTION

5.1. Historical Overview of Algeria's Stance on the Israel-Palestine Question

Algeria's foreign policy has been significantly influenced by its anti-colonial position and backing of international liberation movements ever since it gained independence from France in 1962. This ideological base had profoundly impacted Algeria's stance on the Israel-Palestine issue where its early support for Palestinian self-determination was a direct result of its revolutionary ethos and its own recent struggle against colonial rule.

The Six-Day War in June 1967 was one of the turning points in Algeria's policy toward Israel and Palestine. Algeria strongly condemned Israeli attacks and violations following its occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem and demanded that Israeli forces leave those regions right away. Algeria's response echoed the sentiment of the Arab world at large, stressing resistance to Israeli expansionism and solidarity with the Palestinian people.

The Yom Kippur War in October 1973 solidified Algeria's opposition to Israel. Algeria actively supported the Arab cause abroad and supplied military assistance as part of the Arab coalition against Israel. Algeria's military support during the Yom Kippur War included the deployment of fighter jets and other military equipment to support the Egyptian and Syrian forces. This dedication showed Algeria's commitment to the Arab coalition opposing Israeli aggression as well as its larger plan to assist liberation movements around the world. Algeria also assumed a leading position within the Organization of African Unity (OAU) during this time, leveraging its influence to condemn Israeli occupation and promote Palestinian rights. Algeria continued to back Palestinian uprisings against Israeli occupation during the First Intifada (1987–1993).

Leaders from Algeria have consistently supported Palestinian rights in international forums and denounced actions carried out by Israel.

Algeria also played a particularly noteworthy role in the UN General Assembly throughout this period. Resolutions denouncing Israeli policies and advocating for the safety of Palestinian civilians were co-sponsored by Algeria. President Abdelaziz Bouteflika strongly criticized Israeli attacks during the Second Intifada (2000–2005), calling for an end to the occupation and Algeria's reaffirmation of support for the Palestinian cause. Among the first nations to acknowledge the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as the authorized representative of the Palestinian people was Algeria (Toumi, 2022). The PLO was acknowledged as the only authorized representative of the Palestinian people at the Rabat Arab League Summit in 1974, formalizing this acknowledgement. Algeria's pivotal role as a base for the PLO leadership demonstrated its dedication to the Palestinian cause and its eagerness to provide assistance to Palestinian resistance movements (Kokole, 1984). PLO being recognized gave it more legitimacy and international recognition, which was a major diplomatic win for the Palestinian cause.

Algeria's support for the Palestinian cause remained steady throughout the 1980s and 1990s. Algeria condemned the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982 and demanded international intervention to defend the Palestinian refugees residing in Lebanon. Algeria played a pivotal role in promoting Palestinian statehood when it hosted the Palestine National Council in 1988 and witnessed the proclamation of the Palestinian Declaration of Independence (Tropper, 2020).

Algeria persisted in supporting Palestinian rights in the 1990s in spite of the Oslo Accords. Algeria welcomed any progress towards peace, but it expressed doubts about Israel's intentions and stressed that the right of refugees to return and Palestinian self-determination are essential issues that need to be addressed in any just solution. Algeria has continuously backed Palestinian

demands for the immediate end of Israeli occupation and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state at the UN and other international forums.

Algeria maintained to take a supportive stance in the early 2000s. Algeria strongly denounced Israeli military attacks during the Second Intifada (2000–2005) and demanded international protection for Palestinian civilians. At the UN and other international gatherings, President Bouteflika used his position to draw attention to the suffering of the Palestinian people and to call on the international community to play a more active role in resolving the conflict.

Algeria had consistently supported the Palestinian cause with great vigor up until 2011. The nation denounced the military aggressions that led to civilian deaths and the Israeli blockade of Gaza, especially during the 2008–2009 Gaza War. Algeria reinforced international efforts to end the blockade and ensure the Palestinian people would receive necessities, as well as humanitarian aid to Gaza. It has emphasized human rights, self-determination, and anti-colonialism in its foreign policy towards the Israel-Palestine conflict. It has become a recognized voice in the international arena, pushing for a fair and long-lasting settlement to the conflict, thanks to its steadfast support for Palestinian rights, diplomatic advocacy, and humanitarian assistance.

5.2. Consistency and Change: Diplomatic Stance and Regional Influence (2011-2020)

Political developments within Algeria and regional upheavals influenced Algeria's foreign policy toward the Israel-Palestine conflict between 2011 and 2020 (Ghebouli, 2021). The Middle East and North Africa, including Algeria, were profoundly affected by the Arab Spring, which started in late 2010. Algeria faced significant domestic pressure for political and social reforms even though it did not endure the same degree of unrest as some of its neighbors. During this time, President Abdelaziz Bouteflika's administration promised and carried out political and economic reforms in an effort to stem public unrest (Ghebouli,

2021). Notable reforms included the lifting of the state of emergency in 2011. Algeria's foreign policy and method of addressing regional issues was impacted by the persistence of domestic unrest and calls for increased political freedoms in spite of these efforts (Petropoulos, 2022).

For the period of this time, Algeria consistently supported Palestinian self-determination. In 2012, during the Gaza conflict, Algeria denounced Israeli military actions and called for international intervention to protect Palestinian civilians and end the Gaza blockade. This reflected Algeria's support for Palestinian rights and opposition to Israeli policies. Algeria actively participated in regional and international forums as part of its diplomatic efforts. Algeria has continuously reinforced resolutions endorsing Palestinian sovereignty and denouncing Israeli actions at Arab League meetings. Algeria supported a resolution calling for more political and financial support for the Palestinian Authority at the 2012 Arab League summit. Supporting the 2012 UN General Assembly resolution that gave Palestine non-member observer state status and reaffirmed its commitment to Palestinian statehood, Algeria was a leading advocate for Palestinian rights in the UN (Middle East Monitor, 2022).

The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and other Palestinian organizations received support from Algeria. Algiers continued to be a vital hub for Palestinian diplomatic endeavors, offering refuge to Palestinian officials and streamlining their interactions with other countries. Algeria's moderate strategy, which included supporting Hamas in spite of its tense relationship with the PLO, was intended to promote Palestinian unity (Middle East Monitor, 2022). Algeria's dedication to a cohesive Palestinian front against Israeli occupation was demonstrated by this dual support. Algeria's relations with other Arab and non-Arab states were impacted by its foreign policy as well (Willis, 2023). Given their shared stance on Palestinian rights, the nation kept close ties with Egypt and Tunisia. However, Algeria's position occasionally conflicted with those of other countries seeking "normalization" with Israel or implementing pragmatic measures. Algeria had to adjust to a changing political environment

as a result of the Arab Spring, which included adjusting to the dynamics in Libya and Syria. Algeria's focus on Palestinian rights frequently put it at odds with the geopolitical currents in the region, especially as some Arab states started to take more accommodative positions with Israel.

Algeria's responses to major developments in the conflict between Israel and Palestine were characterized by vocal calls for international intervention and strict denunciations of Israeli actions (Ghebouli, 2023). During the 2014 Gaza conflict, Algeria condemned Israeli military operations and called for an immediate ceasefire, urging the international community to protect Palestinian civilians and hold Israel accountable. Algeria reiterated its support for East Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state in 2017 and expressed opposition to the US decision to officially recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital. These reactions demonstrated Algeria's strong adherence to its values in spite of shifting regional conditions. Government policy in Algeria was influenced by the country's strong pro-Palestinian public opinion (Cafiero, 2021). Public protests Israeli policies and in favor of Palestine were frequent, especially during times of increased hostilities. Algeria's foreign policy choices were also influenced by internal political forces, such as calls for political stability and reform. Taking a firm stand on the Israel-Palestine conflict supported government legitimacy in the face of internal difficulties and helped policies reflect popular opinion.

From 2011 until 2020, Algeria's foreign policy demonstrated a multidimensional strategy involving diplomatic advocacy, regional alliances, and reactions to significant developments in the Israel-Palestine conflict. With its ideological foundations in anti-colonialism and support for international liberation movements, the nation's commitment to Palestinian self-determination has remained unwavering. Algeria persisted in being a major player in the regional and worldwide arenas of Palestinian rights advocacy in spite of barriers from the outside world and internal turmoil.

Following the signing of the Abraham Accords in 2020, Algeria had to face the challenges of a changing regional landscape while navigating them. Algeria's foreign policy was put to the test by these agreements, which saw the "normalization" of relations between Israel and several Arab nations. The accords brought to light a dramatic change in the dynamics of the region, with nations like Morocco, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain moving closer to "normalization" with Israel (Hawari, 2022). This raises concerns about the future of Arab solidarity with the Palestinian cause. Identifying Algeria's developing role in regional politics and its unwavering commitment to Palestinian self-determination in the face of shifting geopolitical tides will require an understanding of the country's response to these accords and its subsequent actions from 2020 to 2024. Thus, the years 2020–2024 will examine Algeria's reaction to the Abraham Accords, changing regional dynamics, and its ongoing support of Palestinian cause in an ever-changing geopolitical environment.

5.3. Post-Abraham Accords: Algeria's Strategic Response (2020-2024)

Between 2020 and 2024, Algeria's foreign policy was impacted by the Abraham Accords, which enabled Israel to normalize relations with a number of Arab nations. Algeria faced major diplomatic and regional obstacles during this time due to its strong support of Palestinian rights and opposition to "normalization" with Israel.

The Abraham Accords were met with fierce opposition in Algeria. The agreements were met with criticism by Algerian officials who saw them as a betrayal of the Palestinian cause and a break from the Arab position calling for the creation of a Palestinian state and Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories. President Abdelmadjid Tebboune made it clear in September 2020 that Algeria would not "normalize" relations with Israel, emphasizing the

continuing significance of the Palestinian issue to Arab justice and solidarity (Palestine Chronicle, 2021).

Algeria intensified its diplomatic efforts to oppose the “normalization” trend during this time. Algeria maintained its opposition to “normalization” in the absence of an equitable resolution for Palestine by interacting with other Arab and non-Arab nations. At the Arab League, Algeria promoted a unified Arab position that prioritized Palestinian rights and opposed quick “normalization” with Israel. Representatives from Algeria, for instance, pushed for resolutions at the 2022 Arab League summit that denounced the Abraham Accords and reaffirmed support for Palestinian sovereignty (Riedel, 2022).

Algeria persisted in backing resolutions that demanded Palestinian statehood and denounced Israeli policies in international fora like the UN. In order to keep the international community centered on finding an equitable solution to the conflict, Algerian diplomats actively mobilized support for Palestinian initiatives. Algeria co-sponsored a resolution in the UN in 2021 that denounced Israeli settlement actions and demanded that peace negotiations resume on the basis of pre-1967 borders.

Algeria’s reaction to the Abraham Accords was greatly influenced by internal factors. “Normalization” with Israel was strongly opposed by the Algerian public, who were very pro-Palestinian. Algeria’s strong pro-Palestinian sentiment was reflected in public demonstrations and widespread condemnation of the Abraham Accords. Large-scale demonstrations against the accords and in support of Palestine broke out in December 2020 in Algiers and other major cities. Internal political factors also influenced the Algerian government’s opposition to “normalization”. President Tebboune sought to strengthen his legitimacy by coordinating foreign policy with popular opinion after taking office in the midst of a wave of domestic unrest and calls for political reform. The government aimed to garner public support and reaffirm its commitment to national principles by firmly opposing the Abraham Accords. The Hirak movement created pressure on the government to uphold a principled

stance on foreign policy matters, such as the Palestinian cause, since it began advocating for systemic political change in 2019. Algeria continued to give Palestinian organizations significant support during this period. Offering political support and facilitating international engagements, Algiers remained a crucial diplomatic hub for Palestinian leaders. Algeria emphasized coordination and unity in their resistance to Israeli policies, offering support to all the Palestinian groups. In order to bring the two groups together and present a unified front, for example, Algeria hosted discussions in 2021 between representatives of Fatah and Hamas.

Additionally, Algeria has been giving Palestinian institutions additional supplies and financial support. These organizations' ability to remain functioning and carry on advocating for statehood and self-determination was greatly aided by this support. Algeria's support of the Palestinian cause and its standing as a pioneer in the defense of Palestinian rights were highlighted by its role as benefactor. Algeria announced in 2022 that it would be providing the Palestinian Authority with much more funding in order to support its social services and administrative activities within the occupied territories.

A noteworthy escalation took place on October 7, 2023, from Gaza launched several attacks into Israel, prompting an extensive military response from Israel. Things quickly got out of hand, resulting in a great deal of casualties and extensive damage in Gaza. Algeria reacted with urgency and conviction. The Israeli military's actions were denounced by President Tebboune, who called them disproportionate and against international law. In order to protect Palestinian civilians, he demanded an immediate ceasefire and action from the international community (Sio, 2024).

Algeria not only strongly condemned the events of October 7, but also took proactive measures to assist the Palestinians impacted by them. In an effort to decrease civilian suffering, the Algerian government coordinated the delivery of emergency humanitarian aid, which included food, medicine, and cash support, to Gaza. Additionally, Algeria worked in accordance with global

humanitarian organizations to accelerate aid distribution and guarantee that those in need received it.

The foreign ministry of Algeria has repeatedly condemned the Israeli blockade and airstrikes on Gaza while emphasizing the humanitarian catastrophe brought on by the fighting (Asmar, 2023). Algerian diplomats were important in pressuring the UN to hold emergency sessions and pass resolutions that would tackle the violence and demand international protection for Palestinians. Along with organizing support for the Palestinian cause and calling for accountability for the violence, Algeria also collaborated with other Arab and Muslim-majority nations.

From 2020 to 2024, Algeria's response to the Abraham Accords and its broader regional dynamics was characterized by vehement opposition to "normalization" with Israel without a fair resolution for Palestine. Algeria maintained significant support for Palestinian organizations, stepped up diplomatic efforts, and cultivated relationships with like-minded states. Political and public opinion in Algeria had a big impact on the Algerian government's position, which strengthened its support for the rights and sovereignty of the Palestinian people. Algeria emphasized its position as a leading proponent of the Palestinian cause in the context of shifting regional alliances through outspoken denunciations, diplomatic moves, and ongoing support for Palestinian factions. Algeria's foreign policy faced both new opportunities and challenges as the geopolitical environment changed. The years 2020–2024 demonstrated Algeria's ability to withstand considerable changes in the region while still upholding its moral position on the Palestinian issue. As Algeria navigated the complexities of regional and international diplomacy in the years following these crucial accords, in particular, this steadfastness set the stage for its subsequent foreign policy actions and reactions in the post-Abraham Accords era.

5.4. Factors Influencing Algeria's Policy Decisions and Their Implications

Algeria's policy decisions regarding the Israel-Palestine conflict were shaped between 2011 and 2024 by a multitude of internal and external factors such as domestic political dynamics, regional and global influences, economic factors, and security issues and each of them played a unique role in determining the country's firm position.

Due to its strong military power and the National Liberation Front's (FLN) hegemony, Algeria has always oriented its foreign policy toward revolutionary and anti-colonial values (Stora, 2001). Naturally, this alignment resulted in strong support for the Palestinian cause. Algeria's position on Palestinian rights remained largely unchanged despite new nuances brought about by leadership changes, most notably the one from President Abdelaziz Bouteflika to President Abdelmadjid Tebboune. This position was supported by popular opinion, which was firmly based in a strong sense of solidarity and common colonization experiences. The government was under constant pressure from civil society organizations and public demonstrations to uphold a strong pro-Palestinian stance so that any changes to policy would be in line with popular opinion (Ghebouli, 2023).

Algeria's policies were significantly shaped by the regional environment, particularly in the aftermath of the Arab Spring. Algeria's approach to regional stability and reform was influenced by the major political upheaval brought about by the Arab Spring of 2011 in the Middle East and North Africa. Algeria's policy was also influenced by the Abraham Accords' "normalization" process, which allowed nations like the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco to forge diplomatic ties with Israel. Algeria's adamant opposition to these agreements demonstrated its dedication to upholding Palestinian rights and its refusal to restore diplomatic ties with Israel in the absence of a just settlement for Palestine.

Algeria's position on Palestinian rights frequently placed it at odds with nations that sought "normalization", but it also reinforced relations with countries like Tunisia and Syria. Additionally, major global players like China, Russia, the European Union, and the United States had an impact on Algeria's diplomatic objectives. Algeria faced unique difficulties as a result of the United States' role in mediating the Abraham Accords because it consistently opposed "normalization" without addressing Palestinian rights. Algeria balanced its pro-Palestinian stance with practical considerations in its diplomatic engagements with the European Union, where it emphasized regional stability and economic ties. Algeria's advocacy for Palestinian rights was strengthened by diplomatic supporting in international fora from Russia and China, two countries that have historically supported Palestinian self-determination (Johnson, 2024).

Algeria was able to uphold its ideological commitments and negotiate the challenging geopolitical setting as a result to these international relations. Economic factors were also significant in shaping Algeria's foreign policy. Algeria needed strong international alliances, especially with European nations, because its economy was mainly dependent on the export of hydrocarbons (Ghebouli, 2023). Algeria maintained relations with the European Union and other international markets by striking a balance between these economic interests and its pro-Palestinian stance, making sure that its foreign policy did not jeopardize economic stability. A cautious but firm approach resulted from weighing the potential political and ideological costs of normalizing relations with Israel against the potential economic benefits of doing so.

Security concerns were at the center of Algeria's policy decisions. A cautious approach to foreign alliances and regional cooperation was required due to the threat of terrorism and instability in the region, particularly in the Sahel. Algeria maintained durable military and intelligence capacities as part of its security strategy, frequently cooperating with other nations with comparable security issues. Algeria's resistance to the Abraham Accords makes sense from a security perspective, since "normalization" with Israel might negatively

impact regional security dynamics and alliances. Algeria guaranteed that its security interests were not jeopardized by retaining its strategic autonomy and regional influence by taking a firm stand on the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Algeria's policy choices concerning the Israel-Palestine conflict from 2011 to 2024 strengthened its position as a leader in the Arab League and demonstrated its dedication to Arab cooperation. This strategy solidified Algeria's position as a leading supporter of Palestinian rights and enhanced relations with like-minded nations. Algeria's position improved its standing as a proponent of human rights and self-determination abroad, and it mirrored popular sentiment at home, supporting political legitimacy in the face of demands for accountability and change.

Overall, Algeria's steadfast support for Palestinian rights has been shaped by internal political dynamics, regional developments, international influences, economic considerations, and security concerns, underscoring the country's important role in regional and global diplomacy.

5.5. Algeria's Role in the Arab League and Contributions to Conflict Resolution

In the Arab League, Algeria has been extremely important, especially in regard to the Israel-Palestine conflict. Algeria's persistent support of Palestinian rights within the League is indicative of its proactive approach. Algeria, for instance, has been a vocal supporter of resolutions endorsing Palestinian statehood and denouncing Israeli policies. Algeria has supported demands for Israel to leave occupied territories and for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital at a number of Arab League summits.

Support for the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative, is a call for an end to the conflict between Israel and Palestinians and the "normalization" of relations between Israel and the entire Arab world, in exchange for an Israeli withdrawal

from the areas gained by Israel during the 1967 Six Day War and a “fair agreement” to the issue of Palestinian refugees, is one way Algeria is willing to contribute to the resolution of the issue (Middle East Monitor, 2023; Mekelberg & Shapland, 2018). Additionally, Algeria has promoted unity amongst Palestinian factions such as Fatah and Hamas in order to strengthen the Palestinian position in peace negotiations (Al Jazeera, 2022). This was particularly important in the context of the intra-Palestinian reconciliation negotiations, which sought to forge a united front.

Algeria has also cooperated with other Arab nations in the Arab League by organizing coordinated actions with nations like Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Jordan to uphold a common position on Palestinian rights. Joint actions and policy recommendations resulting from this collaboration maintain the Palestinian issue at the forefront of regional diplomacy.

Algeria’s actions within the Arab League have a major effect on the dynamics of the region and ensure that the Palestinian issue will always be a top priority. Algeria’s steadfast advocacy of Palestinian rights has enhanced its position as a leader and underscored the significance of Arab consensus. Algeria demonstrated the efficacy of united diplomatic endeavors in furthering the Palestinian cause and fostering regional stability by means of proactive engagement and collaboration. During the 2022 Arab League Summit in Algiers, the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the Palestinian cause, underlining its importance to Arab nations and supporting efforts to make Palestine a full member of the UN. This summit stressed Algeria’s important role in ensuring that the Arab League takes a common position on Palestinian rights (Africa News, 2022).

In conclusion, Algeria’s strategic participation in regional diplomacy is demonstrated by its membership in the Arab League and its contributions to conflict resolution from 2011 to 2024. Algeria has played a crucial role in influencing regional dynamics and advancing a fair settlement to the Israel-Palestine conflict through supporting important resolutions, promoting

Palestinian unity, and working with other Arab states. Algeria's leadership in the Arab world and its dedication to securing a just and sustainable peace for the Palestinian people are highlighted by this engagement.



CHAPTER 6: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF MOROCCO AND ALGERIA'S POLICIES

6.1. Comparative Framework: Assessing Policies and Strategies

The goals, motivations, strategic implementations, results, and international responses of Morocco and Algeria with regard to the Israel-Palestine conflict must all be thoroughly examined in order to evaluate their policies and strategies. This analysis will provide readers with a thorough understanding of each country's foreign policy by highlighting both the similarities and differences in their respective approaches.

Although Morocco and Algeria have different national interests, they are fundamentally committed to promoting Palestinian rights and self-determination. Morocco seeks to strike a balance between its strategic national interests, especially with regard to the Western Sahara issue, and its public support for Palestinian rights. Through the Abraham Accords, Morocco attempted to gain U.S. recognition of its sovereignty over the Western Sahara by normalizing relations with Israel.

Morocco's international standing was enhanced by the increased political support and investments from the United States that followed its recognition. On the other hand, Algeria's goal has been to maintain its ideological and historical ties to the Palestinian cause, which are based on its revolutionary and anti-colonial ideals. Algeria continuously opposes Israeli policies and promotes Palestinian self-determination in an effort to establish its leadership in the Arab world. This position is consistent with Algeria's ultimate objective of advancing Arab unity and stability in the face of alleged neo-colonial influences.

Morocco has strategically chosen a pragmatic stance, establishing a balance between its concealed collaboration with Israel and its public support for Palestine. This involves exchanging intelligence, conducting business

through middlemen, and utilizing the Moroccan Jewish community to engage in cultural diplomacy. For instance, it has reportedly been reported that Moroccan and Israeli intelligence services have worked together on counterterrorism initiatives in North Africa to address shared security concerns. Morocco's strategy of aligning with U.S. interests to gain significant diplomatic and economic benefits while publicly maintaining support for Palestinian rights is best illustrated by the Abraham Accords. Algeria's approach, on the other hand, is more ideologically motivated; it emphasizes diplomatically supporting Palestinian organizations and opposing Israel's "normalization" without addressing the rights and statehood of the Palestinian people.

Algeria is a proactive member of the Arab League and works to promote unity among the Palestinian people by mediating disputes between groups like Hamas and Fatah. Algeria's principled position is demonstrated by its outspoken criticism of Israeli actions, as demonstrated in the 2014 Gaza conflict when Algeria called for international intervention and backed UN resolutions denouncing Israel.

Each country has seen notably different results from these strategies. Morocco's policies have improved international recognition of its claims to the Western Sahara, enhanced relations with the United States, and benefited the country's economy. For example, Morocco saw an increase in Israeli tourism after the Abraham Accords, as well as greater economic cooperation in the fields of agriculture and technology. On the other hand, protests in Rabat and other cities revealed public dissatisfaction over the apparent preference of national interests over solidarity with Palestine.

Domestically, though, Morocco has faced criticism for what is seen as concessions made on the Palestinian issue; Rabat and other city protests have been used as a means for expressing public dissatisfaction with the idea that national interests have taken priority over solidarity with Palestine. On the other hand, the results show Algeria's unwavering commitment to Palestinian rights and its significant contribution to preserving Arab unity.

Diverse responses have also been received by other nations regarding the policies of both countries. The United States and certain other Western nations have praised Morocco's practical approach and praised the country for its participation in the Abraham Accords. For instance, the United States, eager to "normalize" various countries' engagement with Israel, praised Morocco as a model of regional cohesion and cooperation. Indeed, "normalization" is so important for the US that it has shown its support for Morocco on the critical issue of Western Sahara. Nonetheless, Morocco's process of "normalization" with Israel, an occupying state, also means turning a blind eye to violations of Palestinian rights and to occupation and war crimes. Naturally, it has drawn the reaction of the Arab community. Morocco's diplomatic ties with other Arab nations and pro-Palestinian organizations have been complicated due to the fact that Morocco's "normalization" represents a betrayal of the Palestinian cause. Supporters of Palestinian rights and those who oppose restoring ties without a just resolution have come to Algeria in response to its uncompromising position.

Algeria's steadfast position on the Palestinian issue has underscored its commitment to an unwavering attitude against "normalization" with Israel, reinforcing its role as a dedicated advocate for Palestinian rights. This unwavering dedication has solidified Algeria's reputation as a consistent and principled supporter of the Palestinian cause on the international stage. Although Algeria's strategy has caused differing degrees of diplomatic challenges with nations that are restoring ties with Israel, such as Bahrain and the UAE, its principled approach nonetheless highlights its leadership and steadfast support for Palestinian rights.

Although Morocco did not experience the regime changes that characterized the Arab Spring in other Arab countries, its position to the Israel-Palestine conflict has altered substantially, notably after its involvement in the Abraham Accords. This action indicates a pragmatic adjustment of Morocco's foreign policy, in line with national interests, particularly the Western Sahara issue. In contrast, Algeria, which underwent political upheaval after the Arab

Spring, maintained a consistent and unwavering attitude on Palestine, rooted in its revolutionary and anti-colonial history. This raises an important question: why did Algeria, despite internal political changes, maintain its unwavering support for Palestine, while Morocco, without undergoing a shift in government, turned toward “normalization” with Israel? A vital factor is the unique challenges and strategic calculations that each country faced in the post-Arab Spring era.

While Morocco continued to publicly advocate for Palestinian rights, it prioritized its national goal, notably obtaining US recognition of its sovereignty over Western Sahara. The Abraham Accords provided Morocco with obvious diplomatic and economic gains that outweighed any potential outrage among certain parts of the society. This change indicates Morocco’s prioritizing on national benefits, while maintaining a verbal commitment to Palestinian solidarity. In contrast, Algeria’s steadfast support for Palestine reveals a deeper ideological commitment that transcends political shifts. Algeria’s foreign policy, which is rooted in its anti-colonial struggle, has constantly stressed solidarity with Palestine as part of a larger position against colonialism and foreign dominance. Algeria’s refusal to change its position demonstrates its commitment to resist external pressures and establish its independence while maintaining its leadership role in the Arab world. Despite internal political developments, Algeria’s persistent support for Palestinian rights underlines the strength of its fundamental convictions.

Finally, Morocco’s shift to “normalization” reflects a regional trend in which Arab governments increasingly emphasize national interests over collective solidarity for the Palestinian cause. Algeria’s persistent attitude, on the other hand, demonstrates the importance of firmly held ideological convictions in dictating foreign policy, even in the face of considerable political upheaval. This gap demonstrates how domestic interests, regional dynamics, and historical legacies impact both nations’ foreign policy paths.

In summary, the policies and approaches adopted by Morocco and Algeria in relation to the Israel-Palestine conflict are influenced by different priorities that arise from their respective national interests and regional roles. By using its relationship with Israel to further its geopolitical and economic goals, Morocco adopts a pragmatic approach that aims to balance competing interests. Algeria has demonstrated its ideological commitment to the Palestinian cause through its principled stance, which emphasizes resistance and solidarity against attempts at “normalization” that fail to address the demands of the Palestinian people. These differences emphasize the complex interplay between national objectives and regional dynamics in shaping the foreign policies of both countries.

6.2. Analysis of Similarities and Differences in Their Approaches

Defending the rights of Palestinians and advocating for a Palestinian state are core commitments for both Algeria and Morocco, but their approaches and actions in the Israel-Palestine conflict diverge significantly. Algeria’s strong commitment to the Palestinian cause is demonstrated by the fact that it has continuously adopted a robust and moral stance in favor of a Palestinian state and refused “normalization” with Israel. This position is evident in Algeria’s active role in global organizations such as the Arab League and the United Nations, where Algeria supports Palestinian sovereignty and condemns Israeli policies deemed to violate Palestinian rights.

In contrast, Morocco has adopted a more pragmatic policy, while verbally stating that it recognizes Palestinian rights. Morocco’s approach involves engaging with Israel through diplomatic and economic channels, seeking to balance its support for Palestine with broader geopolitical and economic goals. With the US-led Ibrahim Accords, Morocco gained several geopolitical and economic advantages, including US recognition of Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara. By taking this action, Morocco has been able

to uphold its public support for Palestinian rights while also enhancing its reputation internationally and promoting economic growth. For example, Moroccan intelligence services have worked with Israeli counterparts to address concerns about mutual security in North Africa through counterterrorism efforts. Furthermore, Morocco has fostered economic and cultural ties that serve its national interests by taking advantage of the Jewish diaspora particularly in Israel and the United States.

Algeria, on the other hand, takes a more principled and unchanging stance on the Israel-Palestine conflict because of its revolutionary and anti-colonial ideology. Algeria has been firmly committed to the ideology of supporting Palestinian self-determination since gaining independence in 1962. This commitment stems from Algeria's own historical struggle against colonialism. Algeria has unwaveringly refused to allow Israel to return to normalcy without making major concessions regarding the rights and statehood of the Palestinian people. Due to its strong ideological stance, Algeria actively supports Palestinian unity efforts and provides the PLO and other Palestinian organizations with diplomatic support.

Algeria's strong opposition to Israeli actions, as demonstrated by its calls for international intervention and support of UN resolutions denouncing Israel during the Gaza conflict in 2014, underscores the country's consistent stance in favor of regional solidarity and resistance to alleged neo-colonial influences.

Internationally, Morocco's strategy is applauded by Western nations but received criticism in the Arab world for alleged compromises on Palestinian rights. Although it occasionally causes diplomatic friction with states pursuing "normalization", Algeria's stance is supported by entities that are pro-Palestinian.

In conclusion, Algeria's position emphasizes solidarity with Palestine and resistance to "normalization" that ignores Palestinian demands, while Morocco's strategy strikes a balance between strategic benefits from Israel and

public support for Palestine. In the Israel-Palestine conflict, these strategies emphasize the interaction between regional dynamics and national goals.

6.3. Evaluation of the Impact of Policy Shifts on Regional Dynamics and Peace Efforts

The regional dynamics and peace efforts have been impacted by the policy shifts that Morocco and Algeria have adopted regarding the Israel-Palestine conflict, shaping alliances and impacting the geopolitical landscape in North Africa and the broader Middle East.

The Abraham Accords, which recognized Morocco's sovereignty over the Western Sahara, included a strategic support for Morocco's decision to normalize relations with Israel. With increased trade, investment, and technological cooperation with Israel, particularly in the areas of agriculture and water management, this "normalization" has had a positive effect on Morocco's economy. Furthermore, by exchanging intelligence and having access to cutting-edge Israeli defense technologies, Morocco has strengthened its security capabilities. However, Algeria sees this policy as a threat to regional solidarity, which has led to increased regional tensions and domestic opposition.

Conversely, Algeria has steadfastly backed the Palestinian cause and declined to restore diplomatic ties with Israel. Algeria's anti-colonialist ideology and revolutionary history serve as the foundation for this position. Algeria's anti-Western stance has been reinforced by its unwavering support for Palestinian factions and its alliances with countries like Iran and Russia, which has also contributed to some degree of regional isolation. Algeria's stance enjoys broad domestic support, which bolsters both the legitimacy of the government and national cohesion. Due to its "normalization" with Israel, perceptions of bias limit Morocco's ability to be an effective mediator in peace efforts, despite its pragmatic approach positioning it as such. On the other hand, Algeria's firm

support for Palestinian rights boosts its stature but hinders its ability to influence larger peace initiatives that call for more inclusive participation.

In conclusion, the divergent policies of Algeria and Morocco are a reflection of their distinct national interests and geopolitical strategies, which in turn have complicated effects on peace efforts and the dynamics of the region. Algeria maintains its ideological commitments but lessens its diplomatic flexibility, while Morocco benefits economically and militarily but faces criticism and tension in the region. In resolving the Israel-Palestine conflict, the acts of both countries demonstrate the intricate interaction of national interests, regional alliances, and ideological commitments.

CHAPTER 7: CONCLUSION

This thesis compares and contrasts Morocco and Algeria's approaches to the Israel-Palestine conflict, highlighting their goals, strategies, and outcomes from the Arab Spring onward. In light of strategic considerations, such as acquiring U.S. recognition of Moroccan sovereignty over the Western Sahara, the analysis indicates that Morocco recently altered its policies and building relations with Israel through the Abraham Accords. Although it caused internal criticism and tensions between advancing national interests and supporting Palestinian rights, this has led to increased economic cooperation and security collaboration with Israel.

On the other hand, Algeria has continually supported Palestinian self-determination and refused to normalize relations with Israel without making major concessions, maintaining a principled position grounded in its ideological commitment to anti-colonialism and solidarity with liberation movements. While it has restricted Algeria's diplomatic and economic ties with states that have normalized relations with Israel, this strategy has enhanced Algeria's leadership in the Arab League and its power in international fora.

The comparative analysis illustrates Algerian and Moroccan policy divergences along with convergences. Although both countries have a passion to advancing Palestinian rights, their strategies rely on different national agendas. While Algeria's principled stance emphasizes regional leadership and ideological solidarity, preserving firm opposition to "normalization" without addressing fundamental Palestinian demands, Morocco's pragmatic approach intends to strike a balance between support for Palestine and greater geopolitical benefits.

This thesis contributes to the understanding of the Israel-Palestine issue and the foreign policies of Morocco and Algeria by providing a nuanced comparative analysis. It examines how Morocco's policy, despite its historical

support for the rights of Palestinians, has evolved to prioritize strategic national interests, especially in connection to the Western Sahara conflict. This change reflects the abandonment of the Palestinian cause to Morocco's pragmatic considerations, in contrast to Algeria's unwavering commitment to the Palestinian state. In a similar way, the analysis of Algeria's principled position demonstrates how historical events and ideological commitments influence foreign policy choices. By providing insights into the complexities of regional and international engagements, this research introduces to the existing wealth of knowledge on Middle Eastern diplomacy.

Given its recent "normalization" of relations with Israel, Morocco may find itself in a complex situation where it has to balance addressing Palestinian issues with navigating its new diplomatic ties. Morocco's reliability to act as an advocate for Palestinian rights is constrained by its recent policy shifts. It is crucial for Morocco to view its support for the Palestinian cause as a fundamental aspect of its foreign policy, rather than allowing it to be overshadowed by its efforts to improve relations with Israel.

Algeria's ongoing opposition against "normalization" without significant concessions from Israel might promote unity among Palestinian factions and reinforce advocacy for Palestinian rights within international platforms. The international community maintains to play an essential role in promoting a comprehensive peace process that recognizes Palestinian desires, including the creation of a state for the Palestinian people based on the 1967 borders. It could also be reiterated that Palestinian territories should receive humanitarian and economic support, with an emphasis on infrastructure, healthcare, education, and economic development.

The comparative analysis revealed a number of topics that require more investigation. These include comparative studies involving other Arab nations that have normalized relations with Israel, the long-term effects of "normalization" agreements on regional stability and the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, the influence of non-state actors like NGOs and civil society

organizations, the role of domestic public opinion in influencing foreign policy decisions regarding the Israel-Palestine question, the impact of international law and human rights advocacy on the policies of Morocco and Algeria, and the potential roles of Morocco and Algeria as mediators in the conflict. Future research can build upon the findings of this thesis to enhance the understanding of the complex interplay between regional dynamics, national interests, and international relations in the Middle East.



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