

Analysis of United States Involvement in the Palestine and Israel Conflicts

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to outline the United States national interest in recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital, as well as the consequences of doing so. The qualitative research approach was applied. The majority of the data was gathered through book research, observation, documentation, and internet data searches. According to the study's findings, the United States' recognition is an endeavor to serve its country's national interests, which has influenced ties between the two nations, which have grown closer since the recognition.

Keywords: *Jerusalem, Foreign Policy, National Interest.*

INTRODUCTION

The announcement of The Balfour Declaration is arguably one of the primary sources of the ongoing confrontation between the Israeli military and Palestinian citizens, which is still escalating nowadays. This conflict has been going on since 1948. As a global security body, the United Nations has been and continues to endeavor to mediate the conflict between Palestine and Israel. The United Nations has sought to bring peace between two nations through several resolutions. Resolutions No. 181 (1947), No. 2421 (1967), No. 338 (1973), and Security Council Resolution No. 694 are among them (1991). In addition, the UN has organized conferences such as the Madrid Conference (1991) and the Oslo Negotiations (1993), commonly known as the Ghaza–Ariha Negotiations (Rahmatullah, 2015). With this declaration siding with Israel at the end of 2017, The President of the United States, Donald Trump announced the relocation of the US Embassy (Embassy) from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, which escalated the situation even more (Ruhiat & Akim, 2020).

Michael C. Hudson describes the analysis of the United States' interests in the Middle East region, namely oil and Israel, in his book *The United States in the Middle East*. The United States' dependence on oil affects the United States' economic resources, as oil is a resource needed to produce products such as weapons, fuel, and the production of goods, among other things (Oktaviani, 2017). The Historic City of Jerusalem is a walled old city located in East Jerusalem, occupying a total area of 09 square kilometers within the city of Jerusalem (3.5 sq mi). The Muslim Section, the Christian Section, the Jewish Section, and the Christian Section are the four areas that make up Jerusalem's ancient city district. Part Jewish, part Christian (which is also the majority), and part Armenian (which is also the majority of the population Christian). However, as the third party in the issue, the Trump administration made a contentious announcement in December 2017 by declaring Jerusalem as Israel's capital. (Talim, 2018).

The majority of the international community reacted negatively to Trump's statement and behavior because it was seen as a provocative move that terminated efforts to create peace between Israel and Palestine as envisaged under international law. "It is time to officially recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital," Trump stated in his speech. He also stated that Israel has the right to select the location of its capital (Usher, 2018). President Donald Trump of the United States has launched Peace to Prosperity: A Vision to Improve the Lives of Palestinians and Israelis, an Israeli-Palestinian peace proposal. On Tuesday, January 28, 2020, in the White House, Donald Trump announced his plan, which was accompanied by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (Deutsche Welle (DW), 2020).

Stein (2012) proposes two criteria for choosing a choice. To begin, decision-makers must be given facts and context information on the ground so that they can calculate and forecast the effects of each alternative. Second, a choice should be made to maximize the objectives while reducing the risks. With all of the strong national and international reactions, it is clear that Trump's decision did not satisfy the requirements. The purpose of this research is to determine what the United States' national interest is in recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital, the advantages, the United States' efforts in supporting Israel as Israel's capital, and the impact when Jerusalem is recognized as Israel's capital. It is hoped that it will provide additional library collections and insight to the author, as well as make a small contribution to the study of International Relations, Foreign Policy, and International Security Studies, and help to understand the magnitude of the impact that the declaration of Jerusalem as Israel's capital will have.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Several variables, of course, impact Trump's unilateral claim to Jerusalem (reasons). To clarify these reasons, the researcher claims that the constructivism paradigm is the best paradigm to adopt when attempting to answer research issues. Realism emphasizes power and control, Liberalism emphasizes collaboration, while Constructivism takes a more nuanced approach. International relations are essentially cross-national exchanges between international actors to attain certain objectives. International relations theory is the study of international relations from a theoretical perspective, with the goal of better understanding and analyzing global occurrences (Jackson & Sorensen, 2012). In the international system, countries will prioritize doing what they are excellent at physically over doing what they are meant to do ethically (Perwita & Yani, 2005). It may be inferred that the goal of international relations is to serve national interests that are met from the outside through international cooperation.

The United States interest in Israel under Donald Trump is one example, as does the study phenomena presented by the researcher in this paper. Bilateral relations are cooperation between the two parties in which each party has an interest in its national fulfillment. Similar to the phenomenon that the researcher is currently examining, the relationship between the United States and Israel must have the interest to be achieved, one of the ways is the cooperation that they have been doing for a long time (Oktaviani, 2017). The study of a country's external relations and actions is known as foreign policy analysis. Objectives, tactics, measures, techniques, instructions, directives, and agreements are all part of foreign policy. Governments can work with other nations, international organizations, and non-governmental groups to conduct international

relations (Jackson & Sorensen, 2012). Foreign policy analysis is the study of the process of developing a country's foreign policy while taking into consideration both international and domestic politics.

RESEARCH METHOD

Qualitative research, according to researchers, is a study that may be used. This technique was chosen because it is consistent with the study's goal, which is to apply a constructivist viewpoint to explain Donald Trump's unilateral claim as President of the United States of America against the City of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Qualitative research, according to researchers, is a study that may be applied. The study's goal is to explain Donald Trump's unilateral claim as President of the United States of America against Jerusalem as Israel's capital using a constructivist approach, hence this technique was chosen. The journal articles used as data sources are closely related to the themes of the Israel-Palestine conflict, the history of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, terrorism, the United States, US government policies under Trump's leadership, and the role of the US and the United Nations in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The article on this subject was chosen because it is extremely pertinent to the study being undertaken. As a result, researchers might widen their horizons on the subject of the study by referring to these papers.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Donald Trump, with his 'First America' strategy, highlighted a deeper partnership with Israel by recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital on Wednesday, December 6, 2017. This choice looks to have the effect of causing instability in the Middle East area and disrupting the process. Israel-Palestine peace treaty. Every country has national goals and interests that must be met, and to do so, every country forms cooperation with other countries. To comprehend international conduct, we must first comprehend the idea of national interest. Experts say that "the state acts in its national interest," since the national interest is a country's policy formula toward other countries.

According to constructivism, the state's interests are established based on the state's identity. The identity of the state and the interests of the state then influence the state's behavior in conducting contacts. To understand the causes of a country's actions, it is vital to first determine the country's identity. Wendt believes that the behavior of a state in the international realm might reveal the identity of the state. Wendt further contends that the state's interests are all derived from its identity (Alexandrov, 2003). Recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital breaches UN General Assembly Resolution 181 of 1947, which states that Jerusalem is a territory under international jurisdiction with its own legal and political status (separated body). This resolution also calls for the creation of an Arab state (Palestine) and a Jewish state (Israel), both of which will have autonomous status (UN document, 'Chapter 12: The Status of Jerusalem':9).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on historical review, it can be found that under the British Mandate, Jerusalem was the capital of Palestine. But at the end of the mandate, both Arabs and Jews tried to get this holy city. The response generated by the United Nations in seeing

this problem is to leave the city open to all religious followers in the region (Islam, Christianity and Judaism) by internationalizing it. However, this resolution gives Israel de facto control over the Jerusalem area. It is also based on the Six Day war in 1967, when Israeli forces took over East Jerusalem. Israel then extended the reach of its national law to all cities of the occupied Jerusalem territory, ignoring its internationalization by the United Nations under resolution 181. The status of the City of Jerusalem was targeted for becoming the full capital of Israel in 1999 in "The Jerusalem Embassy Act (1995) " This unilateral decision by Israel is considered a violation of UN resolutions and international law, the decision has been criticized (Hussain, 2021).

On December 21, 2017, an Emergency Session of the United Nations General Assembly was organized in response to Trump's announcement about the relocation of the US Embassy and the acknowledgement of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. During the trial, the US received the results that 128 nations were taken for the recognition of the City of Jerusalem. There are however countries that support the US intervention. Honduras, Palau, Togo, Guatemala, Nauru, Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands are among the nine nations supported by the United States. The nine countries backed the US decision to relocate the embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The US administration under Donald Trump himself has escalated the geopolitics tensions of the region by issuing this decision. On February 23, Trump stated that the US diplomatic mission would be moved to the Arnona Consular Service site in Jerusalem from the embassy in Tel Aviv (Hussain, 2021). It was formerly the American Consulate General in Jerusalem. The US Embassy was officially moved to Jerusalem on May 14, 2018.

Several Middle Eastern countries strongly condemned this action. King Salman of Saudi Arabia stressed that this action by the US government was a "very real provocation" for Muslims. This is also supported by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi who is concerned about the deterioration of peace negotiations in the region. The Jordanian government also issued a statement that the US had violated the values of international law and the UN Charter. This was followed by other Middle Eastern countries such as Lebanon, Iran and Qatar who condemned the move (Taylor, 2017). With US political support, Israel can launch military aggression on Palestinian territory with impunity. Israel appears to be confident and to be sending a diplomatic message that it has a powerful military force behind it. Israel is brazened and open in carrying out missile assaults on Palestinian territory, demonstrating its confidence in its military superiority. This move appears to show little concern for a country's human rights. With US political support, Israel can launch military aggression on Palestinian territory with impunity. Israel appears to be confident and to be sending a diplomatic message that it has a powerful military force behind it. Israel is brazened and open in carrying out missile assaults on Palestinian territory, demonstrating its confidence in its military superiority. This move appears to show little concern for a country's human rights (Ruhiat & Akim, 2020).

Moving forward from the same goal of eliminating terrorists, Israel and the United States appear to be seeking grounds to combat Palestine, evict Palestinians, and conduct numerous other humanitarian abuses. Furthermore, the United States and Israel have the same viewpoint on Palestinian combatants such as Hamas and the Intifada, both of which are regarded as international terrorist groups. From this vantage point, the United States unequivocally endorses Israel's actions thus far, although many of them

violate international law. The same motive is also influencing Donald Trump's decision-making, intending to eradicate Palestine since it is regarded as a danger to global security. Furthermore, the United States and Israel seek to demonstrate their existence to reinforce their control over other nations. As a result, the US considers Israel to be a "friend" while considering Palestine to be an "enemy" since it is seen as a danger to the world community.

In contrast to neo-realism, which focuses exclusively on a country's interests when analyzing the conduct of a state or state actor, the constructivism paradigm attempts to incorporate components of ideology, cultural identity, and intentions. The identification aspect may be considered while assessing Trump's decision to relocate the US Embassy to Jerusalem and establish a unilateral claim to Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Of course, there is a conflict over identity in this subject between two ideologies, notably Islam and Judaism. Differences in identity make Donald Trump, as president of the United States, skeptical of Islam, even fearful of it and viewing it as a danger (Islamophobia). Trump's anti-Islam sentiment has been evident since the start of his presidency when he implemented new immigration rules under the guise of protecting US national security from terrorist attacks (Chomsky, 2016). However, the approach appears to be based on distrust and fear of Islam. Because the issue of terrorism cannot be linked to religion, there has been no consensus on a definitive definition of terrorism up to this point. Because the prohibition only applies to citizens of select nations, policies implemented under the Trump administration are considered discriminatory. Citizens from Muslim-majority nations such as Iraq, Iran, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, Libya, and Sudan are exempt from the ban.

The analysis is focused on the identification factor of Donald Trump's speech in response to the Israeli region's standing with the Jews. This partisanship is not without cause; the first is the growth of Islamophobia in the United States, which began many years ago and peaked after the 9/11 attacks. Islamophobia can associate Islam with terrorism and bloodshed. Donald Trump's claim to the status of Jerusalem is alleged to have been contributed by prominent Jewish & Islamic haters in Donald Trump's cabinet such as Michael T. Flynn, US National Security adviser, Mike Pompeo, CIA director, James Mattis, US Secretary of Defense, and other influential officials. In US policymaking, clearly in every utterance, they express hatred against Islam. So based on the identity element, of course, the US (Trump cabinet) considers Israel as a 'friend' because it has the same identity as Jews and haters of Islam. In the meanwhile, Palestine is regarded as an 'opponent' due to ideological disagreements, particularly the Arabs, who have been characterized as terrorists, a term that connotes violence.

Israel has been in control of the Palestinian territory for the last seven decades. The violence in the area disproportionately affects Palestinian citizens. Inside the occupied Palestinian lands, Israel continues to construct portions of walls and fences, develop settlements, and impose harsh restrictions on Palestinian mobility with roughly 600 roadblocks and checkpoints. The ideological part of Israel's ambition to make Palestine its territory is also present. They believe that Palestine is the promised land or the country promised to their people, as it is written in their holy book. However, it is not perfect if it is utilized as the foundation for actions of dispossession and control of Palestinian territory that are carried out with violence regularly.

THE UNITED STATES INTERESTS IN ISRAEL

There are three main things in this connection with the recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, the first is the United States' hegemony in the Middle East, and the second is an interest organization in the United States government known as AIPAC (American-Israel Public Affairs Committee). The first is the United States' predominance in the Middle East. The Middle East is a strategically important region because it is crossed by commerce, land, and sea routes, and it is situated on three continents, namely Asia, Africa, and Europe, in addition to its vast oil reserves. While at the White House, Trump stated that America is facing a very grave global challenge and that Russia's influence and China's ascent are feared to destabilize America's liberal principles. Of course, it is simpler to maintain allies in contested areas, such as the Middle East, where Israel is located. Furthermore, the Middle East region has abundant mineral content, including copper, coal, iron, and oil, which are the region's most valuable assets. Oil is the primary fuel and the most important raw material in industrial civilization, and it is estimated that 2/3 of the world's oil reserves are stored in this region (Ruslin, 1970).

The second strong bilateral relations have strengthened significant American-Israeli cooperation, including military assistance, arms sales, joint exercises, and information exchange. There is also regular American-Israeli cooperation in developing military technology, which has led Israel to become one of the world's largest arms exporters. According to data from the International Trade Commission, the United States, and Israel are the 24th and 24th largest trading partners, respectively. The United States and Israel signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in 1985, removing all customs tariffs between the two countries. The third interest is AIPAC, a pro-Israel lobbying group in the US government. AIPAC has a strong goal to establish a Jewish state (Israel) in Palestine via influencing foreign policy, particularly in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, in different ways, both financially and politically, and plays a large role in lobbying and influencing foreign policymakers. America, the United States of.

The facts stated above demonstrate that Israel's security and sustainability have an impact on the United States' existence. This is consistent with the theory of national interests, which states that achieving national interests can be accomplished through cooperation, such as in the United States and Israel, where both have the same value, America to maintain its hegemony in the Middle East and Israel as a strategic asset of America and Israel for its survival and security and the fulfillment of American interests. The analysis is focused on the identification factor of Donald Trump's speech because of his support for Jews in the Israeli territory.

CONCLUSION

Based on the description above, it can be determined that the US considers Israel to be a 'friend' since they have something in common, however, Palestine is regarded as an 'opponent' by the US because there are no commonalities and even clashes in terms of identity and interests. The constructivist viewpoint justifies the Trump administration's unilateral claim to Jerusalem as Israel's capital by combining components of identity and interest. The analysis is focused on the identification factor of Donald Trump's speech because of his support for Jews in the Israeli territory.

This is due to attempts to further the United States' interests in the Middle East. The first national interest of the United States in the Middle East is hegemony. The Middle East is recognized as a strategic territory because it is crossed by trade routes and is located on three continents, namely Asia, Africa, and Europe, and includes enormous natural resources. It is believed that in the Middle East, ideals or ideological understandings antithetical to the principles of liberalism possessed by the United States, Russian engagement in numerous crises in the Middle East, and the emergence of China attempting to penetrate the African area would emerge. The recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital elicited a variety of reactions, including the emergence of a new conflict in the Gaza Strip following the relocation of the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, as well as reactions from the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the United Nations (UN), which exacerbated the conflict over the dispute. The city is becoming increasingly confusing.

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