

Exploring the Limits of Transgression and Violence within the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

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ABSTRACT

Transgression and violence, when intertwined, challenge societal norms and provoke moral dilemmas within democratic frameworks. This is particularly evident in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a significant case study for this research. Transgression, breaking or exceeding societal norms, can manifest through civil disobedience or defiant behavior to challenge oppressive systems. Violence, conversely, refers to the deliberate use of physical force or authority to cause harm or destruction. The escalation from transgression to violence occurs when individuals or groups resort to aggression to restore order or assert power. This shift is particularly evident in protests or riots triggered by social injustices or political oppression. Such events can intensify due to radical democratic possibilities and the influence of technology. Digital platforms, with their crucial role in shaping public opinion, mobilizing individuals, and strengthening collective fears about social change, significantly contribute to the escalation of conflict. They also facilitate the production of panic and misinformation, complicating the landscape of public discourse and protest. In the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, deep-rooted historical and political complexities mark the intersection of transgression and violence. Territorial disputes and competing national narratives drive both Israeli and Palestinian actions. Resistance to the Israeli occupation often involves transgressive acts such as protests or violent resistance, while Israeli security measures, perceived as transgressions by Palestinians, exacerbate tensions and contribute to ongoing violence.

KEYWORDS

Transgression; violence; Israel; Palestine; conflict; middle east

INTRODUCTION

Transgression essentially represents breaching or exceeding established societal norms, boundaries, or rules (Tileagă, 2012). It embodies a challenge to conventional beliefs, values, or standards, often pushing the limits of what is acceptable within a particular social or political context. Conversely, violence involves the application of physical force or authority to inflict harm or damage (Bufacchi, 2005). This distinction is critical in understanding the complex relationship between transgression and violence, particularly within democratic societies where such actions often intersect.

Transgression within a democratic framework is challenging or violating societal norms and boundaries. These norms, rooted in legal, moral, social, or cultural conventions, provide the structural integrity of democratic societies (Poulos, 2010). Transgressive behavior can manifest in various forms, including disobedience, rebellion, or deviance, and it can be motivated by a range of factors such as social injustice, political oppression, or cultural shifts. However, not all transgressions lead to violence. Many forms of

transgression, such as civil disobedience, protests, or artistic expression, can be conducted without physical harm. These acts often aim to highlight systemic issues, provoke discussion, or drive social change without necessarily crossing the line into violence.

Violence is characterized by the deliberate use of physical force or power to cause harm, injury, or destruction. It encompasses various forms, including physical violence (assaults, warfare), verbal violence (hate speech, threats), psychological violence (intimidation, coercion), and structural violence (systemic inequalities, discrimination). Unlike transgression, which may not involve direct harm, violence inherently entails the intentional infliction of pain or damage. It is often employed as a means of control, coercion, or retaliation and can be perpetrated by individuals, groups, institutions, or states to achieve specific objectives or maintain dominance. Davies, Pettersson, and Öberg (2023) found that non-state conflicts have increased in recent decades.

The interplay between transgression and violence becomes particularly complex when transgressive acts escalate into violent behavior. Such escalation can occur when individuals or groups perceive their actions as necessary to restore order, assert power, or address perceived injustices. Protests or riots, often sparked by social or political grievances, can quickly transform from peaceful demonstrations into violent confrontations with authorities. Various factors, including the intensity of the grievance, the response of law enforcement, and the broader socio-political context, can drive this transformation. Pavlović (2023) identifies activism as one of the risk factors for engagement in political violence and argues that political violence is more damaging than non-activists. Piazza (2023) raises an important question: Is political violence and support for political violence more prevalent in democratic societies with high levels of affective polarization? He concludes that democracies with higher levels of affective partisan political polarization are likelier to experience frequent political violence.

In contemporary society, technological advancements and digital platforms play a significant role in amplifying and shaping the dynamics of transgression and violence. Social media and digital communications have transformed how individuals and groups organize, mobilize, and express dissent. While technology offers new opportunities for political engagement and social activism, it also intensifies collective fears about social change, sharpens social divisions, and facilitates the spread of misinformation. These digital platforms can serve as both targets and instruments for panic production, vilification, and manipulation of public opinion. The rapid dissemination of information and the anonymity afforded by digital spaces can escalate tensions and contribute to the spread of transgressive and violent behavior (Walsh, 2020).

The role of technology in shaping public attitudes and behaviors is further underscored by the arguments that public perceptions are influenced by broader cultural narratives surrounding science and technology. Social media, in particular, has altered how people interact and communicate, facilitating the organization of protests, activism, and social movements. However, this same technology can also incite violence, spread propaganda, and exacerbate social divisions. In addressing the intersection of transgression and violence, policymakers face significant challenges in determining the legitimate boundaries of public demonstrations and appropriate responses to transgressive actions. While acts of transgressive resistance are crucial for challenging oppressive systems and advocating for social change, they can also lead to violent outcomes that complicate the response of law enforcement and legal systems. The moral and ethical dilemmas surrounding transgressive violence necessitate a nuanced understanding of the motivations behind such actions and the broader implications for societal stability and justice. Finlay (2023) argues that the dirty hands problem is a more frequent feature of politics rather than an extraordinary

matter occurring only in 'supreme' emergencies.

The research maintains that the complexity of transgression and violence is further exemplified in the context of ongoing conflicts, such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In this context, transgression and violence are deeply intertwined with territorial disputes, competing national narratives, and historical grievances. Acts of violence, including terrorism, military operations, and settler violence, occur within this framework, with both Israelis and Palestinians engaging in transgressive behavior from their respective perspectives. The combination of Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories, the expansion of settlements, and the implementation of security measures contribute to the intricate dynamics of transgression and violence in the region.

RESEARCH METHODS

The paper serves several functions within the broader discourse on transgression and violence, especially in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Its primary objectives include enhancing theoretical understanding, informing practical strategies, and contributing to scholarly and policy discussions. Its importance lies in its ability to address critical issues related to the interplay between transgression and violence, particularly within the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and contribute to the study of political conflicts. By exploring the relationship between transgression and violence, it explores how violations of norms can escalate into violent conflicts. Defining what constitutes a transgression, including violations such as breaches of legal norms, moral codes, or social expectations, discusses how these breaches are perceived within different contexts and their potential to disrupt societal order. The paper then defines violence, differentiating between physical violence, psychological harm, and structural violence. It establishes how violence can manifest in various forms, from individual acts of aggression to large-scale conflicts. This approach provides an understanding of how violations of norms can lead to violent conflicts and offers insights into mitigating and managing these dynamics.

The paper outlines the systematic approach to exploring the complex relationship between transgression and violence, particularly in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This exploration requires a multi-faceted approach, integrating qualitative and quantitative research methods, historical analysis, and critical theoretical frameworks. The goal is to comprehensively understand how transgressive actions can escalate into violence and how these dynamics manifest in and influence conflict scenarios.

Several theoretical frameworks guide the study in analyzing the relationship between transgression and violence. Social constructivism explores how social norms and identities are constructed and how they influence behaviors and perceptions. This framework analyzes how societal perceptions of transgression and violence are constructed and influence individuals' responses and actions. It aims to provide a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the relationship between transgression and violence. It offers valuable insights into how these dynamics operate within the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and informs potential conflict resolution and peacebuilding strategies.

The research views the complex interplay of historical traumas, collective memory, and national identity that shapes the emotional landscape of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Historical events, such as the Holocaust and ongoing conflicts, profoundly impact the psychological and emotional well-being of individuals and communities. The narratives of victimhood, suffering, and resilience are deeply embedded in the collective memory of both Israelis and Palestinians, influencing their perceptions of each other and fueling cycles of violence and mistrust.

Because of these contrasted factors, the relationship between transgression and violence

is multifaceted and complex. While transgression involves challenging societal norms and boundaries, violence entails the use of force to inflict harm. Various factors, including technological advancements, socio-political contexts, and historical grievances, influence these concepts' interplay. Understanding the dynamics of transgression and violence requires a comprehensive examination of the underlying causes, manifestations, and consequences that are active in the Middle East.

Theoretical Analysis

Transgression refers to breaking or exceeding societal norms, boundaries, or rules. It often involves challenging established norms, beliefs, or values. Transgression refers to breaching or surpassing societal norms and boundaries within a democratic framework, while violence consists of the utilization of physical force or authority to inflict harm or destruction. Acts of violence can be interpreted as violations of societal norms and values, posing a moral dilemma for citizens when transgressions escalate into violent actions. Such escalation may arise when individuals or groups react aggressively to restore order or assert power, as seen in protests or riots triggered by social injustices or political oppression, which can escalate into clashes with authorities.

The analysis of transgression involves radical democratic possibilities, and the modern technology options intensify collective fear about social change, sharpen social distance, offering new opportunities for vilifying outsiders, distorting communications, manipulating public opinion, and mobilizing embittered individuals. Digital platforms and communications constitute significant targets, facilitators, and instruments of panic production. The conceptual implications of these findings are considered (Walsh, 2020). Social media has changed how people interact and communicate, facilitating political transgression by organizing protests, activism, and social revolution. Technology and transgression are intricately linked. Technological advancements often push the boundaries of what is considered normal, acceptable, or even possible in society, leading to complex and multifaceted impacts across various domains.

Transgression and violence are distinct concepts, although they can sometimes overlap or be interconnected depending on the context. Transgression involves violating or exceeding societal norms and boundaries in a democratic society, while violence refers to the use of physical force or power to cause harm or damage. Acts of violence can be seen as a form of transgression against societal norms and values, and the moral dilemma of citizens is when acts of transgression can escalate into violence. This can occur when individuals or groups respond aggressively to restore order or assert power, including protests or riots sparked by social injustices or political oppression that may escalate into violent confrontations with authorities. Transgression can be embedded within social structures and institutions, leading to systemic violence involving economic inequality or political disagreements.

Transgression refers to violating or exceeding societal norms, boundaries, or rules. It involves going beyond established limits or conventions, whether moral, legal, social, or cultural. Transgressive behavior can take various forms, including disobedience, rebellion, defiance, or deviance from established norms or expectations. However, transgression is not inherently violent since it can involve non-violent actions such as civil disobedience, protests, artistic expression, or challenging oppressive systems through alternative means. While transgression may provoke reactions or sanctions from authorities or society, it does not necessarily involve physical harm or aggression toward others. This means that while transgression involves the violation of societal norms or boundaries, violence entails the use of physical force or power to cause harm. Explains that there are two ways of thinking

about violence: in terms of an act of force or terms of a violation. He argues that those who define violence as an intentional act of excessive or destructive force endorse a narrow conception of violence. In contrast, those who see violence in terms of a violation of rights champion a broader conception of violence (Bufacchi, 2005).

Policymakers find difficulties in determining the legitimate parameters of public demonstrations and appropriate responses to transgressive violence due to the forms, methods, and aims of the new wave of protests. For example, protests in some semi-authoritarian countries have empowered opposition forces in ways that have at least started to rebalance lopsided political systems (Carothers & Youngs, 2015). Violence involves the use of physical force or power to cause harm, injury, damage, or destruction to people, animals, or property. Violence can take many forms, including physical violence (such as assault, warfare, or domestic violence), verbal violence (such as threats or hate speech), psychological violence (such as intimidation or coercion), or structural violence (such as systemic inequalities or discrimination). Unlike transgression, violence is inherently harmful and often involves the intentional infliction of pain, suffering, or injury on others. Violence can be used as a means of control, coercion, domination, or retaliation, and it may be employed by individuals, groups, institutions, or states to achieve specific goals or objectives (Tarrow, 2011).

Society typically responds to such violence through legal, political, or social channels, employing law enforcement, judicial mechanisms, and community interventions to address transgressive behavior and prevent further violence. For demonstrators, acts of transgressive resistance are essential for challenging oppressive systems and achieving liberation, as evident in movements for social justice and civil rights. Decolonization agendas involve acts of transgression against unjust laws or discriminatory practices. Transgressive behavior and violence may have psychological underpinnings, such as the pursuit of power, vengeance, or control, necessitating an understanding of these motivations to address and prevent violent transgressions effectively.

The central dilemma of policymakers is when and where the legitimate boundaries of public demonstrations are and what the proper responses to transgressive violence are. Society often responds to transgressive violence through legal, political, or social means, with law enforcement, judicial systems, and community interventions that can address transgressive behavior and prevent further violence. For demonstrators, transgressive acts of resistance are necessary for challenging oppressive systems and achieving liberation, such as movements for social justice and civil rights. According to their agenda, decolonization involves acts of transgression against unjust laws or discriminatory practices. Transgressive behavior and violence can also have psychological dimensions, such as the desire for power, revenge, or control.

Transgression and Violence in a Democracy

Navigating transgression and violence in a democratic framework requires a careful balance between upholding democratic principles and ensuring public safety. It involves a commitment to the rule of law, protecting individual rights, addressing root causes, and fostering active democratic engagement. By implementing fair and effective legal and institutional responses, addressing social inequalities, and supporting both victims and offenders, democracies can better manage the challenges posed by transgression and violence while preserving their core values (Goodwin & Jasper, 2009). Democracies are governed by the rule of law, which ensures that laws are applied consistently and fairly. Legal systems must uphold due process, protect rights, and ensure accountability when addressing transgression and violence. Police and other law enforcement agencies are

crucial in preventing and responding to violence and transgression. They must operate within legal and ethical boundaries, respecting individual rights while maintaining public safety. Courts adjudicate cases involving transgression and violence, ensuring that justice is served while safeguarding the rights of both victims and defendants. The judiciary must balance the need for punishment with the principles of fairness and rehabilitation (Gordon, 2023).

Democracies protect individual freedoms such as freedom of speech, assembly, and privacy. However, when these rights are used to justify or incite violence, a balance must be struck between maintaining public safety and respecting constitutional rights (Clemens, 2013). The intersection of transgression and violence in Israel is deeply entrenched in the complexities of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and internal social and political dynamics and is profoundly complex and rooted in the multifaceted dynamics of the conflict (Fleitman & Abu Rabia, 2010). Transgression and violence related to the conflict involve territorial disputes, competing national narratives, and clashes over resources and rights. Acts of violence, including terrorism, military operations, and settler violence, occur within this context, with both Israelis and Palestinians engaging in transgressive behavior from their respective viewpoints. The Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories, including the West Bank and Gaza Strip, is a central aspect of the conflict. Resistance to the occupation often takes the form of transgressive acts, including protests, demonstrations, and sometimes violent resistance, such as attacks against Israeli military personnel or settlers. Settlements are Israeli civilian communities, overwhelmingly inhabited by Jews in territories acquired by Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War that are not under Israeli sovereignty, and the expansion of Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territories is viewed by many as a transgression of international law and a barrier to peace. At the same time, settler violence against Palestinians, including attacks on individuals, property destruction, and land appropriation, exacerbates tensions and contributes to cycles of violence. As part of the conflict, Israel implements security measures, including checkpoints, barriers, and military operations, to combat terrorism and protect its citizens. While these measures are intended to prevent violence, they are also perceived by Palestinians as forms of transgression, limiting freedom of movement and exacerbating socioeconomic hardships (Arieli, 2024).

Internal conflicts and tensions within Israeli society include political polarization, religious extremism, and socioeconomic disparities. Instances of violence, such as hate crimes targeting minority groups or clashes between different segments of society, highlight these tensions. Legal and political controversies surrounding issues such as land ownership, citizenship rights, and the status of Jerusalem contribute to the complexity of transgression and violence in Israel. Disputes over legal frameworks, policies, and interpretations of historical and religious narratives often fuel tensions and conflicts. Mbandlwa (2024) explains that despite being one of the most protracted and complex disputes in the modern era, efforts continue to promote peace, dialogue, and reconciliation. These efforts involve grassroots initiatives, diplomatic negotiations, and international mediation to address the root causes of transgression and violence and foster mutual understanding and coexistence.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been a permanent sore in the world as the intersection of transgression and violence is intricately complex and rooted in the multifaceted dynamics of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (Ishamali & Okol, (2023). While Israel implements security measures, such as checkpoints, barriers, and military operations, to combat terrorism and safeguard its citizens, these measures are perceived by Palestinians as transgressions, constraining freedom of movement and exacerbating socioeconomic

challenges. Transgression and violence in the conflict encompass territorial disputes, competing national narratives, and conflicts over resources and rights. Within this context, acts of violence, including terrorism, military operations, and settler violence, occur, with both Israelis and Palestinians engaging in transgressive actions from their respective perspectives. The Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories, including the West Bank and Gaza Strip, lies at the heart of the conflict. Resistance to the occupation often manifests as transgressive acts, such as protests, demonstrations, and, at times, violent resistance, such as attacks on Israeli military personnel or settlers. The expansion of Israeli settlements in Palestinian territories is widely viewed as a transgression of international law and a hindrance to peace efforts. Settler violence against Palestinians, encompassing attacks on individuals, property destruction, and land appropriation, exacerbates tensions and perpetuates cycles of violence (Golsnka, 2023).

The historical background reveals a long-standing dispute rooted in conflicting national narratives, territorial claims, and religious sentiments (Mbandlwa, 2024). The interplay between effects, emotions, and memory in Israel is deeply intertwined with the country's complex historical, political, and social context. Israel's history is marked by collective trauma, including the Holocaust and conflicts with neighboring Arab states. The memory of these traumatic events shapes national identity and consciousness. The Holocaust holds a central place in Israeli collective memory, influencing perceptions of vulnerability, resilience, and the need for self-preservation. Israel has a rich culture of memorialization and commemoration, with numerous monuments, museums, and ceremonies dedicated to honoring victims of war, terrorism, and persecution. These sites and rituals serve as spaces for collective mourning, reflection, and remembrance, evoking strong emotions of grief, solidarity, and patriotism.

Complex Emotional Landscape

Israel's relations with the Arab world underwent dramatic changes during its seventy-five years of existence - from hostility and enmity to peacemaking and reconciliation when the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain signed peace and normalization agreements that came to be known as the Abraham Accords. A few weeks later, Morocco and Sudan joined the accords. Nevertheless, the two-state solution – Israel and a Palestinian state living side by side in peace – remained a remote possibility, as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict remained a source of intense emotional and affective experiences for both Israelis and Palestinians (Zisser, 2023). The narratives of victimhood, suffering, and resilience are deeply ingrained in collective memory and shape perceptions of the Other. Emotions such as fear, anger, and sadness often permeate public discourse and interpersonal relations, fueling cycles of violence and mistrust. Emotions play a significant role in shaping Israeli nationalism and identity. Pride, loyalty, and patriotism are commonly expressed sentiments, particularly in commemorating historical milestones, celebrating national achievements, or asserting territorial claims (Ben-Meir, 2023).

The ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict has profound psychological effects on individuals and communities, leading to high levels of stress, anxiety, and trauma. Emotions such as fear, helplessness, and anger are commonly experienced by Israelis living in areas affected by violence or security threats. Mental health services and support networks are crucial in addressing these emotional challenges and promoting resilience. Israel's intersection of effects, emotions, and memory reflects the complex and multifaceted nature of its history, society, and identity. As Talal (2022) explained, understanding emotional landscapes requires recognizing the interplay between collective traumas, nationalist narratives, interpersonal dynamics, religious beliefs, and the ongoing

realities of conflict and resilience. Gordon (2023) further argues that human rights organizations have exposed egregious abuses carried out by states across the globe, while other national and transnational civil society actors have waged war on these human rights organizations to shield rights-abusive states from accountability. Amir (2024) emphasizes the eruption of conflict between Israel and Hamas in October 2023, marking a significant escalation in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Yakubu and Oyigebe (2024) identify multifaceted problems resulting from the Israel-Hamas war, including human and infrastructure tolls and economic and diplomatic ramifications. According to Komesaroff (2024), the conflict in Gaza is a catastrophic breakdown in the possibility of ethical dialogue in the region. The actions on both sides have revealed a dissolution of ethical restraints, with unimaginably cruel attacks on civilians, murder of children, destruction of health facilities, and denial of basic needs such as water, food, and shelter.

While the Palestinian national ethos was formed based on both primordialism and territorial perceptions (Hitman, 2022), the interaction among impacts, emotions, and recollections in Israel is linked to the nation's historical, political, and social past, which is characterized by the shared trauma of the Holocaust and conflicts with neighboring Arab nations (Nets-Zehngut, 2012). These traumatic occurrences profoundly shape the country's national identity and consciousness. The Holocaust occupies a central position in Israel's collective memory, influencing perceptions of vulnerability, resilience, and the imperative for self-preservation. Israel boasts a vibrant culture of remembrance and homage, featuring a plethora of monuments, museums, and ceremonies dedicated to honoring victims of warfare, terrorism, and persecution. These memorials and observances serve as forums for communal grieving, introspection, and tribute, evoking potent emotions of sorrow, solidarity, and patriotism. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict generates profound emotional and affective responses for both Israelis and Palestinians. Narratives of victimization, hardship, and endurance are deeply entrenched in collective memory, with emotions such as fear, anger, and sorrow frequently permeating public discourse and interpersonal interactions, contributing to cycles of violence and distrust. Emotions play a pivotal role in shaping Israeli nationalism and identity, with expressions of pride, allegiance, and patriotism commonly observed, particularly during the acknowledgment of historical milestones, the celebration of national achievements, or the affirmation of territorial claims. Within this environment, societal rifts, political polarization, and cultural disparities also give rise to tensions, disputes, and emotional turmoil. Religion and spirituality wield substantial influence over emotional experiences and practices in Israel. For many Israelis, Judaism is a source of solace, guidance, and purpose, providing rituals, prayers, and communal spaces for expressing emotions, pursuing solace, and connecting with the divine. At the same time, religious discrepancies and tensions between secular and religious factions shape the country's emotional landscapes and social dynamics.

Holocaust collective memory has been described as traumatic on both an individual and collective level (Andriani, 2014). Israel's history is marked by profound collective traumas, such as the Holocaust, which profoundly impacted the Jewish population. The memory of these traumas shapes national identity and consciousness, influencing how Israelis perceive themselves and their place in the world. These historical traumas evoke strong emotions of grief, resilience, and determination, which continue to impact Israeli society and politics. The ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict and conflicts with neighboring Arab states have resulted in continued violence, loss of life, and displacement. These conflicts create an environment of fear, anger, and uncertainty, which profoundly affect the emotions and psychological well-being of individuals and communities in Israel. The memory of past conflicts and the anticipation of future ones contribute to a sense of collective anxiety and

trauma (Lazar et al., 2008).

Israel is a diverse society with various religious, ethnic, and cultural groups. While many Israelis feel a strong sense of national unity and solidarity, there are also deep-seated divisions and tensions, particularly between Jewish and Arab citizens, religious and secular communities, and different political factions. These social dynamics influence how emotions are expressed and experienced within Israeli society, shaping interpersonal relations and social cohesion. Memory plays a central role in shaping individual and collective identity in Israel. The memory of historical events, such as the establishment of the state of Israel, the wars of independence, and the struggle for survival, informs Israeli national narratives and identity. These memories are often passed down through generations and contribute to a sense of shared history and belonging among Israelis (Fierke, 2006). Political leaders and institutions in Israel often invoke historical events and collective memories to legitimize policies and actions. The framing of political discourse in terms of historical narratives and emotional appeals influences public opinion and attitudes toward current events and conflicts. The interplay between effects, emotions, and memory in Israel is deeply rooted in the country's complex historical, political, and social context. Historical traumas, ongoing conflicts, social divisions, collective memories, and political dynamics all shape the emotional landscape of Israeli society and influence individual and collective behaviors and attitudes.

Discussion: The Constant Threat of Violence

Israel exists in a region characterized by ongoing political conflict and security concerns, particularly the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and tensions with neighboring Arab states. The constant threat of violence and the memory of past conflicts contribute to a sense of insecurity and anxiety among Israelis, affecting their emotional well-being and behaviors. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is rooted in competing claims to land and resources in the region, particularly regarding the establishment and expansion of the state of Israel and the rights of Palestinians to self-determination. These territorial disputes have fueled tensions and led to violent confrontations between Israelis and Palestinians. Both Israelis and Palestinians have legitimate security concerns stemming from past conflicts, acts of terrorism, and military interventions. The fear of attacks and the desire to protect their populations have often led to military responses and defensive measures, exacerbating tensions and perpetuating cycles of violence.

Historical traumas, such as the displacement of Palestinians during the establishment of Israel in 1948 (known as the Nakba) and subsequent wars, continue to shape the collective memory and national identities of Israelis and Palestinians. These traumas fuel grievances, resentment, and a desire for justice or revenge, contributing to the perpetuation of conflict. Deep-seated political, religious, and ideological differences between the parties involved fuel the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Issues such as the status of Jerusalem, the right of return for Palestinian refugees, and the future borders of Israel and a potential Palestinian state remain highly contentious, making resolution difficult (Bashir & Goldberg, 2018). The involvement of neighboring Arab states, as well as regional and international actors, has often exacerbated tensions and prolonged the conflict. External support for militant groups, diplomatic interventions, and geopolitical rivalries have all contributed to perpetuating violence and instability in the region. Despite numerous attempts to negotiate peace agreements and achieve a two-state solution, distrust, preconditions, and a lack of political will on both sides have often been hindered. The failure to reach a comprehensive and lasting resolution to the conflict has perpetuated the cycle of violence and prevented the realization of peace and stability for Israelis and Palestinians alike. The ongoing Israeli-

Palestinian conflict and conflicts with neighboring Arab states have resulted in continued violence, loss of life, and displacement due to a combination of territorial disputes, security concerns, historical traumas, political differences, external influences, and the failure of peace initiatives. Addressing these root causes and finding mutually acceptable solutions remains essential for achieving sustainable regional peace.

Achieving peace in the Middle East is a complex and multifaceted challenge that requires addressing various underlying issues and engaging with multiple stakeholders. Engaging in direct talks between Israeli and Palestinian leaders, as well as other relevant parties, is essential for reaching a comprehensive and lasting peace agreement. Negotiations should address core issues such as borders, security, refugees, Jerusalem, and the recognition of national rights. The international community broadly supports a two-state solution, which envisions the establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian state alongside Israel, based on the pre-1967 borders with mutually agreed-upon land swaps. This solution addresses the aspirations of both Israelis and Palestinians for self-determination and statehood. Additionally, security and trust-building measures are required. Implementing confidence-building measures and security arrangements to ensure the safety and well-being of both Israelis and Palestinians is crucial for building trust and creating an environment conducive to peace. This may include demilitarization, border security, and the disarmament of militant groups. Israeli settlement expansion in the occupied Palestinian territories is a significant obstacle to peace and violates international law. Halting and reversing settlement construction is necessary to create conditions for a viable Palestinian state and preserve the possibility of a two-state solution. Addressing Palestinians' humanitarian needs, including access to essential services, infrastructure, and economic opportunities, fosters stability and promotes peace. Supporting economic development and improving living conditions in Gaza and the West Bank can help alleviate poverty and reduce tensions.

Engaging regional actors, including Arab states and other stakeholders, to promote peace and stability in the Middle East can contribute to building consensus and addressing everyday challenges. Regional initiatives, such as the Arab Peace Initiative, which offers normalization of relations with Israel in exchange for a comprehensive peace agreement, could serve as a basis for broader regional cooperation. The international community's involvement, including the United Nations, the United States, the European Union, and regional organizations, is essential for facilitating peace negotiations, providing assistance, and monitoring compliance with agreements. International support and mediation can help bridge gaps between the parties and overcome obstacles to peace.

For policymakers and international actors, navigating the line between transgression and violence requires a nuanced understanding of conflict's immediate and underlying causes. Effective responses must balance the need for security and order with respect for legitimate forms of protest and resistance. This balance is critical in preventing the escalation of transgressive actions into violence and in fostering environments where dialogue and peaceful resolution can take place. Efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and similar disputes must address several core issues. First, genuine negotiations must tackle the fundamental grievances and aspirations of all parties involved, focusing on territorial disputes, security concerns, and the recognition of national rights. The international community's support for a two-state solution is one potential framework for achieving a balanced resolution, though its implementation remains fraught with challenges. Second, security and trust-building measures are essential in creating conditions conducive to peace. This includes addressing the root causes of violence, such as economic disparities and political exclusion, and fostering mutual understanding and cooperation between

conflicting parties. Addressing these issues also requires acknowledging and addressing the emotional and psychological dimensions of the conflict. The interplay between trauma, memory, and identity shapes how individuals and communities respond to transgressive actions and violence. Promoting peace must incorporate strategies for healing and reconciliation, recognizing the profound impact of collective memories and emotions on current behaviors and attitudes.

Encouraging dialogue, mutual understanding, and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians at the grassroots level is vital for building bridges and fostering peaceful coexistence. People-to-people initiatives, educational programs, and cultural exchanges can promote empathy, tolerance, and respect for diversity. Achieving peace in the Middle East requires a concerted and sustained effort by all parties involved and the international community's commitment to support and facilitate the peace process. While the path to peace may be challenging, the benefits of resolving conflicts and promoting stability in the region are significant and worth pursuing.

CONCLUSION

The complex interplay between transgression and violence, particularly within the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, reveals profound insights into how societies grapple with boundary-breaking actions and their subsequent escalations. At the heart of this dynamic lies a fundamental tension between challenging societal norms and the potential for such challenges to devolve into violence. This tension is especially poignant in scenarios marked by prolonged conflict, territorial disputes, and entrenched political divisions, as seen in Israel and the broader Middle East.

Transgression, by its very nature, involves exceeding or violating societal norms and boundaries. It encompasses a range of behaviors that challenge established conventions, whether they be moral, legal, social, or cultural. In democratic societies, transgression can manifest in various forms, including civil disobedience, protests, and artistic expression. Such actions often serve as catalysts for social change, pushing the boundaries of what is acceptable and prompting critical discussions about justice and equity. However, pushing these boundaries can provoke strong reactions from established powers or societal structures, leading to escalations that blur the line between transgression and violence.

Violence, on the other hand, is inherently harmful and involves the deliberate use of physical force or power to inflict damage or suffering. It can manifest in numerous forms, from physical assaults and military actions to structural violence embedded in systemic inequalities. Unlike transgression, which might be non-violent and can even be constructive, violence directly harms individuals or communities, often perpetuating cycles of fear, retribution, and further conflict. The intersection of transgression and violence is particularly problematic when acts of resistance or defiance escalate into violent confrontations, as seen in protests that turn into riots or in ongoing conflicts where resistance against oppression becomes violent retaliation.

In the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the intersection of transgression and violence is deeply intertwined with the region's historical, political, and social complexities. The conflict is a continuous struggle over territorial claims, national identities, and political sovereignty. Both Israelis and Palestinians engage in actions that can be classified as transgressive from their respective perspectives. For Israelis, security measures such as checkpoints and military operations are framed as necessary responses to security threats. However, Palestinians perceive them as transgressive acts that infringe upon their freedom and exacerbate socio-economic hardships. Similarly, acts of resistance by Palestinians, such as protests and violent confrontations, are seen as transgressive

responses to occupation and perceived injustices but often lead to violent repercussions.

The role of technology and media further complicates this dynamic. Digital platforms amplify transgressive actions and facilitate their spread, making it easier for individuals and groups to mobilize, organize, and communicate. Social media, in particular, has transformed how transgression is perceived and managed, offering new avenues for activism but also for incitement and violence. The rapid dissemination of information can intensify collective fears and prejudices, creating a feedback loop that perpetuates tension and conflict.

The historical memory of trauma, particularly from the Holocaust and various conflicts, profoundly influences national identity and responses to transgressive actions. This collective memory shapes how Israelis perceive threats and manage security concerns, often leading to heightened vulnerability and a solid response to perceived threats. At the same time, the ongoing conflict with Palestinians and the broader Arab world perpetuates a cycle of violence that is both a reaction to and a driver of transgressive behaviors. The conflict's deep-rooted nature means that efforts to address these issues must grapple with the immediate violence and the historical and psychological contexts that fuel it.

As explained in this research, the relationship between transgression and violence is complex and multifaceted, particularly in contexts marked by deep-seated conflict and historical grievances. While transgression involves challenging societal norms and can be a catalyst for positive change, its potential to escalate into violence presents significant challenges. Understanding this dynamic requires a comprehensive approach considering immediate actions and the broader historical, emotional, and social contexts. In the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, addressing these issues demands not only political and security solutions but also a deeper engagement with the emotional and psychological dimensions that underpin the ongoing struggle. Only through a nuanced and empathetic approach can meaningful progress toward peace and reconciliation be achieved, paving the way for a more just and harmonious future.

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