

## **ABSTRACT**

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The Palestinian Israeli conflict is one of the oldest and still on-going form of colonization that has drawn attention of many political actors in the world. Arabs, Muslim nations and Christians have their own historical contacts with the Palestinian land and its people; on the other hand, the Jews along with the old and new colonial powers have their own interest and aspirations in supporting Israel in this struggle. The characteristics of Israeli occupation as an evacuative and replacing endeavour have had its influence on choice of the means of struggle. Moreover, they impacted the Palestinian domestic arena. Many Palestinian organizations were formed in order to participate in the struggle for liberation. They initiated the struggle from the lands of the surrounding and neighbouring states and highly depending on the Arabs' and Muslim nations' financial aids. In some political circumstances, some of the states like in Syria and Iraq built their own organizations. In other cases, the international political systems have had their impacts on the Palestinians liberation movements, like the role of the communism in the region. Moreover, other regimes like Jordan have its own agenda and its interventions launched with the direct support of some Palestinian groups.

Hamas is one of the Palestinian organizations, similar to the normal pattern of other organizations mentioned above, and yet influencing the Palestinian political panorama

more effectively than others. This organization was set about on the 7th December, 1987 within Palestine. Through its short existence, it had succeeded in gaining power inside and outside of Palestine land. Hamas has influenced all the aspects of the struggle and peace agenda. Other pre-dating Palestinian organizations could not gain what Hamas had achieved within a very short period. So, it is worth to follow up on this organization to understand the course of events.

This study is an attempt to deal with the search of theoretical and the organisational context of Hamas movement. It is also investigating the details of the political and diplomatic approaches and methods adopted by Hamas, their responses and dimensions of Hamas and the Palestinian political arena mainly. The study analyzes the influences of the political environment and its reflections on Hamas. It also includes the various challenges that Hamas has faced and the impact of these changes on Hamas and the Palestinian struggle.

The study aims to study the Palestinian struggle against the Israeli occupation and its responses to Palestinians, the region and the world. It examines the mutual influences of the Palestinian organisations and Arab States on each other. It seeks to examine the strength and power of Hamas as a strong organisation in short period and comprehend the challenges that Hamas faced with and examining their influence towards its political behaviour. It studies the elements that caused the changes within Hamas and seeks to understand the necessary adaptation that Hamas should follow in order to ensure continuation its political role and contribution.