

TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS AND THE MIDDLE EAST: PINPOINTING ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

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Abstract

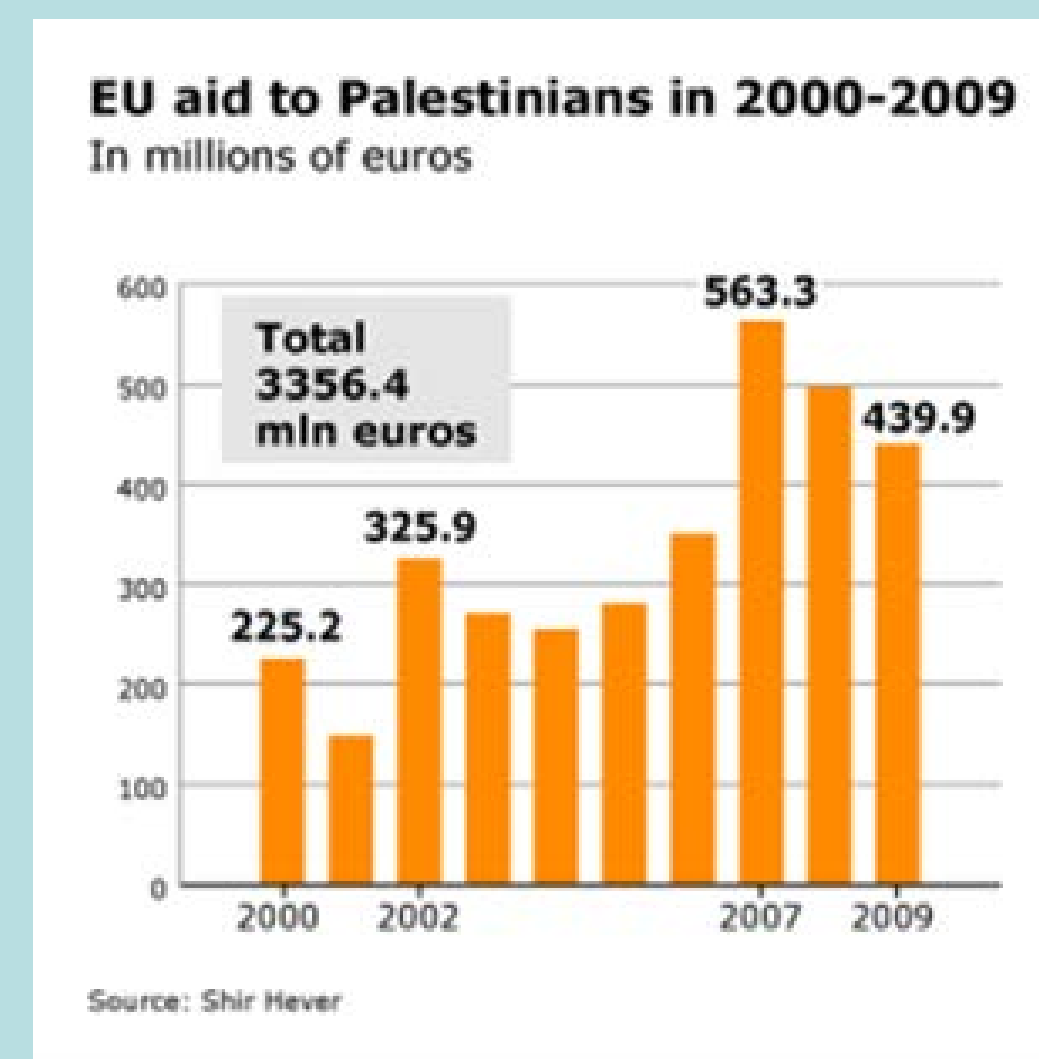
The Middle East is an area riddled with conflict, much of which can be traced back to intolerance related to the Palestinian exodus resultant from the creation of Israel. This displacement of Palestinians has planted discontent into the hearts of six decades worth of World War Two descendants and will continue to impact generations to come—both for Palestinians and Israelis, as well as for those who dwell in the Americas and Europe. The Israeli-Palestinian issue has a strong influence on and is a source of contention for the Transatlantic relationship; this research paper investigates the history of the conflict and some of its effects, including the resources that the US and Europe have expended in trying to remedy this conflict and the global issues that the Transatlantic nations have been faced with as a result. Additionally, future possibilities for reconciliation will be analyzed.

Introduction

In the years after the two Great Wars, Europe was plagued by its own financial, military, and social problems; and America concentrated most of its excess energies into rebuilding a collapsed Europe. Specifically, the World Wars, the displacement of the Jews, and the inability of Europe to maintain past controls on colonies and mandates directly affected today's complications in the Middle East. As the twentieth century's Cold War recedes farther into history and the disagreements between America and Europe become less threatening, problems such as the one between Israel and Palestine and other global security threats are floating ever-faster to the surface. Thus, the Transatlantic relationship has had to refocus its scope in light of these problems.

Table A-1. Recent U.S. Aid to Israel
(millions of dollars)

Year	Total	Military Grant	Economic Grant	Immig. Grant	ASHA	All other
1949-1996	68,030.9	29,014.9	23,122.4	868.9	121.4	14,903.3
1997	3,132.1	1,800.0	1,200.0	80.0	2.1	50.0
1998	3,080.0	1,800.0	1,200.0	80.0	—	—
1999	3,010.0	1,860.0	1,080.0	70.0	—	—
2000	4,131.85	3,120.0	949.1	60.0	2.75	—
2001	2,876.05	1,975.4	838.2	60.0	2.25	—
2002	2,850.65	2,040.0	720.0	60.0	2.65	28.0
2003	3,745.15	3,086.4	596.1	59.6	3.05	—
2004	2,687.25	2,147.3	477.2	49.7	3.15	9.9
2005	2,612.15	2,202.2	357.0	50.0	2.95	—
2006	2,534.5	2,257.0	237.0	40.0	—	0.5
2007	2,500.2	2,340.0	120.0	40.0	2.95	0.2
2008	2,423.9	2,380.0	0	40.0	3.90	0
2009	2,550.0	2,550.0	0	?	?	0
Total	106,164.7	58,573.4	30,897.0	1,558.2	144.2	14,991.9



Why the US supports Israel

The US and Israel have shared a strong relationship for decades because of Israel's alliance with America during the Cold War and Israeli support for America in the Middle East. Geopolitical concerns, such as oil in the Middle East, are another reason why the US supports Israel. Additionally, American Evangelicals play a key role in the pro-Israeli lobby because of religious faith and belief, especially among those who believe Israel to be the Biblical Promised Land. Moreover, both the US and Israel have strong democracies and hold similar political beliefs.

Why Europe Supports Palestine

Although Britain was too weak to keep its Palestinian mandate after the World Wars, their relationship was rekindled through European support after Britain and the rest of Europe became strong again. Additionally, Europe is geographically closer to the Middle East, so it worries about the instability imparted by the Arab Spring and by Islamic fundamentalists; attention is also given to the growing Arab minority in Europe, which is gaining political influence. The substantial economic relationship between Europe and the Middle East also impacts their relationship. Moreover, the European Union funds Palestine's projects to rebuild generously yet meticulously, and controls the funds precisely.



Possibility for Palestine:
The West Bank and Gaza Strip

Conclusion

At the end of 2011, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas was encouraged by the Arab Spring, so he asked the EU to support formal recognition of Palestine as a state. However, the US, Russia, and the UN refused this request for the present time because Palestine must first prove itself economically, politically, and socially strong enough to stand as an independent nation by resisting the influence of radicals, whose destructive actions must cease before any progress is to be made. Additionally, the US and Europe must begin working together with Israel and Palestine and stop using resources to counter each other's progress. The nations of the Transatlantic and the Middle East must work for the benefit of all to help promote lasting peace.