

CONFLICT AND PEACE IN WEST ASIA
Optional Course
for
M.A. (International Relations- West Asian Studies)
Course No: MWAS-205
Semester II
Centre for West Asian Studies
Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

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Course Description

The single most important factor that has disrupted peace and led to conflict situation in West Asia, mainly in the Arab World, has been the migration of Jews to Arab territory and subsequent creation of the State of Israel. Several wars broke out between Israel and Arab countries. This dynamic needs proper attention. A bit of historical retrospection mainly in the form of British and French mandate is needed to understand the roots of conflict in the region. However, apart from the Arab-Israeli conflict, other developments led to disruption of peace especially after Islamic Revolution in Iran followed by Iran- Iraq War. Iraqi invasion of Kuwait led to Iraq-Kuwait conflict. Peace eludes the region and conflicts are rampant. This course aims at giving an insight into the problems of peace and reasons of conflict in the region.

Course Content:

Unit I: From Beginnings till Partition

- British Mandate In Palestine
- French Mandate In Lebanon
- UN Partition Plan
- The First Arab-Israeli War

Unit II: From Suez To Lebanese War

- The Suez Crisis, 1956
- The Six Days War, 1967
- Yom Kippur War, 1973

- The Lebanon War 1982

Unit III: From Ray of Peace to Despair

- The Camp David Accord
- First Intifada
- Oslo Accord
- Second Intifada

Unit IV: Non Arab-Israeli Conflicts

- Iran Iraq War
- Iraq Kuwait War
- First Gulf War
- Second Gulf War 2003

Reading List

- David Long Bernard Reich, Government and Politics in Middle East and North Africa.
- George Kirk, A Short History of the Middle East.
- Khouri Fred, Arab-Israel Dilemma.
- Hadawi, Sami, Arab-Israeli Conflict.
- Gulshan Dietl, Through Two Wars and Beyond: A Study of the Gulf Cooperation Council
- Mohammad Iqbal Ansari, Arab League: 1945-1955
- Howard Sacher, History of Israel.
- Abir Mordechai, Oil Power and Politics: Conflict in Arabia, Red Sea and the Gulf.
- Europa Publications, Middle East and North Africa

Method of Instruction:

Lectures and tutorial will be held on a weekly basis. Questions, discussion and debate during classes will be strongly encouraged. Students are expected to keep informed of the current events in the West Asian region.

Method of Assessment:

A mid-term exam would consist of essay questions based upon the topics covered up to that point. It will be of 25 marks and student must answer two questions out of 4 of 12.5 marks each. The final exam conducted according to a schedule at the end of the semester will be of 75 marks. In the final exam, students must answer 5 out of 10 questions.