



**THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN PEACEKEEPING AND THE  
IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENTS AND ECONOMIC  
SANCTIONS ON THE ISRAEL-PALESTINE AND RUSSIA-UKRAINE  
CONFLICTS**

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**ABSTRACT**

This article analyzes the role of the United Nations in peacekeeping, as well as the impact of international investments and economic sanctions on the Israel-Palestine and Russia-Ukraine conflicts. It discusses UN peacekeeping missions, their effectiveness, and practical limitations. Furthermore, the article explores the deterioration of the investment climate due to the conflicts and examines both the positive and negative consequences of sanctions. Through these analyses, the role of economic and diplomatic tools in conflict resolution is highlighted, along with their importance for global security.

**KEYWORDS**

United Nations (UN), Peacekeeping, Israel-Palestine Conflict, Russia-Ukraine Conflict, International Investments, Economic Sanctions, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Conflict Zones, International Relations, Diplomatic Tools, Economic Impact of Conflict, Global Security, Investment Climate, Sanctions Effectiveness, Political Stability, UN Security Council, Geopolitical Analysis, Economic Recovery, Humanitarian Impact, Conflict Resolution.

**Introduction**

In today's global political environment, issues of peace and security remain among the most pressing challenges facing humanity. In recent years, major conflicts such as the Israel-Palestine and Russia - Ukraine confrontations have drawn significant attention from the international community, particularly the United Nations (UN). These conflicts have not only resulted in military and humanitarian losses but have also negatively impacted the global economy, investment climate, and international security system.

In accordance with its charter, the UN is regarded as the leading organization responsible for maintaining international peace and security. However, there are varying opinions about the actual influence and effectiveness of the organization in conflict zones. At the same time, economic

instruments - such as sanctions and investments - are increasingly being viewed as non-military tools in modern conflicts. In particular, economic sanctions imposed by Western countries and the withdrawal of investors have caused serious socio-economic consequences in the conflict-affected regions.

This article provides an in-depth analysis of the UN's peacekeeping efforts, the shifts in international investment in the context of conflict, and the impact of economic sanctions on the Israel-Palestine and Russia-Ukraine conflicts.

## **1. The role of the United Nations in peacekeeping**

The United Nations (UN), established in 1945, has as one of its main objectives the maintenance of international peace and security. Article 1 of the UN Charter outlines the peaceful resolution of disputes and the prevention of aggression as key goals of the organization. To this end, the UN implements various diplomatic initiatives, resolutions, and peacekeeping missions.

One of the most active and visible mechanisms of the UN is its peacekeeping missions. Through these missions, the UN deploys forces to conflict zones to monitor ceasefires, oversee peace agreements, and protect civilians. These missions are often launched based on decisions made by the Security Council.

### **The UN's role in the Israel-Palestine conflict**

The UN has long been actively involved in the Israel - Palestine conflict. In 1947, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 181, which proposed the partition of Palestine into Jewish and Arab states. Instead of resolving the conflict, this decision further complicated the situation. Over the years, the UN has passed numerous resolutions - some calling for Israel to withdraw from occupied territories, others defending the rights of Palestinians. However, in practice, many of these resolutions have not been implemented due to political obstacles or opposition from member states with veto power.

### **The UN's position on the Russia-Ukraine conflict**

After Russia's large-scale military invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the UN advocated for a peaceful resolution and adopted several resolutions and statements. The General Assembly passed multiple resolutions condemning Russia's actions. However, in the Security Council, Russia's veto power prevents the enforcement of these decisions, significantly limiting the UN's practical influence on the conflict.

### **Limiting factors**

One of the main obstacles to the effectiveness of the UN is the veto power held by the five permanent members of the Security Council (the United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom). This often results in key resolutions being blocked or weakened. Additionally, geopolitical interests, financial limitations, and divisions among member states further hinder the UN's ability to act effectively.

## **2. International investments and their impact on conflicts**

International investments play a crucial role in the economic growth and development of any country. Capital inflows from foreign investors create jobs, improve infrastructure, and facilitate the exchange of technology. However, political instability, armed conflicts, and ongoing crises pose significant risks

for investors. As a result, investment inflows to conflict zones often decrease drastically or stop altogether.

## **Palestine and international investment**

Despite its geographic and demographic potential, Palestine has been unable to attract sufficient investment due to persistent political instability and military conflict. Israeli blockades, territorial restrictions, and weak infrastructure represent major barriers for foreign investors. Since investors prioritize stability, Palestine currently fails to meet this basic requirement. Consequently, economic growth has slowed, unemployment remains high, and the region is heavily dependent on external financial aid.

## **Ukraine and the investment climate**

The onset of war with Russia fundamentally changed the investment climate in Ukraine. Many major foreign companies suspended operations or withdrew from the country. The war has caused significant damage to infrastructure and industrial production, making new investments both risky and unprofitable. However, substantial financial support in the form of grants and loans is now being provided by Western countries and international financial institutions to help rebuild Ukraine's economy. These funds serve as preparatory support for revitalizing investment activity in the post-conflict period.

## **Investor confidence and political stability**

Global experience shows that investors carefully assess political stability, the strength of legal systems, and security guarantees before committing capital. Conflict - affected regions typically score poorly in these areas, naturally reducing investment inflows. As a result, economic recovery slows, living standards decline, and unemployment rises.

## **The role of international financial institutions**

Organizations such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) strive to maintain economic stability in conflict-affected countries by providing financial assistance. However, this aid is often in the form of loans and its effectiveness largely depends on the political situation. While it cannot replace investment, it helps ensure short-term stability.

## **3. Economic sanctions and their effectiveness**

Economic sanctions are financial, trade, or technological restrictions imposed by one or more countries on another state. The primary aim of these sanctions is to compel a state to halt a particular political action or decision, thereby restoring peace or international law norms. In recent years, economic sanctions have become one of the most active and complex tools in global politics.

### **Sanctions against Russia**

Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the United States, the European Union, and many other countries imposed comprehensive economic sanctions on Russia. These sanctions targeted several key areas:

- Financial sector: Major Russian banks were disconnected from the international SWIFT system.

- Energy: Embargoes on Russian oil and gas exports.
- Technology: Bans on the export of advanced technologies and microchips.
- Transport: Restrictions on aviation and maritime transport to and from Russia.

As a result of these sanctions, Russia's economy entered a phase of decline, the ruble depreciated, inflation increased, and many foreign companies left the Russian market. Despite this, Russia's economy did not face a total collapse, mainly due to efforts to boost domestic production, a system for parallel imports, and strategies aimed at bypassing the sanctions.

### Sanctions in the context of the Israel-Palestine conflict

Some sanctions exist in the context of the Israel - Palestine conflict, but they are more political and symbolic in nature. While the U.S. and other countries have not imposed sanctions on Israel, the UN and other international organizations have criticized Israel's actions in Gaza and the West Bank. On the other hand, some Western countries have conditioned their aid to Palestine on political terms.

### Effectiveness and negative consequences of sanctions

In many cases, economic sanctions have a stronger impact on ordinary citizens rather than political elites. Inflation, unemployment, and shortages of goods are direct negative effects of sanctions on the daily lives of civilians. As a result, social unrest tends to increase in countries subjected to sanctions, but this does not always lead to political change.

Achieving peace through sanctions is a complex and long-term process. Sanctions are more often used as a tool of pressure, but diplomatic dialogue and international cooperation play a crucial role in achieving real results.

**Table Decline in Investment Flows in Conflict Zones (2021-2023)**

Region	FDI in 2021 (Billion \$)	FDI in 2022 (Billion \$)	FDI in 2023 (Billion \$)	Change (%)
Ukraine	6.5	1.1	0.8	-87.7%
Palestine (Gaza)	0.3	0.1	0.05	-83.3%
Israel	27.8	24.3	21.0	-24.4%
Russia	38.7	14.8	12.1	-68.7%

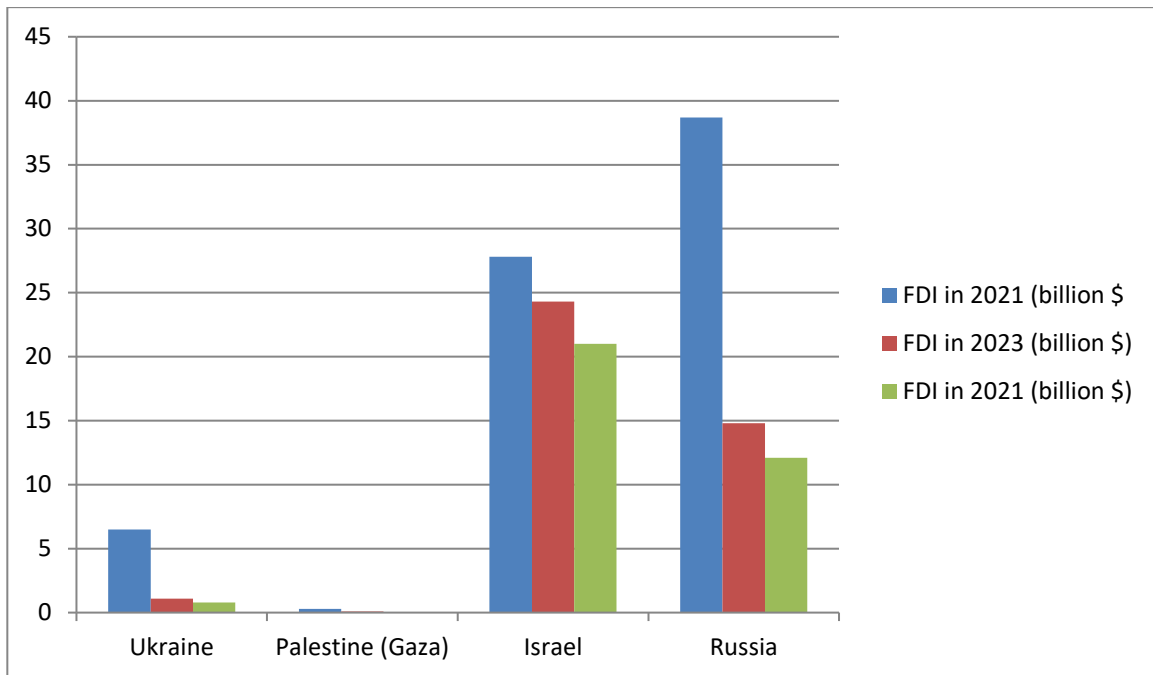
**Note:** FDI - Foreign Direct Investment

**Source:** UNCTAD, World Bank

### Additional statistical facts:

- In 2022, Russia's economy contracted by 2.1% (according to the IMF report).
- In 2023, the damage to Ukraine's infrastructure was estimated to be around 140 billion dollars.
- The unemployment rate in the Palestinian economy in the Gaza Strip exceeded 45% in 2023.
- U.S. military aid to Israel in 2023: approximately 3.8 billion dollars.

**Diagram**



Here, through the diagram above, you can see the decline in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the regions of Palestine, Ukraine, Israel, and Russia from 2021 to 2023. The diagram shows a significant decrease in investment flows in these regions.

**Conclusion**

Currently, the Palestine-Israel and Russia-Ukraine conflicts stand as serious issues for the international community. Resolving these conflicts requires not only military measures but also diplomatic tools, economic impacts, and international organizations. The United Nations remains a key organization in this process; however, its real effectiveness is often limited due to political clashes and the veto power in the Security Council.

International investments and economic stability determine the direct economic consequences of the conflicts. The loss of investor confidence, halted production, and deteriorating infrastructure exacerbate economic decline in conflict zones. At the same time, while economic sanctions are used as a tool of international pressure, their results are not always as expected and often cause more harm to the general population.

Therefore, in responding to global conflicts, it is necessary to use not only force but also diplomatic, economic, and social tools in a balanced and effective manner. Reforming the United Nations, creating a safe environment for international investments, and applying sanctions mechanisms fairly are among the most pressing tasks of today.

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