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Exploring the Impact of the Israel-Syria Conflict on the Humanitarian Crisis in Jordan (2011–2023)

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Abstract

This study explores the multifaceted impacts of the Israel Syria conflict and the Syrian Civil War (2011-2023) on Jordan, assessing the deep humanitarian crises, economic pressure and social dislocation driven by these crises. Jordan currently has the second largest number of Syrian refugees in relation to its population, standing at over 1.3 million. Adopting a classical and neo-realist neoclassic approach, this study explains how Jordan is able to navigate and maintain a double standard of meeting humanitarian needs and preserving the state within a complex international setting. It shows the interplay of systemic forces of regions and their changing short-term policies, Jordan's foreign policy objectives in seeking to navigate as a mediator and a buffering country. The article further seeks to understand the different strategies employed by Jordan in regards to refugee management, alleviating economic burdens and international pressures. The findings of the study demonstrate that Jordan's strategic engineering has enabled the country to absorb humanitarian tensions and regional conflicts without losing political stability or security, thereby making the kingdom highly pertinent as a case study for other countries. The recommendations put forth in this study are primarily focused on the development of policy solutions for proactive behaviour of other countries in similar situations.

Introduction:

The Middle East has a long history of turbulence and heightened competitive activity which makes it a critical area for world competition. The Arab-Israeli conflict and the ongoing war in Syria are probably the most vivid phenomena, due to their consequences on the political, humanitarian, and social aspects of Syria (Al-Makhadhi, A.2020). The civil war in Syria that

began in 2011 has led to millions of people being displaced and coupled with longstanding tensions between Israel and Syria, these factors has become a geopolitical crisis. The Israel-Syrian conflict further plays a role in ensuring that there is greater regional instability and further contributes to the Middle East politics where tensions and hostility are quite common (Beaujouan, J., & Rasheed, A.2020).

Jordan is another nation that has undergone unique effects from these crises, although it is a small nation, it possesses significant geopolitical appeal. The interdependency of Israel and Syria positions Jordan in a delicate setting in the geopolitical context of the area. Being a safe haven for many displaced people came with considerable consequences as well (Chatelard, G.2021). Jordan has an astounding estimate of 1.3 million Syrian refugees in 2023, which makes it one of the most populated nations to accommodate displaced people. This have causes Jordan's economy further strain, public services such as the education system and health care system to become more strained than they were and have caused more friction in social relations. The challenges that have arisen together endanger the country's political stability and it's security undertakings in an area characterized by increasing volatility (Barakat, H., & Houry, S. 2019).

This research aims to investigate the coexistence of humanitarian duties and national security interests in Jordan. More specifically, it seeks to understand the consistency between the policies and strategies employed by Jordan with respect to the refugee crisis and the wider national security strategy of the country. Moreover, the study examines the impact of inter-state relations, including the actions of Israel, Syria and other great powers, on the foreign policy of Jordan. Approaching the question concerning the Jordanian paradigm of crisis management, this study adopts the models of neo realism. While classical realism accords primacy to the survival of the state and practicality, therefore justifying the premises deployed by Jordan for protecting its security and sovereignty, neo realism delineates the circumstances under which Jordan operates and formulates its geo-political policies. Taken together, these perspectives provide a more refined view of Jordan's balancing act of meeting its humanitarian obligations and pursuing its interests as a nation state in an inherently unstable region.

Historical Background:

The disagreement between Israel and Syria began because of the establishment of Israel in 1948 and the Arab Israeli war that ensued. Similar to other Arab nations, Syria was also against the establishment of Israel which led to animosity for various decades. Another dimension of the concern developed in the 1967 six-day war when Israel occupied Golan Heights, which is a vital territory in this dispute (Lenner, K.2019). Although many ceasefire agreements and peace processes were formed, Golan Heights remains a disputed territory as Syria claims it as its territory while Israel is not willing to let go of it. Alternatively, the Israel-Syria disagreement is a bilateral because of Syria's allegiance to Iran and support for the Hezbollah terror group

(Khoury, A. 2020). This Arab country has Israel as a foe and in result the country has deepened alliances with the western powers, mainly the United States. This war is of particular concern for Jordan because of its geolocation. In 1994, Jordan reached a peace treaty with Israel. In so doing, it became imperative for Jordan to have good relations with Israel (Khalidi, R.2022). Geographically, Jordan-Syria-Cemetery had a very good connection, now turning quickly to the context of the Jordan civil war. The said clash started along with Midnight protests that were held during the arab spring (Chatelard, G.2021). Once Said protest against the Assad government aroused, terrorist groups started joining in and it turned into a battle, which even saw Syria getting butchered. It even saw Turkey, Russia, Iran and American troops being sent into Syria for assistance with crippling effects (Khoury, A.2020). Each one had many different agendas and this made things fairly complex. The ongoing war in Syria continues to inflict severe harm on those affected. Millions are suffering and in desperate need of humanitarian aid. By the beginning of 2023, the World Bank estimates put the total number of Syrian nationals who were displaced as a consequence of the civil war at 14 million, with more than six million of those people seeking refuge in other countries (Chatty, D.2018). A large portion of them, approximately 1.3 million, sought asylum in Jordan, which strained an already ailing economy. All of this resulted in an escalation of the already existing social tensions in the region giving rise to national security threats for the country (Department of Statistics Jordan.2021). Even the northern boundary of Jordan was closed in 2016, a restrictive policy which demonstrates how many risks there are when actually balancing humanitarian work with security initiatives for Jordan and the region as a whole (International Crisis Group.2023). Conflicts with militarist regimes abound in the Middle East, where Jordan is strategically located between these regimes and facilitates peace talks, and in fact was endowed that role by the peace treaty signed in 1994. The struggle in the middle east politics regarding Syria has been at times complex with conflicting events occurring (Shteiwi, M.2020).

In the middle eastern context, Jordan has been sandwiched between the Syrian civil war, Israel, and currently the armies, making this particular region seem rather unfavorable for Jordan governmental interests. The country bordering these fires has had to deal with extremist arms dealing, uncontrolled influx of immigrants, and an unavoidable refugee situation (Phillips, C., & Warrick, J.2021). However, Jordan has been able to implement a neutrality policy and in most of the cases stopped foreign interventions maintaining its position. For instance, the engagement with the UNHCR in the construction of Zaatari and Azraq refugee camps greatly helped to avert possible social disturbances in the country (Mohaisen, A.2020). Jordanians were not new to this concept of being hosts to refugees even before the Syrian civil war, for example Palestinians fleeing from the 1948 Arab Israeli conflict, Iraqi refugees during the Gulf war and so on. This made it possible for Jordan to combine humanitarian assistance with social and political measures to tackle the problems of its response to refugees (Petersen, A., & Smyth, J.2020).

At the same time, dealing with the destruction caused by the Syrian war is more complex because of how long it has been lasting. According to this wave of displacement which is very different from the previous ones, Jordan has been experiencing an economic squeeze and shortages are generating due to the influx of Syrian refugees (World Bank.2019). It is not easy for Jordan to fulfill a humanitarian mission without compromising its national security and that has grown more evident because of some of the issues Jordan has been facing. Jordan is not in control because it doesn't have the luxury to be self sufficient (Tetreault, M. A.2020).

Research Questions:

1. How does Jordan's approach to the Israel-Syria refugee crisis reflect its national security objectives and survival strategies in an anarchic international system?
2. How does the power distribution in the Middle East influence Jordan's foreign policy and its approach to the Israel-Syria humanitarian crisis?

Theoretical Framework:

The neo-realist framework is the most suitable for examining Jordan's involvement in the Israel-Syria crisis and the refugee catastrophe in the years 2011-2023. Also referred to as Structural Realism, Neo-Realism theory regards the international system being anarchic and power among states being the main cause of state conduct (Laham, A.2021). This framework is useful in analyzing the impact of external systemic forces and inter-regional influences on Jordan's policy and strategy within the context of conflict in the country.

1. Neo-Realism: Core Principles:

Since there is no global government above countries, the international system is anarchic. Above all other two principles, states' number one priority and concern is to be safe and secure. The way power in the international system is shared, affects how states behave and how things develop internationally. States operate as logic-driven entities, seeking to protect and promote their national interests to the fullest possible extent given the operational context of the global system (Laham, A.2021).

2. Concepts of neo realism in the response of Jordan:

Jordan functions within a region that can be characterised by intense conflict particularly between Israel and Syria. Neo realism explains how the structure in this instance which is regional dynamics makes it necessary for Jordan to employ certain strategies for survival and retention of sovereignty (Drysdale, A.2022). Jordan finds itself seated between Israel and Syria and thus serves as middle ground. Neo realists argue that due to the geographical position of Jordan, it has to exercise prudence in its diplomacy in order to balance the interests of its

dominant neighbors. Differences in the power of Israel, Syria and Jordan determine some of the foreign policy options available to Jordan (Laham, A.2021). Being a weak state, Jordan is required to position itself in a way where it does not become a venue for regional conflicts or allows stronger nations to dominate it. An attempt to explain this phenomenon is found in the works of global theorists who have shown how in an anarchic system of international relations different nations search for allies as well as external forces to aid their security economic welfare (Phillips, C., & Warrick, J. (2021). Neo realism provides an even greater clarity on the issue of Jordan's overdependence on international assistance as well as strategic partnerships by explaining it as a reasonable response to the situation. The signing of political agreements like those of Jordan-USA, and Jordan – European countries, represent Jordan's effort to improve its economic and security position (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.2022). They also assist their allied countries with military, financial or diplomatic capabilities. Accepting assistance from the United Nations gives Jordan an advantage in terms of seeking global support, which guarantees the occurrence of actual changes despite the instability in the region (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.2022).

Addressing the Refugee Issue as a Security Policy:

The presence of over 1.3 million Syrian Refugees in Jordan raises humanitarian needs but also raises security issues. From a Neo-Realist point of view, Jordan's handling of the refugee crisis constitutes a strategy for coping with global pressures (Phillips, C., & Warrick, J.2021). Humanitarian requirements for protecting and resettling refugees are included in the establishment of refugee camps for Zaatari and Azraq, and the social unrest that they may provoke subsequently is contained. Thus, Jordan reduces the threat to its internal security by limiting the number of refugees and the speed of their assimilation into the society (Roberts, R.2018). The Jordanian approach can be realistically described as one that aims at preserving state sovereignty and dignity based on the limited resources available. Jordan executes an obligation to provide help while absolving the responsibility of internal dissipation and instability (Laham, A.2021). Reflecting on Neo-Realism principles, Jordan's undertakings are inclined towards optimization of survival and risk aversion which addresses Jordan's roles of mediation and being an impartial party. Constructive engagement with Syria and Israel, despite their problematic relationship, demonstrates Jordan's adeptness in avoiding enmities with any major power that has a likelihood of jeopardizing its security interests (Laham, A.2021). By offering itself as a possible mediator in conflicts, Jordan increases its strategic importance and consolidates its interests while enjoying the benefits of international backing and legitimacy.

A humanitarian space exists which can present itself in a conflict of interest; this can further deepen the analysis of Jordan policy. There is a clear observance of international humanitarian

standards by Jordan as a country. As a neo realist argues, non-moral principles and actions can be equated to mere ethics that foster a state's ability to gain recognition and support from the international community within a specific period (Kingston, L. N.2019). As a result, there is an endorsement of unity in both moral acts and strategic goals. Adherence to international humanitarian standards would improve Jordan's standing in the world and in turn enable it to build up its soft power (Chatelard, G.2021). Use of ethical actions for the achievement of set political objectives is in line with Neo-Realist theory since such actions increase legitimacy of the state and its security and survival through obtaining more alliances. National interests logically dictate that the set political principles in Jordan should be restructured within a Neo-Realist prism when analyzing the counties approach towards the Israel – Syria conflict (Drysdale, A.2022). In order to gain political backing and deter antagonistic forces in the region the country is determined to form and sustain alliances with super world powers. Maintaining an evenhanded diplomacy guarantees that Jordan does not bias itself and consequently, does not get caught up the regional mix of power (Haddadin, S., & Harrell-Bond, B.2020). Appropriate use of resources directed to internal forces and humanitarian services keeps citizens in a cooperative mood and makes them impervious to external jolts. Entering into this nexus of powers and strengthening its mediating role may help enhance the overall strategic significance of Jordan (International Crisis Group.2023).

Neo-Realism serves as a powerful tool to examine how power relations, instability of a particular region and international stakeholders impacts decision making of Jordan aimed at preserving the state and its sovereignty. Moreover, the inclusion of domestic politics and morality adds another layer of complexity to the theoretical framework since it provides a better understanding of how these external factors and internal conditions interact in the policy making process in a particular context, in this case Jordan.

Changes in the Israel-Syria War Recently:

The Israel-Syria arranges itself as a mixture or combination of sporadic wars and political maneuvers through a time period of years to this day. As of 2020, Israel has been aggressive on airstrikes for Syria specifically aiming for Beirut Operations and Iranian Military During 2020. Israel remains active in bulging its strategy towards its controlled region where militia operating in Syria are supported and armed by Iran (Khoury, A.2020). On the other hand, Syria has been able to strategize restructuring of its held areas along with Iranian and Russian Support and Coalition with Hezbollah. Soar tensions between Israel and Syria have been acquired, where Israeli forces operated on the Syrian side of Golan Heights resulting in skirmishes and other engaging edges (Phillips, C., & Warrick, J.2021). Multiple events including drones and missile launchers began International discussion over an overlap in the 22 to 23 time period. These events have also affected the Middle Eastern Continental. The measures adopted by Israel are in

accordance with its own policies called by them as a ‘campaign between wars’, a neutral strategy with only the intention of weakening the other cybernetic side, war style. But while the intervention made by Israel depicts to the political environment claimed by Syria, still showing signs of recovering from a civil war (Yom, S. L., & Gause, F. G.2020).

The ongoing conflict with Syria has made it difficult for Jordan to remain neutral as their northern borders are under threat. This moderation is not seamless but rather clunky in nature as the latter continues to adjust and modify the boundaries affected by the conflict. The territorial sovereignty, security concerns and regional alliances are a core conflict point and till those are resolved. The moderate attempts to reach a diplomatic resolution are futile (Laham, A. (2021).

Current Factors Driving the Israel-Syria Conflict and Initiatives



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There are many factors including the initiatives taken towards resolving the conflict that explains why the Israel Surrender nor the Syria believes in territorial claims and refuses to accept historic enmities complex of geostrategic spaces. adds believes three factors explain why the Israel Surrender nor the Syria believes in territorial claims and refuses to accept historic enmities complex of geostrategic spaces (Lenner, K.2019). Past years, the Disagreements seem to have reached their peak, and at the center of the new are Golan Heights, which continues to be a contentious territory for Israel and Syria. The area comes under Israeli occupation after the Six-Day War in 1967 but got annexed by Israel in 1981, While Israel claimed the region became the border countries, but has never happened annexed (Phillips, C., & Warrick, J. (2021). Geopolitical Rivals Israel and Syria have many source of contention in the region and there has already been expansion that violates the offensive idea of aid that the Republicans now offer

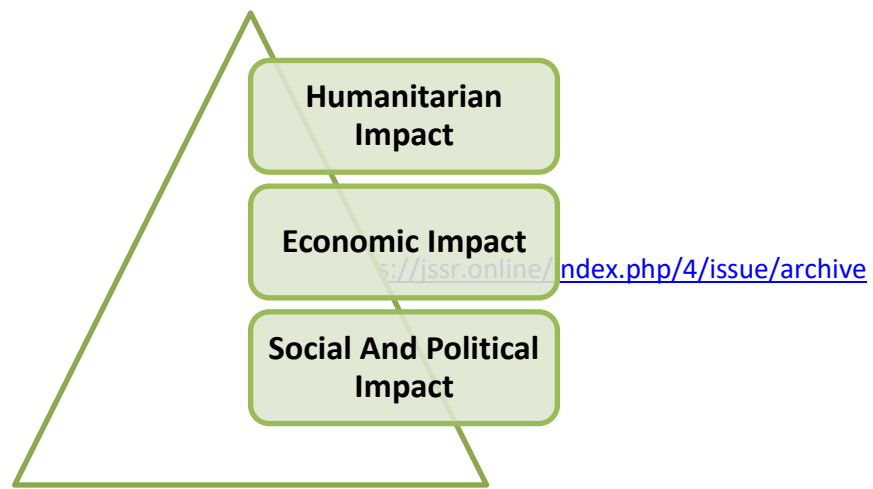
Israel in contrast. More Israel side strikes have been made in an effort to ease Israel's many insecurities. There are subregional and global actors such as Ukraine and Russia which also make the conflict complicated (Khoury, A. (2020). U. S. Enforces Israel defense while military aid to Syria continues Russia's support of Assad's regime. Synergy of these factors contributes towards development of a proxy wars theatre which is so destabilized and chaotic. Other elements such as Hezbollah make things worse as well. These militias are funded by Iran and are present in the southern parts of Syria, which exacerbates the ongoing cycle of violence, constituting a threat to the security of Israel (Khoury, A. (2020).

Conflict Resolve Initiatives:

Despite the above disputes, there has been a resolve in the Israel Syria war, which was achieved through various peaceful attempts and negotiations: United Nations and other multilateral institutions have involved themselves in the conflict but in a moderated manner and while against some of the hostilities, there is still a high level of the same, including absence of peace treaties (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.2022). But these attempts still demonstrate engagement and dialogue even if tenuous. America and Russia, on a few occasions, have sponsored limited treaties that aim at curtailing some of the violence. Although the treaties never always worked, they nonetheless were able to illustrate the fact that some of these treaties were quite fragile (Khoury, A.2020). International organizations have devised humanitarian corridors through which aid can be sent to the soldiers and the civilians in the war. Such aid is also useful in confidence building. In addition, Jordan has been key in reducing the violence, while encouraging the stability on the borders. Engagement of Jordan with the two countries complements the mitigated risks of any spill and helps in maturing the region (Khoury, A.2020). Notwithstanding these endeavors, the conflict is still active as there are several intertwined interests of the participants that prevent any further advancement. It is still of utmost importance to address the initial cause of the conflict and to forge international alliances to guarantee that peace is sustained within the area.

Current Factors Sustaining the Israel-Syria War and Efforts:

The Impact of the War on the Bordering States, ongoing Israel and Syria conflict alongside the civil war in Syria has greatly affected the Kingdom of Jordan as well in social, humanitarian, economic as well as political aspects (Barakat, H., & Khoury, S. (2019). Following are the key



factors:

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Humanitarian Impact:

The influx of more than 1.3million Syrian refugees has made it extremely burdensome for the kingdom of Jordan's resources and infrastructure to function, providing facilities at a basic level has become impossible. People in camps like Zaatari and Azraq which are more than 120,000 in number are prime example of such situation (Amnesty International.2021). These may provide some sort of protection for the displaced people, but they do not even come close to meeting basic needs like having access to clean potable water, sanitation, or medical care as one would expect from real quality living conditions (Mercy Corps.2018). For instance, in the early years of the refugee influx, border health facilities were overstretched and patients had to wait for treatment for long and the facilities were too over utilized. In Azraq camp, which is about 10 km from the Syrian border, the cholera outbreak of 2013 revealed the weaknesses in Jordan's emergency systems. Schools in urban areas have also failed to meet the needs of local and refugee children and so have to work double shift sessions (Mohaisen, A.2020). Regardless of the assistance provided by the UN and other countries, there is still a lack of funding for Jordan's refugee population. Their need for food and mental services that cater to trauma has gone unaddressed. This demonstrates once again how dependent Jordan is on international countries in handling the humanitarian crisis.

Economic Impact:

Hosting refugees has always come with its own set of challenges and Jordan is no exception. It has led to a great uptick in the already needed utilities such as housing and health care, putting an even larger strain on the economy of the country. The economic strain caused by an influx of refugees greatly affected Jordan's capacity to grow, as they were believed to account for over 25% of the country's annual expenditure (Al-Makhadhi, A.2020). In 2015, the relocation of Syrian refugees added to the strain as it cut off a vital trading point. The growing public expenditure and decreasing revenue from the growing trade caused a lot of strain to Jordan's economy, leading to an increasing unemployment rate as the gap between local Jordanians and refugees willing to work for low wages widened. On the flip side, inexpensive housing became a major concern for citizens in urban areas like Amman and Mafraq (Betts, A., & Collier, P.2017). Even though there was considerable international support provided to help with xx issues, there always seemed to be a huge deficit in funds allocated. The over-allocated aid and global financial support poured in with the expectation of creating new jobs through investment in reconstruction

and refugee settlements. People residing in the countries rendered as host were given short term job opportunities through various global organizations, however, these were surely not enough to promote sustainable development (Betts, A., & Collier, P.2017).

Social and Political Impact:

The social structure of Jordan has changed as a result of the crisis. The new settlements of refugees have caused anxiety among the host population who have to compete for jobs, houses, and even public services. Protests in places such as Irbid and Mafraq in 2017 indicated disenchantment with the Jordanian government among ordinary citizens who claimed that their voices were being overshadowed by appeal of refugees. These issues have also affected the socio-political communication in Jordan (Chatelard, G.2021). The supporters of this open door policy have their dissenting voices, stating that there are already socio-economic problems and the sudden increase in the population has complicated the situation even further. This has shifted the burden of meeting its humanitarian obligations on one hand, and the concerns of its people on the other on the government (Haddadin, S., & Harrell-Bond, B.2020). In spite of all these problems, Jordan has been able to maintain relative peace, at least in its borders, by seeking a few allies and properly managing its public relations. The international community has been able to support the country by coming up with a plan assisting with economic problems was presented as a righteous and regional duty (Khalidi, R.2022). Policies such as the Jordan Compact, where humanitarian and economic growth were couched together in the humanitarian assistance language, which is not common, are indicators of the country's ability to make the crisis an opportunity for more development approach. As per European states and regional allies, Jordan's management of the refugee crisis may look positive on regional grounds. This enabled Jordan to continue receiving donor support while other global issues remained globally overshadowed (Khalidi, R.2022).

References Articles:

The Economic Impacts of the Syrian Refugee Migration on Jordan (World Bank.2023):

Jordan has been experiencing several economic issues due to the inflow of refugees into the country and the World Bank has come up with a report to outline these issues. As per the report, there is an increasing competition in the labor market in Jordan as there has been an influx of refugees and this is bound to increase unemployment and wages getting lower, this primarily is affecting the construction and agricultural sectors. The schools and hospitals are providing less quality services as there is a high number of people using them, which leads to strain on the education and healthcare services. There has also been an increase in the need for electricity, housing and water and that has been affecting Jordan's infrastructure. Since the amount of money Jordan has is limited, the country is having trouble providing services to the refugees due to the

high number of them as the needs are not being met.. The policies that can help such as workforce integration and granting access to other specific areas have still not been very successful in Jordan. Although international aid has aided the economy in preventing it from getting even worse, the economic burden has still not been fully covered, as foreign support is needed to cover the effects of the crisis. The report has suggested that refugees working and spending money is a positive sign for the economy, but the inflation caused due to the increasing number of citizens is hurting in the economy in the short run so more support is needed in the long run (World Bank.2023).

The Syrian Refugee Crisis and its Impact on Jordan's Humanitarian Situation (Al-Fahim, H.2021):

This paper looks at the relocation of Syrian refugees to Jordan which was brought about by the ongoing war in Syria. It describes the socio-economic and humanitarian issues which relied on Jordan's affected such as the strain on public services which have become highly overpopulated, rising unemployment rates, and the mounting pressure on infrastructure. Other aspects analyzed by the study include the international assistance and its influence on alleviating the consequences of the current humanitarian situation as well as the emergence of an international political crisis conditioned by the civil war in Syria and the region. (Al-Fahim, H.2021).

Reference: Al-Fahim, H. (2021). The Syrian Refugee Crisis and its Impact on Jordan's Humanitarian Situation. *Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, 34(2), 215-230.

The Israel-Syria Conflict and Regional Humanitarian Challenges: The Case of Jordan (Khalil, N. 2022):

The Syrian civil war, and also the contemporary pandemic, have caused many Syrians to flee their country. Consequently, there has been a surge of new residents in Jordan who are in dire needs of food and basic facilities. Since there is still no indication that the violence in Syria will cooldown, we can expect the worst case of this crisis. Not to mention, the aspects of the conflict there which are associated with the presence of a refugee population are also going to add new burdens to the prospects of peace in the area in the end. But this does pose a barrier as stability in a region is essential in order to aid humanitarian work which has been done in various ways by different organizations. This sudden modification in population structure had a great impact on the already struggling economic situation: the joblessness growth, the social variations, and the rise of unemployment, to name a few. Simply put, The Syrian Refugee Crisis and its Impact on Jordan's Humanitarian Situation describes the demanding humanitarian situation that prevailed in Jordan when Syrians sought refuge there and how Jordan is trying to remedy the situation (Khalil, N. 2022).

Humanitarian Aid in Jordan: Addressing the Spillover Effects of the Israel-Syria Conflict (Fadi, A.2020):

This article discusses Jordan's Statement on Refugee Protection and Implementation of Humanitarian Action and its response to the growing refugee crisis owing to the conflict between Israel and Syria. It describes the collaborative efforts undertaken by the Jordanian government and international agencies like UNHCR and Red Cross in addressing the need for culture schools, homes, hospitals, and class rooms alongside education, health, and housing services amidst a larger domestic and international aid. The article also considers the geostrategic issues of the region and their impact on the ability of both international communities and local actors to aid mobilizing efforts (Fadi, A.2020).

The Role of Jordan in Regional Security and Refugee Management Amidst the Israel-Syria Conflict (Hammad, M. 2023):

The study seeks to examine the current dynamics of the Middle East, specifically the case of Jordan, within the ambit of the Israel-Syria war. Additionally, it will assess the global humanitarian response to the ongoing Israel-Syria conflict. On the conflict, Jordan is under pressure to align itself with Israel or Syria while being politically marginalized by other Middle Eastern countries. This article analyzes Jordan's Strategic resilience and the effects of the worsening conflict on other states and its citizens' sovereignty, covering the humanitarian needs and foreign relations policies of around 78 states, including the U.N. and the EU. The argument which will be upheld is that Jordan is trying balancing regional integrated politics Further today, Israel-Syria humanitarian incentives have made Jordanian borders porous in response to internally displaced Syrian citizens (Hammad, M. 2023).

National Security, Stability, and Military Cooperation:

Security Implications of Hosting Refugees The inflow of refugees to Jordan due to the Syrian conflict currently poses a multitude of security issues to the country. Even though Jordan has been able to comply with their humanitarian duty of providing shelter to one of the biggest refugee populations across the globe, this has led to fears of possible social fragmentation combined with internal security concerns (Hammad, M. 2023). The balanced population of the relocated people particularly in refugee camps such as Zaatari and urban settings have strained the existing socio-economic nexus there thereby posing threats to the overall state security. One of the key issues is the danger of radicalization (Al-Fahim, H.2021). To accommodate the large influx and presence of the refugees fleeing from prolonged civil strife, it won't be surprising that some enigmatic factors have emerged among especially the young middle easterners fighting for faith. Jordan that has already suffered intensity of violence from extremist groups have to best prevent the ideologies of radicalism to spread among the refugees while bearing security

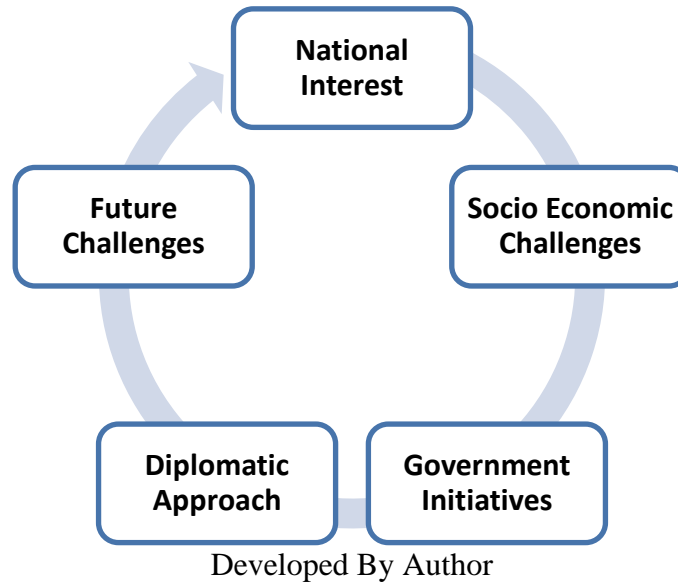
interventions with regards to the benefits gained from the locals (Khalil, N.2022). With the increasing concern, the government now has various measures incorporated as counter terrorism including refugee camp surveillance and engaging with relevant agencies around the world to identify and mitigate any threats. To add to that, there is also a worry of civil commotion. Fighting over housing, jobs and access to services can construct barriers between the refugees and the local population, further deepening existing rifts (Shteivi, M.2020). This has resulted in protests and violent outbursts in some instances, which have put a further strain on Jordan's security. There are also worries over how equipped the local law enforcement is to maintain peace in these already overcrowded regions and inside the refugee camps which are further expected to expand with the surge. Jordan's security forces must maintain the right balance when dealing with the ever shifting tensions in an attempt to provide security (Hammad, M.2023). This has resulted in a crackdown of sorts and more focus on internal security such as monitoring of refugees around the region while restricting movement of militants and weapons across the borders.

Jordan has implemented some changes over time, especially in relation to the present refugee situation and the security implications it could lead to ensure that the integrity of the state and the peace of the country is maintained. Most of these changes were aimed at controlling the number of refugees entering the country and the threats that could come with them while still ensuring that the security forces are removable of the issues they may face (Laham, A.2021). One consideration has been stricter border surveillance and immigration control. The Jordanian government has sought to limit uncontrolled entry of refugees to the country especially from Syria. A process of registration of refugees has also been set in motion which facilitates the monitoring of the population. This helps the managers in ascertaining whether the refugees are a security problem while at the same time attending to their needs. Another such policy initiative has to do with providing employment to the refugees and helping them become self-sufficient (Petersen, A., & Smyth, J.2020). The underlying rationale for this strategy is to lessen the economic gap between the refugees and Jordanians which otherwise could trigger social violence. By providing reasonable opportunities for self-reliance, Jordan is trying to allay the frustrations of the refugees that would otherwise encourage resentment and turmoil. In addition, Jordan has undertaken measures to develop the adaptive capacities of the communities particularly those with high density of refugees. This consists of addressing the healthcare and education systems and public services capacity as well as providing stress and volatility alleviating psychosocial support for the refugees (Mohaisen, A.2020).

Jordan has adapted its military and security approach to accommodate the humanitarian disaster as well as potential regional security threats. The security stance of this country has been geared towards the forging of alliances with other countries, particularly with western nations like the USA and the EU, and other countries in the region, such as Saudi Arabia. These alliances have

been instrumental in enabling Jordan to deal with the internal and external security threats through military, financial, and intelligence support (Haddadin, S., & Harrell-Bond, B.2020).

Jordan's Strategy and Plan for the Humanitarian Crisis and Regional Issues:



Jordan's response to the humanitarian crisis in the Middle Eastern region due to the Syrian conflict is a good example of how there exists a thin line between helping people in need and safeguarding national interest. Since 2011, Jordan has taken in over 1.3 million Syrian refugees, greatly worsening the situation in this country that was already resource-constrained. Jordan has slowly emerged as a leader in providing shelter to the displaced populations in spite of its small size and economically weak infrastructure, hence, exhibiting its dedication to regional security and international humanitarian guidelines (Chatty, D.2018).

The issue of Syrian refugees has posed a number of socio-economic challenges to the state of Jordan. Overwhelming demand from refugees and local persons has rendered the public services, such as health care, education and even housing, not only inadequate but also lacking. Job competition for many unemployment refugees breeds social tensions (Clemens, M. A., & Sandefur, J.2019). Also, in cities like Amman the demand for housing has increased exacerbating the prices of rent which lead to overcrowding and poor standards of living. Water and other available resources of the country are overstretched which worsens the existing environmental issues (Barakat, H., & Khoury, S.2019). In spite of these hurdles, the government of Jordan has tried to systematically deal with the needs of the refugees through the establishment of camps which include the Zaatari camp that accommodates thousands of

displaced people from Syria. Additionally, it has legalized many of the refugees willing to work in Jordan and further integrates into local communities which serves the dual purpose of protecting refugees while taking consideration into the economy of the country (International Crisis Group.2023).

Jordan has not been successful in its efforts single handed and this is where international directly intervened with the apex body being the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees along with several humanitarian organizations to provide emergency aid, medical assistance, and education. Also, financial and logistic assistance came in from the US, EU countries, and Gulf states like Saudi Arabia and UAE. Such international aid has greatly helped Jordan to bear the cost of service and development (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.2022). With Aid Jordan was still able to address some of the long term goals that would have made it difficult for refugees to integrate. Jordan's infrastructure along with the growing population is in dire need of intervention on a broader scale which is where support from the international corridor will play a vital role (Phillips, C., & Warrick, J.2021). The recent crisis Jordan along with its neighboring countries have had to face an alarming increase in the number of refugees and to combat that an integrated foreign strategy will enable them to provide aid while ensuring that its people are not put in harms way. Instead of using direct violence, Jordan has utilized a more sophisticated approach to diplomacy with Western powers and nearby countries allowing Jordan to assist refugees without doing any harm to themselves politically (Al-Fahim, H.2021).

Conclusion:

Jordan's answer to the hybrid challenges brought about by the Israel-Syria issue and the Syrian refugee challenge underlines the reality that it has the requisite navigational competencies to cope with one of the most earrings and highly extension geopolitical zone in the Middle East. Though fairly small and with limited resources, Jordan has always shown a rare sense of commitment to humanitarian ideals by accommodating well over 1.3 refugees from Syria which is among the largest transfers globally in relation to its population size. This commitment is both tied to a sense of duty and practical apprehension of being part of the region. At the same time, the kingdom has ensured that it is able to remain a sovereign and peaceful state by using state diplomacy and employing flexible policies in order to fulfill these dual objectives. In response to the seemingly anarchic global order, Jordan has exhibited a neo-realism approach. By focusing on the survival of the state, Jordan has been able to find a balance between its international obligations and national security. The inception of refugee integration programs, along with the Zaatari And Azraq refugee camps is strong evidence of how Jordan has tackled the interaction of socio-economic and security stresses. Jordan, along with other countries has been able to curtail the destabilizing effects of the crisis and provide resources to the refugees. At the same time, the problem of unmet demand for public services and infrastructure continues to be significant

which calls for international response to it. By cooperating with Western countries and becoming an active member of international organizations, Jordan has been able to tackle the obstacles efficiently. Through the support of the EU, military assistance from the US and other nations, Jordan was able to mitigate the impact of the crisis. This has enhanced Jordan's geopolitical influence and allowed Jordan to step into the middle of disputes that had intensified. Balanced relations with Israel and surrounding Arab countries portray Jordan as a peace-lover who seeks to resolve international disputes without violence. Jordan's participation in international organizations further emphasizes this point. Jordan has dealt with the refugee crisis as myriads of issues came with it such as stress to longstanding issues like energy, water and in more broad terms infrastructure issues such as housing, healthcare and education. Aid was proven to be a lifeline as they had invested into strengthening the economy along with lasting reform: helping them to tackle issues like unemployment. The investment into technology and renewable energy give hope to a self reliance based future. The aid Jordan provided has rationalized them to be the most integral player in the Middle East by showcasing how they are able to support themselves along with timely resolutions to regional conflict. However, with the amount of international support, Jordan has been able to aid the refugees, but the sheer scale, time and resources that have gone into the crisis has created a divide into what Jordan is able to achieve. For a sustainable future to exist, more people would need to actively partake into aiding the people of Jordan along with the entire region.

Once the ongoing crises have ended, Jordan will have to deal with geopolitical challenges, socio-economic factors and various security concerns, praying the combination gets dealt with Jordan's resilience and pragmatism. If Jordan sustains its sovereign, puts in place thoughtful domestic tactics, strengthens its strategic partnerships and encourages regional cohesion, it will be able to ensure a bright and prosperous future for both its citizens and the refugee populations it houses.

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