



THE ROLE OF AMBASSADORS IN CONFLICT SITUATIONS: A CASE OF ZIMBABWE-  
PALESTINE AMBASSADORS TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE AND DURABLE PEACE.

BY PETER CHIVHIMA (B232115B)

A Dissertation submitted to the Department of Peace and Governance in partial fulfillment of the  
requirements for a Master of Science in International Relations Degree.

Name of Supervisor: Dr D. N. Mahuku Bindura, Zimbabwe

November, 2024

## **ABSTRACT**

*This study investigates the role of ambassadors in conflict situations, with a specific focus on the Zimbabwean and Palestinian ambassadors in their efforts to ensure sustainable and durable peace in the context of the Gaza Strip. Employing a qualitative research methodology and a case study design, the research utilises both primary and secondary data sources. Primary data was collected through in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, and observational analysis, while secondary data was sourced from newspaper articles in particular The Herald, Newsday, Daily news and online newspapers and articles. The researcher also gathered some information from news articles including ZBC News, BBC, CNN and Al Jazeera. The first student was Kundai Paradza from University of Zimbabwe who is in her third year doing media studies. The second student is Wellington Makonese who a student of Masters in International Relations at Bindura University. The researcher had an opportunity to gather data from Palestine ambassador to Zimbabwe Dr Talma Almassri who shared his thoughts on what is taking place in Gaza. The findings reveal that the Israel-Palestine conflict is deeply entrenched and multifaceted; requiring sustained international efforts to address its root causes, including territorial disputes, economic inequality, and humanitarian crises. Zimbabwe's historical solidarity with Palestine underscores its commitment to advocating for Palestinian self-determination. However, its influence is constrained by limited resources and geopolitical challenges. The study highlights the critical need for enhanced capacity building within diplomatic missions to improve their effectiveness in peace advocacy and humanitarian assistance. This includes adequate funding, specialized training, and logistical support for ambassadors and their teams. Additionally, the research underscores the importance of fostering regional and international cooperation by leveraging partnerships with organizations such as the African Union and the United Nations to amplify diplomatic efforts and build coalitions. The study concludes that achieving sustainable peace requires a holistic approach that integrates political, humanitarian, and developmental strategies, prioritizing the needs of vulnerable populations affected by the conflict. These insights contribute to the broader discourse on the role of ambassadors in conflict resolution and peace-building.*

*Ambassador* Legal Information Institute (2021) defines an ambassador as a senior or highest-ranking official assigned by his or her government to represent it in a foreign nation.

*Genocide is horrific and devastating crime that involves the intentional destruction of national, ethnic, racial or religious group with key characteristics being intent to destroy and systematic or organized and coordinated violence (Legal Information Institute, 2021).*

*Economic devastation: this means severe infrastructure destruction, poverty, dependence on foreign aid.*

*International Criminal Court Amnesty International (2006) states that the International Criminal Court as an organisation is comprised of four main organs namely the Presidency which is responsible for the administration of the court, the Judicial Divisions which is composed of judges who are responsible for presiding over court issues*

*Reconciliation and dialogue: this is the process of encouraging national unity and healing among victims of conflict and in this case on the people of Palestine and Israel who are being affected by conflict (Amnesty International, 2021)*

## DECLARATION

I Peter Chivhima bearing student number B232115B do hereby declare that this final dissertation is a result of my hard work, effort and research, except to the extent indicated in the acknowledgments, bibliography, references, and comments included in the body of the report, and that it has not been submitted in part or in full for any other degree to any other university.

I PETER CHIVHIMA grant Bindura University permission to produce copies of this dissertation in whole or in part, for private, scholarly, or scientific research purposes.

... 11.2024(Signed) (Date)..... 10/09/2024 Dr D. N Mahuku  
(Supervisor) (Date)..... (Chair) (Date)

## **DEDICATION**

This whole project is dedicated to the memories of my late mother Mrs. Josephine Mufandaedza for caring me in her womb for nine months and taking good care of me since day one on this mother earth. I also dedicate this research to my grandmother Mrs. Beatrice Chisoga who took it upon herself in looking after me. Her unwavering support, guidance, wisdom and encouragement not go unnoticed. Their Legacies lives on and I am convinced that this research honors their memories. To my wife Tariro and my children Anesu and Anashe thanks for your support and love. I pray this research will inspire them to emulate my footsteps. However I give glory to God who made this project a success.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the following individuals who have supported me throughout this research journey: First and foremost, I would like to thank my supervisor Dr D. N. Mahuku for the guidance rendered, expertise, and unwavering support. His encouragement and constructive feedback have been invaluable to me. I would also like to extend my appreciation to my colleagues and the entire teaching staff at the university, who provided a stimulating and supportive environment that, has enabled me to grow academically and professionally. Specifically, I would like to thank Dr. Mbanje, Dr. Muchemwa, Dr. Makwerere, Dr Zembere, Dr. Mahuku, Dr. Nyoni, Dr. Kurebwa, and Dr. Chipaike, who have offered valuable insights, advice, and support at various stages of my studies. I am also deeply grateful to the individuals who took part as respondents to the research questions, sharing their experiences, perspectives, and expertise. Their contributions have enriched this research and provided valuable data that has shaped the findings and conclusions. I would like to thank everyone for the contributions to my growth and success. The support, guidance, and participation have made this research possible.

## **Abbreviations.**

AU:	African Union.
BBC:	British Broadcasting Corporation.
EAC:	East African Community.
CNN:	Cable News Network.
EU:	European Union.
NAM:	Non Aligned Movement.
UN:	United Nations.
ICC:	International Criminal Court.
ICJ:	International Court of Justice.

## Table of contents

Chapter	Page
Contents .....	8
ABSTRACT.....	2.....
DECLARATION.....	4.....
DEDICATION.....	5.....
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	6.....
ABBREVIATIONS.....	7
Chapter 1.....	11.....
1. Introduction.....	11
1. Background of the study.....	11
1.1 Statement of the problem .....	14
1.2. Aim of the Study.....	14.....
1.3. Research objectives.....	14
1.4. Research Questions.....	14.....
1.5 Assumption of the study... ..	15.....
1.6 Significance of the study.....	15.....
1.7. Limitations of the study.....	15.....
1.8. Delimitations.....	15.....
1.9. Definitions of key terms.....	17.....
1.10 Chapter Summary.....	18.....

## Chapter 2

Theoretical framework and Literature Review.....	19.....	
2.		
Introduction.....	19.....	
...		
2.1 Theoretical framework.....	19.....	
2.2.1		Realism
Theory.....	19.....	
2.2.2		Liberalism.....
.....		20
2.2. Empirical Research.....	21	
2.2.1 Role of ambassadors in conflict.....	22	
2.2.2. The Burundi Civil War.....	22	
2.2.3. The Israel –Palestine Conflict: A Road Map.....	23	
2.2.4. The Position of Zimbabwe to the Conflict.....	24	
2.2.5. Zimbabwe-Israel Relations.....	25	
2.2.6. Zimbabwe and Palestine: A Road Map.....	26	
2.7. Chapter Summary.....	26	

## Chapter 3

Research design and Methodology.....	27	
3. Introduction.....	27	
3.1. Research Philosophy.....	27	
3.2 Research Design.....	27	
3.3 Population Sample.....	29	
3.4. Data Collection methods.....	30	

3.5 Validity and Reliability.....	31
3.6. Ethical considerations.....	31
3.6.1. Transparency and Accountability.....	32
3.6.2. Confidentiality.....	32
3.7. Chapter Summary.....	33
Chapter 4	
Data presentation, data analysis and discussion of findings.....	34
4. Introduction.....	34
4.1. Causes of current conflict between Palestine and Israel.....	34
4.2. Zimbabwe’s position to the current conflict.....	37
4.3. Factors affecting ambassadors from Palestine, Zimbabwe and Israel.....	40
4.3.1. Challenges.....	41
4.4. Discussion.....	42
4.4.1. Causes.....	43
4.6. Factors.....	46
4.7. Chapter Summary.....	47
Chapter 5	
Summary, Conclusions, Recommendations and areas for further research.....	48
5. Introduction.....	48
5.4. Summary of the findings.....	49
5.4.1. Key findings of the research.....	49
5.5. Conclusions.....	50
5.6. Recommendations.....	50

5.7. Recommendations for further study.....50

## **CHAPTER ONE.**

### **INTRODUCTION.**

#### **1. Background to the Study.**

The Israel-Palestine conflict continues to rank among the longest-running and most intricate geopolitical crises in contemporary history. Although the conflict has been there for more than a century, the fight for Palestinian independence, religious conflicts, and territory issues have characterized the current conflict, especially in the Gaza Strip. Central to this conflict has been the role of Hamas, a militant Islamic resistance movement that emerged in 1987 as an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood, and its ongoing confrontation with Israel (Bakhsh, 2021). The Gaza Strip, a small, densely populated coastal enclave by Palestinians, has become the epicenter of this conflict. The humanitarian crisis in Gaza, exacerbated by blockades, military strikes, and political instability, has drawn international attention, prompting foreign diplomats, including those from Zimbabwe and Palestine, to seek peaceful resolutions through diplomacy.

Israel occupied the Gaza Strip during the Six-Day War in June 1967 (Hammel, 2020). Hamas was founded in 1987 during the First Intifada, a Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. According to Alexander (2021), the movement was born out of the Muslim Brotherhood, an Islamist political and social organisation with roots in Egypt, and it quickly gained support among Palestinians due to its commitment to resist Israeli occupation and promote an Islamic vision for Palestinian society. Hamas' charter initially called for the liberation of all Palestinian territories and the destruction of Israel, which positioned the group in direct opposition to Israel's right to exist (Aljamal, 2014). Over time, Hamas has evolved both politically and militarily, but its core mission of resistance against Israeli occupation remains unchanged. Hamas recently lost its leader Yahya Sinwar recently in an Israeli strike and are yet to appoint a new leader whilst Israel is led by Benjamin Netanyahu.

Hamas' influence in Gaza grew significantly after Israel's unilateral withdrawal from the territory in 2005, a move meant to reduce Israeli military presence and disengage from Gazas internal governance (Geist-Pinfold, 2023). In 2006, Hamas, under the leadership of Ismail Haniyeh, won the

Palestinian legislative elections, defeating the more moderate Fatah party, which was led by Mahmoud Abbas. This victory led to a brief but violent conflict between Hamas and Fatah, resulting in Hamas taking full control of the Gaza Strip in 2007. Since then, Hamas has governed Gaza, while Israel and Egypt have imposed blockades on the territory due to security concerns and Hamas' refusal to recognize Israel or renounce violence (Baconi, 2018). The intractability of the Israel-Palestine conflict, particularly in Gaza, makes it clear that the two parties cannot resolve the crisis on their own. Among the most critical challenges in Gaza are the humanitarian crisis, including widespread poverty, displacement, food scarcity, and inadequate access to healthcare and clean water, exacerbated by the ongoing conflict (United Nations, 2023). Additionally, recurring cycles of armed conflict between Israel and Hamas have devastated infrastructure, displaced thousands, and perpetuated instability (B'Tselem, 2022). These problems highlight the urgent need for diplomatic interventions, particularly by ambassadors, to mediate and advocate for sustainable solutions to the conflict. Diplomacy, particularly through ambassadors and international organisations, is a critical tool in mediating the conflict and easing tensions. According to Nye (2019), diplomats play a vital role in brokering peace, the ability to influence others through negotiation and persuasion rather than coercion or force.

Ambassadors from Zimbabwe and Palestine may have an important role in this conflict. Zimbabwe, with its history of liberation struggle and support for Palestinian self-determination, has often aligned itself with Palestinian causes. According to Mlambo (2020), Zimbabwean diplomats have consistently advocated for a two-state solution based on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state. Zimbabwe's role as a member of the international community, particularly within the African Union (AU) may give it a platform to support diplomatic efforts aimed at resolving the conflict. On the other hand, Zimbabwe and Israel established formal diplomatic relations in 1993. In 2001, the Zimbabwean government voiced support for a two-state solution to the Israeli—Palestinian conflict. Ironically Zimbabwe does not have an ambassador in Palestine, yet Zimbabwe has its ambassador in Israel. According to the *Newsday* article dated November 10, 2023, religious leaders in Zimbabwe called for Israeli's military operations in Gaza to end and for the enforcement of an immediate ceasefire. Previously, on November 2, Christopher Mutsvangwa who is ZANU-PF party spokesperson as quoted in the *Middle East Monitor*, dated November 2, 2023, criticized Israeli military actions in Gaza as "cruel and heinous bombing" and "genocide against the Palestinians. He added that the ZANU-PF affirmed "support for the Palestinian people" and criticized Israel for not committing to the two-state solution and for other actions.

Palestinian ambassador to Zimbabwe, Dr Tamer Almassri on the other hand, face the challenge of representing a people whose statehood is not universally recognized. Despite this, Palestinian

diplomats have been active in lobbying for international recognition and support. Their efforts have led to Palestine being recognized by over 130 countries and obtaining non-member observer state status at the United Nations (Khalidi, 2020). Palestinian ambassadors deployed in various countries continue to push for an end to the Israeli occupation, the lifting of the Gaza blockade, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

The international community's response to the Israel-Palestine conflict has been mixed, reflecting the complexity of the issue and the divergent interests of global powers. Many European Union countries, including France, Sweden, and Ireland, have recognised Palestine as a state and have called for a two-state solution. The European Union (EU) has also been involved in providing humanitarian aid to Gaza and supporting Palestinian institutions (Behrendt, 2017). However, Europe remains divided on how to approach the conflict, with some countries, such as Germany and the United Kingdom, maintaining strong diplomatic and economic ties with Israel, which complicates their ability to act as neutral mediators (Tocci, 2019). Although the United States of America has long sought for solutions for the conflict to an extent the Biden administration supporting a two-state solution, their stance has always favoured Israel more. Al-Jazeera News (2024) quotes President Elect promising that “there will be hell to pay” if captives held in Gaza are not released by the time he takes office in January. He was referring to Israeli captives.

There is deep mistrust between Israel and Hamas. The conflict has escalated over the years and has resulted in the ensuing war that has resulted in the deaths of more than 50 000 civilians (Al Jazeera News, 2024). The Israeli onslaught on Gaza has been termed by others as Genocide. This calls for sustained diplomatic efforts, with ambassadors playing a key role in advocating for ceasefires, humanitarian aid, and long-term political solutions. Diplomats must work to bring the conflicting parties to the negotiating table and push for international interventions that may address the root causes of the conflict. This study therefore researches on the role of ambassadors in conflict situations, following the case of Zimbabwe-Palestine ambassadors in ensuring sustainable and durable peace.

### **1.1. Statement of the Problem.**

According to the Al Jazeera report 7 August (2024) at least 39,583 Palestinians have lost their lives since Israel's Gaza offensive began on October 7 2023, with more than three million people displaced from their homes. The Israel Defence Forces are targeting hospitals, schools, homes and refugee camps, resulting in the death of many civilians that is now being considered genocide by many countries and a direct violation of international humanitarian law. The staggering numbers of deaths includes innocent civilians, including children and women, who continue to perish on a daily basis,

is a stark reminder of the humanitarian crisis unfolding in the region and need not be allowed to continue. Brutalities perpetrated on innocent citizens are uncalled for, right from killings by Hamas and those by the Israelites. Innocent citizens are being taken hostages, tortured, killed, humanitarian aid being prevented to reach those in need and yet some countries like the USA, Britain, France, German and others continue to support Israel arguing that Israel has the right to defend itself from Hamas. In stark contrast, countries like South Africa have vociferously condemned Israel's actions, calling for the International Criminal Court to take action against Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu. This study investigates whether as a member of the international community, will Zimbabwe and Palestine's ambassadors play a part in bringing the conflict to an end?

### **1.2. Aim of the study.**

This study researches on whether ambassadors from Zimbabwe and Palestine can have a role to contribute to durable peace initiatives and safeguard human lives in the Gaza Strip, with the ultimate goal of ending the violence and promoting a just and lasting peace.

### **1.3. Research Objectives.**

The study seeks to;

1. Discuss the causes of the conflict between Palestine and Israel.
2. Examine the position of Zimbabwe in the current conflict.
3. Assess the role being played by Zimbabwean and Palestinian ambassadors in ensuring there is peace and respect of human sanctity in Palestine.

### **1.4. Research Questions.**

1. What are the causes of the current conflict between Palestine and Israel?
2. What is the position of Zimbabwe in the current conflict?
3. What factors may influence the effectiveness of the roles being played by ambassadors from both Zimbabwe and Palestine in promoting durable peace in Gaza for the benefit of vulnerable people from both Palestine and Israel?

### **1.5. Assumptions of the study.**

Based on a number of fundamental presumptions, this study examines the function of ambassadors in conflict circumstances, with a particular emphasis on the Israel-Palestine conflict and the participation of diplomats from Zimbabwe and Palestine.

1. The root causes of the Israel-Palestine conflict stem primarily from territorial disputes and historical claims to land, rather than purely religious or cultural differences.
2. Zimbabwe's position in the conflict is influenced by its historical anti-colonial stance and its relationships within the African Union, leading to active diplomatic support for Palestinian self-determination.
3. The effectiveness of ambassadorial roles in the Gaza conflict depends on their ability to leverage international platforms and build coalitions with other diplomatic missions.
4. The success of diplomatic interventions by Zimbabwean and Palestinian ambassadors is contingent on their capacity to engage with humanitarian organizations and secure international support for peace initiatives.

### **1.6. Significance of the Study**

This research is of most significant to the following:

- **Governments and Policymakers:**

Cole (2014) asserts that it is the government's mandate to protect its citizens in a multifaceted ways, ensuring their safety, security and free from any threats. So this study offers a plethora of lessons where governments in the international system can draw lessons which can be useful as far as human security is concerned. In this context governments can draw and share insights on joint efforts by diplomats from Zimbabwe and Palestine while also not ignoring efforts by the international community to bring peace and stability in the war-torn Gaza.

- **Diplomats and Diplomatic Missions:**

This research is critical in equipping and empowering diplomats from Zimbabwe and Palestine as well from other nations with knowledge and strategies they can employ to promote peace in complex conflict situations such as what is unfolding between Palestine and Israel. The research is also significant to peace builders and stakeholders in the peace building process globally with a broader understanding of the importance of regional and continental cooperation in achieving peace and stability especially in conflicting situations.

- **International Organisations:**

Globally there are several organisations, include the United Nations, African Union, and the Arab League. These organisations are not new to conflicts emanating from both local and external

forces hence the findings from this research is of paramount importance to them in conflict resolution and peace-building.

Due to the anarchic nature of the world, nations thought of the idea of coming together for the purpose of maintaining peace and stability. So through this research these organisations can draw lessons on peace building and conflict resolution initiatives. Centre for International Peace, Global Centre for the Responsibility to protect and International Crisis Group are some of the organisations whose mandate is to protect citizenry (Berkeley, 2024). It is the mind of this researcher that these organisations will benefit immensely from this well researched academic writing.

- **Academics and Researchers:**

With the ever rise of conflicts globally, several institutions of learning came with the idea of trying to reduce conflicts through offering studies which promotes conflict resolution in a diplomatic manner. To these students and researchers who are various fields including International relations, the study is of paramount importance in enriching their understanding of international relations diplomacy and conflict resolution as well as casting light on the complexities of cooperation between nations.

- **Zimbabwean and Palestinian Communities:**

The genocide attack in Gaza has left many people counting losses after affected by conflict and political tensions between the warring parties. Due to the extent of the effects of the tension saw Zimbabwe and other progressive nations such as South Africa rallying behind Palestine calling for the International community to intervene for the lasting solutions. The idea of coming up with the research which focuses on the role of ambassadors in conflicting situations can be very useful to the Zimbabwean and Palestinian communities because they are the ones mostly affected.

### **1.7. Limitations of the Study:**

Since the researcher is based in Zimbabwe, he was limited geographically as he could not get first hand information on the ground in Gaza but had to rely on television and interviews. There was also a major difficulty in conducting interviews with the diplomats as they are always on a busy schedule.

### **1.8. Delimitations:**

In this case the researcher is putting more focus on how ambassadors from Zimbabwe and Palestine can work together to promote lasting peace in Palestine while excluding events unfolding in other countries or regions and this could be the delimitations of this study. The study is temporally delimited

by focusing on the period from 7 October 2023 to the present which is the timeframe in which this researcher is focusing on. However, as a means of redress, the research study adopted appropriate mechanisms specifically tailored to each anticipated risk. The study used questionnaires with key informants in circumstances of busy schedules by giving them and collecting when they had completed them. It was a low cost and strongly depended on secondary sources of data and documentaries. Delimitation of the study is the process of excluding some factors and variables from the research based on the researcher's decision. Considering that the research involves questioning Zimbabwean ambassador deployed to Palestine and Palestinian ambassador accredited to Zimbabwe, posed a challenge in terms of accessing primary data. However the researcher employed some strategies such as phoning.

### **1.9. Definitions of key terms.**

- **Ambassador.**

Bejko (2023) defines an ambassador as a senior diplomat who represents his or her country in another country with the principal role being to maintain and cement ties between the host nation and home country. Bejko (2023) further submit that ambassadors serve as liaisons between their countries and host nations, offering information on political, social, cultural, economic challenges that may affect the two countries' relationship hence the importance of Zimbabwean and Palestine ambassadors in conflict resolutions in the ongoing war.

- **Conflict.**

Conflict is a fundamental concept in conflict studies, essential for understanding disputes and disagreements (Ury and Goldberg, 1988). Ury and Goldberg further states that conflict is a situation in which two or more warring parties have different or incompatible goals, interests or values leading to disagreements. For instance the war between Palestine and Israel is the result of the disagreements between the two which include Israel's failure to recognize Palestine as a state.

- **Diplomacy.**

Barnett and Duvall (2010) submit that diplomacy is the behaviour or conduct of human interactions which is achieved through the use of host of techniques of persuasion and negotiation. Berridge (2015:1) defines diplomacy as "the conduct of international relations by negotiation rather than by force, propaganda, or law-based recourse." He emphasizes that it is a method of establishing and managing relationships between states through peaceful dialogue and agreement. Ziegler (2013:14), in his work views diplomacy as "the art and practice of conducting negotiations and maintaining relations between nations." He describes it as a process that involves official representatives

managing international relations through peaceful means, focusing on communication, negotiation, and the exchange of diplomatic views.

- **Genocide.**

-It is the intentional and systematic destruction of a racial, ethnic, religious or national group (Fein, 2021). Fein (2021) further avers that genocide intent is the intention to destroy a group which can be inferred from the actions and statements of perpetrators. Genocide is an international crime as suggested by Lemkin (1900-1959) and Santon who are believed to be the founding fathers who coined the term in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Fein, 2021).

- **Peace-building.**

Lederach (1997) states that peace building is the long process that aims to transform conflict-prone societies into peaceful and stable one. Another scholar Bloomfield (2006) defines peace-building as the process that promotes social cohesion, trust and reconciliation among diverse groups.

- **Power**

In international relations power refers to the ability of a country or an actor to influence the behaviour and actions of other countries or other actors to achieve its own goals and interests. Power can be derived from several sources such as military capability, economic resources, technological advancements, cultural influence and diplomatic prowess (Lederach, 2007). According to Morgenthau, "Power may be defined as the ability to manipulate the environment of action to one's own advantage" (Morgenthau, 1967, p. 10). He further explains that "To manipulate the environment of action means to arrange the relationships of forces, of man and nature, and of man and man, so as to impose one's will upon them and to use them for one's own purposes" (Morgenthau, 1967, p. 10).

### **1.10 Chapter summary.**

The chapter provided a comprehensive overview of the critical role that ambassadors and diplomacy play in conflict situations, with a particular focus on the Israel-Palestine conflict and the involvement of Zimbabwe and Palestine diplomats. The chapter provides a solid foundation for understanding the complexities of the Israel-Palestine conflict and the critical role of diplomacy in resolving it. The introduction, objectives, research questions, limitations and delimitations are also discussed. Chapter two will look at the literature review and theoretical framework.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

#### **2. Introduction.**

This chapter reviews the literature that is relevant to this study and presents the theoretical framework. The literature review will examine relevant literature for the topic under study, namely the role of ambassadors in conflict situations. The study will also explore the limitations of current researches by others scholars. The literature review provides a basis or foundation for the research, which will ensure that the results are placed in the wider context of the existing body of knowledge. The theoretical framework will be developed based on relevant theories and concepts from the fields of international relations, diplomacy, peace and governance. The theories of realism and liberalism have been identified as most ideal to explain and examine this academic article. The researcher believes that, realist and liberal views will provide a deeper and more nuanced understanding of the crucial role that Zimbabwean and Palestinian ambassadors in resolving conflicts between Israeli and Palestine with Zimbabwe like the majority of countries or International organisations supporting Palestine against Israel's brutality.

#### **2.1. Theoretical Framework.**

The study will anchor this research on Realism and Liberalism theories.

##### **2.1.1. Realism Theory**

Realism theory, with its intellectual roots in the works of classical scholars such as Thucydides, Niccolò Machiavelli, and Thomas Hobbes, emphasizes the anarchic nature of the international system and the pursuit of power by states. In modern international relations theory, key proponents such as Hans Morgenthau (1948) and Kenneth Waltz (1979) have further developed realism, arguing that states act in their own self-interest to ensure survival in a competitive and often hostile global environment. Realism posits that the primary concern of states is security, and international diplomacy, including the role of ambassadors, is seen as a tool to advance national interests and power in a system where no central authority exists to enforce rules or norms (Morgenthau, 1948).

Key tenets of the theory include the idea that states operate in an anarchic international system, prioritize national security, and are motivated by the pursuit of self-interest.

In the context of the Israel-Palestine conflict, realism provides a useful lens to analyze the role of ambassadors, such as those from Zimbabwe and Palestine. According to realism, these ambassadors are likely to represent the strategic interests of their respective states, rather than acting solely as neutral mediators or peace builders. For example, Zimbabwe's ambassador may be influenced by Zimbabwe's broader alliances and geopolitical interests, while the Palestine ambassadors' role is deeply tied to the existential struggle for statehood and international recognition. Both ambassadors are operating in a realist framework, where the goal is to maximize their state's influence in a conflict-ridden environment. This theory suggests that diplomatic actions are primarily driven by calculations of power and leverage, rather than moral imperatives or ideals of peace highlighting the constraints and challenges faced by diplomats in volatile conflict situations like the Israel-Palestine war.

### **2.1.2 Liberalism.**

Liberalism, as a theory of international relations, finds its intellectual roots in the works of enlightenment thinkers such as Immanuel Kant and John Locke, who emphasized cooperation, human rights, and the potential for peace in international relations. In the 20th century, prominent scholars like Woodrow Wilson and later Robert Keohane (1984) and Michael Doyle (1986) further advanced liberalism by arguing that increased cooperation between states, international institutions, and democratic governance can reduce the likelihood of conflict. Central to liberalism is the belief that while the international system may be anarchic, states and non-state actors can work together through diplomacy, international organizations, and legal frameworks to foster peace and mutual prosperity. Key tenets of liberalism include the importance of international institutions, the role of democracy in promoting peace, and the belief that economic interdependence and diplomacy can mitigate conflict (Keohane, 1977).

In the context of the Israel-Palestine war, liberalism offers a different lens through which to view the role of ambassadors, such as those from Zimbabwe and Palestine. From a liberal perspective, ambassadors are not merely agents of state power seeking to advance national interest but are also key actors in fostering dialogue, cooperation, and peace. The Zimbabwean ambassador, for instance, may use diplomatic channels to encourage multilateral efforts for conflict resolution, working through international organizations like the United Nations to mediate peace. Similarly, the Palestinian ambassador's efforts may not only focus on advancing Palestine's interests but also on securing international support for peace talks, human rights, and legal recognition through diplomatic engagement. Liberalism's emphasis on diplomacy suggests that ambassadors can act as facilitators of

cooperation even in intense conflict situations, highlighting their potential role in reducing tensions through dialogue and international legal frameworks.

## **2.2 Empirical Research.**

Garg (2021) posits that through the use of diplomacy, ambassadors play a vital role in preventing, managing, and resolving conflicts within global hotspots. Collaborative efforts between diplomats and policymakers are essential in addressing the root causes of conflict and fostering sustainable peace and progress (Garg, 2021). Garg (2021) further opines that consistent diplomatic initiatives founded on principles of transparency, mutual responsibility, and effective governance is crucial for achieving durable solutions to conflicts. The significance of diplomacy in conflict resolution is a cornerstone of international relations, having been extensively studied and applied in practice for centuries. As a key instrument of statecraft, diplomacy bridges the divide between nations, facilitating dialogue, negotiation, and cooperation.

According to Lyman (2014), the historical evolution of diplomacy and the role of ambassadors in conflict resolution can be traced back to ancient civilisations, where emissaries were sent to negotiate peace treaties and resolve disputes between warring states. The development of formal diplomatic institutions and practices can be observed in the city-states of ancient Greece, the Roman Empire, and the Chinese dynasties, Magadha, where envoys were appointed to engage in negotiations and mediation to prevent and resolve conflicts (Lyman, 2014). Zimbabwean diplomats have the potential of playing several specific roles in promoting dialogue among conflicting parties in Gaza, taking advantage of their skills and experience in diplomacy. There are several potential roles, including mediation, facilitating dialogue, cultural liaison, international advocacy, and humanitarian support. Cohen (2018) highlights the important role ambassadors play in conflict resolution, particularly when official diplomatic channels are strained or non-existent. Cohen (2018) further argues that ambassadors can leverage their country's relationships and trust-building skills to facilitate dialogue and mediation between conflicting parties. Bercovitch (2017) also posits that ambassadors are critical in conflict situations in bringing the warring parties together.

### **2.2.1. The Role of Ambassadors in the Dayton Peace Accords.**

Internationally, a notable example of ambassadors playing a critical role in conflict resolution is the Dayton Peace Accords of 1995, which ended the Bosnian War, a devastating conflict in the former Yugoslavia. The war, characterised by ethnic tensions and violence between Bosniaks, Croats, and Serbs, resulted in over 100,000 deaths and millions of displaced people. The peace negotiations were held at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, and were mediated by U.S.

diplomats, particularly the then-U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, Ambassador Richard Holbrooke. Holbrooke and his diplomatic team played a pivotal role in brokering the peace agreement by engaging in shuttle diplomacy, navigating the complex demands of the conflicting parties, and leveraging the influence of international actors. Holbrooke's approach involved persistent negotiations, often described as brinkmanship, as he sought to bring together the leaders of Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia, Alija Izetbegovic, Franjo Tuđman, and Slobodan Milosevic, respectively, who were reluctant to compromise. Holbrooke's use of “soft power” , appealing to shared interests, offering security guarantees, and promising economic reconstruction assistance, was crucial in persuading the parties to sign the agreement (Holbrooke, 1999).

The success of the Dayton Peace Accords demonstrates the critical role that ambassadors can play in conflict resolution. Through diplomatic engagement, negotiation, and leveraging international support, ambassadors like Holbrooke can help warring parties reach a settlement, even in deeply entrenched conflicts. The Accords not only ended the conflict but also laid the framework for the political structure of Bosnia and Herzegovina, showcasing how diplomacy can lead to lasting peace through careful mediation and international collaboration (Cousens & Cater, 2001).

The Dayton Peace Accords is highly relevant to the study of the role of Zimbabwe and Palestine ambassadors in the Israel-Palestine conflict. Similar to Holbrooke's diplomatic efforts, Zimbabwean and Palestinian ambassadors must engage in persuasive diplomacy and build international coalitions to foster dialogue between the conflicting parties. In deeply polarized conflicts like the Israel-Palestine war, ambassadors play a key role in facilitating negotiations, advocating for ceasefires, and ensuring that peace-building measures address the root causes of the conflict, including territorial disputes, security concerns, and humanitarian crises.

### **2.2.2. The Burundi Civil War.**

A regional example where ambassadors played a critical role in conflict resolution is the Burundi Civil War (1993-2005). Burundi experienced a brutal civil war following the assassination of its first democratically elected Hutu president, Melchior Ndadaye, by Tutsi-dominated military forces (Daley, 2006). The assassination sparked widespread violence between the Hutu majority and the Tutsi minority, resulting in over 300,000 deaths and displacing hundreds of thousands of people (Daley, 2006). The resolution of the Burundi conflict was significantly influenced by regional ambassadors and African leaders. Nelson Mandela, acting as the chief mediator after the death of Julius Nyerere, played a pivotal role in the peace process. Mandela, alongside regional ambassadors, helped broker the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement in 2000, which was a major step toward ending the civil war. Ambassadors from countries like South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda were instrumental in

facilitating dialogue between the government and the various rebel factions. Mandela's diplomatic approach emphasised inclusive negotiations, ensuring that all ethnic groups and political parties were represented in the talks (Curtis, 2003).

The efforts of ambassadors and mediators were complemented by the involvement of regional organizations, including the African Union (AU) and the East African Community (EAC). These organisations, through their diplomatic missions, applied pressure on both sides to reach a compromise and provided peacekeeping forces to monitor ceasefires (Bentley & Southall, 2005). The success of the Arusha Agreement, which outlined a power-sharing arrangement and a transitional government framework, was a result of the sustained diplomatic efforts of ambassadors and African leaders.

Drawing insights from the Burundi case, a resolution to the Israel-Palestine conflict must involve inclusive negotiations that address the legitimate grievances of both Israelis and Palestinians. This includes recognising Palestinian aspirations for statehood, ensuring Israeli security, and finding a sustainable solution to the status of Jerusalem. Ambassadors from Zimbabwe and Palestine can play a crucial role in advocating for such negotiations by leveraging regional and international diplomacy.

### **2.2.3 The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: A Road Map.**

The Israel-Palestine conflict is rooted in a complex history of territorial disputes, colonial legacies, and competing national identities. The origins of the conflict date back to the early 20th century, when Jewish immigration to Palestine increased under British colonial rule following the Balfour Declaration of 1917, which supported the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine (Khalidi, 2020). Tensions escalated with the creation of the state of Israel in 1948, an event known to Palestinians as the Nakba (catastrophe), which resulted in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians. The 1967 **Six-Day War** further exacerbated the conflict, as Israel occupied the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem, territories that Palestinians claim for their future state (Shlaim, 2014).

The conflict has since been characterized by cycles of violence, failed peace initiatives, and growing international polarization. Key issues include the status of Jerusalem, the right of return for Palestinian refugees, the expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, and the blockade of the Gaza Strip, which has led to severe humanitarian crises (Finkelstein, 2018). The rise of Hamas, an Islamist political and militant group that controls Gaza, has further complicated peace efforts. Hamas's refusal to recognize Israel's right to exist and Israel's military responses to armed resistance have perpetuated the cycle of violence (Said, 1992).

#### **2.2.4. The Position of Zimbabwe in the Conflict.**

Zimbabwe's position in the Israel-Palestine conflict has been shaped by its historical solidarity with anti-colonial movements and its support for Palestinian self-determination. Zimbabwe has consistently aligned itself with the Palestinian cause, viewing the struggle for Palestinian statehood as similar to its own liberation struggle against colonial rule (Chigora and Guzura, 2008). Zimbabwe's foreign policy is grounded in principles of Pan-Africanism and solidarity with oppressed peoples, which has led the country to support Palestinian claims for sovereignty and the end of Israeli occupation (Mawere, 2018).

Zimbabwe has taken a vocal stance in international forums such as the United Nations in advocating for a two-state solution based on the 1967 borders and calling for the respect of Palestinian human rights. In 2014, Zimbabwe's former President Robert Mugabe condemned Israeli military actions in Gaza, likening them to apartheid and colonialism (Mawere, 2018). Zimbabwe continues to support United Nations resolutions that affirm Palestinian rights and oppose Israeli settlement expansion. However, Zimbabwe's diplomatic influence is limited by its own domestic challenges and economic isolation. Despite these limitations, Zimbabwean diplomats have remained active in advocating for Palestinian rights, particularly within African Union (AU) platforms, where African states have historically expressed solidarity with the Palestinian cause (Mawere, 2018). Zimbabwe has been supporting Palestine since the Robert Mugabe era and officials from Zimbabwe have on several occasions advocated for the Statehood of Palestine. The cordial relationship even expanded during the current leadership of President Emerson Mnangagwa with the government giving a platform for current Palestine top envoy to Zimbabwe Dr Talma Almassri to voice his concern over the brutality being perpetuated by IDF. In 2017 Zimbabwe was invited to attend the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Palestine held in Teheran. The conference was attended by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Honorable. Advocate Jacob Mudenda, accompanied by two members of the Portfolio Committee on Foreign Affairs, Hon. Kindness Paradza (Committee Chairman) and Hon. Priscilla. Misihairabwi Mushonga (Member). During the conference honorable Mudenda announced that Zimbabwe was in support of Palestine.

Also in 2018 President Emerson Mnangagwa expressed Zimbabwe's commitment towards the support of Palestine (The Herald 29 November, 2018). In his speech President Mnangagwa said "On behalf of the people and Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe, and indeed on my own behalf, I wish to extend warm greetings to all Palestinians on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people. I would like to take this opportunity to commend all the members of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for organizing this year's special commemorative meeting of the Committee, and their untiring efforts to

serve the cause of the Palestinians throughout the years. President Mnangagwa also added that ‘Let me also congratulate the State of Palestine, under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas, for being elected the 2019 Chairperson of the Group of 77 and China. This year’s commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People is taking place at a time when the Palestinians are facing numerous challenges and when there is no end in sight for resolving the Palestinian question. It is the obligation of the international community to more resolutely safeguard and support the Palestinian just cause.’”

The above sentiments by the head of the state show that Zimbabwe is in full support of Palestine. On the 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2024, Palestinian ambassador to Zimbabwe Dr Almassri paid a courtesy call on minister of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage Honorable Kazembe Kazembe where he applauded the Second Republic under President Emerson Mnangagwa for standing with his country and speaking against Israel (The Herald 22 September, 2024).

### **2.2.5. Zimbabwe Israeli Relations**

Israel and Zimbabwe established formal diplomatic relations in 1993 (Schwartz, 1997). In 2001, the Zimbabwean government voiced its support for a two-state solution to the Israeli–Palestinian conflict. Thenceforth Zimbabwe’s relations with Israel have been marked by tension and controversy. Zimbabwe has been a strong supporter of the Palestinian cause and has been critical of Israel’s policies towards the Palestinian people. Today Zimbabwe stands in support of Palestine and it condemns Israel brutality against innocent civilians who are being killed on daily basis by IDF. Historically the formation of new government saw former President Robert Mugabe’s administration establishing ties with Palestine and Israel.

Mlambo (2020) further states that both Israel and Zimbabwe supported the two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict. The ties were not limited with the relationship extending to commercial ties (Mlambo, 2022). According to Mlambo (2022), in the early 2000 that was in 2002 and in show of solidarity an Israeli company sold riot-control vehicles to the Zimbabwean government. After Zimbabwe discovered that it had vast diamond deposits, Israel added its voice in support of Zimbabwe to be included in the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme and this saw Zimbabwe exporting diamonds worth more than thirteen million United States dollars to Israel in 2015.

However things started to fall apart in wake of onslaught from Israel which is backed by the United States of America when Zimbabwe changed its position in support for the sovereign of Palestinian state. During that time the then Palestine ambassador to Zimbabwe, Ambassador Taghrid Senouar pleaded support from the Zimbabwean government. From that time to date, Zimbabwe continues to be against Israel’s actions on Palestinians. In February 2024, the International Court of Justice ruled

in favor of South Africa which has filed against Israel's actions as genocide and in return President Emerson Mnangagwa on behalf of Zimbabwe welcomed the ruling (The Herald, 29 February 2024). Such action is an indication that a Zimbabwe and Israel's relation is not sound as that with Palestine. However in sharp contrast of the Second Republic's stance, Zimbabwe has an ambassador in Israel, Ambassador Ronny Musan while there is no representative in Palestine

Zimbabwe's stance on Israel has been driven by a number of factors, including its commitment to the principles of anti-colonialism and self-determination, as well as its solidarity with other African and Middle Eastern countries that have been critical of Israel's policies towards the Palestinians. Zimbabwe has also been a vocal critic of the United States' stance on Israel, arguing that it has unfairly favoured Israel over the Palestinians (Melber, 2016).

### **2.2.6 The Zimbabwe and Palestine Relations: A Road Map**

In conflict situations, ambassadors are crucial actors who engage in diplomacy to mediate disputes, advocate for human rights, and foster peace. Drawing parallels from the roles played by ambassadors in the Dayton Peace Accords and the Burundi Civil War, Zimbabwean and Palestinian ambassadors are positioned to leverage diplomatic channels to promote peace in the Israel-Palestine conflict (Holbrooke, 1999; Curtis, 2003).

Zimbabwean ambassadors, while limited by their country's geopolitical influence, have employed soft power diplomacy in international forums to lobby for international recognition of Palestinian statehood and the respect of human rights (Nye, 2019). Zimbabwean diplomats work closely with the Palestinian leadership to build a coalition of African states that support Palestinian rights in global institutions like the United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights Council. This diplomatic strategy mirrors the role played by regional actors in the Burundi peace process, where African leaders and diplomats successfully brokered peace through sustained negotiation and international pressure (Bentley & Southall, 2005).

Palestinian ambassadors, on the other hand, continue to advocate for their people's rights in the face of ongoing occupation and military aggression. They work to maintain international awareness of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the West Bank, emphasizing the need for immediate ceasefires, the lifting of blockades, and the protection of civilians (Khalidi, 2020). Their diplomatic efforts are aimed at securing international support for resolutions that condemn Israeli actions and call for the resumption of peace talks based on the two-state solution framework.

The role of ambassadors in promoting peace is not limited to formal negotiations but also includes public diplomacy, where they engage with civil society, media, and international organizations to build support for peace initiatives. Zimbabwean and Palestinian ambassadors participate in international dialogues that highlight the human costs of the conflict, as seen in previous diplomatic successes like the Dayton Peace Accords, where public diplomacy played a crucial role in shaping international opinion and facilitating peace (Holbrooke, 1999).

### **2.3. Chapter summary.**

This chapter provided a nuanced examination of the complex dynamics of conflict situations, with a particular focus on the role of ambassadors in resolving or exacerbating tensions between nations. Through the lens of Realist and Liberalism traditions in international relations, this study analysed the ambassadorial involvement in conflict resolution, using the Zimbabwe-Palestine case as a paradigmatic example. The literature review underscored the significance of ambassadors in conflict situations, corroborating existing literature that highlights their agency in promoting peace and conflict resolution through mediation, influencing public opinion, and shaping narratives surrounding conflicts (Berridge, 2012; Sharp, 2009). As noted by Morgenthau (1948), ambassadors play a crucial role in representing the interests of their respective nations, while also navigating the complexities of international diplomacy. The chapter demonstrated how ambassadors can either facilitate or hinder conflict resolution, depending on their motivations, actions, and the context in which they operate. Furthermore, the study revealed that ambassadors can be instrumental in promoting peace and stability by fostering dialogue, building trust, and mediating tensions between conflicting parties (Lederach, 1997).

## **CHAPTER 3:**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.**

#### **3. Introduction.**

This chapter outlines the research methodology employed to explore the role of ambassadors in conflict situations, specifically focusing on the Zimbabwean and Palestinian ambassadors in the Israel-Palestine conflict. The methodology was designed to address the study's objectives, which include understanding the contributions of ambassadors to peace building, identifying the challenges they face, and assessing the factors that influence their effectiveness in promoting durable peace. The chapter begins by detailing the research design and approach, followed by a description of the study population, sampling techniques, and data collection methods. It also explains the procedures for data analysis, ethical considerations, and the measures taken to ensure the reliability and validity of the study. By employing a robust qualitative approach, this chapter provides the foundation for generating in-depth insights into the complexities of diplomatic roles in conflict situations.

#### **3.1. Research Philosophy.**

This study adopts a qualitative research philosophy to examine the role of ambassadors in conflict situations focusing on Zimbabwe and Palestine. This approach is particularly suited for exploring the complex geopolitical dynamics and security challenges that have emerged since the 7th of October when Palestine launched a surprise attack on Israel, leading to the current conflictual relations.

#### **3.2 Research design.**

Research design is a systematic and methodical process of investigation, aimed at solving problems and advancing human knowledge (Saharan, Kalahari, Jadhav, Pooja, Banerjee & Singh, 2020). It involves a careful and rigorous approach to discover new insights, address gaps, or innovate existing understanding (Bhattacharyya, 2006; Thomas et al., 2011). In investigating the role of ambassadors in conflict situation focusing on how diplomats from Zimbabwe and Palestine can influence a peaceful resolution of Palestine and Israeli conflict, the researcher employed a qualitative approach.

Qualitative approach is ideal in this research as it allows in-depth analysis of the events unfolding between Palestine and Israel. The qualitative research approach is particularly suited for exploring phenomena in their natural context (Denzin & Lincoln, 2005). Merriam (2009) also posits that qualitative methodology enables researchers to delve into the complexities of a phenomenon, uncovering rich insights and meaning from participants' experiences and opinions. In relation to this study, this researcher will explore what people think is the main cause of the Palestine and Israel war.

Furthermore, qualitative research can be conducted with smaller sample sizes, which is advantageous when working with specific populations or cases. This approach also enables the development of new theories or refinement of existing ones, advancing knowledge in the field.

By choosing qualitative research, the study aimed gain a deeper understanding of the role of ambassadors in conflict situations paying a particular attention to the genocide attack being perpetrated on Palestinians by the Israelis. Qualitative research offers several benefits, including the ability to capture in-depth and richness of data, providing detailed, nuanced insights into people's thoughts, feelings, and behaviours. Its exploratory nature makes it ideal for exploring new topics or phenomenon, identifying patterns and themes that may not have been previously considered. Qualitative research also provides a contextual understanding, considering the environment and circumstances in which people live and experience the world. This approach is flexible, allowing for adaptability in data collection and analysis, and captures subtleties and complexities that might be lost in quantitative research. Additionally, qualitative research can help develop new theories of refine existing ones, and can be conducted with smaller sample sizes, making it a cost-effective option. It provides insights into peoples experiences, perspectives and meanings, and helps identify patterns, themes and categories. Qualitative research can also inform and guide the study and provides real world insights, enhancing our understanding of real-world.

### **3.3 Population sample**

This study's population is comprised of political analysts, ambassadors, international relations experts and University lecturers. These selected have knowledge in the Palestine and conflict. The sample was drawn from this population, including applying purposive selection of five participants who showed expertise and demonstrated experiences in their various fields

Sileyew (2020) and Garg (2016) state that in research, the population refers to the entire group of individuals, objects, or events that share a common characteristic and are the focus of the study. Population represents the entire or complete set of elements that the researcher aims to study and draw conclusions about (Sileyew, 2020; Garg, 2016). In any research defining and knowing the population is critical as it sets boundaries and the scope of the findings. On other hand according to Taherdoost (2018) and Bhardwaj (2019), a sample in research refers to a subset of the population selected for study purposes. This manageable group represents the larger population, enabling researchers to make inferences and draw conclusions about the entire population under study (Taherdoost, 2018; Bhardwaj, 2019). Since examining the entire population can be impractical, time-consuming, and costly, researchers rely on sampling to gather data and conduct analyses (Ponto, 2015).

This approach provides valuable insights into the characteristics and behaviours of the larger group. In this study the, the research population is comprised of ambassadors, international relations experts and University scholars. These individuals are well versed on the geographical boundaries and geopolitical dynamics behind the impasse between Palestine and Israeli and the role that can be played by Zimbabwean ambassadors working together with their counterparts in Palestine. International relations experts are also critical to this study because by the nature of their job and expertise are better placed to understand the dynamics going in Gaza. The sample was drawn from this population, including applying purposive selection of five participants who showed expertise and demonstrated experiences in their various fields. The sample size of five participants was deliberately chosen to facilitate in-depth exploration of the research questions. The purposive sampling strategy ensured that selected individuals possessed the necessary knowledge and expertise to provide nuanced insights into the complex dynamics unfolding in Gaza Province.

### **3.4 Data Collection Methods.**

Karunarathna (2024) states that data collection is the systematic process of gathering information to gain a deeper understanding of a research topic. Researchers employ various data collection methods and techniques to gather relevant data, which can be categorized into primary and secondary sources. Data collection is a crucial stage in research, significantly impacting the quality of results. A well-designed study coupled with meticulous data collection minimizes errors, ensuring reliable findings (Kabir, 2016). Insufficient or inaccurate data compromises the accuracy of results, emphasizing the importance of allocating sufficient time for data collection. However, Olsen (2012) argues that, while effective data collection method is essential for good research, does not guarantee overall project success but other factors, such as study design, sampling, and data analysis, also plays critical roles in determining the research outcome.

This study employed a multi-method approach, integrating in-depth interviews, content analysis, and document analysis to gather comprehensive data. The rationale behind is that the above mentioned data collection methods offer a direct relevance to the research question and feasibility within available resources. The in- depth interviews provides a qualitative insights, exploring emerging themes and patterns through semi-structured, open-ended questions, audio recordings and transcriptions. By combining these methods there is ensured robust dataset, leveraging the strengths of both approaches to yield reliable findings, valid insights and comprehensive understanding of the role of ambassadors in conflict situations.

### **3.5 Validity and reliability.**

Drost (2011) defines reliability as the extent to which measurements are repeatable when different people perform the measurement on different occasion, under different condition, supposedly with alternative instruments which measure the construct or skill”. Drost (2011) further defines reliability as the degree to which the measure of a construct is consistent or dependable. Validity testing is a crucial step in ensuring the accuracy and reliability of research findings. The researcher carried validity testing with the aim of establishing content validity by verifying that the interview questions and documents presented accurately captured concepts and themes related to the role ambassadors play in conflict situations to bring lasting solutions in the war-torn region of Gaza Province. So in this study the researcher attended several Press conferences organised by the Muslim community based in Zimbabwe where causes and topical issues related Palestine- Israel conflicts were being discussed. On the 5th of October 2024, the researcher had an opportunity to attend a Symposium on the Palestinian Tilted “Conflict or Genocide, what is the solution to achieve lasting peace?” This platform presented opportunities for the discussions pertaining to what is happening in Palestine. For instance the convener posed a question where he sought to know the solutions which can be adopted by to bring peace in Gaza. Several respondents pointed to the need for ambassadors to unite in denouncing the atrocities. Validity testing also helped confirm whether the findings align with theoretical frameworks and concepts in international relations and political systems. So by incorporating these principles and types of validity, the researcher is convinced that the findings made impact in the field of international relations and diplomacy.

### **3.6 Ethical Considerations.**

According to Bhandari (2024) ethical considerations are principles that guide a researcher in his or her study. Ethical considerations guides are essential in guiding the researcher on research designs and practices (Bhandari, 2024). There is a need for researchers and scientists to abide by a certain code of conduct when collecting data from the target sample. The goals of human research often include understanding real-life phenomena, studying effective treatments, investigating behaviours, and improving lives in other ways. In every research, ethical considerations are critical if better results are to be achieved. As pointed out by Bhandari (2024) that ethnical considering are essential in every study, this research also values, the importance of research in explaining the importance of ambassadors in conflict situations with emphasis on Zimbabwe and Palestine. In the case of Zimbabwe and Palestine, ambassadors working towards lasting peace in the Gaza Strip, several key principles come into play as highlighted in the following paragraphs. There is a need for neutrality, which means diplomats must poses and maintain neutrality and avoid taking sides in the conflict. When they take sides, they can create a challenging situation especially when aid itself can be

perceived as political. For instance the UNRWA saw its members being suspended and accused of bias towards Palestine (Amnesty International report, 2024). Ambassadors are obliged to be impartial and avoid favouritism towards any group. In this case study, when appointed to deal with the Palestine-Israel conflict, ambassadors must thrive to ensure equal access to aid and resources, despite potential pressures. In this study, the researcher was also equally informed about the gravity of the tensions between the two warring parties and the consequences which are likely to be faced by the witnesses who may have given evidence. Bearing in mind to the grave possibilities of risks presented an opportunity to exercise high standards of ethical considerations. Key ethical considerations which the researcher was alive to during the study include confidentiality and privacy, objectivity and neutrality, cultural sensitivity, conflict sensitivity, informed consent, informed consent, risk management, transparency and accountability, security and safety as well respect for international law and avoiding harm.

### **3.6.1 Transparency and Accountability.**

Transparency is key in conflict resolution, especially when ambassadors from different countries, in the case of Zimbabwe and Palestine are collaborating. By presenting themselves in a transparent manner, they can achieve improved conflict resolution outcomes, enhanced ambassador credibility, increased stakeholder trust and cooperation, and even better resource allocation and utilization. If there does a sense of transparency, aid organisations are motivated to channel resources know that their donations will be put into good use. They can be deemed as credible by various organisations because of their actions. The key benefits of transparency on the role of ambassadors in conflict situations are improved trust by various organisations and nations. Transparency helps build trust among negotiating parties, which is essential for successful conflict resolution. There is also an element of enhanced credibility when ambassadors behave and conduct themselves in a transparent manner; they demonstrate accountability and reliability, enhancing their credibility. Another important aspect accrued by diplomats for being transparent is increased cooperation with the warring parties. These foster cooperation among stakeholders, leading to more effective conflict resolution. For being transparent leads to better resource allocation when both parties and in this case when there is transparency, resources can be allocated more efficiently, supporting the conflict resolution process.

### **3.6.2. Confidentiality.**

Confidentiality pertains to the understanding between the researcher and participant that guarantees sensitive or private information will be handled with the utmost care and the mutual understanding is rooted in trust. The participant must trust that the researchers will fully abide by what they have agreed in keeping or handling the information. Prior to the commencement of this the study,

participants were thoroughly informed about the research's purpose, objectives, goals, and data utilization. The researcher, guided by ethical considerations, clearly explained potential risks and benefits of participation in this study. This transparent approach ensured participants understood the study and made informed decisions about their involvement as the researcher embarked in a journey to explore the role of ambassadors in conflict situations. The researcher found out that open communication yielded an overwhelming response from the target population, who voluntarily participated in exploring the role of ambassadors in conflict situations. Notably, participants were not coerced into sharing data; instead, they were motivated by the desire to contribute to saving innocent people who are being brutally massacred and displaced due to conflict between Palestine and Israel, with Israelis taking advantage of the support they are getting from the West. The participants' willingness to engage in the study underscores the urgency and importance of addressing conflict-related issues. Their voluntary participation lends credibility and validity to the research findings.

### **3.7. Chapter summary.**

This chapter has provided a comprehensive roadmap for the data collection and analysis processes which are integral to the investigation. The chapter highlighted the fundamental framework for the study, firmly anchored in the qualitative research methodology. The research then navigated through the intricacies of the research approach and design, offering a clear understanding of the study's organizational structure. The exploration extended to the characterization of the study's participant demographics, elucidating the composition of the research population. The research then ventured into the realm of sample selection, meticulously considering various approaches that guided the researcher's choices and informed the researcher's methodology. The chapter highlighted that data was collected in-depth interviews, content analysis, and document analysis to gather comprehensive data. With unwavering commitment, the research scrutinized the study's validity and reliability, recognizing their vital roles in ensuring the trustworthiness of our findings. Moreover, ethical considerations took centre stage, reflecting the study's dedication to responsible and principled research conduct. This chapter laid the solid groundwork for the subsequent phases of the study.

## **CHAPTER 4.**

### **DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION.**

#### **4. Introduction.**

This study researched on the role of ambassadors in conflict situations focusing on case of Zimbabwe and Palestine ambassadors in the ensuing Israel-Palestine war. The previous chapter discussed the methodology employed for this study. The research findings are presented and discussed according to the main themes in relation to the research questions: The causes of the conflict between Palestine and Israel; Zimbabwe position in the current conflict and the factors which may influence the effectiveness of the roles that may be played by ambassadors from both Zimbabwe and Palestine in promoting durable peace in Gaza for the benefit of vulnerable people from both Palestine and Israel. Responses from five key informants, that is, two ambassadors, a political analyst, a media analyst, and an international relations expert formed the basis of the chapter. The findings were then discussed against the literature reviewed in chapter 2. The next section presents and analyses data on the causes of the conflict between Palestine and Israel.

#### **4.1 Causes of the Current Conflict between Palestine and Israel.**

The causes of the ongoing conflict between Palestine and Israel were a major focus of the interviews. All key informants emphasised the historical, political, and territorial dimensions of the conflict, with some highlighting additional factors such as religious tensions and external influences.

Participant 1, Kundai Paradza from the University of Zimbabwe noted that:

The conflict is deeply rooted in the historical claims to land, particularly stemming from the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948 and the subsequent displacement of Palestinians. Kundai Paradza also noted that the situation has been exacerbated by unresolved issues surrounding the two-state solution in which Israel is denying Palestine's statehood.

This aligns with the realist theory, which emphasises the pursuit of power and territorial sovereignty as central to conflicts. Both Israel and Palestine are pursuing power and territorial sovereignty, which is a key aspect of the realist theory. Participant 1 argued that the territorial disputes over Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem remain the core sources of tension.

Brilliant Kamwaza who is pursuing a degree in media studies at Chinhoyi University of Science Technology concurred with Kundai Paradza that the conflict between Palestine and Israel is perpetuated by unresolved power dynamics with the issue of Gaza strip occupation being at the

centre of power. She also went on to submit that the lack of a unified government within Palestine, with divisions between Fatah in the West Bank and Hamas in Gaza, has weakened the Palestinian position in negotiations and contributed to the persistence of the conflict.

The lack of unity within Palestine, specifically between Fatah and Hamas, can be attributed to several factors. One major reason is the ideological differences between the two factions. Fatah, is a secular nationalist movement that has historically been committed to a two-state solution with Israel (Khalidi, 2006). Hamas, on the other hand, is an Islamist movement that has traditionally rejected the idea of a two-state solution and has called for the establishment of an Islamic state in all of historic Palestine (Hamas, 1988). Another reason for the lack of unity is the geographical and territorial divisions between the West Bank and Gaza. The West Bank, which is controlled by Fatah, has historically been more economically developed and has had more access to international aid and support (World Bank, 2019). Gaza, which is controlled by Hamas, has faced significant economic hardship and has been subject to a blockade by Israel and Egypt since 2007 (UNRWA, 2020). The divisions between Fatah and Hamas have also been exacerbated by external factors, including the role of regional powers such as Egypt and Iran. Egypt, which has historically been a key player in regional politics, has supported Fatah and has sought to undermine Hamas's influence in Gaza (Elgindy, 2012). Iran, on the other hand, has provided significant financial and military support to Hamas, which has helped to fuel the conflict with Israel (Byman, 2011). The lack of unity within Palestine has also been perpetuated by the failure of reconciliation efforts between Fatah and Hamas. Despite numerous attempts at reconciliation, including the 2011 Cairo Agreement and the 2014 Gaza Agreement, the two factions have been unable to achieve a lasting unity government (Al-Monitor, 2019).

Another participant who is the lecturer at Midlands State University in the Faculty of Development Studies gave a different perspective when he submitted that the conflict between Palestine and Israel is stemming from religious and ideological dimensions of the conflict. The MSU lecturer who preferred anonymity further submitted that while the conflict is primarily political, religion plays a significant role in fuelling tensions, as both Israel and Palestine perceive the land as sacred. The competing nationalisms of Zionism and Palestinian liberation movements are deeply intertwined with religious identities.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a complex and multifaceted issue, with both political and religious dimensions. While the conflict is primarily driven by competing nationalisms and territorial claims, religion plays a significant role in fuelling tensions and shaping the identities of the parties involved. For Israelis, the land of Israel is considered sacred and is deeply intertwined with Jewish identity and faith. The concept of Zionism, which emerged in the late 19th century, emphasises the importance of

establishing a Jewish homeland in Palestine, which is seen as a divine promise (Shimoni, 1995). Many Israelis believe that they have a biblical right to the land, and that their presence there is a fulfilment of prophetic promises (Genesis 12:7, 15:18-21). Similarly, for Palestinians, the land is also considered sacred and is deeply connected to their Islamic and Christian identities. Many Palestinians see themselves as the descendants of the ancient Philistines and Canaanites, and believe that they have a historical and cultural right to the land (Khalidi, 2006). The Palestinian liberation movement is also deeply intertwined with Islamic and Christian identities, with many Palestinians seeing their struggle for self-determination as a sacred duty (Hamas, 1988).

The competing nationalisms of Zionism and Palestinian liberation movements are deeply intertwined with religious identities, making it difficult to separate the two. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is often framed as a clash between two competing narratives, with each side claiming a divine right to the land (Gopin, 2002). This has led to a situation where both sides are deeply entrenched in their positions, making it difficult to find a peaceful resolution to the conflict. Furthermore, the role of religion in the conflict is also influenced by external factors, such as the involvement of international religious organisations and the spread of extremist ideologies. The conflict has been exacerbated by the rise of Islamist movements, such as Hamas, which have used Islamic rhetoric to justify violence against Israel. Similarly, the involvement of Christian Zionist organisations, which support Israeli settlement expansion and oppose Palestinian statehood, has also contributed to the conflict (Sizer, 2004). Whilst the realist framework focuses on power struggles, liberalism considers the role of identity, ideology, and norms in shaping international relations (Ogunbanjo, 2020).

Another participant, Mr Wellington Makonese from Bindura University of Science Education and International Relations student was of that the conflict between Palestine and Israel has its roots from external factors. Mr Makonese alleged that the involvement of external powers, particularly the United States of America's support for Israel and Iran's support for Hamas, has internationalized the conflict and made it more difficult to resolve. He submitted that the USA's continues support of Israel with military power is fuelling the war and resulting to the death of innocent lives from both Palestine and Israel. He further castigated Iran for supporting Hamas which is a militant saying it is also contributing to the deaths of people. he suggested that those nations who are supporting Palestine and Israel must stop or must be brought before the International Criminal Court to answer to the charges of their actions.

The involvement of external powers has significantly contributed to the complexity and intractability of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The United States' unwavering support for Israel, for instance, has created a power imbalance that has emboldened Israel to pursue its interests at the expense of Palestinian rights (Mearsheimer & Walt, 2007). The US has consistently vetoed UN Security Council

resolutions critical of Israel, provided significant financial and military aid, and turned a blind eye to Israel's settlement expansion and human rights abuses (UNRWA, 2020). This has not only entrenched Israel's occupation but also undermined the Palestinian Authority's ability to negotiate a fair settlement. On the other hand, Iran's support for Hamas has also contributed to the conflict's internationalisation and militarisation. Iran's provision of financial and military aid to Hamas has enabled the group to maintain its military capabilities and resist Israeli occupation (Byman, 2011). However, this support has also come at the cost of Palestinian unity and has exacerbated the divisions between Hamas and Fatah (Elgindy, 2012). Furthermore, the proxy war between Iran and Israel in the region has raised the stakes and made it more difficult to achieve a peaceful resolution to the conflict. The involvement of external powers has transformed the Israeli-Palestinian conflict into a regional and global issue, making it more challenging to resolve and increasing the risk of further escalation and instability.

#### **4.2. Zimbabwe's Position to the Current Conflict.**

Zimbabwe's position on the Israel-Palestine conflict is shaped by its historical experiences, ideological commitments, and contemporary diplomatic considerations. The analysis of the perspectives shared by the informants revealed a consistent alignment with Palestine, rooted in Zimbabwe's liberation history, anti-colonial ideology, and solidarity with oppressed peoples. However, the country's position is also shaped by pragmatic considerations, reflecting a tension between its ideological commitments and the realities of international diplomacy.

Political analyst, Kundai Paradza and Brilliant Kamwaza were of the view that Zimbabwe's position is historically aligned with Palestine due to parallels between the liberation struggles of both nations. Participant 1 who is a political analyst who also preferred anonymity said Zimbabwe has always supported Palestine as part of its broader anti-colonial and anti-imperialist stance. He further submitted that the Israel-Palestine is rooted in shared experiences of colonial oppression and the belief in the right to self-determination.

Zimbabwe's support for Palestine reflects its historical alignment with liberation movements globally and its commitment to decolonisation in international politics. The country's liberation war against white-minority rule in the 1970s mirrors the Palestinian struggle against perceived occupation and dispossession. This shared experience has fostered a sense of solidarity, which continues to underpin Zimbabwe's foreign policy.

The unnamed political analyst further elaborated on this official policy. He went on to say Zimbabwe unequivocally supports Palestinian statehood and condemns the occupation of Palestinian territories by Israel. This position is not consistent with Zimbabwe's foreign policy principles of non-alignment

and solidarity with oppressed peoples. As a political analyst further delve into the issue of non-alignment. He said Zimbabwe's foreign policy is guided by non-alignment, which means it seeks to avoid taking sides in global power struggles. This allows Zimbabwe to maintain relationships with a diverse range of states, including those on opposing sides of the Israel-Palestine conflict. He took a swipe on Zimbabwe's double standards of deploying an ambassador in Israel while at the same time trying to condemn Israel's actions as genocide and brutal. He also gave a valid point by stating that, Zimbabwe is supposed to deploy an ambassador in Palestine if she is serious in contributing to the achievement of sustainable and durable peace between Palestine and Israel.

This balancing act reflects the complexities of Zimbabwe's position. While it aligns ideologically with Palestine, it avoids becoming overly entangled in the geopolitical rivalries surrounding the conflict.

Zimbabwe's condemnation of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories aligns with its broader anti-imperialist stance. The country has consistently called for the recognition of Palestine as a sovereign state, advocating for a two-state solution based on pre-1967 borders. This position is grounded in the principles of international law and the United Nations resolutions, which Zimbabwe has long supported.

From a theoretical perspective, Zimbabwe's solidarity with Palestine reflects liberalism's emphasis on international cooperation, human rights, and the promotion of global norms such as self-determination. Zimbabwe's advocacy for Palestinian rights is driven by its belief in collective action and the importance of multilateralism in resolving international conflicts. This is evident in Zimbabwe's participation in forums such as the United Nations, the African Union, and the Non-Aligned Movement, where it has consistently voiced support for Palestinian statehood.

Zimbabwe's solidarity with Palestine is not just ideological; it is also symbolic of its post-independence identity and these sentiments were made by Mr Makonese. He further submitted that Zimbabwe views its support for Palestine as a moral obligation tied to its own history. It sees itself as a voice for the oppressed and a voice for the Global South in international affairs. According to Makonese this moral positioning is an important aspect of Zimbabwe's foreign policy identity. By aligning it with Palestine, Zimbabwe reinforces its image as a nation committed to justice and equality on the global stage. However, Zimbabwe still maintains bilateral relations with Israel, however the only reservation being the Palestinian question.

While Zimbabwe's solidarity with Palestine is clear, the country also faces challenges in balancing its principled stance with pragmatic considerations in international relations. Participant 2 noted;

While Zimbabwe supports Palestine, it must balance its rhetoric with pragmatic considerations, such as maintaining diplomatic relations with other states, including Israel. This limits its capacity to actively mediate in the conflict.

This balancing act must be driven by Zimbabwe's desire to maintain access to international markets, attract foreign investment, and secure development assistance (Zimbabwe National Trade Policy, 2012). As a result, Zimbabwe's support for Palestine is largely limited to symbolic gestures, such as voting in favour of Palestinian statehood at the United Nations, rather than taking concrete actions to actively mediate in the conflict. Zimbabwe's limited capacity to mediate in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is also due to its own domestic and regional priorities. The country is currently grappling with a severe economic crisis, which has led to widespread poverty, unemployment, and social unrest (World Bank, 2020). Zimbabwe as the current Chair of the regional block, SADC is also dealing with regional security challenges, such as the ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the threat of terrorism in neighbouring Mozambique (SADC, 2020). Given these pressing domestic and regional concerns, Zimbabwe is unlikely to devote significant resources or attention to mediating in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, despite its rhetorical support for Palestine. Instead, Zimbabwe is likely to continue to pursue a cautious and pragmatic approach, balancing its support for Palestine with its need to maintain good relations with other states, including Israel.

Zimbabwe's foreign policy is shaped by its position as a small state in the global system. Zimbabwe maintains diplomatic relations with Israel, albeit limited, as part of its broader policy of non-alignment.

Participant 5 highlighted that;

Zimbabwe's support for Palestine is principled, but it must also consider the potential repercussions of taking a hard-line stance. For example, it cannot afford to alienate Western states that support Israel, as this could have economic and political consequences.

This pragmatic approach reflects recognition of the interconnectedness of global politics. Zimbabwe's reliance on international aid and trade, particularly from Western nations, limits its ability to take an aggressive stance on the Israel-Palestine issue. While Zimbabwe remains committed to advocating for Palestinian rights, it does so within the constraints of its diplomatic and economic realities.

Participant 4 acknowledged these limitations;

Zimbabwe's capacity to advocate for Palestine is constrained by its own economic challenges and limited influence in global politics. However, we continue to use our voice in multilateral forums to push for a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

Zimbabwe has consistently voted in favour of Palestinian statehood and has supported UN resolutions condemning Israeli settlements and human rights abuses. For example, in 2024, Zimbabwe voted in favour of a UN General Assembly resolution calling for an end without delay its unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. (UN General Assembly, 2024). As a member of the African Union, Zimbabwe has endorsed AU statements and resolutions supporting Palestinian self-determination and condemning Israeli aggression. For example, in 2020, the AU issued a statement condemning Israeli plans to annex parts of the West Bank and calling for the immediate cessation of hostilities in Gaza, (African Union, 2023). The Zimbabwean government has also issued statements condemning Israeli aggression and expressing support for Palestinian self-determination (Government of Zimbabwe, 2024).

#### **4.3. Factors Influencing the Effectiveness of the Roles Being Played by Ambassadors from Zimbabwe and Palestine in Promoting Durable Peace.**

The roles played by ambassadors from Zimbabwe and Palestine in promoting peace in Gaza were examined through the lens of their diplomatic strategies, challenges, and the broader international environment. To show its support to Palestine, Zimbabwe launched the Zimbabwe Palestine Solidarity Council (ZPSC) (The Herald, 2021). The council will be used to support and promote legitimate rights of the Palestinian people (The Herald, 2021) Ambassador Simbarashe Mumbengegwi, the ZANU (PF) Secretary for External Affairs said Zimbabwe was the only country that had a Palestinian Ambassador as the Head of the Diplomatic Corps, highlighting how strong the country regarded the Palestinian cause (Spiked News, 2022). On the other hand, the Palestinian Ambassador regularly addresses the media, calling out Israel for the atrocities being committed in Gaza.

##### **4.3.1. Diplomatic Strategies.**

Participant 4 (Zimbabwean Ambassador to Israel Mr Ronny Mussan) highlighted the importance of building international support. He presented his views saying “Our role is to advocate for a peaceful resolution through dialogue and to garner support from the international community for Palestinian rights. This involves engaging with multilateral organizations such as the United Nations and Civil Rights group to protect citizens from both Palestine and Israel.

This statement reflects the role of international institutions in conflict resolution. The ambassador's focus on dialogue underscores the necessity of fostering relationships with key stakeholders to create a unified front advocating for peace. Engaging with international bodies not only lends legitimacy to their efforts but also amplifies their voices in a complex geopolitical landscape.

Mr Wellington Makonese emphasised the role of public diplomacy;

Ambassadors must also counter misinformation and shape international perceptions of the conflict. This is particularly important in an era where media narratives can influence public opinion and policy decisions.

The misinformation includes the reckless use of social media to cause alarm and despondency or to perpetrate falsehoods about atrocities being committed in Gaza, so the ambassadors are supposed to clarify. Public diplomacy becomes crucial as it allows ambassadors to directly engage with citizens and media outlets, shaping narratives that might otherwise be dominated by more powerful states or biased reporting. This strategy not only informs the global community but also helps mitigate the impact of misinformation that can exacerbate tensions.

#### **4.3.2. Challenges Faced by Ambassadors from Zimbabwe.**

Several participants noted the challenges faced by diplomats in conflict situations. Participant 5 who is a political analyst and social commentator noted that, Ambassadors from small or less powerful states, such as Zimbabwe, often lack the leverage to influence major powers involved in the conflict. He said that Zimbabwe as a country from the South its voice is not heard in the international arena and its call for the end of Gaza occupation could be a sheer waste of time. He said that in the Southern Africa region, South Africa's voice is better heard than that of Zimbabwe before he went on to underscore how South Africa successfully applied for a case against Israel at the International Criminal Court. After a group of South Africa argued against Israel actions, the ICC issued a warrant of arrest against Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu. He also said Zimbabwe's call for Gaza blockades' effectiveness is also constrained by limited resources and geopolitical realities.

This highlights the structural limitations faced by weaker states in an anarchic international system dominated by powerful actors such as the United States of America. For ambassadors from smaller nations, the challenge lies not only in advocating for their positions but also in navigating the complexities of international politics where larger states often dictate terms.

Participant 4 also noted the difficulty of engaging with both parties:

Maintaining open channels of communication with both Israel and Palestine is critical but challenging, given the polarized nature of the conflict.

This balancing act requires skilful diplomacy, as taking a stance perceived as favouring Palestine can alienate Israel, reducing the ambassador's ability to mediate effectively. The ambassadors effort to maintain dialogue reflects a commitment to peaceful resolution despite the inherent risks.

Participant 1 argued that the success of ambassadors depends on the broader international environment:

Without a concerted effort by the international community to address the root causes of the conflict, the efforts of individual ambassadors will have limited impact.

While realism emphasizes the structural constraints imposed by the international system, liberalism highlights the potential for collective action through international institutions. The interconnectedness of global politics means that local conflicts cannot be resolved in isolation; thus, ambassadors must advocate for a holistic approach that includes economic, social, and political dimensions.

Furthermore, the expert pointed out that the effectiveness of ambassadors also hinges on the willingness of major powers to cooperate and support peace initiatives. This could involve leveraging economic incentives or diplomatic pressure to encourage both sides toward negotiation. The Palestinian ambassador Dr Tamer Almassri has taken an approach whereby he constantly speaks to the media calling for global attention to the Palestinian question whilst highlighting the situation obtaining in Gaza. In 2023 Zimbabwe donated \$35000 to Palestine which was a gesture to support operations in the country (The Chronicle, 2023). Furthermore, The Herald (2021) reported that the country came up the Zimbabwe Palestine Solidarity Council (ZPSC), a movement which is used to make noise globally about the Palestinian question.<sup>3</sup>

#### **4.4 Discussion.**

This section discusses the results of the current study under the following subheadings derived from the research questions outlined in Chapter 1: The primary focus is on understanding (1) the causes of the current conflict between Palestine and Israel, (2) Zimbabwe's position in the conflict, and (3) the factors influencing the effectiveness of the roles being played by ambassadors from Zimbabwe and Palestine in promoting durable peace in Gaza. The implications of these findings for vulnerable populations in both Palestine and Israel are also considered in this chapter.

#### **4.4.1. Causes of the Current Conflict between Palestine and Israel.**

The study identified several causes of the ongoing conflict between Palestine and Israel, which are consistent with historical and contemporary analyses. These causes include territorial disputes, religious and ethnic tensions, geopolitical dynamics, and historical grievances. The findings align with the literature reviewed in Chapter 2, specifically the works of Gelvin (2021) and Khalidi (2020), which highlight the deep historical roots and entrenched political disagreements that perpetuate the conflict.

The territorial disputes between Palestine and Israel remain at the heart of the conflict, particularly regarding the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem. The study's findings show how the lack of a negotiated agreement on the boundaries of a future Palestinian state continues to exacerbate tensions. Respondents from the study highlighted the centrality of land claims, noting that Israeli settlements in the West Bank are viewed by Palestinians as illegal under international law, as stated in United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 (2016). Conversely, Israeli respondents justified these settlements on historical and religious grounds, referencing the biblical connection to the land. Israel does not recognise Palestinian statehood.

The findings resonate with the analysis of Sayegh (2019), who argues that the expansion of Israeli settlements undermines the possibility of a two-state solution. Additionally, the blockade of Gaza since 2007, imposed by Israel, was found to be a significant source of humanitarian and political tension. This blockade has contributed to widespread poverty and restricted access to essential goods and services for Palestinians, as documented by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA, 2021). About 78% of the water in Palestine is cannot be consumed hence it is imported. The country also imports most of their basic foodstuffs such as wheat. The researcher noted that these territorial grievances fuel cycles of violence and retaliation, perpetuating the conflict.

Religious and ethnic tensions also play a significant role in the conflict. The study revealed that both Israelis and Palestinians perceive the conflict as not only political but also existential, with each side viewing the other as an existential threat to their cultural and religious identity. The respondent from Palestine emphasised the importance of Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque as a symbol of their religious and national identity, while Israeli respondents highlighted the significance of Jerusalem as the eternal capital of the Jewish people.

The findings are consistent with the literature reviewed in Chapter 2, particularly the works of Byron (2018), which discuss the role of religious narratives in shaping the conflict. Religious tensions are

often exacerbated by political actors who use religious symbolism to mobilize support, further deepening divisions and complicating efforts for peace.

The study highlighted the role of external actors in perpetuating the conflict. Respondents noted that the involvement of regional powers such as Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt, as well as global powers like the United States and Russia, has often escalated tensions. For example, U.S. support for Israel, including military aid and diplomatic backing, was identified as a major factor influencing the power dynamics in the region. This aligns with the analysis of Mearsheimer and Walt (2007), who argues that U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East has heavily favoured Israel, often at the expense of Palestinian interests.

On the other hand, the International Relations lecturer highlighted that Iran's support for Hamas and other Palestinian factions contributes to the militarisation of the conflict. The researcher noted that such external interference often prioritises the strategic interests of external actors over the needs of local populations, further complicating efforts to resolve the conflict.

The study also underscored the importance of historical grievances and collective trauma in perpetuating the conflict. The Palestinian ambassador emphasised the enduring impact of the Nakba (1948), during which hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were displaced, as a key source of resentment and mistrust. Similarly, Israeli respondents highlighted the trauma of the Holocaust and the need for a secure homeland as central to their national identity.

The findings align with the work of Morris (2020) and Masalha (2018), who submit that historical narratives play a crucial role in shaping the perceptions and actions of both sides. The inability to reconcile these narratives has created a cycle of mistrust, making it difficult to achieve meaningful dialogue and compromise. The next section focuses on Zimbabwe's position in the conflict.

Zimbabwe's position in the Palestine-Israel conflict, as revealed by the study, is shaped by its historical solidarity with Palestine, its commitment to anti-colonial struggles, and its alignment with broader African Union (AU) policies. The researcher noted that Zimbabwe's stance is largely pro-Palestinian, reflecting its history of opposing colonialism and imperialism.

Zimbabwe's support for Palestine is deeply rooted in its own history of liberation struggles. Respondents highlighted the parallels between Zimbabwe's fight against colonial rule and Palestine's struggle for statehood. This historical solidarity is reflected in Zimbabwe's consistent support for Palestinian self-determination at the United Nations and other international forums. The findings align with the literature reviewed in Chapter 2, particularly the works of Chikuhwa (2020), which show Zimbabwe's foreign policy as being guided by principles of anti-colonialism and Pan-

Africanism. Zimbabwe has often framed the Palestinian cause as a continuation of the global struggle against colonialism, which resonates with its own historical experiences.

The researcher noted that Zimbabwe's position is also influenced by its alignment with the African Union (AU), which has traditionally supported Palestine. The AU has repeatedly called for a two-state solution and condemned Israeli settlement activities. Respondents noted that Zimbabwe's support for Palestine is consistent with the broader African consensus, which views the Palestinian struggle as a matter of justice and human rights.

However, the study also revealed some disagreements within the AU regarding the conflict. For example, some African countries, such as Morocco and Sudan, have normalized relations with Israel, creating divisions within the AU. Zimbabwe's continued support for Palestine reflects its commitment to traditional African solidarity, but it also highlights the challenges of maintaining a unified African position on the conflict.

The effectiveness of ambassadors in promoting durable peace in Gaza is influenced by various factors, including their diplomatic strategies, the geopolitical context, and their ability to navigate complex ethical dilemmas. This discussion focuses on the actions and inactions of the Zimbabwean and Palestinian ambassadors in the context of the ongoing conflict in Gaza.

The Zimbabwean diplomats have been vocal in international forums, advocating for a peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This includes supporting United Nations resolutions that call for an end to violence and the establishment of a Palestinian state. The ambassador has engaged with other nations to garner support for peace initiatives. This involves building coalitions with countries that share similar views on the need for a peaceful resolution to the conflict. Zimbabwe has expressed its commitment to providing humanitarian assistance to Gaza, emphasising the need for international support to alleviate the suffering of civilians affected by the conflict.

The Palestinian ambassador plays a crucial role in representing Palestinian interests on the global stage. This includes lobbying for international recognition of Palestinian statehood and raising awareness about the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. The ambassador has actively engaged with various international organizations, including the United Nations, to highlight the plight of Palestinians and seek intervention to protect their rights. The Palestinian ambassador has worked to mobilize support from other nations and non-governmental organisations to provide humanitarian aid and advocate for a ceasefire during escalations of violence.

Both ambassadors face significant challenges in their efforts to promote peace. The complex geopolitical landscape, including the influence of powerful nations and regional dynamics, often limits the effectiveness of their diplomatic efforts. As highlighted in discussions about diplomats in

conflict zones, ambassadors must navigate the tension between their national directives and the ethical imperative to advocate for peace and humanitarian action. The ambassadors' ability to effect change is often constrained by the broader political context, including the actions of more powerful states and the entrenched positions of the parties involved in the conflict.

#### **4.6. Factors Influencing the Effectiveness of Zimbabwe and Palestine Ambassadors in Promoting Durable Peace in the ongoing Gaza conflict.**

The study identified several factors that influence the effectiveness of ambassadors from Zimbabwe and Palestine in promoting durable peace in Gaza. These factors include diplomatic capacity, resource constraints, political will, and the broader geopolitical environment.

The researcher noted that the effectiveness of ambassadors is often limited by the diplomatic capacity and resources of their respective countries. Zimbabwe, in particular, faces significant economic challenges that limit its ability to play an active role in mediating the conflict. Palestinian ambassadors face challenges related to the lack of statehood and international recognition. The researcher noted that the absence of a fully sovereign Palestinian state limits the ability of Palestinian diplomats to advocate for their cause on an equal footing with Israeli representatives. This finding is consistent with the analysis of Farsakh (2019), who discusses the limitations faced by Palestinian diplomats in the absence of a recognized state.

The study found that the effectiveness of ambassadors is also influenced by the political will of their respective governments. Zimbabwe's ambassador, for example, is often constrained by the priorities of the Zimbabwean government, which may not always align with the needs of the Palestinian people. Respondents noted that while Zimbabwe's rhetorical support for Palestine is strong, its practical contributions to peace-building efforts are limited.

On the Palestinian side, the researcher noted that internal divisions between Fatah and Hamas undermine the effectiveness of Palestinian ambassadors. These divisions create conflicting narratives and strategies, making it difficult for Palestinian diplomats to present a unified position. This finding aligns with the analysis of Brown (2020), who highlights the impact of Palestinian political fragmentation on international diplomacy.

The broader geopolitical environment also plays a significant role in shaping the effectiveness of ambassadors. Respondents noted that the dominance of powerful actors such as the United States and the European Union often sidelines smaller countries like Zimbabwe and non-state actors like Palestine in international negotiations. The researcher noted that ambassadors from Zimbabwe and Palestine often struggle to influence the policies of major powers, which ultimately shape the trajectory of the conflict.

The findings are consistent with the literature reviewed in Chapter 2, particularly the works of Said (2021) and Pappé (2017), which discuss the challenges faced by smaller actors in the highly polarised geopolitical landscape of the Middle East.

#### **4.8. Chapter summary.**

This chapter has provided an in-depth analysis and discussion of the study's findings in relation to the causes of the current conflict between Palestine and Israel, Zimbabwe's position in the conflict, and the factors influencing the effectiveness of the roles played by ambassadors in promoting durable peace. The findings revealed that the Palestine-Israel conflict is rooted in a complex interplay of historical, territorial, religious, and geopolitical factors, with territorial disputes and historical grievances being the most prominent drivers of the ongoing hostilities. While Zimbabwe continues to advocate for Palestinian self-determination on diplomatic platforms, its capacity to influence the conflict remains limited due to resource constraints, competing national priorities, and the dominance of more powerful geopolitical actors. This highlights the difficulty faced by smaller states in addressing global conflicts, especially in regions as polarized as the Middle East.

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS.**

#### **5. Introduction.**

This chapter presents a synthesis of the study's findings, conclusions, and recommendations regarding the role of ambassadors in conflict situations, with a specific focus on the Zimbabwean and Palestinian ambassadors in the Israel-Palestine war. The study explored how ambassadors can contribute to conflict resolution, peace building, and supporting vulnerable populations amid the protracted and complex conflict between Israel and Palestine. This chapter begins with a review of the research problem and related literature, followed by a summary of the research methodology, key findings, conclusions, and recommendations. It also discusses the contributions of the study and areas for further research.

Chapter One introduces the study by outlining the historical and geopolitical context of the Palestine-Israel conflict. It highlights the complex causes, including territorial disputes, religious and national identity conflicts, and socio-economic inequalities. The introduction emphasises the humanitarian impact of the conflict, particularly on women, children, and marginalized groups. The role of ambassadors is framed within the context of international diplomacy and conflict resolution, with Zimbabwe's historical solidarity with Palestine and its advocacy for peace serving as a case study. The research questions are presented as a framework for examining the multifaceted challenges and opportunities in promoting durable peace.

Chapter Two provides a comprehensive review of the causes of the Palestine-Israel conflict, drawing from historical, political, and socio-economic perspectives. Key issues include the displacement of Palestinian populations, the expansion of Israeli settlements, and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza caused by the blockade. Zimbabwe's position is analysed within the broader African solidarity movement, focusing on its commitment to self-determination and human rights. The chapter also examines the theoretical underpinnings of diplomatic engagement in conflict resolution, emphasizing the critical role of ambassadors in addressing both political and humanitarian dimensions. Insights from scholars, such as Byman (2018), reinforce the need to prioritize human security and development alongside political negotiations.

Chapter Three employed a qualitative research methodology to explore the roles of Zimbabwean and Palestinian ambassadors in the Israel-Palestine war. Data was collected through semi-structured interviews with diplomats, scholars, and policymakers, as well as a review of official documents, reports, and academic literature. Thematic analysis was used to identify patterns and insights related to the research questions. This approach allowed the study to capture the nuanced and context-

specific experiences of ambassadors operating in a highly complex and contentious conflict environment. The use of multiple data sources enhanced the validity and reliability of the findings, while the qualitative design provided rich, in-depth insights into the challenges and opportunities faced by ambassadors in promoting peace and supporting vulnerable populations.

In Chapter Four, the findings emphasise the disproportionate impact of the conflict on vulnerable populations and the necessity of addressing root causes like territorial disputes and economic inequality. Zimbabwe's position is characterized by consistent support for Palestinian self-determination and active engagement in international forums. However, its limited global influence poses challenges to its diplomatic effectiveness. The role of ambassadors is analysed through their engagement in grassroots peace-building, advocacy for humanitarian aid, and facilitation of dialogue between conflicting parties. Factors such as regional alliances, international cooperation, and media representation significantly influence their impact.

The analysis underscores the need for ambassadors to adopt a holistic approach, integrating political, humanitarian, and developmental strategies to achieve sustainable peace. Efforts must prioritize the needs of women, children, and marginalized communities to ensure durable outcomes. This comprehensive approach, as argued by Byman (2018), highlights the necessity of focusing on human security and long-term development, moving beyond mere political agreements.

#### **5.4. Summary of the Findings.**

##### **5.4.1. The key findings from the research are as follows:**

**The Causes of the Conflict:** The study confirmed that the Israel-Palestine conflict is rooted in a combination of historical, territorial, religious, and geopolitical factors. Territorial disputes, particularly regarding the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem, remain central to the conflict. Religious and ethnic tensions, coupled with historical grievances such as the Nakba and the Holocaust, have created deep mistrust between the parties. External interference by regional and global powers further exacerbates the conflict.

**Zimbabwe's position in the Conflict:** Zimbabwe's support for Palestine is shaped by its history of anti-colonial struggle and its alignment with African Union policies. Zimbabwe consistently advocates for Palestinian self-determination and a two-state solution in international forums. However, its ability to influence the conflict is limited by economic constraints, competing national priorities, and the dominance of more powerful actors in Middle Eastern diplomacy.

**The Role of Ambassadors:** Ambassadors from Zimbabwe and Palestine play critical roles in advocating for peace, raising awareness of the humanitarian consequences of the conflict, and

fostering international solidarity. However, their effectiveness is constrained by factors such as limited diplomatic capacity, internal political divisions, and the broader geopolitical environment.

**Impact on Vulnerable Populations:** The conflict has devastating consequences for vulnerable populations, particularly women, children, and marginalized communities. Ambassadors play an important role in mobilizing humanitarian aid and advocating for the rights of these groups, but their efforts are often undermined by the lack of political progress toward a resolution.

### **5.5. Conclusions.**

The study sought to explore the roles of Zimbabwean and Palestinian ambassadors in the Israel-Palestine conflict and assess their contributions to peace building and humanitarian efforts. The findings led to the following conclusions:

- i.** The Israel-Palestine conflict is deeply entrenched and multifaceted; requiring sustained and coordinated international efforts to address its root causes.
- ii.** Zimbabwe's historical solidarity with Palestine positions it as a vocal advocate for Palestinian self-determination, but its influence is limited by resource constraints and geopolitical dynamics.
- iii.** Ambassadors from Zimbabwe and Palestine play important roles in raising awareness, advocating for peace, and supporting vulnerable populations. However, their effectiveness is constrained by internal and external challenges, including limited resources, political fragmentation, and the dominance of major powers in Middle Eastern diplomacy.
- iv.** Addressing the needs of vulnerable populations requires a holistic approach that combines diplomatic advocacy with humanitarian assistance and grassroots peace building efforts.

### **5.6. Recommendations.**

Based on the research findings and conclusions, the following recommendations are proposed:

### **5.7. Recommendations for further study.**

The study identified several areas for further research:

- i.** A comparative analysis of the roles of ambassadors from other African countries in the Israel-Palestine conflict.
- ii.** An exploration of the impact of grassroots peace-building initiatives on the effectiveness of diplomatic efforts.

**iii.** An examination of the influence of emerging powers, such as China and India, on the Israel-Palestine conflict and their implications for smaller states like Zimbabwe.

## References:

- Alexander, Y. (2021). *Palestinian religious terrorism: Hamas and Islamic jihad*. Brill.
- Amnesty International, (2024). Demand a ceasefire by all parties to end civilian suffering. Online article assessed from [www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org). 24.09.24.
- Al Jazeera, (2023). What's the Israel-Palestine conflict about? A simple guide. Assessed from <https://aljazeera.com>. 25.09.24.
- Al Jazeera, (2024). World reacts to UN vote calling on Israel to end Palestinian occupation. Assessed from <https://aljazeera.com>. 25.09.24.
- Bakhsh, C. (2021). *In the arms of Islam: social and political Islamization of the Gaza Strip and formation of Hamas, 1967-1987* (Doctoral dissertation, Fordham University New York).
- BBC News 11 December. (2023). Tanks push further into Khan Younis as Israel pounds north Gaza. Assessed from. <https://www.bbc.com>. 26. 09.24.
- Bhandari, R. (2024). *Wisdom of Worthy Research Journal, 2024* - [journal.gsc.edu.np](http://journal.gsc.edu.np).
- Bhattacharyya, D. (2006). *Research methodology*- [books.google.com](http://books.google.com). Accessed on 12.08.24.
- Byman, D. (2018). *Terrorism and the Threat to Democracy*- Brookings Policy Brief, February, 2019 - [brookings.edu](http://brookings.edu).
- Berrege, G.R. (2004). *Diplomacy: Theory and Practice* third Edition. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Berrege, G.R. (2015). *Diplomacy: Theory and Practice*. Online article. Accessed from <https://books.google.co.zw>.
- Bercovitch, J (2017). *International Mediation: A Study of the incidence, Strategies and Conditions of Successful Outcomes*. *Journal of Peace Research*. Assessed from [journals.sagepub.com](http://journals.sagepub.com). On 05.08.24.
- Brown, D. (2020). *War and religion in the secular age: faith and interstate armed conflict onset* - [taylorfrancis.com](http://taylorfrancis.com). Online article accessed on 12.08.24.
- Cavallar, G. (2001) "Kantian Perspectives on Democratic Peace: Alternatives to Doyle", *Review of International Studies* 27(2): 229-248.

Cohen, A. (2018). Bourdieu and International relations. In T. Medvetz and J Sallaz (Eds.). The Oxford handbook of Pierre Bourdieu (pp.200-246). Oxford University Press.

Chan, S. (2001). Progress in the Democratic Peace Research Agenda. Accessed from Oxford. 12.08.24.

Chikuhwa (2020). Welcome to the United Nations. Parallel breakout sessions - New and emerging threats linked to terrorism <https://www.un.org> › day-one-session. Online article. Accessed on 22.09.24.

Denzin, L. (2020). Understanding Reliability and Validity in Qualitative Research. Accessed from <https://www.researchgate.net>. On 12.11.24.

Donnelly, J. (2006). Realism and International Relations. Cambridge University Press.

Doyle, Michael W. (1983a) “Kant, Liberal Legacies and Foreign Affairs”, *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 12(3): 205-235.

Doyle, Michael W. (1983b) “Kant, Liberal Legacies and Foreign Affairs, Part 2”, *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 12(4): 323-353.

Doyle, Michael W. (1986) “Liberalism and World Politics”, *The American Political Science Review* 80(4): 1151-1169.

Drost E.A. (2011). Concepts of reliability and validity in social science research are introduced and major methods to assess reliability and validity reviewed. Accessed from <https://www.erpjournal.net>. Online article. Accessed on 19.09.24.

Ellen, K. E and Lemarchand, R. (2025). Burundi - Ethic Conflict, Hutu-Tutsi, Great Lakes. Accessed from Region. <https://www.britannica>. 25.09.24.

Geist Pinfeld, R. (2023). Security, Terrorism, and Territorial Withdrawal: Critically Reassessing the Lessons of Israel's “Unilateral Disengagement” from the Gaza Strip. *International Studies Perspectives*, 24(1), 67-87.

Gelvin, J.L. (2021) and Khalidi, R. (2020). Religious Claims and Nationalism in Zionism] [academia.edu](https://www.academia.edu). Online article. Accessed on 12.09.24.

Johnston, S, D. (1991). The Path to the Camp David Accords (Review). Online article. Accessed from <https://www.peaceau.org>. On 29.09.24.

- Joireman, S. F. (2001). "Ethiopia and Eritrea: Border War." In *History Behind the Headlines: The Origins of Conflicts Worldwide*, edited by Sonia G. Benson, Nancy Matuszak, and Meghan Appel O'Meara, 1-11. Vol. 1. Detroit: Gale Group, 2001.
- Kabir, S.M.S (2016). Basic guidelines for research: An introductory.
- Karunarathana (2024).The Crucial Role of Data Collection in Research: Techniques, Challenges. Accessed from <https://www.researchgate.net>. On 13.09.24.
- Keohane, R.O. (2004). Power and Governance in a Partially Globalised World. Accessed from <books.google.com>. On 12.08.24.
- Kuus, M. (2015). Symbolic power in diplomatic practice: Matters of Style in Brussels. *Cooperation and Conflict*, 50(3), 368-384. Accessed from <https://openlibrary.com>. 15.11.24.
- Mearsheimer, J. (2001). *The Tragedy of great power politics*. Norton and Co.
- McGlinchey, S. (2017). *International Relations*. Accessed from <https://books.google>. 13.11.24.
- Morgenthau, H (1948) *Politics among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace*. Online journal assessed from <https://openlibrary.com>. 15.11.24.
- Murphy, S, D. (2016). *The Eritrean-Ethiopian War (1998-2000)* (October 4, 2016). Forthcoming in *International Law and the Use of Force: A Case-Based Approach* (Oxford University Press, Olivier Corten and Tom Ruys, Eds.).
- Nagl, J. (2024). A Viable Solution for Mideast Peace?. *Horizons: Journal of International Relations and Sustainable Development*, (26), 58-67.
- Ndikumana, L. (1998). "Institutional failure and ethnic conflicts in Burundi," *African Studies Review*, 41 (1): 29-47.
- Ndikumana, L. (2008). "Towards a solution to violence in Burundi: A case for political and Economic liberalization", *Journal of Modern African Studies*, 38 (3), 431-459.
- Ndikumana, L., 2004a. "Fiscal policy, conflict, and reconstruction in Burundi and Rwanda." Forthcoming in Addison, T. and A. Roe (Eds.), *Fiscal Policy for Development*.
- OCHA (2021) report. *Humanitarian Response Plan 2021 Facilitation Package*. Accessed from <https://www.unocha.org> › world. 05.09.24.

- Ogunbanjo, B. (2020). Regional Integration in Contemporary Africa. *Journal of Studies in Humanities and Educational - iasj.net*. Accessed on 22.10.24.
- Ponto, J. (2015). Understanding and Evaluating Survey Research. Accessed from <https://www.scirp.org>. 05.09.24.
- Rana, K, S. (2004). *The 21st Century Ambassador*. DiploFoundation.
- Nye, J. S. (2019). Soft power and public diplomacy revisited. *The Hague Journal of Diplomacy*, 14(1-2), 7-20.
- Russet, B. (2013) "Liberalism", in Dunne, Tim, Kurki, Milja and Smith, Steve (eds.) *International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity*, 3rd edition (Oxford: Oxford University.
- Sileyew, J. 2020) and Garg, R. (2016). A brief introduction to Research methodology. <https://www.google.com>. 10.09.24.
- Telhami, S. (2019). *The Camp David Accords: A Case of International Bargaining*. Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service.
- Taherdoost, H. (2018) and Bardwaj, C.(2019). Understanding population and Sample research: Key concepts for valid conclusions. Online article accessed from.[https:// research](https://research). 12.10.24.
- Watson, G.R. (2000). *The Oslo Accords: International Law and the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Agreements*. Oxford University Press.
- Weiss, A. (2005). The transnationalisation of social inequality. *Current Sociology*. Assessed from <https://journals.sagepub.com>. On 12. 11.24.
- Wivel, A. (2017). When Martians Go to Venus: Structural Realism in Europe. Assessed from [www.researchgate.net](http://www.researchgate.net). On 12.11.24.

