



Received:  
2024-12-22  
Revised:  
2025-02-15  
Accepted:  
2025-04-21  
Published:  
2025-05-21

ISSN: 2538-1857  
E-ISSN: 2645-5250



## The role of the United States in escalating tensions in West Asia after the October 7, 2023 operation

Rahbar Taleihur<sup>1</sup> | Samira Alinasab<sup>2</sup>

### Abstract

#### Introduction

The West Asia region has long been a focal point for global powers, particularly the United States, due to its strategic significance in energy resources. Since its presence in the region, the United States has pursued complex and multifaceted objectives, which may shift depending on temporal and political circumstances. Among these objectives are ensuring access to energy resources, supporting the security of the Zionist regime, countering terrorist threats, and curbing Iran's influence. U.S. strategies and policies in West Asia are formulated and implemented in alignment with these goals. Consequently, America's longstanding presence and strategic aims in the region have directly influenced the formation of major developments and events. One of the most significant of these events was Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, which occurred on October 7, 2023. This operation has ushered in new transformations in the region, leading to heightened tensions and conflict over the past year, with the U.S. appearing to play an influential role in exacerbating tensions through policies based on a strategy of offshore balancing. Thus, this study aims to examine the role of the United States in escalating tensions in West Asia following Operation Al-Aqsa Storm.

#### Methodology

This study adopts a descriptive-analytical approach. The data were collected from documentary and library sources, including scholarly articles, scientific reports, and analyses by experts in the field of international relations. For data analysis, the qualitative content analysis method was employed.

1. Associate Professor of International Relations, Department of Political Science, University of Mohaghegh Ardabili, Ardabil, Iran E-mail: R.talei@uma.ac.ir

2. Master's student in Regional Studies, University of Mohaghegh Ardabili, Ardabil, Iran E-mail: samiraalinasab0@gmail.com

DOR: 20.1001.1.25381857.1404.18.66.4.4

## **Result and discussion**

Following the October 7, 2023 operation and the subsequent war between the Zionist regime and Palestine in the Gaza Strip, the United States not only failed to take substantial measures to reduce tensions but actually increased its support for the Zionist regime as part of its offshore balancing strategy. This support, manifested in political, military, arms, financial, and media dimensions (which will be discussed below), significantly contributed to escalating regional tensions.

### **A) Political Support**

In an effort to shift the strategic balance in favor of the Zionist regime, the U.S. explicitly supported it from the first day after the operation. In international forums such as the UN Security Council, the U.S. prevented any action against the regime's crimes, effectively neutralizing the Security Council's leverage to prevent escalation. This provided the Zionist regime with ample opportunity to expand tensions in the region without fear of international repercussions. This demonstrates how U.S. political support significantly contributed to tension escalation, suggesting that without American backing, the Zionist regime might not have been able to expand conflicts in the region.

### **B) Military and Arms Support**

Despite claims of pursuing peace, the U.S. provided unprecedented military and arms support to the Zionist regime after October 7. The delivery of advanced weapons and military equipment, along with the deployment of U.S. military commanders and personnel, enabled the regime to expand its military operations in Gaza and other areas like Lebanon and Syria. This not only undermined peace and diplomatic processes but also significantly escalated regional tensions, reinforcing America's offshore balancing strategy.

### **C) Financial and Economic Support**

After the October 7 attacks, the Biden administration approved a \$14 billion aid package to the Zionist regime, aimed at helping it maintain economic stability and cope with war-related pressures. The October 7 operation, being one of the most extensive and complex military operations against the Zionist regime, had profound impacts on its economic security. The operation not only put military pressure on the regime but also weakened its economic foundations. In the initial months following the operation, the regime spent billions rebuilding military infrastructure,

strengthening defense systems like the Iron Dome, and mobilizing reserve forces. The continuation and expansion of the war with such economic pressures would not have been possible without U.S. support. Thus, as part of its offshore balancing policy, increased U.S. financial assistance facilitated large-scale attacks and tension escalation in the region.

#### D) Media Support

To justify its political, military, and financial support for the Zionist regime, the U.S. needed public opinion backing, where American media played a crucial role by justifying the regime's attacks on Gaza and other areas. However, despite U.S. media support for the Zionist regime after Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, a wave of pro-Palestinian sentiment emerged in the West, particularly in American universities. This revealed that in today's world, mainstream media's credibility, especially among younger generations, has diminished, as they increasingly obtain news freely from alternative sources like social media. These platforms now play a primary role in shaping youth perspectives, raising global public awareness about the Gaza massacres. While they may not have significantly impacted U.S. role in escalating West Asian tensions, they demonstrated potential for shaping public opinion in the future with proper strategizing.

#### Conclusion

The research findings indicate that following the October 7th operation, the United States implemented its "offshore balancing" strategy by providing comprehensive support to Israel across political, military, economic, and media domains, thereby enabling the escalation of tensions in West Asia. Politically, the U.S. demonstrated unequivocal support through high-level diplomatic visits to the occupied territories and by vetoing proposed UN Security Council resolutions calling for a ceasefire, effectively neutralizing the Council's conflict mitigation mechanisms. Militarily, Washington initiated immediate arms transfers to Israel, with the total value reaching approximately 18 billion by September 2024, while simultaneously deploying aircraft carriers and embedding U.S. special operations personnel who directly participated in combat operations. Economically, the Biden administration proposed a 14 billion aid package, reduced tariffs on Israeli imports, and expanded bilateral economic cooperation to stabilize Israel's war-affected economy, measures that indirectly contributed to regional instability. Media analysis revealed systematic bias in U.S. coverage, which focused on vilifying resistance groups while omitting pro-Palestinian demonstrations,

particularly on university campuses, and consistently legitimized Israel's military actions. This multifaceted support structure fundamentally altered the regional balance of power, with empirical evidence demonstrating a direct correlation between U.S. assistance and the intensification of hostilities, as Israel pursued its military campaign with diminished concern for international public opinion.

**Keywords:** United States of America, Zionist regime, remote balancing, West Asia region, Operation October 7

## References

- Abbasi, Majid; Demirchilou, Fatemeh. (2024). "U.S. Foreign and Security Policy in the Gaza Crisis (2023-2024)." *American Strategic Studies Quarterly* 4(15). (In Persian) Doi: 10.27834743/ASS.2411.1259.2
- Abolhasan Shirazi, Habibollah; Ghorbani Sheikhneshin, Arsalan; Simbar, Reza. (2021). *Politics and Governance in West Asia*. Tehran: SAMT Publications. (In Persian)
- Ahouei, Mehdi. (2016). "An Analysis of U.S. Alliance Strategies in West Asia and Probable Options Toward Iran." *International Relations Research Quarterly* 1(23). (In Persian)
- Alonso, Carmen Pedruelo (2018) "The evolution of US foreign policy in regard to Israel under changing Administrations: from Obama to Trump" *Universidad Pontificia Comillas*.
- Balaiah, S. (2022) *The Middle East in 2021: Protraction of never-ending wars and conflicts*. NIAS Area Studies, No. 6, February 2022
- Bilmes, J. Linda, Hartung, D. William and Semler, Stephen (2024), *United States Spending on Israel's Military Operations and Related U.S. Operations in the Region*, Watson Institute for International & Public Affairs, Brown University. October 7, 2023 – September 30, 2024
- Bolyn, Christopher (2009), "The Real Cost Of US Support For Israel - \$3 Trillion" at: <http://rense.com/general41/trill.htm>
- Capaccio, A. (2024, November 14). U.S. Is Quietly Sending More Ammunition, Missiles. *Bloomberg*. <https://www.reuters.com/world/us-has-sent-israel-thousands-2000-pound-bombs-since-oct-7-2024-06->
- Farrokhi Cheshmeh Soltani, Majid; Attar, Saeed. (2018). "The 'Offshore Balancing' Strategy and U.S. Foreign Policy (With Emphasis on West Asia)." *Afagh-e Amniyat* 11(38). (In Persian)
- Ganjian Moghaddam, Alireza; Jafari, Ali Akbar. (2024). "The Iran-U.S. Foreign Policy Confrontation Regarding the Zionist Regime in West Asia (Focusing on the October 7 Operation and 'Va'deh Sadegh')." *Strategic Environmental Studies of I.R. Iran* 8(28). (In Persian) Doi: 20.1001.1.28212673.1403.8.3.7.

- Ghiyasvandi, Fatemeh; Torkashvand, Jalal. (2017). "The U.S., Proxy Wars, and West Asian Security." *Political Research Quarterly of the Islamic World* 7(4). (In Persian)
- Gohari Moghaddam, Abuzar; Hazrati Razliqi, Mohammad Amin. (2022). "Prospects of the U.S. Probable Strategy in West Asia and Its Policy Requirements." *Strategic Studies of Public Policy Quarterly* 12(44): 128-153. (In Persian) Doi: 10.22034/sspp.2022.699884
- Gultom, Y. S. M., & Miftah, H. Z. (2024). The Role of the Jewish Lobby Toward US Foreign Policy Making on the 2023 Israel-Palestine War (Case of AIPAC). *Hasanuddin Journal of Strategic and International Studies (HJSIS)*, 2(2), 38-49.
- Hartung, W. (2024). U.S. Support for Israel's Military Operations Since October 7, 2023: <https://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/papers/2024/UsspendingIsrael>
- Javadi Arjmand, Mohammad Jafar; Parhizkar, Amin; Khezri, Ehsan. (2016). "Barack Obama's Foreign Policy in West Asia and North Africa Until 2015." *International Relations Studies Quarterly* 9(36). (In Persian)
- Joel Beinin, Bassam Haddad, and Shirin Siavoshi. (2022). *A New Perspective on the Political Economy of West Asia and North Africa*. Translated by: S. Amir NiaKouei and Reza Simbar. Tehran: Mokhtab Publications. (In Persian)
- Johnson Adam & Othman Ali (2024), Coverage of Gaza War in the New York Times and other Major Newspapers Heavily Favored Israel, Analisis Shows at: <https://theintercept.com/2024/01/09/newspapers-israel-palestine-bias-new-york-times/>
- Krieg, A. (2016), "Externalizing the burden of war: the Obama Doctrine and US foreign policy in the Middle East", *International Affairs*, Vol. 92, No.1
- Layne, C (1997). "From Preponderance to Offshore Balancing: America's Future Grand Strategy," *International Security* 22, 1: 86-124,
- Mersheimer, J., & Walt, S. (2016). *The Case for Offshore Balancing, A Superior U.S. Grand Strategy*. Foreign Policy, pp.70-83
- McArthur, Shirl. ( 2008), *A Conservative Estimate of Total Direct U.S. Aid to Israel Almost 114Billion*, retrived from: <http://www.ifamericansknew.org/download/cost-new.pdf> on 25/12/2013.
- Middle East Eye. (2024). War on Gaza: Despite US aid, Israel's economy has been hit hard": <https://www.middleeasteye.net/opinion/gaza-war-israel-economy-hard-hit-despite-us-aid>
- Miglietta, J. P. (2022). *American Alliance Policy in the Middle East 1945-1992; Iran, Israel, and Saudi Arabia*. Lanham: Lexington Books.
- Mohammadzadeh Ebrahimi, Farzad; Maleki, Mohammad Reza; Emam Jomehzadeh, Seyed Javad. (2016). "Obama's Middle East Strategy: From Responsibility Transfer to Limited Engagement." *International Political Research Quarterly* (25). (In Persian)
- Motaqi, Ebrahim; Bagheri, Mohammad Reza. (2004). "The Role of the Zionist Regime's Extremist Lobby Group in U.S. Foreign Policies in West Asia." *Defense Policy Quarterly* (48). (In Persian)
- NiaKouei, Seyed Amir; Amani, Farideh. (2024). "U.S. Foreign Policy Toward the Zionist Regime and Its Implications for Iran's National Security (2020-2024)." *West Asia Quarterly* 2(5). (In Persian) Doi: 10.22034/wasj.2024.444894.1044

- Orhan ,Ertuğrul Buğra.(2024)." The Us Approach To The October 7 Attacks And The Israel-Hamas Conflict In The Context Of Antony Blinken's Discourses, Akdeniz İİBF Dergisi ,24 (2) 49-58.
- Pishgami Fard, Zahra; Rahmani, Mohammad Ali. (2011). The Territorial Ambitions of Iran and the U.S. in West Asia. Tehran: Geographical Organization Publications. (In Persian)
- Pressman, Jeremy(2024), Mind the Gap: U.S. Preferences and Israel's War Conduct, Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft.
- Sadeghi, Mahdi Reza. (2024). "Assessing the Possibility of Genocide in Gaza by the Zionist Regime in Light of the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation (October 7, 2023)." Legal Studies Quarterly 16(1). (In Persian) Doi: 10.22099/jls.2024.49213.5089
- Salem, Paul (2024), "The US' Role Since 7 October and the Implications for US-Middle East Relations" at: <https://www.iemed.org/publication/the-us-role-since-7-october-and-the-implications-for-us-middle-east-relations/>
- Shafiei, Seyed Mohammad; Golmohammadi, Amirreza. (2024). "Examining the Outcomes of the October 7 Operation in Hegemonic Rivalries and the Role of Regional Actors in West Asia." Afagh-e Olum-e Ensani 8(88). (In Persian)
- Stauffer, Thomas R. (2003), The Costs to American Taxpayers of the Israeli Palestinian Conflict: 3Trillion, retived from [http ://www. Ifamericansknew.org /stats/stauffer.html](http://www.Ifamericansknew.org/stats/stauffer.html) on 25/12/2013.
- Timmerman, K. R. (2024). Israel's War of Survival and the End of the Two-State Solution.at: <https://americafirstpolicy.com/issues/israels-war-of-survival-and-the-end-of-the-two-state-solution>.
- Youmans, William(2024), Accounting For The Biases In U.S. Media Coverage Of Gaza, March 20, 2024at: <https://dawnmena.org/accounting-for-the-biases-in-u-s-media-coverage-of-gaza/>
- White House,(2023) "Remarks by President Biden on the Terrorist Attacks in Israel," October 10, 2023. At: <https://ru.usembassy.gov/remarks-by-president-biden-on-the-terrorist-attacks-in-israel-2/>
- Warren P. Strobel and Nancy A.Youssef,(2024),"U.S. and Israel's 'Unprecedented' Intelligence Sharing Draws Criticism," The Wall Street Journal, March 31, 2024, <https://www.wsj.com/politics/national-security/u-s-and-israels-unprecedented-intelligence-sharing-drawscriticism-a85979b4>
- [www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2024-09-02/ty-article magazine/.premium/without-u-s-aid-israel-would-have-struggled-to-fight-in-gaza-beyond-a-few-months](http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2024-09-02/ty-article%20magazine%20premium/without-u-s-aid-israel-would-have-struggled-to-fight-in-gaza-beyond-a-few-months)
- Zanotti, J., Sharp, Jeremy, M. (2023), Israel and Hamas 2023 Conflict In Brief: Overview,U.S. Policy, and Options for Congress, CRS Report: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R47828>