INDIA DECISION-MAKING FACTORS IN SUPPORTING ISRAEL FOR WAR AGAINST PALESTINE AT 2023

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Abstract

The Israeli-Palestinian war erupted again after Hamas attacked Israel in 2023. This war drew responses from various parties. Among the many Asian countries that provide support to Palestine, India is one of those that takes different actions: they prefer to support Israel. The author aims to dissect the factors that make India support Israel. This is of course, related to decision-making carried out by a country, as explained by Richard Snyder. Decision-making is influenced by internal and external factors that show cause-and-effect relationships. Using descriptive-qualitative research methods, the author found several factors that made India prefer to support Israel. This form of support occurs because of the diplomatic relations the two countries have established to increase defense cooperation. India is doing this because the country is still overshadowed by the long-standing conflict that occurred due to mutual claims on the Kashmir border region with Pakistan. Besides that, India and Israel also collaborate in tourism and humanitarian matters, which are assessed using human environment indicators. All these factors show the rationality used by India in providing support to Israel.

Keywords: Decision, India, Israel, Defense, Rational

Abstrak

Perang Israel-Palestina kembali meletus setelah Hamas menyerang Israel tahun 2023. Perang ini menuai respon dari berbagai pihak. Diantara sekian banyak negara-negara Asia yang memberikan dukungan kepada Palestina, India adalah salah satu diantara yang melakukan aksi berbeda: mereka lebih memilih mendukung Israel. Penulis bertujuan untuk membedah faktor-faktor apa saja yang membuat India melabuhkan dukungannya kepada Israel. Hal ini tentu berhubungan dengan decision making yang dilakukan oleh sebuah negara seperti yang dijelaskan oleh Richard Snyder. Pengambilan keputusan dipengaruhi oleh faktor internal dan eksternal yang menunjukkan hubungan sebab-akibat. Dengan metode penelitian deskriptif-kualitatif, penulis menemukan beberapa faktor yang membuat India lebih memilih mendukung Israel. Pada dasarnya, bentuk dukungan ini terjadi karena adanya hubungan diplomatik yang telah dijalin kedua negara dengan tujuan untuk meningkatkan kerjasama pertahanan. India melakukan ini karena negara tersebut masih dibayang-bayangi konflik berkepanjangan yang terjadi karena saling klaim wilayah perbatasan Kashmir dengan Pakistan. Selain itu, India dan Israel juga

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menjalin kerjasama dalam hal pariwisata dan kemanusiaan yang dikaji menggunakan indikator human environment. Keseluruhan faktor tersebut menunjukkan rasionalitas yang dilakukan India dalam memberikan dukungan kepada Israel.

Kata Kunci: Keputusan, India, Israel, Pertahanan, Rasional

Introduction

In an era that constantly strives for peace, war still occurs. On October 7, 2023, the Palestinian militant group led by Hamas began a massive invasion and attack against Israel from the Gaza Strip. They managed to penetrate the border wall between Israel and Gaza and entered neighboring settlements and Israeli military installations through the Gaza border. This was the first direct fighting on Israeli soil since the Arab-Israeli War of 1948, which Hamas dubbed Operation Al-Aqsa Flood. (Zack Beauchamp, 2023) When Hamas crossed the border and infiltrated Israel, at least 3,000 rockets were fired from the Gaza Strip, killing at least 900 Israelis and forcing the Israeli government to declare a state of emergency. (South China Morning Post, 2023) Israel officially declared the Iron Swords war for the first time since the Yom Kippur War of 1973, which occurred exactly fifty years before the 2023 invasion. (The Jerusalem Post, 2023) After the start of the attacks, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated in his national address that Israel "is at war."(Bethan McKernan, 2023)

Israel and Hamas were involved in a tit-for-tat war, which sparked a more significant conflict. Hamas entered Israel by breaking into some kibbutzim near the Gaza Strip and the city of Sderot. Israeli and Palestinian media stated that Palestinian militants had kidnapped Israeli soldiers and civilians, including children; it was reported that several hostages had been transported to the Gaza Strip. (Ynet News, 2023) In response to the invasion, Israel shelled military targets and strategic buildings. There are 20 documented examples of shelling of civilian infrastructure, including homes, banks, mosques, and hospitals. Israel has killed at least 500 Palestinians in crossfire and airstrikes in Gaza and Israel, including civilians, 78 children, and 41 women, according to the Hamas-led Palestinian Health Ministry in Gaza. (Ynet News, 2023)

Top state officials have had varying responses to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Although some support Israel's right to defend itself, some support the struggle for Palestinian independence. Several countries, including China, Russia, and Indonesia, support Palestine. The escalating tensions and violence between Palestine and Israel deeply concerned China's Foreign Ministry, which called on all relevant parties to "remain calm, exercise restraint and immediately end hostilities to protect civilians and avoid exacerbating the situation.".(Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, 2023) In line with China, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov stated that the creation of a Palestinian state is a reliable way to achieve peace where Palestine lives side by side with Israel. In addition, he said that Russia is very concerned about the way the West treats Israel. Lavrov added that Russia would work with the Arab League to end violence in Gaza and Israel. (The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, 2023)

The United States, Britain, and India are some of the countries that support Israel. The United States, through President Joe Biden, stated that for 75 years, Israel has been Israel's leading provider of weapons, ensuring that historical atrocities will never happen again. He claimed that the US supports Israel. (The White House, 2023) Following in the US's footsteps, the British Prime Minister condemned the Hamas attack on Israel and called it a "truly appalling" attack. Rishi Sunak stated that he had spoken to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and that the UK would be ready to support Israel. Britain has been one of Israel's strongest allies in defending its right to self-defense and in supplying the weapons Israel needs to repel Hamas attacks, so its support for Israel is not without justification. (VOA Indonesia, 2023)

India is one of the Asian countries that supports Israel, apart from Western countries that support it. One of the international leaders who reacted to the Hamas attack on Israel within hours was the Indian prime minister. In his speech, Narendra Modi expressed India's solidarity with Israel and condemned the terrorist attack. Israel viewed Modi's statement as a very positive endorsement. The Israeli Ambassador, Naor Gilon, quoted by Viva.co.id, said India had given them full support. (Kholisin Susanto, 2023) India's support for Israel is not without reason. Despite their ups and downs, India and Israel have maintained diplomatic ties for quite a long period. There are strong strategic, military, and economic ties between the two countries. Israel is India's second-

largest defense supplier after Russia, and India is the country that purchases the most Israeli military hardware. About US$9 billion was spent on military transactions between the two countries between 1999 and 2009. Joint military training and intelligence sharing of terrorist groups are examples of the military and strategic ties that exist between the two countries.(Los Angeles Times, 2008) Additionally, India ranks as Israel's second-largest trading partner in Asia. Excluding military equipment sales, bilateral trade cost US$4.7 billion in 2010. India and Israel signed a $50 million agreement for academic research in August 2012. The two countries are now negotiating a comprehensive bilateral free trade agreement covering various industries, including biotechnology, agriculture, and information technology. (Lior Dattel, 2012)

Israel and India also carry out regular diplomatic visits. The first Indian foreign minister to visit Israel was Jaswant Singh in 2000. The two countries set up a joint anti-terror commission after the visit. (Sen, 2021) Israel responded by traveling to India in 2003. The first Israeli prime minister to visit India is Ariel Sharon. The Bharatiya Janata Party (PBJ), which leads the Indian National Democratic Alliance coalition government, welcomed his arrival. (Rediff.com, 2003) Following Narendra Modi's victory in the 2014 general election, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu congratulated Modi in 2014. May that year. When Narendra Modi visited the US in 2014 to discuss defense cooperation, he met with Benjamin Netanyahu at the UN General Court in New York. (Times of India, 2014a) Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also accompanied Indian Home Minister Rajnath Singh on a visit to Israel in 2014 to inspect border security services. (Times of India, 2014b) Shimon Peres, former president of Israel, visited India the same year as part of an economic mission to increase trade and initiate sizable multinational projects in food and water technology. (Stuart Winer, 2014)

Numerous studies have examined and documented the process of making foreign policy decisions. To give additional examples of decision-making models aimed at protecting national interests, the author plans to review related research. The article titled *Kepentingan Nasional Suriah dalam Mendukung Rusia pada masa Perang Rusia-Ukraina* outlines Syria's objectives in aiding Russia." Achieving national interests is necessary, including those related to the economy, world hegemony, national defense, and ideology. Syria is up against opposition groups on the

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inside as well as terrorist organizations on the outside. It will increase defense assistance by backing Russia. Supporting Russia also entails helping to secure the Syrian economy as a whole, as Russia is the country that invests in oil and gas the most in Syria. In parallel to Russia's efforts to reduce NATO's influence, Syria also carries out anti-Western ideologies. Syria backed Russia in the Russian-Ukrainian war on the basis of these three national interests, first expressing support for President Assad through a statement, then sending military troops and engaging in diplomatic efforts at the UN. (Yulianti & Pangaribuan, 2023)

Peningkatan Bantuan Keamanan Amerika Serikat Terhadap Ukraina dalam Konflik Rusia-Ukraina di Era Presiden Joe Biden article elucidates the rationale behind the augmentation of US military aid to Ukraine, primarily stemming from the nation's strategic objectives of augmenting its hegemony and influence. The fact that Ukraine was up against Russia, the US's enduring foe, was the primary factor in the US decision to support Ukraine. According to the US, it is prepared to assist Ukraine for as long as necessary. This is deliberate as the US has forecast that Russia will keep applying pressure to NATO in the future. Thus, by assisting Ukraine, it will increase US sway throughout Europe. The US also seeks to advance human rights and democracy, which are goals shared by Ukrainian society. (Zahro et al., 2023)

Conclusions about the reasons for backing one nation in a conflict on behalf of another can be made based on these two articles. Nations that choose to stand by a country during a conflict or war typically have a history of mutual assistance. The primary goals are to curtail the influence of other rival nations and/or strengthen defense and military cooperation between the two nations. Typically, one of the supported nations seeks to challenge the hegemony of a powerful nation that poses a threat to it in international affairs. In addition to sharing a common ideology to counteract the influence of particular alliances, countries that support one another also typically have economic and investment interests in common.

Given the positive trajectory of India-Israeli relations, it is not entirely surprising that India decided to back Israel in order to protect its interests as a nation. This can be studied using decision-making theory. In making decisions made by India to support Israel, the decision makers took into account certain factors that could influence relations between the two countries. The Indian Prime

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Minister must be weighing the pros and cons: what would be the benefits if India declared its support for Israel? This is interesting to research and explore further because of the many Asian countries that provide support for Palestinian independence; India is one of five other Asian countries that fully supports Israel. (Amien Nulloh Ibrohim, 2023b) This article will research the factors that influence India's support for Israel, including finding out what relations have existed between India and Israel and the collaborations that have been carried out. It could be that, by supporting Israel, India will gain more accessible access to certain things that benefit India itself.

Framework Analytics

A country's decision-making can influence the dynamics of international politics in international relations. Decision makers often have to make decisions quickly following established norms, guidelines, and behavior in dealing with various complex problems, both large and small. One aspect of political decision-making is the authoritative distribution of public values. Responsible political leadership often revolves around the need for the deliberate and conscious distribution of shared values, which leaders believe is in the best interests of society. However, the concept of opportunity cost is involved in this intentional distribution. This shows that the government's capacity to use these resources to meet other urgent needs decreases along with the amount of resources allocated to achieve specific goals. (Snyder et al., 2002a) Therefore, decision-making is the thinking that results in a choice between various alternative actions.

Decision-making is a process that considers some factors. The decision-making process shows consideration of the way countries formulate their actions and responses in global politics. According to decision-making theory, the state is the primary unit that makes policy. Snyder's examination of foreign policy centers on the actions of those with de jure authority during the decision-making process. Actors who act and speak on behalf of the state are known as state leaders. Therefore, decision-making actors are strategically positioned as parties who influence national policy. (Snyder et al., 2002a)

A nation's behavior in international relations can be understood through its decision-making process. The level of independence of a country can be assessed by looking at how many decisions

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it takes are the result of its leadership making decisions without influence, compared to how much its decisions or actions are influenced by what is happening in the surrounding environment. Snyder and colleagues identified two major determinants influencing a country's decision-making procedures. Subjective factors and their possible sources are both factors. Subjective factors refer to the relationship between the actor's perception of the situation and the calculations used in decision-making. On the other hand, potential factors are variables that decision-makers consider—also referred to as background. There are two components in this setting: internal factors and external factors. (Snyder et al., 2002b) States must consider the structure and decision-making parameters in both internal and external domestic and international systems. A country's preferences for foreign policy will be shaped by interacting factors, both internal and external. External factors, such as international relations and global conditions, emphasize international structure. (Snyder et al., 2002a)

Internal factors include national power, geographic location, public opinion, public attitudes, and domestic politics. It also includes things like how society is structured and operates. Political parties impact policy because they participate in government with varying degrees of influence in a political system that allows for multiple parties, thus underscoring the importance of political parties in the decision-making process. Additionally, decisions are influenced by public opinion. The expression of various opinions of society is known as public opinion. Public opinion can be actively shaped by news articles or other writings in the media that attempt to persuade readers to adopt the viewpoint desired by the article's author. In addition, geopolitical variables based on geographic location can influence the way decisions are made and the political influence of other countries. (Mintrom, 2016)

Meanwhile, external factors are things that occur outside a country's borders, such as the actions and responses of other countries and interventions from regional and international organizations. External factors are related to the relationship between countries in the international system and the State as a player in the decision-making process. National interests guide the actions taken by countries in the international arena. Other countries and international organizations can exert pressure on a country at the international level of analysis. The existence

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of regional organizations, the UN, and other international organizations will influence policymakers' decisions. (Mintrom, 2016)

Internal and external factors have their indicators as material for analysis. According to Richard Snyder, there are nine indicators of internal factors, including non-human environment, society, culture, population, major standard value orientations, major institutional patterns, significant characteristics of social organizations, role differentiation and specialization, groups, kinds and functions, and relevant social processes. The external factors have four indicators: non-human environment, other culture, other societies, and societies organized and functioning as states. (Snyder et al., 2002b)

Method

This scientific paper uses a descriptive-qualitative research design. The descriptive method was chosen to describe accurately and methodically the facts and characteristics of the objects and subjects studied. This approach seeks to understand phenomena such as behavior, motivation, and actions within the research object. Meanwhile, most of the data processed using this method comes from official state documents and statements, such as the results of official visits to Israel and India, as well as statements by the prime ministers of these countries. Meanwhile, this research collects secondary data through a library or literature study approach. The information used to process data comes from various sources, including websites, books, articles, journals, online newspapers, and other relevant sources. Sentence-based secondary data descriptions collected from various literary works are then assembled into an article for discourse. (Sugiyono, 2013)

The information gathered for this article includes news and literary sources about India's diplomatic ties with Israel, its support of the Jewish state, as well as statements and interviews with senior state officials, such as the prime minister and his staff. Every piece of information is gathered online. To guarantee the information content of every piece of data acquired, a qualitative analysis of the data was conducted using the literature review method.

Result and Discussion

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The Basis of India-Israel Cooperative Relations

It is impossible to separate India's diplomatic relations with Israel from its support for Israel in its conflict with Palestinian Hamas. Despite having long had informal contacts, India and Israel only established formal diplomatic relations in 1992. Previously, India had a history of supporting Palestine and was part of the Non-Aligned Movement, which opposed Zionism and Western imperialism. However, relations between Israel and India have strengthened and progressed in some areas since the 1990s, including politics, economics, security, defense, technology, education, culture, and tourism.

Israel is India's second-largest defense supplier after Russia, and India is the country that purchases the most Israeli military hardware. Around US$9 billion was spent on military transactions between the two countries between 1999 and 2009. Joint military training and the exchange of intelligence on terrorist groups are examples of military and strategic ties between the two countries. (CNN Indonesia, 2018c) India entered this defense cooperation in response to its growing concerns about Pakistan's military might. To note, India and Pakistan have been at war since 1947, when the India-Pakistan War (also known as the First Kashmir War) broke out. Between 1947 and 1948, India and Pakistan fought each other for control of the Kashmir region. After India was divided into India and Pakistan in 1947 due to British colonialism, there were four wars between the two countries. This is the first conflict. (Ayunda & Aria, 2017) Both Israel and India are building their armed forces to defend their respective territories. Pakistan and Russia collaborate on defense issues. Worried about Pakistan's increasing military strength, India is trying to keep diplomatic relations open with Israel to collaborate with them on defense issues. (Dewi et al., 2017)

India and Israel maintain humanitarian cooperation in addition to defense cooperation. After Pakistan and the United States, Israel was the third country to send aid to India following the 2001 Gujarat earthquake. Israel provided clean water, medicine, tents, blankets, medical teams, and clean water to the victims of the earthquake, which claimed more than 20,000 lives. (Rasyiqi, 2023)

Furthermore, India and Israel signed nine agreements in 2018 covering various topics, including domestic trade, cybersecurity, research and development, agriculture, and security. This partnership strengthens the "Make in India" campaign by guiding the creation of additional business models and manufacturing partnerships, including technology transfer and cooperative research and development in the defense and security sector. (BSKDN, 2018)

Dynamics of Diplomatic Relations between India and Israel

Relations between India and Israel have experienced quite a long dynamic. As Mahatma Gandhi said when India became independent, "Palestine belongs to the Arabs, just as England belongs to the British or France to the French." Compared to Israel, India seems to be more supportive of Palestinian independence. Jawaharlal Nehru's statement supporting Palestine and other Arab countries opposing Western imperialism shows this. However, India also felt compelled to recognize Israel after Israel joined the UN, signed ceasefire agreements with its neighboring countries, and received recognition as a sovereign state from major powers in 1950. However, due to its Cold War tendencies, India was more inclined towards the direction of the Soviet Union and its role. As the driving force behind the Non-Aligned Movement, India had no diplomatic relations with the Western bloc's alliance with Israel at that time. It was more loyal to its Arab allies. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, India began a phase of economic liberalization and then changed its position in global politics, including resetting its relations with Israel. Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao led India to establish formal diplomatic relations with Israel in 1992. However, the country has not wavered in its support for the Palestinian cause or its significant economic ties with other Middle Eastern countries. (Moeslim Choice, 2018)

India, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, believes that diplomatic ties with Israel are something that must be considered in the interests of both countries. India is trying to adopt an alternative point of view regarding Israel. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi traveled to Israel in July 2017. This was the first direct visit of an Indian prime minister to Israel. Some believe Modi's visit to Israel marks a turning point in India-Israel relations. During his three-day visit, defense cooperation took center stage. India and Israel have collaborated on defense and

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counterterrorism projects for years. India is also a loyal buyer of the Jewish state's weapons. India is currently Israel's largest arms market, and the two countries are working together to modernize their military capabilities to counter China and Pakistan. (CNN Indonesia, 2023) This collaboration includes radar technology, cyber security, communications, and air defense systems, differentiating them from India's desire to acquire drones. Beyond the defense pact, the two countries hope to deepen their cooperation in other areas, particularly Israel's goal of helping India increase food security and agricultural productivity. (Datik.com, 2014)

Six months later, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netahayu visited India on a diplomatic mission in retaliation. Following talks in New Delhi, the prime ministers of India and Israel signed agreements covering trade, energy, defense, and agriculture on Monday. They also reaffirmed increasingly close bilateral ties and spoke of "the rise of a new era." Netahayu stated, citing VOA Indonesia, "We are now welcoming a new era in relations. After 25 years of establishing diplomatic relations, now something is different." (VOA Indonesia, 2018) Modi emphasized that discussions between the two countries aimed to strengthen a partnership characterized by a desire to achieve more. Following easing foreign investment restrictions, Modi invited Israeli defense companies to invest in India as a gesture of goodwill. The statement did not mention India's decision earlier this month to cancel a $500 million contract with Israel for anti-tank missiles. In addition to arms cooperation, the two leaders stated that cooperation in science and technology, security, and agriculture are new areas of focus for India, which looks to Israel for help advancing water management and agricultural productivity. (VOA Indonesia, 2018)

Forms of India-Israel Defense Cooperation

As mentioned, India and Israel have collaborated in the defense sector since 1999. In addition, the award of India's air defense system contract to Israel in 2017 marked a new chapter in defense cooperation between India and Israel. According to the company, Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) has been awarded an additional $777 million contract to provide LRSAM air and missile defense systems for seven Indian naval vessels. The main contractor for the project, Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL), is an Indian company, and they have a contract. The Indian and Israeli air, land, and navy

forces use the LRSAM missile and defense system, which is a component of the Barak 8. According to IAI, sales of the Barak 8 over the past few years have reached $6 billion thanks to this deal. (CNN Indonesia, 2018a)

According to Nimrod Sheffer, IAI and India have had a long-term collaboration that culminated in joint system development and product creation. It was also stated that, because of increasing competition, Israel intends to strengthen Israel's position in India, which is an important market for IAI. The leaders of Israel and India have committed to strengthening their ties and increasing their collaboration in areas such as technology and agriculture. Along with the US and Russia, India's long-standing allies, Israel has become one of the country's leading arms suppliers. (CNN Indonesia, 2018a)

That is not the end of it. A bilateral technology development agreement covering drones, artificial intelligence, and other topics was signed in 2021 by Israel and India. G Satheesh Reddy, chairman of India's Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO), and Danny Gold, chief of Israel's Defense Research and Development Directorate (DDR&D), signed the Bilateral Innovation Agreement (BIA). According to the Indian Ministry of Defense, the agreement calls for collaboration between startups and industry in both countries to develop next-generation products and technologies in areas such as artificial intelligence, robotics, drones, photonics, quantum technology, brain-machine interfaces, energy storage, wearable technology, natural language processing, and more.(Voi.id, 2021)

Israel and India will have access to this cooperative development, which will be co-funded by DRDO and DDR&D and designed to "meet the unique requirements" of both countries. To seek new areas of defense cooperation, the two countries have decided to form a task force that will create a 10-year cooperation plan. The plan was decided during a visit by Ajay Kumar, Director General of the Indian Ministry of Defense. This will include defense production, procurement, and research and development. At the 15th Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting on Defense Cooperation at Kirya Military Headquarters in Tel Aviv, Kumar met his Israeli counterpart, Director General Maj. Gen. (ret.) Amir Eshel. Quoting VOI, the two officials spoke about strategic concerns in the Middle East and Indo-Pacific regions and bilateral military technology

cooperation. According to an Indian official quoted in the report, "it was decided to set up a new working sub-group on defense industrial cooperation." "Both sides reviewed the progress achieved in military-to-military engagement, including exercises and industrial cooperation."(Voi.id, 2021)

The Urgency of Improving India's Defense

The author will dissect the reasons why India insists on increasing its national defense and ultimately cooperating with Israel. All of this is based on India's concerns about increasing the defense capacity of Pakistan, which has long been its arch-enemy. Pakistan and India were British colonies for many years before their independence. Until 1947, when India finally gained independence. India was divided into two camps after the British surrendered to colonial rule: the Hindu and Islamic camps. The region now known as Hinduism dominates India. On August 14, 1947, the Islamic camp finally declared its independence and established the government now known as Pakistan. It is said that British interference during its rule in India, through its "divide and divide" politics, was the cause of the division. During the colonial period, the British divided the native population according to skin color, religion, and ethnicity. Moreover, England often pitted the two against each other when fighting for the seat of power, leading to conflict. (Amien Nulloh Ibrohim, 2023a)

Both Pakistan and India seek to claim the Kashmir region. The first conflict, the 1st Kashmir War, broke out in 1947. The princely former British colony was chosen to join India or Pakistan or remain independent. Although the majority of Kashmir's population at the time was Muslim, the Hindu leader there, Maharaja Hari Singh, tended to favor the integration of the region with India. Pakistan tried to convince Hari Singh to become its citizen and not remain silent. Srinagar, the capital of Kashmir, is reported to have received several Muslim tribal groups from Islamabad. (Raditya, 2019) Muslim organizations in Pakistan have taken over a third of Kashmir, and they are trying to expel Hindus. Armed conflict broke out when the Hindu-majority Indian government sent military troops because it did not accept this. Hari Singh asked the Indian government for military support because he felt threatened. On October 26, 1947, he even signed an agreement to

become an accession state and gave Kashmir to India. The conflict between India and Pakistan has been raging for the last two years. (CNN Indonesia, 2019)

The geopolitical situation of India and Pakistan is influenced by relations between the two countries, which continue to heat up. High-level meetings are often canceled due to differences of opinion that still occur today. The 2018 meeting of the foreign ministers of India and Pakistan in New York, USA, was one such meeting. Saying that "little people occupy big offices," he denounced it. Pakistan clarified that talks should be avoided before general elections next year, given India's decision to withdraw. However, earlier this week, news broke about the killing and mutilation of an Indian border patrol officer in the disputed Kashmir region. After that, the Indian-controlled Kashmir region uncovered the bodies of three police officers. Each country accused the other of the murder. Indian military leader Bipin Rawat issued strict orders to take revenge against terrorists and the Pakistani military. (CNN Indonesia, 2018b)

In terms of nuclear power, Pakistan is seeking to build nuclear weapons to repel any aggression, including any encroachment on the Kashmir border. Not only limited to nuclear weapons but also to the armed forces of other countries. In response to India's military advances between 2011 and 2016, Pakistan has collaborated militarily with several powerful countries, including China, France, and the United States. In addition to cooperation, Pakistan increased its military spending from 2011 to 2016. In addition to engaging in military cooperation with many countries, Pakistan appears to have increased its military budget to strengthen its armed forces. This aimed to enable Pakistan to match the growing strength of the Indian armed forces. Pakistan's military budget increased from 444.2 billion rupees in 2010 to 495.2 billion rupees in 2011, which shows the country's seriousness in increasing its military spending. Pakistan increased its military budget by this amount in response to India's 12% increase in military budget in February 2011. (Dewi et al., 2017)

When the extraordinary power of the atomic nucleus was discovered, Pakistan tried to develop its nuclear power. The extraordinary power of the atomic nucleus certainly motivates experts to study this technology so that it can ultimately be used to meet humans' daily energy needs. Pakistan, a developing country seeking to use nuclear technology for its people, is also working

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towards this goal. Pakistan was not deterred by a lack of funds from starting a nuclear program. Pakistan started this program by taking advantage of President Dwight Eisenhower's initiative, which advocated using atoms for peace in 1954. (Hasanuddin, 2019)

Pakistan's first step towards nuclear development was the establishment of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) in 1956, with Dr. Nazir Ahmed as chairman. With the appointment of Dr. Ishrat H. Usmani as the new chairman of PAEC and the accession of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto as minister of natural resources and minerals in 1960, this program showed some significant progress. When Pakistan began considering the development of nuclear weapons in 1965 in response to India's efforts to use nuclear power for military purposes, Pakistan's nuclear energy program took a significant step forward. Pakistan British Nuclear Fuels Limited (BNFL) and Belgonucleaire signed a collaboration agreement in the late 1960s to design a BNFL facility that could separate up to 360 grams annually. Pakistan's aspirations persisted until 1973, when they secured a new cooperation agreement with the French company Saint-Gobain Techniques Nouvelles (SGN). However, after French President Giscard d'Estaing abruptly terminated the contract in 1977, these cooperative efforts could not materialize. The United States, through its Minister of Foreign Affairs, Henry Kissinger, continued to pressure France to revoke its cooperation contract with Pakistan, which resulted in France's attitude. (Hasanuddin, 2019) Pakistan's ambition to develop nuclear power has not stopped. Abdul Qadeer Khan, a Pakistani scientist, entered PAEC in 1976 and conducted a series of nuclear experiments. (Rifki Ahmad Z.S, 2010)

The urgency of this research is not to explain Pakistan's nuclear developments at length. The data that the author has presented in the previous paragraph intends to show the author's justification for India's concerns about increasing Pakistan's national defense through nuclear power. From the data that the author has presented, it is clearly proven that Pakistan has advantages that India does not have, namely nuclear weapons. Therefore, India is trying to find ways to strengthen its country's defense so that it has optimal readiness if a war between India and Pakistan occurs again. Considering that tensions between India and Pakistan often escalate, it is rational for India to establish defense cooperation relations with Israel.

Forms of India-Israel Cooperation Apart from Defense Cooperation

Benjamin Netahayu and Narendra Modi spoke over the phone in 2020 in response to the evolving COVID-19 situation. They discussed increasing bilateral cooperation in information technology, defense, and health technology. The two discussed the possibility of cooperation, mainly how Israel and India could increase their efforts in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. The two leaders agreed by telephone that after the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be more opportunities for profitable collaboration in developing vaccines, treatments, and diagnostics. In addition, both countries decided to continue regular exchanges between teams of experts from their respective countries. Additionally, recognize that the benefits of this partnership will benefit humanity as a whole. (Republika Online, 2020)

India and Israel believe there is much room to expand their close partnership in information technology, health technology, agricultural innovation, and defense cooperation. During the event, Modi stated that he would lead the continued development of the bilateral partnership. The two leaders decided to stay in touch to exchange assessments and deliberate on new opportunities and difficulties in a rapidly changing global environment.(Republika Online, 2020)

Due to this collaboration, Israel delivered artificial intelligence (AI)-powered technology and equipment to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi. This technology, created in Israel, is expected to help fight the coronavirus by lowering the chances of medical personnel contracting the infection and improving the country's overall health infrastructure. According to the Israeli Embassy in India, quoted by Jurnas, "Advanced equipment and technological solutions will not only help AIIMS in its efforts to tackle COVID-19 more effectively but also improve overall health facilities." He continued, "This technology includes AI-based solutions such as AI assistant robots that can help medical teams perform various tasks remotely, contactless monitoring applications, and advanced medical management systems." Israel's resolve to support India in its efforts to contain the ongoing pandemic is further strengthened by this significant action. (Jurnas.com, 2020)

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The information in the previous paragraph indicates that India and Israel collaborate on humanitarian and defense-related issues. This is not surprising considering how long the two countries have supported each other. Israel was the third country, after Pakistan and the United States, to offer humanitarian assistance to India after the 2001 Gujarat earthquake, long before the COVID-19 pandemic. Israel provided clean water, medicine, tents, blankets, medical teams, and clean water to the victims of the earthquake, which claimed more than 20,000 lives. (Rasyiqi, 2023)

Beyond disaster situations, Israel collaborates with India to advance its citizens' welfare in information technology, agriculture, irrigation, health, and renewable energy. Israel spreads its knowledge and experience in dryland development, water conservation, increasing crop productivity, eradicating infectious diseases, and technological innovation. Many Indian researchers and students who aspire to study in Israel's top universities are also provided educational scholarships by Israel. Many graduates of this program have become influential figures in India in their respective fields. (Rasyiqi, 2023)

Apart from its humanitarian value, relations between India and Israel also benefit tourism. With over 70,000 visitors annually, Israel is one of the most popular Indian tourist destinations. Israel's historical sites, natural beauty, religion, and culture attract them. They also enjoy the diversity and friendliness of Israeli society. (Rasyiqi, 2023) Stas Misezhnikov, Israel's Minister of Tourism, expressed hope in 2012 that more Indians would travel to Israel. 40,000 Indians traveled to Israel in 2011. Misezhnikov estimates that that number will increase to 100,000 in the next three years. Misezhnikov announced in a press conference with his Indian counterpart that Israel would launch new flight routes to Indian cities such as New Delhi, Goa, and Calcutta. This year, a branch office of the Israeli Ministry of Tourism is also scheduled to open in Mumbai. (Dewi Ria Utari, 2012)

Israeli tourists to India rose 13% in 2015 to nearly 40,000. (VOA Indonesia, 2016) A business called TAL Aviation is providing tour packages for Indian-Israeli citizens in 2023 to prepare for the influx of Indian tourists to Israel. This was a reaction to the Israeli Consulate General in Mumbai signing a letter of intent with the Maharashtra Tourism Development

Corporation (MTDC) to create "Jewish routes" across the state. Israelis started visiting Mumbai in more significant numbers after that. Tourists from across the world can now visit important Jewish monuments that have been identified in Mumbai and other parts of Maharashtra. Israeli tourists are interested in visiting many locations on the Indian subcontinent, including Kerala, nicknamed "God's Own Country." More importantly, millions of Indian tourists are eyeing travel to the Holy Land, and the increase in cargo trade between Israel and India is unlimited. (Juergen T Steinmetz, 2023) By presenting data regarding travel offers to Israel from India, it shows that Israel has bargaining power in India's eyes regarding tourism, so this is considered a profitable collaboration.

Dissecting Internal and External Factors of India's Support to Israel

India's decision of supporting Israel is undoubtedly impacted by both domestic and foreign variables. Using two internal factor indicators and one external factor indicator, the author will analyze both internal and external factors that influenced India's decision to support Israel. Indicators from both the non-human and human environments will be used to analyze the internal factors. Non-human environmental indicators will be used to analyze external factors.

The non-human environment was chosen as an indicator for internal factor analysis because most of the information the author found regarding India's support for Israel was based on the interests of defense cooperation between the two countries. A non-human environment is an element that has nothing to do with how humans live or behave. A country's geographical location, economic standing, security posture, and other aspects may be considered.(Snyder et al., 2002a) The foundation of India and Israel's diplomatic relations is their mutual interest in defense cooperation, arms trade, and training joint military. According to data, Israel is India's second-largest defense supplier after Russia, and India is the country that purchases the most Israeli military hardware. Approximately US$9 billion was spent on military transactions between the two countries between 1999 and 2009. Joint military training and intelligence sharing of terrorist groups are examples of the military and strategic ties that exist between the two countries. (Los Angeles Times, 2008) Furthermore, defense cooperation grew in 2017, as evidenced by Israel's acquisition of the Indian air defense system contract. According to the company, Israel Aerospace

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Industries (IAI) has been awarded an additional $777 million contract to provide LRSAM air and missile defense systems for seven Indian naval vessels. The main contractor for the project, Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL), is an Indian company, and they have a contract.(CNN Indonesia, 2018a)

Since its inception, the cooperative relations between India and Israel have always emphasized defense and security cooperation. This can be seen from the statements and objectives of the two heads of state during diplomatic visits and other non-formal relations. For example, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu congratulated Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014 after Modi's victory in the general election. When Narendra Modi visited the US in 2014 to discuss defense cooperation, he met with Benjamin Netanyahu at the UN General Court in New York. (Times of India, 2014a) Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accompanied Indian Home Minister Rajnath Singh on the visit to Israel in the same year to inspect the country's border security forces. (Times of India, 2014b) Even in 2014, former Israeli President Shimon Peres visited India as part of an economic mission to expand trade and initiate major international projects in water technology and food. (Stuart Winer, 2014) These three diplomatic activities show a high interest in defense issues. Thus, it is appropriate for the author to choose non-human environment as an indicator of internal factor analysis of India's support for Israel.

Non-human environment can also be used as an indicator for external factor analysis. The non-human environment in external factors is defined as elements other than humans that come from outside the territorial boundaries of a country and have the potential to influence policymakers. This definition is slightly different from internal factor analysis. Other countries' geographic location and economic status are examples of related factors. (Snyder et al., 2002a) It is important to remember that India and Pakistan have been at odds over their shared border in the Kashmir region since 1947. Both countries have consistently claimed the region as their own. This conflict has been explained by the author in the previous discussion. The primary tool for resolving this border dispute must be military force. Therefore, India and Pakistan are increasing their military strength to maintain their countries' defense and security.

Currently, the only country with a Muslim majority that has nuclear weapons is Pakistan. According to the latest data released by Global Firepower, there are currently 1.7 million military

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personnel in Pakistan, which is 0.7% of the country's total population. Pakistan's armed forces will receive a budget allocation of USD 7.6 billion, according to a 2022 article in The Hindu. Meanwhile, Pakistan will spend $11.3 billion on military spending in 2021. The Pakistan Air Force is equipped with 1,413 aircraft, including 4 tanks, 58 attack helicopters, 90 attack aircraft, 363 fighters, and 322 helicopters. Meanwhile, the Pakistani Army has thousands of combat vehicles, 1,838 rocket artillery pieces, and at least 3,742 tanks. The Pakistan Navy has 114 assets: patrol ships, frigates, and submarines. (Ajeng Wirachmi, 2023) Global Firepower 2022 statistics show Pakistan's total strength is ranked ninth. (Faizal Zamzami, 2021)

Let us compare it with India's military might. According to Global Fire Power, India has the fourth highest military strength among 139 countries. India has the second-strongest military in Asia in terms of ranking. There are approximately 1,445,000 military personnel in the Indian armed forces. India has the world's first war transportation system despite being the world's fourth most powerful military. There are 5,42 fighter aircraft, 4,040 towed artillery units, and 4,730 tanks in the Indian military. (Umam, 2022) Indeed, regarding military strength, India and Pakistan are equally balanced with rankings that are not much different. Both being in the top ten rankings of world military powers means these two countries have military superiority. However, India cannot remain silent. Pakistan's ranking cannot be guaranteed to stagnate; it could rise and catch up with India. Therefore, it is rational when India is always alert and tries to increase its military strength by carrying out defense cooperation with Israel.

Technology and defense experience are the main factors in selecting Israel as India's defense cooperation partner. Israel has a sophisticated missile defense system. Israeli missiles are capable of killing millions of people in a matter of minutes, according to Kompas.com quotes. Long-range missiles are also available; the Jericho model, for example, has a range of 1,500 to 4,800 kilometers. Based on development cooperation, developing this missile technology would not have been possible without significant financial support from America and Europe, which caused the missile industry in Israel to develop rapidly. As a result, Israel succeeded in exporting missiles and producing its missiles. Most of the missiles made by Israel are short and medium-range missiles. (Prastiandaru & Wirawan, 2020) Missiles are Israel's mainstay weapon, which can match the

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nuclear power produced by Pakistan. The author reminds us again that India's focus on increasing its defense is in preparation for an escalation of conflict with Pakistan. Pakistan already has nuclear weapons. So, it becomes rational for India to cooperate with Israel in terms of defense so that missile technology can be adopted and used by India against Pakistan someday.

Israel's fighting experience no longer needs to be questioned because Israel already has long experience fighting with Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. Both Israel and Palestine assert claims to the same Middle Eastern region, especially the area commonly called the Holy Land. Many issues play a role in this conflict, such as claims over resources, land, sovereignty, and religion. After Israel declared independence in 1948, the majority of Palestinians left their homeland, and hostilities with neighboring countries broke out. Since then, several wars, conflicts, and successful peace efforts have occurred. The status of Jerusalem, the division of land, the creation of a Palestinian state, the continuation of Israeli settlements in disputed areas, and ongoing violence between the two sides are the main concerns in this conflict. International organizations, other countries, and figures have tried to mediate this conflict, but until now, there has been no permanent resolution. This conflict had a significant impact on both communities, causing human suffering, loss of life, and damage to infrastructure in the region. (Content Notes and Nuggets, 2012) Let us look at the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which always fights over the Gaza Strip because it is located on the border of the two countries. This is similar to what happened in India-Pakistan regarding the Kashmir border. Because they have the same background, it becomes rational when India enters into defense cooperation with Israel, with the aim that India can learn strategies for facing enemies on the border, as Israel did when facing Palestine in the Gaza Strip.

As is known, Israel-India relations are not only about defense but also other issues such as humanity and tourism. As mentioned earlier, Israel supplied artificial intelligence (AI) powered technology and equipment to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi during COVID-19. This technology, created in Israel, is expected to help fight the coronavirus by lowering the chances of medical personnel contracting the infection and improving the country's overall health infrastructure. (Jurnas.com, 2020) Israel and India were having a profitable tourism

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partnership before the onset of COVID-19. In 2015, Israeli visitors to India increased by 13%, reaching almost 40,000. (VOA Indonesia, 2016) The increase in cargo trade between Israel and India truly has no limits. (Juergen T Steinmetz, 2023)

This data can be analyzed using the human environment as an indicator for internal factor analysis. The human environment itself is a factor related to human lifestyle or behavior. Apart from bringing benefits from an economic perspective, which increases economic growth in the tourism sector, tourism cooperation is also related to the lifestyle of citizens in the two countries. Tourism brings these two countries together so that cooperation in the tourism sector becomes rational to increase so that it can further strengthen the closeness of relations between the two countries and provide economic benefits. Humanitarian technological cooperation carried out during COVID-19 can also improve the welfare of the Indian people so that they are free from disease and improve India's health facilities, which will also have an impact on their lifestyle. So, this humanitarian cooperation also becomes rational for India to carry out.

India's national defense interests are the main reason of its support for Israel, according to an analysis of both internal and external factors. India must take immediate action to bolster its armed forces in order to deter Pakistan's military might. Since 1947, Pakistan and India have been fierce rivals due to the Kashmir border region. Israel is regarded as one of India's diplomatic allies since the two nations have longstanding diplomatic ties and mutual support for India's defense. Israel does, however, possess sufficient armed forces equipped with cutting-edge weaponry, including planes and missiles. This superiority is not surprising given that the United States always stands behind Israel and gives it full backing to invade Palestinian territory. India and Israel share a commonality in that they both deal with border conflicts that call for extremely potent military might. According to the author's analysis, securing the defense cooperation that has been established with Israel is, in fact, the primary reason why India supports Israel. The interests in tourism, the economy, and humanitarianism that have been developed through India and Israel's cooperation come next.

Conclusion

There are several factors behind India's support for Israel to fight Palestine in 2023. These factors are analyzed internally and externally. Internal and external factor analysis use the non-human environment as indicators, although with different definitions. Human environment indicators are also used in internal factor analysis. Both internally and externally, India's support for Israel is rational because it is motivated by the cooperation that the two countries have previously established, especially in the fields of defense, humanity, and tourism. Defense cooperation is a significant factor in India's support for Israel because of India's need to increase its military resources to counter a Pakistani attack. Israel is seen as a country that has some of the experience India needs to deal with a Pakistani attack. Humanitarian and tourism cooperation is also considered to increase the closeness of the people of the two countries, thus strengthening the diplomatic relations that have been built. Due to these factors, it is rational for India to provide support to Israel. This article is limited to dissecting the factors behind India's support for Israel. Seeing the development of the Israeli-Palestinian war situation when this article was written, the author must emphasize that whatever is written does not represent the author's subjective interests and is not a form of support for a particular party.

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