

**Final Paper**

***Research Proposal***

**Lieutenant Colonel (GS)   
Markus Schneider**

**German Army**

**Israel National Defense College (INDC)**

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# Name of the student

LtCol (GS) Markus Schneider, German Army

# Subject of the paper

The German Role in the European Union concerning the ISR-PSE Conflict.

Status Quo – Challenges – Opportunities

# Background

Germany on one hand side is with about 80 Million inhabitants in Central Europe and one of the biggest economies in Europe one of those countries which are able and by some people obliged to take a leading role in Europe and in the European Union (EU). Furthermore Germany (DEU[[1]](#footnote-1)) has a special important relationship with Israel, not only for historical reasons.

The EU on the other hand is the 3rd largest trading partner of Israel. However, the positions of the single EU member states are not totally in favor for Israel; sometimes they are even opposing to Israel and its current political activities.   
Additionally, not only based on its new Security Strategy, the EU tries to become a growing player in diplomatic affairs in the world and negotiator in difficult political discussions. Unfortunately, the EU is at the moment in dangerous waters, arising from problems like the BREXIT, Migration crisis, the Economic crisis and because of the results of the US elections not totally clear US cooperation. Additionally there seem to be tendencies for growing nationalism in Europe and the USA.

On the third side of this Triangle stands Israel (ISR) and its smoldering conflict with the Palestinians (PSE). A solution for this seems for the moment not visible, especially from my point of view not without an impartial mediator.   
Israel’s strategy for alliances aims mainly for the support by one powerful nation (i.e. the USA), but tries to keep and build up closer relationships, especially in economic fields, with other nations, like DEU, TUR and RUS.   
The PSE are backed up by almost all Islamic states and some European states. There is no real alliance visible.

This mix of relations shows that the EU as a whole might have some problems to be the right mediator for an ISR-PSE negotiation. However, DEU could take over this position but might be limited due to its resources and international support. So maybe DEU could take up a leading role in the EU to support the positioning of the EU towards this and make the EU to the accepted mediator.

# The goal of the work

To analyze:

* The position of DEU in the EU,
* The opinion of the EU and some of its member states towards the ISR-PSE conflict; and
* Whether Germany could use its assumed leading position in the EU to develop a common position of the EU for the establishment of the EU as an important negotiator in the ISR-PSE.

# The research claim

Germany is one of the leading countries in the EU. The DEU position in the EU is due to its economic and political positioning good, but not unquestioned and by some states seen with a kind of concern.

The EU could be due to its possibilities and its own ambitions a good mediator in the ISR-PSE conflict, but because of its internal problems and the heterogenic structure there seem to be no common position towards the conflict. Therefore the EU is limited acting as a mediator.

DEU - despite the EU internal problems and the sometime controversial position in the EU - might be able to consolidate the position of the EU in one direction and make the EU as a whole to an accepted negotiator for Israel and the Palestinians.

# The limits of the paper

The German position in the EU is influenced by a variety of factors. Therefore the main effort in this paper will be the political (mainly diplomatic) and economic factors.

The internal discussion in Germany about the positioning towards the conflict will not be discussed. The official statements of the Government will be seen as the DE position.

The influences of other international players outside the EU on the conflict might limit the effectiveness of an EU involvement. To unburden the discussion this will not be taken into account. The scope is limited to the EU and Germany.

This also applies to the possible broad interconnections of the conflict with other topics, like the Syria conflict.

# The person who initiated the subject

Student

# Accompanying instructor (to be confirmed)

*Dr. Josh Krasna*

*Or*

*Dr. Anat Stern*

# Literaturverzeichnis

**Worldatlas.com. 2016.** *Worldatlas.* [Online] 11 21, 2016. http://www.worldatlas.com/aatlas/ctycodes.htm.

***Possible Content of the paper***

* Triangle of tensions!?

Germany

EU ISR

* The Israeli – Palestinian Conflict
  + General background stressing the situation
  + Fields of international concern
    - ISR Settlements
    - Security situation
    - The ISR neighbors
* DEU (Germany)
  + General
  + Internal Changes
    - Demographic changes
    - Migration
    - Economy (destruction of the middle class)
    - Growing right wing party
  + Position in the EU
    - Political
    - economical
  + German interests in the region
    - Stability in the region
    - Balanced support to most of the states
  + German and ISR
    - raison d'être = ISR security
    - Support of ISR
    - No unconditioned friendship
    - Arms exports
  + Germany and PSE (Palestine)
  + Germany and the conflict
    - History of the German involvement
* EU (European Union)
  + Interests
  + The important players of the EU
    - Commission
    - EEAS
    - Parliament
  + Challenges
    - Decision mechanism
    - inside-EU problems, like Migration, BREXIT
    - New European Security Strategy
  + Position of the members concerning the conflict
    - Pro ISR / Contra ISR / undecided
* Challenges for more German support
  + German history
  + Internal German political influences, e.g. Central Jewish Council, Central Council of Muslims’.
  + Internal German challenges, e.g. growing right wing party, elections in 2017
  + Current internal EU problems (migration, economy, nationalism)
* Opportunities
  + Use German general position to influence the EU

1. All Country names base on the ISO 3-letter-code, see Worldatlas, 2016 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)