

**Final Paper**

***Research Proposal***

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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 with regard to the ISR-PSE Conflict --

Challenges and 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 are Israel (ISR) and (its smoldering conflict with) the Palestinians (PSE). A solution for this seems for the moment not visible, especially from the strategic point of view not without an impartial mediator.   
In the international arena 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 although PSE get some support or European states and in parts by the EU.

This mix of relations and tensions 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 an 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;
* 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 possible gain or loss for Germany, because it is possible that Germany has to pay a price for its engagement; and
* Whether this engagement might endanger the current good relations of Germany and Israel because of a future positioning of the EU, including Germany, to some degree against Israel.

# 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 besides of its internal problems and the heterogenic structure there seem to be a common one-sided position towards the conflict. Therefore the EU might be limited in 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 of Germany in the EU.

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 the main effort. The scope is concentrated on 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

# Delimitation to other Mabal Finals Papers

At the moment there is only one paper known: LtCol (GS) Michael Rueb’s “Germany and the Middle East – The Potential to play a Pivotal Role and to be a Leading Mediator”.

LtCol Rueb’s paper is on the role of Germany by itself whereas my paper will be on Germany in the EU. He is focusing on modern mediation in political science and how to operationalize mediation whereas I try to show the role of one state in an alliance. Furthermore some things of his ideas, e.g. E3, will be no more possible in this way (Brexit).

So to sum up, there are interfaces but two different approaches.

# Accompanying instructor (to be confirmed)

*tbd*

*Second reader maybe Dr. Anat Stern*

# Possible Content

1. Introduction
2. The European Union
   1. General
      * + - Interests
          - New European Security Strategy
          - Decision mechanism
   2. The important players of the EU
      * + - Commission
          - Parliament
          - EEAS
   3. Current challenges
      * + - BREXIT
          - Growing nationalism
          - Migration
   4. Position of the members concerning the conflict
      * + - Pro ISR / Contra ISR / undecided
3. Germany
   1. German Interests
      * + - In general
          - In the Middle East

Stability in the region

Balanced support to most of the states

* 1. Position in the EU
     + - * Political
         * Economical
  2. Internal Challenges with influence on the EU
     + - * Demographic changes
         * Migration
         * Economy (destruction of the middle class)
         * Growing nationalism / right wing party 🡪 Elections in 2017
         * Internal German political influences, e.g. Central Jewish Council, Central Council of Muslims’.

1. The Israeli – Palestinian Conflict
   1. General background stressing the situation
   2. German and the conflict
      * + - History of the German involvement
          - Germany and ISR

German history

raison d'être = ISR security 🡪 Support of ISR

No unconditioned friendship

Arms exports

* + - * + Germany and PSE (Palestine)

1. Theoretical insertion: International Organizations
   * + - * Decision-making in International Organizations
         * Influence of member states in International Organizations
2. Challenges / opportunities for a leading role of German in the EU in light of the ISR-PSE conflict
   * + - * Influence of EU problems on the conflict, e.g. growing nationalism in Europe
         * Positions of other EU member states towards Germany’s behavior in the migration and in the economic crisis 🡪 possibilities of Germany to counter respectively to use these
         * Positions of other EU member states towards the conflict 🡪 possibilities for Germany to influence these
         * Areas of possible disputes

ISR Settlements

ISR and PSE activities to react the security situation

The EU and ISR neighbors

* + - * + Possible effects of a leading role of Germany in the EU in this case on the ISR-DEU relation

Gain

Loss

Danger of clash between DEU and ISR

1. Conclusion

# Bibliography

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

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