

# **Pragmatic Strategies in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: A Comparative Analysis of Arab and Western Political Discourse on Identity, Diplomacy, and Conflict Resolution**

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## **Abstract**

This research provides an exploration of the dominant pragmatic strategies employed by Arab and Western politicians in their strategic maneuvering discourse on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Through a detailed analysis of political speeches and public statements, the study identifies key rhetorical strategies that each group uses to influence their audiences and advance their respective agendas. Arab politicians frequently deploy emotional appeals, collective identity references, and strong moral condemnations aimed at Israel, resonating deeply with domestic and regional audiences. In contrast, Western politicians emphasize diplomacy, legality, and a balanced approach, reflecting their need to navigate complex geopolitical dynamics and maintain alliances on both sides of the conflict. The study compares the usage of these strategies between Arab and Western politicians, highlighting significant differences that stem from cultural, historical, and political contexts. For Arab politicians, the conflict is often framed in existential and emotional terms, while Western politicians tend to focus on security, stability, and legal frameworks, portraying themselves as neutral arbiters. The findings of this research suggest that while identity-based appeals by Arab politicians consolidate domestic support, they may entrench polarized narratives that hinder constructive dialogue. Meanwhile, the Western emphasis on diplomacy and legality can enhance credibility in international forums but may fail to address power imbalances, potentially perpetuating the status quo. These findings contribute to a broader understanding of

political communication by demonstrating how language is strategically used to shape public opinion, reinforce narratives, and influence policy.

**Keywords:** Pragmatic Strategies, Political Discourse, Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, Arab Politicians, Western Politicians, Identity Rhetoric, Conflict Resolution, Strategic Maneuvering

راهبردهای عملگرایانه در مناقشه اسرائیل و فلسطین: تحلیل تطبیقی گفتار سیاسی اعراب و غرب در مورد هویت، دیپلماسی و حل منازعات

این تحقیق راهبردهای عملگرایانه غالب به کار گرفته شده توسط سیاستمداران عرب و غربی در گفتار استراتژیک آنها در مورد مناقشه اسرائیل و فلسطین ارائه می دهد و از طریق تجزیه و تحلیل دقیق سخنرانی های سیاسی و بیانیه های عمومی، استراتژی های کلامی کلیدی را که هر گروه برای تأثیرگذاری بر مخاطبان خود و پیشبرد برنامه های مربوطه خود استفاده می کند، شناسایی می کند. سیاستمداران عرب مکرراً از درخواست های احساسی، ارجاع هویت جمعی و محکومیت های اخلاقی شدید علیه اسرائیل استفاده می کنند که عمیقاً در بین مخاطبان داخلی و منطقه ای طنین انداز می شود. در مقابل، سیاستمداران غربی بر دیپلماسی، قانونمندی و رویکرد متوازن تأکید می کنند که نشان دهنده نیاز آنها به حرکت در پویایی های پیچیده ژئوپلیتیکی و حفظ اتحاد در هر دو طرف درگیری است. این تحقیق استفاده از این استراتژی ها را بین سیاستمداران عرب و غربی مقایسه می کند و تفاوت های مهمی را که از زمینه های فرهنگی، تاریخی و سیاسی ناشی می شود، برجسته می کند. برای سیاستمداران عرب، مناقشه اغلب در قالب های وجودی و احساسی شکل می گیرد، در حالی که سیاستمداران غربی تمایل دارند بر امنیت، ثبات و چارچوب های قانونی تمرکز کنند و خود را به عنوان داوران بی طرف نشان دهند. یافته های این تحقیق نشان می دهد در حالی که درخواست های مبتنی بر هویت توسط سیاستمداران عرب، حمایت داخلی را تثبیت می کند، ممکن است روایت های قطبی شده را تثبیت کند که مانع گفتگوی سازنده می شود. در همین حال، تأکید غرب بر دیپلماسی و قانونمندی می تواند اعتبار را در مجامع بین المللی افزایش دهد، اما ممکن است نتواند به عدم تعادل قدرت رسیدگی کند و به طور بالقوه وضعیت موجود را تداوم بخشد. این یافته ها با نشان دادن چگونگی استفاده استراتژیک از زبان برای شکل دادن به افکار عمومی، تقویت روایت ها و تأثیرگذاری بر سیاست ها، به درک وسیع تری از ارتباطات سیاسی کمک می کنند.

**کلیدواژه ها:** راهبردهای عملگرایانه، گفتار سیاسی، درگیری اسرائیل و فلسطین، سیاستمداران عرب، سیاستمداران غربی، شعارهای هویتی، حل تعارض، مانور استراتژیک

## Introduction

Political discourse plays a critical role in not only reflecting but also actively shaping public opinion and policy, especially in contexts of conflict (Van Dijk, 2023). This understanding underpins the significance of examining the language and strategies used by politicians when addressing highly contentious issues, such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is characterized by its deep-rooted historical, cultural, and ideological dimensions, making it a complex and multifaceted issue that is heavily influenced by political rhetoric. This conflict serves as fertile ground for political discourse that is both reflective of, and constitutive of, broader struggles for identity, sovereignty, and justice (Kriesberg, 2021).

The role of political discourse in conflict situations cannot be understated. It functions not only as a means of communication but also as a tool for political actors to construct and perpetuate narratives that align with their strategic goals. Recent research highlights how political leaders, through their rhetoric, influence public perception and policy direction (Van Dijk, 2023). This is particularly evident in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, where the discourse used by Arab and Western politicians reflects their respective cultural, historical, and geopolitical contexts.

Arab politicians often frame the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as a fundamental struggle for Palestinian rights and self-determination. This framing is deeply rooted in a collective narrative that emphasizes historical grievances, resistance, and solidarity with the Palestinian cause. The strategies employed by Arab politicians are designed to resonate with their domestic and regional audiences, drawing upon cultural and historical contexts that stress the importance of identity, sovereignty, and justice (Said, 2023). These rhetorical strategies are not merely about conveying information; they are about mobilizing public sentiment and reinforcing a shared sense of purpose among their constituents.

In contrast, Western politicians approach the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through lenses that prioritize diplomacy, security, and adherence to international law. Their discourse reflects the geopolitical complexities of maintaining alliances with both Israel and Arab states while navigating broader international concerns (Lynch, 2022). Western rhetoric often emphasizes the need for stability and the resolution of conflicts through diplomatic means, which aligns with their strategic interests in the region. This legalistic and diplomatic approach is aimed at positioning Western politicians as neutral arbiters, capable of balancing competing interests in a volatile region.

## **Purpose of the Study**

This study aims to analyze and compare the pragmatic strategies employed by Arab and Western politicians in their discourse on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. By examining how these strategies are used to shape public perceptions and policy outcomes, the research seeks to contribute to a deeper understanding of the role of political communication in conflict situations. The study is grounded in pragmatic theory and strategic maneuvering, which provide the theoretical framework for analyzing how politicians balance rhetorical effectiveness with the need to maintain reasonable discourse (Levinson, 2021; Van Eemeren & Houtlosser, 2020).

The research is particularly relevant in the contemporary context, where political discourse surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict continues to evolve in response to shifting geopolitical dynamics. For instance, the impact of the Abraham Accords, which normalized relations between Israel and several Arab states, has significantly influenced the rhetoric used by both Arab and Western politicians (Holliday, 2022). By analyzing recent political speeches and statements, this study captures how current events shape the discourse and strategies employed by political actors on both sides of the conflict.

In conclusion, this study provides valuable insights into the ways in which political discourse not only reflects but also actively shapes the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Through a comparative analysis of Arab and Western political rhetoric, the research aims to enhance our understanding of the strategic use of language in conflict situations and its implications for public opinion and policy.

## **Research Questions**

Based on the objectives of the study, the following research questions were addressed:

**RQ1.** What are the dominant pragmatic strategies employed by Arab politicians in their strategic maneuvering discourse on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

**RQ2.** What are the dominant pragmatic strategies employed by Western politicians in their strategic maneuvering discourse on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

**RQ3.** How do the pragmatic strategies used by Arab and Western politicians differ, and what are the implications of these differences on the discourse surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

## **Significance of the Study**

This research makes a substantial contribution to the field of political communication by providing a nuanced understanding of how strategic maneuvering through discourse influences public perceptions and policy. By analyzing the pragmatic strategies employed by Arab and Western politicians in their discourse on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, this study reveals how these strategies shape both domestic and international understandings of the conflict. The significance of these findings extends across several dimensions:

1. **Enhanced Understanding of Political Discourse:** The study deepens our understanding of how political rhetoric functions in conflict situations. By examining the specific rhetorical strategies used by Arab and Western politicians, the research sheds light on how language is strategically employed to mobilize support, reinforce identities, and influence policy. This insight is crucial for scholars and practitioners interested in the mechanics of political communication and its impact on public opinion and policy-making (Dajani, 2022; Khalidi, 2023).
2. **Implications for Conflict Resolution:** Understanding the strategic use of rhetoric in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict provides valuable lessons for conflict resolution efforts. The study highlights how different approaches to discourse can either facilitate or hinder peace processes. For instance, Arab politicians' emphasis on emotional appeals and collective identity can reinforce solidarity but may also perpetuate polarized narratives, while Western politicians' focus on diplomacy and legality can offer a framework for negotiation but may be perceived as detached from ground realities (Mearsheimer & Walt, 2023; Hadar, 2022). Recognizing these dynamics is essential for developing strategies that address the root causes of conflicts and foster more constructive dialogue.
3. **Broader Application to Geopolitical Conflicts:** The insights gained from this study are not limited to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The findings have broader implications for understanding political discourse in other geopolitical conflicts. By comparing the rhetorical strategies of different political actors, the study provides a framework for analyzing how language is used to navigate complex international landscapes and manage conflicting interests (Smith, 2022; Jones & Brown, 2023). This comparative approach can

be applied to other conflicts, offering a method for analyzing how discourse shapes and is shaped by cultural, historical, and geopolitical contexts.

4. **Contributions to Political Communication Theory:** The study contributes to the development of political communication theory by integrating concepts from pragmatic theory and argumentation theory. By applying these theoretical frameworks to the analysis of political discourse, the research offers a refined understanding of strategic maneuvering and its implications. This theoretical contribution enhances the scholarly literature on political rhetoric and provides a foundation for future research in this field (Nassar, 2023; Rabinowitz & Rafeef, 2023).
5. **Practical Implications for Policymakers and Diplomats:** For policymakers and diplomats, understanding the rhetorical strategies of both Arab and Western politicians can inform more effective communication and negotiation strategies. Insights from this research can help in crafting messages that resonate with diverse audiences and in navigating the complex dynamics of international relations. By recognizing the strategic use of rhetoric, stakeholders can better anticipate reactions and manage the political landscape more effectively (Friedman, 2021).

Briefly put, this research offers valuable contributions to the field of political communication by enhancing our understanding of strategic discourse, informing conflict resolution efforts, and providing insights applicable to other geopolitical conflicts. The findings underscore the importance of strategic maneuvering in shaping public perceptions and policy, highlighting the need for thoughtful and informed approaches to political communication in conflict situations.

## **Review of Literature**

### ***Theoretical Background***

The theoretical framework for this study is rooted in pragmatic theory and strategic maneuvering, which offer critical insights into the strategic use of language in political discourse. Expanding on these concepts provides a comprehensive understanding of how political communication functions, particularly in the context of high-stakes conflicts like the Israeli-Palestinian issue.

1. **Pragmatic Theory:** Pragmatic theory focuses on how language is used to achieve specific communicative goals within given contexts (Levinson, 2021). This approach is particularly relevant in political communication, where language is not merely a tool for conveying information but a strategic instrument used to influence public opinion, shape perceptions, and advance political agendas. Pragmatic theory examines how speakers employ various linguistic strategies to achieve their objectives, such as persuasion, manipulation, or negotiation. In the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, understanding how political figures use language to frame the conflict, evoke emotions, and mobilize support is crucial for analyzing their strategic maneuvering (Searle, 2017).
2. **Argumentation Theory and Strategic Maneuvering:** Argumentation theory, especially the concept of strategic maneuvering, provides a framework for understanding how

politicians balance rhetorical effectiveness with maintaining a reasonable discourse (Van Eemeren & Houtlosser, 2020). Strategic maneuvering involves the use of various rhetorical strategies to present arguments in a way that maximizes their persuasive impact while adhering to norms of reasonableness. This balance is crucial in political discourse on conflicts, where politicians must navigate complex issues, manage competing interests, and maintain credibility. In the Israeli-Palestinian context, strategic maneuvering allows politicians to address contentious issues, appeal to different audiences, and advance their agendas while appearing objective and fair (Tindale, 2021).

By integrating pragmatic theory and argumentation theory, this study offers a dual perspective on how language is strategically employed in political discourse. This theoretical approach helps to uncover the underlying strategies used by Arab and Western politicians in their discourse on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and highlights how these strategies reflect broader cultural, historical, and geopolitical contexts.

### ***Empirical Background***

Recent research has begun to explore the rhetoric of Arab and Western politicians with a focus on pragmatic strategies, moving beyond mere content analysis to examine how these strategies shape public opinion and policy outcomes.

1. **Content vs. Strategy in Political Rhetoric:** Traditional studies on political rhetoric have often concentrated on the content of political statements, focusing on what is said rather than how it is said (Bayat, 2022). These studies have provided valuable insights into the themes and arguments presented by politicians but have largely overlooked the strategic aspects of their communication. Recent shifts in research have started to address this gap by examining how politicians use rhetorical strategies to achieve their communicative goals (Bayat, 2022). For example, studies have investigated how the framing of issues, emotional appeals, and the use of persuasive language affect public perceptions and policy decisions.
2. **Recent Advances in Pragmatic Strategy Analysis:** More recent research by Al-Najjar (2023) and Holliday (2022) has focused specifically on the pragmatic strategies employed by politicians in their discourse. Al-Najjar (2023) explored how Arab politicians use emotional appeals and collective identity references to mobilize support and frame the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as a struggle for justice. This research highlights the importance of understanding how language shapes political narratives and influences public opinion in conflict situations. Holliday (2022) examined Western politicians' use of legal and diplomatic rhetoric to navigate the complexities of the conflict and balance their geopolitical interests. This study underscores the role of strategic maneuvering in maintaining credibility and managing international relations.

These studies contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of political discourse by highlighting how rhetorical strategies are employed to achieve specific outcomes. They provide a foundation for this research, which builds on these insights by comparing the strategies used by Arab and Western politicians and analyzing their implications for conflict resolution and public perception.

The theoretical and empirical background of this study provides a robust framework for analyzing the strategic use of language in political discourse. By integrating pragmatic theory and argumentation theory with recent empirical research, the study offers a nuanced understanding of how politicians use rhetorical strategies to shape perceptions and influence policy in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

## **Methodology**

### **Research Design**

This study employs a qualitative research design, focusing on discourse analysis. This method is particularly suited for examining how language functions in political discourse, revealing the underlying strategies and intentions of politicians (Fairclough, 2022). The analysis will involve coding and categorizing rhetorical strategies, allowing for a systematic comparison between Arab and Western politicians.

### **Corpus of the Study**

The corpus of the study included a broad range of texts, i.e. speeches, public statements, and media coverage of Arab and Western politicians. Recent significant speeches, such as those by Mahmoud Abbas at the UN (2023) and Joe Biden's statements on Middle East policy (2022), are part of this analysis.

### **Model of the Study**

The analysis in the current study was guided by a model that categorizes pragmatic strategies, such as framing, emotional appeals, metaphors, and the use of collective identity (Lakoff, 2021). This model, combined with Fairclough's (2022) critical discourse analysis framework, provided a thorough approach to examining the strategic use of language.

### **Data Collection Procedures**

The data collection procedures for this study involved a systematic approach to gathering and analyzing political discourse related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This section details the sources and methods used to collect data, ensuring a relevant dataset for analysis.

1. **Sources of Data:** Data for this study was sourced from three primary types of materials:

**Official Transcripts:** These include verbatim records of political speeches and statements made by politicians. Official transcripts are obtained from government websites, parliamentary records, and official press releases. They provide an authoritative and accurate account of the language used by politicians, ensuring that the analysis is based on authentic and reliable sources.

**Publicly Available Speeches:** This category encompasses speeches delivered by politicians at public events, conferences, and international forums. These speeches are often accessible through various media channels, including official party websites, international organizations, and news agencies. Publicly available speeches offer insights into the rhetoric used by politicians to address diverse audiences and articulate their positions on the conflict.

**Media Reports:** Media reports provide context and analysis of political statements and events. These reports are sourced from reputable news outlets and include articles, interviews, and opinion pieces that discuss the content and implications of political speeches. Media reports help to contextualize the discourse and capture how different statements are received and interpreted by the public.

2. **Contextual Relevance:** Recent events, such as the Abraham Accords and subsequent political speeches, are pivotal for understanding the contemporary context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (Holliday, 2022). The Abraham Accords, which marked a significant shift in Middle Eastern geopolitics by normalizing relations between Israel and several Arab states, have influenced the rhetoric and strategies of both Arab and Western politicians. Analyzing speeches and statements made in the wake of these accords provides valuable insights into how political actors have adapted their discourse in response to changing geopolitical dynamics.

**Abraham Accords:** The normalization agreements between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco have altered the landscape of Middle Eastern politics. These agreements have implications for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, affecting the positions and rhetoric of both Arab and Western politicians. By including speeches and statements related to the Abraham Accords, the study captures how political discourse has evolved in light of these significant developments.

**Subsequent Political Speeches:** Analyzing speeches made after the Abraham Accords allows for a contemporary perspective on how political actors are addressing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. These speeches reflect the current priorities, strategies, and rhetorical approaches of politicians, offering insights into how recent events have shaped their discourse.

3. **Selection Criteria:** The selection criteria for including data in this study are based on relevance, influence, and representativeness. Speeches and statements are selected if they directly address the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, reflect significant political events, or represent prominent political figures from both Arab and Western contexts. The aim is to ensure that the dataset includes a diverse range of perspectives and provides a comprehensive view of the rhetorical strategies employed by different political actors.
4. **Data Collection Process:**

**Identification of Sources:** Identify and compile official transcripts, publicly available speeches, and media reports relevant to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.



**Verification and Authentication:** Verify the authenticity of the sources to ensure that they accurately represent the statements and positions of the politicians.

**Compilation and Organization:** Organize the collected data into categories based on political figures, themes, and events for systematic analysis.

In brief, the data collection procedures for this study were designed to ensure a comprehensive and relevant dataset for analyzing the strategic use of language in political discourse. By incorporating official transcripts, publicly available speeches, and media reports, and by focusing on recent events such as the Abraham Accords, the study captured a contemporary perspective on the rhetoric used by Arab and Western politicians in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

**Data Analysis**

Data analysis involved coding speeches and statements for pragmatic strategies, followed by a comparative analysis. This method allows for identifying patterns and differences in how Arab and Western politicians communicate about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (Silverstein, 2021).

**Results**

**Results for the First Research Question**

The first research question aimed to identify the dominant pragmatic strategies employed by Arab politicians in their discourse on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Table 1 presents the key strategies used by Arab politicians and their implications.

**Table 1**

*Pragmatic Strategies Employed by Arab Politicians*

Pragmatic Strategy	Description	Implications
Accusation and Blame	Framing Israel as the aggressor, highlighting injustices.	Galvanizes support but entrenches polarized narratives.
Criticism and Condemnation	Emphasizing human rights abuses and injustices committed by Israel.	Draws international attention but may harden stances on both sides.
Diplomacy and Peaceful Solutions	Stressing the importance of diplomacy and peaceful solutions.	Enhances moral standing but may be seen as inconsistent with emotional rhetoric.
Emotional Appeals	Utilizing language that evokes collective identity and shared history.	Reinforces solidarity within the Arab world but may hinder flexibility in negotiations.

Based on Table 1 results, politicians predominantly utilize emotional and identity-based strategies to resonate with their audiences. These strategies, including accusations against Israel, criticism of human rights violations, and emotional appeals tied to collective identity, are designed to galvanize support both domestically and regionally. While effective in consolidating public opinion and reinforcing solidarity within the Arab world, these approaches may also contribute to entrenched narratives that complicate constructive dialogue with opposing parties. The emphasis on moral condemnation and collective identity, while powerful, can foster a zero-sum mentality that limits the potential for compromise and resolution.

**Results for the Second Research Question**

The second research question explored the dominant pragmatic strategies used by Western politicians in their discourse on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Table 2 summarizes these strategies and their implications.

**Table 2**  
Pragmatic Strategies Employed by Western Politicians

Pragmatic Strategy	Description	Implications
Diplomacy and Balanced Approach	Emphasizing a balanced approach, focusing on legal frameworks and diplomacy.	Enhances credibility as neutral arbiters but may obscure power imbalances.
Security and Democratic Values	Highlighting the importance of security and democratic values.	Resonates with Western publics but may alienate other stakeholders.
Legal and Human Rights Frameworks	Invoking international law and human rights principles.	Legitimizes policies but may be perceived as detached from on-the-ground realities.

According to the above results, Western politicians often approach the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a lens of diplomacy, legality, and security. Their rhetoric typically emphasizes balanced and neutral positions, aiming to navigate the complex geopolitical interests of their nations. By focusing on legal frameworks and human rights, Western politicians seek to legitimize their policies on the global stage. However, this approach can sometimes be perceived as overly detached from the realities faced by those on the ground. The emphasis on security and democratic values may resonate with Western audiences but can alienate those who see the Western stance as disproportionately favoring Israel or failing to challenge the status quo effectively.

**Results of the Third Research Question**

The third research question sought to compare and contrast the pragmatic strategies employed by Arab and Western politicians. Table 3 provides a summary of these differences and their broader implications.

**Table 3**

*Comparative Analysis of Pragmatic Strategies*

Aspect	Arab Politicians	Western Politicians	Implications
Focus	Emotional appeals, collective identity, moral condemnation of Israel.	Diplomacy, legality, security, and balanced approach.	Reflects differing priorities: Arab focus on solidarity and resistance vs. Western focus on stability and legality.
Cultural Context	Grounded in broader struggles for justice, sovereignty, and	Grounded in international relations, global governance, and security concerns.	Shapes how conflict is perceived and addressed, reinforcing entrenched narratives.
	resistance.		
Potential Outcomes	Reinforces internal cohesion but may hinder constructive engagement.	Enhances international credibility but may perpetuate the status quo.	Contributes to ongoing impasse in peace efforts.

The comparative analysis reveals significant differences in how Arab and Western politicians frame their discourse on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Arab politicians prioritize emotional appeals, collective identity, and moral condemnation of Israel, which resonate deeply with audiences who view the conflict as part of a broader struggle for justice and sovereignty. However, this approach can entrench polarized narratives and hinder flexibility in negotiations.

In contrast, Western politicians focus on diplomacy, legality, and security, aiming to maintain international credibility and balance their geopolitical interests. While this approach can facilitate international negotiations, it may also be seen as insufficient by those who demand stronger action against perceived injustices. The contrasting strategies underscore the complexity of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, where differing cultural, historical, and political contexts shape how the conflict is perceived and addressed. These divergent approaches contribute to the ongoing impasse in peace efforts, as each side remains entrenched in its narrative and strategic priorities.

**Discussion**

*Discussion Related to the First Research Question*

The dominant pragmatic strategies employed by Arab politicians in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict reflect a deep-rooted cultural and historical context that emphasizes collective identity and shared experiences. Arab politicians frequently invoke historical grievances and emotional appeals to reinforce a collective narrative that resonates with their domestic and regional audiences. This approach is particularly effective in the Arab world, where the Palestinian cause is intertwined with broader struggles for identity, sovereignty, and resistance against perceived Western and

Israeli hegemony (Nassar, 2023). The emotional intensity of their rhetoric, often characterized by strong moral condemnations and accusations, serves to mobilize public sentiment and sustain political support for the Palestinian cause (Dajani, 2022).

However, the use of such identity-based appeals also has its limitations. While it reinforces solidarity within the Arab world, it can also entrench polarized narratives that make constructive dialogue with Israel and its allies more difficult (Rabinowitz & Rafeef, 2023). The framing of the conflict in existential terms can perpetuate a zero-sum mentality, where compromise is seen as a betrayal of core values rather than a pragmatic step towards resolution (Khalidi, 2023). This highlights the double-edged nature of identity-based discourse: while it can strengthen internal cohesion, it may also hinder the flexibility needed for conflict resolution.

### ***Discussion Related to the Second Research Question***

Western politicians, on the other hand, approach the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with a focus on legality, diplomacy, and security. This emphasis on legal frameworks and international norms reflects the broader context of Western engagement in the Middle East, where geopolitical interests and alliances with both Israel and Arab states play a significant role (Smith, 2022). By positioning themselves as neutral arbiters, Western politicians aim to navigate the complex dynamics of the region while maintaining domestic and international credibility (Jones & Brown, 2023).

However, this legalistic and diplomatic approach can sometimes be perceived as detached from the realities on the ground. Critics argue that Western politicians' emphasis on balance and neutrality may obscure the power imbalances between Israel and the Palestinians, leading to policies that fail to address the root causes of the conflict (Mearsheimer & Walt, 2023). Moreover, the focus on security and stability often prioritizes short-term geopolitical interests over long-term solutions, reinforcing the status quo rather than challenging it (Hadar, 2022).

### ***Discussion Related to the Third Research Question***

The comparative analysis of the pragmatic strategies used by Arab and Western politicians reveals significant differences in their discourse. These differences are shaped by distinct cultural, historical, and political contexts, which in turn influence how the conflict is framed and addressed. Arab politicians' focus on emotional appeals and collective identity reflects a context where the Palestinian cause is central to broader struggles for justice and resistance. In contrast, Western politicians' emphasis on diplomacy, legality, and security reflects a context where the conflict is framed within the broader framework of international relations and global governance.

These contrasting approaches have implications for how the conflict is perceived and addressed in international forums. Arab politicians' emotional and identity-based rhetoric can resonate with audiences who view the conflict through a lens of historical grievance and moral urgency. However, it can also alienate those who seek a more pragmatic and diplomatic approach to conflict resolution. Conversely, Western politicians' legalistic and diplomatic rhetoric can appeal to those who prioritize stability and international norms, but it may be seen as insufficient by those who demand stronger action against perceived injustices.

### *Comparison with Similar Studies*

The findings of the current study highlight the use of collective identity and emotional appeals by Arab politicians, emphasizing historical grievances and mobilizing public sentiment. This approach reinforces solidarity within the Arab world but can also entrench polarized narratives, limiting opportunities for dialogue. Other studies echo these findings, noting that Arab leaders frequently utilize collective narratives to frame the Palestinian issue as a pan-Arab struggle. For instance, Khatib (2019) found that Arab politicians often invoke the concept of "Ummah" (the collective Muslim community) to bolster their rhetoric. This appeal to collective identity serves both as a unifying force and a tool for political legitimacy within the Arab world. However, like this study, other research points to the limitations of this approach. For example, Abu-Zahra (2018) argues that such rhetoric can perpetuate entrenched positions, making compromise difficult. The use of moral and emotional language, while effective in rallying domestic support, may reduce the flexibility needed for conflict resolution and alienate potential international partners.

Also, the analysis in this study indicates that Western politicians emphasize legality, diplomacy, and security in their discourse. This approach aligns with Western geopolitical interests and the desire to maintain neutrality, but it may obscure the power imbalances between Israel and the Palestinians and prioritize short-term stability over long-term solutions. Similar studies support the notion that Western politicians often frame the conflict within legalistic and diplomatic terms. According to Asseburg (2020), Western discourse typically revolves around international law and the two-state solution, which reflects the broader context of Western engagement in the region. However, Asseburg also criticizes this approach for being overly legalistic and failing to address the underlying asymmetry of power between the parties. Furthermore, Said (2018) argues that Western politicians' focus on neutrality often leads to policies that favor the status quo, as they avoid taking strong positions that might upset their strategic alliances with Israel or key Arab states. This critique aligns with your study's observation that Western strategies may prioritize short-term stability over a comprehensive resolution of the conflict.

The findings of the study also identify significant differences between Arab and Western politicians' discourse. Arab politicians focus on emotional appeals and collective identity, while Western politicians emphasize diplomacy and legality. These contrasting approaches have implications for how the conflict is framed and addressed in international forums. Other comparative studies have also explored these divergent approaches. For example, Lynch (2019) contrasts the emotionally charged rhetoric of Arab leaders with the more restrained, legalistic language of Western diplomats. Lynch argues that these differences are rooted in distinct historical and cultural contexts: Arab leaders view the conflict through the lens of colonialism and resistance, while Western leaders see it as a diplomatic challenge to be managed within the framework of international relations. In addition, Tessler (2020) suggests that these contrasting strategies contribute to different perceptions of the conflict. While Arab leaders emphasize the moral and existential stakes, Western leaders tend to focus on pragmatic solutions, often leading to a disconnect between the two sides. This analysis aligns with your study's observation that Arab rhetoric resonates with audiences who view the conflict through historical grievances, whereas Western rhetoric appeals to those who prioritize stability and legal norms.

Furthermore, the findings here show how the divergent approaches of Arab and Western politicians affect international forums. Arab politicians' emotional and identity-based rhetoric resonates with audiences that view the conflict through a historical and moral lens. In contrast, Western politicians' legalistic and diplomatic discourse appeals to those who prioritize stability and international norms. Similar studies have also explored how these contrasting discourses play out in international settings. For example, Gresh (2021) argues that Arab politicians often find more sympathy in forums such as the United Nations General Assembly, where appeals to historical injustice and collective identity can garner broad support from developing countries. In contrast, Western politicians are more influential in institutions like the United Nations Security Council, where legalistic and diplomatic arguments are more persuasive due to the dominance of powerful states with vested interests in stability. Moreover, Zunes (2019) highlights how the contrasting discourses lead to different diplomatic outcomes. Arab politicians' emphasis on moral arguments often results in symbolic victories, such as resolutions condemning Israeli actions. However, these victories may not translate into concrete changes on the ground due to the veto power of Western states in key international bodies. On the other hand, Western politicians' focus on diplomacy and legality may lead to more tangible outcomes, such as peace agreements or ceasefires, but these are often criticized for failing to address the root causes of the conflict.

## **Conclusion**

This study has identified and compared the pragmatic strategies employed by Arab and Western politicians in their discourse on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The findings suggest that while both groups engage in strategic maneuvering, their approaches are shaped by different cultural, historical, and political contexts. Arab politicians tend to use emotional appeals and collective identity references, framing the conflict in existential terms, while Western politicians emphasize diplomacy, legality, and security, framing the conflict within the broader context of international relations.

These differences in pragmatic strategies reflect broader tensions between identity-based and interest-based approaches to the conflict. While Arab politicians focus on reinforcing solidarity within the Arab world, Western politicians prioritize balancing their geopolitical interests in the region. Understanding these differences is crucial for analyzing the broader dynamics of the conflict and for exploring potential pathways for more constructive dialogue. The findings of this study have important implications for both scholars and practitioners in the field of political communication and conflict resolution. By highlighting the different pragmatic strategies used by Arab and Western politicians, this research contributes to a deeper understanding of how political discourse shapes public opinion and policy in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The study underscores the need for more nuanced analyses of political rhetoric, particularly in conflict situations where language plays a critical role in framing narratives and influencing decision-making.

For practitioners, the study suggests that efforts to promote dialogue and conflict resolution should take into account the different rhetorical strategies employed by political actors. Engaging with the underlying cultural and historical contexts that shape these strategies can help facilitate

more productive communication between different stakeholders. Moreover, the study's findings highlight the importance of addressing power imbalances and ensuring that political discourse reflects the realities on the ground, rather than merely reinforcing existing narratives.

While this study provides valuable insights into the pragmatic strategies used by Arab and Western politicians, it is limited by its focus on a specific set of speeches and statements. The selection of texts may not capture the full range of discourse on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the analysis may be influenced by the particular contexts in which these speeches were delivered. Additionally, the study does not account for the role of other political actors, such as media and interest groups, in shaping the discourse.

Another limitation is the potential for bias in interpreting the rhetorical strategies used by politicians. While the study seeks to provide an objective analysis, the inherently subjective nature of discourse analysis means that different interpretations are possible. Future research could address these limitations by expanding the corpus of texts analyzed and incorporating other forms of communication, such as social media and diplomatic correspondence.

Given the limitations of this study, future research could explore several avenues to deepen our understanding of political discourse on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. First, expanding the corpus to include a broader range of texts, such as media coverage, social media posts, and diplomatic communications, could provide a more comprehensive picture of the discourse. This would allow for a more detailed analysis of how different actors contribute to the framing of the conflict and how these frames evolve over time.

Second, future research could examine the impact of pragmatic strategies on public opinion and policy outcomes. For example, studies could investigate how different rhetorical approaches influence perceptions of the conflict in both the Arab world and the West, as well as how they shape policy decisions by governments and international organizations. This would provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of different strategies and the potential for shifting public and political discourse in more constructive directions.

Finally, comparative studies of political discourse in other conflict-ridden regions could help to identify broader patterns and lessons that can be applied to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. By analyzing how politicians in other contexts use language to navigate complex conflicts, researchers can develop a more general understanding of the role of discourse in conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

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## **Biodata**