European Union's role as a Global Actor: Shifting focus from Regionalism to International Politics

Munazza Khan[21]

Abstract

The emergence of European Union in global politics, addressing pressing issues throughout the world while also championing causes like social justice, individual liberties, and the rule of law. This paper analyses how the European Union's foreign policy stance affects international relations. Discussions focus on the EEAS and the potential for EU peace missions to grow. The research paper aims to highlight the efforts of EU to protect the peace and stresses the EU's unyielding dedication to preserving calm, preventing conflict, and responding to disasters. This article examines the European Union's Common Security and Defense Policy in great detail, including the many missions and initiatives the EU has taken to show its proactive engagement in international problems. In this article, we take a look at the European Union's (EU) efforts to improve international norms and safeguard human rights via programs including humanitarian assistance, diplomatic initiatives, and the Common Foreign and Security Policy. The European Union's (EU) dedication to promoting and protecting human rights internationally has been proved via its funding of considerable humanitarian aid, participation in United Nations (UN) programs, and punishment of human rights abusers. It is also notable that EU's involvement with countries in the Pacific, Africa, and the Caribbean are based on EU's dedication to trade-based development in those regions. The paper also analyses European Union (EU) foreign policy, contrasting the EU's normative stance with the realism paradigm supported by the United States government. It looks at the European Union's role as a regional power on the global arena and how it may work with the United States and other big states to accomplish its own foreign policy goals. Using the European Union's (EU) engagement in the Israel-Palestine conflict as a case study, this paper aims to show how the EU handles complex geopolitical difficulties while remaining true to its core values and promoting the idea of two nations. In the end, the European Union is engaged in a wide variety of global political endeavors, such as peacekeeping, humanitarian aid, and the promotion of progressive principles. Its standing in the international world has improved thanks to its work in international organizations and efforts to address global problems.

Introduction:

There is more of a multipolar than a unipolar structure in the world today. While China's economic and political might has expanded in the East, the European Union (EU) is establishing itself as an anchor for global stability and prosperity. By the adoption of the Lisbon Treaty, the EU's extra-regional function was strengthened, and the structure and dynamics necessary for it to acquire an influential role in international affairs were developed. With the Lisbon Treaty, the EU aimed to create an array of novel duties for itself in an effort to formalize its role on global matters. In

[21] PhD Scholar, Department of History, University of Karachi, malikmunazzakhan@gmail.com

such a scenario, the European External Action Service was set up, together with the roles of President of the European Council and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (Corner, 2014). Regarding trade, human rights, legal disputes, and environmental concerns, the Lisbon Treaty indicates the European Union's willingness to engage in global affairs. For this reason, the EU is seen as a peace negotiator and mediating party in disputes.

The EU's engagement in several crises, including those in Kosovo, the Middle East, Libya, and Syria, served as a counterbalance to the autonomous actions of individual nations. In the EU, member states must approve and assent to decisions. This aids in undermining the state's self-interests. Under the motto "responsibility to protect" (R2P), the EU first gained prominence on an international scale (Bellamy, 2018). The European Union (EU) has led the way in a number of initiatives that fortify international laws, rules, and organizations. Furthermore, the EU's crisis management strategy prioritizes human security above the established security framework. For crisis management, it only makes limited use of armed force.

The EU has been a crucial mediator in addressing the complex and important global challenges. According to Howorth (2010) its overall plan includes promoting democratic ideals both at domestic level and among its closest neighbors, as well as ensuring regional security, peace, prosperity, and economic sustainability. The EU must address a wide range of issues, such as weapons control, immigration issues, environmental preservation, poverty reduction, and other forms of social, economic, and regional inequality. The EU and several of its members are closely observed for the actions they take, whether for geopolitical or humanitarian reasons, as a result of their growing involvement in addressing new issues.

The European Union is a significant player in world politics. In order to promote sustainable development and uphold the following values, it offers assistance to several nations worldwide: (Union, 2018).

1. The advancement of democratic principles
2. The legal rule
3. Human rights are universal and indivisible. With regard to safeguarding human dignity.
4. Solidarity and equality

EU in International Politics

With the transition of the international order from a period of political hegemony to one that is relevant for economic powers, the after Cold War era presented a new challenge for the EU. This changed the game by putting new abilities in the spotlight. International institutions like the World Bank, IMF, and UN take the lead in uniting diverse stakeholders on a single platform to promote sustainable development, international commerce, peace, security, and environmental preservation. Through the European External Action Service (EEAS), the EU is represented in such forums. In order to enable the EU to carry out its role in international affairs, this organization was established under the Lisbon Treaty. In

2009, the Lisbon Treaty became operative. The Maastricht Treaty of 1992 and the Rome Treaty of 1957 were the two earlier accords that were revised. The Lisbon Treaty's goals delineate several responsibilities that the European Union aspires to play on the global stage. The following table lists these objectives: Emerson et al. (2011).

Through the establishment of a unified High Representative and the Common

Objectives of EU according to Treaty of Lisbon:

1. The European Union's engagement in global affairs is informed by the foundational principles upon which it was established and subsequently reinforced. These principles include the rule of law, democracy, the universality of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as the promotion of equality and solidarity. The EU also upholds the values and principles outlined in the United Nations Charter and international law. One of the Lisbon Treaty's goals is that the EU would work within the bounds of UN and international law to promote, plan, and collaborate with other nations in order to solve shared challenges at the international and regional levels.

2. The Lisbon Treaty has laid down the principles of EU's participation in global affairs:

   a. preserve its integrity, independence, security, and basic interests;
   b. uphold and strengthen international law, human rights, democracy, and the rule of law;
   c. uphold the goals of the Charter of Paris, particularly those pertaining to external boundaries, as well as the objectives and tenets of the United Nations Charter, the Helsinki Final Act, and maintain peace, avert wars, and bolster international security;
   d. support developing nations' sustainable social, economic, and environmental development, with the main objective being the eradication of poverty;
   e. support the integration of all nations into the global economy, particularly by gradually eliminating trade barriers;
   f. contribute to the creation of global policies that will guarantee sustainable development by preserving and enhancing environmental quality and promoting sustainable resource management;
   g. support people, nations, and areas affected by man-made or natural calamities; and
   h. Encourage the development of an international system based on improved global governance and multilateral collaboration.

Security and Defense Policy, the treaty expanded the European Union's influence in foreign affairs. By adding posts like EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EEAS has dramatically altered the character of EU participation at international fora. Because of this, the EU has been able to speak with one voice in a number of international crises and wars (Anonymous, 2016).

It is noteworthy that in some crisis regions, the EU looked to be on level with the US. As opposed to the US's €8.4 billion, it spent €8 billion annually. Actually, the EU was much ahead of the US in terms of diplomatic services. The US employs 21,800 national employees and 6,000 local employees in diplomatic offerings, compared to around 55,400 national employees and 38,400 local employees in that country (Anonymous, 2016).

Recently, on May 2, 2019, the European Commission submitted its budget. It is especially important and challenging for the EU to maintain its relevance in the global community given that this is the first budget for post-Brexit Europe. With the aim of fostering collaboration, coherence, and efficacy, it has increased its allocation for external action by 26%, or €123 billion. The EU has also budgeted a substantial €27.5 billion on defense and security (Anonymous, 2016).
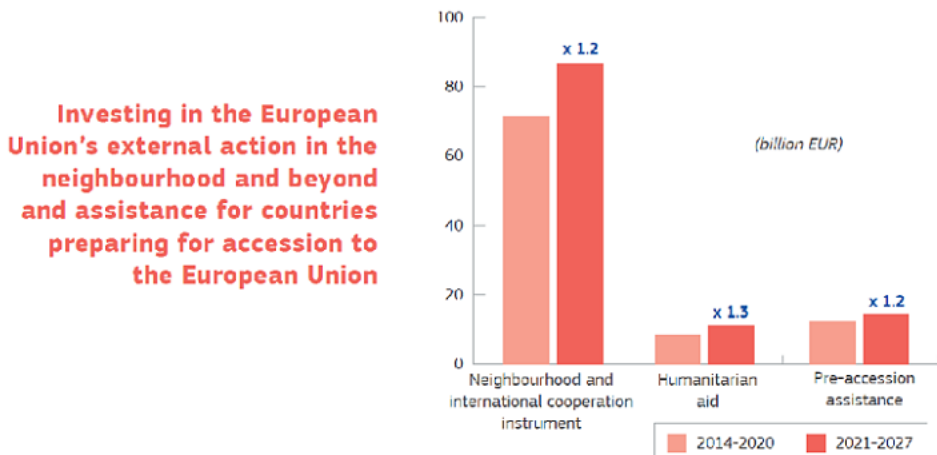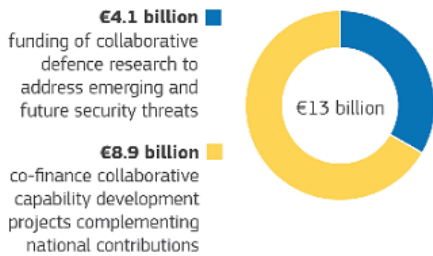

Figure 1:EU's External Action in the neighbourhood

Budget dedicated to the European Defence Fund

€4.1 billion ■
funding of collaborative defence research to address emerging and future security threats

€13 billion

€8.9 billion ■
co-finance collaborative capability development projects complementing national contributions

A step change for security and defence

■ 2014-2020
■ 2021-2027

In billion euro

x 22

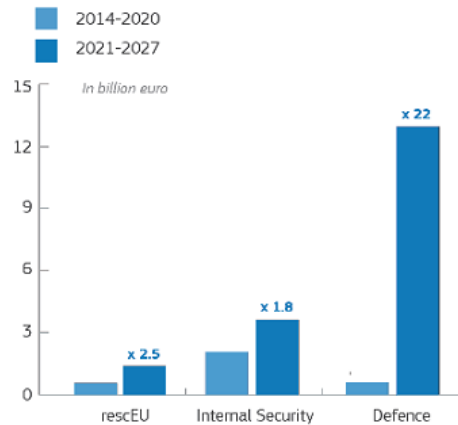x 1.8

x 2.5

rescEU   Internal Security   Defence

Figure 2:Budget dedicated to EU's defense budget

The European Union has increased the number of its peace missions, so stepping up its engagement in global peacebuilding. It also starts providing military hardware and technological help to non-EU nations in the field of defence. In the past, it gave help of €53 billion to various nations in 2014 to accomplish the aforementioned aim.

For centuries, European nations dominated the globe and have prominent roles in international affairs (Zoellick, 2001). Regarding the EU's leadership, the former president of the World Bank said that many developing countries found it "a little odd that of those 25, 26 people at the G200 (Wouters et al., 2012), about nine are European" (Christiansen, 2017). Along with the United States, China, and Russia, France and the United Kingdom (before Brexit) share seats as permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, representing the EU. The EU is the area with the most representation in the UNSC in this fashion. The European Union (EU) is involved in the UN in many ways beyond only its permanent representation on the UNSC. Its member states also attend the UN as non-permanent members.

In every international economic forum, including the World Bank and the IMF, where it has the most voting rights (26% and 32% respectively), the EU citizens also take the lead. The G20 granted EU developing nations two executive board seats and eliminated certain voting rights in 2011(Christiansen, 2017).

Peacekeeping efforts

The glorification of the rise and fall of many civilizations is presented by the European Union. Dynastic legacies, lord rivalries, the War of Roses, the Tudors, the Succession Wars, revolutions, the Protestant Reformation struggle in Europe, religious wars (the Crusades), colonial supremacy, and World Wars I and II had all left a devastating legacy for Europe as a whole and its citizens. As a consequence, there is currently a unified voice for peace across all of Europe, which has helped the European Union develop and become more integrated.

As a result, the EU concentrated on crisis management and the avoidance of conflicts immediately after World War II. EU member states aspire to regional and global peace, prosperity, security, and sustainability. The European Union has emerged as a resolute supporter of world peace as a result of its development and expansion via treaties. The EU actively participates in bringing peace back to troubled zones by sending task teams there. While the theoretical development of CSDP has already been covered, it is important to note here how CSDP has been used practically, allowing the EU to improve its operational capabilities for both military and civilian missions both domestically and internationally.

The Lisbon Treaty established a number of tasks, such as developing mechanisms that uphold human rights values and beliefs, like those in Afghanistan; preventing conflicts and maintaining peace; dispatching combat forces to stop the situation, manage crisis, and restore peace; disarmament initiatives; military advice and technical assistance; and post-conflict stabilization duties (Emerson et al., 2011).

Over the course of Europe, Asia, and Africa, the European Union has launched 34 missions, both military and civilian. Ten civilian and six military missions, totaling around sixteen, are now within the purview of the CSDP. In the post-Cold War period, reestablishing peace in the Western Balkans is the primary task, according to CSDP (2019). By deploying the task force to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the EU has begun its first mission. The EU carried out the military operation in the Republic of Macedonia and the Former Yugoslavia. In an effort to gain control over the pirate problems, the EU began monitoring Somalian waterways after the war in Bosnia. In 2008, the European Union sent observers to the war zone between Russia and Georgia because it actively engages in ceasefires while monitoring them (Sophia, 2018). The following picture illustrates that.
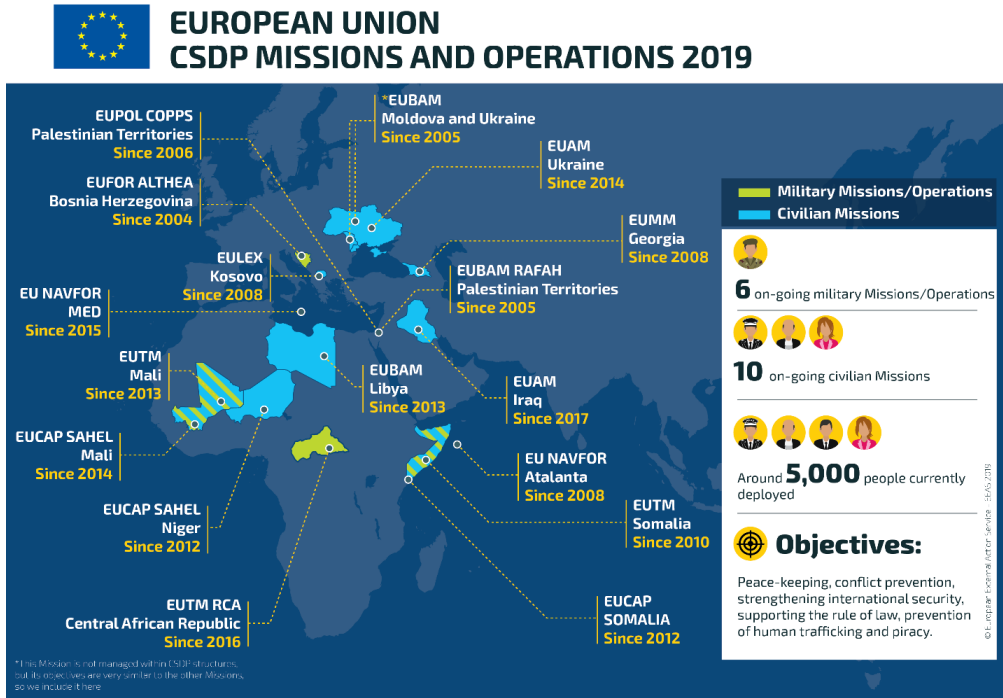
Figure 3: CSDP Missions and Operations 2019

Source: https://www.operationsophia.eu/civilian-and-military-eu-missions-increasing-human-security-in-europe-africa-and-the-middle-east/

Despite their constant willingness to cooperate and support peace, EU members have been criticized on many platforms for their lack of coherence with Union policies. Switzerland is only one such instance. After a protracted history of conflict, it chose to become neutral in 1815. Nonetheless, it was essential to the EU's platform's support of prosperity and peace both within and beyond the area. In many of the situations, it is still in effect, supporting EU foreign policy. Additionally, it served as a mediator between Georgia and Russia in the 2008 conflict that broke out as a result of Russia's self-proclaimed claims to South Ossetia and Abkhazia (Forsberg, 2011). Russia agreed to the requirements of the EU because of the EU's quick response, which was followed by a summit to restore peace (Forsberg, 2011). Additionally, it has contributed military to EU missions in Kosovo and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Prospects of EU Peace Keeping Missions:

The Brexit situation has led to serious reservations about the EU's ability to function as a legitimate and significant actor in global affairs. Nonetheless, the EU intends to further its peace initiatives with more rigor and consistency and has preserved its potential voice in international affairs. An enhanced European Peace Facility, an outgrowth of its peace missions, is also included in the EU budget for 2021–2027. This will enable the EU to fund and aid peace operations via third parties

worldwide. Furthermore, a common method for the expense of CSDP missions has been devised. Thirdly, it has provided armed forces from non-EU nations with military support in all domains, including infrastructure, equipment, and technical help. Lately, the EU was one of the major actors during the COVID-19 epidemic. Through the World Health Organization's Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan, it has helped provide medical supplies, including medications and protective equipment, for the medical personnel in sensitive nations (Liane, 2020). Additionally, the EU has offered assistance to organizations tasked with stopping the spread of pandemics in the Pacific, Caribbean, and Africa (Hohnholz, 2011).

The higher representatives of the EU are also putting in a lot of effort to further the greater objective of world governance. EU High Representatives like Catherine Ashton have been vocal proponents of multilateralism and the importance of regional organizations in the UN system. The fundamental framework of global governance is established by regional bodies, which promote and protect the agenda of fundamental principles such as human rights, development, and security. supporting and advancing the same objectives of international organization's to practice internationally in their various locations (Hohnholz, 2011).

EU's Norms: Establishing Democratic Values and Human Rights

Adhering to democratic norms and beliefs, as well as human rights, the European Union arose as a society that promoted peace and prosperity. These ideals will be the EU's first concern, as shown by the convention's founding in 1957. The European Council, which is now part of the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, the European Parliament, and the Court of Justice are the formal institutions that handle human rights matters (Parliament, 2019). Two significant departments function to support the maintenance of the EU's objectives. They are the European Ombudsman and the Fundamental Rights Agency (Rights, 2019). Every European Union member is increasingly worried about human rights problems when they engage in any kind of bilateral or multilateral deal.

Human rights are the EU's main area of concentration. Working under the CFSP framework, it promotes human rights around the world. The CFSP offers a framework of ideas that makes EU penetration more rational and lawful. on the CFSP, the EU functions on the premise that all entities existing in the world have a duty to preserve human rights that have been ignored or infringed. As a result, the EU has made an effort to incorporate human rights principles into both its own and its member states' policies. The transparency of human rights and democratization policies, together with the identification of concerns when action is necessary, are among the fundamental principles. The foundation of EU aid and support is neutrality and impartiality, with a focus on human crises wherever they raise red flags. The fundamental tenet of this program's purity is that it is offered without distinction on the grounds of gender, ethnicity, religion, or political affiliation (Manners, 2009).

The EU has focused a lot of attention on providing food and medical aid. The European Union has allocated a substantial amount of its funding, over €1 billion annually, towards European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations for a

duration of seven years, from 2014 to 2020 (ECHO, 2014). The money is not restricted to it; in an emergency, it may be increased under the EU Emergency Aid Reserves to address hostilities or international crises that result in humanitarian or civilian crises in non-EU nations. The EU has taken part in 7,000 agreements pertaining to humanitarian aid with over 100 countries since the establishment of ECHO in 1992 (Manners, 2009). There is a broad framework for humanitarian financing available via several international organizations, including NGOs and UN agencies that are engaged in diverse crisis zones.
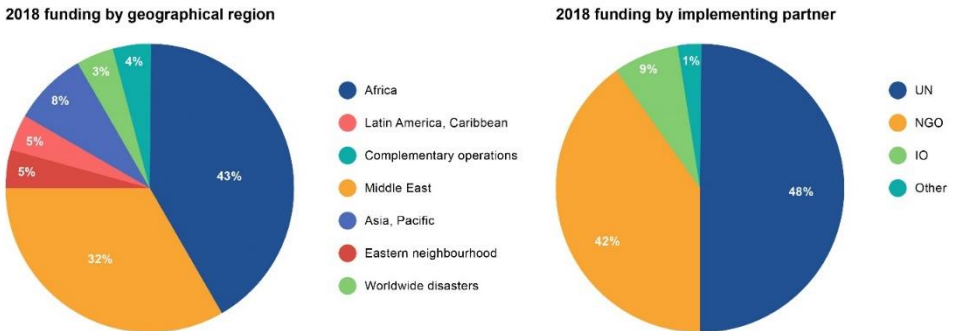

Figure 4:EU Funding of Humanitarian Aid

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/echo/funding-evaluations/funding-humanitarian-aid_en

Encouraging global governance and an international law based on human rights principles is why the European Union supports the United Nations. Data on human rights breaches and EU involvements and interventions has been gathered since 1999 by the EU via the publication of an annual report on human rights and the role of the EU. By bolstering national institutions, the EU hopes to safeguard the principles of human rights. When putting pressure on countries to preserve human rights ideals, the EU takes a number of approaches into consideration. Economic incentives, punitive measures, and diplomatic pressure are used by the EU to assist its missions in its partner nations. The accords they forged with other nations to safeguard human rights are the most effective examples. As an example, the EU was able to successfully negotiate a trade agreement that prohibited the death penalty in Pakistan. The community responded to violations of these agreements with harsh measures, such as agreement suspension. Another example is that of Cotonou Agreement (2003), which sought to aid over 80 nations in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific, serves as another illustration of this. Upholding democratic principles and human rights were among the fundamental components included in the agreement. Serbia and Zimbabwe are only two of the nations that the EU has handed down a number of penalties on for violating human rights (Dittmer, 2021).

Figure 5: EU's Initial Humanitarian Aid for 2019

Source:https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/kenya/56596/eu-increases-its-humanitarian-assistance-%E2%80%93-record-budget-adopted-2019_en

Developing the Undeveloped:

No other nation or culture is more equipped to comprehend and appreciate the reasons of sustainable growth than the European Union, a society that rose from the embers of several wars and experienced challenges related to progress, devastation, and destruction. In order to assist the poor and developing nations in achieving the larger objective of sustainable development, the EU and its members have traditionally worked together. The European Union (EU) has consistently shown exceptional assistance in addressing environmental challenges and fostering development initiatives in conflict regions via its substantial development packages. The EU has strived to achieve its goal of advancing global political, economic, and social progress.

The EU supports underdeveloped regions through the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Since 2011, the European Union (EU) has provided additional funding to support the development of less developed countries (LDCs). The EU allotted 53 billion euros in 2011 alone, more than the US and Japan combined, which only allocated 19.7% and 6.8% of their total. Since the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were implemented, EU countries have also been obliged to set aside 0.7% of their GDP towards the MDG's implementation.

A few of the agreements that the EU signed with nations in the Caribbean, Pacific, and African areas are noteworthy. By imposing zero tariffs on 99 percent of imports from the nations covered by the agreements, they constrained trade growth. For instance, the Cotonou treaty required that trade be a condition for almost 55% of all assistance given to development.

The European Union founded the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in 1989 with the aim of promoting democratic institutions and political change. It supported the post-Soviet nations in their orderly transition to democracy with aid programs like PHARE, TACIS, and CARDS in addition to its European Neighborhood Policy. EU standing has increased in several forums as a result of these actions for the advancement of human rights and development in underdeveloped countries.

EU's Foreign Relations

The European Union has become a more powerful global player by the time the Cold War ends. The normative aspect of the European Union was heavily stressed by (Manners, 2009). Assessing the EU's activities, in particular its foreign policy, has shown that it acts normatively in promoting specific norms and values throughout the entire world (Pace 2007). By setting aside its own interests, the European Union has come to be seen as the champion of equitable policies. Because of its moral and ethical stance, the European Union's voice is always heard in international crises.

According to the research, the EU has the capacity to assume a leadership position in this regard and is the regional organization most prepared to play the function of Balancer in international affairs. This supposition may be strengthened by comparing EU foreign policy initiatives to US foreign policy postures. One might note a noticeable change. "Americans are from Mars and Europeans are from Venus," according to Kagan's comparison of the two (Kagan & Turner, 2003; Robert, 2002). This statement itself portrays the difference. The disparity is seen in one remark alone. Power politics and the realism perspective guide American foreign policy. Its policies are interventions on behalf of special interests. However, as the situation in Afghanistan shows, the European Union is always mired in challenges related to fundamental democratic changes, the durability of peace, and prosperity.

There is a prevalent belief that the EU need to have a distinct foreign policy and detach itself from the US, owing to the disparities in the normative policies of the two organizations (Wike, 2016). Surveys from the Pew Research Centre to gauge support and popularity for the US reflect this. The following image clearly reflects the desire for an independent foreign policy.

Europeans Want More Distance From U.S.			
Western Europe should …	Fra %	Ger %	Ita %	GB %
Be more independent	60	51	59	47
Remain as close	33	44	36	48
Don't know	7	5	5	5
	100	100	100	100

Figure 6: European Wants More Distance from US

Despite research showing that Europeans did not embrace the War on Terror to its fullest extent, European support for the cause did draw them closer to the United States. Europeans are certain that the US's involvement in Afghanistan and Iraq was driven only by self-interest. Nonetheless, very few Europeans think that the US has further advanced the objectives of NATO members (Center, 2002). The image below will further consolidate the argument:

Europeans See U.S. Going It Alone

In war on terrorism ...	Fra %	Ger %	Ita %	GB %	US %
U.S. acts mainly on its own interest	80	85	68	73	41
U.S. takes into account views of allies	17	12	28	22	48
Don't know	3	3	4	5	11
	100	100	100	100	100

Figure 7: Europeans See US Going It Alone

Source: https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2002/04/17/americans-and-europeans-differ-widely-on-foreign-policy-issues/

Hence, the EU has continued to stand apart from the US, a unilateral superpower, not only in terms of military adventures but also in terms of economic and environmental concerns like the Paris Agreement Zhang et al. (2017) by withdrawing from the agreement (Hai-Bin, 2017).

The European Union has shown that it has the ability to affect international law and has aided in the development of law throughout time (Lazarou, 2017). Romero places emphasis on the European Union's position in an international scenerio and its ability to effectively maintain a balance of power, all the while representing the whole region and giving growth and development in the area first priority. Without making them mandatory, the EU fulfils its duty as an actor and implementer of laws and policies that others are compelled to abide by (Lazarou, 2017).

With regard to the unparalleled advancements EU has achieved over the years, the European Union is the most powerful and unchallenged regional power in the world. The EU has prioritized several characteristics such as:

1. The term "multidimensionality" describes the idea of having several dimensions. The Lisbon Treaty states that the EU functions on many levels. Principles of coherence and consistency with EU values and principles both regionally and internationally were established by the Lisbon Treaty (Raine, 2017).
2. Multilateral-orientation: the concept of multilateralism is reiterated from the theoretical chapter, and it is expounded upon how the European Union now

employs multilateralism in its foreign policy. Its relationships extend beyond the US; its participation in global wars is indicative of its multilateral strategy. The goals of the EU are a reflection of multilateralism, wherein the EU defends international principles both locally and internationally (Lazarou, 2017).

3. Solidarity-orientation: it describes the idea of consenting to something or standing up for something shared. Through its ideals, goals, and principles stated in its treaties with other countries in the area as well as in its international relations, the EU's foreign policy emphasizes solidarity or oneness (Solidarity-Orientation., 2018) .

The European Union's supranational character is its primary benefit. This enables the EU to develop in accordance with its own dynamics and, as a result, aids in its achievement of autonomy with regard to both the domestic and international legal systems. Thus, the EU appears as an independent state with unique power to shape the legal system by upholding international laws that cover a number of principles that the EU promotes. The European Union's own regionalism model is deeply rooted in the principles it typically promotes. External expressions of these values also exist. This demonstrates the European Union's global power and validates its position in an international context, even in the face of recent challenges.

In order to effectively contribute to global security, peace, and cooperation, the European Union initiated the "EU as a Global Regional Actor in Security and Peace" initiative in 2012. The European Union has always sought to effectively assist the UNs in resolving international disputes and crises that are vital to global security by promoting peace and cooperation. The three factors capacity, willingness, and acceptance are crucial in enhancing the EU's influence on a regional and worldwide scale (Van Langenhove & Maes, 2012). Through its treaties, the EU has essentially increased its ability to operate as a participant in international affairs. The Maastricht Treaty of 1992 established the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), which was subsequently reinforced by the European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP). The Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP), which replaced the European Security and Defense Pact (ESDP) in the Lisbon Treaty of 2007, allowed the EU to become more strategically and politically powerful in world affairs (Van Langenhove & Maes, 2012). The EU's capacity development is contingent upon the desire of its members, who are the only ones who make decisions and are essential to policy execution.

While each EU member state has its own foreign policy objectives and tendencies, the EU treaty, which has been essential in paving the road for integration, frequently has a major influence over those states' actions in support of the EU's overarching purpose. This is shown by the fact that borders were opened to Syrian refugees despite opposition from certain EU members. These elements also contributed to the EU's recognition as a major player in the world. This is the most difficult duty, and the EU has been more visible on the global stage in terms of its significance and influence since the end of the Cold War.

The European Union serves as more than just a representation; it also takes

on a number of regional responsibilities that maintain peace around the world and guarantee both internal and foreign security. The Iranian Nuclear Treaty is evidence that it greatly promotes peace. As the committee's head, it is in charge of putting the deal that the EU, China, France, Germany, Russia, UK, and the USA signed into effect. It focuses on the improvement of other nations in the area, acting as a responsible neighbor. Additionally, the EU has partnered with several nations on development. It undertakes both military and civilian operations around the globe in cooperation with the United Nations, which helps to promote global security. It has shown a broad interest in humanitarian relief and disaster response, while many nations in the area are now concentrating on climate change and ways to stop it so that the planet is still a better place to live (Van Langenhove & Maes, 2012). The notion of balance of power in international relations precisely implies this. Nations often join together to defend themselves against a relevant danger. The concept of the balance of power is rooted in the principle of preventing stronger countries, with more economic and military capabilities, from oppressing smaller nations. Historical evidence demonstrates that powerful nations have often engaged in acts of aggression against weaker counterparts as a means to maintain their dominant position. To avoid situations similar to those of these nations, establish alliances and so establish a balance of power. Countries use a variety of strategies, including "buck-passing" and "chain-ganging," to create equilibrium. There is much discussion over how nations use a certain strategy under a given circumstance (Daumier).

The research has also brought attention to the second important idea, regionalism, which is essentially the expression of a shared sense of identity. In the case of the establishment and functioning of institutions, the goals are also integrated. Within a certain geographic area, they have a same objective. In the 1950s and 1960s, the first coherent regional initiatives were introduced, while the European community created a regional organization that worked for the general well-being of the nation, these efforts were inadequately effective outside of Western Europe.

Numerous political scientists have noted that the European Union has been participating in foreign affairs more and more after the end of the Cold War. In pursuit of policy objectives, it has been functioning in a normative manner, behaving morally and advocating firmly for nonviolent tactics. Instead of playing the role of an implementer, the European Union has become a prominent player in international politics, establishing norms and cultural standards that other nations in the area imitate.

The 2009 Lisbon Treaty formalized a shared security strategy, which was followed by a number of amendments. The European Military's capacity has been progressively lagging behind that of the USA and is inferior to that of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which continues to be the strongest example. The European Union has been accused of being weak due to glaring examples in today's world, such as the crisis in the Crimea in 2014, the conflict in the Syrian Crisis, Eastern Ukraine, and the threat posed by ISIS. Despite this, many people, including eminent political scientists, continue to believe that the EU sets norms in international politics.

Case Study: Role of EU in Israel-Palestine Conflict

The theoretical framework has addressed the normative character of the EU, allowing it to play a role in fostering and constructing global peace. In addition to promoting sustainable development in these regions, the EU has been active in the political and social development and transition in conflict zones. But it's also critical to recognize the role the EU has played in resolving the Israel-Palestine Conflict so far. It is critical to recognize that the disagreement is delicate, intricate, and hard to settle before engaging in heated debate. Without a question, one of the EU's top goals is to bring about a durable peace in the area and a long-term solution to the conflict (Pace, 2007).

The US position is seen in its continued support for the state of Israel, despite opposition from throughout the world to its proposal to rename the country's capital from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem (Heimann, 2015). In applying game theory to the issue, Richter (2019) has made a compelling argument that compromise on both sides is necessary to find a viable resolution. The European Union strongly supports the two-state option in such a scenario. As the primary international player in this conflict, the EU's stance is constantly evaluated based on the degree to which it presses Israel or advances the peace process. The EU's self-defining values, which also inform its decision-making, limit its determined efforts to promote peace in the area and provide a viable solution. For example, the EU refused to recognize Hamas as the official representative of Palestine following the elections, a move that drew harsh criticism and exposed EU's apparent double standard in not accepting the results of the vote in 2006. Nonetheless, the EU's decision was guided by the idea included in Article 7 of its charter. The European Union does not condone terrorism, and Hamas's historical actions bear resemblance to those of a terrorist group. However, Israel was also subject to restrictions from the EU, as financing for research and innovation in Israeli-occupied areas beyond the green line was prohibited under Horizon 2020 (Bicchi & Voltolini, 2018). The EU and its member states have firmly propagated rules that "the European Union would not recognize Israel's sovereignty over the occupied territories irrespective of their legal status under Israeli law," thus solidifying this position. This prompted Israel's economy minister, Naftali Bennett, to make the bold claim that the country should sever all ties with the EU and refer to those directives as a financial terror strike. Israeli politicians have responded aggressively to the EU's 2013 proposals. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that Israel will not allow anybody to dictate its boundaries. These instructions, however, cause resentment in Israel, which greatly supports EU action and makes clear the EU's position. The European Union and its members had already restricted the extent of Israel's occupation; yet, the German-Israeli Foundation for Scientific Research and Development explicitly stated in 1986 that it would not provide funding for any research initiative in areas that were occupied after 1967. The EU's vigorously pushed Palestinian state-building goal is one of the favorable supports. EU is helping to create a more stable solution by providing substantial funding to the Palestinian Authority (PA) for over 20 years, reinforcing the ideals of human rights and the rule of law, and promoting and expanding the institutions.

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