

## **Specification Study of Inter-State Ballistic Rockets in the Israeli-Palestinian war: A Review of Rockets used by Hamas, Hezbollah, and Taliban forces against Israel**

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### **Abstract**

*This research analyzes the use of ballistic rockets by militant groups Hamas, Hezbollah and Taliban in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Through a literature review, this research examines the technical specifications of the rockets, their efficiency of use, and their economic and psychological impact on Israel. The findings show significant variations in the range and destructive capacity of rockets, as well as their effectiveness in asymmetric warfare strategies. The economic impact on Israel includes high costs for defense systems such as Iron Dome, damage to infrastructure, and disruption of economic activity. The research also discusses implications for the defense industry and the international arms trade. In conclusion, a comprehensive approach involving dialogue, economic development, and social reconciliation is needed to address the conflict, as well as further research in defense economics to develop more effective strategies.*

**Keywords:** *Ballistic Rockets, Hamas, Hezbollah, Defense Economy, Israel-Palestine Conflict*

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is one of the longest and most complex conflicts in the world, rooted in territorial claims, national identity and sovereign rights. The conflict escalated after the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948, leading to mass displacement of Palestinians and a number of major wars between Israel and Arab states. Over time, groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah emerged as the main actors challenging Israel's existence with ideologies that reject the existence of the state of Israel and support armed struggle to liberate the territory they claim as legitimate Palestinian land (Haddad & Chughtai, 2023). Hamas, based in Gaza, has long been recognized as a militant group that leads the struggle against Israel through rocket attacks and acts of terrorism. Hezbollah, though based in Lebanon, is also involved in this conflict with support from Iran and strong regional influence (Raine et al., 2023). Meanwhile, the Taliban, based in Afghanistan, while not directly involved in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, has an ideological and material impact in providing support to these groups through international jihadi networks.

The use of ballistic rockets by these groups has become a hallmark of their asymmetric warfare strategy. These rockets are often fired from hard-to-reach locations and have a long enough range to reach Israeli territory, inflicting significant material and psychological damage (Suss, 2024). For example, Hamas frequently uses Qassam and Fajr-5 rockets, while Hezbollah is known to use Katyusha and Zelzal rockets. These rockets not only cause significant physical damage but also create tension and fear among Israel's civilian population, forcing them to live under the constant threat of rocket attacks. This impact is further compounded by the ability of these groups to produce rockets locally and obtain supplies from supporting countries such as Iran.

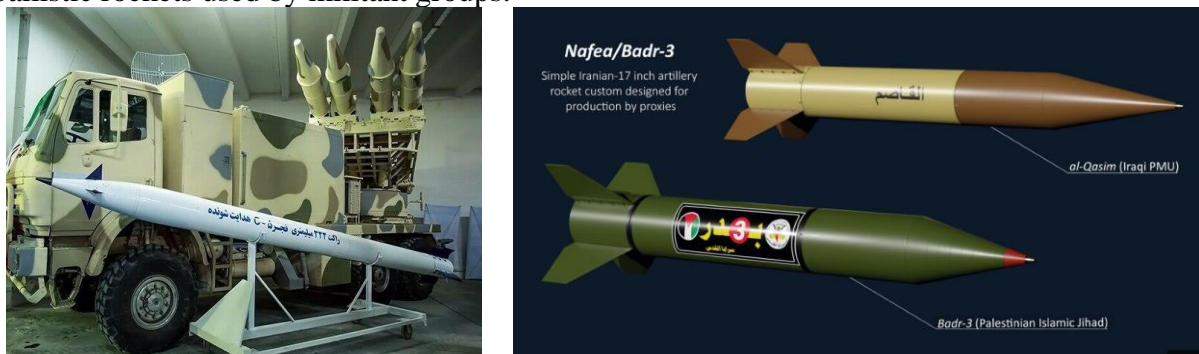
The study of defense economics is important in this context to understand how the use of ballistic rockets by these militant groups affects conflict dynamics and its long-term implications.

Defense economics not only looks at the direct costs of war, such as infrastructure damage and military costs, but also considers broader socio-economic impacts, such as economic disruption, population displacement, and psychological distress (Raska, 2019). In the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, rocket attacks not only destroy buildings but also force societies to invest in defense systems such as Iron Dome, which are costly to operate and maintain. In addition, these attacks also hamper economic activity, force business closures, and reduce the productivity of communities that are always on high alert.

For example, during the 2014 conflict, known as Operation Protective Edge, Hamas launched more than 4,500 rockets into Israel. These attacks caused more than 2,200 casualties in Gaza and destroyed thousands of homes, schools and health facilities (Sari, 2017). On the other hand, Israel spent billions of dollars to maintain and repair its Iron Dome defense system and to rebuild damaged infrastructure. A defense economic analysis of this conflict shows how large military expenditures and infrastructure damage can prolong the cycle of poverty and instability in a region already battered by a long conflict.

Furthermore, an understanding of the economic dynamics of ballistic rocket use is also important for formulating more effective and sustainable defense strategies. For example, the high cost of defense systems such as Iron Dome indicates the need for innovation in more efficient and affordable defense technologies (Audric et al., 2023). In addition, an economic approach can also help identify diplomatic and economic development measures that can reduce the motivation of militant groups to use violence as a means of struggle. This study can also provide insights into how international aid and economic policies can be designed to promote post-conflict stability and reconciliation (Kamel et al., 2019).

In the global context, the use of ballistic rockets by militant groups such as Hamas, Hezbollah and the Taliban also shows the increasing trend of the use of advanced military technology by non-state actors. This challenges traditional concepts of war and security, forcing countries to adapt their defense strategies. The study of defense economics can help countries understand and anticipate these developments, direct investments in research and development of new technologies, and strengthen international cooperation in dealing with threats that are transnational in nature. For example, cooperation between countries in developing and deploying more effective and affordable defense technologies could be one solution to the threat from ballistic rockets used by militant groups.



**Figure 1. Fajr-5 rocket used by Hamas forces**

Source: tasnimnews

Figure 1. above shows the Fajr-5 rocket often used by Hamas in their attacks against Israel. These rockets have a considerable range and significant destructive capacity, demonstrating how these militant groups can threaten Israel's national security through relatively simple yet effective military technology (Barry, 2012).

In the dynamics of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the use of ballistic rockets not only has an impact on military and economic aspects, but also on people's psychology. Daily life under the

constant threat of rockets creates deep fear and anxiety among the civilian population. Every time a siren sounds, people must immediately seek shelter, disrupting daily activities and putting significant mental stress (Chúláin, 2024). Children grow up with a constant fear of attacks, which negatively affects their mental and emotional development. On the other hand, militant groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah use this fear as a tool to rally support and recruit new members, utilizing narratives of resistance and struggle against the occupiers (Motamedi, 2024).

This strategy also has a strong propagandist dimension. Successful rocket attacks that hit targets in Israel are often used as propaganda by Hamas and Hezbollah to demonstrate their strength and the weakness of the enemy. Social media and other communication channels are used to spread messages of victory and resilience, aiming to boost morale among their supporters and intimidate the enemy (Kirkpatrick & Rasgon, 2023). This shows how modern conflicts are not only fought on the physical battlefield, but also on the information and psychological battlefield. These groups seek to capitalize on any military successes to achieve their political goals, both locally and internationally.

Furthermore, the use of ballistic rockets also poses serious challenges to international humanitarian law. These attacks often do not distinguish between military and civilian targets, violating basic principles of protection for non-combatants in armed conflict (Sari, 2017). Despite efforts on the part of Israel to minimize civilian casualties through early warning systems and defenses such as Iron Dome, the reality is that every rocket attack carries a great risk to human lives not directly involved in the conflict. This raises the question of how the international community can more effectively enforce humanitarian law and ensure that parties to conflict adhere to globally recognized ethical standards.

In the context of the study of defense economics, an analysis of the costs and benefits of using a defense system such as Iron Dome becomes very relevant. This system, while effective in intercepting rockets fired at Israel, requires a huge investment (Bitan. A, 2013). Each rocket intercept with Iron Dome costs significantly more than the cost of making rockets by Hamas. This creates a significant economic challenge for Israel, which must continue to allocate substantial resources to maintain this defense system. At the same time, it also fuels an arms race in the region, with militant groups constantly looking for ways to develop and improve their rocket capabilities (Zussman, N., & Zussman, G, 2015).

Finally, it is important to remember that the long-term solution to this conflict lies not only in military or technological superiority, but also in diplomatic efforts and sustainable economic development. A holistic approach that includes dialogue, economic development and social reconciliation is needed to address the root causes of conflict and create sustainable peace (Paris. R. 2004). The study of defense economics can provide valuable insights into how economic policies can be used to reduce tensions, improve people's welfare and promote peaceful solutions. In this regard, the engagement of the international community and support for peace initiatives is crucial, to ensure that solutions are not only focused on military aspects, but also on comprehensive human development.

This research focuses on why and how militant groups such as Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Taliban use ballistic rockets in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, what impact the use of these weapons has on conflict dynamics and society, and how a defense economics approach can help understand and overcome the challenges that arise from the use of ballistic rockets. Specifically, this research formulates the following problems: What is the specification and efficiency of the ballistic rockets used by Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Taliban; what is the economic impact of the use of these rockets on Israel; and how does the budget and spending on these rockets affect the defense economy of these groups?

This research aims to analyze the use of ballistic rockets by Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Taliban in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, evaluate the economic, social, and psychological impact of

these rocket attacks on both sides, and examine the role and relevance of defense economics studies in understanding and developing strategies to address these threats.

This research is expected to make a significant contribution to the field of conflict studies and defense economics by providing a deeper understanding of the use of ballistic rockets by militant groups, their impact on society and the economy, and effective strategies to deal with this threat. In addition, this research can also provide insights for policymakers, academics and practitioners in formulating more comprehensive and sustainable policies to create stability and peace in conflict areas.

## RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses a literature study method with a qualitative. Miles, Huberman, & Saldaña (2014) Qualitative research methods with literature studies involve the collection, identification, and systematic analysis of written documents, including academic articles, official reports, and other scientific sources. This process includes, Collection of data from various sources, In-depth analysis of the content collected, Critical interpretation of the information obtained. This research approach to analyze the use of ballistic rockets by Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Taliban in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This approach involves reviewing academic literature, official reports, journal articles, and data from relevant research institutions to identify the specifications and efficiency of the ballistic rockets used, the economic impact on Israel, and how the budget and spending on these rockets affect the defense economy of these groups.

The literature study allowed us to examine various perspectives and empirical findings from previous researchers, as well as connect defense economics concepts to the dynamics of the conflict. Cresswell's (2013) qualitative theory was used to provide a systematic analytical framework for understanding this complex phenomenon.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### Ballistic Rocket Specifications

Hamas, based in Gaza, uses various types of ballistic rockets in attacks against Israel. The Qassam rocket is one of the most recognizable, with a range of around 10-20 km and a 5-10 kg warhead. These rockets are simple and cheap to produce locally. In addition, Hamas also uses Grad rockets imported from countries such as Iran. Grad rockets have a range of about 20-40 km and a larger warhead, reaching 20 kg, allowing for more destructive attacks. The Fajr-5, also used by Hamas, has a range of up to 75 km with a 90 kg warhead, showing a significant increase in technology and destructive capacity (IISS, 2024).

Hezbollah, based in Lebanon, uses Katyusha and Zelzal rockets. Katyusha rockets, with a range of about 20 km and a 22 kg warhead, have been used in various conflicts to strike targets in Israel. Hezbollah also has access to Zelzal rockets, which have a range of approximately 200 km and a 600 kg warhead, posing a significant threat to targets deep inside Israeli territory. The Taliban, while not directly involved in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, possess rockets such as the BM-1 and Grad that were used in the conflict in Afghanistan. The BM-1 rocket has a range of about 10 km with an 18 kg warhead, while the Grad rocket, which is more advanced, has a range of up to 30 km and a 20 kg warhead (IISS, 2024).

**Table 1. Ballistic Rocket Specifications**

Group	Rocket Type	Shooting	Warhead	Launch
		Distance (km)	Capacity (kg)	Technology
Hamas	Qassam	10-20	5-10	Local simple launcher
	Grad	20-40	20	Imported launcher
	Fajr-5	75	90	Imported advanced launcher
Hizbullah	Katyusha	20	22	Local simple launcher
	Zelzal	200	600	Imported advanced launcher
Taliban	BM-1	10	18	Local simple launcher
	Grad	30	20	Peluncur impor

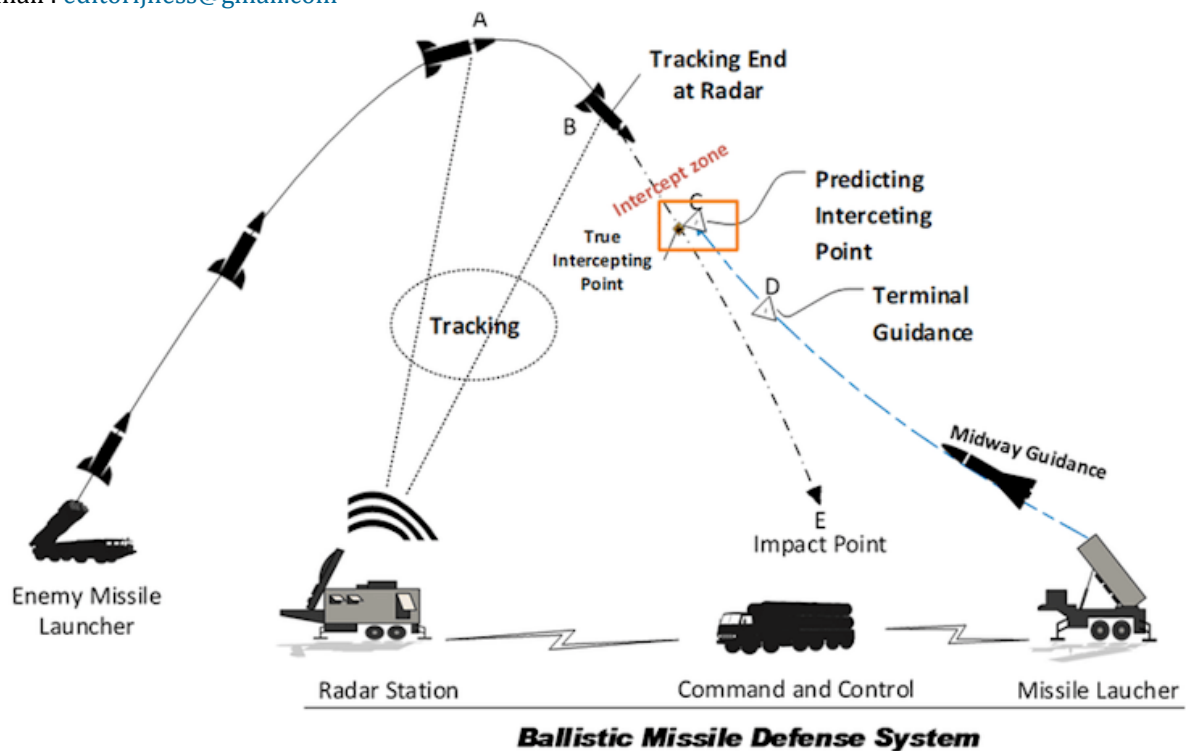
Source: created from a summary of The Military Balance 2024 by the author (2024)

Table 1. above summarizes the technical specifications of the various ballistic rockets used by Hamas, Hezbollah and the Taliban, showing variations in range, warhead capacity and launch technology.

### **Efficiency and Effectiveness of Rocket Usage**

The use of ballistic rockets by groups such as Hamas, Hezbollah and the Taliban in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can be seen as an attempt to offset Israel's military superiority. The efficiency of these groups' use of ballistic rockets is greatly influenced by their ability to produce and acquire rockets at low cost but with significant impact (Wright, 2024). Rockets such as the Qassam and Grad, which can be produced with simple technology and relatively low cost, allow Hamas to launch rocket attacks on a sustained basis despite limited resources. This efficiency is enhanced by the tactic of firing from hidden and decentralized locations, making it difficult for Israel to effectively destroy these launch sources (Dullum, 2010).

The effectiveness of rocket attacks against Israel can be measured by their ability to inflict significant physical and psychological damage. Rocket attacks launched by Hamas and Hezbollah often target residential areas and civilian infrastructure, aiming to create fear and disruption among the Israeli population (Vakil & Saab, 2024). Although many rockets are intercepted by the Iron Dome defense system, some rockets still manage to reach their targets, causing damage to buildings, casualties and panic in communities. This effectiveness is amplified by the ability of these groups to fire rockets in large numbers and over a short period of time, overwhelming the defense system (Boyd, 2023). It can be further illustrated through figure 2 below.



**Figure 2. Israel's Iron Dome air defense system**

Source: Boyd (2023)

In the context of military strategy, the use of ballistic rockets by Hamas and Hezbollah can be considered as part of asymmetric warfare. They do not have the conventional military power to confront Israel directly, making the use of rockets an efficient method to maximize impact with limited resources (Jones et al., 2024). Moreover, rocket attacks allow these groups to demonstrate continuous resistance, boost the morale of their members, and send a strong message to the international community regarding the sustainability of their struggle. The efficiency of this strategy is also evident in the significant economic impact it has on Israel, forcing the country to incur huge costs in defense and reconstruction.

However, the effective use of rockets also faces significant challenges. Reliance on locally-made rockets that often have low accuracy and limited range can reduce their intended impact. In addition, Israel's improved defense technology capabilities, such as Iron Dome, reduce the number of rockets that successfully hit their targets. This forces militant groups to continue improving their rocket technology and find new ways to overcome increasingly sophisticated defense systems. Effectiveness also depends on the ability of these groups to maintain a steady supply flow of rockets and related materials, which is often hampered by Israeli blockades and military operations.

### **Defense Budget and Expenditure**

The sources of funding for the development and acquisition of ballistic rockets by groups such as Hamas, Hezbollah and the Taliban vary but generally include aid from supporting countries, donations from sympathetic individuals and organizations, and funding through illegal activities such as smuggling. Iran, for example, is known to be a major backer of Hezbollah, providing substantial financial and material support (Wilson Center, 2024). Hamas also receives assistance from various sources, including support from countries in the Middle East and

diaspora networks. Budget allocations for ballistic rocket development and acquisition include research and development, production, training and logistics costs.

Economic sanctions imposed by the international community on countries and entities that support these groups have a significant impact on their ability to acquire and develop ballistic rockets. Sanctions applied against Iran, for example, aim to limit the country's ability to fund and arm Hezbollah (Omiamah, 2024). Nonetheless, these groups often find ways to circumvent sanctions, such as through smuggling and the use of international networks. The illicit arms trade also plays an important role in the supply of rockets, albeit at a high risk and increased cost. The influence of the economy on these militant groups can be seen in how they allocate resources to sustain their operations. Spending on ballistic rockets and other military activities often reduces the funds available for social and humanitarian needs in the areas they control (Faria & Arce, 2022). For example, Hamas often faces criticism for using significant resources on weaponry while the Gazan population experiences severe economic hardship. This creates internal pressure on these groups to maintain public support while continuing to conduct military activities.

Despite facing significant economic pressures, these groups have demonstrated financial resilience through adaptation and innovation in fundraising. They utilize digital technologies, such as cryptocurrencies, to secure funding that is difficult for international authorities to trace (Siripurapu & Berman, 2024). In addition, they continue to seek support from countries and organizations that have a strategic interest in supporting the resistance against Israel. The ability to maintain funding under depressed economic conditions demonstrates a high level of adaptability and commitment to continue their military struggle.

### **Economic Impact on Israel**

Israel spends an enormous amount of money defending itself against constant rocket attacks. One of the main components of this defense is the Iron Dome system, which is designed to intercept incoming rockets. Each rocket interception by Iron Dome entails significant costs, estimated at around \$50,000 per interception, which is much higher than the cost of rocket manufacturing by Hamas (France24, 2024). In addition, Israel also allocates substantial funds to maintain and upgrade this defense system, as well as to train military personnel in its operation. Rocket attacks not only cause physical damage but also have a direct impact on the Israeli economy. Infrastructure such as buildings, roads and public facilities are often targeted or impacted by rocket attacks, requiring huge costs for repair and reconstruction (IISS, 2024). In addition, every time the warning sirens sound, economic activity is disrupted as residents have to seek shelter, causing a drop in productivity. The business sector also suffers losses due to temporary closure or damage to facilities.

The indirect economic impact of rocket attacks is also significant. Mueller & Tobias (2016) assert that the instability of a country caused by the threat of sustained attacks creates uncertainty in the investment climate, reducing the interest of foreign and domestic investors. The tourism sector, which is one of the important sources of income for Israel, is also affected as tourists are reluctant to visit areas deemed unsafe. In addition, the ever-increasing costs for defense and reconstruction put pressure on the state budget, reducing the funds available for other social and development programs.

The Israeli government has taken various measures to mitigate the economic impact of rocket attacks, including investments in more advanced defense technologies and rapid recovery measures for damaged infrastructure. In addition, efforts to strengthen economic resilience, such as economic diversification and increased support for local businesses, have also been made (Al-Mujaddid & Suwito, 2024). However, challenges remain great, especially given the persistent uncertainty and the need to maintain high military spending in the long term.

**Defense Industry and Arms Trade**

Prolonged conflict has prompted significant developments in the domestic defense industries of the regions involved. In Israel, for example, the need to defend against rocket attacks and other threats has spurred innovation in defense technology (Komani & Bobek, 2020). Israeli defense companies, such as Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and Israel Aerospace Industries, have developed various advanced systems, including Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow. The industry not only meets domestic military needs but is also one of the world's major exporters of defense technology.

The defense industry makes a major contribution to the Israeli economy, creating jobs and generating significant export earnings. The sale of weapons and defense technologies to other countries helps offset the costs incurred for domestic defense (Broude et al., 2013). In addition, collaboration with international defense companies and participation in global research and development programs strengthen the position of the Israeli defense industry in the international market. However, this high dependence on the industry also creates economic risks, especially in the event of changes in export policies or international sanctions.

The international arms trade plays an important role in the dynamics of conflict in the Middle East. Countries like Iran and Syria have been major suppliers of weapons to militant groups like Hezbollah and Hamas. Meanwhile, Israel receives significant military support from the United States and other Western countries, which includes financial aid, defense technology and military training. This arms trade not only affects the balance of power in the region but also impacts regional and global stability. The impact of the arms trade on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the region is complex. On the one hand, the supply of weapons to militant groups increases their ability to launch attacks, prolonging and exacerbating the conflict. On the other hand, military support to Israel strengthens the country's defense capabilities but can also encourage an arms race in the region. To mitigate these negative impacts, stricter policies and international oversight of the arms trade are needed, as well as diplomatic efforts to encourage peaceful conflict resolution.

**CONCLUSION**

This research provides an in-depth understanding of the specifications, efficiency and economic impact of the use of ballistic rockets by militant groups Hamas, Hezbollah and the Taliban in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The rockets used by these groups vary in range, warhead capacity and launch technology, indicating an increase in destructive capacity and threat to targets further inside Israel. The economic impact of using defense systems such as Iron Dome is also analyzed, showing that while effective, these systems require large investments that are much higher than the cost of producing rockets by militant groups. Furthermore, the use of ballistic rockets poses serious challenges to international humanitarian law, with attacks often not distinguishing between military and civilian targets, violating basic principles of protection for non-combatants.

To address the threat posed by the use of ballistic rockets by militant groups, more comprehensive defense policies and military strategies are needed. Israel and countries supporting Hamas, Hezbollah and the Taliban should consider enhancing dialogue, economic development and social reconciliation as part of a holistic approach. In addition, further research in defense economics is needed to understand the costs and benefits of defense systems such as Iron Dome and to develop more effective strategies to counter these threats. The engagement of the international community and support for peace initiatives is also crucial to ensure solutions are not only focused on military aspects but also on comprehensive human development..

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