

GLOBAL  CONFLICTS

# CHECKPOINTS



SERIOUS GAMES  
INTERACTIVE

# Student Assignments



## Assignment: Checkpoints

**Brief:** You have now played Global Conflicts: Checkpoints, and are expected to discuss and reflect on the experiences. Below you will first find questions related to the game and then questions of a more general nature. Finally, you can write an article drawing on the game experience.

### 1. Game review:

a). Please provide a short factual resume of the mission.

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b). Please explain the motivations, actions and perception of the key people you ran into (one line each).

Roi: \_\_\_\_\_

Omri: \_\_\_\_\_

Fatima: \_\_\_\_\_

Baz: \_\_\_\_\_

c). What is the basic conflict in the mission?

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## 2. Beyond the game

a). What implications do the checkpoints have for the Israeli-Palestinian relations?

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b). How are Palestinians treated at the checkpoints, and how do checkpoints affect their everyday life? Try to consider what rights apply and why checkpoints have been set up. What reasons could you find for violating rights? Would such violations be acceptable? Why/why not?

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c). What role does security play for the Israelis? How does security serve as an explanation for the checkpoints?

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d). How would you criticize Israel's policy on checkpoints? What arguments do you think are valid for such checkpoints - could one do it differently? How do legal issues like innocent until proven guilty and collective punishment relate to the checkpoint problem?

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e). How would you criticize the Palestinians? Do you think the Palestinians are innocent victims? Why/why not?

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f). Choose at least three sources from the mission material that have their different perspective on the checkpoint issue. Discuss the background for the accounts and underlying agendas of the sources. Discuss whether means can be justified by goals. Consider under what circumstances and why?

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g). Human rights may be under pressure in the Israeli-Palestinians conflict. Try to find examples from the game and their implications. Also, use the sources on the website to explore the issue further. Discuss why human rights are important and whether human rights are a flexible or absolute concept?

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### 3). Write a better story

In the game you have a limited amount of time for writing and researching the story with access to only a few sources. Now you have a chance to pursue an even better researched story by using sources found online and from other places.

In general there are three different types of stories you can choose from: news story, feature story & opinion story. Use one of the three templates to help you make the best story.

Choose between the following subjects from the game world:

a). Palestine Today: Is interested in getting stories about the hardships the security barrier and the checkpoints represent in everyday life of Palestinians? What happens when people try to get in and out of the cities? How hard is it? What kinds of problems does the situation create for the Palestinian people?

b). Global News: Is keen on getting stories that are more general in their treatment about the problems that both Israelis and Palestinians encounter. Why are the checkpoints there at all? What consequences can we see?

c). The Israeli Post: Is interested in hearing about lives of the IDF soldiers at the checkpoints. They want stories on the courage of soldiers, the hardships of life there and the dangers that are connected with the protection of Israel against terror.

# Glossary

**Bias:** This refers to a preference or inclination towards a point of view that inhibit impartial judgment.

**Bar mitzvah:** Jewish ceremony at the age of 13 marking manhood.

**EU:** Abbreviation for the European Union, which is a group of European countries that collaborate especially to further trade and economy of the European region.

**Ethnicity:** A term used to categorize people based on differences in national origin, language, and/or religion.

**Expropriation:** A government overtaking property by paying compensation but against the owner's will. The compensation is often limited when Israel takes over property due to security concerns.

Fatah: One of the major Palestinian political party, which remains the backbone in PLO.

**Geneva convention:** Four treaties that set the international law for humanitarian behavior.

**Hamas:** A religious/terrorist/political/social organization that is increasingly gaining power among Palestinian in favor of the previous dominating organization Fatah.

**Hezbollah:** An organization that controls most of Southern Lebanon and regularly attacks Northern Israel. It is described as a religious/terrorist/political/social organization supported strongly by Iran.

Humanitarian: The basic respect for and treatment of other people as human beings.

**IDF:** This is the abbreviation used for the Israeli Defense Forces.

Islamic state: This refers to a state which is built after the principles set down in the Koran that bring unity and leadership to the Muslim world.

Koran: Islam's sacred writings that were revealed by God to the prophet Muhammad.

**Legitimate:** Refer to whether something is justified.

**Martyrs:** People who die in the fight against Israeli occupation whether by choice or chance.

**Moderate physical pressure:** Often used to describe mild forms of torture that are sometimes argued to be within in the law given extreme threats like imminent terror attacks.

**Occupied territories:** This is used to describe the areas Gaza and the West Bank.

**Palestinian National Authority:** Established after peace talks in 1992 to govern Palestinian affairs in the self-rule areas within the West Bank and Gaza.

**PLO:** The abbreviation for Palestinian Liberation Organization that for many years lead the struggle for a Palestinian state and the destruction of the state of Israel.

Separation barrier: Israel is currently constructing a wall to make it harder for unwanted Palestinians to cross into Israel. However, the barrier has cut off Palestinian villages, and in some regions built on Palestinian soil.

Shahid: The Arab word for martyrs, people who have died in the fight against (Israeli) occupation whether by choice or chance.

**Torah:** Refers to all Jewish religious literature, law and teaching that guides the right way of living.

**UN:** The abbreviation used for the United Nations. UN is an international organization whose stated aims are to facilitate cooperation on especially social development, international law, international security, and human rights issues.

**Zionism:** Zionism is an ideology from the late 19th century that seeks to establish a Jewish homeland.

Serious Games Interactive  
Griffenfeldtsgade 7A, 4 floor | 2200 Copenhagen N | Denmark  
E-mail: [info@seriousgames.dk](mailto:info@seriousgames.dk) | Web: [seriousgames.dk](http://seriousgames.dk)  
Phone: +45 4699 1550

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