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How Does Palestinian Popular Culture Shape and Influence Leadership Imagery?

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ABSTRACT

This study explores how Palestinian proverbs shape leadership imagery within a sociopolitical context defined by resistance, occupation, and national struggle. Drawing on an interdisciplinary cultural studies framework, it examines proverbs not merely as linguistic expressions but as symbolic, aesthetic, and performative artifacts that communicate collective values and political ideals. Through qualitative interpretive analysis of documented proverb collections, scholarly literature, visual materials, and media representations, the research identifies key thematic categories linking leadership to land, honor, resistance, unity, power, and moral conduct. Findings reveal that Palestinian proverbs function simultaneously as moral texts and political commentaries, articulating expectations of leadership grounded in sacrifice, stewardship of land, strategic pragmatism, and social accountability. Sayings related to attachment to land frame leadership legitimacy through ethical responsibility and collective dignity, while proverbs addressing resistance emphasize resilience and cohesion. Other expressions critically interrogate corruption, patronage, and internal fragmentation, demonstrating how popular culture both legitimizes and scrutinizes authority. By integrating textual and visual analysis, the study highlights how proverbs circulate across speech, art, and education to reinforce leadership ideals at the grassroots level. The research contributes to leadership and cultural studies by foregrounding indigenous oral traditions as dynamic sites of political imagination and symbolic power, showing how popular culture shapes leadership narratives in contexts of prolonged struggle and resistance.

Keywords: Palestinian Proverbs; Cultural Resistance; National Identity; Political Behavior; Leadership Strategies; Collective Memory

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1. Introduction

The intersection of leadership and popular culture offers a powerful lens through which to explore societal dynamics, particularly in cultures marked by resistance and struggle. This study adopts an interdisciplinary cultural studies approach, emphasizing not only political and sociological dimensions but also the artistic and aesthetic forms through which leadership imagery is visually and symbolically expressed. While traditional leadership studies have focused on how leaders influence organizations and societies, there is growing recognition of the significant role that popular culture, especially proverbs, narratives, and cultural expressions, plays in shaping leadership imagery. In the Palestinian context, this includes oral traditions, visual media, and performative expressions that communicate ideals of authority, sacrifice, and unity.

This article examines the role of Palestinian popular culture, particularly its rich repository of proverbs and sayings, in shaping leadership imagery within Palestinian society, especially in the context of resistance, identity, and struggle^[1,2]. Palestinian leadership, shaped by the ongoing struggle for sovereignty and resistance to colonialism and occupation, is deeply connected to cultural expressions that reflect and reinforce leadership ideals^[3]. Proverbs and sayings within Palestinian culture transcend mere linguistic devices; they are powerful expressions of collective identity, resilience, and leadership values^[4]. These cultural tools embody core Palestinian values such as honor, unity, land, and resistance, playing a key role in shaping leadership imagery. They offer symbolic representations of the qualities leadership should embody and how it should act within Palestine's complex socio-political context^[4,5].

For instance, the proverb "He who has no elder should buy one" underscores the value of wisdom and mentorship in leadership, while "The neighbor before the house" reflects communal responsibility and solidarity—qualities central to Palestinian leadership ethics. Such expressions are not only linguistic but performative, often enacted through storytelling, music, and visual motifs in posters and murals depicting resistance leaders.

As Palestinians continue their resistance against Israeli occupation, proverbs and other cultural expressions have evolved into tools for communicating leadership

ideals^[6]. Through these sayings, both formal and symbolic leaders articulate narratives of strength, sacrifice, unity, and resilience, deeply resonating with the collective identity of the people. These proverbs not only reflect Palestinian leadership imagery but also help perpetuate it, influencing leadership ideals from the grassroots level and shaping how leadership is perceived, practiced, and communicated^[7].

Methodologically, this study employs a qualitative interpretive approach that integrates textual and visual analysis. It draws from documented collections of Palestinian proverbs, interviews with cultural practitioners, and visual representations such as political posters, folk art, and media portrayals of leadership. Data selection was based on relevance to leadership themes—particularly unity, resistance, and identity—and analyzed using thematic coding and semiotic interpretation.

This study explores the role of Palestinian proverbs in shaping leadership imagery within Palestinian society, focusing on how these cultural expressions contribute to the construction and reinforcement of leadership values, especially within the context of resistance movements. By examining the intersection of leadership and popular culture, the research highlights how Palestinian proverbs serve as both reflections of leadership imagery and tools for social change. Although significant literature exists on the impact of leadership on organizational culture^[2,8], recent works on cultural leadership and symbolic politics (e.g., Alqaisiya^[9], Agyo^[10]) further contextualize the aesthetic and performative aspects of leadership within collective movements. However, there has been little critical analysis of the role popular culture—specifically proverbs and sayings—plays in shaping leadership imagery in specific cultural contexts. In Palestine, these cultural expressions offer a unique perspective on leadership, blending resistance with cultural identity^[4]. This gap in leadership and cultural studies presents an important opportunity to understand how popular culture and leadership imagery intersect in a context defined by political and social struggles.

This research intends to fill this gap by examining the symbolic role of Palestinian proverbs in shaping leadership imagery. By investigating how these proverbs influence leadership behaviors and attitudes in Palestinian soci-

ety, this study merges leadership studies with cultural and media studies in an innovative, interdisciplinary approach. The paper addresses two key research questions:

- (1) What are the popular proverbs related to leadership in the Palestinian context? This question explores key proverbs that reflect leadership values, behaviors, and imagery prevalent within Palestinian society, focusing on themes like honor, land, resistance, and unity as central to Palestinian leadership.
- (2) What is the meaning of these proverbs, and how have they contributed to shaping leadership imagery from a grassroots perspective? This question examines the deeper meanings behind these proverbs, exploring their role in constructing leadership imagery and influencing leadership practices within Palestinian communities. It will assess how these sayings inform collective identity, resilience, and leadership strategies in the face of occupation.

Ultimately, this study underscores the aesthetic and narrative power of Palestinian popular culture in defining leadership. It argues that visual and verbal symbolism—expressed through art, folklore, and performance—constitutes an essential dimension of leadership imagery. By exploring how Palestinian popular culture, particularly through proverbs, shapes leadership imagery, this study aims to deepen our understanding of the intersection between leadership and culture. It emphasizes the symbolic power of proverbs in shaping leadership ideals and imagery, offering insight into how these expressions reinforce leadership practices, especially in the context of resistance and national identity. In doing so, it aligns with the journal's interdisciplinary focus on cultural arts, demonstrating how artistic and popular forms contribute to leadership narratives within Palestinian society.

2. Literature Review

This literature review explores the cultural, political, educational, and aesthetic dimensions of Palestinian proverbs and their role in shaping leadership and national identity. It examines how proverbs function as vehicles of collective memory, artistic representation, tools of resistance, and frameworks for ethical leadership within the broader context of Arab and Palestinian heritage. By analyzing the

intersection of folklore, governance, and education, the review highlights the enduring influence of cultural and visual expressions—such as oral performance, folk art, and symbolic language—on Palestinian resilience and leadership practices^[9].

2.1. Proverbs and Popular Culture in Arab and Palestinian Contexts

Proverbs have long been cherished in Arab culture as succinct expressions of collective wisdom, encapsulating life's complexities in concise and memorable forms^[10]. The importance of proverbs in Arab societies, particularly in Palestine, is evident in the efforts to collect and preserve these cultural gems. Significant works such as *Al-Zahir* by Ibn Al-Anbari, *Kitab Al-Amthal* by Al-Maydani, and *Jumharat Al-Amthal* by Abu Hilal Al-Askari represent early efforts to catalogue proverbs that reflect societal norms and values^[11]. In Palestine, this tradition was revitalized through scholars like Hussein Lubhani, who compiled over 10,000 proverbs, emphasizing the cultural richness of Palestinian heritage and its intersection with broader Arab traditions^[12]. Palestinian proverbs, while deeply rooted in the Levantine cultural context, also reflect the broader Arab identity, as seen in the 1968 Palestinian National Charter, which outlines the unity of Arab nations^[13]. These proverbs continue to serve as both a cultural mirror and a vital instrument for the survival and resistance of the Palestinian people.

Importantly, Palestinian proverbs are not only linguistic expressions but also performative and aesthetic devices—used in songs, theater, murals, and storytelling—to communicate leadership ideals and moral guidance. For example, “The neighbor before the house” often appears in community-based performances and school plays to emphasize solidarity and social ethics, while “He who sows, reaps” underscores perseverance and long-term vision, qualities tied to leadership and nation-building.

The Palestinian experience, deeply intertwined with struggles for autonomy and resistance to colonial occupation, has shaped the nature of Palestinian proverbs. These sayings are not merely passive reflections of culture but active components of leadership imagery^[14]. They often reflect core themes of land, honor, unity, and perseverance, values that have been central to Palestinian identity and

resistance^[15]. As folk traditions—like proverbs, songs, and dances—serve to transmit cultural knowledge, they also help preserve Palestinian identity, fostering a collective sense of belonging and resilience. Palestinian proverbs thus function as expressions of communal will, preserving the history and aspirations of the people amid the challenges posed by occupation^[15].

2.2. Leadership and Cultural Heritage

Leadership in Palestine, as elsewhere, is shaped by cultural traditions, with proverbs playing a significant role in articulating leadership ideals. The connection between leadership and cultural identity has long been explored, particularly through the lens of proverbs, which encapsulate leadership principles passed down through generations. Cote notes that strong leadership integrates cultural and historical understandings, drawing on the values embedded in proverbs to build cohesive societies^[16]. In Palestine, leadership—whether formal or informal—has been crucial in maintaining resistance against external forces. Proverbs, by emphasizing values such as honor and unity, directly inform the leadership strategies and collective behaviors that sustain Palestinian resilience^[6].

Beyond political leadership, these cultural expressions shape symbolic and artistic portrayals of leadership in poetry, music, and visual arts. Portraits of leaders accompanied by proverbs in political posters or graffiti function as visual narratives that merge word and image, reinforcing the moral authority and cultural legitimacy of leadership within resistance movements.

These proverbs also serve as an ethical framework for governance. According to Assi and Odeh, governance systems that align with the moral principles reflected in proverbs help cultivate solidarity, trust, and collective action^[17]. In Palestinian society, these cultural expressions not only guide individual actions but also inspire national unity and resistance against oppression. By embedding these values into the fabric of leadership practices, proverbs contribute to a governance system that is both culturally resonant and politically effective^[18].

2.3. Popular Heritage and Resistance

The role of popular heritage in shaping leadership is

particularly vital in the Palestinian context, where cultural traditions play a key role in resistance movements. Palestinian proverbs, alongside other forms of folk heritage such as songs and rituals, serve as powerful symbols of national identity and resistance^[4]. Jabr and Hamad argue that folk heritage, including proverbs, reflects the collective stance of societies, often embodying resilience in the face of colonization. In the Palestinian context, these proverbs reflect a shared history of struggle and survival, serving as a repository of collective knowledge that guides leadership behaviors and decisions^[19].

Recent scholarship has emphasized that such expressions also have aesthetic and performative dimensions, operating within oral and visual traditions that bridge art and activism^[20,21]. Proverbs appear in resistance songs, community murals, and contemporary media to assert cultural continuity and leadership legitimacy. The role of proverbs in reinforcing these values has made them crucial in the Palestinian resistance narrative, linking the past struggles with current efforts to preserve identity and autonomy^[22]. Moreover, the study of Palestinian proverbs and their cultural significance highlights how traditional wisdom can inspire contemporary leadership practices^[20].

Proverbs like (“The land is not for sale”) and (“Unity is strength”) are examples of how collective memory and cultural identity inform leadership imagery, shaping the ways leaders communicate their vision for Palestinian society. Such sayings are not only recited but visually represented in banners, art, and school activities, demonstrating how popular culture fuses the linguistic and visual to reinforce leadership ideals. These expressions, passed down through generations, provide a foundation for a leadership culture rooted in resistance, resilience, and collective action^[21].

2.4. The Role of Education in Preserving Leadership Culture

The role of education in transmitting cultural values and leadership practices in Palestine is significant, especially in the context of curricula that aim to preserve Palestinian identity and cultural heritage. After decades of relying on foreign curricula from Jordan and Egypt, the Palestinian National Authority sought to integrate Palestinian folk traditions into the education system to reinforce national identity^[23]. Folk proverbs, songs, and stories are

integral components of the Palestinian curriculum, helping students connect with their cultural heritage and understand the struggles of their ancestors. Through these traditions, students learn about the values of cooperation, honor, and perseverance, which are central to the Palestinian leadership ethos ^[24].

Educational programs increasingly use dramatizations, visual arts, and digital storytelling to teach proverbs, turning them into living tools of ethical and leadership formation. These creative pedagogies transform traditional sayings into experiential learning moments, ensuring that cultural leadership values are not merely memorized but enacted.

In addition to preserving cultural heritage, folk traditions also serve to counteract efforts to erase Palestinian identity. As AlOstadh and Hamad emphasize, these cultural elements play a crucial role in reinforcing awareness of Palestinian heritage, protecting it from distortion and theft by external forces ^[8]. The inclusion of folk proverbs in Palestinian education ensures that these traditions remain alive, fostering a generation of young leaders who are well-versed in the cultural and historical foundations of their society ^[25].

The intersection of Palestinian proverbs and leadership imagery provides a unique perspective on how cultural expressions shape leadership practices within a resistance context. By studying these proverbs, we gain insight into the values and ideals that inform Palestinian leadership, especially in relation to national identity, resistance, and governance ^[20]. These proverbs function not only as reflections of historical experiences but as active components of leadership ideologies that inspire collective action and unity. Their continued presence in artistic, educational, and performative spaces underscores the aesthetic vitality of Palestinian culture and its centrality to leadership formation. The preservation of these cultural expressions, particularly through education and folklore, ensures that Palestinian leadership continues to be rooted in a shared cultural heritage, providing a model for future generations to navigate the ongoing struggle for autonomy and justice ^[4].

3. Methodology

This research adopts a qualitative, interpretive ap-

proach grounded in cultural and media studies, focusing on how Palestinian proverbs and folk heritage shape leadership imagery, national identity, and resilience. It primarily relies on secondary data, analyzing a wide range of sources including academic journal articles, books, theses, government documents, newspapers, and online cultural archives to explore the socio-political and aesthetic functions of Palestinian proverbs ^[26].

A comprehensive literature review of scholarly works provides insights into the historical evolution of proverbs, their connection to leadership, identity, and resistance, and their integration into educational and cultural frameworks. Government reports and official websites—particularly those of the Palestinian Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture, and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA)—are analyzed to understand institutional efforts to preserve cultural heritage and embed folk traditions into national curricula.

Additionally, visual and performative representations of Palestinian leadership imagery—such as murals, posters, and media narratives incorporating proverbs or folk sayings—are examined to highlight how artistic and aesthetic forms function as cultural texts that reinforce leadership values and resistance narratives. This inclusion ensures that both linguistic and visual aspects of cultural expression are analyzed in alignment with the study's interdisciplinary focus.

Articles from academic journals, university theses, and credible online news platforms are examined to assess how proverbs and folk traditions are portrayed in relation to political struggle, identity formation, and leadership representation. The selection criteria for sources include relevance to Palestinian cultural heritage, discussion of leadership or identity formation, and engagement with proverbs or folk expressions in socio-political contexts.

The data are analyzed through thematic content analysis ^[27], focusing on recurring motifs such as *proverbs as expressions of cultural identity, leadership ethics, and collective resistance*. The analysis involves coding textual materials to identify major categories, followed by the interpretation of symbolic and aesthetic meanings embedded within these cultural expressions.

This methodological approach integrates semiotic and cultural interpretation, allowing for an understanding

of how proverbs function not only as linguistic tools but as visual and narrative frameworks that influence leadership imagery in Palestinian society. By using secondary qualitative data, the study explores the cultural, political, educational, and artistic significance of Palestinian proverbs and folk heritage in shaping national identity, collective memory, and leadership resilience.

Table 1 organizes the primary themes derived from the analysis, illustrating how Palestinian proverbs convey diverse dimensions of cultural identity, political consciousness, and social behavior. These thematic categories provide a structured framework for interpreting the symbolic and ethical aspects of leadership imagery as reflected in Palestinian popular culture.

Table 1. Research analysis themes.

Theme Category	Example Themes
Sayings Related to Land and Identity	Land as Honor, Land as a Sacred Entity, The Immutable Connection to Land
Sayings on Resistance and Steadfastness	Defiance in the Face of Adversity, Non-Surrendering Will, Resistance as Identity
Sayings on Leadership and Power	Leadership and the Struggle for Power, Power Dynamics, Perceptions of Leadership
Sayings Reflecting the Influence of Money and Loyalty	Money and Loyalty, Financial Influence on Leadership, Bribery and Power
Sayings on Political Strategy and Action	Action Over Words, Strategic Political Advice, Measuring Before Acting
Sayings on Human Nature and Social Behavior	Human Nature in Struggle, Wisdom in Social Behavior, Caution in Dealing with Others

Source: Author’s compilation, 2025.

4. Results

Synthesizes results and interpretation together to show how Palestinian proverbs function simultaneously as cultural data and analytic lenses shaping leadership imagery, identity, and resistance [28]. The collection of Palestinian proverbs offers profound insights into key themes that have shaped the history and culture of the Palestinian people, including resistance, attachment to the land, leadership dynamics, and the strategic use of power and resources [28]. The wisdom contained within these proverbs not only reflects collective identity but also provides a lens to understand the enduring struggle against occupation and oppression. In line with the study’s cultural-aesthetic emphasis, proverbs are treated as oral, visual, and performative artifacts that circulate across everyday speech, protest art, and educational spaces [29]. These sayings are rich with historical, cultural, and political significance, offering valuable perspectives on the complexities within Palestinian society [29]. By examining them, we gain a deeper understanding of the core principles guiding resistance, connection to land, and the vision for reclaiming the homeland [30]. What follows integrates empirical themes with critical discussion to avoid duplication and to foreground how leadership imagery is constructed through cultural meaning-making.

4.1. Attachment to Land and Sacrifice

At the heart of Palestinian identity lies an unwaver-

ing attachment to the land—both physical and symbolic—representing dignity, honor, and resistance [31]. Proverbs such as “The land is like honor” and “Two things justify death: the land and honor” highlight the sacredness of the land and the lengths to which Palestinians will go to protect it [31,32]. “The land by the inch? They said: No, the land by the nail” further emphasizes determination to preserve every inch of the homeland, a motif that also appears in murals, folk poetry, and school performances that visualize territorial integrity as a moral duty [17,19]. Analytically, these sayings show how territorial belonging becomes an ethical frame for leadership: leaders are judged by their stewardship of land-as-honor, and leadership legitimacy is measured against this sacrificial ideal [17,19].

4.2. Resistance and Leadership

Resistance defines leadership under occupation. Proverbs like “The wet one doesn’t fear the rain’s splashing” and “What made you patient with bitterness other than what’s more bitter” express collective endurance in pursuit of a higher cause [33,34]. Yet the corpus also reveals intra-Palestinian tensions: “The bitten one is afraid of the rope’s tug” and “He who has no roots, dies in misery” signal fears of betrayal, factionalism, and the need for deep social roots to sustain authority [12,35]. Thematically, resistance operates on two levels—external defiance and internal cohesion—so leadership imagery must reconcile courage with trust-building to avoid fragmentation [26]. In

popular visual culture (posters, graffiti), these sayings are repurposed to critique division while valorizing steadfastness, merging moral counsel with political pedagogy^[26,35].

4.3. Leadership and Power Dynamics

Leadership is entwined with resource control. “Whoever has a chair has a cushion” and “Whoever holds the ladle never goes hungry” foreground material bases of influence^[36,37]. “Feed the mouth, and the eye will be shy” points to patronage as a mechanism of loyalty^[28]. These proverbs collectively map a realist grammar of power in which ethical aspirations coexist with the practicalities of survival. In social satire and caricature, these metaphors visualize the tension between moral leadership and clientelism, underscoring how resource flows shape perceptions of authority. Thus, leadership imagery oscillates between the ideal (service, sacrifice) and the strategic (resource management), clarifying why publics may both admire and mistrust political actors^[28,36].

4.4. Realism and Strategic Leadership

Proverbs such as “If you want to be obeyed, ask for the possible” and “Silence about the truth is a mute devil” advocate pragmatic, ethical leadership attuned to achievable goals^[38]. “Measure before you dive” and “A thousand words are worth less than one action” valorize deliberation and decisive action over rhetoric^[37]. Analytically, these sayings codify a strategic ethos: leaders must balance principled resistance with calibrated tactics. Cultural texts (cartoons, didactic plays) often stage these maxims to model practical wisdom, reinforcing expectations that leaders act with foresight and moral clarity^[39].

4.5. Political Disillusionment and Corruption

Disillusionment surfaces through proverbs like “Kiss the hands, laugh at the beards” and “The trousers solve the problems” that expose opportunism and sycophancy^[40]. “The wrong word hurts more than the wound of a sword” captures the risks of dissent in a punitive political culture^[37]. These sayings function as public audit tools: they name and shame practices that erode legitimacy, echoing scholarly observations of perceived betrayal by elites^[41,42]. In

contemporary songs and street art, such lines become satirical refrains that both critique misconduct and educate audiences about accountability^[43].

4.6. Personal Identity and Societal Values

Proverbs also encode ethical expectations of leaders and citizens. “The bull, when it digs, digs its head” critiques self-defeating leadership; “An eye for beauty becomes its guide” mocks superficial ascent; “Death is better than disgrace” centers honor as non-negotiable^[37]. These formulations tie personal integrity to collective dignity, positioning ethical character as a criterion for authority. Through storytelling circles and school activities, the sayings are performed as civic pedagogy, transmitting norms of competence, humility, and sacrifice^[4,44].

4.7. Critique of the Political Environment

“The earth does not change except for its calves” urges self-reliance and warns against dependency on external actors^[28,44]. “When the lion roars, it becomes a tiger” cautions against the escalation of unchecked authority, while “The thief’s house will never remain empty” indicts systemic corruption^[45]. “When the government goes bankrupt, it turns to old books” critiques crisis opportunism and hollow traditionalism; “If it’s not ruined, it hasn’t been built” frames renewal as requiring dismantling unjust structures^[46]. Together, these proverbs articulate a sovereignty-centered political ethic that favors internal agency, institutional renewal, and vigilance against authoritarian drift.

4.8. Resistance and Rejection of Oppressive Authority

“He who eats from the Sultan’s bread will be struck by his sword” condemns complicity with oppressive power^[46], while “The judge’s cow doesn’t harm” satirizes elite insulation from accountability^[45]. Complementary maxims, “What falls from the sky, the earth receives” and “If the waves rise against you, don’t lower your head”—translate into a resilience script that encourages steadfastness despite asymmetry^[46,47]. In aesthetic practice (murals, protest poetry), these lines are visualized as emblems of defiance,

converting oral wisdom into public pedagogy and collective mobilization.

Thematic Integration, Palestinian proverbs operate as moral texts, political commentaries, and aesthetic expressions of leadership and identity. They condense public expectations, stewardship of land, strategic realism, ethical conduct, and resistance to oppression, into portable wisdom that circulates through speech, art, and education. By merging results with discussion, we see how the same sayings that index everyday experience also configure leadership imagery, simultaneously critiquing corruption and modelling accountable, resilient authority^[25].

Theoretical contribution. This analysis advances political anthropology, cultural studies, and resistance literature by foregrounding proverbs as indigenous political discourse and sociocultural critique. Treating proverbs as embedded narratives of power, identity, and resistance expands frameworks on symbolic politics and subaltern voices, showing how localized cultural expressions function as durable mediums of critique and leadership imagination amid prolonged occupation and marginalization^[28,42,45,47].

5. Conclusions

This study highlights the central role of Palestinian proverbs as cultural texts that encapsulate the emotional, political, and historical consciousness of a people under prolonged occupation. These sayings offer a window into the deeply rooted values of resilience, sacrifice, loyalty, and dignity that shape Palestinian identity and political behavior. Expressions such as “Patience is the key to relief” and “He who is patient will triumph illustrate how endurance and steadfastness—*sumud*—are central to Palestinian moral and political philosophy. They underscore the profound significance of land—not only as a physical space but as a symbol of existential and moral struggle—and reveal how resistance is woven into the everyday language of the people. Proverbs like; the land is honor” and “He who sells his land sells his honor” express the inseparability of dignity from territory, turning geography into an ethical covenant.

Proverbs serve as both a reflection and reinforcement of collective memory, offering a critique of ineffective leadership, affirming cultural continuity, and fostering

unity amidst internal and external challenges. Sayings such as “He who has no elder should buy one”) and “A leader does not fear the storm”) remind communities of the need for wisdom, courage, and moral authority in leadership. By analysing these cultural artifacts, the study demonstrates how proverbs function as powerful tools for social cohesion and political expression. They preserve the wisdom and defiance of generations, guiding both leaders and communities in times of uncertainty.

For Palestinian leadership, these sayings offer strategic and moral lessons, aligning political action with the people’s sentiments and strengthening bonds of trust and identity. The proverb (“Unity is strength” captures the collective ethos of national solidarity, while He who sows, reaps” affirms the belief that persistence and effort yield liberation. The findings also hold broader implications: proverbs act as sources of solidarity for marginalized communities worldwide and provide culturally resonant frameworks for civic education and national mobilization.

However, studying is not without limitations. Its qualitative nature and focus on documented proverbs may not fully capture the diversity of lived experiences across regions, generations, or gender. The absence of empirical data and contextual ethnographic insight limits the ability to assess the direct influence of these sayings on political behavior. Moreover, the exclusion of oral and evolving proverbs may narrow the cultural scope of analysis.

Despite these constraints, the study offers significant practical implications. Educators, activists, and policymakers can draw on proverbs as instruments for nurturing national identity, ethical leadership, and resilience. For example, incorporating He who has no homeland has no dignity”) into civic education programs can help link moral instruction to national consciousness. Integrating these cultural narratives into educational curricula and political discourse may strengthen social cohesion and reinforce the moral foundations of resistance movements.

Future research could benefit from ethnographic fieldwork to observe the living use and transmission of proverbs across diverse Palestinian communities, including the diaspora. Comparative studies with other societies facing colonial or authoritarian oppression could reveal shared and divergent patterns in the political use of oral traditions. Additionally, interdisciplinary research com-

bining linguistics, psychology, and political science could explore how such cultural expressions influence identity formation, political attitudes, and generational memory in resistance contexts.

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