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A Comparative Study of the Foreign Policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Türkiye in Karabakh

*Rahbar Taleihur¹
Esmail Vahedi Darmeshkanlo²*

The South Caucasus and Karabakh is a strategic region bordering Iran, where key regional and extra-regional powers seek to secure their interests in this region. This article employs a qualitative method based on a comparative study to investigate and compare the foreign policy approaches of Iran and Türkiye in the Karabakh region. The main question of the article is that what are the similarities and differences between the foreign policy of Iran and Türkiye in Karabakh? In response, the exploratory hypothesis of the research is that; “while Iran and Türkiye have emphasized on tackling security threats in the region and on the peaceful settlement of the conflict; On the other hand, both countries show different regional priorities and have different views regarding the regional policies of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the future of Karabakh and the presence of the Zionist regime in the region”.The findings of the research show that Iran and Türkiye are trying to increase their clout in Karabakh and weaken the interests of the other side, and despite their emphasis on maintaining peace, stability and security in Karabakh;both are competing for more influence and reaching a leading position in the region.

Keywords

Comparative Politics, Islamic Republic of Iran, Türkiye, Foreign Policy, Karabakh

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Analysis of the 25-year Agreement between Iran and China Using the SWOT Method

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Azam Abazari²

Jalal Mirzaei³

The announcement of the approval of the "Comprehensive strategic cooperation agreement between Iran and China" which is a roadmap for the long-term relations and cooperation between the two countries in a period of "25 years" and with the special clause of "strategic" "and includes all political, economic, defense and security dimensions; it has provoked many internal and external political debates and media controversies. Therefore, an impartial and realistic approach to such an important issue requires that the opportunities and challenges or the strengths and weaknesses of said agreement be taken into account by employing the SWOT analytical model in order to acquire a broader and realistic picture of the situation. Against this background, the main question of this research is, what are the strengths, weaknesses or challenges and opportunities of the 25-year agreement between Iran and China for Tehran? The research's findings show that Iran is faced with 6 strengths and 5 weaknesses in the domestic environment, and it has 7 opportunities and challenges in the external environment. Finally, four categories of strategies were extracted from the intersection of strengths and weaknesses with opportunities and challenges.

Keywords

SWOT method, Comprehensive strategic cooperation agreement, Iran, China.

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Gas Energy Resource's Position in Shaping Iran's Competition and Cooperation Patterns in the International Arena (2010-2020)

*Seyed Mohammad Kazem Sajjadpour¹
Zahreh Karbalai Ali Abhari²*

As consumption of energy by emerging economies has increased in recent years, Iran has a good opportunity to increase the production and export of gas and its revenues due to having large gas resources and being ranked second in the world. In this way, Iran has developed a relationship based on cooperative competition in the field of gas with some countries. Considering these potentials, the crucial question is that how can the share of gas exports be investigated in terms of Iran's competition and cooperation patterns in international markets in 2010-2020? The hypothesis of the research is that due to the low capacity of gas exports, Iran has not been able to compete with Russia and Qatar to enter the large energy market of India and China, and therefore, it has not leveraged the gas energy resource in its foreign policy. By employing the analytical and descriptive method, this research examines the position of gas energy in Iran's foreign policy calculations.

Keywords

Gas energy resource, cooperation and competition, Iran, Russia, Qatar, emerging economies.

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A Study on Leveraging Asymmetric Economic Interdependence and Bilateral Trade Relations in the Foreign Policy of the United Arab Emirates towards the Islamic Republic of Iran (1992 to 2022)

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Majid Mokhtari²*

The economic relations of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the Islamic Republic of Iran have been strong and uninterrupted despite the ups and downs amid the political relations of the two states, so that the UAE has been considered one of the largest trading partners of Iran with a positive trade balance compared to Iran. Meanwhile, at the level of regional policies, the UAE government has tried to recruit various tactics against the interests of Iran in the region and has been pursuing an aggressive approach in its foreign policy's approach towards Iran. Considering this contradictory policies, the main question of this research is what role have the bilateral economic and trade relations played in the foreign policy of the UAE towards the Islamic Republic of Iran? The hypothesis of this research is that the UAE has taken advantage of the asymmetry in the economic relations between the two countries to make Iran's economy more vulnerable and make some form of deterrence against Iran. Employing a descriptive-explanatory method, the findings of this research show that the economic policy of the UAE is based on asymmetric mutual dependence towards Iran which has led to its aggressive activism against Tehran.

Keywords

Asymmetric interdependence, Foreign Policy, Islamic Republic of Iran, United Arab Emirates.

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A Study on British Foreign Policy's Determinants in the Persian Gulf (1968-1979)

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Kayhan Barzegar²
Hamid Ahmadi³*

British foreign policy towards the Persian Gulf region, spanning from the 18th century to the early 1970s, holds significant relevance in shaping the geopolitics of the region. This pertinence amplified notably following Britain's gradual disengagement as a conventional superpower in the Persian Gulf during the early 1970s. Addressing the main question of the study, which scrutinizes the factors that steered British foreign policy within the Persian Gulf region from 1968 to 1979, this article posits that said policy was guided by the imperative to safeguard the national interests of Britain, with a primary focus on ensuring a stable energy supply by upholding a delicate equilibrium of power among regional nations. The exploration of factors influencing British foreign policy in the Persian Gulf region from 1968 to 1979 is pivotal in delineating the underpinnings guiding British diplomatic decisions during this period. The principal hypothesis propounded by the authors posits that British foreign policy in the Persian Gulf between 1968 and 1979 was primarily oriented towards safeguarding national interests, with a predominant emphasis on securing a stable energy supply by preserving a delicate balance of power among regional states. Employing Michael Bercher's model, this study has investigated the domestic political structure of the British and rotation of the foreign policy elite as an operational environment factor which has strongly influenced British foreign policy in the Persian Gulf region over

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the period mentioned. The research findings show that the British foreign policy in the Persian Gulf region from 1968 to 1979, on the cusp of the Islamic Revolution, was characterized by endeavors to uphold regional stability, expand influence, and safeguard national interests through enhanced cooperation with the United States.

Keywords

Michael Bercher's model, Psychological Environment, Operational environment, Persian Gulf, Foreign Policy, Britain.

A Study on the Key Drivers of the People's Republic of China and the Israeli Regime's Relations (2020-2013)

*Majid Abbasi¹
Mustafa Hashemi²*

By the end of the Cold War and the growing importance of the economic aspect in international relations and significance position of 'geo-economics power', most countries have stepped in to cooperate with new partners. One of the manifestations of new partnerships was the formation of diplomatic, economic and military relations between China and the Israeli regime. Although, these relations aroused sensitivities in Washington and due to U.S. interferences, the bilateral cooperation between China and the Israeli regime faced a relative stagnation for several years. However, in the early 2010s, both sides decided to revive their relations by realizing the existing limitations and considering Washington's concerns. Against this backdrop, this research seeks to answer the question, which drivers have influenced China-Israeli relations during the 2020-2013? The hypothesis of this research is that prioritizing economic, commercial and technological aspects on both sides has led to the expansion of cooperation in the mentioned period despite the challenges and limitations. The research findings based on the descriptive and analytical method show that because of some factors such as Belt-Road Initiative; China's growing position in the world economy; the Complementary nature of bilateral economic relations and Israeli regime's strategy to diversify its commercial partners, have elevated the bilateral relations within the said period.

Keywords

global economy, commercial relations, Israeli regime, China, foreign relations.

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Consequences of the Ukraine Crisis on Japan's Foreign and Security Policy

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As the rapid international developments have determined the foreign and domestic policy's agenda of the countries across the globe, they have been faced numerous challenges and are bound to change and evolve their policies. The Ukraine crisis has disrupted the existing global order and has made countries face new security threats. Therefore, all countries have been concerned about the position and protection of their vital and national interests. In the midst of these developments, Japan which has traditionally had a passive and pacifist position in its international relations and foreign policy, considering its neighborhood environment, geopolitical position, and the decline of the power of the United States of America as a military-security ally; it has tried to change the balance of power in its favor by adopting a pragmatic approach in its foreign policy and security approach. Having said that, the main question of this research is "what consequences will the Ukraine crisis have on Japan's foreign-security policy?" The hypothesis of the research is that "the Ukraine crisis has led to more securitization of Japan's foreign policy approach. Using the descriptive-analytical method and inductive reasoning, this research discusses the dimensions of "change in Japan's political-security approach" by observing the behavior of Japan's foreign policy.

Keywords

Japon, Ukraine crisis, Geopolitical position, Neighborhood environment, Constitution of Japan.

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Function of Religious Diplomacy in the Sectarian Conflicts' Management: A Case Study on Pope Francis' Visit to Iraq)

Mustafa Boroujerdi¹

Although religion as a social phenomenon, has a history as long as human life and has appeared in various forms in different societies since long ago, but without a doubt, with the growing trend of the world's population; expansion of communication between human societies; aggravation of conflict of interest; growing economic competition; misunderstandings and prejudices, the challenges of human societies have expanded and become more complex. Some of these big challenges are related to the field of religion and the conflict between the followers of religions, which has led to sectarian conflicts. Having said that, this article seeks to answer the question, what is the role of religious diplomacy in the management of sectarian conflicts? The hypothesis of this research is that "religious diplomacy by adopting a holistic approach towards humankind regardless of class; race; Gender and nationality, can play an important role in the conflict management". This article, by adopting the descriptive-analytical method, examines the existing capacities in religious diplomacy considering the Pope Francis' visit to Iraq. The findings of the research indicate that contrary to the view that considers religion as an impediment to diplomacy, the changing nature of conflicts since the end of the 20th century has provided a new opportunity for religious diplomacy to play a meaningful role in conflict management.

Keywords

Religious diplomacy, conflict management, Iraq, Pope Francis.

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