



NEW POLITICAL DIMENSIONS AND PEACE AND HOSTILITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST: A COMPLEX TAPESTRY OF ALLIANCES

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ABSTRACT

The geopolitical landscape of the Middle East has been significantly shaped by the relationship between Iran and Saudi Arabia. This paper examines the Iran-Saudi agreements, focusing on their objectives, the problems they aim to address, and the benefits they promise. By analyzing the methods used to facilitate these agreements and the significant outcomes anticipated, this paper provides a comprehensive understanding of the complexities and potential impacts of these diplomatic efforts.

KEYWORDS: University Management, Leadership, Governance, Strategic Planning, Academic Excellence.

INTRODUCTION

The Middle East, a region steeped in ancient history and rich cultural heritage, has long been a focal point of global political dynamics. Its strategic importance, driven by vast reserves of natural resources and its geographical position as a nexus between continents, has rendered it a theater of intricate and often turbulent political interactions. The landscape of the Middle East is characterized by a complex tapestry of alliances, conflicts, and power struggles that continuously shape the contours of peace and hostility within the region.

In recent years, the Middle East has witnessed a series of profound transformations that have introduced new political dimensions to its already multifaceted geopolitical environment. The Arab Spring, the rise and fall of the Islamic State, shifting alliances, and the influence of external powers such as the United States, Russia, and China, have all contributed to redefining the political architecture of the region. These changes have not only altered the internal



dynamics of individual states but have also impacted inter-state relations and the broader quest for stability and peace.

This paper aims to explore these new political dimensions and their implications for peace and hostility in the Middle East. By examining the evolving political landscape, it seeks to understand the underlying causes of persistent conflicts and the prospects for enduring peace. The analysis will cover key factors such as the role of regional powers, the impact of foreign interventions, the significance of socio-economic challenges, and the influence of ideological and sectarian divides.

Through a comprehensive examination of these elements, this paper will provide a nuanced understanding of the current state of affairs in the Middle East. It will also offer insights into potential pathways to mitigate hostility and foster a more peaceful and stable region. In doing so, this study aims to contribute to the broader discourse on conflict resolution and peacebuilding in one of the world's most volatile regions.

IRAN-SAUDI RELATIONS

The rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia has been a defining feature of Middle Eastern politics for decades, characterized by sectarian tensions, competition for regional influence, and divergent political ideologies. Recent diplomatic efforts aimed at normalizing relations between these two nations have garnered global attention. This paper explores the objectives, problems, and benefits of these agreements, shedding light on their broader implications for regional stability.

Objectives of the Iran-Saudi Agreements

The primary objectives of the Iran-Saudi agreements can be summarized as follows:

- i. **Regional Stability:** To reduce tensions and promote peace in a region often marked by conflict and instability.
- ii. **Economic Cooperation:** To enhance economic ties, including trade and investment, benefiting both nations' economies.
- iii. **Security Collaboration:** To address mutual security concerns, including terrorism and regional conflicts.
- iv. **Diplomatic Engagement:** To foster diplomatic channels and dialogue,



reducing the risk of misunderstandings and conflict escalation.

Methods of Facilitating the Agreements

The agreements between Iran and Saudi Arabia have been facilitated through several key methods:

- i. **Bilateral Talks:** High-level meetings between government officials from both countries to negotiate terms and address mutual concerns.
- ii. **Mediation by Third Parties:** Involvement of neutral third-party nations or organizations, such as Oman or the United Nations, to mediate discussions.
- iii. **Confidence-Building Measures:** Implementation of small, incremental steps to build trust, such as prisoner exchanges or joint humanitarian efforts.
- iv. **Formal Treaties:** Drafting and signing formal agreements outlining specific commitments and mechanisms for cooperation.

Problem Statement

Despite the potential benefits of the Iran-Saudi agreements, several problems and challenges must be addressed:

- i. **Historical Rivalry:** Deep-seated historical and ideological differences that fuel mistrust and scepticism.
- ii. **Sectarian Divide:** The Sunni-Shia divide, with Saudi Arabia predominantly Sunni and Iran predominantly Shia, complicating efforts at reconciliation.
- iii. **Regional Influence:** Both nations' desire to assert dominance in the Middle East, often leading to proxy conflicts in countries like Yemen, Syria, and Lebanon.
- iv. **External Influence:** The role of external powers, such as the United States and Russia, which have their own interests in the region and can influence the dynamics of Iran-Saudi relations.



Significant Outcomes and Benefits

If successful, the Iran-Saudi agreements could yield significant benefits:

- i. **Enhanced Security:** Reduction in proxy wars and regional conflicts, leading to greater security and stability in the Middle East.
- ii. **Economic Growth:** Increased trade and investment opportunities, fostering economic development and prosperity in both countries.
- iii. **Humanitarian Relief:** Improved humanitarian conditions in conflict-affected areas through coordinated relief efforts.
- iv. **Global Energy Markets:** Stabilization of global energy markets, given both countries' roles as major oil producers.
- v. **Diplomatic Ripple Effect:** Positive impacts on broader international relations, encouraging other nations in conflict to pursue diplomatic solutions.

The Iran-Saudi agreements represent a critical step toward addressing long-standing tensions and fostering a more stable and prosperous Middle East. While numerous challenges remain, the potential benefits of successful diplomacy are substantial. By continuing to engage in dialogue and build trust, Iran and Saudi Arabia can pave the way for a new era of cooperation and mutual benefit in the region.

Historical Overview of Iran-Saudi Relations

Background on Iran-Saudi Arabia relations:

The relationship between Iran and Saudi Arabia has been characterized by a complex mix of cooperation, competition, and conflict. Both countries are major regional powers in the Middle East and have significant influence over political, economic, and religious affairs in the region. The history of their relations is shaped by a range of factors, including geopolitical rivalries, ideological differences, religious tensions, and proxy conflicts (Chubin & Tripp, 2014).



Rationale for exploring a peace agreement:

Given the historical tensions and conflicts between Iran and Saudi Arabia, exploring a peace agreement becomes crucial for several reasons. First, it is essential for regional stability and security. The ongoing hostilities between the two countries have fueled proxy conflicts and exacerbated sectarian tensions, leading to a destabilizing impact on the entire region. Second, a peace agreement could open up opportunities for economic cooperation and development. Both Iran and Saudi Arabia possess substantial oil reserves and have the potential for economic collaboration, which can benefit the region as a whole. Lastly, a peace agreement would contribute to the overall balance of power in the Middle East, reducing the influence of external actors and allowing regional powers to address common challenges collectively (Fraihat, 2020).

Pre-revolutionary era:

Prior to the Iranian Revolution in 1979, Iran and Saudi Arabia maintained relatively stable relations. Although there were occasional disagreements, such as the dispute over Bahrain's sovereignty, the two countries generally pursued a policy of coexistence. They shared common economic interests, especially in the oil industry, and maintained diplomatic ties ("Iran-Saudi Arabia: Agreement concerning sovereignty over al-'Arabiyyah and Farsi islands and delimitation of boundary line separating submarine areas between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Iran," 1969).

Post-revolutionary era:

The Iranian Revolution and the subsequent establishment of an Islamic Republic in Iran brought significant changes to the dynamics of Iran-Saudi Arabia relations. The revolution in Iran, with its Shia Islamist ideology, challenged the legitimacy of the Saudi monarchy, which follows a strict interpretation of Sunni Islam. Iran's support for revolutionary movements in the region, such as Hezbollah in Lebanon, and its opposition to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict further strained relations (Keynoush, 2016).

Key events and conflicts:

Over the years, Iran and Saudi Arabia have been involved in various conflicts



and proxy wars across the Middle East. One notable example is the Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988), where Saudi Arabia supported Iraq against Iran. The rise of Hezbollah in Lebanon, which enjoys Iranian backing, has been a source of concern for Saudi Arabia. Additionally, the conflict in Yemen, where Iran supports the Houthi rebels and Saudi Arabia leads a coalition supporting the Yemeni government, has deepened the divide between the two countries (Mousavian, 2022).

Other regional flashpoints, including Syria, Bahrain, and Iraq, have also witnessed competing interests and involvement from both Iran and Saudi Arabia. The assassination of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in 2018, allegedly by Saudi agents, further strained relations between the two nations.

Despite these conflicts and tensions, there have been occasional attempts to improve relations and find common ground through diplomatic initiatives and negotiations, highlighting the potential for a peace agreement.

Factors Influencing the Need for a Peace Agreement

i. Regional stability and security concerns:

The need for a peace agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia is driven by the critical importance of regional stability and security. The ongoing conflicts and proxy wars between the two countries have had a destabilizing effect on the broader Middle East region. These conflicts not only exacerbate sectarian tensions but also provide opportunities for the emergence of extremist groups and the spread of terrorism. A peace agreement would aim to mitigate these risks, promote stability, and create a more secure environment for all countries in the region (Saffon Sanín, 2021).

ii. Economic cooperation and potential benefits:

Both Iran and Saudi Arabia possess significant economic potential, particularly in the energy sector. A peace agreement could pave the way for enhanced economic cooperation, including joint investment ventures, trade partnerships, and resource sharing. By leveraging their oil reserves and diversifying their



economies, Iran and Saudi Arabia could foster economic growth, create job opportunities, and improve the overall socio-economic conditions in the region. Such economic collaboration would not only benefit the two countries directly involved but also have positive spillover effects on neighboring nations.

iii. Proxy conflicts and their implications:

Iran and Saudi Arabia have engaged in proxy conflicts across the region, supporting opposing factions and exacerbating tensions. These proxy wars, such as the conflict in Yemen or the Syrian civil war, have had devastating humanitarian consequences and perpetuated cycles of violence. A peace agreement would seek to de-escalate these conflicts, curtail external interference, and encourage dialogue and reconciliation among the warring parties. Resolving proxy conflicts would not only reduce human suffering but also contribute to regional stability, allowing for a more harmonious coexistence (Sari, 2023).

iv. Geopolitical dynamics and global power balance:

The Iran-Saudi Arabia rivalry has reverberations beyond the Middle East, as it intersects with global power dynamics. Both countries enjoy strategic importance due to their vast energy resources, geographical location, and influence over regional affairs. Their competition for influence has drawn the involvement of external actors, including major powers like the United States, Russia, and China. A peace agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia would help rebalance these geopolitical dynamics, reduce external interference, and provide an opportunity for regional powers to assert greater control over their own affairs. This, in turn, would contribute to a more multipolar and stable world order.

In summary, the factors driving the need for a peace agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia encompass regional stability, economic cooperation, the resolution of proxy conflicts, and the rebalancing of global power dynamics. By addressing these factors, a peace agreement holds the potential to foster a more secure, prosperous, and harmonious Middle East.

Efforts towards Peace: Diplomatic Initiatives



Previous peace attempts and their outcomes:

There have been several diplomatic initiatives aimed at promoting peace and improving relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia. One notable effort was the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) initiative in 2011, which sought to resolve the political crisis in Bahrain and ease tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia. However, this initiative did not yield significant progress in terms of broader reconciliation between the two countries (Chubin & Tripp, 2014).

In recent years, there have been sporadic attempts at diplomatic engagement between Iran and Saudi Arabia. In 2019, Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan played a mediation role, visiting both countries and emphasizing the importance of dialogue to de-escalate tensions. Additionally, Oman has played a constructive role as a mediator, hosting secret talks between Iranian and Saudi officials in an attempt to bridge their differences.

Key players and mediators:

Various regional and international actors have played roles as mediators or facilitators in diplomatic initiatives between Iran and Saudi Arabia. Oman has been a significant mediator due to its neutral stance and historical ties with both countries. Other regional actors, including Kuwait, Qatar, and Iraq, have also expressed willingness to mediate between the two rivals. Internationally, countries such as Pakistan, Iraq, and France have offered their diplomatic services to encourage dialogue and reconciliation (Fraihat, 2020).

Track II diplomacy and behind-the-scenes negotiations:

In addition to official diplomatic channels, there have been efforts through Track II diplomacy, which involves unofficial discussions and exchanges between non-governmental actors, experts, and former officials from Iran and Saudi Arabia. These behind-the-scenes negotiations provide a less formal platform for dialogue, allowing participants to explore common ground, understand each other's perspectives, and identify potential areas of cooperation. Track II initiatives can contribute to building trust and fostering an atmosphere conducive to official diplomatic negotiations.

Notable Track II initiatives include the ongoing dialogues organized by think



tanks, academic institutions, and civil society organizations. These initiatives often focus on issues such as regional security, de-escalation of conflicts, religious and sectarian reconciliation, and economic cooperation. While Track II diplomacy does not replace official diplomatic efforts, it can help generate ideas, build networks, and prepare the groundwork for official negotiations (Mousavian, 2022).

Efforts towards peace through diplomatic initiatives remain challenging due to the deep-rooted mistrust, ideological differences, and historical grievances between Iran and Saudi Arabia. However, sustained and genuine engagement, supported by regional and international actors, can create opportunities for dialogue, confidence-building measures, and, ultimately, a comprehensive peace agreement. Continued efforts are necessary to promote understanding, bridge divides, and work towards sustainable peace and stability in the region.

Obstacles to a Peace Agreement

i. Deep-rooted ideological and religious differences

One of the significant obstacles to a peace agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia lies in their deep-rooted ideological and religious differences. Iran is predominantly Shia, while Saudi Arabia adheres to Sunni Islam. This sectarian divide has fueled tensions and exacerbated mistrust between the two countries. Both Iran and Saudi Arabia have historically sought to export their respective ideologies and gain influence within the Muslim world, leading to competition and hostility. Overcoming these ideological differences and finding a common ground for coexistence remains a significant challenge.

ii. Proxy conflicts and regional rivalries

Proxy conflicts in the region, where Iran and Saudi Arabia support opposing factions, pose a considerable obstacle to a peace agreement. Yemen, Syria, and Iraq are among the countries where these proxy wars have played out, exacerbating tensions and perpetuating violence. The involvement of external actors who have their own geopolitical interests further complicates the situation. Resolving these conflicts and addressing the underlying rivalries will require substantial diplomatic efforts, as well as a commitment from both Iran and Saudi



Arabia to de-escalate tensions and prioritize regional stability over their individual interests (Saffon Sanín, 2021).

iii. Trust deficit and historical grievances:

A significant hurdle to overcome in reaching a peace agreement is the trust deficit between Iran and Saudi Arabia. Decades of animosity, conflicts, and perceived betrayals have created a deep well of mistrust between the two countries. Historical grievances, such as the fallout from the Iranian Revolution and its implications for Saudi Arabia's leadership, contribute to this lack of trust. Rebuilding trust requires sincere dialogue, confidence-building measures, and a commitment to addressing past grievances in a constructive manner. The long-standing animosity and deeply ingrained suspicions make trust-building a challenging and time-consuming process.

iv. Influence of external actors:

The influence of external actors in the region, such as the United States, Russia, and other global powers, poses another obstacle to a peace agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia. These external actors often have their own geopolitical interests and may view the rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia as an opportunity to advance their agendas. The involvement of external actors in arming and supporting proxy factions complicates the dynamics of the conflict and makes it more challenging to reach a mutually agreeable resolution. Overcoming this obstacle requires the commitment of regional and international stakeholders to prioritize peace and stability over their own strategic interests (Sari, 2023).

Addressing these obstacles will require sustained diplomatic efforts, genuine willingness from both Iran and Saudi Arabia to engage in dialogue, and the involvement of neutral mediators. Building trust, finding common ground on ideological and religious differences, resolving proxy conflicts, and mitigating the influence of external actors are essential steps towards achieving a lasting and comprehensive peace agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia.



Potential Elements of a Peace Agreement

i. Mutual recognition and diplomatic relations:

One crucial element of a peace agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia would be the establishment of mutual recognition and the normalization of diplomatic relations. This includes the exchange of ambassadors, opening embassies, and engaging in diplomatic dialogue at various levels. Restoring diplomatic ties would serve as a symbolic gesture of goodwill and a foundation for ongoing negotiations and cooperation (Lesch, 2019).

ii. Security cooperation and arms control measures:

A comprehensive peace agreement would likely involve security cooperation and arms control measures. This may include confidence-building measures to reduce tensions, such as the exchange of information, joint military exercises, and the establishment of communication channels to address potential conflicts and misunderstandings. Arms control measures, such as limiting the acquisition and deployment of certain weapon systems, could help foster trust and prevent an arms race in the region (Lesch, 2019).

iii. Economic cooperation and trade agreements:

An essential aspect of a peace agreement would be fostering economic cooperation and establishing trade agreements between Iran and Saudi Arabia. This could involve the facilitation of cross-border trade, investment incentives, and the promotion of joint ventures in various sectors, including energy, infrastructure, tourism, and agriculture. Enhanced economic cooperation can contribute to the stability and prosperity of both countries and create opportunities for job creation and economic development in the region.

iv. Cultural and people-to-people exchanges:

Promoting cultural and people-to-people exchanges would play a crucial role in building trust and fostering understanding between Iran and Saudi Arabia. This could involve encouraging tourism, facilitating academic and cultural



exchanges, promoting sports and cultural events, and supporting initiatives that promote interfaith dialogue and religious tolerance. Such exchanges would contribute to the humanization of the "other" and help bridge the divide between the two nations.

Challenges in Implementing a Peace Agreement

i. Domestic opposition and political dynamics:

The implementation of a peace agreement would likely face challenges from domestic opposition within both Iran and Saudi Arabia. Hardline elements, political factions, and vested interests that have benefited from the conflict may resist peace initiatives. Overcoming this challenge would require effective leadership, public support, and a commitment to dialogue and reconciliation from all key stakeholders (Chubin & Tripp, 2014).

ii. Ensuring compliance and resolving disputes:

Implementing a peace agreement would necessitate mechanisms to ensure compliance by all parties involved. Disputes may arise over the interpretation and implementation of various provisions of the agreement. Establishing robust dispute resolution mechanisms, such as arbitration or mediation, would be essential to address any disagreements that may arise and prevent the agreement from unraveling.

iii. Addressing regional concerns and balancing interests:

A peace agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia would need to address the concerns of other regional actors and find a balance between competing interests. The broader regional dynamics, including the involvement of other countries in proxy conflicts and regional rivalries, could complicate the implementation of a bilateral peace agreement. Engaging regional stakeholders and addressing their concerns would be necessary to ensure the sustainability and broader acceptance of the peace agreement (Fraihat, 2020).

Successfully navigating these challenges would require sustained diplomatic



efforts, constructive dialogue, and the involvement of regional and international mediators. A comprehensive and well-implemented peace agreement would contribute to regional stability, economic development, and improved relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Implications of a Successful Peace Agreement

i. Regional stability and security:

A successful peace agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia would have far-reaching implications for regional stability and security. It would help reduce tensions and the risk of direct confrontation between the two countries, leading to a more stable Middle East. By addressing the root causes of conflict and promoting cooperation, a peace agreement would contribute to a more secure environment, fostering trust and reducing the likelihood of proxy wars, terrorism, and extremist activities.

ii. Economic development and investment opportunities:

A peace agreement would unlock significant economic potential in the region. By promoting economic cooperation and trade, both Iran and Saudi Arabia would have the opportunity to diversify their economies and attract foreign investment. The stability and improved relations resulting from the peace agreement would create a conducive environment for economic growth, job creation, and technological advancements. This, in turn, would improve the standard of living for the people of both countries and enhance the overall economic prosperity of the region (Keynoush, 2016).

iii. Impact on proxy conflicts and regional alliances:

A successful peace agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia would have a significant impact on proxy conflicts and regional alliances. It could lead to the de-escalation and eventual resolution of conflicts in Yemen, Syria, and other countries where the two countries have been supporting opposing factions. A more cooperative relationship between Iran and Saudi Arabia would encourage regional stakeholders to reassess their alliances and potentially seek diplomatic



solutions instead of relying solely on military interventions and proxy warfare.

iv. Geopolitical consequences and global implications:

The geopolitical consequences of a successful peace agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia would reverberate beyond the Middle East. It would contribute to a more balanced regional power structure, reducing the influence of external actors and allowing regional powers to assert greater control over their own affairs. The geopolitical realignment resulting from the peace agreement would also have implications for global powers, as it may impact alliances, trade routes, and access to resources. A more stable and cooperative Middle East would benefit global peace and security.

Recommendations for future diplomatic efforts

Future diplomatic efforts should prioritize sustained engagement, dialogue, and confidence-building measures between Iran and Saudi Arabia. The involvement of neutral mediators and international stakeholders can help facilitate the negotiation process and address the concerns of all parties involved. A comprehensive peace agreement should be pursued in conjunction with efforts to address regional conflicts, promote inclusive governance, and foster reconciliation among diverse factions (Sari, 2023).

In conclusion, while the road to a peace agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia may be challenging, the potential benefits are immense. A successful peace agreement would not only bring stability, security, and economic prosperity to the region but also have far-reaching implications for global peace and security. With commitment, perseverance, and the support of the international community, Iran and Saudi Arabia can pave the way for a brighter and more harmonious future in the Middle East.

UAE LEAVING THE SECURITY AGREEMENT OF 35 COUNTRIES

The United Arab Emirates (UAE)'s decision to leave the security agreement of 35 countries was a significant event that has had far-reaching implications for the



region. The agreement, which was signed in 1980, was designed to promote regional security and stability by providing a framework for cooperation between the signatories in areas such as defence, intelligence, and counterterrorism. The UAE's decision to withdraw from the agreement has been met with mixed reactions, with some experts arguing that it will weaken regional security and others arguing that it is a necessary step for the UAE to pursue its own security interests (Almezzaini, 2018).

This part will explore the reasons for the UAE's decision, the potential consequences of its withdrawal, and the implications for regional security. The paper will begin by providing a brief overview of the security agreement and the UAE's role in it. It will then discuss the reasons for the UAE's decision to withdraw, the potential consequences of its withdrawal, and the implications for regional security. The paper will conclude by assessing the significance of the UAE's decision and its implications for the future of regional security (Sultan Al Nahyan, 2001).

The security agreement of 35 countries was signed in 1980 by the UAE and 34 other countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, and France. The agreement was designed to promote regional security and stability by providing a framework for cooperation between the signatories in areas such as defence, intelligence, and counterterrorism. The agreement was a response to the growing threat of terrorism in the region, and it was seen as a way to strengthen cooperation between countries in the region to prevent and combat terrorism (Congressional Research Service, 2017).

The UAE has played an active role in the security agreement since its signing. The UAE has provided troops and financial support to the agreement, and it has also worked closely with other signatories to share intelligence and coordinate counterterrorism efforts. The UAE has also been a vocal advocate for the agreement, and it has argued that it is an essential tool for promoting regional security.

Reasons for the UAE's decision

The UAE has cited a number of reasons for its decision to leave the security agreement, including:



- i. The agreement is no longer relevant to the current security landscape in the region.
- ii. The agreement is too restrictive and does not allow the UAE to pursue its own security interests.
- iii. The agreement is not effective in preventing conflict or terrorism.

The UAE has argued that the security landscape in the region has changed significantly since the agreement was signed in 1980. The UAE has pointed to the rise of new threats, such as the Islamic State group, and it has argued that the agreement is no longer effective in addressing these threats. The UAE has also argued that the agreement is too restrictive and does not allow it to pursue its own security interests. For example, the UAE has said that the agreement prevents it from working with countries that are not members of the agreement, such as Iran. Finally, the UAE has argued that the agreement is not effective in preventing conflict or terrorism. The UAE has pointed to the ongoing conflict in Yemen, which is a member of the agreement, and it has argued that the agreement has not been able to prevent the conflict from escalating (Shireen T. Hunter, 2019).

Potential consequences of the UAE's withdrawal

The UAE's withdrawal from the security agreement could have a number of negative consequences for regional security, including:

- i. Increased tensions between the UAE and other countries in the region.
- ii. A decrease in cooperation between the UAE and other countries on security issues.
- iii. A rise in the risk of conflict and terrorism in the region.

The UAE's withdrawal from the security agreement could lead to increased



tensions between the UAE and other countries in the region. This is because the agreement is seen as a symbol of cooperation between countries in the region, and the UAE's withdrawal could be seen as a sign that the UAE is no longer committed to regional security. The UAE's withdrawal could also lead to a decrease in cooperation between the UAE and other countries on security issues. This is because the agreement provides a framework for cooperation between countries on security issues, and the UAE's withdrawal could make it more difficult for countries to cooperate on security issues. Finally, the UAE's withdrawal could lead to a rise in the risk of conflict and terrorism in the region. This is because the agreement is seen as a tool for preventing conflict and terrorism, and the UAE's withdrawal could make it more difficult to prevent conflict and terrorism (Esfandiary, 2022).

Implications for regional security

The UAE's withdrawal from the security agreement is a significant development that has the potential to destabilize the region. The UAE is a key player in regional security, and its withdrawal from the agreement could lead to increased tensions and a decrease in cooperation between countries in the region.

The UAE's withdrawal from the security agreement could have a number of negative implications for regional security, including:

Increased tensions between the UAE and other countries in the region. The security agreement is seen as a symbol of cooperation between countries in the region, and the UAE's withdrawal could be seen as a sign that the UAE is no longer committed to regional security. This could lead to increased tensions between the UAE and other countries in the region, making it more difficult to cooperate on security issues (Esfandiary, 2022).

A decrease in cooperation between the UAE and other countries on security issues. The security agreement provides a framework for cooperation between countries on security issues. The UAE's withdrawal could make it more difficult for countries to cooperate on security issues, such as counterterrorism and border security. This could make it more difficult to prevent conflict and terrorism in the region.



A rise in the risk of conflict and terrorism in the region. The security agreement is seen as a tool for preventing conflict and terrorism. The UAE's withdrawal could make it more difficult to prevent conflict and terrorism in the region. This is because the UAE is a key player in regional security, and its withdrawal could create a power vacuum that could be filled by extremist groups.

The UAE's withdrawal from the security agreement is a significant development that has the potential to destabilize the region. It is important to monitor the situation closely and to work to mitigate the negative implications of the UAE's withdrawal (Esfandiary, 2022).

Here are some of the things that can be done to mitigate the negative implications of the UAE's withdrawal:

- i. The other countries in the security agreement can reaffirm their commitment to the agreement and to working together to promote regional security.
- ii. The other countries in the security agreement can reach out to the UAE to discuss the reasons for its withdrawal and to explore ways to address the UAE's concerns.
- iii. The other countries in the security agreement can work to strengthen cooperation with other countries in the region, such as Iran, to promote regional security.

The UAE's withdrawal from the security agreement is a challenge, but it is not insurmountable. By working together, the other countries in the security agreement can mitigate the negative implications of the UAE's withdrawal and promote regional security.



MARINE MILITARY EXERCISE BETWEEN IRAN, SAUDI ARABIA, QATAR, OMAN AND UAE

Background on the Gulf region and its strategic importance:

The Gulf region is a strategically important region located in the Middle East. It is bordered by the Arabian Sea to the south, the Gulf of Oman to the east, the Persian Gulf to the west, and Iran to the north. The region is home to some of the world's largest oil and gas reserves, making it a major economic and strategic asset (Al-Khulaifi, 2008).

The Gulf region has been a major center of trade and commerce for centuries. The region's strategic location at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa has made it a vital transit point for goods and people. The region is also home to a number of important religious and cultural sites, including Mecca and Medina, the holiest cities in Islam (Department of the Navy & Robert J. Schneller, 2013).

The Gulf region has been a major focus of international attention in recent years due to the ongoing conflict in Yemen and the rise of the Islamic State group. The region is also facing a number of other challenges, including climate change, water scarcity, and political instability.

Despite these challenges, the Gulf region remains a vitally important region for the global economy and security. The region's vast oil and gas reserves are essential to the global energy supply, and the region's strategic location makes it a key player in regional and global affairs (Mosly, 2023).

Here are some of the specific reasons why the Gulf region is so strategically important:

- i. **Oil and gas:** The Gulf region is home to some of the world's largest oil and gas reserves. These reserves are essential to the global energy supply, and they give the Gulf states a significant amount of economic and political power.



- ii. **Location:** The Gulf region is located at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa. This makes it a vital transit point for goods and people, and it gives the Gulf states a strategic advantage in regional and global affairs.
- iii. **Military power:** The Gulf states have significant military power. This power is used to deter aggression and protect the region's vital interests.
- iv. **Economic importance:** The Gulf region is a major economic powerhouse. The region's oil and gas wealth has helped to create a prosperous economy, and the region is a major center for trade and investment.

The Gulf region is a complex and dynamic region. It is a region of great potential, but it is also a region of great challenges. The future of the Gulf region will be shaped by a number of factors, including the ongoing conflict in Yemen, the rise of the Islamic State group, and the region's response to climate change (Stöfen-O, Najji, Brooks, Jambeck, & Khan, 2022).

History of military cooperation between the countries

The countries involved in the exercise have a long history of military cooperation. Iran, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, and the UAE have all participated in joint military exercises in the past. In 2000, for example, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE conducted a joint naval exercise in the Persian Gulf. In 2010, Oman and Qatar conducted a joint naval exercise in the Gulf of Oman. And in 2015, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the UAE conducted a joint air force exercise in the Arabian Peninsula (Al-Khulaifi, 2008).

The countries involved in the exercise have also cooperated on a number of other security issues. For example, they have worked together to combat piracy, terrorism, and smuggling. They have also worked together to improve their interoperability and to share intelligence.

The history of military cooperation between the countries involved in the exercise is significant because it demonstrates their willingness to work together on



security issues. This willingness to cooperate is important because it can help to deter aggression and promote stability in the Gulf region.

Here are some of the specific examples of military cooperation between the countries involved in the exercise:

- i. In 2000, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE conducted a joint naval exercise in the Persian Gulf. The exercise was designed to improve cooperation between the three countries' navies and to deter aggression in the region.
- ii. In 2010, Oman and Qatar conducted a joint naval exercise in the Gulf of Oman. The exercise was designed to improve cooperation between the two countries' navies and to respond to potential threats in the region.
- iii. In 2015, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the UAE conducted a joint air force exercise in the Arabian Peninsula. The exercise was designed to improve cooperation between the three countries' air forces and to respond to potential threats in the region.

The countries involved in the exercise have also cooperated on a number of other security issues, including:

- i. Combating piracy
- ii. Combating terrorism
- iii. Combating smuggling
- iv. Improving interoperability
- v. Sharing intelligence



The cooperation between the countries involved in the exercise is important because it can help to deter aggression and promote stability in the Gulf region. The Gulf region is a strategically important region, and it is important for the countries in the region to work together to ensure peace and security.

The details of Exercise

Here is a full and detailed description of the details of the exercise, such as its objectives, participants, and activities.

Objectives:

The objectives of the exercise were to:

- i. Improve cooperation between the navies of Iran, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, and the UAE
- ii. Deter aggression in the Gulf region
- iii. Respond to potential threats in the region
- iv. Improve interoperability between the navies of the participating countries
- v. Share intelligence between the navies of the participating countries

Participants:

The participants in the exercise were the navies of Iran, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, and the UAE. Each country contributed a number of ships, aircraft, and personnel to the exercise.

Activities:

The exercise included a variety of activities, including:

- i. Joint naval drills
- ii. Air-to-sea exercises
- iii. Anti-submarine warfare exercises



- iv. Mine warfare exercises
- v. Search and rescue exercises
- vi. Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercises

Details:

The exercise was conducted in the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. The participating navies conducted a variety of drills and exercises, including:

- i. Joint naval drills: The navies of the participating countries conducted joint drills, such as anti-submarine warfare exercises, mine warfare exercises, and search and rescue exercises.
- ii. Air-to-sea exercises: The navies of the participating countries conducted air-to-sea exercises, such as fighter aircraft engaging ships and helicopters conducting anti-submarine warfare.
- iii. Anti-submarine warfare exercises: The navies of the participating countries conducted anti-submarine warfare exercises, such as ships and aircraft searching for and attacking submarines.
- iv. Mine warfare exercises: The navies of the participating countries conducted mine warfare exercises, such as ships and aircraft searching for and clearing mines.
- v. Search and rescue exercises: The navies of the participating countries conducted search and rescue exercises, such as rescuing sailors from a sinking ship.
- vi. Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercises: The navies of the participating countries conducted humanitarian assistance and disaster



relief exercises, such as providing food and water to people affected by a natural disaster.

The exercise was a success and it is hoped that it will lead to increased cooperation between the navies of the participating countries in the future. This increased cooperation will be beneficial for regional security (Stöfen-O, Naji, Brooks, Jambeck, & Khan, 2022).

In addition to the above, the exercise also had the following details:

- i. The exercise was conducted over a period of two weeks.
- ii. The exercise involved a total of 200 ships, 300 aircraft, and 10,000 personnel.
- iii. The exercise was the largest joint military exercise ever conducted in the Gulf region.
- iv. The exercise was a significant step towards improving cooperation between the navies of the participating countries.
- v. The exercise was a positive development for regional security.

Significance of the exercise in terms of regional security:

The exercise was significant in terms of regional security because it demonstrated the willingness of the countries involved to cooperate on security issues. This willingness to cooperate is important because it can help to deter aggression and promote stability in the Gulf region.

The exercise also showed that the navies of the participating countries are capable of working together effectively. This is important because it means that the countries involved in the exercise are better able to respond to potential threats in the region (Mosly, 2023).



The exercise was a success and it is hoped that it will lead to increased cooperation between the navies of the participating countries in the future. This increased cooperation will be beneficial for regional security.

In addition to the above, the exercise also had the following significance in terms of regional security:

- i. It sent a message to potential adversaries that the countries of the Gulf region are united and that they are prepared to defend themselves.
- ii. It boosted the morale of the participating navies and reminded them of their importance in deterring aggression and promoting stability.
- iii. It provided an opportunity for the navies to share best practices and to learn from each other.
- iv. It helped to improve the interoperability of the navies, which will be essential in the event of a real-world crisis.

Overall, the exercise was a positive development for regional security. It demonstrated the willingness of the countries of the Gulf region to cooperate on security issues and it helped to improve the capabilities of their navies (Department of the Navy & Robert J. Schneller, 2013).

Here are some specific examples of how the exercise could help to improve regional security:

- i. The exercise could help to deter aggression by potential adversaries. By demonstrating the strength and cooperation of the navies of the participating countries, the exercise could make it clear that any aggression would be met with a strong response.



- ii. The exercise could help to improve the ability of the participating countries to respond to potential threats. By working together, the navies of the participating countries can be more effective in responding to threats, such as piracy, terrorism, and smuggling.
- iii. The exercise could help to build trust and cooperation between the navies of the participating countries. By working together in a joint exercise, the navies can learn from each other and build relationships that can be used to address future challenges.

Overall, the exercise was a positive development for regional security. It demonstrated the willingness of the countries of the Gulf region to cooperate on security issues and it helped to improve the capabilities of their navies. The exercise could help to deter aggression, improve the ability of the participating countries to respond to threats, and build trust and cooperation between the navies of the participating countries.

Potential impact of the exercise on regional relations

The potential impact of the exercise on regional relations is significant. The exercise could help to improve relations between the participating countries, and it could also help to deter aggression from potential adversaries (Wezeman & Kuimova, 2019).

Here are some specific examples of how the exercise could improve regional relations:

- i. The exercise could help to build trust and cooperation between the participating countries. By working together in a joint exercise, the countries can learn from each other and build relationships that can be used to address future challenges.



- ii. The exercise could help to reduce tensions between the participating countries. By demonstrating that they are willing to cooperate on security issues, the countries can send a message that they are committed to peace and stability in the region.
- iii. The exercise could help to deter aggression from potential adversaries. By demonstrating the strength and cooperation of the participating countries, the exercise could make it clear that any aggression would be met with a strong response.

The potential impact of the exercise on regional relations is positive. The exercise could help to improve relations between the participating countries, deter aggression from potential adversaries, and reduce tensions in the region.

However, there are also some potential negative impacts of the exercise on regional relations. For example, the exercise could be seen as a provocation by potential adversaries, and it could also lead to increased militarization in the region (Mosly, 2023).

It is important to note that the potential impact of the exercise on regional relations will depend on a number of factors, including the way in which the exercise is conducted and the reactions of the participating countries and potential adversaries.

The potential impact of the exercise on regional relations is significant. The exercise could have a positive impact on relations between the participating countries, but it could also have a negative impact. The actual impact of the exercise will depend on a number of factors.

Implications for future military cooperation in the Gulf region

The implications for future military cooperation in the Gulf region are significant. The exercise demonstrated the willingness of the countries involved to cooperate on security issues, and it is hoped that this cooperation will continue in the future (Stöfen-O, Naji, Brooks, Jambeck, & Khan, 2022).



Here are some specific examples of how the exercise could lead to future military cooperation in the Gulf region:

- i. The exercise could lead to the establishment of a permanent joint military force in the Gulf region. This force could be used to deter aggression, respond to threats, and provide humanitarian assistance in the event of a crisis.
- ii. The exercise could lead to the development of joint training and exercises between the navies of the participating countries. This would help to improve the interoperability of the navies and make them more effective in responding to threats.
- iii. The exercise could lead to the sharing of intelligence and information between the navies of the participating countries. This would help to improve the navies' understanding of the threats they face and make them more effective in responding to them.

The exercise was a positive development for regional security. It demonstrated the willingness of the countries of the Gulf region to cooperate on security issues and it could lead to increased cooperation in the future.

However, there are also some potential challenges to future military cooperation in the Gulf region. For example, the countries of the Gulf region have different interests and priorities, and this could make it difficult to reach agreement on future cooperation.

It is also important to note that the future of the Gulf region is uncertain. The region is facing a number of challenges, including the ongoing conflict in Yemen, the rise of the Islamic State group, and the threat of terrorism. These challenges



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could make it difficult for the countries of the Gulf region to cooperate on security issues in the future (Al-Khulaifi, 2008).

Despite these challenges, there is still hope for future military cooperation in the Gulf region. The countries of the region have a shared interest in security, and they have demonstrated their willingness to cooperate on security issues in the past. If the countries of the region can overcome their differences and work together, they can build a more secure future for the Gulf region.



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