
**A DECADE OF POLICY CHANGE FOR THE USA
IN THE MIDDLE EAST (2011-2022)**

Abdul Rahim Shar

Assistant Professor Pakistan Studies

Benazir Bhutto Shaheed University Lyari Karachi

Email: abdul.rahim@bbsul.edu.pk and sharrahim@hotmail.com

Nisar Ahmed Chandio

Head of Department, Department of International Relations

Benazir Bhutto Shaheed University Lyari Karachi

Email: nisar.ahmed@bbsul.edu.pk

Bakhtiar Ahmed

Assistant Professor of Pakistan Studies, Shaikh Ayaz University, Shikarpur

Email: bakhtiar.kubar@saus.edu.pk

ABSTRACT

This article aims to explore US objectives in the Middle East after the Arab Spring spread throughout the region. America started to take a keen interest in this region after the Second World War which lasts till now due to some economic and security issues. After 2011, when the revolutions were in full swing, regime change in Iraq caused the United States to change its policies even against its long-time friendly countries in that region, apparently defying long-standing American security policies. Consequently, this policy shift in the United States increased uncertainty in the minds of regional players as to what they could expect from America. Importantly, this research paper focuses on US foreign policy objectives in the region during this decade between 2011 and 2021, primarily controlling its military bases, protecting Israeli sovereignty, strategic access to oil, the defence of friendly states, and finally the fight against terrorist organizations such as (Hamas, Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria). In addition, this research determines other key elements that could affect the interests of the United States (US) and its regional friends. To investigate the policy decisions and actions of the United States as well as the interests of its allies in the region between 2011 and 2011, data is collected from primary and secondary sources. The data is carefully analyzed keeping a historical view of the regional socio-economic and political situation. The theoretical study uses a descriptive approach to examine how events in the Middle East after 2011 influenced US foreign policy. Unrest, local wars, and insecurity in the region have been found to have had a massive impact on the economy, national protection, and U.S. diplomatic efforts in the region. The dreams of the US reporting abroad in the Middle East are more dependent on maintaining stable relations with (allies) and knowing the nature of the conflicts. This research study will pave the way for researchers, policy analysts, and practitioners by measuring the extent to which the US-Middle East relationship has changed during this decade.

Keywords: US foreign policy; Middle East; Arab Spring, Regional players.

INTRODUCTION

The Middle East (ME) has been a major focus of American foreign policy (FP) since WW-II and its significance is growing because of the region's geopolitical, geographic, and political factors. Through the efforts and educational activities of Western missionaries, there are many cultural links between the area and the West that date back to the Medieval period and continue to this day. The Middle East covers three continents: (Europe, Asia, and Africa). Natural resources such as oil and water, are abundant in the area. The concept of the "Middle East" is new to the English language. The term was first mentioned in many articles which were published in *The New York Times* (NYT) in 1902. The term "Middle East" became popular after World War II, particularly among educational institutions and government departments (Al Sarhan, 2017).

The geostrategic importance of the Middle East is not diminished by its continual conflict and volatility. To x-United Kingdom PM Tony Blair, the relevance of the area (ME) is determined by some key criteria. Firstly, through the efforts of the USA to modernize its energy industry, the balance of the world and world market will continue to depend on oil from the Middle East. Many scholars have also indicated that the unrest in the Middle East (ME) endangers the oil supply as well as the economies of countries dependent on it, such as most European countries (Chomsky, 2005; Harvey, 2010). Secondly, because of its connectivity to Europe, anxiety in the Middle East poses a direct and imminent threat to the majority of European countries, threatening world peace and prosperity. The crisis in Iraq's Islamic State and Levant (ISIL) and Syria is just two recent examples of these challenges, both of which have led to a large influx of refugees into Europe. Thirdly, the significance of the region increases because of the US-Israel partnership and the need to maintain the region's only French American / Western ally.

Lastly, Tony Blair argues that the history of the Middle East (ME) most likely goes against all forms of government and religion and determines the global fate of extremist Islam, which is essentially expansionist. He's doing. The defeat of radical groups in the area could lead

to their global defeat and maintain the current international system (Prifti, 2017).

After World War II, American interest in the Middle East increased exponentially, and its presence continues today in response to a variety of economic and security challenges. Maintaining US military bases in the Gulf countries, supporting customers and other friendly nations, supporting, and protecting Israeli sovereignty, providing oil supplies to the Gulf nations, countering terrorist groups (Hamas, al-Qaeda, Iraq, Syria (ISIS) and Islamist movements) and many other factors that may affect the interests of the United States and its regional partners (Al Sarhan, 2017). This article looks at US foreign policy goals in the Middle East from 2011 to 2021. The four major US interests in the Middle East are the fight against terrorism, the maintenance of regional peace, the deterrence of Iran's expansion, and the maintenance of a balance of power. While Iran, Islamic State (IS) and al-Qaeda sometimes pose significant threats to these interests, it is unlikely that many US interests in the region will be compromised. Allied concerns, on the other hand, are more urgent, and the Arab Spring and continuing civil war are putting all of this to the fore. The US response to these issues has provided many advantages, including deterring and weakening the enemy and effectively comforting our allies.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This literature review assesses literature that examines U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East. This assessment categorizes the many sources used in this article according to their affiliation. After World War II, when power shifted from the United Kingdom to the United States, the United States had the opportunity to gain the benefit of the geopolitical position of the Middle East (ME). Since that time, American policy in the Middle East has been guided by realistic goals of supporting autocratic regimes in return for their contributions to American regional interests (Brownlee, J. 2012). The involvement of the United States in the civil wars which broke out in the region brought it many advantages, by deterring opponents and securing their allies. Military camps at Arifjan and Buehring in Kuwait, Al Salihia in Qatar, and airfields in the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Kuwait are just a few of the US military outposts in the region. The United

States began sending planes from Ankara air base in Turkey in 2015. Two of the three forward-deployed aircraft carriers are stationed in the region. A considerable number of armed personnel support the establishment of these vital military sites in the region. Hundreds of troops and consultants are stationed in Oman, with a few advisers in Saudi Arabia.

The deployment of the United States plane service USS Nimitz and 11 US Navy fleet ships to release fight operations in opposition to the Islamic State in 2013 validated the unprecedented US army presence within side the region. Kuwait is a well-known "non-NATO ally" that hosted 2,000 US marines at some stage in the Iraq war. The United Arab Emirates and Bahrain are different international locations with US army bases. Qatar serves as an advanced deployment site for CENTCOM and hosts a missile defence radar facility. The location serves as a base for US troops fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq. The United States invaded Iraq in (2003) and installed a puppet government of its own choosing. The administration signed a "strategic framework agreement" with the United States. When the Iraqi resistance to the US occupation took control of a third of the country, the US launched a major bombardment of the region and sent many army trainers to train the Peshmergas and Kurdish Shiites against ISIS.

America has often said that it will defend its regional friends. With the signing of the Egyptian Israeli peace accord in 1979, US policy towards Egypt was crowned with success. This pact permanently ended the dispute between Egypt & Israel, making Egypt a staunch supporter of Israel and American interests in the Middle East. From the fiscal year 2005 to the fiscal year 2007, Egypt was the first non-NATO ally of the United States to receive \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion in aid. In the fiscal year 2009, Egypt received \$744,000 in small arms and ammunition deliveries (Brownlee, J. 2012). Saudi Arabia's oil reserves are an asset to the United States. The kingdom has the second-largest oil reserves in the world and accounts for 11.3% of crude oil imports into the United States. It provides 80% of the world's reserve production and served as a key substitute for Libyan oil during the country's uprising (Yom, SL, & Al-Momani, MH 2008: Rumsey, J. 2012: Ratner, M. 2011).

The Saudi regime's most important task as a Sunni state is to confront Shia Iran on the US-dominated capitalist chessboard. Saudi Arabia supported the Al Khalifa dynasty of Bahrain against the Shiite Arab Spring revolt (Mabon, S. 2012). Bahrain has the headquarters (HQ) of the United States Navy's 5th fleet in a 500-acre facility with 5,000 US Navy personnel, mine spotters, a plane service war institution, and an amphibious attack institution able to intercept terrorist movements, guns, or WMD technology (Katzman, K. 2005). To hold the Strait of Hormuz steady and terrorists at bay, Bahrain gets US navy useful resources, along with the delivery of 9 Black Hawk helicopters for \$252 million in 2007 and 30 tactical missiles from the navy in 2000. (Kahl, CH, & Lynch, M. 2013). Israel stays a sizable and vital companion of the USA inside the area, and Washington is dedicated to protecting Israel's "qualitative navy advantage" inside the area in opposition to any kingdom or non-kingdom enemy. The Bush management legal a ten-12 months useful resource package deal worth \$30 billion for Israel. The Pentagon furnished Israel with the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter jets, bunker busters, and plenty of its current weaponry, making sure Israel's air superiority inside the area. The Arrow I and Arrow II anti-missile systems, as well as the "Iron Dome" anti-missile system, are jointly developed by the United States and Israel. The United States is dedicated to securing its interests in the region, enhancing Israel's sovereignty, the flow of oil and other vital infrastructure. Ahmed, S., (2024) discusses the violation of international law and argues that both India and Israel are using similar techniques of violence and committing war crimes in Kashmir and Palestine. He believes that hopes for peace and regional security are diminishing due to unresolved issues of Palestine and Kashmir. He further believes that continuous war in Palestine will further upset the balance of power in Middle East where US influence is decreasing mainly because of its overwhelming support to Israel.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The purpose of this study is to answer the question "what changes after 2011 have influenced US foreign policy in the Middle East until today".

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study embarked on an extensive scrutiny of the United States' external involvements in the Middle East from 2011 to 2021. The multifaceted nature of international relations and foreign policy necessitated a qualitative research methodology to excavate the socio political, historical, and economic undergirding of these engagements. The research was anchored in the constructivist paradigm, positing social realities as constructed through inter subjective interactions; explicating these realities requires a deep dive into the perspectives, experiences, and contexts bring about these interactions.

Data Collection Method and Procedures

Data collection was carried out through a multi-pronged approach to ensure a rich and nuanced understanding of the phenomena under investigation. This approach was comprised of structured interviews, analysis of published research articles, magazine reviews, and content analysis from reputable online news sources including but not limited to the Wall Street Journal and Al Jazeera. The selection of these sources was based on long standing credibility, diverse perspectives, and in-depth reporting in Middle Eastern affairs, to develop a balanced and comprehensive data corpus. Analysis of published research articles and magazine reviews provided the scholarly dimension and facilitated the triangulation of data from different sources, which was key to validation and enhancing the study's reliability. Moreover, inclusion of diverse online news sources allowed for a real-time snapshot of the changing geopolitical landscape and public discourse surrounding US engagements in the Middle East.

Data Analysis Techniques

The data analysis adopted a thematic analysis approach. This involved coding the data to identify recurring patterns, themes, and categories. An iterative process was adopted, moving back and forth between the data and emerging insights to refine the codes and themes (Braun and Clarke 2006a). The findings were interpreted using theoretical frameworks on international relations, foreign policy analysis and regional studies to locate the empirical data within broader socio political, historical, and economic contexts. The

methodological approach to the study reflected a commitment to the principles of rigour, transparency, and reflexivity. Ethical considerations were paramount throughout the research process, particularly during the interview process and in the use of publicly available data. Participants were assured of the confidentiality and anonymity of their data, and all data were managed in accordance with the highest ethical research standards.

STUDY OBJECTIVES

- Investigate developments that have influenced American foreign policy in the Middle East (ME) from 2011 to the present day.
- Study the changes in American policy by categorizing the motives of the United States (US) in the Middle East (ME).
- By evaluating the evolution of the position of the USA in the Middle East (ME) from 2011 to 2022.

IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH

Due to its resources and geostrategic location, the Middle East (ME) is an important region in the world; politically, it is crucial for world powers such as the United States of America (USA). It is important because it is the center of the Abrahamic religions. It is important historically because of the conflict between Muslims, Jews, and Christians. Due to the ongoing conflict in the region, as well as America's involvement in the region, this research is important for scholars. This study contains sufficient material to aid understanding of this significant event and to contribute to the current body of knowledge.

This study ought to assist students in higher recognition of nearby politics and develop studies within side the discipline of politics within side the Middle East. Because the location is traditionally notable, this study is likewise crucial for ancient reasons. Current activities within side the Middle East have profound implications, and these studies can assist us to recognize the ramifications of inner and outside elements that would result in an uprising. In phrases of destiny domination, this vicinity has effects on Muslims, Jews, and Christians. A battle has emerged in international politics, with Islamists attacking the present political order. This ought to result in destiny tries through Islamists to overthrow the political

order, forcing the worldwide international to paintings with nearby elites to get rid of this ideology. These studies ought to assist expect the probabilities of a destiny conflict.

THEORETICAL FRAME

Domino Theory and Clash of Civilizations Theory are mental theories that offer the essential consciousness and compelling proof that mental elements have a big effect on the person and collective behavior. The domino concept and the conflict of civilizations concept are the most famous theories approximately the present-day scenario in the Middle East.

The Domino Theory

This hypothesis was first supported by US President Dwight D. Eisenhower's press conference on April 7, 1954. He described the "falling domino concept" that guides US foreign policy (Leeson, P.T., Sobel, R.S., & Dean, A.M., 2012). During the Cold War, the United States' global containment strategy created the premise that the defeat of the United States and its allies in one part of the world would have negative consequences for Western interests in another (Sabrosky, A.N., 1976). A political occasion in the single USA triggers a comparable occasion in the neighboring USA in keeping with the domino principle. It's like a line of falling dominoes: if one falls, the others will fall with it; if one remains up, the others won't (Lazear, EP 2011). In current history, the domino principle is broadly diagnosed because of the maximum broadly used version of geopolitical determination. The important characteristic of the principle is that it's far primarily based totally on geography and measures spatial connectivity (Leeson, PT, & Dean, AM 2009; Lazear, EP 2011).

Clash of Civilizations (CoC)

Theory Samuel Huntington has proposed the clash of civilizations thesis, arguing that the conflict between Muslim and European civilizations dates to the Muslim invasion of Spain in AD 711, and that "Islamic and European civilizations fought from the 11th in the thirteenth century". The Crusades tried to bring Christianity and Christian sovereignty to the Holy Land but were unsuccessful. The

Ottoman Turks scaled from the 14th to the 17th centuries by extending their control to the Middle East and the Balkans, capturing Constantinople, and besieging Vienna twice. "The interaction between Islam and the West is perceived as a battle of civilizations on both sides," he asserts (Huntington, S.P., 1993). The hypotheses within the scope of this study are the best explanations of the circumstance, and they are all interconnected and cannot be separated. The behavior of individuals and groups participating in protests is explained by behavioral theories. The domino theory explains how the protests spread from country to country, while the clash of civilizations theory better reflects the conflict between the Islamic State and the United States and its allies, as well as the influx of refugees into Europe.

CLASSIFICATIONS OF US POLICY OBJECTIVES IN THE REGION

In the subsequent lines, modifications in US policy (within side the Middle East) are tested within side the mild of US strategic objectives.

Counter-Terrorism Policy

The United States (USA) has made counterterrorism a top priority when covering the Middle East since the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen have gained international recognition for their counter-terrorism cooperation, and the United States has improved relations with countries that have been neglected, such as Algeria. The George W. Bush and Barack Obama administrations have greatly benefited Saudi Arabia and other stable Gulf states. The Bush and Obama administrations fought to ban the financing of terrorism and jihadist movements (Rudner, 2004). The Bush management evolved a National Counterterrorism Strategy in February 2003 to fight terrorism across the world. The complete plan consists of techniques to overwhelm fear-primarily totally based oppressors and their gatherings, decrease the social and monetary situations exploited by terrorists, and make a sure men or women and public protection within side the United States at domestic and abroad (National Strategy for combat towards terrorism, 2003). The United States launched an attack on Iraq on March 19, 2003,

overthrowing the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein. The Bush administration has charged the Iraqi government with human rights violations, possession of weapons of mass destruction and concealment of terrorists. US officials also declared the Iraqi dictatorship a threat to the security and stability of the entire Middle East (Despoil, 2015).

In August-September 2014, the United States formed a global alliance to combat ISIS and terrorism. On September 23, 2014, several countries, including the United States and several Arab countries (Bahrain, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates) launched airstrikes on Islamic State (IS) strongholds in Syria. It undermines “the ability of an attacking group to request, train, and resupply fighters” (Fantz & Pearson, 2015). The United States can access sensitive information through cooperation, local authorities use agents and resources to track down and destroy terrorists in their homes, and in the case of Yemen, physical access is possible. Through drone strikes, Saudi Arabia thwarted AQAP's attempts to blow up US aircraft in 2010, and a joint US-US operation against the group in 2011 thwarted similar plans (Dreazen, 2012).

In the Middle East, Hamas and Hezbollah are famous militant corporations that still play a significant political role. Both are anti-American, however in contrast to al-Qaeda, nor are making plans for assaults on Americans. The war on terror regularly contributes to strengthening democracy. Indeed, as the examples of Hamas and Hezbollah show, the United States is working with its allies to fight terrorism, strengthening its intelligence companies. This is usually the most democratic element in authoritarian administrations (Mueller and Stewart, 2012). Al-Qaeda's weakness is further demonstrated by the group's lack of recent major attacks. In this discussion, the subject is whether al-Qaeda's vulnerability is partly due to a sustained US counterterrorism effort or whether it is mostly unaffected by US action. It also depends on whether al-Qaeda-linked groups are considered part of a mainstream movement and thus a threat to US interests, or whether they are grassroots organizations that pose only indirect threats in nature (Byman, 2012). ISIL, a brand-new jihadist company that sees Kurds as ideological combatants in addition to competition for territory and resources, released the main attack on

Syrian Kurds within side the first 1/2 of 2014. The PYD`s navy wing, the YPG, started to resolutely protect the Kurdish cities and villages for the primary time, and he emerged as a greater powerful participant at the floor than his Iraqi Kurdish counterparts, the Peshmerga (Gunes et al., 2015). Giving weapons and training to the Syrian-Kurdish conflict following the Syrian war has genuinely mounted a brand new dynamic within side the vicinity. ISIL struck Kobani for the second time on September 13, 2014, signaling the give-up of the Kurdish presence within side the vicinity of terrorists. The YPG observed itself in a tough situation after losing many areas at the beginning of the conflict (Despoil, 2015).

The rise of ISIL was one of the main causes affecting the political landscape (in the Middle East) of the region, thanks to an international coalition, the Kurds quickly took advantage of the siege of Kobani. Indeed, the United States was the first to launch airstrikes against terrorists, leading to wide spread media coverage of the Cobain struggle and the Kurdish cause. It also continued to demonstrate productive USPYD/YPG cooperation to the world despite Turkish opposition. With US help, the Kurds were able to defeat ISIS and gain control of most of the Syrian-Turkish border. The United States, PYD/YPG, Peshmerga, and the Free Syrian Army (FSA) worked together in Kobane to expose international support for the Kurdish cause. Due to its battlefield earnings toward ISIL, the fame of the PYD as an expert associate of the United States has increased, enhancing the credibility of the YPG (Plakoudas, 2017).

The US post-Sep 11 democracy-constructing program, primarily based totally on the idea that it may defeat terrorism, turned into unsuitable for lots of reasons. It related Western pastimes to the democratization of the Middle East and, therefore, it instrumentalized democracy, weakening religion within side the idea and exercise of democracy. As a result, as soon as it became clear that democratization turned into not favorable to Western pastimes, democratic assistance faded. The first and maximum vital lesson of the post-Sep 11 generations is that democracy ought to be advanced for its personal stake in addition to according to global requirements and popular values. During Obama`s presidency, there was a wonderful

improvement within side the specific affiliation of democracy with US security, as evidenced via way of means of sturdy conflicts among the dedication to assist current USA allies, and the forces that threaten to brush them away - as we noticed within side the Arab Spring revolutions of 2011. Finally, President Obama tried to clean up his own house before calling for democracy in other countries, although his efforts had mixed results (Dalacoura, 2012). To sum up this aspect of USA policy in the Middle East (ME), the US has become increasingly active in the war on terror since the 9/11 attacks. Old friends like Egypt and Jordan have seen their counter-terror tactics strengthened, and the US has pushed for closer ties with previously neglected or hostile countries like Yemen, and Libya. A famous example is, of course, an American invasion of Iraq in 2003, which sparked an insurrection and kept the United States in the country until the end of 2011. The Arab Spring shook the region, overthrowing the old ones allies of the United States in Egypt and Tunisia, Yemen, and sparking civil wars in several countries, including Syria, as US troops left Iraq. Despite the Obama administration's opposition to a large-scale US military engagement in the region, airstrikes against Islamic State of Iraq militants began in 2014.

Regional Stability Policy

The USA has a protracted record within side the Middle East (ME), and because of giving up on the Cold War, its effect has the handiest grown. The oil reserves of the region, at the side of different communist-leaning governments, functioned as a checkerboard between the US and the Soviet Union at some stage in the Cold War. To confront Saddam Hussein's Iraq and Iran's spiritual regime, the US multiplied its army presence within side the place within side the 1990s. Despite being ordinarily ineffective, Washington changed into energetic and incessant in its efforts to carry Israel and its Arab associates nearer together (Byman and Moller, 2016). With the giving up of the Cold War and the breakup of

the Soviet Union, the US entered a brand-new technology within side the Middle East. Surprisingly, all of it began with a fight. After Iraq's war on oil-wealthy Kuwait in early August 1990, the US replied speedily via way of means of becoming a member of a US-led army alliance and growing strain on Iraq to withdraw. The United States waged a four-day siege marketing campaign in December 1998, seven years after the assault, to lessen Iraq's capacity to create and use guns of mass destruction and empower it to conform to UN Security Council resolutions.

The subsequent most important US presence within side the district changed into an assault on Afghanistan, following the terrorist assaults within side the United States on September 11, 2001, and accusations that Afghanistan had aided the oppressors primarily based totally on the worry who perpetrated the assaults. A few years later, the United States took part in the 2003 invasion of Iraq, the fiercest war of the 21st century. The struggle in Iraq has never denied American influence or contribution in the Middle East. Instead, the war introduced an entirely new technology to U.S. foreign coverage outside of the Middle East, along with direct movements of troops towards ISIS in Iraq and Syria, in addition to diplomatic cooperation with the United States. Iran and the various international positions in it (Brands, 02016). While many criticized President Bush's neoconservative ideas for the war in Iraq, others predicted that his successor, Barack Obama, would pursue a different strategy in the region. As a presidential candidate, Obama said Obama's doctrine was "autonomous" like Bush's, leading to divisive notions of unilateralism and immunity from prosecution. He has been active on the platform of 'mutual peace' and 'common prosperity' with other countries. He also promised to end the political and fear-based thinking that has plunged the United States into a series of conflicts and wars worldwide (Ackerman, 2008).

Obama began out emphasizing the want for a brand-new generation of overseas coverage in the direction of the Middle East (ME), and the Muslim international at some stage in his first day as president. As a part of that effort, the

president made his first go to Turkey, one of the maximum effective states within side the area and an established pal of the United States. In a speech to Egyptian parliamentarians and ladies quickly after leaving Turkey, President Obama promised a `new start' in America's overseas coverage in the direction of the area (Holzman, 2009). Given this disparity, it's miles herbal to marvel whether President Obama's overseas coverage will observe within side the footsteps of President Bush's. Indeed, given the ever-converting nature of U.S. overseas coverage, the greater its miles studied, the greater correct and distinct one's knowledge of overseas coverage styles and behaviors as they influence extrude and coherence within side the field. Over time. Collinson is a famous author (Collinson, 2014). President Donald Trump announced his withdrawal from the JCPOA in May 2018, just weeks after he authorized airstrikes on Syrian regime targets in the Ghouta region near Damascus in response to deliberate chemical arsenals attack on (civilians). This was the latest in a series of chemical weapons attacks (US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley estimates at least 50), but it is the first time in eight years that the US government has taken such action against the Syrian conflict. While President Barack Obama declared using chemical guns a "crimson line" in 2012, America had formerly refused to heed the warning, best to achieve this time. This tactic has hampered any feeling of predictability in American overseas policy, as become the case with the Iran nuclear deal, wherein America reacted in a different way to comparable situations over the direction of some months (Quero & Dess, 2019).

A Policy of Containment Against Iran's Expansion in the Region.

Some measures, such as tariffs, are a priority in US foreign policy, while others are considered to vary degrees. Several governments have discussed continuing limited cooperation with Iran or seeking significant changes in US-Iran relations. As Secretary of State Pompeo said in his May 21, 2018, speech, President

Trump has publicly called for contact with Iranian leaders, and the administration has made specific calls for significant changes in US-Iran relations. Iran. Many demands threaten Iran's revolutionary national security program, and Iran will not follow suit. Direct dialogue between the two governments has repeatedly failed. In December 2018, President Rouhani called for the United States to hold 'indirect' talks with Iran eight times in 2017, three in 2018 and three in 2018. Iran declined the invitation. (Museveni, 2018). Rouhani and other Iranian officials said they would not negotiate with the Trump administration until sanctions imposed after Trump withdrew from the JCPOA were lifted. In support of US objectives, many countries have threatened, either directly or indirectly, their military power against Iran. Prior to the JCPOA, advocates of unilateral action against Iran argued that this would prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons (Rogers, 2006).

The USA remains a major power in the region because of its alliances and military presence, but the debate over what to expect in terms of the transfer of power should not be limited to the United States. United. This is due to several factors. First, Russia's intervention in Syria in 2015 reaffirmed that Russia is the strongest foreign state in the region. Second, the United States, led by President Trump, withdrew its support for the Syrian rebels in May 2017, violating the nuclear deal with Iran (JCPOA) and relinquishing power. These actions have strengthened the view that the United States is a dangerous and insecure country in the region (Harrison, 2018).

The Policy is Aimed at Reinforcing Hegemonic Conceptions in the Region.

As a regional power in the Western Hemisphere, the main goal of the United States is to prevent the spread of regional hegemony or domination of the hemisphere in other regions. The United States has succeeded in achieving this diplomatic goal by implementing the Korea Maritime Balance Plan (Mearsheimer, 2001). The United States has

always been committed to maintaining global hegemony, maintaining peace, supporting allies, conserving energy resources, limiting the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, combating terrorist groups, and more recently, promoting democracy as an important factor. Since the end of the Cold War, the United States has intensified its efforts to gain or maintain global influence. The Middle East is one of the most unstable regions in the world for a number of reasons, and the United States regards peace and prosperity in the region as one of its top priorities (Shukri, 2017). Placing many players with different advantages simplifies the redistribution strategy (i.e. without directly attacking the attackers).

The more participants there are, the less likely local governments will co-ordinate, making it easier for the US to find local governments to respond to an aggressive state. On two occasions, the United States has favored the redistribution of responsibilities, for example by protecting American military force while degrading the military capabilities of hostile countries. The method of shifting blame can be risky since the aggressor can interrupt the buck hunter and gain enough leverage to tip the balance of power (Mearsheimer, 2001). Michael Beckley (2018) defines energy as an aggregate of military, financial and political variables. If a political energy event, inclusive of a civil struggle fair, occurs, the hegemon will hire a double containment method to lengthen the war and save you the emergence of a victor. The twin containment technique used within side the Iran-Iraq struggle fare is one of the clearest examples of heading off the downsides of redistributing duties. The essential cause for the United States` dependence on the method of the redistribution of duties is its geographical location. The extra space between the competing first-rate powers and the herbal obstacles that separate them, the more likely they're to depend upon an obligation to hold the rival below control. Because the hegemon will govern the aggressor from the front traces if the aggressor chooses to assault first (Toft, 2005).

Since 2003, the 2 major international locations of the

Gulf region, Saudi Arabia, and Iran, had been embroiled in a hegemonic conflict for strength and influence. The animosity grew with the Arab Spring in 2011 and the rapprochement among Iran and Western supporters of Saudi Arabia, which culminated within side the JCPOA in July 2015. The meeting heightened Riyadh's strategic anxiety, which stems from the U.S.'s abandonment of Egypt's longtime friend Hosni Mubarak amid a parallel process of international rehabilitation of the country. Iran. As a result, under Ahmadinejad's presidency, the United States stopped demonizing Iran (Fathollah-Nejad, 2017). If the handover approach fails, the United States has three options: diplomatic warnings, forging an anti-aggressive alliance, or using its own economic and military capabilities. To avoid a direct conflict with the attacker, he will combine direct mixing with the responsibility transfer method in certain scenarios (Prifti, 2017).

An extrude withinside the US technique to the Middle East is lengthy overdue. Although massive army involvement within side the location can also additionally have appeared as the precise reaction following the terrible activities of 9/11, the subsequent years have validated that America can't remodel the location through force. Neither US efforts nor predominant army deployments have stepped forward the stableness of the location or the safety of the United States. Instead, US coverage of the Middle East too often backfired. Maintaining a positional advantage does not lead to higher long-term results. On the other hand, more passive techniques for managing America's strategic orientation may be more effective. The time has come for a large-scale withdrawal of U.S. forces from the Middle East (Ashford, 2018).

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The Middle East is the most critical place on earth because of its titanic herbal wealth, geographical significance, and spiritual significance. After the fall of the Ottoman Empire, the region was divided into numerous artificial states by the victors of the First World War. Western powers continued to exert de facto influence and power

over these countries. The flow of natural resources to the West was constant, and the elite was loyal to their masters, oppressed, and took advantage of the people. Although the system has been in operation for a long time, the public has been disappointed that it has given up fundamental human rights, such as human dignity, freedom of the press, and freedom of movement. Although the system has been in operation for a long time, the public has been upset by the denial of fundamental human rights, such as human dignity, freedom of the press, and freedom of movement.

When Barack Obama was elected President of the United States, he promised to make a difference in the Middle East. In some countries, the change was only a reorganization of the system, while others maintained the status quo, with only a change of face. The discontent of the masses was exploited by Western elites, who used the media to propagate rebellion in specific countries. Even though Arabs want Islam to guide their political affairs, the revolution has been presented as a democratic battle. Some religious groups, such as the Ikhwan's, were allowed to participate in post-regime elections, but in a Western-organized coup, the elected president was ousted and imprisoned. Whenever Western interests were threatened, such as in Iraq, post-Mubarak Egypt, and Syria, uprisings were suppressed with iron fists. Similarly, in Iraq and Syria, Russian and American forces collaborated against the Islamic State and did not interfere in each other's interests. While portraying each other as bitter enemies, the United States and Iran have stuck together in Iraq and Syria in their efforts to overthrow the Islamic State from power. NATO intervened against Gaddafi with the support of Qatar, leaving the country in disarray and civil war. World powers have staged all the games to change the regime and retain Western supremacy in the region. When the government was in session in many countries.

After the end of the First and Second World Wars, the British, and then the United States, controlled the politics of the world system. In the first half of the 20th century, new political maps and borders for the Middle East were constructed in accordance with British foreign policy. British national interests drew a map with ethnic and arbitrary borders, resulting in fictitious bogus states. The new states created by the British faced many obstacles and the new political map contains various inconsistencies. Because state formation was not built on real

foundations, many political crises and wars broke out in the second half of the 20th century. Societies in the region were divided and separated because of the new state system. Many authoritarian governments have formed in these places, and these autocratic rulers have neglected or denied the inherent necessities of free speech, freedom, political openness, distribution of power, and public support for decision-making governmental.

When control of the region was transferred from Britain to the United States in 1971, a new scenario focused on American interests in the region arose. The United States ruled the Middle East to protect the region's national game, using the protection of local oil resources to complete the Arab Israeli peace process. The United States supported the fame quo, which preferred authoritarian regimes over the location's aspirations for freedom and democracy. The first goal turned into completed via navy presence and guide for totalitarian regimes. Middle Eastern autocrats had been in the strength and supported with the aid of using the USA, proscribing political freedom, and stopping the introduction of an extensive mission to American domination. The first Gulf War, which started in 1990, gave the USA the possibility to increase navy outposts within side the location with the intention to steady the location's electricity supply. Military bases were used to hold nearby peace and shield American pastimes within side the location. The navy may also be used to hold the steadiness of US-mounted governments and to take away everybody who threatens statuary. Technical modifications had been additionally made because of the energy of the army. Terrorist corporations were withdrawn from their captured territories and reform within side the location is sort of complete, so there may be no actual risk to US rules within side the location.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- In the context of a friendlier Arab environment, the U.S. should expand on the normalization deal between the UAE and Israel by attempting to resurrect discussions between Israel and Palestine towards a two-state solution.
- The United States should collaborate with allies to mend the rift between Turkey and its allies, such as Saudi Arabia, as well as inside the GCC.

- In general, the United States should keep up its engagement and alliances in the area, offer humanitarian aid, promote investment, economic reform, and development, and advocate for social and political change.
- There is a chance to take advantage of the leverage that the Trump administration is offering to pursue more extensive talks with Iran. These talks could cover topics such as reducing its missile program and reducing its regional interventions, as well as reviewing the JCPOA and possibly adding new, stronger protocols. Biden administration ought to follow suit. All of this is necessary, but it won't be simple. The five main U.S. interests in the Middle East are affected by the ongoing confrontation with Iran.
- Talk to Iran about the extent of its ballistic missile arsenal and its involvement in the region; have a solid plan of action available, including rewards and penalties.
- The United States should try to persuade Iran that pursuing an ideology foreign policy rather than concrete national interests will benefit an uneasy Iranian populace.
- In the end, the Iranian people support America, and Washington should make it a top priority to keep Iran from falling under the influence of China and Russia for another century.
- To coordinate policy on regional challenges, including as Iranian expansionism and the wars in Yemen, Syria, and Libya, seriously engage in communication with the GCC states.
- Reaffirm that the United States would continue to have close political, economic, and security ties with the GCC states and address concerns about the country's waning interest in the area, while partners in the Gulf should continue to carry out their due share of responsibility.
- Include preparing for and tackling important regional challenges like climate change, population expansion, diversification, calls for increased public involvement in decision-making, and adjusting for changes in the economy and energy demand globally on the agenda when working with the GCC states.
- Help Iraq obtain funds from foreign donors to address its economic problems, provided that the country's legislative and executive branches implement significant economic changes.

- Determine how American civil society organizations may support demonstrators in their battle against corruption and in advancing accountability and responsible governance.
- Locate Iraqi armed organizations implicated in human rights abuses, make that U.S. law prohibits them from receiving aid, and collaborate with European partners to prevent the leaders of these groups from entering EU capitals or from using EU resources.
- Identify areas, such as financial reforms and aid in the education and technology sectors, where the United States has a competitive edge over Iran and where Iraq needs help.
- Continue providing funds to Iraq so that it may work with foreign organizations to solve the problem of internal displacement.
- Stop associating Netanyahu and the Israeli right wing with the present U.S. administration. In addition to becoming the longest-serving Israeli Prime minister, Netanyahu is also facing protracted legal processes and has gained significant controversy both inside and outside of Israel.
- As seen by the cancellation of the unilateral annexation proposal, the U.S. now has a chance to interact with a wider swath of the Israeli political spectrum and further its diverse long-term interests through the newly constituted national unity government.
- Keep up the resistance to any unilateral actions by Israel towards annexation in the West Bank that are intended to eliminate the possibility of a two-state solution.
- Foster fresh leaderships in Israel and Palestine that support democracy and the United States.
- Cooperate with the Lebanese government and army to protect the nation's borders, uphold security along the Israel-Lebanon border, and encourage efforts to define the sea border.
- Assist the UN in obtaining additional political agreement. A political accord might serve as the foundation for the political, economic, and security frameworks necessary for Libya to stabilize. To truly assist the UN process, the United States should take on the role of convener rather than just participant.
- Reiterating the terms of reference for an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal that are recognized globally, particularly UNSCR 242, which

codifies the "land for peace" formula that has supported the peace process for more than 50 years.

- Announcing support for the construction of a Palestinian capital in East Jerusalem and clarifying that the proclamation only applies to West Jerusalem in a follow-up to the U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.
- Put pressure on Israel to significantly reduce the blockade of Gaza to normalize the flow of persons and products into and out of the Gaza Strip and to bring Israeli import restrictions for Gaza into line with those of the West Bank. Israel has been continuously violating the global norms by attacking hospitals, community spaces, religious and cultural centers (Ahmed, S., 2024).
- Promote the creation of a new architecture for the peace process, which can take the place of the outmoded Oslo process and the defunct Quartet (e.g., involving major powers as well as regional players like Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Turkey). This new architecture would oversee proposing a new peace plan and setting deadlines and standards for the end of the Israeli occupation.
- Continue having frank bilateral discussions on regional matters of concern with Saudi officials to foster consensus on issues of common interest, such as finding a solution to the problems in Yemen and the Gulf Cooperation Council.
- Collaborate with Russia and Ankara to complete a security agreement that would see the withdrawal of all American personnel after the Syrian government and its Russian allies regain control of eastern Syria and take control of areas and oilfields rather than ISIS.
- Take the lead in the continued efforts of the international community to eradicate the underlying causes of violent extremism and to strengthen Yemen's social, political, and economic institutions. Give the UN special envoy more authority to express that the United States will act favorably if Iran assists in resolving the crisis.

CONCLUSION

For the maximum of the 20th century, or even into the twenty-first century, the US has had global dreams and an international presence. By deploying political, economic, and navy pressure to gain

its country-wide dreams, the US has installed itself as a main participant within side the region. The Middle East (ME) has been the main consciousness of USA overseas coverage because of World War II, and its significance has grown because of international, geographic, and political constraints.

The Arab Spring is a Middle Eastern phenomenon that has unfolded for the duration of the location, and the year 2011 turned into a turning factor in history, influencing US overseas coverage within side the Middle East (ME). He challenged the political energy of the modern-day regimes in lots of Middle Eastern international locations in a single manner or another; it has additionally ruled inner political discourse in international locations in which the Arab Spring has now no longer picked up speed. A brief look at the political geography of the Arab international well-known shows that the political kind of the location has expanded considerably.

Until the Arab Spring, the maximum of the differences among political structures within side the Middle East had been their diploma of autocracy. Currently, however, there are sorts of states: authoritarian and transitional states, in addition to solid and volatile states (Beck & Huser, 2012). US overseas coverage in the Middle East (ME) has more closely blended with major international powers over the next 40 years. Rather than stabilizing its position, the US overseas front has built a structure that allows the US to remain as an outsider intruder. As a result, the US navy and diplomatic moves within side the vicinity has harmed each US countrywide hobbies and the protection of solid worldwide stability of power. Constructive engagement between the USA and Iran has established that a practical method to a battle decision this is loose from partisanship isn't always the handiest possible, however, also can sign a shift in U.S. overseas coverage within side the vicinity. According to Paul Pillar, a ruin within side the everlasting attachment or the remoteness of the international locations of the vicinity should permit an offshore balancing plan (Prifti, 2005). It is like pitting one aspect in opposition to the opposite in an opposition wherein the USA makes use of it to influence the restriction of ethnic hopes and growth. An extra sensible US overseas coverage, which ambitions to tip the scales from

afar instead of guard its personal hobbies in local crises, will nearly absolutely bring about a power-sharing agreement (Kaussler & Hastedt, 2017). The United States has intensified its efforts to advantage or keep its worldwide had an effect because of the stop of the Cold War.

The Middle East is diagnosed as one of the maximum risky areas within side the globe for a mess of reasons. The United States` pinnacle precedence is to make certain balance and prosperity within side the Middle East. The combat in opposition to terrorist corporations within side the Middle East has been one of the maximum vital pillars of the American approach within side the twenty-first century, particularly after 9/11, while President Bush declared a "worldwide struggle are on terrorism" in response to the terrorist attack (Shukri, 2017). Accordingly, the study's findings display that unrest, local conflicts, and underdevelopment within side the Middle East have harmed the economy, countrywide security, and U.S. diplomatic hobbies within side the vicinity. US overseas coverage dreams within side the Middle East consist of retaining sturdy ties with pals and expertise in the character of differences.

REFERENCES

- Abdul Fattah, B. (2014). Iranian foreign policy in the time of regional transformations, *Arab Affairs*, 158, 134-146.
- Ackerman, S. (2008). The Obama Doctrine. *The American Prospect*. Retrieved January 10, 2015. Retrieved from: <http://prospect.org/article/obamadoctrine>.
- Ahmed, S., (2024), International Law and War Crimes in Palestine and Kashmir. *The Daily Express Tribue*, January 22, 2024.
- Al Sarhan, A. S. (2017). United States Foreign Policy and the Middle East. *Open Journal of Political Science*, 7, 454-472.
- Ashford, E. (2018). Unbalanced: Rethinking America's Commitment to the Middle East. *Strategic Studies Quarterly*, 12(1), 127-148.
- Badawi, T. (2018). The US Sanctions Report Again: Influences and Limits of Iranian Economic Resilience, Al Jazeera Center for Studies, Doha.
- Beck, M., & Hauser, S. (2012). Political Change in the Middle East: An Attempt to Analyze the 'Arab Spring'.

- Brands, H. (2016). Rethinking America's grand strategy: Insights from the Cold War. *Parameters*, 45(4), 7–16.
- Byman, D. Moller, S. B., (2016). The United States and the Middle East: Interests, Risks, and Costs. J. Suri, & B. Valentino, *Sustainable Security: Rethinking American National Security Strategy*, pp.263-309.
- Byman, D.L., (2012). Breaking the bonds between Al-Qaeda and its affiliate organizations. Brookings Institution.
- Byman, Daniel. (2015). Six Bad Options for Syria. *The Washington Quarterly*.
- Castiglioni, C. (2013), Obama's policy toward Iran: comparing first and second term, Analysis No. 220, December, Italian Institute for international Political studies (ISIL), Milano.
- Chomsky, N. (2005). Imperial presidency. *Canadian Dimension*, 39, 1–12.
- Collinson, S. (2014). Obama Sends 1,500 Troops in Iraq. CNN.com. Retrieved April 10, 2015, from: <http://www.cnn.com/2014/11/07/politics/obamasendstropstoiraq/index.html?c=homepage-t>.
- DeGennaro, P. & Canna, S. (2017). Evolution of US Foreign Policy in Middle East. [Online]. [20 April 2021]. Available from: <https://nsiteam.com/evolution-of-us-foreign-policy-in-middle-east/>
- Delacour, K. (2012). Democracy as counterterrorism in the Middle East: A red herring? *Uluslararası İlişkiler/International Relations*, 101-114.
- Fantz, A. and Pearson, M., 2 of Defense in what in the coalition battle against ISIS.CNN (October 9, 2014), <http://www.cnn.com> (Retrieved July 3, 2015) and US Department of Defense, "Operation Inherent Resolve: Targeted Operations against ISIL Terrorists", www.defense.gov. (Retrieved July 6, 2015).
- Farhani, A. and Qamadi, N. (2016), "The Iranian nuclear agreement and its implications for American relations", Master Dissertation, Faculty of Law and Political Science, Tebsi University.
- Fathollah-Nejad, A. (2017). The Iranian–Saudi Hegemonic Rivalry. *Iran Matters*, 25.
- Habashneh, S. (2008), "Determinants of Iranian foreign policy towards the UnitedStatesofAmerica1979–2007", *Mut'ah Journal for Research and Studies*, 23(5), 9-54.
- Harrison, R. (2018). Shifts in the Middle East balance of power: An historical perspective. *Al Jazeera Centre for Studies*.

- Harvey, D. (2010). The enigma of capital and the crises of capitalism.
- Holzman, T. (2009, June4). Obama seeks 'New Beginning' with Muslim world. National Public Radio (NPR). Retrieved May 15, 2015, from: <http://www.nprorg/templates/story/story.php?storyId=104891406>
- John Mueller and Mark Stewart, The Terrorism Delusion: America's Over wrought Response to September 11, International Security (Summer 2012).
- Katzman, K., (2019). Iran: Internal politics and US Policy and options. CRS Reports RL32048. Washington, DC: Congressional Research Service.
- Kaussler, B., (2017). US Foreign Policy towards the Middle East. [S.l.]: ROUTLEDGE.
- Litwak, R.S., (2012). Dealing with the Iranian Nuclear Challenge. London, D. (2020, July 6). Rethinking us counterterrorism strategy. Middle East Institute. Retrieved February 10, 2022, from: <https://www.mei.edu/publications/rethinking-us-counterterrorism-strategy>
- Martin Rudner, (2004). Hunters and Gatherers: The Intelligence Coalition against Islamic Terrorism, *International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence*, 17, 217.
- Mearsheimer, J. M. (2001). The tragedy of great power politics. New York:
- Michael Beckley. (2018). The Power of Nations: Measuring What Matters. *International Security*, 43(2): 7–44.
- Mousavian, S.H. and Mousavian, M.M., (2018). Building on the Iran nuclear deal for international peace and security. *Journal for Peace and Nuclear Disarmament*, 1(1), 169-192.
- National Strategy for Combating Terrorism, (2003). <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/60172.pdf> New York: Oxford University Press.
- Nünlist, C. (2016). The legacy of Obama's Foreign policy. *CSS Analyses in Security Policy*, 188.
- Prifti, B., (2017). US Foreign Policy in the Middle East: The Case for Continuity.
- Quero, J. Dessì, A., (2019). Unpredictability in US foreign policy and the regional order in the Middle East: reacting vis-à-vis a volatile external security- provider. *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*.
- Rogers, P., (2006). Iran: Consequences of a war (p.12). Oxford: Oxford Research Group.

- Shukri, Nawzad Abdullah (2017): Explaining U.S. Foreign Policy towards Kurdistan Region of Iraq (2003-2015). University of Leicester. Thesis. <https://hdl.handle.net/2381/39353>
- Surratt, R. (2000). *The Middle East* (9th ed., p. 4). Washington DC: Congressional Quarterly Press.
- Toft, P. (2005). John J. Mearsheimer: An offensive realist between geopolitics and power. *Journal of International Relations and Development*, 8, 381–408.
- Yochi J. Dreazen. (2012). Foiled Bomb Plot Highlights Growing CIA-Saudi Arabian Ties. *The National Journal*, May 9, 2012; News Report: Would-be Bomber was a Double-Agent, CNN, May 8, 2012.
- Zoueiri, M. and Suleiman, F. (2018). “US withdrawal from the Iranian nuclear agreement: Implications and prospects”, *Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, 85.
-