

The US Role In Middle Eastern Region Under President Trump Administration

Dr. Adnan Nawaz¹, Dr. Muhammad Imran², Anza Amanullah³, Marwa Riaz⁴, Sabahat Urooj⁵, Ziarat Ali⁶

Abstract

This study aims to analyze the US role in the Middle Eastern politics under Trump Administration that has always been important and challenging region in its foreign policy. Since the beginning of 20th century, the US became increasingly interested in the region because of its energy resources. Donald Trump, known for his outspoken nature and controversial statements, made significant changes in the US foreign policy including recognition of Jerusalem as capital of Israel, withdrawal from Iran nuclear deal which served as a pillar in the US foreign policy under President Obama, shift towards bilateralism and transactional diplomacy, military disengagement and troops withdrawal from various war zones and normalization of relations among Arab states. Through qualitative research design, textual and documentary analysis, the results of the study show that in order to develop strategies that are both effective and long-lasting in addressing complex geopolitical challenges in the region, policymakers should effectively tackle fundamental instability, promote inclusive peace processes, safeguard democratic values, human rights and deliver humanitarian aid to the aggrieved communities.

Keywords: Donald Trump, the US Foreign Policy, the Middle East, Transactional Diplomacy, Military Disengagement, Geopolitical Challenges, Inclusive Peace etc.

Introduction

The Middle East is a vast and diversified transcontinental territory that spans North-Eastern Africa and western Asia. The Middle East is not a continent, but rather a geographical area. This word was first used by British India in the mid-19th century, and it eventually replaced the term "Near East" in the early twentieth century. Iran, Iraq, Syria, Turkey, Cyprus, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Egypt, Yemen, Lebanon, Israel, Palestine, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia are among the minor and large countries in the Middle East (Badeau, 1958). Saudi Arabia is the largest country by size, and Bahrain is the smallest. To the west, the Mediterranean Sea is bounded by Turkey, Cyprus, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Gaza Strip of Palestine, and Egypt. To the south-west, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen border the Red Sea. Oman is the only country bordering the Arabia Sea to the southeast. The Middle Eastern population comprises three major religions Islam, Christianity, and Judaism. Among them, Judaism was first, and it is still practised by Jewish people in Israel; Christianity came second, accounting for 10%-15% of the Middle Eastern

¹Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations, Government College University Faisalabad, Faisalabad, Pakistan.

²Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Emerson University, Multan.

³MPhil Scholar, Department of International Relations, Government College University, Faisalabad.

⁴MPhil Scholar, Department of International Relations, Government College University, Faisalabad.

⁵MPhil Scholar, Department of International Relations, Government College University, Faisalabad.

⁶MPhil Scholar, Department of International Relations, Government College University, Faisalabad.

Corresponding Author: Dr. Muhammad Imran

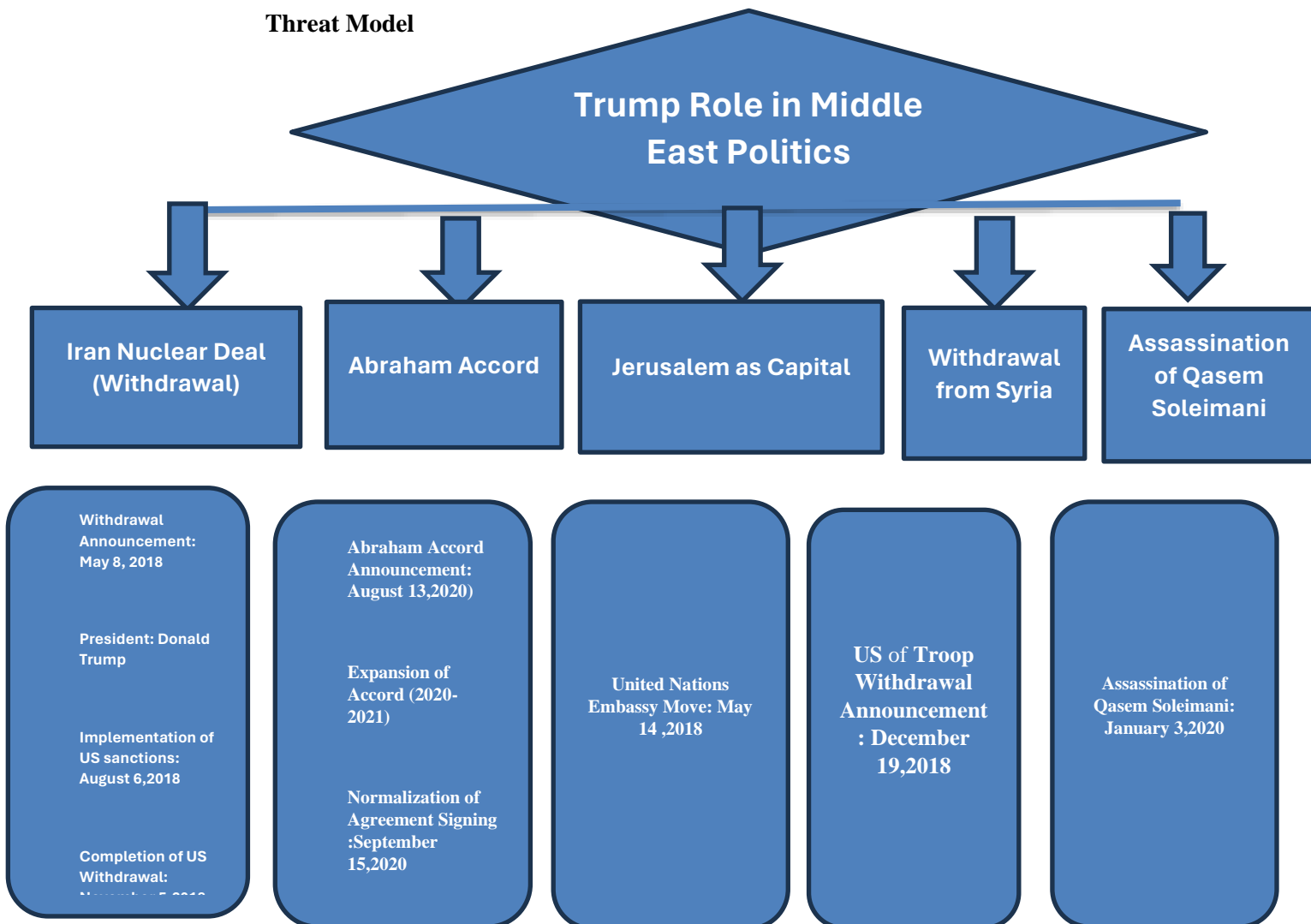
population; Islam dominates the region, and the world's largest Muslim population is mostly concentrated here (Freedman, 2017). The Middle Eastern economy is mostly built on the region's crude oil production. Most nations bordering the Persian Gulf have substantial crude oil, including Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Iran, Iraq, and Yemen. All of these nations, excluding Iran, Iraq, and Yemen, are members of the GCC. The Gulf Cooperation Council, or GCC, is a regional intergovernmental political and economic union. It has its headquarters in Saudi Arabia. All current members of the GCC are Arab State Monarchs. Qatar, Kuwait, and Bahrain are constitutional monarchy. Saudi Arabia and Oman are absolute monarchs, whereas the UAE is a federal monarchy. The Middle East has not been an easy place; the region has long been plagued by Islamic extremism, political instability, falling oil prices, and sectarian conflict. Since the Arab Spring, most governments in the area have become unstable, and each has formed alliances with other foreign states (Dickinson, 1983). As a result, too many global powers are actively involved in maintaining the regional balance of power. These global powers have their own interests in the region because any kind of turmoil in the Middle East, especially in the oil producing countries, could lead to a gas and oil crisis, which would have an effect on the entire world, as seen during the Gulf War. Countries in the Middle East are the largest producers and exporters of oil in OPEC. OPEC stands for Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. It is a 13-country intergovernmental organization created in Baghdad by Iran initial five members were there Iran ,Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela have its headquarters in Vienna since 1965. The Middle East area is critical to the global economy because of the vast volume of oil and gas that flows through it. Saudi Arabia has the world's second-largest oil reserves, and it is the leading oil exporter and producer. Saudi Arabia generally exports crude oil across the Strait of Hormuz, but it also possesses an alternate pipeline route known as the "Petroline" or East-West pipeline. This 1170-kilometer project is critical infrastructure for transporting Saudi oil from the east to the west at the port of Yanbu on the Red Sea, where it will be exported to Europe and North America via the Suez Canal. The Suez Canal and the SUMED pipeline are the primary routes for transporting oil and natural gas to Europe and North Africa.

Middle East has always been important and challenging region in American foreign policy. Beginning in the early 20th century, due to the discovery of vast oil reserves the United States became increasingly interested in the region. American companies names as Standard Oil expanded their operation, developing economic ties with various countries in the region. During Cold War era from 1945-1991, the United States top priority was countering the spread of Soviet influence globally. In the Middle East the US started forming strategic alliances with countries, notably US established strong ties with Iran under the rule Shah Mohammad Raza Pahlavi, considering the country as key regional ally (Salamé, 1994). On the other hand, Saudi Arabia emerged as crucial partner due to vast oil reserves and also shared opposition to Soviet expansion. But the formation of Israel and Arab-Israel conflict became a challenge for US policymakers. In this case US maintain a balanced approach involved in promoting peace initiatives , endorsing international resolutions, and also acknowledging the grievances of both Israeli people and even Palestinians. While on the other hand US became the staunch supporter of Israel supporting diplomatically and also providing military aid to Israel. In 1970s two big changes were observed First was oil embargo by OPEC (Magnus, 1976)countries on US due to Arab-Israel conflict and US involvement (1973). Second the biggest diplomatic achievement of President Jimmy Carter , Camp Accords of 1978 leading to normalization of relations between Israel and Egypt. One of the biggest event in the history of US was 9/11 attack which dramatically reshaped US relationship with Middle East. According to US sources the attack the was orchestrated by Al-Qaeda including many attackers from Middle Eastern states. In response to attack the US launched War on Terror in Afghanistan where Taliban provided shelter to Osama Bin Laden and his associates. Now due to this attack the shift in American foreign policy was observed it shifted its priorities towards combating terrorism and promoting stability other than intervention in Iraq or elsewhere. Throughout history

US foreign policy have evolved over time but generally revolve around 3 main points **1) Energy Security 2) Containment of adversaries 3) Support for Allies.**

Donald Trump the 45th Present of United States of America , known for his outspoken nature, controversial statements, often attracting attention through his bold eloquence and prolific use of social media platforms (Black, 2018). Donald Trump personality is a combination of confidence, self-assertiveness, and competitive spirit. Trump believes in unconventional approach of governance. When he became the president of USA people were curious how his style would influence American role in Middle East. Looking back to previous leadership Trump didn't follow the usual diplomatic playbook. Instead, he used the term " America First" means he prioritized what he saw best for United State above all else. During in office, he took daring actions and didn't hesitate to shake things up (Abrams, 2019). The significant key changes in American foreign policy under Trump reign include: **1) Recognition of Jerusalem as Israel Capital 2) Withdrawal from Iran Nuclear deal which served as a pillar in US foreign policy under President Obama 3) Shift Towards Bilateralism and Transactional Diplomacy 4) Military Disengagement and Troops Withdrawal 5) Normalization of Relations between Arab States and Israel.**

Threat Model



Theoretical Framework

Realism acts as a foundational and dominant theory in international relations, which posits that states act in their own self-interest and seek to maximize their power and security. US

engagement in Middle East under Trump administration can be analyzed through Realist lens, focusing on pursuit of strategic interest being shaped by power and security concerns. One of the major reason behind US involvement in Middle East is its reliance on Middle Eastern oil. Historically the US has been a major importer of oil from countries in Persian Gulf such as Saudi-Arabia , Kuwait , and Iraq. This dependency is driven to fuel American economy and ensuring energy security. Therefore, maintaining stability in Middle Eastern states especially in key oil producing countries is highly important for safeguarding American interest. Donald Trump administration policies in Middle East such as withdrawing from Iran nuclear deal and providing support to allies like Israel and Saudi-Arabia, can be interpreted through realist lens as efforts to maintain American dominance in the region. The decision to withdraw from Iran-Nuclear deal was driven by concerns about Iran regional motives and violation of agreement. Trump states that the deal was insufficient and failed to address other destabilizing activities such as support for proxy militias and ballistic missile development. As a result, Trump reimposed economic sanctions on Iran. The United States possesses two formidable allies. Israel and Saudi Arabia exhibit their strategic assessments in the Middle East. Israel is a prominent regional partner that actively participates in the exchange of intelligence and military collaboration with the United States. Conversely, Saudi Arabia is a significant oil producer and acts as a counterweight to Iranian power. The actions taken by Trump, such as formally acknowledging Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and forging close ties with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman, highlight the importance of American interests in the region (Walt, 2018).

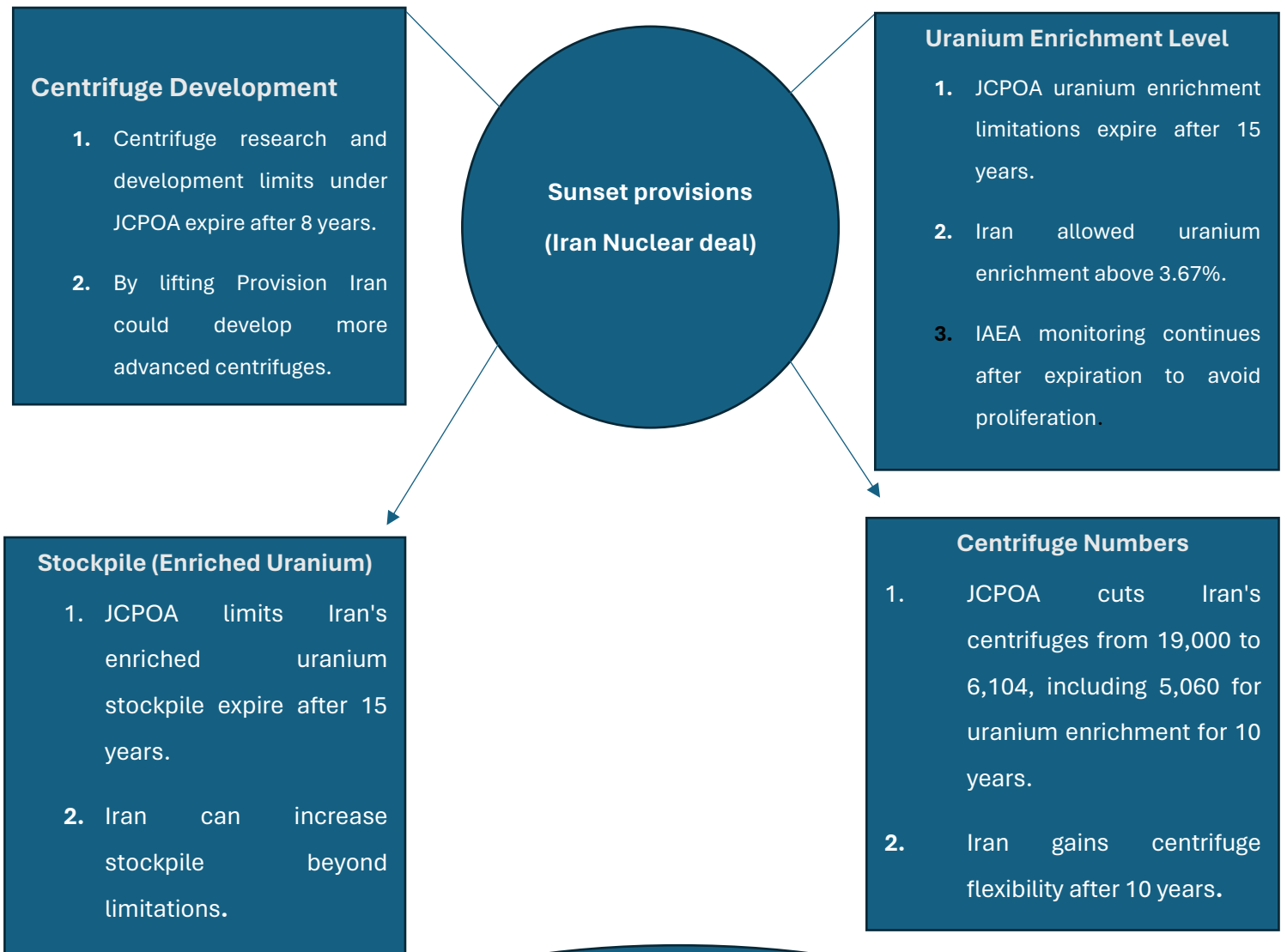
Liberalism, a prominent framework in the field of International relations, emphasizes the significance of rules, institutions, and ideals in shaping the actions of states. The policy engagement of the Trump administration poses substantial obstacles to liberal norms and principles. The former administration of the United States prioritized the promotion of democracy, human rights, and multilateral collaboration in the region. Nevertheless, the Trump administration has been characterized by a pragmatic attitude and a commitment to international cooperation. The Trump administration's conspicuous endorsement of authoritarian regimes, such as Saudi Arabia, despite apprehensions regarding human rights, illustrates a departure from advocating liberal ideas. In addition, the administration has emphasized the importance of bilateral agreements rather than international ones. Furthermore, Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and relocate the US embassy there has sparked significant controversy, suggesting a departure from conventional liberal approaches to Middle East diplomacy (Stokes, 2018).

Trump Policy Shockwaves in Middle East

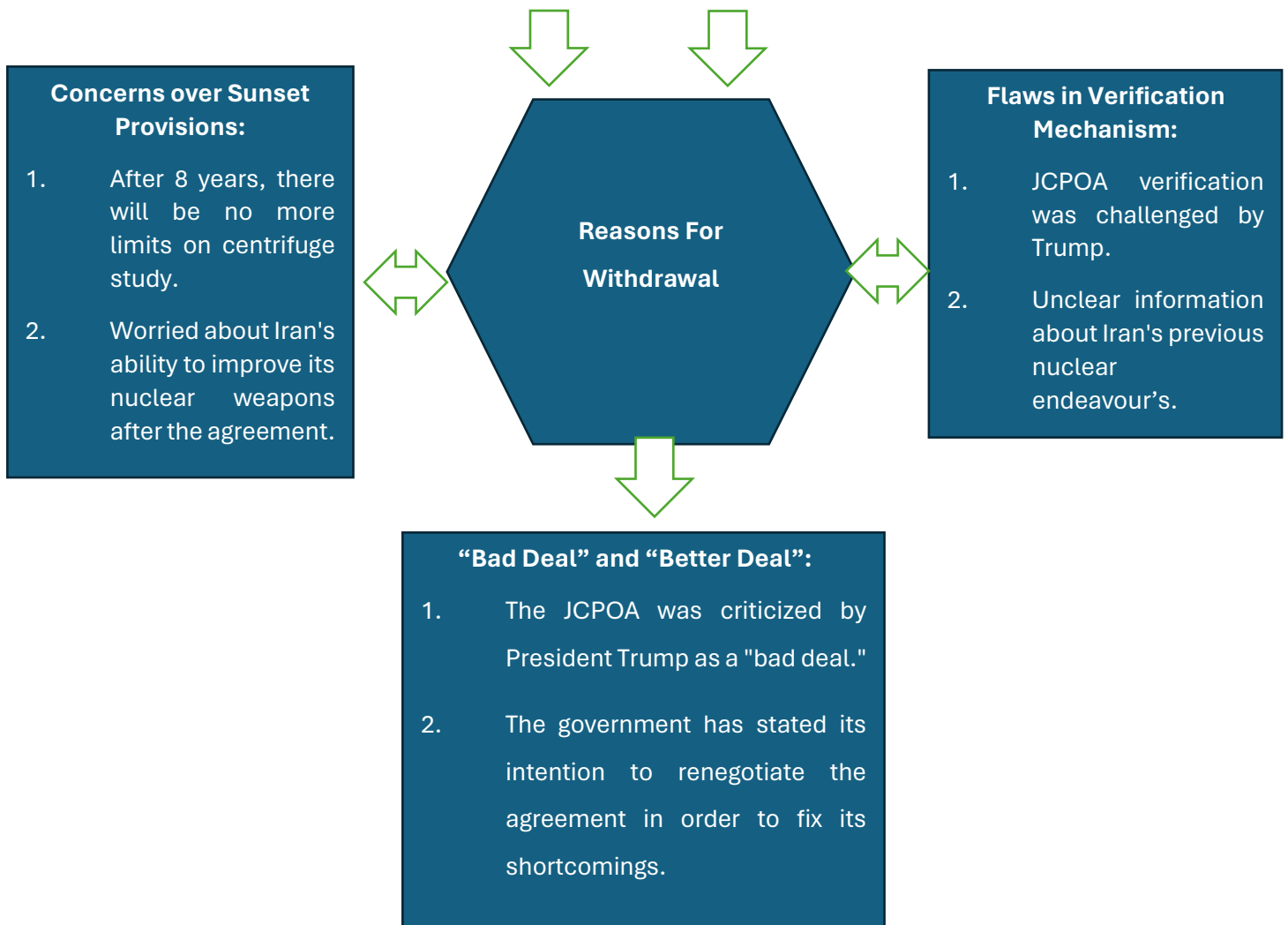
1. Withdrawal From Iran Nuclear Deal

One of the most concerning security concerns of the modern age, according to the majority of analysts, was the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which is more commonly referred to as the Iran Nuclear Deal. The historic negotiation was accomplished by the collaborative efforts of Iran and the governments of the P5+1 nations over the course of several years. Along with the European Union, the P5+1 nations consist of the United States of America, the United Kingdom, France, China, Russia, and Germany. Iran has agreed to have its nuclear ambitions reduced in exchange for the easing of sanctions. The capabilities of Iran's heavy-water reactors, centrifuges, and uranium enrichment system were subject to significant restrictions. The deal also mandated that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which is in charge of nuclear monitoring, check Iran's nuclear facilities thoroughly and keep close tabs on them at all times. The main features of the JCPOA include the following (Javed & Ismail , 2022):

- **Control on Nuclear Activity:** Uranium enrichment is a crucial step in the production of nuclear bombs or nuclear weapons. The Iranian capacity to enrich uranium has the potential to produce fissile material that is appropriate for the development of nuclear weapons. Iran has made a commitment to limit its uranium enrichment as a component of the agreement. In addition, the Iranian government has announced that the maximum level of uranium enrichment will be set at 3.67%. Considering the constraints, the level of enrichment is quite low, as typically 90% is necessary for weapon production.
- **Centrifuges:** Centrifuges are considered as mechanical devices being utilized for uranium enrichment. By rotating hexafluoride gas, they achieve the desired isotopes. Iran had accumulated a substantial quantity of centrifuges, enabling it to engage in large-scale uranium enrichment. In order to resolve concerns regarding Iran's ability to enrich uranium, the (JCPOA) restricted Iran to decrease its number of operational centrifuges by two-thirds, from around 19,000 to 6,104. Furthermore, a mere 5,060 of these centrifuges were granted permission to carry out uranium enrichment for a duration of 10 years. Iran's ability to create weapons-grade material was considerably limited by reducing the number of functioning centrifuges, which restricted its capacity to enrich uranium.
- **Arak-heavy water:** The Arak heavy-water reactor presents a possible proliferation hazard due to its capacity to generate plutonium, a substance also employed in the production of nuclear bombs. Plutonium is produced through a process where uranium fuel, when exposed to neutrons in a reactor, undergoes fission and transforms into plutonium isotopes. In response to this worry, Iran has committed to undertake the task of redesigning and reconstructing the Arak reactor with the aim of substantially decreasing its plutonium production. This entailed altering the core design of the reactor to utilize enriched uranium fuel rather of natural uranium, resulting in a reduced production of weapons-grade plutonium. In addition, Iran has made a commitment to restrict the power of the reactor and remove all spent fuel from it in order to avoid the mining of plutonium for use in weapons (Davenport, 2022).



In May 2018, a significant change occurred in US foreign policy when President Donald Trump officially declared the withdrawal from the Iran Nuclear Deal. President Trump characterized the pact as "terrible and flawed" notwithstanding the consent of European



“Every Action has a reaction”.

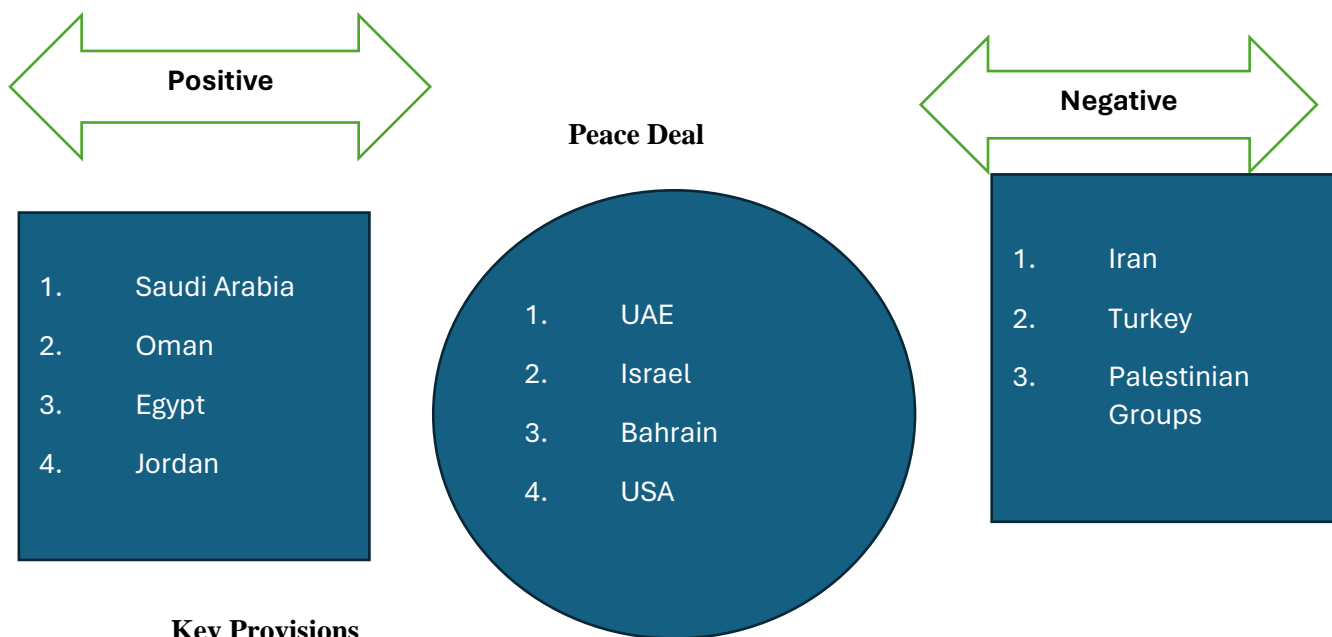
Major powers were left feeling dissatisfied as a result of the decision made by "President Trump" to withdraw from the agreement. Several European nations, including France, Germany, and the United Kingdom, have voiced their opposition to the decision made by the United States. These nations were adamant about supporting the agreement because they believed that it was essential for peace and preventing Iran from developing nuclear activities in the region. The European states were aware of the fact that the United States was not present, but they were willing to support the agreement regardless.

Iran is profoundly imprinted with feelings of resentment and betrayal as a result of the decision made by superpower. Iran, which has applied a considerable amount of political power in the process of negotiating and putting the deal into effect, was taken aback by the decision. The United States of America imposed specific sanctions on Iran after it withdrew from the agreement. These penalties forced Iran to go through tremendous economic hardships and heightened the amount of resentment that the country felt toward the United States and its allies. Iran makes the decision to retaliate against the lawful tactics o. To provide a response to the decision, Iran made the choice to withdraw from its commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which includes a significant amount of uranium enrichment. Israel and Saudi Arabia, on the other hand, are pleased with the decision and understand it to be an important step toward maintaining peace in the region. Because Iran provides support to terrorist organizations like Hezbollah, Israel believes that Iran is a threat to its security (Mousavian & Mousavian, 2018).

Abraham Accord

In the year 2020, the Abraham Accord took effect which signified the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between Israel, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. This event marks the major turning point in Middle East diplomacy. It is an expression of commitment of peace and harmony, tolerance, and togetherness in the region that these accords are called recognition of Abrahamic legacy shared by Christians, Muslims, and Jews. A significant break from decades of antagonism and conflict between Israel and Arab states, the Abraham Accords offer a road toward more stability, prosperity, and peace in the Middle East. The UAE and Bahrain became the third and fourth Arab states to officially recognize Israel, following the footsteps of Egypt and Jordan. This significant advancement towards normalization not only indicated a shift from traditional Arab perspective but presented a fresh opportunity for regional collaboration and harmonious relations. An accumulation of geopolitical, economic, and strategic variables came together to make the Abraham Accords possible. Furthermore, major actors, such as the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the Crown Prince of the United Arab Emirates Mohammed bin Zayed, and the King of Bahrain Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, played a significant part in overcoming centuries-old obstacles that stood in the way of Arab-Israeli reconciliation (Bayrak, 2021).

Reactions of Different States



Key Provisions

1. Establishing Diplomatic Relations

The Abrahamic Accords signified a major turning point in Middle Eastern diplomacy. With the implementation of this clause, Israel established formal diplomatic ties with two Arab nations: Bahrain and UAE that previously not had any formal links to the country. Direct diplomatic interactions and representation were made possible by opening embassies and consulates in each other's nations. Previously, Israel relationships with the majority of Arab states were marked by rivalry and lack of official recognition. So, the Abraham Accords' establishment of diplomatic relations marked a dramatic shift from the past and the beginning of a new era in Arab Israeli relations (Ma'oz, 2022).

2. Suspension of Annexation

By signing to Abraham Accord, Israel agreed to stop its plan to take control of areas of West Bank. It was essential that this decision helped to alleviate concerns among Arab countries regarding operations in Palestinian territories. In essence, the prevention of annexation effectively facilitating the establishment of peace between Israel and its Arab counterparts.

3. Economic Cooperation

The agreement promoted commerce, investment, and business partnerships across several sectors such as technology, banking, tourism, and agriculture. By the process of stabilizing relations, new possibilities have arisen for both parties to achieve mutual benefits and growth. The cooperation enhanced economic activity but also established employment opportunities. In essence, the Abraham Accords established the basis for a more affluent future through the promotion of economic cooperation and the creation of new opportunities for development and collaboration between Israel, the UAE, and Bahrain.

Jerusalem as Israel Capital

In December 2017, the Trump administration declared Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, disregarding the concerns of the international community. The overwhelming majority disapproved with his action, as 128 countries voted against him in the United Nations. The declaration sparked a strong outcry, not just from the Arab world but also from around the world. Jerusalem holds immense global significance as one of the oldest and most vital cities in the world. Its historical importance is particularly notable in relation to the Abrahamic religions: Islam, Christianity, and Judaism. The disputed city has served as a focal point for conflicts and disagreements throughout history, especially in relation to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The US and majority of international community had not recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel until Trump declaration. Previous administration of United States favoured the idea of maintaining Jerusalem's eventual status as a subject for negotiation between Israelis and Palestinians. One of the promises that Donald Trump made during his campaign for the presidency in 2016 was that he would move the United States Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Certain sectors within Trump's political base, such as those that support Israel, evangelical Christians, and conservative voters, were able to identify and support this pledge. In contrast to the approaches of previous administrations, President Trump's attitude on Jerusalem was interpreted as a departure, and it represented his readiness to break established diplomatic conventions (Anwar, 2018).

Controversy and Debate

1. International Response

- Arab nations expressed their disapproval of the United States' decision to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. They regarded it as a breach of international law and UN resolutions, as well as a disdain for the Palestinian aspiration for statehood with East Jerusalem as its capital. The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Arab League have both made statements that condemn the action and appeal for support from people all across the world.
- The United States of America's unilateral moves were met with disapproval from the European Union, but the EU refrained from expressing unequivocal condemnation of the acts. Russia and Australia are two examples of countries that have refrained from openly admitting Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. However, they have regularly acknowledged Israel's sovereignty in deciding its own capital.

- Israel garnered support from particular factions that hailed the United States' official recognition of Jerusalem as its capital. Israeli leaders praised the action as a beneficial step towards strengthening Israel's position in the international arena. Furthermore, some American lawmakers, notably those affiliated with pro-Israel advocacy groups, voiced their support for the decision, framing it as a fulfilment of campaign promises and a reaffirmation of the bond between the United States and Israel.
- **Legal Implication**
- Critics of the United States decision argued that it contravened international law, specifically resolutions passed by the United Nations Security Council, which consider the status of Jerusalem as a matter to be resolved through negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians. They cited the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits the acquisition of land via the use of force, and resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly that reaffirmed Jerusalem's existence as a separate entity (Aljamal, 2020).

Withdrawal of Troops from Syria

A significant number of legislators, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, perceive the USA's withdrawal from Syria as a comprehensive failure. The United States relinquished control to the Russian, Iranian, and Bashar al-Assad governments, leaving its Middle Eastern allies vulnerable and unprotected. The United States' interventionist policies were proving to be ineffective. Since the invasion of Iraq, this has been the prevailing situation in the United States. The United States of America was still grappling with the catastrophic aftermath of that military incursion. The United States employed several direct and indirect methods in an attempt to overthrow the Bashar al-Assad regime, but ultimately, it was unsuccessful in achieving this objective. The United States facilitated the rise of the Islamic State by exerting pressure on Damascus and by providing justification for its own involvement. Turkey attempted to rationalize its incursion into Syria by providing financial support to the Islamic State, using numerous trucks to transport oil from various parts of Syria. The United States employed terrorism as a strategic instrument in its foreign policy to counter Syrian forces (Galbraith, 2019).

Following the collapse of the Free Syrian Army, a military force supported by the United States, the American government sought alternative methods to create instability in Syria. The militias were rebranded as the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and were promoted the concept of a consolidated Kurdish nation. In Turkey, where the Kurdish minority was the largest, the majority of Kurds desired to secure their rights within the country, similar to the situation in Syria. Consequently, they established a political party that brought together progressive individuals from many ethnic backgrounds. President Trump had a phone conversation with the President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan. **“He made it clear that the United States Armed Forces will not aid or participate in the operation. Additionally, the US forces, after successfully defeating the territorial Caliphate of ISIS, will no longer be present in the nearby region”.**

Iranian Commander Qasem Soleimani (Assassination)

General Qasem Soleimani, a prominent Iranian commander, held a high-ranking position and wielded significant influence inside the Iranian military. He held the highest level of influence among military figures in the Middle East. The individual met his demise as a result of an aerial attack on the Baghdad international airport in Iraq, under the orders of President Trump. The United States targeted Qasem Soleimani for assassination due to his significant impact on the Middle East. He facilitated the dissemination of the Iranian philosophy. Trump sought to reaffirm American military supremacy in order to enhance

his prospects of being re-elected. The United States had a firm belief that Soleimani was preparing for an imminent attack in the region prior to his death. By eliminating Soleimani, a highly influential figure with an extensive network, the United States had complete freedom to pursue its aims in the Middle East without any restrictions. Zarif contended that the United States should assume all accountability for its activities targeting Iran and be ready to face the repercussions of its impulsive and belligerent conduct. His evaluation of the United States' participation in international terrorism was that it was highly perilous and a heedless exacerbation of the issue. General Soleimani, a prominent figure in the fight against terrorist organisations like as Daesh (ISIS), Al Nusrah, and Al Qaeda, was deliberately targeted and assassinated in a premeditated act. Javad Zarif, the Iranian minister of foreign affairs, stated that the United States bears responsibility for the repercussions arising from its impulsive and aggressive conduct. It was proposed by him that Iran might in the future take serious moves against the allies of the United States, such as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Israel, with the intention of reducing the level of American influence in the region.

A number of countries, notably France, Germany, and Russia, disapproved the action taken by the Trump administration.

These countries have characterized the move as irresponsible and unprecedented, expressing concerns that it might potentially lead to a large-scale conflict in the region. This apprehension stems from Iran's status as a powerful nation in the Middle East, possessing nuclear weapons. In 2020, Senator Bernie Sanders, a presidential candidate, stated that when he voted against the war in Iraq in 2002, he was concerned that it would result in increased destabilization of the region. Regrettably, that worry was proven to be accurate," Senator Bernie Sanders tweeted. The United States has suffered a loss of around 4,500 courageous soldiers, with tens of thousands more being injured, and the country has expended trillions of dollars (Abrahms, 2023).

Trump pledged to terminate perpetual conflicts; however, this decision propels us into the trajectory of yet another one. Soleimani was responsible for amplifying Iran's military presence in the wider Middle East, thereby aiding in the preservation of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's regime by promoting the growth of Shia influence in Syria. Iran retaliated by launching ballistic missiles at American military installations in Iraq. There were no fatalities. The measure proved advantageous for both the Iranian leadership in terms of preserving their reputation and for the Iranian people. Demonstrations against a potential military conflict between the United States and Iran occur globally, garnering significant attention on Twitter and other social media platforms over an extended period (Fadhilah, 2021).

Conclusion

The impact of the United States on Middle Eastern politics throughout the Trump administration was characterized by both strategic continuity and change, particularly with regard to the Iran nuclear deal, the Abraham Accords, the withdrawal of troops from Syria, the recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, and the assassination of Qasem Soleimani. Trump implemented substantial policy modifications, such as acknowledging Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and promoting the Deal of the Century peace initiative, all the while maintaining backing for Israel's security interests. The aforementioned actions served to emphasize the intricate nature of maneuvering through the geopolitics of the Middle East, reconciling regional alliances, and resolving enduring conflicts. Moving forward, it is imperative that additional research investigate the lasting ramifications of Trump's policies on the dynamics of the region and the prospects for stability and tranquility. In order to develop strategies that are both more effective and long-lasting in addressing complex geopolitical challenges in the region, policymakers ought to mirror the experiences of the Trump administration. Subsequent undertakings can facilitate the

promotion of increased dialogue, cooperation, and peace in the Middle East by capitalizing on and expanding upon the knowledge gained during this era. Furthermore, in order to effectively tackle fundamental instability, promote inclusive peace processes, safeguard democratic values and human rights, and deliver humanitarian aid to impacted communities, it is imperative to prioritize diplomatic initiatives, multilateral cooperation, and conflict resolution mechanisms.

References

- Abrahms, M. (2023). The US-Iran Showdown: Was it Smart for President Trump to Authorize the Assassination of Iranian General Qassem Soleimani? *The Perils of Populism: The End of the American Century?*, 239-256.
- Abrams, E. (2019). Trump Versus the Government. *Foreign Affairs*, 98(1), 129-137.
- Ahmed, M., Ozair, M., & Khan, I. (2021). President Trump's Foreign Policy Towards the Middle East (2016-20): A Critical Analysis. *Pakistan Journal of American Studies*, 39(1).
- AL kumeet, B. H., & Rakez, A. A. (2020). Realism in Donald Trump's Middle East. *IAGS*, 10-18.
- Aljamal, Y. M. (2020). Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital: Domestic motivations and regional circumstances. *Journal of Al-Tamaddun*, 15(1), 119-131.
- Anwar, H. (2018). The US Foreign Policy under Trump Administration to Recognize Jerusalem as the State Capital of Israel. *Nation State: Journal of International Studies*, 1(2), 132-141.
- Badeau, J. S. (1958). The Middle East: Conflict in Priorities. *Foreign Affairs*, 36(2), 232-240.
- Bayrak, P. (2021). Abraham Accords: Palestine issue should be addressed for a peaceful Middle East. *Cappadocia Journal of Area Studies*, 3(1), 104-115.
doi:<https://doi.org/10.38154/cjas.4>
- Black, I. (2018). Donald Trump and the Middle East. *Political Insight*, 9(1), 22-25.
doi:<https://doi.org/10.1177/2041905818764703>
- Davenport, K. (2022). The Iranian Nuclear Crisis. *Arms Control Today*, 52(10), 6-11.
- Dere, Y. (2019). Obama and Trump's Policies and Attitudes in the Changing International.
- Dickinson, J. M. (1983). State and Economy in the Arab Middle East: Some Theoretical and Empirical Observations. *Arab Studies Quarterly*, 5(1), 22-50.
- Fadhilah, S. (2021). Analysis Of The Influence Of United States Political Interest On The Murder Of General Qasem Soleimani. *Mediasi: Journal of International Relations*, 4(1).
- Freedman, R. O. (2017). The Obama Legacy in the Middle East and the Trump Challenge. *India Quarterly: A Journal of International Affairs*, 73(2), 241-250.
- Galbraith, J. (2019). President Trump announces US troop withdrawal from Syria. *The American Journal of International Law*, 113(2), 394-400.
- Javed, H., & Ismail, M. (2022). Iran's Nuclear Deal (JCPOA): Threats and Opportunities for the Regional Peace and Security. *Chinese Political Science Review*, 7(4), 467-483.
- Magnus, R. (1976). Middle East Oil and the OPEC Nations. *Current History*, 70(412), 22-26.
- Ma'oz, M. (2022). The Abraham Accords: Illusion and Reality. *Palestine-Israel Journal of Politics, Economics, and Culture*, 3(4), 81-85.
- Marko, B. (2019). Us Middle East policy shift: Trump's administration Divergency. *Вестник Российского университета дружбы народов. Серия: Государственное и муниципальное управление*, 6(4), 296-311.
- Mousavian, S. H., & 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.
doi:<https://doi.org/10.1080/25751654.2017.1420373>
- Myrvold, C. O. (2022). The Abraham Accords: A Comparative Perspective on American Foreign Policy in the Middle East. Master's thesis, UiT Norges arktiske universitet.
- Rehman, A. U. (2020). Causes behind the Abraham Accord and its consequences for the Peace Process in the Middle East. *The Middle East*, 2(4).
- Salamé, G. (1994). Torn between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean: Europe and the Middle East in the Post-Cold War Era. *Middle East Journal*, 48(2), 226-249.
- Stokes, D. (2018). Trump, American hegemony and the future of the liberal international order. *International Affairs*, 94(1), 133-150. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1093/ia/iix238>
- Walt, S. M. (2018). US grand strategy after the Cold War: Can realism explain it? Should realism guide it? *International Relations*, 32(1), 3-22.
doi:<https://doi.org/10.1177/0047117817753272>
- Yom, S. (2020). US Foreign Policy in the Middle East: The Logic of Hegemonic Retreat. *Global Policy*, 11(1), 75-83.