

FUTUROLOGY OF GEOPOLITICAL RENAISSANCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST REGION

ELLIAS AGHILI DEHNAVI¹, RADOSŁAW FIEDLER²

¹ Third year Ph.D. Candidate, Political Science and Public administration, faculty of political science and journalism, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland, ORCID 0009-0001-9238-056X

² Professor of International Relations, Head of the Non-European Studies department and doctoral school of social sciences, Faculty of Political Science and Journalism, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan Poland, ORCID 0000-0003-1573-9898

ellagh@amu.edu.pl¹

fiedler@amu.edu.pl²

Abstract

In this paper, the investigation and future research of the geopolitical renaissance in the Middle East region has been discussed. In this regard, power has been introduced as the main component of changing the geopolitical structure in the future. The root of the developments in the emerging geopolitics of the Middle East are events such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Iranian revolution, and the September 11 incident. The Middle East region is experiencing a new geopolitical configuration in which the interaction between the three spheres of influence, the north in the hands of Turkey, the center in the hands of Iran, and the south in the hands of Israel and the Arabs, forms new regional fault lines. The result of the geopolitical renaissance in the Middle East will be the independence of more countries such as Qatar, Bahrain and the UAE, as well as the strengthening of Israel's interests. Iran's possible nuclear agreement with Western countries in the future, if formed, can be an important part of the geopolitical renaissance of the Middle East region, which will increase Iran's regional power.

Keyword: Geopolitical renaissance, Middle East region, power, future studies.

1. Introduction

The Middle East has always been changing. It is rare to find a period of history in which this region, which is the lifeline and source of energy for the world, is calm and at rest. The geopolitical renaissance of the Middle East is a change in the balance of power and political geography of this region (Beaumont et al., 2016). The Middle East has experienced many changes in political geography and power structures, as well as a geopolitical renaissance. Numerous variables, such as historical, cultural, religious, and geopolitical influences, can be attributed to this occurrence. The influence of these developments on the international scene is further increased by the region's importance as a key global energy source.

The Middle East offers a rich tapestry of cultures, languages, and traditions and has historically been a crossroads of civilizations (Weisgrau et al., 2023). Due to the competition between various groups and entities for influence and control, diversity has frequently served as a catalyst for change. Furthermore, the region has historically served as a hub for trade, commerce, and military conquest due to its advantageous location at the intersection of Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Three main monotheistic religions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—all originated in the Middle East (Lee, 2018). The interaction of these religions has greatly influenced the political climate of the area, frequently acting as a source of both harmony and conflict. The geopolitical dynamics of the region are constantly changing, partly due to the continual conflicts and alliances created by religious connections.

Geographically speaking, the Middle East is a sought-after resource for world powers due to its enormous energy reserves, especially its natural gas and oil (Nematollahi et al., 2016). The geopolitical revival of the region has been propelled by the allocation and management of these resources, as major nations aim to safeguard their interests and shape the balance of power.

F. Gregory Gause III in his book, "The International Relations of the Persian Gulf," has done a thorough analysis of the changing dynamics of politics and power in the Middle East (Gause III, 2009). Gause's research offers significant perspectives on the intricate interactions between regional and global players, in addition to the historical and modern elements that contribute to the region's constant state of flux.

The factors and weights of power in the Middle East in the past years have been made up of 4 countries: Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Egypt (Alarqan, 2020). The classification of the countries of the region is based on these four poles, and the ratio and relationship of each of these poles with foreign powers forms the geopolitics of the Middle East (Gürcan, 2019). What has now marked the change in the balance of power in the Middle East is the change in the position of power and the position of these four poles and the change in the ratio of their relations with foreign powers. The beginning of these changes was the overthrow of Saddam Hussein in Iraq (Ghafoori, 2016 and Taskiran et al., 2020). The revolution in the Arab countries and the overthrow of several powerful figures in the region, including Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, completed another stage of this change (Taşkıran et al., 2020). The developments in Syria and the polarization of regional countries in supporting or opposing the forces involved in Syria is another link in the chain of changes in the Middle East (Harutyunyan, 2020). Furthermore, the agreement between Iran and the West on Tehran's nuclear program has signalled a significant change in the balance of power, as it is expected to lead to the lifting of sanctions against Iran, thereby increasing its economic and political power (Raouf, 2019). The geopolitical factors in the Middle East have been crucial in shaping the power dynamics of the region. The Middle East's strategic importance, particularly in terms of energy resources, has further elevated its significance in global geopolitics (Taşkıran et al., 2020). The region's chaotic environment and the use of hard power have been dominant features, with external powers such as the USA playing a penetrating role (Raouf, 2019).

The Arab Spring has not only impacted state and society but also challenged the power of authoritarian leaders that had been entrenched for a long time (Aras & Falk, 2015). Moreover, the imagined boundaries of the Middle East have historically shifted under the imperatives of different imperial projects, reflecting the region's geopolitical complexities (Clark, 2017). The involvement of external powers, such as China and Israel, in the Middle East has also contributed to the evolving power dynamics. China's diplomatic initiatives in the region and its quest for a great-power role have been increasingly prominent since the early 2010s (Evron, 2017). Also, the Middle East's power constellation has also been influenced by the involvement of other states, such as Japan, which has sought to play a diplomatic role in the region, particularly in the context of oil import security and peace efforts (Lesbirel, 2013). Moreover, the USA's strategic adjustments in the Middle East, including the shift from military hegemony to an offshore balancing strategy, have had implications for the regional power dynamics (Wang, 2013).

2. Configuration Of Geopolitical Renaissance In The Middle East Region

The Middle East has experienced substantial changes over the last century, such as the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire, the cessation of Western colonial rule, the formation of Israel, the emergence of Arab nationalist and socialist movements, the growth of political Islam and the Iranian revolution, and the revival of Shia and Salafism (al-Anani, 2020), the illusion of peace between Israel and Palestine with the mediation of America, the inefficiency of

American peace in the region after the attack on Iraq, the Arab Spring, the failed attempt of the ISIS group to restore the caliphate and The last one, pointed to the normalization of Western relations with Iran (Can, 2017).

The aforementioned alterations have resulted in intricate geopolitical transformations, wherein nations such as Syria, Libya, Iraq, Lebanon, and Yemen are confronted with economic difficulties stemming from civil unrest and political instability. Moreover, Turkey has displayed aspirations reminiscent of the Ottoman era, exerting influence in the Eastern Mediterranean, while Israel and the Arab nations are advancing towards a peace proposal called the Ibrahim agreements. Consequently, a novel regional division has emerged, wherein Turkey, Iran, Israel, and the Arab nations exert their influence over distinct areas within the Middle East (al-Anani, 2020).

The Middle East region is experiencing a new geopolitical configuration in which the interaction between the three spheres of influence, the north in the hands of Turkey, the centre in the hands of Iran, and the south in the hands of Israel and the Arabs, forms new regional fault lines (Cook, 2016). The categorization of the Muslim Brotherhood as an existential menace has exacerbated the complexities in the region, resulting in a clash between rival political ideologies within Sunni Islam. This has caused a conflict between Turkey and Qatar on one side, and Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE on the other side. The conflict represents a clash between grassroots and centralised approaches within Sunni Islam. The Muslim Brotherhood's impact has expanded to encompass social services, namely in the realm of healthcare, since its establishment during the interwar period. Moreover, the socio-economic outlook and policies of the Muslim Brotherhood have garnered significant influence, namely in Egypt, Tunisia, and Morocco (Brooke, 2017). The geopolitical landscape of the Middle East has been impacted by the normalisation of Western relations with Iran. Consequently, a new power dynamic has emerged, characterised by the alignment of Turkey, Iran, Israel, and the Arab nations, resulting in the formation of new regional divisions. The geopolitical dynamics of the region have been significantly influenced by its intricate history, which encompasses the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the impact of international law. The dynamic interactions between Israeli and Arab states have been shaped by a multitude of peace treaties and agreements, exerting a significant influence on the stability and alliances in the region (Sabel, 2022).

It seems that the paradigm shift towards Israel is inevitable during the geopolitical renaissance of the Middle East. Arab countries will probably count on Tel Aviv's high-level security, technology and information umbrella, as well as its unique influence in the American political environment; Regardless of who will be in the White House (Sedghi, 2017).

In the next decade, regional actors may play a more prominent role in the region compared to the role traditionally played by the great powers. At the same time, global policies determined against climate change may affect the energy factor in the region and weaken the traditional policies of the West. Changing the pattern of energy consumption will certainly create problems for Iran, but this is also true for the oil kingdoms of the Persian Gulf, which, by the way, seem to be less used to such problems than their northern neighbours (Rabi and Mueller, 2018). A good example of American leadership that may be re-established is the proposal for diplomatic measures led by the United Nations, the United States, the European Union, Russia, China, and regional organizations and powers to reduce tensions. Ideally, a political and security architecture for the region without preconditions, in which all the discontents and hostile activities in the Middle East are considered, can be the solution to the current problems. The United States' foreign policy objectives in the Middle East have been emphasised, which encompass ensuring strategic oil access, safeguarding Israel's sovereignty, and countering Islamic movements and terrorist organisations (Khidhir, 2021). The partial disintegration of

the established system in the Middle East, specifically in political, economic, and social aspects, signifies a significant transformation in the global landscape (Aras & Falk, 2015).

The Middle East's geopolitical landscape is currently experiencing a substantial restructuring, which may result in changes to alliances and power structures (Shafae & Golmohammadi, 2022). The shift is driven by multiple causes, such as the influence of climate change on energy consumption and availability in the region (Creutzig et al., 2015). Climate change is projected to intensify the existing hot and arid environmental conditions in the Middle East and North Africa, leading to increasingly extreme heat extremes (Lelieveld et al., 2016). Also, the swift process of urbanisation and industrialization in the area has resulted in water scarcity and degradation of water quality, particularly in dry regions such as the Middle East (Paul, 2016). The alterations in energy and water supplies are expected to have significant ramifications on the geopolitical dynamics of the region. Furthermore, the possible consequences of climate change on the global economy and geopolitical concerns are a major worry, particularly for nations along the Belt and Road and the wider international community (Kompas et al., 2018; Hu et al., 2023). The observation of polarisation in geopolitical risk among nations along the Belt and Road signifies a notable inclination towards worsening geopolitical risk (Hu et al., 2023). Moreover, the correlation between climate change and water shortage has been recognised as a contributing element to political unrest in the Middle East, resulting in wars within the region.

Ultimately, the resurgence of geopolitical dynamics in the Middle East is shaped by a multifaceted interaction of elements, such as climate change, energy reserves, and altering foreign policy objectives of influential nations. These factors are expected to influence the future alliances and power structures in the region, perhaps impacting global geopolitics.

3. Modern Geopolitics Of The Middle East

The geopolitical renaissance of the Middle East and the modern global geopolitical system includes elements whose introduction is the key to understanding the desired concepts. Power is the main element of this structure. Power and power competitions to create superiority over competitors have been the core of dynamic geopolitical debates and functions. Seeking supremacy, seeking dominance, or creating control over regional affairs, a part of the world, or the whole world is called hegemony, which is the main goal in geopolitical games (NAKIP, 2012).

In the study of the geopolitical renaissance of the Middle East, in addition to the traditional geopolitical features, it is necessary to pay attention to new codes in analysing the developments as accurately as possible. In other words, it will not be possible to draw the current situation and analyse the trends without paying attention to these indicators. Hence, in the following, the renaissance in the geopolitics of the Middle East has been carefully examined from the point of view of the two categories of transformation in the concepts and tools of power and transformation in regional actors (Güney & Gökcan, 2010).

The contemporary geopolitical landscape of the Middle East is marked by intricate interactions between power dynamics, regional players, and emerging notions and instruments of power. Hegemony, defined as the ambition to achieve supremacy and influence over both regional and global matters, is a primary objective in the field of geopolitics (Hom, 2010). When examining the resurgence of the Middle East in terms of geopolitics, it is crucial to take into account both conventional geopolitical characteristics and emerging indicators that demonstrate changes in the ideas and methods of exerting influence, as well as the development of regional players (Sparke, 2007).

To fully comprehend the contemporary geopolitics of the Middle East, one must possess a thorough knowledge of the intricate mechanisms of power and dominance at play in the region.

This entails an analysis of the developing ideas and instruments of authority, along with the influence of local entities in moulding the geopolitical terrain. The quest for hegemony and supremacy in the region is a fundamental catalyst for geopolitical policies and activities (Hom, 2010). Furthermore, the changes in the ideas and instruments of authority, together with the changing role of local participants, are vital in moulding the present-day resurgence of geopolitical dynamics in the Middle East (Sparke, 2007).

Moreover, the resurgence of geopolitical dynamics in the Middle East is shaped by global geopolitical frameworks and contests for dominance. The dominance of Western standard time, as analysed by (Niva, 2003) mirrors the wider dynamics of hegemony and sovereignty in global politics. The significance of time in international relations highlights the complex nature of power dynamics and the quest of dominant influence. The contemporary geopolitics of the Middle East are influenced not only by conventional geopolitical factors, but also by the global proliferation of free-market capitalism and the widening of geopolitical fault lines, as exemplified by (Güney & Gökcan, 2010). The complex relationship between economic, political, and geographical variables in constructing the modern geopolitical landscape is highlighted by the interaction of geopolitical anxieties, socioeconomic hopes, and the responsibilities of geography.

To summarise, the current geopolitical landscape of the Middle East is marked by intricate interactions of power dynamics, dominant ambitions, and the changing involvement of local players. To comprehend the geopolitical resurgence of the Middle East, one must conduct a thorough examination of the changes in power concepts and instruments, together with the wider dynamics of global geopolitical systems.

3. 1. Evolution in Regional Actors

In the emerging geopolitics of the Middle East, it is very important to pay attention to the roots of conflicts. The evolving geopolitical landscape of the Middle East is influenced by various critical elements. To comprehend the dynamics of the region, it is crucial to consider Israel's existence in the Islamic world, the Islamic revolution in Iran, and the consequences of the September 11, 2001 incident together with following military actions by the United States (Aras & Falk, 2015).

These forces have resulted in an intricate network of relationships including prominent entities such as the United States, the Zionist regime, and Iran, with additional involvement from nations like Turkey and Qatar (Aras & Falk, 2015; Evron, 2015; Gleick & Heberger, 2014). The dissolution of the Ottoman Empire has exerted a substantial influence on the geopolitical landscape of the Middle East, resulting in transformative developments that have impacted the conflicts within the region (Liu et al., 2022). Moreover, the absence of democratic governance, economic progress, religious diversity, and ample natural resources in the Middle East has been recognised as significant underlying causes of the wars in the region.

The conflicts in the Middle East have been shaped by a gradual build-up of long-lasting conflicts throughout the 1950s and 60s, rather than a rapid shift linked to a new global system. The disintegration of the existing hierarchy in the Middle East, which includes political, economic, and social aspects, signifies a significant transformation in the region's dynamics (Aras & Falk, 2015). Moreover, the persistent conflicts in the Middle East have profoundly affected both families and individuals in the affected regions, resulting in the breakdown of family units, shifting societal roles, compelled migration, and dependence on neighbouring and far-off nations (Snoubar & Duman, 2017). The conflicts in the region have been shaped by the participation of foreign powers and the influence of oil wealth on the processes of establishing states, which have sparked and intensified civil wars (Ozekin & Ariöz, 2014). Moreover, during the past decade, there has been a noticeable shift in the geopolitical dynamics of war in the Middle East. This shift occurred as the United States moved away from its previous approach

of attempting to establish a security framework in the region (Shafae & Golmohammadi, 2022). The significance of water resources in relation to global security has also been emphasised, underscoring the necessity for policymakers to possess heightened awareness of potential conflicts that may arise due to, or be intensified by, water-related concerns (Gleick & Heberger, 2014; Nasser, 2012).

Ultimately, the wars in the Middle East are intricately connected to historical, geopolitical, and socio-economic reasons, which encompass significant regional and worldwide players. Gaining a comprehensive understanding of these intricacies is essential for effectively tackling the difficulties and pursuing long-lasting solutions in the area.

3. 2. Transformation in the Concepts and Tools of Power

The Middle East during the Renaissance period experienced a notable transformation in power relations and alliances within its geopolitical landscape. Iran, Syria, Hamas, and Hezbollah of Lebanon have aligned to form a unified group, whereas Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and the Persian Gulf countries, which are supportive of the West, make up the opposing group (Haugbolle, 2019).

Another important issue that the region will face in the future is the disintegration of the Arab world. In such a way that at present, we will no longer be faced with a united and integrated Arab world in regional and international positions, but we are facing Arab worlds, each of which is divided into three groups of the Arab East (Iraq, Yemen and the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf), the centre Arabic (Palestine and its neighbouring countries), and the Arab Maghreb (North African countries) (Addis, & Zhu, 2018). Political experts believe that these countries, even in the mentioned groups, will not have uniform domestic and international political approaches like in the past.

The reconfiguration of power dynamics has significant ramifications for the peace and security of the area, specifically with regards to Israel's national interests (Gause, 2017). Moreover, the region is confronted with the possibility of fragmentation, resulting in the emergence of separate Arab entities such as the Arab East, the central Arabic region, and the Arab Maghreb (Biekart, 2015). The fragmentation observed indicates a shift away from the previously cohesive Arab world, resulting in varied internal and international political strategies among these newly established factions (Biekart, 2015). The geopolitical landscape of the Middle East after 2011 has been shaped by the rise of new alliances and non-state players (Darwich, 2021). The inability of regional authorities to adequately counteract Iran's influence in the area has been a significant factor in the current geopolitical dynamics of the region (Gause, 2017). Furthermore, the analysis has focused on the involvement of international actors in the evolving Middle East, emphasising the intricacies brought about by non-Arab state actors and non-state actors (Seeberg, 2016). An analysis has been conducted on the influence of war and competition on the process of establishing states in the Middle East. This analysis has provided insights into the complex connection between conflict and the political environment (Lu & Thies, 2012).

The Arab revolutions and protests have significantly altered the region, prompting a reassessment of social movement theory and its relevance to the Middle East (Durac, 2015). The emergence of the middle class and its participation in political protest movements has played a crucial role, as indicated by research demonstrating that middle-class individuals have endorsed the use of violence to achieve regime change. Furthermore, scholars have examined the connection between political Islam and contentious politics in the Arab world, with a particular focus on the influence of religion in driving political activism during the Arab Spring (Achilov, 2016).

The fragmentation of the Arab world and the formation of various regional factions have consequences for the competition of religious affiliations and the possibility of reducing sectarian divisions throughout the Middle East (Mabon, 2020).

The internal conflicts within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the divisions within individual countries have led to the disintegration of the GCC since 2011, making the regional situation more complex (Bianco & Stansfield, 2018). Furthermore, the emergence of ISIS and the rise of sectarianism in the Middle East, caused by the breakdown of regional orders, have highlighted the close relationship between regional stability and global security (Sakai, 2015). Ultimately, the renaissance era in the Middle East has been characterised by a significant shift in power relations, alliances, and regional stability. The region has experienced a complicated and dynamic geopolitical landscape due to the formation of new alliances, the influence of protest movements, and the fragmentation of the Arab world.

4. Consequences Of Geopolitical Renaissance In The Middle East Region

In addition, any change inherently requires attention to several variables, such as internal consensus among regional countries, the power structure within countries, the political atmosphere of the region, and the role of extra-regional or interventionist countries.

The resurgence of geopolitical dynamics in the Middle East has substantial ramifications for the national security of the countries in the region. This renaissance can occur in three distinct spheres: domestic, regional, and international. Domestically, this may entail alterations in property ownership prompted by ethnic minority factions or insurgent forces. Regionally, it might result in battles and wars between countries or groupings of countries within the region, or include the concurrent involvement of numerous countries in remaking the region. Globally, the participation of major nations or superpowers, shown by the partition of Germany and Korea during World War II, might exacerbate the geopolitical dynamics of the Middle East.

The implications of this geopolitical revival are complex and necessitate consideration of various factors. The outcomes of this renaissance are shaped by several factors, including the internal consensus among regional countries, the power structure within individual countries, the political mood of the region, and the involvement of extra-regional or interventionist countries.

Within the Middle East, the resurgence of geopolitical dynamics holds the capacity to generate highly perilous circumstances for the countries in the area. Domestic-level fluctuations might precipitate internal discord and fragility, hence jeopardising the autonomy and safeguarding of the nations in question. Regional conflicts and wars have the potential to destabilise the entire region, resulting in extensive insecurity and humanitarian catastrophes. The participation of major powers or superpowers in global affairs can intensify tensions and power dynamics, potentially resulting in lasting geopolitical consequences.

It is crucial to acknowledge that the repercussions of the geopolitical resurgence in the Middle East extend beyond the immediate security issues. The ramifications of such developments can have extensive consequences for global geopolitics, international relations, and the distribution of power. Hence, it is imperative for policymakers, scholars, and stakeholders engaged in the region to comprehend and tackle the intricacies of this matter.

Ultimately, the repercussions of the geopolitical revival in the Middle East are substantial and diverse, impacting the internal, regional, and global spheres. To tackle this problem, it is necessary to have a thorough grasp of the different factors involved and to adopt a sophisticated strategy for handling the potential hazards and difficulties it poses.

5. America's Role In The Geopolitical Renaissance Of The Middle East

The United States of America has exerted substantial influence in shaping the geopolitical dynamics of the Middle East (Lecocq, 2020). Nevertheless, its impact is limited by internal political dynamics and past disputes, notably its steadfast backing of Israel and hostility

towards Iran. The United States has encountered difficulties in effectively handling regional conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon, and Palestine. As a result, there has been a worldwide loss of faith and a change in the US's strategic strategy in the Middle East, with a focus on strengthening Israel's position in the region. The United States has consistently aimed to uphold a position of superiority in the Middle East, motivated by economic and strategic concerns. This has been seen in its emphasis on guaranteeing access to energy resources in the region. Nevertheless, the United States' engagement has been shaped by its Cold War-era strategies, which were designed to counterbalance the Soviet Union's impact in the Middle East (Fang & Lu, 2021). The United States' involvement in the region has been driven by a determination to address terrorism, civil conflicts, and instability, all of which have had direct consequences on its economic, national security, and diplomatic concerns (Khidhir, 2021). The United States' strategy towards the Middle East has undergone changes over the years, as many governments have influenced its foreign policy. The leadership, exemplified by the US President, has played a crucial role in shaping the country's Middle East strategy (Blarel, 2022). Moreover, the United States' involvement in the Middle East has been closely connected to its endeavours to uphold a geopolitical structure that benefits its own interests (Nagel & Staeheli, 2015). The United States' involvement in the Middle East has been influenced by the evolving dynamics of global politics, which include the emergence of new geopolitical players like China and Russia (Wormuth, 2019).

The recent advancements have introduced intricacy to the geopolitical terrain of the Middle East, presenting obstacles for the United States in upholding its authority in the area. To summarise, the United States' impact in the Middle East has been moulded by a multifaceted interaction of historical, geopolitical, and strategic elements. The country's attempts to navigate internal limitations, past disputes, and changing global circumstances have shaped its approach to the area, demonstrating a consistent reassessment of its geopolitical policy.

6. The Situation Of Iran In The Geopolitical Renaissance Of The Middle East

The resurgence of geopolitical dynamics in the Middle East carries substantial ramifications for Iran's regional standing. The diplomatic, political, and military maturity of Iran allows it to effectively handle difficulties and political crises in the face of changing geopolitical conditions (Singh & Singh, 2019). Although regional powers may temporarily assert dominance over Iran, their long-term political methods, which rely on geographical factors, are ultimately unsustainable due to the significant human and financial burdens involved. Consequently, a retreat becomes unavoidable (Singh & Singh, 2019). The Arabian Peninsula and the greater Middle East geopolitical region, which includes the Persian Gulf, the Indian Ocean, the Red Sea, and the Mediterranean Sea, provide Iran significant opportunities for geopolitical manoeuvrability. Nevertheless, Iran encounters significant geopolitical obstacles posed by nations such as Israel and Saudi Arabia (Gul et al., 2021). The strategic competition between Iran and Saudi Arabia in the Middle East has substantial ramifications for regional security and the balance of power (Gul et al., 2021). Moreover, Iran's nuclear programme has regional ramifications, adding to the intricate geopolitical terrain in the Middle East (Ismail, 2015).

The complex power dynamics and problems in the Middle East are highlighted by the geopolitical conundrum involving Saudi Arabia and Iran (Zehraa & Malik, 2017). In the Middle East's geopolitical rebirth, Iran's position is shaped by an intricate interaction of regional power dynamics, security considerations, and strategic manoeuvres.

7. Predicting The Future

The future geopolitical landscape of the Middle East is a topic that generates significant interest and apprehension, as researchers from several disciplines provide valuable perspectives and forecasts based on historical, political, and economic assessments. The intricate dynamics of the region and the interaction between global powers have substantial consequences for

stability, security, and governance. Forecasts suggest that in the coming decade, the Middle East will experience substantial geopolitical transformations, which could result in a revised regional power hierarchy and altered global relations (Alarqan, 2020). This shift is anticipated to have an effect not just on the countries in the Middle East but also on global entities such as the United States, China, and Russia (Wormuth, 2019).

The resurgence of geopolitical influence in the Middle East is expected to bring about a restructuring of power dynamics, which might perhaps lead to the establishment of stability in the region (Clark, 2006). Nevertheless, this process can also yield disparate consequences for different countries and political entities within the Middle East. According to Alarqan (2020), it is anticipated that smaller political entities such as Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, and the UAE will strive for increased autonomy, while Oman may endeavour to establish its independence from prevailing regional powers. The prospect of Iran gaining greater regional influence, especially in light of a nuclear accord with Western nations, is a crucial element in determining the future geopolitical dynamics of the Middle East (Liu et al., 2022). Moreover, the changing geopolitical dynamics are anticipated to impact the interests of significant participants in the region. Israel's core interests, including security and existence, are expected to be reinforced (Alarqan, 2020). Nevertheless, these advancements may entail adverse consequences for other influential nations in the region, notably Arab states like Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Iran. The potential ramifications for Turkey are also under scrutiny, with proposals that its crucial interests may be protected through the participation of the United States and Israel (Alarqan, 2020).

The evolving geopolitical situation in the Middle East is expected to have significant ramifications for international diplomacy and worldwide security. The changing power dynamics in the Middle East are expected to have an impact on the international system, perhaps causing changes in government relations and presenting new problems and threats (Liu et al., 2022). Consequently, it is recommended that countries in the region make necessary preparations for these transformations by comprehending the developing global stage and tactically harnessing their geographical, political, and economic capacities to guarantee stability and protect national interests (Alarqan, 2020).

Ultimately, the forthcoming geopolitical advancements in the Middle East are expected to result in substantial alterations in power structures, regional equilibrium, and global interactions. The anticipated consequences of these modifications are likely to have significant effects on the nations in the Middle East and international stakeholders, requiring careful planning and readiness to adapt to the changing geopolitical situation.

8. Conclusion

The dynamic geopolitics of the Middle East are shaped by pivotal occurrences such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Iranian revolution, and the September 11 catastrophe. The occurrence of these events has resulted in a fresh geopolitical arrangement in the region, marked by the dominance of Turkey in the northern part, Iran in the central part, and Israel and the Arab countries in the southern part, giving rise to new divisions. The Persian Gulf's strategic significance aligns with the geopolitical dynamics of the Middle East, indicating that smaller nations such as Qatar, Bahrain, and the UAE are anticipated to attain greater autonomy in the coming years. Moreover, the resurgence of geopolitical dynamics in the Middle East is expected to bolster Israel's interests, specifically in safeguarding its survival and security. The prospective nuclear accord between Iran and Western nations is also regarded as a vital element that might augment Iran's regional influence. Nevertheless, this resurgence in geopolitical dynamics may give rise to difficulties, requiring a proactive stance towards global risks and the efficient harnessing of energy resources to define future alliances in the area (Liu et al., 2022).

The Middle East's energy relations are clearly influenced by these geopolitical changes. The energy dynamics of the region are recognised as a significant social connection, with negative inclinations in current studies of the Middle East's energy relations. With the United States stepping back from enforcing a security framework in the region, a new geopolitical landscape of conflict has arisen, indicating a change in the distribution of power and influence in the area. In addition, the participation of external entities, such as the United States and the European Union, has added complexity to the geopolitical situation in the Middle East. The European Union is being advised to take into account hybrid actors when formulating its foreign policy strategy. Meanwhile, the United States' policy in the region has been undergoing continuous adjustments and withdrawal, which has had an impact on the dynamics of the Middle East (Lecocq, 2020; Polaschik et al., 2019).

Ultimately, the changing geopolitical landscape of the Middle East is influenced by an intricate combination of historical occurrences, regional conflicts for dominance, and global participation. Comprehending and manoeuvring through these dynamics will be essential for the area to tackle the problems and seize the opportunities that emerge from this geopolitical rebirth.

References

- Achilov, D., 2016. Revisiting political Islam: Explaining the nexus between political Islam and contentious politics in the Arab world. *Social Science Quarterly*, 97(2), pp.252-270.
- Addis, A.K. and Zhu, Z., 2018. The Political Situation, Trends and Geopolitical Implications of Sub-Saharan and North African Countries: Comparative Study. *Open Journal of Political Science*, 8(02), p.108.
- Alarqan, A., 2020. United States Position Towards Iran After the Nuclear Deal (2015-2019). *Humanities & Social Sciences Reviews*, 8(1), pp.210-219.
- al-Anani, K. and Malik, M., 2013. Pious Way to Politics: The Rise of Political Salafism in Post-M ubarak E gypt. *Digest of Middle East Studies*, 22(1), pp.57-73.
- Aras, B. and Falk, R., 2015. Authoritarian 'geopolitics' of survival in the Arab Spring. *Third World Quarterly*, 36(2), pp.322-336.
- Beaumont, P., Blake, G. and Wagstaff, J.M., 2016. *The Middle East: a geographical study*. Routledge.
- Brooke, S., 2017. From medicine to mobilization: Social service provision and the Islamist reputational advantage. *Perspectives on Politics*, 15(1), pp.42-61.
- Bianco, C. and Stansfield, G., 2018. The intra-GCC crises: mapping GCC fragmentation after 2011. *International Affairs*, 94(3), pp.613-635.
- Biekart, K., 2015. The choice of the new Latin American middle classes: sharing or self-caring. *The European Journal of Development Research*, 27, pp.238-245.
- Blarel, N., 2022. Modi looks West? Assessing change and continuity in India's Middle East policy since 2014. *International Politics*, 59(1), pp.90-111.
- Can, S., 2017. *Making sense of ISIS'Geopolitical imagination* (Master's thesis, Sakarya Universitesi (Turkey)).
- Clark, J.H., 2017. Feminist geopolitics and the Middle East: Refuge, belief, and peace. *Geography Compass*, 11(2), p.e12304.
- Cook, M., 2016. The long-term geopolitics of the pre-modern Middle East. *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 26(1-2), pp.33-41.
- Creutzig, F., Baiocchi, G., Bierkandt, R., Pichler, P.P. and Seto, K.C., 2015. Global typology of urban energy use and potentials for an urbanization mitigation wedge. *Proceedings of the national academy of sciences*, 112(20), pp.6283-6288.

- Darwich, M., 2021. Alliance politics in the post-2011 Middle East: Advancing theoretical and empirical perspectives. *Mediterranean Politics*, 26(5), pp.635-656.
- Durac, V., 2018. Social movements, protest movements and cross-ideological coalitions—the Arab uprisings re-appraised. In *After the Arab Uprisings* (pp. 47-66). Routledge.
- Evron, Y., 2017. China's diplomatic initiatives in the Middle East: the quest for a great-power role in the region. *International Relations*, 31(2), pp.125-144.
- Fang, Q. and Lu, X., 2021, October. The Transformation of the US Strategy in the Middle East: Retreat after 2011. In *2021 International Conference on Public Relations and Social Sciences (ICPRSS 2021)* (pp. 655-661). Atlantis Press.
- Gause III, F.G., 2009. *The international relations of the Persian Gulf*. Cambridge University Press.
- Ghafoori, A., 2016. The Study of Effects of Iraq's New Political Geography on the National Security of the Islamic Republic of Iran. *J. Pol. & L.*, 9, p.230.
- Gleick, P.H. and Heberger, M., 2014. Water and conflict: events, trends, and analysis (2011–2012). *The world's water: The biennial report on freshwater resources*, pp.159-171.
- Gul, A., Abbasi, R.K. and Haider, S.A., 2021. Iran and Saudi Arabia's strategic rivalry and the Middle Eastern security: An assessment. *Liberal Arts and Social Sciences International Journal (LASSIJ)*, 5(2), pp.17-29.
- Güney, A. and Gökcan, F., 2010. The 'greater Middle East' as a 'modern' geopolitical imagination in American foreign policy. *Geopolitics*, 15(1), pp.22-38.
- Gürçan, E.C., 2019. Political geography of Turkey's intervention in Syria: underlying causes and consequences (2011-2016). *Journal of Aggression, Conflict and Peace Research*, 11(1), pp.1-10.
- Gause III, F.G., 2017. Ideologies, alignments, and underbalancing in the new Middle East cold war. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 50(3), pp.672-675.
- Harutyunyan, A., 2020. China and Israel: evolving relationship within the Belt and Road Initiative. *Asian Journal of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies*, 14(3), pp.410-429.
- Haugbolle, S., 2019. Entanglement, Global History, and the Arab Left. *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 51(2), pp.301-304.
- Hom, A.R., 2010. Hegemonic metronome: the ascendancy of Western standard time. *Review of International Studies*, 36(4), pp.1145-1170.
- Hu, W., Shan, Y., Deng, Y., Fu, N., Duan, J., Jiang, H. and Zhang, J., 2023. Geopolitical risk evolution and obstacle factors of countries along the belt and road and its types classification. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 20(2), p.1618.
- Ismail, M., 2015. Iran's Nuclear Program: Regional Implications and Possible Outcomes. *Asian Politics & Policy*, 7(2), pp.245-263.
- Khidhir, Z.M., 2021. US Foreign Policy Goals in the Middle East Between 2011 and 2021. *Foreign Policy Review*, 14(3), pp.164-182.
- Kompas, T., Pham, V.H. and Che, T.N., 2018. The effects of climate change on GDP by country and the global economic gains from complying with the Paris climate accord. *Earth's Future*, 6(8), pp.1153-1173.
- Lecocq, S., 2020. EU foreign policy and hybrid actors in the Middle East: ready for geopolitical contestation?. *Global Affairs*, 6(4-5), pp.363-380.
- Lee, R.D., 2018. *Religion and politics in the Middle East: Identity, ideology, institutions, and attitudes*. Routledge.
- Liu, W., Sun, X. and Wu, K., 2022. War and the Nation-Building of Arab States in the Middle East. *Open Journal of Social Sciences*, 10(7), pp.206-215.

- Lesbirel, S.H., 2013. The insuring state: Japanese oil import security and the Middle East. *Asian Journal of Political Science*, 21(1), pp.41-61.
- Lelieveld, J., Proestos, Y., Hadjinicolaou, P., Tanarhte, M., Tyrlis, E. and Zittis, G., 2016. Strongly increasing heat extremes in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) in the 21st century. *Climatic Change*, 137(1), pp.245-260.
- Lu, L. and Thies, C.G., 2013. War, rivalry, and state building in the Middle East. *Political Research Quarterly*, 66(2), pp.239-253.
- Mabon, S., 2020. Four questions about de-sectarianization. *The review of faith & international affairs*, 18(1), pp.1-11.
- Mousavi Shafae, S.M. and Golmohammadi, V., 2022. The Regional-Supremacy Trap: Disorder in the Middle East. *Middle East Policy*, 29(1), pp.61-73.
- Nagel, C. and Staeheli, L., 2015. International donors, NGOs, and the geopolitics of youth citizenship in contemporary Lebanon. *Geopolitics*, 20(2), pp.223-247.
- Nakip, T., 2013. Is There a Middle East?, The Evolution of a Geopolitical Concept. *Cankaya University Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 10(1), pp.81-99.
- Nasser, A.S.N.B., 2012. Water Modeling Technologies: A Key to Unlocking Water Conflict in the Middle East?. *Journal of Contemporary Water Research & Education*, 149(1), pp.13-21.
- Nematollahi, O., Hoghooghi, H., Rasti, M. and Sedaghat, A., 2016. Energy demands and renewable energy resources in the Middle East. *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*, 54, pp.1172-1181.
- Niva, S.M., 2003. *Rival sovereignties: Western hegemony and normative conflict in the Middle East state-system*. Columbia University.
- Ozekin, M.K. and Ariöz, Z., 2014. Rethinking the Conflict-Proneness of Oil-Rentiers State in Historical Context. *Alternatives: Turkish Journal of International Relations*, 13(1&2), pp.52-61.
- Paul, J., 2016. Nomads and Bukhara. A study in nomad migrations, pasture, and climate change (11th century CE). *Der Islam*, 93(2), pp.495-531.
- Polaschik, J., Kemp, G. and Benaim, D., 2019. The Future of US Engagement in the Middle East. *Middle East Policy*, 26(2).
- Rabi, U. and Mueller, C., 2018. The geopolitics of sectarianism in the Persian Gulf. *Asian Journal of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies*, 12(1), pp.46-65.
- Raouf, H., 2019. Iranian quest for regional hegemony: motivations, strategies and constrains. *Review of economics and political science*, 4(3), pp.242-256.
- Sakai, K., 2015. ISIS and Sectarianism as a Result of a Meltdown of the Regional Orders in the Middle East. *International Relations and Diplomacy*, 3(4), pp.265-278.
- Sedghi, H., 2017. Trumpism: The geopolitics of the united states, the middle east and iran. *Socialism and Democracy*, 31(3), pp.82-93.
- Seeberg, P., 2016. Analysing security subcomplexes in a changing Middle East—the role of non-Arab state actors and non-state actors. *Palgrave Communications*, 2(1), pp.1-8.
- Singh, S. and Singh, B., 2019. Geopolitics of ports: Factoring Iran in India's counterbalancing strategy for "Sino-Pak Axis". *Journal of Eurasian Studies*, 10(2), pp.169-182.
- Sparke, M., 2007. Geopolitical fears, geoeconomic hopes, and the responsibilities of geography. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 97(2), pp.338-349.
- Snoubar, Y. and Duman, N., 2017. Impact of wars and conflicts on women and children in Middle East: health, psychological, educational and social crisis. *European Journal of Social Science Education and Research*, 4(1), pp.57-63.

- Taskiran, C., Akgun, I. H., & Bulut, B. 2020. Perceptions of Social Studies Teacher Candidates About Middle East—A Metaphor Study. *International Online Journal of Educational Sciences*, 12(4).
- Wang, B., 2013. Study on the Current US Strategic Adjustment in the Middle East. *Journal of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies (in Asia)*, 7(1), pp.82-99.
- Weisgrau, M., Rosman, A. and Rubel, P.G., 2023. *The tapestry of culture: An introduction to cultural anthropology*. Rowman & Littlefield.
- Wormuth, C., 2019. Russia and China in the Middle East: Implications for the United States in an era of strategic competition.
- Zehraa, S. and Malik, M.S., 2017. Saudi Arabia, Iran and Middle East-A Dilemma.