

Role of saudi arabia in gulf politics



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Research Synopsis M. phil

SAUDI ARABIA AS BALANCER IN GULF POLITICS

- Shaista Shaukat ali

ABSTRACT

Saudi Arabia has played a key role in Gulf politics, security and economy, for the past four decades, as well as in Muslim world during different conflicts, issues and challenges like Palestine issue, Kuwait Iraq war, Yemen, Syria and Egypt crisis. The study will provide how certain factors in Muslim world like oil, religion & regional conflicts, shaped their relations with Saudi Arabia. Although each factor has played a significant role in determining the foreign policy behavior in Muslim states, each factor has assumed different degrees of importance, and impacts on relation among Saudi Arabia and Muslim world on different time period, and how Saudi Arabia interested in maintaining a degree of co-operation policies, diplomacy, view point, strategic alliances and efforts to resolve the issues and crisis among Muslim states. Saudi Arabia has wielded considerable influence with its neighbors through its vast oil reserves, financial and political support, and the ideological influence, domestically, and that how Saudi Arabia has power to affect regional political developments.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Political Science and International Relations emerged as a result of the need to establish substantial connections between current politics and social sciences throughout the century. The change in the international political

environment especially in Muslim world has great impacts on relation among Muslim and non Muslim states, in this perspective, the study will help to understand the role of Saudi Arabia in Gulf politics and in conflicts of Muslim states.

HYPOTHESIS

H1: Saudi Arabia as a conflict manager in Middle Eastern security environment

H2. Saudi Arabia is influencing the Gulf politics through security alliances

H3: Saudi hegemony increasing in Muslim world due to its positive involvement in crisis

OBJECTIVES

The study will identify and explore different factors and variables which have impacted on shaping policies and decision by Saudi Arabia in managing conflicts in Muslim world. The study will attempt to establish and develop a comprehensive understanding of Saudi relations with Muslim states and will examine how these relations have been affected by various issues. The study will highlight the different factors, impacting on strategic relations between Saudi and Muslim world and shaping their foreign and national policies.

METHODOLOGY

Data related to the topic will be collected from books, newspapers, articles, journals, research papers and government records.

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The research work will be descriptive, qualitative techniques will be applied in the study.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Many books have been written on Saudi Arabia and its role in Gulf state and in Muslim World. However major books, articles which are most relevant to the proposal research work discussed below:

Palgrave Connect in “ Regional Powers in the Middle East: New Constellations After the Arab Revolts” explained how Saudi Arabia capable to perform his role in regional affairs. The writer also provides some information about Saudi role in Arab League and also makes a comparison between Turkey and Saudi Arabia as regional power in Muslim World. This will be helpful in research as to know about the policies of regional powers in Middle East.

Barry Rubin in “ Conflict and Insurgency in the Contemporary Middle East “ provided a comparative analysis of militant wings and their supports in Middle East. It informed about the nature of conflicts in Gulf States and role of regional actors which can play a decisive role in resolving conflicts, so this book will be helpful to analyse the role of Saudi Arabia as a balancer in region.

Ron Eduard Hassner in “ War on Sacred Grounds “ comprehensively described the mysteries and space of conflicts on sacred places. The narrator explained the Makkah and Jerusalem conflict and role of religious and political authorities of Middle East and also define the role of conflict manager Saudi Arabia. This book is quite relevant to the research topic.

Sarah Stern in "Saudi Arabia and the Global Islamic Terrorist Network: America and the West's Fatal Embrace" an important book which provides information on how Saudi Arabia plays a role in OIC as a larger funder and financial support of this organization.

"Thicker than Oil" by Rachel Bronson, is a very helpful book and discusses the Saudi relationship, geographic location and religiously motivated foreign policies, efforts to resolve the conflict from Africa to Afghanistan, Egypt to Nicaragua,

The Saudi Enigma: A History by Pascal Ménoret, is a comprehensive book on Saudi involvement in Egypt, Syria, Tunisia, Algeria and the Gulf War.

Riad A. Attar in "Arms and Conflict in the Middle East". In this book, the writer discusses the importance of Saudi Arabia in Gulf politics and its influence on different conflicts in Gulf states. A more important thing about this book is that the writer narrated figures about conflicts.

William M. Habib in "The Middle East in Turmoil: Conflict, Revolution, and Change" discusses the ideologies of Gulf states and their close ties with Muslim and non-Muslim states, and how these ties and ideologies influence the strategic partnership of Saudi Arabia with states. It will be helpful to examine Saudi consensus to different threats to the Middle East.

Simon Murden in "Islam, the Middle East, and the New Global Hegemony" examined the Saudi influence on Muslim states as well as relations with major superpowers in international politics. The writer described the security and economic ties of Saudi Arabia with nuclear powers that impact

the whole Muslim world directly and indirectly, in this way this book will help during research.

Nawaf E. Obaid in "The Power of Saudi Arabia's Islamic Leaders" discussed the role of Saudi Ulema in national and foreign policies as well as oil embargo and about the Saudi hosting of foreign troops. This journal will also be helpful in this research.

Tim Niblock in "Saudi Arabia: Power, Legitimacy and Survival" discussed political agenda, reforms, policies, structure and change that not effect the Gulf politics and policies but influence the whole Muslim world. It will be helpful to make research about Saudi's role as conflict manager.

Stig Stenslie in "Regime Stability in Saudi Arabia: The Challenge of Succession" threw light on the main decision makers related to security economic and political relations and alliances of royal family to other Muslim politicians. This book is quite relevant to the research topic and will be helpful in this regard.

Hatem Shareef Abu-Lebdeh in "Conflict and Peace in the Middle East" discussed the role of Saudi Arabia in division of Gulf politics, collation with Gulf States, resolutions, economic embargo which reflected the means and approaches to resolve the Gulf crises. This book will also be helpful in research in point of view to understand the role of Saudi Arabia in Gulf politics.

Suhara Ashfaq in "What is Saudi Arabia's Desired Role in Muslim World?" discussed the influential and dominating role of Saudi Arabia elaborating close ties between USA & KSA

James Wynbrandt in “ A Brief History of Saudi Arabia” by told us Saudi Arabia is an Islamic state has played a prominent role throughout the history and how influenced the regional politics. The interesting fact about this book is that the writer narrated everything through pictures, map, charts and illustration so it will quite helpful in this research.

Majid Khadduri, Edmund Ghareeb in “ War in the Gulf, 1990-91: The Iraq-Kuwait Conflict and Its Implications “ explained how Saudi Arabia played the positive and effective role in Arab Gulf crisis, and efforts for not reach an agreement by direct negotiation, and how they promote co operation among Muslim countries during the crisis.

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