

The Challenges and Economic Consequences of the Close Relations between Saudi Arabia and Israel on the National Security of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Amirhossein Nemati¹

Jalal torkashvand²

Alireza Naeij³ 

1-Introduction

Strengthening economic security, expanding trade and investment, and promoting economic development play a crucial role in the national security strategies of countries. The growth and development of a nation's economy are intrinsically linked to the quality and quantity of its relationships with rival states. The Islamic Republic of Iran is no exception; it has consistently been affected by the nature of its rivalries and significant regional and global events throughout its history. One noteworthy recent development that could negatively impact Iran's national security is the growing rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Israel. The current article aims to address the question: What economic challenges will arise from the close relations between Saudi Arabia and the Zionist regime concerning the national security of the Islamic Republic of Iran? The central finding of this research is that the strengthening of relations between Saudi Arabia and Israel will create regional and global synergies against Iran. This dynamic is likely to intensify existing economic pressures and significantly affect the national security of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

¹Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Relations, Department of Geography, Faculty of Basic Sciences, Imam Ali University (AS), Tehran, Iran. amirhossein_nematy@yahoo.com

² Assistant Professor of Political Science, Imam Ali University (AS), Tehran, Iran. jalaltorkashvand56@yahoo.com

³ Ph.d in International Relations. alireza128@gmail.com



2- Methodology and Theoretical Framework

While mainstream international relations and traditional security studies often view security as a one-dimensional issue, focusing solely on military, physical, or material aspects, the Copenhagen School advocates for a broader understanding of security. This school of thought challenges the narrow definition of security and emphasizes its expansion to include a variety of dimensions.

In 1983, Richard Ullman published a seminal article critiquing the conventional approach to security. He argued that an exclusive focus on military security creates a misleading representation of security issues. Ullman highlighted the importance of considering factors such as population growth and resource scarcity as significant security concerns. This broader perspective can be applied to the concept of national security in the West Asia, where the interplay between economic factors and national security is evident. In addition, issues such as power competition for regional influence, arms races and other related factors make the understanding of the concept of national security in this region much more complicated. Consequently, according to the comprehensive approach of the Copenhagen school to the concept of security, this theory has more ability to explain the concept of national security in West Asia.

This research employs a a descriptive-analytical approach, utilizing documentary information as the primary method of data collection.

3- Discussion

By examining Iran's economic indicators, we can conclude that since 2012, the Islamic Republic of Iran has struggled to improve key metrics such as national income, unemployment, and inflation, which has hindered prosperity and living conditions for nearly a decade.

The coincidence of this failure to improve indicators with the various political crises, including international sanctions and regional tensions, indicates a significant and direct relationship between these two economic and political phenomena, ultimately impacting the national security of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iran's significant neglect of balanced development across various dimensions, coupled with a strong emphasis on security, has considerably slowed the process of economic development.

This shift was largely driven by international sanctions and pressures. However, the continuation of these conditions, coupled with the cooperation of regional and international rivals, poses serious challenges for Iran.

The normalization of relations between Saudi Arabia, a rival that has sometimes acted as an enemy, and Israel, a clear adversary, is an example of these political dynamics.

Evidence suggests that Israel's efforts to forge a strategic alliance with Gulf Arab nations could persist, despite recent setbacks following the October 7 attacks, particularly with U.S. support could lead to significant challenges and consequences for the Islamic Republic of Iran in the foreseeable future.

Given that Saudi Arabia is a significant regional rival and the Zionist regime is viewed as Iran's primary adversary, the normalization of relations between Riyadh and Tel Aviv poses a serious concern for the Islamic Republic of Iran. This normalization of relations, potentially impacting Iran's national security across three key areas: economic, political, and military-security. This threat arises from the synergy created by the collaboration of Saudi and Israeli capabilities, bolstered by U.S. support.

4- Conclusion and Suggestions

Regardless of the potential scenarios surrounding the normalization process, which reflect both parties' willingness to reach an agreement, it could present substantial challenges for Iran, particularly in the economic domain. The economic sector is a critical component of security within the framework of the Copenhagen school, influencing other aspects of national security amid heightened U.S. economic pressure.

The implications of the normalization of relations for Iran may include increased economic pressures stemming from its regional presence, diminished trade with Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) countries, additional costs imposed by the international

system, and the continuation and intensification of sanctions against Iran which supported by Jewish-Saudi lobbies in the U.S. and the West.

To counter these threats, it is essential for the Islamic Republic of Iran to adopt a strategy aimed at maintaining stable relations with Arab nations and preventing any regional or global coalition against itself. Iran should leverage its regional influence to raise the costs for any country—whether regional or extra-regional—that seeks to build a consensus against it.

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