

Table of contents

Articles:

<i>The Geopolitical Analysis of Pakistan's Relations with the Neighbors: The Tensions and Threats.....</i>	7
<i>Javad Etaat, Ebrahim Ahmadi</i>	
<i>The Annexation of Crimea to the Russian Federation from the Perspective of International Law.....</i>	8
<i>Hamidreza Jamali , Hossein Khamesipour</i>	
<i>A Study of the Role of Identity in Relationship between Islamic Republic of Iran and the European Union</i>	9
<i>Gholamreza Karimi , Mohsen Keshvarian Azad</i>	
<i>The Geopolitical Analysis of Pakistan's Relations with the Neighbors: The Tensions and Threats.....</i>	10
<i>Javad Etaat, Ebrahim Ahmadi</i>	
<i>An Analysis of the Popular Uprising in the Middle East from the Viewpoint of Oil Political Economy.....</i>	11
<i>Saeed Mirtorabi</i>	
<i>Media War: The Challenge of Political Islam Based on Iranian Shia and Saudi Wahhabi Based Model of Bahrain.....</i>	12
<i>Karamreza Karamian Habili , engameh Alborzi</i>	
<i>Discourse Analysis Method and the Question of Self and Other.....</i>	13
<i>Faezeh Ghasemi</i>	
<i>Analysis of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization.....</i>	14
<i>Mohammadreza Faraji</i>	

Media War: The Challenge of Political Islam Based on Iranian Shia and Saudi Wahhabi Based Model of Bahrain

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Abstract

Nowadays one of the important international discussions is the developments that have occurred in the Middle East region. Movements that are called Arab Spring which have emerged from the awakening of the nations for achieving their due rights and demand for implementing reforms in dictatorial regimes of the Middle East region. One of these developments that has affected Bahrain, is the wave of Islamic awakening and extension of its reach to Kingdom of Bahrain. This development in Bahrain has led to a competition between two models of Shia Iran and Wahhabi Saudi Arabia. The lack of agreement between the two countries on question of Bahrain uprising has brought the two on the threshold of a proxy war in the field of Media. The present article by making use of politics of representation approach wants to examine the media diplomacy of the two countries vis-à-vis Bahrain crisis. The article also wants to answer a question that what role Bahrain crisis plays in the foreign policy of the two countries? What media diplomacy the two countries pursue vis-à-vis Bahrain? The underlying hypothesis is that the assumption of the Islamic Republic of Iran is that Bahrain developments is an Islamic awakening movement influenced and inspired by Islamic revolution of Iran and the assumption and representation of Saudi Arabia is that Bahrain uprising is merely an Arabic problem. These two conflicting outlook of the two countries had led to the confrontation of their viewpoints

Keywords: Bahrain crisis, foreign policy, Media diplomacy, political representation, Islamic awakening.

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Discourse Analysis Method and the Question of Self and Other

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Abstract

Since the last 20 years discourse analysis is considered as an effective and popular method. Initially it was described as a sub-set of linguistics and for semiotic of different texts but now it has broader social and political application. Therefore, today it is useful and able to examine the wider issues. Classical discourse analysis's scope is detailed analysis and explanation of the issues. The important question raised by the article is how the theory and method of discourse analysis can be used for a better understanding of the question of self and other in international relations? In other words the article wants to show the importance and usefulness of discourse analysis in understanding the question of self and other. The article also wants to examine the possibility of linking the two and show that different kind of discourse analysis and its potential ability for understanding identity. The underlying hypothesis and finding of the study is that discourse analysis is having an historical minutely and explorative look at issues, therefore, using this method is quite useful for understanding the concepts and new meanings of self and other.

Keywords: *Bakhtin, other, discourse, Paul Gee, identity*

Analysis of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization

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Abstract

After the disintegration of the Soviet Union and Eastern Bloc the international system underwent dramatic change and bipolar system gave its place to a unipolar system led by the United States. Besides this structural change, the development in the field of science and technology has led to the evolution and diversity in international actors and issues. All these developments led to the emergence and evolution of international organizations and the increased role of them in international arena. After 1990s we witness the growth and increase in the number of regional and global international organizations. This growth indicates the importance of regions, regional organization and regional integration in recent years. One of these regional international organizations is the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization. The present article examines the function and performance of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization by a descriptive-analytical method. The finding of the study shows that the organization was primarily established with the aim of maintaining peace, stability and friendly relations among the member states but some member countries are interested to join the European Union and consider this regional organization as a stepping stone for joining European Union.

Keywords: structural changes, International System, the Black Sea region, international organizations

An Analysis of the Popular Uprising in the Middle East from the Viewpoint of Oil Political Economy

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Abstract

The present article tries to study the popular uprising in Arab countries of the Middle East and North Africa by a political economy of oil approach. The article makes use of a multi-variable analytical model that can both explain causes of uprising and different directions and outcomes of the events in popular revolt that started in Arab countries from late 2010. The article shows that all the countries of the Middle East and North Africa have similar characteristics that can explain them as dependence on foreign rents. Kind and level of these rents and the extent of dependency on them vary among the countries of the region but the presence of rents is common among them nevertheless that affects the political stability in different ways. The most important question of the article is how political economy of the Middle East oil has affected the popular uprising of the Arab countries and its process of the developments. The underlying hypothesis is that the political economy of oil of the Middle Eastern countries has created a rigid rentier structure and this particular structure has played an important role in popular uprisings. A different mix of oil revenue along with mediatory socio-political variables has led to different directions of political development of the uprisings of the people of the region. The article makes use of new theoretical framework in studies of oil and politics and by the help of it explains different directions of different countries uprisings. The article by the help of descriptive analytical method has analyzed qualitative and quantitative data to test the hypothesis.

Keywords: popular uprising in the Middle East, oil political economy, rigid rentier structures, different kinds of external rent, stabilizing and destabilizing effects of external rent.

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A Study of the Role of Identity in Relationship between Islamic Republic of Iran and the European Union

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Abstract

The political and economic influence of Islamic Republic of Iran and European Union in world and regional interaction can provide a suitable ground for expansion of cooperation and integration between the two but during the past three decades the relations between the two sides not only had great ups and downs but in certain period it had been strained. The purpose of the present article is to examine the role of identity elements that affect the relations of Iran and European Union and also the impact of social and identity element as disintegrative factors in relation between the two. The assumption is that after the Islamic revolution the relations between Islamic Republic of Iran and European Union have been influenced by factors like identity, culture, values, norms and inter-subjective concepts. These influencing factors have led to different outlook and viewpoint towards global problems and pessimistic view towards each other which act as disintegrative factor in bilateral relations. The reason is that the values and norms of Islamic Republic of Iran are derived from Islamic-revolutionary identity which has formed after Islamic revolution. On the other hand the European Union values are based on European identity, liberal Western values and secularism.

Keywords: *Iran, the European Union, identity elements, constructivism, inter-subjective paradigms.*

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Pattern of Formation of Foreign Relations in The Islamic Republic of Iran from Bazargan Period to Khatami period (1978-2005)

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Abstract

After the occurrence of the Islamic revolution, foreign relations of Islamic Republic of Iran underwent several changes and new variables emerged which on its turn led to changes in foreign relations and determined the nature and kind of relations in different period. In fact different national objectives and roles in several periods led to different orientation and consequently different foreign relations in the first to fourth period. Now the basic question which arises here is; what variables put the most impact on national objectives and roles in first to fourth period and as a result formation of different foreign relations? The structure of international system, domestic needs, the perception, attitude of decision makers and geopolitics are four important variables that have defined the national objectives and roles during first to fourth period and as a result led to formation of different dimension for foreign relations. The factors that have led to the formation of different foreign relations in four periods depend on the weight of the four mentioned variables. The methodology used in the study is descriptive-analytical and the method of data collection is library, documents and internet sources.

Keywords: *foreign relations, foreign policy of Iran, ideological oriented government, pragmatic government, culture oriented government, national objectives, national roles, orientation.*

The Annexation of Crimea to the Russian Federation from the Perspective of International Law

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Abstract

Annexation of Crimea to the Russia refers to the separation of part of the Crimean peninsula, which was recognized as part of Ukraine. Russia annexed it to the mainland through a referendum after a military operation and help of pro-Russian local authorities in March 2014. A process which was considered by many international leaders and institutions as illegal and consequently sanctions were imposed against Russia. On the other hand Russia and pro-Russian Crimean people of Russian origin consider their action as legitimate and in the direction of right of self-determination. They cite the International Court of Justice (ICJ) opinion on Kosovo. The present article raises the question that how the action of Russia in separating Crimea from Ukraine and annexing it to herself can be evaluated from the perspective of international law? The methodology used in the research is descriptive-analytical. The finding of the study shows that international law cannot explain it with a no or yes answer whether this action had been legal or illegal but this practice can become a precedent which will certainly jeopardize the world security in future.

Keywords: *Crimea, Russia, Ukraine, military intervention, self-determination, accession, referendum.*

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The Geopolitical Analysis of Pakistan's Relations with the Neighbors: The Tensions and Threats

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Abstract

Pakistan is a country that gained her independence in August 1947. Facts and evidences indicate that during this short span of time she has encountered numerous internal and external problems. The question raised by the present article is that how Pakistan's relations with her neighbors can be evaluated taking into consideration its present policy? There are clear reasons that show Pakistan has always been source of tension and threat for her neighbors on one way or another. Territorial disputes on Kashmir and dangerous arms race with India, territorial dispute with Afghanistan on Durand Line which is the long border of the two countries and support of Taliban in destabilizing Afghanistan, widespread tension with Iran, like ideological tension, border problems, and divergent objectives in Afghanistan etc. At present Pakistan is maintaining good relations with China but there are reasons that show the existing relations with China will become tense in future. The methodology used in the article is descriptive-analytical based on qualitative method. The Collection of data is library and internet sources.

Keywords: *Pakistan, neighbors, geopolitics.*

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