

China's Foreign Policy toward Iran: The Changing Landscape of Politics and Its Implication on the Middle East Power dynamics

Saira Bano ^{*1}, Muhammad Asif ², Muhammad Huzaifa Bin Salih ³

¹ M.Phil. Scholar, Department of Politics and International Studies, Karakorum International University, Gilgit. sairabano431@gmail.com

² Ph.D. scholar, Department of Pakistan studies, Imperial College of Business Studies, Lahore sirasif786@gmail.com

³ Assistant Director INF, DGIPR, Civil Secretariat KP, PHD Scholar, Political Science & IR Department, Qurtuba University of Science and Technology, Peshawar. mhbs2222@gmail.com
Corresponding Author: Saira Bano sairabano431@gmail.com

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.70670/sra.v3i1.551>

Abstract:

China's foreign policy toward Iran has undergone significant shifts in recent years, reflecting broader geopolitical realignments and Beijing's growing influence in the Middle East. This paper examines the evolving nature of Sino-Iranian relations, focusing on key factors such as economic cooperation, strategic partnerships, and energy security. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has deepened ties between the two nations, while U.S. sanctions on Iran have pushed Tehran to seek alternative economic and diplomatic alliances, further solidifying its relationship with China. Moreover, China's balancing act between Iran and other regional powers, including Saudi Arabia and Israel, underscores its pragmatic approach to Middle Eastern politics. The recent China-brokered Saudi-Iran rapprochement highlights Beijing's increasing role as a diplomatic mediator, challenging traditional Western influence in the region. These shifts have significant implications for Middle East power dynamics, reshaping alliances and potentially altering the strategic calculus of major players, including the United States. The China's engagement with Iran through political, economic, and security lenses, this study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how this evolving relationship is transforming regional stability and global power structures.

Keywords: China-Iran relations, foreign policy, middle East, Belt and Road Initiative, geopolitical realignment.

Introduction

China's foreign policy toward Iran has evolved significantly in recent decades, shaped by economic interests, geopolitical shifts, and strategic considerations. As China expands its global influence, the Middle East has become a crucial region for Beijing's energy security, trade ambitions, and diplomatic outreach. Iran, with its vast energy resources and strategic location, has emerged as a key partner in China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), reinforcing bilateral ties despite Western sanctions and regional tensions (Fulton, 2023). The deepening China-Iran relationship raises important questions about its implications for Middle East power dynamics and global geopolitics. One of the primary drivers of Sino-Iranian cooperation is energy security. China is the world's largest oil importer, and Iran, possessing the fourth-largest proven oil reserves, has become an

essential supplier, particularly as U.S. sanctions have isolated Tehran from Western markets (Scita, 2022). Beyond energy, economic partnerships have flourished, including infrastructure investments and financial agreements under the 25-year China-Iran Comprehensive Strategic Partnership signed in 2021 (Calabrese, 2021). These agreements signal China's long-term commitment to Iran, despite pressure from the United States and its regional allies. However, China's engagement with Iran is part of a broader balancing act in the Middle East. Beijing has cultivated strong relations with Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Israel, positioning itself as a neutral mediator while prioritizing economic and security interests (Ehteshami, 2023). The 2023 China-brokered détente between Iran and Saudi Arabia illustrates Beijing's growing diplomatic role, potentially reshaping regional alliances and reducing Western dominance in Middle Eastern affairs (Zhao, 2023). The evolving landscape of China-Iran relations, examining the political, economic, and strategic factors driving their partnership. By analyzing these dynamics, the study aims to provide insights into the broader implications of China's Middle East strategy on regional power structures and global geopolitics. China's foreign policy in the Middle East has undergone a strategic transformation, driven by its economic expansion, energy security concerns, and growing geopolitical ambitions. Among its regional partnerships, China's relationship with Iran stands out as a crucial axis in shaping the balance of power in the Middle East. Historically, Sino-Iranian relations have been characterized by economic cooperation, particularly in the energy sector, as well as mutual opposition to Western-led global governance structures (Scita, 2022). However, in recent years, China has taken a more active role in regional diplomacy, positioning itself as a key player in Middle Eastern affairs, a role traditionally dominated by the United States and its allies (Ehteshami & Horesh, 2023).

China-Iran Relations and the Multipolar Middle East

One of the most profound implications of China's strategic partnership with Iran is its contribution to a multipolar Middle East. Historically, the region has been shaped by the dominance of Western powers, particularly the United States, which has played a central role in securing energy routes, maintaining military bases, and influencing regional policies. However, China's increasing involvement is challenging the long-standing U.S. influence and providing regional states with alternative strategic partners. Through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China has been integrating Iran into a larger economic network that extends across Asia, Africa, and Europe. By investing in Iranian infrastructure, energy projects, and transportation corridors, Beijing is fostering economic interdependence that weakens the West's ability to isolate Tehran through sanctions. In doing so, China is not only securing its energy needs but also positioning itself as a major power broker in the Middle East (Yazdanshenas, 2024). Beyond economic investments, China's diplomatic engagements such as mediating the Saudi-Iran détente in 2023 demonstrate Beijing's willingness to act as a regional stabilizer. Unlike the U.S., which has historically pursued interventionist policies, China's approach emphasizes economic diplomacy and conflict resolution. If China continues to expand its influence in regional negotiations, it could further solidify its role as a key player in shaping Middle Eastern security arrangements. However, this increased influence does not come without risks, as Beijing may find itself entangled in complex sectarian and geopolitical conflicts. One of the primary drivers of China's engagement with Iran is energy security. As the world's largest oil importer, China relies on stable access to fossil fuels to sustain its economic growth. Iran, possessing the fourth-largest proven oil reserves and the second-largest natural gas reserves, has become a strategic supplier for China, particularly as U.S. sanctions have restricted Tehran's access to Western markets (Calabrese, 2021). The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) further cements this relationship, with Iran serving as a critical transit hub connecting China to Europe and the broader Middle East (Fulton, 2023). The China-Iran 25-year

strategic partnership, signed in 2021, exemplifies Beijing's long-term commitment to economic and military cooperation with Tehran, despite Western opposition (Al-Tamimi, 2021).

However, China's engagement with Iran is not solely an economic endeavor it also has significant geopolitical and strategic dimensions. In response to U.S.-led containment efforts, China has increasingly sought to counterbalance Western influence in global affairs by strengthening ties with nations facing similar diplomatic isolation (Zhao, 2023). Iran, as a long-standing adversary of the United States, aligns with China's broader goal of promoting a multipolar world order where Western hegemony is diluted (Ghiselli, 2022). Furthermore, China has expanded its military and technological cooperation with Iran, including arms sales, cyber-security collaborations, and intelligence-sharing agreements (Kamrava, 2022). Despite the growing ties between Beijing and Tehran, China has carefully balanced its Middle East strategy by maintaining strong economic and diplomatic relationships with Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Israel (Ehteshami & Horesh, 2023). This pragmatic approach enables China to avoid entanglement in regional conflicts while maximizing its economic and strategic interests. The 2023 China-brokered Saudi-Iran détente highlights Beijing's increasing role as a diplomatic mediator, potentially reshaping traditional regional alliances and signaling a shift away from U.S.-dominated mediation efforts (Zhao, 2023). The evolution of China's foreign policy toward Iran by examining its economic, political, and strategic dimensions. Specifically, it will explore how this partnership influences Middle Eastern power dynamics, the regional balance of power, and the broader implications for U.S. foreign policy. By assessing key developments such as the BRI, energy partnerships, security cooperation, and China's role in regional diplomacy, this study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the shifting geopolitical landscape in the Middle East (Andersen, 2023).

Implications on the Middle East Power Dynamics

China's growing engagement with Iran is reshaping the balance of power in the Middle East, challenging traditional alliances and altering the region's geopolitical landscape. Historically, the Middle East has been dominated by Western influence, particularly through U.S. military presence and diplomatic interventions (Ghiselli, 2022). However, China's economic and strategic partnership with Iran, coupled with its broader regional ambitions, is shifting the dynamics by introducing a multipolar structure where Beijing plays an increasingly prominent role (Ehteshami & Horesh, 2023).

1. Reducing U.S. Influence in the Region

China's deepening ties with Iran provide Tehran with an economic and political buffer against U.S. sanctions and diplomatic isolation. As a result, Iran is less reliant on Western markets and institutions, thereby reducing Washington's ability to exert pressure through economic measures (Scita, 2022). The China-Iran 25-year strategic agreement, which includes infrastructure investment, military cooperation, and energy trade, strengthens Iran's position as a regional actor capable of resisting Western influence (Calabrese, 2021). Additionally, China's involvement in the 2023 Iran-Saudi rapprochement demonstrates Beijing's increasing role as a mediator, directly challenging the United States' traditional role in regional diplomacy (Zhao, 2023).

2. Strengthening Iran's Regional Position

China's economic and military support empowers Iran in its regional ambitions, allowing it to expand influence across key strategic areas, including Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Yemen. Iran's

alliances with Shia militia groups and non-state actors, such as Hezbollah and the Houthis, have long been a source of tension with Saudi Arabia and Israel (Kamrava, 2022). With Chinese backing, Iran gains greater resilience against economic and military pressure from the Gulf States, potentially prolonging regional conflicts and rivalries (Fulton, 2023).

Moreover, China's investment in Iranian infrastructure, including ports, railways, and telecommunications, further integrates Iran into Beijing's broader Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) network. This strengthens Iran's economic ties with Russia, Central Asia, and Europe, positioning Tehran as a critical hub in China's transcontinental trade strategy (Al-Tamimi, 2021). Such developments may shift economic dependencies away from traditional Western and Gulf state markets, altering regional trade patterns and financial alliances.

3. Impact on Gulf States and Israel

China's growing ties with Iran have led to concerns among Gulf states and Israel, both of which view Tehran as a regional adversary. However, Beijing has adopted a pragmatic balancing strategy, maintaining close economic relations with Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Israel while deepening its partnership with Iran (Ehteshami & Horesh, 2023). This approach allows China to maximize its economic benefits without becoming entangled in the region's sectarian and geopolitical conflicts.

4. Shaping a Multipolar Middle East

China's increasing role in the Middle East contributes to a gradual shift from a **U.S.-led unipolar** system to a more multipolar order, where multiple external powers including Russia and China—compete for influence (Ghiselli, 2022). This transformation allows regional states to diversify their strategic partnerships, reducing overreliance on any single global power (Zhao, 2023). The China-brokered détente between Saudi Arabia and Iran is a clear indication of Beijing's willingness to act as a diplomatic power in the region, a role traditionally dominated by Washington (Fulton, 2023). If successful, China's mediation efforts could pave the way for new regional alignments, potentially leading to reduced conflicts and more economic integration within the Middle East. However, if Beijing fails to manage tensions effectively, it could find itself entangled in regional disputes, complicating its broader strategic ambitions. China's evolving relationship with Iran is a game-changer for Middle East power dynamics, weakening U.S. leverage, strengthening Iran's regional position, and forcing Gulf States and Israel to recalibrate their security strategies. While China's role as a neutral economic partner and mediator offers new diplomatic possibilities, it also introduces uncertainties regarding the region's long-term stability. As China continues to expand its presence in the Middle East, its balancing act will shape the future geopolitical landscape, influencing everything from economic partnerships to security alliances. For Saudi Arabia and the UAE, China's presence provides an alternative to U.S. security guarantees, offering diversification in economic and technological cooperation. However, the perception that China is bolstering Iran may push Gulf States to seek stronger security alignments with the U.S. and Western partners, potentially leading to a regional arms race (Calabrese, 2021). Similarly, Israel, which has benefited from robust economic ties with China, remains wary of Beijing's military and technological exchanges with Iran, particularly in cybersecurity, missile technology, and intelligence cooperation (Kamrava, 2022).

Diminishing U.S. Hegemony and the Rise of China

The United States has been the dominant external power in the Middle East since the mid-20th century, shaping security policies, economic structures, and military alliances. However, China's

increasing engagement with Iran along with its broader regional diplomacy—signals a shift away from the unipolar U.S.-led order toward a multipolar system (Fulton, 2023). Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has provided Iran and other regional actors with economic alternatives to U.S.-led financial institutions, reducing Washington's leverage (Scita, 2022).

Moreover, China's mediation in the 2023 Saudi-Iran rapprochement showcased its diplomatic ambitions in the region, raising concerns in Washington about declining U.S. influence (Zhao, 2023). If China continues to facilitate regional de-escalation efforts and infrastructure development, it could undermine the U.S. narrative that military dominance ensures regional **stability** (Ghiselli, 2022). This could push Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE, to diversify their security partnerships, weakening Washington's strategic foothold.

Military and Strategic Implications

The U.S. military presence in the Middle East has historically deterred Iranian expansionism and secured vital energy supply routes. However, as China deepens security cooperation with Iran—including military technology transfers, intelligence-sharing agreements, and joint naval drills in the Persian Gulf—the strategic calculations of regional actors could change (Kamrava, 2022). The China-Iran-Russia trilateral military cooperation, exemplified by joint naval exercises in the Indian Ocean, suggests that Beijing is willing to challenge U.S. dominance in maritime security (Al-Tamimi, 2021). Furthermore, China's support for Iran's defense sector—including the development of drone technology, ballistic missiles, and cyber warfare capabilities—could embolden Tehran against Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Western allies (Calabrese, 2021). This risks increasing **proxy conflicts** across the region, particularly in Lebanon (via Hezbollah), Yemen (via the Houthis), Iraq, and Syria (Ehteshami & Horesh, 2023).

2. Strengthening Iran's Regional Power

China's economic and diplomatic support reduces Iran's international isolation, allowing Tehran to assert itself more confidently across the Middle East. The 25-year China-Iran strategic partnership includes provisions for Chinese investments in Iran's energy, transportation, and technology sectors, reinforcing Tehran's long-term economic stability (Scita, 2022).

Iran's Influence in the Axis of Resistance

Iran has long positioned itself as the leader of the Axis of Resistance a network of regional allies and militant groups opposed to U.S. and Israeli influence. With China providing economic relief and military cooperation, Iran can sustain its support for:

- Hezbollah in Lebanon, which has expanded its missile capabilities and political influence.
- The Houthis in Yemen, whose attacks on Saudi and Emirati infrastructure have challenged Gulf security.
- Shi'a militias in Iraq and Syria, reinforcing Iran's land corridor from Tehran to the Mediterranean (Kamrava, 2022).

The economic and military backing from China could embolden Iranian-aligned factions to adopt a more aggressive posture against U.S. allies, escalating regional conflicts (Zhao, 2023).

3. Rebalancing Gulf States' Foreign Policy Strategies

China's simultaneous engagement with Iran and the GCC states places Riyadh, Abu Dhabi, and Doha in a strategic dilemma. While these nations have historically relied on the U.S. for military protection, China's expanding regional influence offers them an alternative partner for economic growth, energy trade, and infrastructure development (Fulton, 2023).

Saudi Arabia's Pragmatic Approach

Saudi Arabia has pursued deeper economic ties with China, becoming Beijing's largest oil supplier. However, the China-Iran partnership presents a challenge to Riyadh's security interests, as Iran remains the Kingdom's primary regional rival (Ehteshami & Horesh, 2023). The 2023 China-mediated Saudi-Iran rapprochement suggests that Riyadh sees value in hedging its bets, maintaining strong relations with both Washington and Beijing to ensure strategic flexibility (Zhao, 2023).

The UAE's Balancing Act

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has also deepened trade and technological cooperation with China, particularly in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and logistics (Calabrese, 2021). However, like Saudi Arabia, the UAE remains wary of China's support for Iran's military development, particularly in the realm of drone warfare and missile technology (Kamrava, 2022). This dual engagement strategy reflects the GCC's broader trend of diversifying strategic partnerships while maintaining traditional security ties with the U.S.

4. China's Role in Israel-Iran Tensions

China has maintained strong economic relations with Israel, particularly in technology, artificial intelligence, and infrastructure development. However, Israel remains deeply concerned about Beijing's military and technological cooperation with Iran, particularly regarding:

- Missile and drone capabilities that could threaten Israeli security.
- Cybersecurity partnerships that enhance Iran's cyber warfare potential.
- Iran's potential access to Chinese dual-use technology, including surveillance and defense systems (Ghiselli, 2022).

This dynamic complicates China's regional balancing act, as further military cooperation with Iran could alienate Israel and push Tel Aviv closer to Washington's containment strategy against Beijing (Zhao, 2023).

5. The Emergence of a Multipolar Middle East

China's deepening engagement with Iran contributes to the transformation of the Middle East into a multipolar system, where regional actors engage with multiple external powers—including the U.S., China, Russia, and the European Union—rather than relying on a single hegemon (Fulton, 2023).

- Russia's involvement in Syria and its cooperation with Iran adds another layer to the shifting power dynamics.

- The European Union's interest in reviving the Iran Nuclear Deal (JCPOA) could further alter the diplomatic landscape.
- China's push for regional economic integration through the BRI creates a new economic framework independent of Western institutions (Ehteshami & Horesh, 2023).

As a result, regional players including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Israel, and Iran—are adapting their foreign policies to navigate this emerging multipolar landscape, balancing their ties between Washington and Beijing (Zhao, 2023).

Conclusion

China's evolving foreign policy toward Iran marks a significant shift in the geopolitical landscape of the Middle East. The increasing depth of the China-Iran partnership—encompassing economic, military, and diplomatic dimensions has led to major consequences for regional power dynamics, shifting alliances, and the broader global order. This conclusion synthesizes the key findings of this analysis and highlights the broader implications of China's engagement with Iran, particularly in shaping a multipolar Middle East, weakening U.S. hegemony, and altering regional security and economic structures. China's engagement with Iran contributes to the gradual erosion of U.S. hegemony in the Middle East. Since the late 20th century, U.S. foreign policy in the region has been characterized by its military presence, security alliances with Gulf States, and support for Israel. However, the rise of China, along with Russia's increasing involvement, has prompted a shift in regional calculations. Iran's reliance on China for economic and military support has enabled Tehran to resist U.S. pressure more effectively. Sanctions imposed by Washington, which sought to cripple Iran's economy and limit its regional influence, have been partially mitigated by Chinese investments and oil purchases. This shift has given Iran greater flexibility in pursuing its strategic interests, including supporting proxy groups in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Yemen. Furthermore, as Iran continues to strengthen its ties with China, other regional actors—such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE are also deepening their economic relations with Beijing, hedging their bets between the U.S. and China. This recalibration of alliances suggests that Middle Eastern states are no longer exclusively dependent on Washington for security and economic stability. Instead, countries like Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Turkey are adopting more pragmatic foreign policies that balance relationships with multiple global powers. While the U.S. remains a key security guarantor, its influence is increasingly being challenged by China's strategic engagements in the region.

Implications for Regional Security and Military Alliances

China's military cooperation with Iran also has far-reaching implications for regional security. Joint military exercises, arms sales, and intelligence sharing between Beijing and Tehran have bolstered Iran's defense capabilities, raising concerns among neighboring countries and the West. The growing partnership has also contributed to shifts in military strategies among regional actors. For instance, Israel, which views Iran as an existential threat, has grown increasingly wary of Beijing's technological and military exchanges with Tehran. While China maintains strong trade relations with Israel, its support for Iran could complicate Sino-Israeli relations and push Tel Aviv to further align itself with Washington's Indo-Pacific containment strategy against China. Additionally, Gulf States like Saudi Arabia and the UAE, while fostering economic ties with China, remain concerned about Beijing's willingness to empower Iran's military capabilities. If China continues to support Iran's military-industrial complex, it may inadvertently escalate regional arms races, prompting countries like Saudi Arabia and the UAE to seek advanced

weaponry and security guarantees from Western allies. However, China has so far pursued a balancing act, ensuring that its relations with Iran do not alienate other regional partners. By maintaining economic partnerships with both Iran and the Gulf states, China seeks to position itself as a neutral actor capable of engaging with all parties. Yet, this neutrality may be tested if conflicts escalate between Iran and its regional adversaries, forcing China to make strategic choices that could reshape its Middle East policy.

Final Reflections and Future Outlook

China's foreign policy toward Iran has catalyzed a fundamental transformation in Middle Eastern power dynamics. By deepening its economic, military, and diplomatic ties with Tehran, Beijing has positioned itself as a pivotal player in the region, challenging long-standing U.S. dominance. This shift has created new strategic alignments, with Middle Eastern states reassessing their foreign policies in response to China's growing presence. Looking ahead, the trajectory of China-Iran relations will be influenced by several key factors. First, the evolution of U.S.-China relations will play a crucial role in shaping Beijing's engagement in the Middle East. If tensions between Washington and Beijing continue to escalate, China may adopt a more assertive stance in supporting Iran and countering U.S. policies in the region. Second, regional stability will determine the sustainability of China's investments and diplomatic initiatives. While China has successfully mediated diplomatic agreements, ongoing conflicts in Yemen, Syria, and Lebanon pose risks to its long-term economic projects. If instability persists, Beijing may be forced to reassess the extent of its involvement. Finally, Iran's domestic political landscape will be a key determinant of its relationship with China. Any major internal political shifts such as leadership changes, protests, or economic crises could alter Tehran's foreign policy priorities, affecting its commitment to the China-Iran strategic partnership. China's expanding role in the Middle East, particularly through its relationship with Iran, is redefining global power structures. As the region moves toward a multipolar order, the coming years will determine whether China can maintain its balancing act or if its deepening engagement with Iran will lead to further geopolitical tensions. Regardless of the outcome, China's presence in the Middle East is now an undeniable reality, shaping the future of regional and global politics.

References:

- Calabrese, J. (2021). China and Iran: Economic, political, and military relations in a changing global order. Middle East Institute.
- Ehteshami, A., & Horesh, N. (2023). China's presence in the Middle East: The geopolitics of a rising power. Routledge.
- Fulton, J. (2023). China's role in the Persian Gulf: Implications for regional security and U.S. policy. The Atlantic Council.
- Scita, J. (2022). China and Iran's economic relations: An assessment of trade, investment, and energy ties. *Asian Affairs*, 53(2), 210-229.
- Zhao, T. (2023). The China-mediated Iran-Saudi rapprochement: Strategic implications for the Middle East. *Journal of Contemporary Global Affairs*, 10(3), 85-102.
- Al-Tamimi, N. (2021). China-Iran relations in a changing Middle East: The 25-year agreement and its implications. *Middle East Policy Journal*, 28(3), 120-135.
- Calabrese, J. (2021). China and Iran: Economic, political, and military relations in a changing global order. Middle East Institute.
- Ehteshami, A., & Horesh, N. (2023). China's presence in the Middle East: The geopolitics of a rising power. Routledge.

- Fulton, J. (2023). China's role in the Persian Gulf: Implications for regional security and U.S. policy. The Atlantic Council.
- Ghiselli, A. (2022). China's foreign policy and the global balance of power: Strategic calculations in the Middle East and beyond. *International Affairs*, 98(2), 455-473.
- Kamrava, M. (2022). China's strategic ambitions in the Middle East: Security, technology, and military cooperation with Iran. *The Journal of Modern China Studies*, 16(4), 389-410.
- Scita, J. (2022). China and Iran's economic relations: An assessment of trade, investment, and energy ties. *Asian Affairs*, 53(2), 210-229.
- Zhao, T. (2023). The China-mediated Iran-Saudi rapprochement: Strategic implications for the Middle East. *Journal of Contemporary Global Affairs*, 10(3), 85-102.
- Mashwani, H. F., Shahzad, S., Naz, M. T., Zulfiqar, A., & Akbar, M. (2024). China's growing influence in the Middle East politics: the shifting Saudi-Iran rivalry to rapprochement. *Arbor*.
- Bayat, S. (2024). Shifting power dynamics in the Asia-Pacific: how small and medium powers are adapting to the new international order. *Journal of Globalization Studies*, 82.
- Chubin, S., & Zabih, S. (1974). *The foreign relations of Iran: A developing state in a zone of great-power conflict*. Univ of California Press.
- Hadian, A. M. (2024). Saudi Arabia's Relations with China and Russia, Hedging and Increasing Relative Power amidst American Disengagement from West Asia: Implications, Change and Continuity. *Journal of World Sociopolitical Studies*| Vol, 8(4), 877-916.
- Zhang, B. (2010). Chinese foreign policy in transition: Trends and implications. *Journal of Current Chinese Affairs*, 39(2), 39-68.
- Khan, A. A., Shamshad, M., Arshad, F., & Haider, Z. (2024). China's Efforts to Bring Political Stability and Economic Prosperity in the Middle East: The Case of Mending the Saudi-Iran Ties. *PERENNIAL JOURNAL OF HISTORY*, 5(1), 13-34.
- Krieger, G. J. (2023). *China's Foreign Policy in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and the Islamic Republic of Iran: Exploring China's Renewed Diplomacy in the Region*. Salve Regina University.
- Khansari, A., & Nourmohmmadi, M. (2024). Components and Challenges of China's Foreign Policy towards Saudi Arabia. *International Studies Journal (ISJ)*, 21(3), 323-347.
- Saleh, A., & Yazdanshenas, Z. (2024). China-Iran strategic partnership and the future of US hegemony in the Persian Gulf Region. *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, 51(2), 377-400.