

# The Role Of The Islamic Republic Of Iran In The Middle East At The End Of The 20th Century

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**Abstract:** The article examines changes in the political life of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Middle East at the end of the 20th century, namely, the conduct of an independent foreign policy by the president without the approval of other authorities (the clergy are meant). As a result, Tehran began to fulfill its foreign policy tasks, and this in turn contributed to maintaining friendly relations with the Arab monarchies of the Persian Gulf.

**Keywords:** Islamic Revolution, Rukhalla Musavi Khumeyni, Shia Clergy, Export Of Islamic Revolution, Internal and Foreign Policy, Persian Gulf.

## Introduction

It is known that in the second half of the 20th century - the beginning of the 21st century, the influence of the "Islamic factor" in the domestic and foreign policy of the states was increasing in various regions of the world. This effect is connected with the global geopolitical changes that took place as a result of the end of the "cold war", the disappearance of the bipolar system, the beginning of the process of unipolar development in the world, the violation of the interests of various states, the emergence of new independent states and their participation as active subjects in global politics and economy. depends. The globalization of the role of Islam in society and politics has not only covered Muslim countries and territories, but also non-Muslim, Western countries.

## Methodology

Studying the role and influence of the "Islamic factor" in the domestic and foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is of great importance for Islamic studies and political science of Uzbekistan. After all, it is an important task for political scientists and Islamic scholars to study the direction of Shiism in Islam, to study its various currents, and to study the capture of the Iranian state system by Shiite scholars after the Islamic revolution of 1978-

1979. In addition, religious freedom in Uzbekistan's current conditions of independence requires, first of all, good knowledge of existing religious knowledge and elimination of illiteracy in the field of religion. This issue is important for prevention of various misleading ideas and opinions among today's youth, and for the correct implementation of educational work.

After the death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in 1989 in Iran, the people gave him the title of imam out of special respect. After that, there was a peculiar vacuum at the top of the Shia scholars. Ayatollahs elected to religious leadership - Syed Abul Khoi (died August 8, 1992), Gulpayagani (died December 9, 1993), Arokiya (died December 1994) died quickly due to old age. After their deaths, Syed Ali Khamenei was elected to the position of "velayat-e faqih".

Before his death (June 4, 1989), Khomeini agreed to review the relationship between the Council of Control and the Cabinet in order to increase the freedom of government. According to the new version of the 1989 constitution, the most important changes were the abolition of the office of prime minister, the status of the government and the increase in the role of the president, who is considered the highest position according to the constitution after the leader[4; 307-308]. Ali Akbar Hoshimi Rafsanjani (1989-1997) won the presidential election on August 17, 1989.

Rafsanjani took an active part in the downfall of the Shah's regime, held key positions in Iran after the revolution, and had every opportunity to become the country's supreme leader after Khamenei's death (in 1989). However, he preferred to remain a secondary position in the Iranian political system. After that, the supreme leadership fell to Ali Khamenei. Rafsanjani was the president of Iran in 1989-1997.

In the early 1990s, Iran rose to a new level in the economic sphere, began to move to a market economy model of development, and some countries called this policy Islamic economy.

A number of reforms in the country's economy and the liberalization of many sectors of the economy are associated with Rafsanjani's presidency. He was considered the leader of the "moderate practitioners" wing of the country's leadership and opposed the radical conservatives.

Also, Rafsanjani was a supporter of dialogue with the West and supported negotiations with the United States on the Iranian nuclear issue.

After Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2, 1990 and occupied it as its 19th province, the EIR turned its attention to regional insecurity. Because the accumulation of foreign military forces in the region during the Kuwait conflict worried Iran.

Long-term security and stability in the region, the need to eliminate aggression, and the need to create a system that guarantees compliance with UN principles. This system should be created in cooperation with the UN Secretary General, and the countries of the region should take a leading role in it.

The created "Gulf region security and cooperation system" should include all the countries of the Gulf basin. Because not including any of them in this system could cause tension and instability in the region. In addition, this system should eliminate the

interference of foreign countries, which has historically been a factor of instability in the region.

Taking into account these principles, the EIR actively sought to find political ways to end the war and its negative consequences and to end the hostility between the two countries, keeping the means of communication with the leaders of Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and other regional countries.

On February 28, 1991, Iraq agreed to the strict requirements of the UN Security Council regarding Kuwait and withdrew its troops from Kuwait[4; 343]. After that, the statement of the EIR said that although the second war in the Gulf has ended successfully with the end of aggression, the problems of the region have not been resolved and to some extent it has deepened the security problem of some countries.

## Result and Discussion

At the beginning of the 1990s, relations between Iran and the GCC (Cooperation Council of the Arab States of the Persian Gulf) countries became somewhat cold. The Emirate of Sharjah and the Iran Treaty signed in 1992 have been the cause of most disagreements and continue to this day. These disputes are related to the UAE's claim to the Big Tomb, Little Tomb and Abu Musa islands in the Persian Gulf. The issue of these islands remains one of the most complicated and unresolved issues in the relations between the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf and Iran. The Islamic Republic of Iran insists that these islands belong to it unconditionally, and at the same time, it has regularly proposed to solve the problem only through bilateral political negotiations. The UAE government has called for a peaceful settlement of the EIR through bilateral negotiations and, if negotiations fail, to resolve the issue with the help of the International Court of Arbitration in The Hague[2].

Although Tehran insisted on resolving the issue through bilateral negotiations without the intervention of foreign countries, in fact it denied any claims of the UAE to the ownership of these islands as baseless. For example, L. Maliki, the former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the EIR, stated in one of his interviews with the media that the positive changes in the negotiations between Iran and the member states of the FKAMHK do not mean that Tehran will give way on the issue of these islands.

Tehran reacted negatively to the demands of the Arab countries that Iran should abandon the construction of fortifications on the islands of Abu Musa, Big and Small Tomb, and assessed it as a clear interference in the country's internal affairs. The main reason for the above demands of the Arab countries was that Iran placed surface-to-surface missiles on these three islands in the Persian Gulf.

Regarding Iran's influence on the domestic political situation in the Gulf countries, the country's foreign minister K. Kharrozi said that Tehran does not support terrorist organizations in other countries, especially in the Gulf countries, and that such actions are completely contrary to the principles of Iran's foreign policy.

In May 1997, the election of Muhammad Khatami (born in 1943) as the President of the EIR (1997-2005) opened a new page in the country's domestic and foreign policy. In

December 1997, as the chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference of Iran, Khatami held high-level meetings with the participation of leading leaders of Arab countries. Official representatives of Iranian diplomacy have made consecutive visits to the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf. The visit of Iranian Foreign Minister K. Kharrozi to the UAE in 1998 was positively evaluated by Iranian analysts. According to these opinions, S. M. Khatami's new foreign policy doctrine aimed at reconciliation with neighboring Arab countries could eliminate tension in the region and create an atmosphere of mutual trust in the future. However, according to these analysts, warm and friendly relations between the UAE and Iran have not yet been established due to Abu Dhabi's claims to the three islands in the Gulf.

Consequently, in his speeches, Khatami put forward a new formula about the need for "dialogue of cultures" instead of "exporting the Islamic revolution". But after Khatami called for the expansion of informal ties between Iran and American nations, EIR's religious leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, clarified, "There is no contact with the Great Satan. America was and still is Iran's number one enemy" [4; 308]. Such statements of the head of the EIR, Iran's independent political path has attracted criticism and exposed the country to economic and other sanctions and threats.

In general, according to the existing estimates, the position of the EIR on the issue of the three islands is firm and Tehran will not allow any deviations in this regard. Even the prospect of future relations with the Gulf states was unlikely to influence Iran's change of position.

Therefore, the global political and economic processes that took place in the 1990s led to important changes in the Persian Gulf region. New economic relations between the countries of the world and conditions of new international polarization in the fields of industry and technology have increased the attention of the great powers and ruling circles to the rich oil resources in the Persian Gulf. The events that took place during this period showed how weak the countries of the region would be in isolation in front of the world's great powers and policies. Even the existing security system in the region has failed to bring practical results due to various reasons, including the non-participation of all the countries of the Gulf basin.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the recent improvement in Iran-Arab relations and signs of increased cooperation in the Persian Gulf are undoubtedly due to the resolution of territorial disputes between Iran and its Arab neighbors. Statements made by Iranian representatives from the platforms of the UN and other international organizations in the mid-1990s indicate that after the two wars in the Gulf, Tehran has taken a more moderate position in relation to the security problem of the Persian Gulf. An analysis of the situation in Iran at the end of the 1990s showed that the balance of society and state institutions gradually shifted in favor of a secular state system. In particular, Muhammad Khatami's re-election to the presidency in 2001 can be a proof of this.

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