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**Layered Analysis of Nature of Iran's Foreign Policy Challenges in the
Middle East New Order (2010–2020)**

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Detailed abstract

Research Paper


Research problem: The political and social developments that have occurred in the Middle East region during the last decade have led to the construction of a new order in this region; so that it has intensified the competition, differences and differences between the powerful poles of the region and also increased the interventionist role of extra-regional powers. Naturally, these developments have provided significant challenges for Iran's foreign policy.

Research question: This research seeks to answer the question, what is the nature of the challenges of Iran's foreign policy during the last decade, due to the formation of the new political order in the Middle East?

Research's approach and method: The approach of this research is the tradition of critical thinking of the layered analysis of the causes of Sohil Inayatullah, and the research method is also a hybrid method in the sense that has been the meta-analysis method (theme analysis) and the inferential method are used to explain the causes of the challenge in different layers of analysis.

Research findings: In the contemporary modern order in the Middle East, the challenges facing the foreign policy have a multi-structured and multi-layered nature, in which a diverse range of factors and components are playing role in each layers, such as at the causal level, changes in regional cooperation and conflict patterns, security issues, the conflict between the interests of actors at the level of the system and specifically the United States with the national interests of Iran, as well as some root issues at the level of the internal system of the country are playing a role in the formation of the challenging situation. In the discourse level, the confrontation between the discourse of militant political Islam and the discourse of Normalization and at the level of mythology, components such as international peace, chaotic entry and technological threat play a role in creating the challenge situation. This multi-level

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insight into political phenomena can provide the basis for building a strategic and systematic thinking in the action of the country's foreign policy.

Also this research aims to point out the fact that the phenomena of the surrounding world are the product of different levels of causal, cognitive, perceptual and imaginary factors and fields that, although invisible, but effectively affect the construction of social realities. Therefore, any attempt to make policies in the field of foreign relations should be done with a thorough understanding of these layers so that a diverse and coherent set of strategies can be proposed for action in the field of the country's foreign policy. Naturally, this recognition of phenomena in the field of foreign policy has led to the emergence of comprehensive policy packages with diverse time frames that provide a comprehensive plan of strategic action for the country.

With this definition, if we have a linear and not a systematic view of political phenomena, it is practically impossible to provide a continuous and interactive structure of components in the action of foreign policy in such a way that it can control the change in each of the environmental variables with another variable, and prevent the challenge level from increasing. Also, a layered look at the nature of challenges has the advantage of preventing one from falling into the trap of assumptions and analytical errors, because ultimately the policy-maker has the opinion and knowledge that one cannot expect a comprehensive solution to the challenge in the long term, or that to prevent falling into the trap of the strategic error of futility of diplomacy in solving the challenges of foreign relations and as a result passivity in this field; Because this insight is created in him that when facing political phenomena, it is possible to identify different levels of causes and components, each of which has its own nature and dynamics. In some levels of the challenge which is more internal and goes back to the level of mental images, a more long-term planning should be on the agenda and focus on a specific type of audience; Naturally, in the latter field, one should pay attention to a set of strategies that can influence mentalities and can transform the previously created image that has been challenged and create a new image.

Keywords: Iran, new political order, Middle East, method of layered analysis of causes, foreign policy

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