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Iran-Saudi and China Trilateral Agreement: Reshaping the Global World Order

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ABSTRACT

This research paper explains the changing global world order under the leadership of China. The qualitative method with secondary sources describes the Chinese struggle for peace and interdependence in the post-Covid-19 era, maligned with the Russia-Ukraine war and American support to Ukraine under the banner of NATO. The theory of meditated realism (a third kind of realism, which results from contemplation and introspection, which leads to being proactive instead of reactive.) is used in the paper to explain the trilateral agreement. China is heading towards more alliances and agreements with Brazil, India, Russia, and South Africa. It is reshaping the global world order and striving to replace the dollar with the yuan. It may start a new financial war between China and the U.S.

Key Words: Meditated Realism, China, NATO, Russia

Introduction

The main focus of this paper is to illustrate the shift in the global power balance with China as the leading force. It employs a qualitative approach that utilizes secondary sources to portray China's endeavors toward peace and mutual reliance after the Covid-19 pandemic. The paper further examines the impact of the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine and the U.S. support of Ukraine under the auspices of NATO. The paper utilizes the theory of meditated realism,¹ a unique form of realism that promotes proactive behavior through contemplation and self-examination, to expound on the trilateral agreement.

¹ Rana Eijaz Ahmad coined this new kind of realism for serving purpose in the paper.

The trilateral agreement between Iran, Saudi Arabia, and China is a significant development in the international arena that has the potential to reshape the global world order. With a focus on economic collaboration, regional stability, and counterterrorism, the March 2023 Accord aims to forge a strategic alliance between the three nations. This document thoroughly analyzes the trilateral agreement, revealing how it affects the geopolitical environment in the Middle East (M.E.) and the global balance of power.

The trilateral agreement occurs during substantial geopolitical developments as the world order shifts towards a multipolar structure. The United States, which dominated the world for most of the post-World War II era, faces increasing challenges from emerging superpowers like China and Russia. In the Middle East, regional countries like Iran and Saudi Arabia compete for influence and dominance, reflecting intense power conflicts in the region.

Although Iran and Saudi Arabia are an old arch-rival with a history of dogmatic and political tensions, both countries are on contrasting sides of dogmatic split within the Muslim world, with Iran sticking with a Shiite Muslim sect and Saudi Arabia a dominantly Sunni Muslim sect. They have also partaken in proxy conflicts in the region. Iran supports the Shia militias in Iraq and Syria, and Saudi Arabia supports Sunni rebels in Yemen. Conversely, China has traditionally maintained a non-interventionist approach to foreign policy, focusing instead on economic development and regional stability. However, China is gradually getting firm in its foreign policy in recent years, seeking to expand its global influence and blemish the U.S. hegemony.

Troubled Twenty-First Century

Spartan global challenges in the Twenty-First century include economic instability, political unsteadiness, climate change, and the enduring COVID-19 pandemic. Nonetheless these challenges, China maintains a consistent approach to development.

With a growing middle class and manufacturing sector, China has become a significant economic livewire lately. Economic reforms and modernization and the Chinese focus on innovation and technological progress motivate Chinese commitment towards market socialism. Social stability and political control and emphasizing stability and unity keep China's development strategy intact. China achieved it through authoritative political control and a continuous focus on economic growth and development.

Lack of transparency, human rights abuses, and environmental degradation marred China's approach to development. These issues have become more pronounced in recent years as China's economic and political power has grown.

Usually, while China's consistency in development has brought about significant economic gains, significant challenges must be addressed as China continues to play an increasingly important role on the global stage.

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A terrorist attack on the U.S. on September 11, 2001, shook the economic and security hubs of the superpower, the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon. Despite the existence of numerous conspiracy theories regarding the incident, it had a profound impact on the entire world. Additionally, at the end of the first decade of the century, the U.S. faced an economic meltdown in 2008-09, severely affecting the American economy. Thus, two major global events occurred consecutively. The end of the second decade of the century witnessed the Covid-19 pandemic, which took a heavy toll on the global economy, leading to discussions on economic breakdown and inflation worldwide. According to the United Nations, the pandemic may push more than 34 million people into extreme poverty in 2020 and deprive the world of 8.5 trillion dollars over the next two years. (United Nations, 2020)

The Chinese economy, which initially suffered due to Covid-19, eventually recovered successfully. However, in April–June 2022, the Chinese annual GDP growth declined to 0.4%, the second-lowest since 1992, due to the combined effects of COVID-19 and a tumbling real-estate market (Toshiya, 2022). Similarly, the COVID-19 pandemic caused a devastating recession in the U.S. economy, which contracted by 31.4% in the second quarter of 2020, according to Amadeo (2021).

Since 1979, when Deng Xiao Peng began contemplating the opening up of the Chinese economy, China has created nearly six economic corridors connecting and benefiting approximately 68 countries in Asia, Africa, and Europe (Global Times, 2021).

China and Confucius' Thoughts

Chinese philosophy, based on the ideas of the renowned philosopher Confucius, emphasizes love and peace as the universal language. Unlike the selective global integration concepts such as globalization, Glocalization, Grobalization, and Globalution, which prioritize certain countries, Confucius advocates for global integration based on parity and equality. As a result, China is leading the world in promoting interdependence rather than dependence. In contrast, former superpowers such as the U.S., U.K., and Russia used to control the world through labor concentration, industrial capital, and communication dominance.

The M.E. has long been plagued by sectarian conflicts between countries like Saudi Arabia and Iran, and the superpowers maintain the status quo for their arms market benefits.

General Secretary of the Communist Party of China and the President of the People's Republic of China, Xi Jinping, has frequently expressed his appreciation for the teachings of Confucius and his belief that Confucian values are essential to developing a prosperous and harmonious society in China.

Xi Jinping frequently referred to Confucius in his speeches and publications and emphasized the value of advancing ancient Chinese culture, particularly

Confucianism. Xi Jinping, in his book "The Governance of China," praises and emphasizes Confucianism's moral and ethical principles, including compassion, loyalty, family devotion, and respect for authority.

Xi Jinping also believes in renewing Chinese values, including Confucianism, to promote social integration and reinforce China's cultural distinctiveness. He encouraged the study of Confucian standards and the formation of Confucius institutes worldwide.

However, it is remarkable that Xi Jinping's views on Confucianism have been incredulous from the perspective of the Chinese Communist Party's philosophy and objectives. The CCP finds Confucius's ideology a precious instrument for upholding social stability and commitment to defying the negativity of Western values and their effect on Chinese society.

However, under the leadership of Xi Jinping, the region is witnessing a positive change as he successfully convinced the Saudi and Iranian leadership to establish diplomatic relations. Consequently, in the coming months, both countries are set to open their embassies in each other's territories.

Meanwhile, the U.S. is currently focused on aiding Ukraine against Russia, with the latter resisting any NATO presence in its vicinity as it encounters its old Cold War rival.

China-Saudi Arabia-Iran Trilateral Agreement

To leave past negative experiences behind, China took the lead in establishing diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran. The U.S. had already isolated Iran with sanctions related to its nuclear program, which led Iran to seek friendship with Saudi Arabia, a country with no enemies besides Iran. This shift in Saudi foreign policy may lead to better regional relations. China desires a calm and peaceful region for the success of its economic corridors connecting the global community. This approach differs significantly from the U.S., which often acts authoritatively and uses other countries. China's approach to trading based on parity has made them famous in the global community, and the KSA's decision to engage in this deal despite U.S. influence shows their commitment to the national interest. Although there are ideological differences between KSA and Iran, they are currently finding common profits with significant development in the M.E. region. Here are the details of this trilateral agreement with its implications on the global world order.

Trilateral Agreement and Its Implications for the Reshaping Global World Order

The trilateral agreement between Iran, Saudi Arabia, and China substantially affects the global balance of power. China emerging as a significant player in the region represents a noteworthy swing in the conventional alliances and alignments that ruled the M.E. for years.

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However, with China's growing economic influence and regional presence, the trilateral agreement could challenge this dominant role, potentially leading to a multipolar system in which the U.S. is not the sole global power. The alliance is likely to mitigate the influence of the U.S. in the global world order. Previously, the U.S. played a pivotal role in bargaining in the M.E. for much of the post-World War II era. With its military presence and alliances with key regional players such as Saudi Arabia and Israel, the U.S. used to enjoy a power broker role.

Economic Cooperation

The trilateral agreement has its power in economic cooperation. All three regional giants, China, Iran, and Saudi Arabia, have decided to work collectively on economic, energy, and transportation projects with great infrastructural development in the region. Due to economic sanctions, political instability, and regional conflicts, Iran and the KSA, with great natural resources deprived themselves of enjoying their real potential. This agreement gives them a golden opportunity to enjoy their natural strengths with all the rich natural resources.

China is ready to provide the required budget and technology to translate the dreams of the M.E. into a reality by reciprocating the significant benefits for all three countries. China is positively heading towards its primary objectives based on Belt and Road Initiatives, which make a trade and infrastructure network through Africa and Eurasia to enhance China's geostrategic interests in the global community.

Regional Stability

Regional stability has been an enduring challenge for the M.E. region, and this trilateral agreement also has the proficiency to sustain it. The conflicts between Iran and the KSA kept them fighting on sectoral grounds, assisting the capitalist's designs by consistently purchasing weapons from the U.S. and Russia and using those weapons against each other to benefit the U.S. in the region. Iran and the KSA kept countering each other's regional power. It has been crippling regional powers' economy and political stability favoring the West. The same actors sustained conflicts in Iraq, Syria, Yemen, and other regions.

Undoubtedly, this trilateral agreement provides peace and stability to the region because it is based on mutual interest and respect.

A decade-long Iran- Iraq war benefitted both the U.S. and Russia during the Cold War era through the arms industry. This war left a demonstration effect, created a frenzied global crisis, and gave birth to the Gulf Crisis 1990. During this time, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan, and the U.S. fought a proxy war with the help of Pakistan. By keeping the Soviet Union engaged in Afghanistan for almost a decade, the U.S. depleted its economy, leading to the eventual collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 and the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

In 1991, the U.S. and its coalition of 35 countries protected Kuwait from Iraqi aggression during the Gulf War, also known as Operation Desert Storm. After the fall of the Soviet Union, the U.S. tried to maintain control of the M.E.

The post-Cold War era began in 1991 and was called the Uni-Multipolar World. It refers to a diverse center of power where the U.S.'s status as a superpower is acknowledged alongside other major world powers, such as Australia, Canada, Germany, India, Italy, and Japan. However, the 9/11 terrorist attacks marked a turning point in world history, as the U.S. and Europe, which had been dominant due to their strong economies, faced new challenges. Meanwhile, China and Russia have had an unstable relationship and have not significantly contributed to the world economy.

The Abraham Accord, brokered by the U.S. in 2020, aimed to strengthen ties between Israel and the Gulf states to counter Iran and severely damage Iran's global political image. Israel, Morocco, Bahrain, and other countries joined forces to limit Iranian influence in the region, creating a trilateral agreement to replace the "crescent of chaos" with a "crescent of stability." This agreement focuses on economic growth and normalizes the military strength of Iran and Saudi Arabia. The Yemen war, led by a Saudi military coalition, can only end with adherence to the U.N. ceasefire agreement, which began after Saudi intervention in 2015 against the Iranian-backed Houthis. Sadly, over 377,000 people have died in Yemen, and the World Food Program reports that around 45% of the population faces food insecurity. Iraq welcomes the restoration of ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia, and the diplomatic adviser to the UAE appreciates China's role in de-escalation. Oman's Foreign Minister believes the trilateral agreement benefits regional and global security, potentially increasing economic benefits for all. Many other countries, including Qatar, Turkey, and Egypt, welcome the deal as good for the region's peace. The Washington Post reports that the deal in Beijing in March 2023 represents a significant diplomatic victory for China as Gulf Arab states perceive the U.S. as slowly withdrawing from the M.E. The U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres welcomes the deal and offers his good offices for further assistance. However, Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid sees the deal as a foreign policy failure for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who wanted to align with KSA against Iran. Finally, Iran and Saudi Arabia thank China for sponsoring the talks and express their gratitude to Iraq and Oman for holding and hosting peace dialogues.

Iran-Saudi Nuclear Hedging Capacity

If a country develops a nuclear weapon without building it, it is known as nuclear hedging capacity. Iran and Saudi Arabia are two Middle Eastern countries usually referred to as countries having nuclear hedging capacity.

The U.S. has always been very concerned about the Iranian nuclear program, and its nuclear program has been under scrupulous international scrutiny for

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decades. What Iran is doing with its nuclear program has been a matter of grave concern. Whether the country wants to be nuclear or only works on the peaceful achievement of civilian nuclear energy. Iran assured the world through different International Atomic Energy Agency visits to Iran that it maintains a peaceful nuclear program, but the West believes otherwise. (Faulconbridge, 2022)

Contrary to this, Saudi Arabia has been more equivocal about its nuclear motivations. The KSA also ensured the world for keeping its nuclear energy program for peaceful purposes, yet the West perceived it as hedging against Iran's nuclear program.

The nuclear hedging capacity of Iran and Saudi Arabia has a significant impact on the M.E. region, with other countries also expressing interest in acquiring nuclear arsenals. The U.S. Congress in the 1990s reported that insecurity compels to be nuclear. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was signed in 2015, in which Iran was ready to dismantle its nuclear program if the U.S. was ready to give relief to Iran in billions of dollars of economic sanctions. This agreement, also known as P5+1+EU, involved the participation of the five superpowers, Germany and the European Union. (Robinson, What is the Iran Nuclear Deal?, 2022)

However, the agreement is abeyance following the U.S. withdrawal in 2018 under former president Donald Trump. It has led Iran to work more efficiently on its nuclear program, making the region more vulnerable to nuclear proliferation. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have also expressed interest in nuclear hedging capability, with Israel believed to possess nuclear capability without publicly acknowledging it. Therefore, a trilateral agreement could be a significant milestone in the peaceful history of the region.

The absence of the U.S. in the M.E. region has created a power vacuum, which China has prudently filled, enhancing its influence. China's policy of interdependence and ability to help M.E. countries sustain their economies for a prosperous future seems sagacious and workable. It has created a comfortable environment for allies to pursue economic plans rather than engaging in warlike actions, making the M.E. region proactive in understanding global needs instead of being reactive and competing in a zero-sum game. (Robinson, What Is the Iran Nuclear Deal?, 2022) It tests the theory of mediated realism.

Iran-Saudi Join BRICS

It is interesting to explore how the U.S. influence was exemplary in the M.E. a year ago, but now it is China mediating deals in the M.E. China did a great job in assimilating Iran into mainstream global politics as the U.S. did its best to isolate Iran by integrating Israel with the M.E. states. It has profoundly renovated regional and transnational geopolitics. (Scott Ritter, 2023)

In 2016, circumstances and the U.S. cornered Iran, today West and the U.S. are being pushed back, "which seeks the maintenance of the "rules-based

international order," and toward alternative alignments such as Brics." (Scott Ritter, 2023) There are chances that Iran and KSA may align with Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS). Iran applied to join Brics a year ago. It creates an alternative market against the West. (Faulconbridge, 2022) It enhances the Chinese GDP when considering purchasing power parity and pushing behind the American-led G7 block. (Scott Ritter, 2023) China plans to provide infrastructure to Iran and KSA to generate investment capital via its BRI. It starts a new détente era between two rival nations of the M.E. This new détente serves the purpose of China to oust the West and the U.S. from the region with a new regional economic relationship that used to determine M.E. politics in the past. The expected visit of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi on the reported invitation from the KSA's King Salman makes the trilateral agreement more pragmatic.

The U.S. and the West lose their hold in the M.E. region. (Scott Ritter, 2023) The BRICS countries are going to decide about the enlargement of the alliance this year. Algeria, Iran, and KSA applied to join BRICS last year. Egypt and Turkiye may follow suit in the following years. The BRICS countries fear China may dominate the alliance, including its allies like Algeria, Iran, KSA, Egypt, and Turkiye. (Cengiz, 2022) Sinem Cengiz, a Turkish political analyst expert on Turkish-Middle Eastern affairs, believes, "The impetus for a BRICS expansion has grown stronger against the backdrop of the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine." (Cengiz, 2022)

China-Russia Strategic Alliance China and Russia are getting closer to a better understanding of the U.S. NATO after the Ukraine war in the region. China and Russia are unhappy over the U.S. and its allies' presence in the region. The analysts believe that China cannot afford the Russian failure in the Ukraine war as it may impact the region and consequently could harm the Chinese interests in the region. (Ellyatt, 2023) Therefore, their (China and Russia) alliance is natural and aptly strategic in the prevailing circumstances. Alicja Bachulska, a European Council on Foreign Relations policy fellow, told CNBC, "It is basically about certain strategic interests that are very close to both Beijing and Moscow at this point," she added. "For both Russia and China, the main interest is to weaken the U.S.-led international order; that is their primary goal, long term, and short term." (Ellyatt, 2023) Therefore, China and Russia fully engage in a powerful nexus to oust the U.S. and the West from the region. The Washington Post recently warned the U.S. of "playing the China card" used in the 1970s to normalize relations with China. The U.S. started selling military technology to China to frustrate the Soviet Union. In contemporary world politics, China may play the Russia card to counter the American design to contain China's economic and military upsurge. (Board, 2023)

According to Scott Ritter (2023), China has taken over the U.S. influence in the M.E. by assimilating Iran into mainstream global politics, while the U.S. attempted to isolate Iran by integrating Israel with the M.E. states. This move has significantly transformed regional and transnational geopolitics, pushing the West

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and the U.S. towards alternative alignments such as BRICS. Faulconbridge (2022) highlights that Iran and KSA may align with Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa through Brics, creating an alternative market against the West, enhancing the Chinese GDP, and challenging the American-led G7 block. China plans to provide infrastructure to Iran and KSA through its BRI for generating investment capital, thereby ousting the West and the U.S. from the region and starting a new détente era between the two rival nations in the M.E.

The expected visit of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi to KSA's King Salman made the trilateral agreement more pragmatic, leading to the loss of the West and the U.S. hold in the M.E. region (Ritter, 2023). Cengiz (2022) highlights that the BRICS countries may decide to enlarge the alliance this year, with Algeria, Iran, and KSA applying to join BRICS last year, and Egypt and Turkiye expected to follow suit. However, the BRICS countries fear China may dominate the alliance, including its allies like Algeria, Iran, KSA, Egypt, and Turkiye.

China and Russia are getting closer to a better understanding of the U.S. NATO in the wake of the Ukraine war in the region, leading to their strategic alliance to weaken the U.S.-led international order (Bachulska, as cited in Ellyatt, 2023). Ellyatt (2023) notes that China cannot afford the Russian failure in the Ukraine war as it may impact the region and could harm Chinese interests. Therefore, the alliance between China and Russia is natural and strategic, aimed at ousting the U.S. and the West from the region.

In the contemporary world, the U.S. risks the possibility of China playing the Russia card to counter its economic and military upsurge, just like the U.S. played the China card in the 1970s to frustrate the Soviet Union (Board, 2023). It is implausible that Iran and Saudi Arabia could join BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa), as these two countries do not meet the requirements for membership in this group.

BRICS is an economic and political group that was formed in 2009 to promote cooperation and development among its member countries. The group represents some of the largest emerging markets in the world, and membership is limited to countries with large economies and a significant impact on the world stage.

Iran and Saudi Arabia do not have economic or political influence and are not currently considered emerging markets for BRICS membership. Additionally, both countries have ongoing tensions with some of the existing BRICS members, which would make it difficult for them to join the group.

Pakistan-India Learns a Lesson

According to a recent article, Pakistan and India should take lessons from a trilateral agreement involving the U.S., China, and an unnamed third country. The U.S. has been accused of exploiting both countries for a long time. China, on the other hand, is seen as a credible and skilled negotiator in the region. (Das, 2018)

Despite Indian skepticism towards China due to recent conflicts, the article argues that bilateral agreements between rival countries in the region are necessary for Asia to remain calm and for the emerging economies in the region to prosper.

The U.S. recently announced its intention to resolve the longstanding Kashmir conflict between Pakistan and India on the same day the trilateral agreement was signed in Beijing on March 10, 2023. The U.S. believes that China may initiate talks between the two countries regarding the Kashmir conflict for peace and prosperity in South Asia.

The paper suggests that China should seriously consider managing the Pakistan-India Kashmir conflict by de-escalation, persuading both countries to withdraw their forces from the region, and then holding a referendum under U.N. supervision. However, the ongoing power struggle among top institutions in Pakistan is making the country vulnerable, which concerns China. Despite China's longstanding strategic friendship with Pakistan, it cannot intervene in Pakistan's institutional brawl, tarnishing its image. The article concludes that China must wait and see how Pakistan's situation evolves while protecting its flagship economic project, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

It is important to note that each country's specific political, economic, and social conditions play a crucial role in the success of such agreements. However, Pakistan and India can learn some lessons from this agreement in the following ways:

Economic Cooperation

The trilateral agreement between China, Iran, and Saudi Arabia, is a role model for Pakistan and India to learn lessons. It is going to increase economic cooperation between the three countries. Therefore, Pakistan and India can also take advantage by increasing economic cooperation and trade instead of fighting each other and increasing poverty among the masses.

Regional Stability

Pakistan and India can focus on regional stability from the perspective of this trilateral agreement. They can learn from this trilateral agreement and resolve their age-back issues, including the Kashmir issue, for regional stability.

Mutual Respect

Pakistan and India need to enhance respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity. It is only possible if they follow an international strategy to make the region peaceful and stable.

Dialogue and Diplomacy

It is the twenty-first century; no country can afford war but negotiations. The trilateral agreement reflects that model of diplomacy and dialogue. Pakistan and India must look for mutual interests and matters of common interests for pragmatic dialogue between the two arch-rival neighbors. They can increase cultural exchange programs and invite each other for educational, research-based activities and sports events for confidence-building measures. It is the only way we can find a way of prosperity and peace in the region.

In short, Pakistan and India need to focus on economic cooperation, regional stability, mutual respect, and dialogue and diplomacy. These are the new principles for the neighboring countries to resolve their issues and build a sustainable future for their masses.

Conclusion

It is an open secret that China believes in a peaceful approach to global politics. China hardly ever did any political aggrandizement for political influence. It refrained from intervening in political adventurers like the U.S. and Russia, which used to colonize the weaker nations for centuries. After the Second World War, capitalist and communist blocks emerged, and Cold War was initiated. The Chinese incentive in the form of BRI is integrating the world under the one banner of economic prosperity and cooperation. It is giving rise to regional and global peace and stability. China is promoting interdependence instead of dependence in the global community. The recent trilateral agreement between China, Iran, and Saudi Arabia aims to bring home to the U.S. and the West the economic disparities they spread after the Second World War and minimize their influence in Gulf states.

China and Russia share a common distrust of the U.S. and are working together to push back against its increasing regional influence. Although Russian officials deny any intent to form a military alliance with China, they have emphasized the importance of close military ties with transparency and no hidden agendas.

Additionally, China intends to reinforce BRICS by including Iran, Saudi Arabia, and other Middle Eastern States. It is restructuring the confidence of other nations in China. China's strategy of inclusiveness and sustaining the weaker economies of the world is rephrasing the global world order and giving rise to China as a global superpower. China may be the only country in the twenty-first century that believes in economic cooperation and integrity to sustain weaker economies. It separates China from other traditional powers, used to divide and rule the world with sectarian or ethnic conflicts.

The trilateral agreement will likely continue to impact the region, individually and collectively, on a large scale. All the member countries have their distinct strengths that influence their regional role.

China is a rising global superpower with a growing economic giant in the M.E. It is heavily invested in infrastructure development in the region, mainly through its BRI, which aims to increase China's trade and economic activities across Asia, Africa, and Europe. China's growing regional presence may challenge other global powers like the U.S. and Russia. It may have issues regarding territorial stability and security.

Iran's support for non-state actors for regional instability, indulgence in regional proxy wars, and sectarian clashes made her unpopular globally and in the region. It kept KSA and Israel at arm's length from Iran. Iran has a sizeable population and strategic geographical location. It may make a considerable geostrategic impact on the region.

The KSA is an affluent country with enormous oil reserves and a strong ally of the U.S. It may be one of the most powerful Middle Eastern countries. It has been a leader of the Gulf Cooperation Council and has impacted regional politics. The U.S. tries to keep it under its influence through the lens of human rights violations.

In the twenty-first century, the old arch-rival Iran and the KSA decided to make a deal in the instance of China in March 2023 and finally restored their diplomatic ties and reopened the embassies in Tehran and Riyadh. The U.S. is still doubtful regarding the successful de-escalation between Iran and the KSA.

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