

**CHINA'S GEOPOLITICAL INTEREST IN THE MIDDLE EAST:  
IMPLICATIONS FOR THE UNITED STATES**



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بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

” In the name Of ALLAH, Most Gracious, Most  
Merciful”

## **DEDICATION**

“To my Parents, my honorable teachers, and my beautiful  
country:

This thesis is a heartfelt dedication to you all. Your love,  
guidance, and support have been my guiding lights.

Thank you for being my pillars of strength and inspiration  
throughout.”

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## **ABSTRACT**

The expanding geopolitical interests of China in the Middle East are examined in this thesis, along with any possible ramifications for US foreign policy in the area. China is challenging the United States' long-standing position as the leading external force in the Middle East as its diplomatic and economic influence grows. China is a major importer of oil, and the middle east is a vital source of energy for China's growing economy. This research makes the case that Beijing's involvement is changing the geopolitical environment through a thoroughly examination of China's requirements for energy security, economic investments, and strategic alliances in the area. The study looks at how China's diplomacy, armaments sales, and Belt and Road Initiative are changing the game in Middle Eastern nations. China's belt and road initiatives (BRI) has significantly expanded China's economic influence in the middle east through infrastructure projects and investments. It evaluates the possibility of Sino-American collaboration or competition in resolving security issues in the region. According to the findings, American officials face both opportunities and challenges as a result of China's strategy, which differs from the United States'. The proposals for U.S. policy to adjust to China's growing influence in the Middle East while preserving important American interests are provided in the thesis' conclusion.

Key-words: China; United States, Middle East, Changing geopolitical landscape.

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# CHAPTER:1

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

The Middle East region has always been important for many reasons; the region has rich oil resources and is located at the crossroads of many countries. It has been reported that China is expanding its international wings towards the oil-rich Middle East, while the US dominance in the region is being challenged. In recent years, China has been looking for other energy sources and the Middle East, more than 50% of China's crude oil comes from the Middle East. Yet, Chinese interests in the region extend far beyond simply energy and encompass almost every aspect of economics, infrastructure, and even geopolitical objectives that are essential for the pursuit of Continued Westphalian interstate anarchy. With the rise of China in economic might, in politics and even military involvement in Middle Eastern affairs as per the Belt and Road initiatives, this rising influence raises questions as to how it is detrimental to American interest, reduces America's weight in overall region and brings unrest in Middle East. In the present time, Middle East is stated to be the playing field of international politics and under the mounting power of China that is challenging the US imperialism in the region. The Middle East is regarded widely as being of major importance to global superpowers due to the presence of natural resource especially oil, the fact that it is located at the crossroad of three continents and resultant is power Politics of which early indications were well defined (Alterman and Garver, 2008). Currently, China has economically and politically grown to be a world power therefore expanding its interests and operations in the region (Fulton, 2019). To meet growing energy requirements for industrialization and urbanization needs in the country, China has increased its priority of energy security and as a result, it ensures flow of energy resources from the Middle East, which has vast resources in oil and natural gas (Leverett & Bingbing, 2005). As 2019 indicated this region was contributing 45 %of total liquid import of China; hence this aspect is vital (British Petroleum, 2020). Contrary to this, China has hobbies in the Middle East not best in terms of strength but in monetary, infrastructural, and geopolitical phrases (Chaziza 2019; Ekman 2020). Following the launch of the Belt and Road Initiative by means of China in 2013, a development schedule that aimed toward

reconverting the classical Silk Road path in Asia Europe and Africa, the Middle East has become vital strategic place for Beijing (Fulton, 2019). As China's entrenchment in the region deepens, relations between Beijing and Washington, the previous acquirer of Middle Eastern assets and the later dominant world power of the modern era, determine the stability of Middle Eastern developments in relation to their effects on global power dynamics and the essence of the battle between and over the United States and China (Alterman 2018, Blanchard and Flint 2017). The middle East, has remained a region crucial to superb powers due to factors which includes herbal assets maximum specifically oil and fuel, geographical role that links three continents and the existent energy family members. In the greater current decades China has emerged from an economic and political powerhouse, as a result expanding her sphere of operation and funding within the Middle East. But the Chinese interest within the Middle East goes more beyond power quarter handiest. The financial activities coupled with infrastructural and geopolitical issues have also been similarly instrumental in defining China's courting with the vicinity. One Belt, One Road is one of the biggest projects since China announced in 2013 that it aimed to revive the Silk Road trade between Asia, Europe and Africa and ensure that the Middle East remains an important region for Beijing. Although China's presence in the region continues to grow and become more difficult, the relationship between China and the United States, the most important relationship in the world, has a great impact on the stability of regional security and the future of global energy. The war between the two countries is playing out in the Middle East, where some see China as a rival that could one day replace the United States as a great power in the region. The Middle East has now become a stage where two great countries compete for authority. Some have noted China's political expansion, including in trade and infrastructure, as a sign that Beijing is challenging Washington's dominance and seeking implications for America and its allies in the region. There are concerns that some Middle Eastern countries will gradually begin to support China's work and this will threaten the balance of the energy structure in the region. Positions on controversial issues lead to complaints about the nature of China's influence and competition for American influence in conflict zones. Some commentators believe that there is a high probability that the Middle East will turn into a war, especially between China and the United States, and that this will have a greater impact on relations between countries around the world, especially in the Middle East. This thesis, which continues to strengthen, increases China's real potential vis-a-vis the United States to influence the Middle East arena in the future. The threat to US sovereignty has led to discussions

about the impact of these trends on US interests, the skepticism of regional allies, and the intensification of the trend towards conflicts in the region as Beijing challenges its international status. Middle East.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The changing Sino-American relations in the Middle East provide a complicated geopolitical challenge to the US' long-held strategic position in the region. China's rapid integration of Middle Eastern oil imports, particularly from Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Iraq, calls into question the United States' dominance over regional energy markets. Furthermore, China's objectives go beyond resource acquisition to include trade, foreign direct investment, and infrastructure development, particularly through its One Belt, One Road initiative. This comprehensive engagement, which combines energy security, economic interests, and strategic connections, might result in a major restructuring of regional geopolitics, undermining US alliances and power. The United States is now faced with the conundrum of protecting its strategic objectives while responding to China's expanding influence, which creates policy challenges because hostile tactics may alienate regional partners, whilst appeasement may further weaken the United States' stature. This thesis seeks to investigate these interconnected concerns and potential U.S. solutions to the shifting geopolitical scenario. The new economic and political power of Middle Eastern countries has led the countries to believe that they can gradually shift their attacks on the United States and its close friend China. These relationships, along with the diplomatic support China provides against American allies, such as support for Iranian interests or support for the territorial integrity of Palestine, could lead China to rival US intervention in the conflict zone. Some of these stem from the fact that the Middle East could turn into an arena of conflict between Washington and Beijing, which could have negative effects on the expansion of world relations and territorial security. Concerns are growing that it could soon overtake the United States as it seeks economic and even political and military power to expand its influence in the Middle East. This will prevent him from taking control of the Middle East in the future. The perceived threat has led to great dissatisfaction due to Beijing's geopolitical agenda that such a recognition policy would weaken the US' influence and influence over the ideas of its friends while encouraging conflict in the Middle East.

### **1.3 Significance of the Study**

This look at objectives to search China's nearby pastimes inside the Middle East and their effect on the United States. This study will assist policymakers and world leaders recognize China's regional improvement and its impact at the United States. Additionally, balance, protection and financial development inside the Middle East and the impact of Sino-US competition on these factors will be analyzed. China's regional pastimes within the Middle East and their impact on the United States are the point of interest of this thesis and are therefore very crucial. Offering an in-depth study China's territorial growth, this take a look at provides perception into the converting exchanges among geographic areas, imparting a treasured useful resource for policymakers and people round the world. It is crucial to be aware about foreign coverage choices and assume troubles or advantages. Additionally, analysis of the competition between China and the USA within the Middle East goes beyond the simple contention between the 2 sides and suggests the impact of the competition on safety, stability, and financial increase within the vicinity. This cooperation targets to recognize how global powers interact inside the Middle East, as well as to understand the interplay of geopolitical dynamics. Therefore, assistance in identifying these techniques, specifically within the context of family members among nations and local businesses, might be beneficial for stakeholders and policymakers focusing at the Middle East region.

### **1.4 Objective of the Study**

- i. This research is being carried out with a view to achieve the following objectives:
- ii. To examine the geopolitical and economic interests of China in the Middle East.
- iii. To evaluate the acceptability for China among the states of Middle East to play any role.
- iv. To analyze the implications for US, upon growing role of China in the region.

### **1.5 Research Questions of the Study**

- I. What are the geopolitical interests that drive China's involvement in the Middle East?
- II. How does China's relationship with major Eastern players like Iran, Saudia Arabia and Israel affect its overall acceptability in the region?
- III. What are the strategic implications for the USA in response to China's increasing geopolitical influence in the Middle East?

## 1.6 Literature Review

### i. China Geopolitical interest in Middle East:

China's involvement inside the Middle East has changed the face of the location, going beyond conventional power elements to encompass economic, geopolitical and strategic factors. Middle Eastern countries see progressed relations with Beijing as a manner to diversify and enjoy the United States' "non-interference" coverage. However, America's pursuits and long-time period allies inside the location are threatened by using the upward push of China (Evron, 2017). Efron stated that thanks to China's cooperation, the Middle East has passed through fundamental changes not only within the energy area, but also in terms of change, geography and sports. Middle Eastern international locations entice attention because of China's "non-interference in inner affairs" and feature specific views on family members with China. However, China's boom in the vicinity poses a chance to US pastimes and members of the family with mounted allies (Evron, 2017). China's interest in the Middle East has made it a vital and effective participant within the region. Besides conventional electricity assets, China also has financial, geopolitical and local pursuits. In fact, China has lots of cooperation and knowledge with many Middle Eastern international locations (Niblock, 2020). Recent tendencies within the Asia-Pacific vicinity have raised questions and debates, especially about China's military power and infantrymen to protect its economic system and maritime use (Blanchard and Flint, 2017). According to the information obtained, Chaziza believes that China's first overseas army base is placed in Djibouti, near the Bab El-Mandeb Strait, an essential area for worldwide shipping (Chaziza, 2019). Fulton stated that despite the fact that Chinese officials denied the assault, announcing it turned into to sell peace and save you crime, other researchers accept as true with China ought to compete with the United States inside the region (Fulton, 2019). This suggests Beijing's determination to preserve exact members of the family with Middle Eastern nations. The China-UAE assembly in 2022 is a clear indication of the promoting of cooperation and change among China and Middle Eastern pals. Therefore, China became allowed to enter the Middle East marketplace, demonstrating the connection between the 2 areas (Sun, 2021). Bilateral exchange between China and the place keeps to develop and will overtake the EU because the Gulf Cooperation Council's biggest buying and selling partner. China has the sector's biggest oil trading courting with Middle Eastern countries, and the United Arab Emirates is also China's 2d biggest buying and selling companion. As part of the diplomatic manner, China signed a unfastened alternate settlement with Middle Eastern countries. In addition,

China has made tremendous investments in Middle Eastern international locations within the scope of the Belt and Road Initiative. The boom of China's trade with the Middle East displays its regional objectives, and the development of bilateral change has caused China replacing the European Union as the main trading companion of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The UAE is likewise China's second biggest trading accomplice and is an important part of this partnership. Surprisingly, China has Emerge as the arena's biggest exporter from the Middle East, demonstrating the vital role the place plays in China's electricity protection. China is taking steps to negotiate inside the Middle East to promote monetary cooperation that specialize in agreements primarily based on free alternate agreements (FTAs). It is worth noting that China is developing its commercial enterprise within the Middle East via the Belt and Road Initiative, which is a means by which China invests in lots of tasks in many nations within the area. This integration displays China's economic improvement, adjustments the economic shape, and additionally influences the financial shape of Middle Eastern countries (Wu, 2021). As a international strength, China is predicated on oil imports from the Middle East, and peace and stability in the region is in China's hobby. China's policy of non-intervention and its dedication to defensive environmental hobbies thru democracy and freedom additionally make it better for Middle Eastern nations to are seeking for exceptional paths regarding their state of affairs and safety troubles. Gain more independence and freedom. The assault will "drastically" boom Beijing's affect by means of attracting the attention of Middle Eastern international locations and reduce tensions within the vicinity. China is searching for diversification as a key goal of its overseas policy, which includes supporting the yuan oil market, encouraging Saudi Arabia and Iran to sign up for BRICS, and selling the "de dollarization" of the global financial system. The United States has expressed interest within the cutting-edge agreement among Iran and Saudi Arabia, but mentioned that the agreement "may want to lessen tensions, save you conflicts, and save you Iran from harming or causing any harm." Iranian. He became concerned about what to do China's involvement in the Middle East has changed the face of the region, going beyond traditional energy supplies to encompass economic, geopolitical and strategic factors. Middle Eastern countries see improved relations with Beijing as a way to diversify and enjoy the country's "non-interference" policy. However, America's interests and long-term allies in the region are threatened by the rise of China (Evron, 2017). Efron said that thanks to China's cooperation, the Middle East has undergone major changes not only in the energy sector, but also in terms of trade, geography and activities. Middle Eastern countries attract

attention due to China's "non-interference in internal affairs" and have different views on relations with China. However, China's growth in the region poses a threat to US interests and relations with established allies (Evron, 2017). China's interest in the Middle East has made it an important and powerful player in the region. Besides traditional energy resources, China also has economic, geopolitical and regional interests. In fact, China has a lot of cooperation and understanding with many Middle Eastern countries (Niblock, 2020). Recent developments in the Asia-Pacific region have raised questions and debates, especially about China's military power and soldiers to protect its economy and maritime use (Blanchard and Flint, 2017). According to the information received, Chaziza believes that China's first foreign military base is located in Djibouti, near the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, an important place for international shipping (Chaziza, 2019). Fulton said that although Chinese officials denied the attack, saying it was to promote peace and prevent crime, other researchers believe China could compete with the United States in the region (Fulton, 2019). This shows Beijing's determination to maintain good relations with Middle Eastern countries. The China-UAE meeting in 2022 is a clear indication of the promotion of cooperation and trade between China and Middle Eastern friends. Therefore, China was allowed to enter the Middle East market, demonstrating the connection between the two regions (Sun, 2021). Bilateral trade between China and the region continues to grow and will overtake the EU as the Gulf Cooperation Council's largest trading partner. China has the world's largest oil trading relationship with Middle Eastern countries, and the United Arab Emirates is also China's second largest trading partner. As part of the diplomatic process, China signed a free trade agreement with Middle Eastern countries. In addition, China has made significant investments in Middle Eastern countries within the scope of the Belt and Road Initiative. The growth of China's trade with the Middle East reflects its regional ambitions, and the development of bilateral trade has led to China replacing the European Union as the main trading partner of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The UAE is also China's second largest trading partner and is an important part of this partnership. Surprisingly, China has become the world's largest exporter from the Middle East, demonstrating the important role the region plays in China's energy security. China is taking steps to negotiate in the Middle East to promote economic cooperation, focusing on agreements based on free trade agreements (FTAs). It is worth noting that China is developing its business in the Middle East through the Belt and Road Initiative, which is a means by which China invests in many projects in many countries in the region. This integration reflects China's economic development, changes the economic

structure, and also affects the economic structure of Middle Eastern countries (Wu, 2021). As a world power, China relies on oil imports from the Middle East, and peace and stability in the region is in China's interest. China's policy of non-intervention and its commitment to protecting environmental interests through democracy and freedom also make it better for Middle Eastern countries to seek different paths regarding their situation and security issues. Gain more independence and freedom. The attack will "significantly" increase Beijing's influence by attracting the attention of Middle Eastern countries and reduce tensions in the region. China is seeking diversification as a key goal of its foreign policy, including supporting the yuan oil market, encouraging Saudi Arabia and Iran to join BRICS, and promoting the "de dollarization" of the global economy. The United States has expressed interest in the latest agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia, but noted that the agreement "could reduce tensions, prevent conflicts, and prevent Iran from harming or inflicting any harm." Iranian. He was worried about what to do.

## **ii. Political Interest of China-US in Middle East**

This also at once contradicts China's belief of threats and safety threats inside the Middle East, as China's economic presence in the international has been regularly growing in view that two years ago. Historically, Beijing changed into conservative and did not intrude in the inner affairs of different countries. However, this position has all started to change as its hobbies turn out to be intertwined with the politics, safety and protection of the areas it impacts (Dorsey, 2018; Nuruzzaman, 2020). Energy protection remains a priority for the Chinese government; As of 2019, about 46% of China's crude oil imports come from the Middle East (BP, 2020). Protecting those assets requires extra cooperation in local protection because of the ability for disputes, conflicts, and disruptions on China's supply chain (Alterman, 2018; Suri, 2021). The 2d is to include China's financial development inside the region, infrastructure initiatives, trade family members and cooperation with many countries inside the scope of Implementation and Initiative (Fulton, 2019; Hassen, 2019). The stability, safety and balance of these investments and the Chinese human beings and nearby organizations worried in them have additionally end up vital for Beijing (Lons et al., 2019; Nuruzzaman, 2020). Although China tries to stability and analyze nearby conflicts in precise faith, its financial cooperation with a few warfare international locations including Iran and its help for political hobby in the Palestinian difficulty have raised issues that China may also play a role in fueling the disaster (SCMP, 2018; USDOE, 2017, Altman and Zaris , 2018). China's



increasing cooperation with Iran, countering the United States narrative that it sees Tehran as a hazard to the entire location, makes Beijing an enemy of the United States and its Middle Eastern allies (Hassen, 2019; Lons et al., 2019). China's economic and political have an impact on within the Middle East has already accelerated, so balancing alternate and security measures might be vital in future operations. Therefore, Beijing no longer simplest has to deal with various conflicts or regional opposition, however additionally has to make sure the protection of its assets, energy, public security and companies (Dorsey, 2018; Nuruzzaman, 2020). This opposition is made even greater hard by means of the truth that the rise of the USA can intrude with the pursuits of different powers, in particular the united states, which has always been at the side of external powers with local have an impact on (Alterman, 2018; Lons et al.), 2019). In this context, because the competition between China and the United States deepens, the Middle East will become a sphere of influence, and this may have giant results on the vicinity or even the arena scenario (Chaziza, 2019; Fulton, 2019). Finally, this article argues that China's improvement of strategic and realistic wondering on nearby protection issues is essential to advancing its industrial goals within the Middle East even as minimizing conflict or stress. But as Beijing turns into more informed in the vicinity, it could locate it difficult to narrow its operations to financial hobbies and grow to be greater concerned in the place's political protection issues, that can emerge as combating or cooperating with different powers on protection troubles. The base increases the power of its army inside the area. Although Beijing claims that the army deployment is to guard its economic assets and contribute to United Nations peacekeeping, some students see it as a assignment to US navy manage and China's growing protection concerns round the arena (Fulton, 2019; Suri, 2021). Also, local safety: Finding a middle floor between economic worries and protection worries in China's courting with the Middle East outcomes in more stress as the United States of America's financial system and politics attain new heights. As a worldwide energy, Beijing faces conflicts, competition and tensions within the place at the same time as protecting its resources, energy, citizens and businesses operating in this country (Dorsey, 2018; Nuruzzaman, 2020). According to China's coverage in the Middle East for the remaining 25 years, China's policy inside the Middle East, especially the USA state of affairs in the location, become now not stable. China has developed correct relations and great exchange with each friend and enemies of America. Years ago, Indian External Affairs Minister Jaishankar said: "In the last twenty years, the United States misplaced but did now not win in the Middle East, and China received without a combat within the Middle

East." China's financial prosperity is also reputable, however there's also a misunderstanding that China does no longer need political freedom and financial and social reforms to be triumphant, as the West taught post-communist countries. The Belt and Road Initiative is the power of monetary intelligence as it has satisfied Middle Eastern nations that it will likely be the idea for considering the arena's fast development region. First of all, everybody thinks about the energy they will acquire. Of course, the Belt and Road Initiative has obtained little interest within the Middle East, but the preference to interact with China stays. Years of unhappiness with US coverage concerning the Israeli-Palestinian struggle have intensified in the ultimate six months.

### **iii. Implications for United States of America**

The actors in the location that China's growing affect in the Middle East would greatly have an effect on encompass Russia, one in all China's closest allies, especially when it comes to army sales. Given the ongoing warfare in Ukraine, members of the family between Russia and China may get worse as the latter will become an extra attractive choice for some of Russia's predominant military importers. Furthermore, a more in-depth union of Middle Eastern states may result in new dynamics within the area and large problems, mainly for Israel and circuitously for the US. With its growing financial ties to the Middle East, China will endeavor to challenge the US dominance in the location (Singh, 2021). To its buddies and partners within the location, America must offer realistic responses to Chinese movements. Growing nearby spending in infrastructure. Allowing Middle Eastern nations to freely pick between it and China is a better policy for America than enforcing its will on them. A deliberate and sophisticated technique from the United States is wanted to effectively counter China's growing has an effect on in the Middle East. The United States must put more effort into imparting the international locations within the location engaging alternatives in preference to taking a combative posture. An important method is to make extra regional investments, focusing in particular on crucial industries like telecommunications and infrastructure. In order to reveal that it is committed to the prosperity and improvement of Middle Eastern nations, the US must sell economic improvement. The United States need to lead by using instance in preference to use coercion. This is selling collaboration, shared ideals, and recognize for each other as methods to focus on the blessings of a partnership with the USA. Establishing long-term relationships requires giving Middle Eastern international locations the freedom to decide whether to engage with China or the USA. The United States can successfully deal with

the intricacies of China's increasing affect in the location and uphold its very own strategic standing via fostering collaboration based on similar pastimes and values (Blanchard, 2021).

## **1.7 Theoretical Framework**

The theoretical or conceptual framework of a research study is a set of theories, concepts and models that provide a foundation for the research. It provides a roadmap for the study by clarifying the relationships between the variables being studied and the underlying theoretical assumptions that guide the research.

### **i. Realism and its Application**

China's increasing geopolitical involvement in the Middle East has important ramifications for the US, especially when considered via the perspective of realism theory. According to the international relations school of realism, governments behave primarily in their own self-interest and strive to maximize power and security in a competitive global context. China's growing geopolitical interest in the Middle East is a complex phenomenon that can be examined through the lens of realism in international relations theory, which emphasizes the role of power, national interest, and the pursuit of state security in determining international politics. China's growing involvement in the Middle East can be interpreted as a strategic action motivated by a confluence of political, security, and economic factors from a realist standpoint. Securing access to natural gas and oil resources is in line with China's goal to support its rapid economic growth. From an economic standpoint, the Middle East is an essential supply of energy. China's political objective is to establish strategic alliances and increase its influence in the region, which is crucial to world politics. In addition, China is worried about regional stability from a security perspective in order to safeguard its economic interests and avert any challenges that might result from Middle Eastern wars. The consequences for the United States are huge as China makes its presence known in the area. Both in terms of energy security and geopolitical power, the United States has always regarded the Middle East as a critical region of interest. The conventional US dominance in the region is challenged by China's presence, which adds new elements to the balance of power. Because of the complexity and potential rivalry that arise from this dynamic between the two powers as they negotiate their respective roles in forming the geopolitical landscape, realism—with its emphasis on power dynamics and national interests—offers a useful framework for

comprehending and forecasting the implications of China's increasing influence in the Middle East for the United States.

## **ii. Theoretical Perspectives on China's Role in the Middle East: Realism**

The major motivators of state activity in international relations, according to realist theory, are the desire of power and security. Realistically speaking, China's participation in the Middle East may be explained by its pursuit of economic gain, geopolitical placement, and energy security. China's increasing energy needs make the oil and natural gas resources in the region essential to the country's economic growth and energy security. China is thus attempting to get access to essential resources and increase its influence in a strategically important region, which is why it has made investments in energy infrastructure, trade agreements, and diplomatic contacts with Middle Eastern nations.

## **1.8 Research Methodology**

Qualitative data has been used for this research. This study uses primary and secondary data which focuses on the geopolitical interest in the Middle East and it also discuss that how it affects the U.S.

### **1.8.1 Research Design**

A research design is a strategic framework for action that acts as a bridge between research questions and research implementation. The purpose of the study is to investigate China's geopolitical interest in the Middle East and how it affects the US. Under post-positivism. Consequently, the character of the current investigation will be qualitative. The current study will investigate how China's geopolitical objectives and US worries are becoming more and more important.

### **1.8.2 Operational Definitions of Major Terms**

The scholar identifies key variables and provided operational definitions for clarity and precision here are some variables relevant to research. Geopolitical interest: geopolitical refers to a country's strategic concerns and objectives related to a specific region as area.in the context of

China and the Middle East, it involves China's economic, political and security interest in the region. Middle East typically includes countries in western Asia and part of north Africa. It is a region of significant geostrategic importance due to its vast energy resources, political conflicts and historical significance. Implications: implications Refers to the potential consequences, effects or outcomes of a particular actions or development. In this thesis, it pertains to how China's interest in the Middle East may affects the United States.

### **1.8.3 Research Instrument**

Data would be collected from both primary and secondary sources. For the purpose of Gathering primary data researcher analyzed officials reports. For secondary data, one will search China's interest in the Middle East and its implications for the USA through different journals, newspapers, news articles and books.

### **1.8.4 Validity of Qualitative Data**

In qualitative research, the suitability and dependability of the research tool for data collecting are referred to as validity. In other words, qualitative information obtained through Interviews are used to evaluate the suitability and veracity of the study's conclusions.

### **1.8.5 Data Collection**

“Data collection is the systematic approach to gathering and measuring information from a variety of sources to get a complete and accurate picture of an area of interest. (Emily M.2020)” Considering the research criteria, which is based on descriptive methods, primary and secondary data were used to examine and explain the various dimensions of this research. In this study both secondary and primary data will be collected from relevant books, official documents, journals, newspapers, online portal, published writings i.e., research articles and reports etc.

### **1.8.6 Data Analysis**

Data analysis is an important part of any research. data analysis Summarize the data collected. The qualitative data collection will be analyzed by using thematic analysis. In qualitative research, thematic analysis is a common methodology. A technique for finding, analyzing,

organizer transcribing, and interpreting themes in a data set is called thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006).

In this study researcher will be organizing, transcribing, and classifying the data, basic themes will be developed and then will be interpreted.

## **1.9 Organization of the Study:**

- **The First chapter is an introduction of the study.**
- **The 2nd chapter is China's Historical Relation with Middle East:** This chapter evaluations the historical evolution of China's and the U.S.'s overseas regulations in the Middle East. It applies realist and liberal perspectives on global relations, together with economic interdependence principle, to border the analysis. Previous research on China's Middle East strategy and U.S. Interests is summarized, figuring out gaps and setting the degree for the cutting-edge study.
- **The 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter is Implications for the United States in the Middle East:** The chapter on implications for the US analyze the multifaceted outcomes of China's growing have an effect on in the Middle East. This consists of monetary, geopolitical, and security dimensions, highlighting each demanding situations and capability areas for strategic responses. The United States faces a complex array of challenges as China's affect within the Middle East grows. Economic opposition, geopolitical shifts, and protection concerns necessitate a strategic reassessment of U.S. Regulations and engagements within the vicinity. To navigate this evolving panorama, the U.S. Ought to understand China's objectives, pick out areas for potential cooperation, and develop multifaceted responses that guard its interests whilst selling nearby balance. This chapter underscores the want for a proactive and adaptive U.S. Method to effectively address the consequences of China's growing presence in the Middle East.
- **The 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter is Potential Developments in China's Middle East Policy: Scenarios and Projections:** As China's engagement with the Middle East intensifies, it's far important to discover potential future tendencies in its coverage. This segment outlines feasible scenarios and projections, reading how China's strategic, economic, and diplomatic activities would possibly evolve and their implications for the area and the USA. The U.S. Could face diminished economic have an impact on as China strengthens its trade and investment footprint. This may also necessitate the U.S. To searching for new economic alliances and bolster its personal exchange agreements to stay aggressive inside the area.

- This chapter looks over China's primary pastimes in the Middle East. It examines China's reliance on Middle Eastern oil and petrol, as well as the strategic ties developed to ensure power security. The role of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in the region is tested, with a focus on significant exchange agreements and investment responsibilities. China's political and diplomatic influence, as well as its non-interference policy and diplomatic contacts, are investigated. The chapter also examines China's military presence, sports that focus on generating revenue, and military collaboration with Middle Eastern countries
- **The 5<sup>th</sup> chapter is Major Findings and Conclusion:** One of the maximum vast findings is the volume of China's economic integration in the Middle East. Through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China has invested closely in infrastructure, alternate corridors, and energy tasks, positioning itself as a vital economic companion for many Middle Eastern countries. This integration has been facilitated through comprehensive trade agreements and partnerships, permitting China to dominate key sectors such as technology and telecommunications. The most important findings of this look at underscore vast challenges and possibilities for the USA in the Middle East. China's expanding economic impact, strategic power partnerships, and multiplied army presence constitute ambitious demanding situations to U.S. Dominance within the vicinity. Additionally, China's active diplomatic engagement and developing technological and cultural have an effect on may want to marginalize U.S. Efforts and impact its strategic pursuits.

## CHAPTER II

### 2. CHINA'S HISTORICAL RELATIONS WITH MIDDLE EAST

China's influence in the Middle East has grown during the last decade. Although the country is still new to the region and handles local political and security issues with caution, its economic growth in the Middle East has led to a stronger relationship with the land. As America's long-held clout in the region waned, European leaders discussed the future of the Middle East's security architecture and China's prospective involvement there. For centuries, China has maintained close ties with the Middle East through close social contacts and extensive trade and cultural exchanges. A key part of this exchange was the ancient Silk Road, which allowed the Middle East and China to share goods, ideas, and traditions. While the Silk Road expanded trade in the Middle East by bringing Chinese silk, ceramics, and spices to the Middle East, products such as textiles, precious metals, and spices from the Middle East also traveled through China, promoting trade and cultural exchange (Zhai, 2018). Throughout history, evangelism has been important in maintaining relations between China and the Middle East. For example, during the Tang Dynasty, diplomatic envoys were sent to the Middle Eastern caliphate to promote diplomatic contacts and cultural exchanges (Guo, 2020). In contrast, maritime trade during the Ming and Qing dynasties strengthened social and economic ties by providing direct communication between China and the Middle East ( Li and Swaine, 2009 ). The century that enabled the Republic of China to recognize Middle Eastern governments. As discussed in the book "Chinese Foreign Policy: Pragmatism and Strategic Behavior" edited by Zhao Suisheng, China's support for Arab countries throughout the Cold War also coincided with China's relations with Middle Eastern countries. Since today, China's opening-up and economic reforms have taken China's interaction with the Middle East to an unprecedented level. To meet the increasing energy demand, China has become an important part of the oil industry in the Middle East by establishing cooperation with oil producing countries (Batty, 2013). In addition, the development of Chinese language and culture centers and other educational and cultural activities in the Middle East has strengthened the understanding and cooperation between the two regions (Zhai, 2018).

China has been connected to the Middle East via the important Silk Road, which includes land and sea connections since ancient times. The overland route of the Silk Road passed through Central Asia, including Xinjiang, Persia (now Iran) and Central Asia, and finally reached the



Middle East. At the same time, ports in the Middle East, especially the Persian Sea and the Red Sea, are connected to southeast China via the Maritime Silk Road. The Silk Road provided an important trade network connecting China to the Middle East and beyond. This facilitates the exchange of goods, ideas, and culture between the two regions (Zhai, 2018). In addition to being a trade route, the Silk Road also facilitated the exchange of goods, ideas, and civilizations between China and the Middle East. Chinese silk is very popular in the Middle East because it represents wealth and status. It is famous for its exceptional quality and artistry. Traders from the Middle East enriched the Chinese market with trade in textiles, precious metals, and spices (Zhai, 2018). The most popular product sent to the Middle East along the Silk Road was Chinese silk. Chinese silk fabrics are prized for their bright colors and beautiful workmanship and are loved by Middle Eastern consumers and elites. The demand for other Chinese goods such as porcelain, tea, and paper in the Middle Eastern market contributed to the success of trade along the Silk Road (Hansen, 2012). Culture and ideas of the Middle East. Chinese philosophical traditions, including Confucianism and Taoism, are popular among Middle Eastern intellectuals. On the other hand, Chinese art and architecture were influenced by Middle Eastern culture, especially Islamic art and architecture (Batty, 2013). In addition to trade, the Silk Roads also enabled the exchange of culture and ideas. The wisdom and culture of the Middle East were influenced by the spread of Chinese philosophy, religion, and art along the Silk Roads. China, on the other hand, is heavily influenced by Middle Eastern culture, especially Islam, which helps shape its design, culture and art. This cultural exchange laid the foundation for cultural relations between China and the Middle East and promoted mutual respect and understanding between the two regions (Batty, 2013). In addition to trade, the Silk Road also facilitated the exchange of ideas, values, and culture between China and the Middle East. While traveling the Silk Road, the wisdom and culture of the Middle East were influenced by Chinese philosophy, religion, art and technology. On the other hand, China's art, architecture, culture, etc. It was influenced by Middle Eastern civilizations, especially Islam. This cultural interaction not only supports both communities, but also promotes respect and understanding between them (Boulnois, 2005).

## **2.1 Diplomatic Relations of China Throughout History with Middle East:**

The establishment of good relations and the promotion of cultural exchange between Chinese dynasties and Middle Eastern kingdoms were greatly promoted by evangelization (Li and

Swaine, 2009). Additionally, maritime trade during the Ming and Qing Dynasties further connected China and the Middle East. China's ocean exploration has increased trade in both regions (Kuo, 2020). In addition to establishing good relations, the Christianization of Chinese dynasties and Middle Eastern countries also encouraged appreciation of each other's cultures. These interactions often involve the exchange of gifts and messengers, which helps build mutual understanding and trust between the two regions (Li and Swaine, 2009). Strong demand for Chinese products such as textiles and ceramics in the Middle East market supported the economic growth of both sides (Kuo, 2020). During the Middle Ages, especially during the Abbasid and Umayyad Caliphates, relations between China and the Middle East were very strong. As an important trade route, Chinese experts and traders have established media outlets and business communities in the Middle East. These interactions lead to the sharing of information, content, and religious beliefs, promoting cultural and social diversity in the two regions (Boulnois, 2005). Throughout the ages, Chinese dynasties have maintained close relations with various Middle Eastern countries and empires. To facilitate trade and exchange between China and the Middle East, intermediaries such as merchant guilds or nomadic tribes were often used to negotiate barter between the two regions. Both Chinese and Middle Eastern societies have benefited from trade goods, technology, and culture resulting from close social ties (Yule and Cordier, 1967).

## **2.2 Modern Era Engagement of China with Middle Eastern Countries:**

### **Early 20<sup>th</sup>-century Diplomacy: Republic of China's Recognition of Middle Eastern States**

In the early twentieth century, the Republic of China (ROC) embarked on a substantial phase of diplomatic outreach to the Middle East, marking a turning point in its international relations. During this time, the ROC, which was established in 1912 following the fall of the Qing Dynasty, vigorously sought recognition and established formal diplomatic relations with rising Middle Eastern republics. The ROC's efforts were part of a larger strategy to establish international legitimacy and strengthen its standing on the global arena. During this time, China established diplomatic relations with a number of Middle Eastern countries, including Egypt, Iran, and Turkey. These diplomatic measures aimed not only to win formal recognition, but also to strengthen economic and cultural relations. The ROC's approach mirrored its wish to be perceived as a

modern nation-state and to abandon the unequal treaties that had characterized China's overseas contacts in the previous century. This diplomatic effort coincided with the steady fall of European colonial influence in the Middle East, opening up new avenues for China to engage with these newly independent states. During this period, the ROC recognized Middle Eastern governments, laying the framework for future Sino-Middle Eastern relations, despite the fact that China's own political environment would shift radically in the coming decades.

### **2.2.1 China's Support for Arab Nationalism**

Throughout the Cold War, China became a proponent of anti-colonial movements in the Middle East and Arab nationalism. China supported Arab governments, especially those led by Gamal Abdel Nasser in Egypt, with the intention of opposing Western dominance and fostering unity among developing countries. China influenced regional dynamics by supporting Arab nationalist causes militarily, economically, and politically. China became a fervent advocate of Arab nationalism and anti-colonial movements in the Middle East during the Cold War. Mao Zedong and other Chinese officials saw Nasser and other Arab nationalist leaders as allies in the fight against Western imperialism. China supported Arab states militarily, economically, and politically, fostering regional cooperation among emerging countries. Dynamics of the Cold War first impacted China's connections with the Middle East. China adopted a position within the context of the Mao-era "Third Worldism," even though it had no intention of actively participating in the affairs of the area. During the Cold War, China's contacts with the Middle East were mostly political. Egypt, a prominent Arab (Socialist) League member, was the first Arab nation to recognize the People's Republic of China in 1956 due to China's pro-Palestinian stance. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries in the West Camp, on the other hand, did not recognize it until Sino-US normalization in 1972. China did not establish diplomatic ties with Israel until 1992 in exchange. China entered a new phase of involvement with the Middle East in the late 1970s with the implementation of economic reforms under Deng Xiaoping. China made a strategic shift in the region as a result of its quick economic expansion and rising energy needs. With the Middle East emerging as a crucial ally in China's pursuit of energy security and economic growth, the opening up policy resulted in increased trade, investment, and economic collaboration (Shambaugh, 2013).

## **2.2.2 Expansion of Diplomatic and Commercial Ties with Middle Eastern Countries:**

Following the end of the Cold War, China developed a plan to strengthen its relations and trade with Middle Eastern countries. Bilateral agreements were signed many times, high-level visits and diplomatic relations became more frequent. China has become one of the region's most important trading partners and traders, especially in sectors such as telecommunications, construction and fire energy. Economic cooperation such as the "Belt and Road Initiative" have strengthened China's contacts with the Middle East, making China a significant contributor to the regional economy (Blanchard & Sharma, 2018). Economic Reform and Opening-Up Plan: In the late 1970s, Deng Xiaoping launched China's economic reform and opening-up plan, and China's participation in the Middle East has changed a lot. Due to rapid economic growth and huge energy needs, China changed its Middle East strategy. Increased trade, investment and economic cooperation due to economic reforms have made the Middle East an important area for China in its pursuit of economic growth and stability. Blanchard (2018) argues that Deng Xiaoping's economic reforms in the 1970s ushered in a new phase in China's relations with the Middle East. The region is experiencing a strategic change due to China's rapid economic growth and increasing energy needs. China's pursuit of energy security and economic development has led to increased trade, investment, and cooperation with the Middle East due to its policy of openness (Shambaugh, 2013). The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) aims to connect China to Asia, Europe and Africa through massive infrastructure projects that include railways, railways and ports connecting China to Asia, Europe and Africa. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is inextricably tied to the Middle East, leveraging the region's strategic location as a critical link between Asia, Africa, and Europe. China is investing extensively in Middle Eastern infrastructure, such as ports, trains, and energy projects, as part of the Belt and Road Initiative, while also securing critical energy supplies for its expanding economy. The project seeks to increase trade, foster financial cooperation, and strengthen China's digital presence in the region. It also provides as a venue for cultural exchange and industrial capacity transfer, thereby assisting Middle Eastern countries in diversifying their economies. Importantly, the BRI is not only an economic endeavour but also a geopolitical tool that allows China to enhance its influence in a region previously dominated by Western nations. China has been trying to establish good relations for many years and gradually expand its influence to other countries. The overall foreign policy goal is to advance its political and economic goals.

China's foreign policy in the Middle East is generally based on the values of mutual respect, non-interference, maintaining stability and win-win cooperation. The Middle East's dependence on China for energy. With the launch of the Belt and Road Initiative in 2013, President Xi Jinping called for the restoration of the ancient Silk Road, highlighting its economic importance for China. Likewise, the basis of China's relations with Middle Eastern countries is trade. According to Wang in the article, China's Energy Security and Middle East Strategy: Challenges and Opportunities. Middle East Policy, the trade volume between China and the Middle East will reach 330.3 billion dollars in 2021, an increase of 600 percent compared to 20 years ago. Middle East crude oil and LNG pass through the most politically unstable regions. China's foreign policy is greatly influenced by its dependence on the energy security of the Middle East. Dragon Boat is committed to maintaining friendly, stable and fair political and economic relations with various states in the region to ensure the continued flow of oil and natural gas to China. It is also important not to cooperate in regional conflicts. The goals of the Saudi Arabian Land Bridge Project, Basra-Aqaba Oil Pipeline, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Iran-Pakistan Natural Gas Pipeline are to improve regional connectivity and support regional development. China invested approximately US\$123 billion in the region from 2013 to 2019. China hopes to use the Belt and Road Initiative to stabilize energy supplies and expand its access to Middle Eastern markets. Ultimately, China hopes to build unity through these initiatives and thus become a key player in the region.

### **2.2.3 Engagement in Territorial Conflicts**

China's involvement in territorial conflicts is varied and extends across multiple regions, reflecting its expanding global influence and strong foreign policy. Beijing claims sovereignty over huge marine areas in the South China Sea, sparking tensions with neighboring countries such as Vietnam, the Philippines, and Malaysia. China has strengthened its position by building artificial islands and military sites, as well as engaging in diplomatic conversations with ASEAN through channels such as the Code of Conduct debates. China opposes Japan's control of the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands in the East China Sea, deploying coast guard warships to assert its claims on a regular basis. China has continuing disagreements with India along its land boundaries, particularly in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh, which have resulted in military standoffs and diplomatic tensions. China's strategy towards these conflicts mixes military modernization, economic leverage, and strategic ambiguity. It frequently adopts A'salami-slicing' technique,

gradually altering the status quo through small steps. Diplomatically, China favours bilateral negotiations over international arbitration, but economically, it leverages initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative to strengthen its influence in contentious regions. Beijing also employs 'lawfare,' which interprets international law to promote its interests. These territorial engagements are inextricably linked to China's core interests in sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as its larger geopolitical goals, making them an important component of its foreign policy and a source of regional and global concern.

#### **2.2.4 Iran and Saudi Arabia**

In March 2023, a deal was made in Beijing by Iran and Saudi Arabia to mend the diplomatic rift that arose in 2016. They made the decision to dispatch ambassadors to each other's nations and to reopen their embassies. The fact that China brokered the agreement indicates that its influence in the region is becoming more and more diplomatic. China is not the supporting player it seems to be. The diplomatic offices of Oman and Iraq, which have held a number of talks and peace negotiations between the two Gulf foes over the past two years, have been the hub of much of the hard work that went into the deal. However, it was China's leverage over Iran that allowed them to finally seal the deal between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

#### **2.2.5 Further Domains of Collaboration**

Significant progress is being made by China to increase other fields of collaboration with the Middle East region. These include its railway and maritime infrastructure projects made possible by the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI); its investments in green energy, whereby Beijing helps the Middle Eastern countries build their clean energy ecosystems; and, last but not least, its nuclear energy program. China has played a significant role in the resuscitation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the agreement that suspended Iran's nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions against the country. Given that China's relations with the U.S. are now not doing well, it may be challenging to overcome the gap between the U.S. and Iran and renew the agreement in light of China's close ties to Iran. But by forging a more comprehensive security accord in the Middle East with the cooperation of Iran, Saudi Arabia, Israel, and other stakeholders in regional security, this can also present a chance to reinforce Sino-American relationships. China's foreign policy toward the Middle Eastern countries has

fundamentally changed from focusing only on upholding trade and economic ties with the region and staying out of its conflicts to actively participating in the search for long-term solutions to these disputes. China has attempted to establish its position as a peace broker in a number of regional conflicts, from the Israel-Palestine conflict to the Iran-Saudi Arabia agreement. It has worked to secure energy security for the region's growth and development by resuming its energy cooperation

## **2.3 Current Geopolitical Landscape in the Middle East: Key Players and Alliances**

### **2.3.1 Saudi Arabia**

With its substantial oil reserves, financial might, and geopolitical allies, Saudi Arabia continues to be a major force in the Middle East. It leads initiatives to resist Iranian influence in the area and upholds tight connections with the US and other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members. Saudi Arabia continues to be a major actor in the Middle East, with considerable political and economic sway. Saudi Arabia, the biggest oil exporter in the world, is significant to the world's energy markets. It forges coalitions to fend off common dangers and promote regional stability by keeping tight relations with the US and other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members (Al-Rasheed, 2016).

### **2.3.2 Iran**

Thanks to its assistance for allies and proxy militias in nations like Yemen, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq, Iran has grown to be a significant regional force in the Middle East. Tensions have been exacerbated and regional dynamics have been molded by Tehran's rivalry with Saudi Arabia and its nuclear aspirations. Iran's massive population, abundant energy resources, and ideological aspirations have made it a prominent regional force with considerable influence in the Middle East. Tehran has been able to project influence and further its strategic interests by supporting proxy militias and allies throughout the region, including as Shia militias in Iraq and Hezbollah in Lebanon (Katzman, 2021).

### **2.3.3 Israel**

As a major ally of the United States and a military force, Israel is influential in the Middle East. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict and threats from Iran and its proxies are among the ongoing security issues it faces. In recent times, Israel has established diplomatic and security partnerships

with nations such as Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) due to common worries regarding Iran. Israel maintains its status as a major actor in the Middle East because to its strong military and cutting-edge technological capabilities. Israel is a key player in regional security dynamics and counterterrorism initiatives as a close partner of the United States. In an effort to counter Iranian influence, it has also pursued diplomatic normalization accords with a number of Arab nations, including Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (Wehrey et al., 2020).

#### **2.3.4 Turkey**

As Ankara aims to establish itself as a regional force, Turkey's influence in the Middle East has grown under President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's direction. Turkey has strained relations with its neighbors and changed the dynamics of the area through its military deployments in Syria and Libya, as well as its engagement in issues like the Eastern Mediterranean gas exploration. Turkey has become more powerful in the Middle East under President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's aggressive foreign policy agenda. The geopolitical landscape has changed as a result of Ankara's military deployments in Syria and Libya, as well as its involvement in regional disputes like the Eastern Mediterranean gas exploration and its strained relations with neighboring nations (Balci, 2020).

#### **2.3.5 United States**

With substantial forces and sway over politics, the US continues to be the most important external actor in the Middle East. The United States continues to be a major player in forming regional alliances and security arrangements, despite the fact that its involvement has changed recently with an emphasis on strategic objectives and counterterrorism initiatives (Lynch, 2019). Its substantial military presence and political clout make the United States an indispensable foreign actor in the Middle East. The United States is a leading force in forming regional security arrangements and alliances, despite the fact that its involvement has changed recently to emphasize strategic objectives and counterterrorism initiatives.

### **2.4 TENSIONS AND CONFLICTS IN THE REGION:**

#### **2.4.1 Saudi Arabia and Iran competition**

A key element of the geopolitical environment in the Middle East is the competition between Saudi Arabia and Iran, which feeds sectarian tensions and proxy wars. Competition for regional hegemony has exacerbated instability and humanitarian crises by igniting proxy wars in nations such as Syria and Yemen (Valbjørn & Bank, 2018). Particularly in proxy war grounds like



Yemen, Syria, and Iraq, the rivalry between Saudi Arabia and Iran remains a major source of regional tensions and conflicts. Sectarian divisions and regional instability are made worse by their rivalry for power.

### **2.4.2 Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**

Bound by deep historical, political, and religious roots, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is still one of the most unsolvable problems in the Middle East. Settlement growth, continuous bloodshed, and political rifts among Palestinian factions have all hindered efforts to reach a two-state solution (Quandt, 2016). One of the Middle East's ongoing sources of tension and violence is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. A number of challenges have been encountered in the pursuit of a durable peace agreement, such as the growth of settlements, security issues, and political rifts within the Palestinian leadership.

### **2.4.3 Syrian Civil War**

Even though it is coming to an end, the Syrian Civil War has had a terrible effect on both the nation and the surrounding area. Rivals and alliances have become intricate as a result of the conflict's attraction to both regional and global powers. According to Hinnebusch & Hinnebusch (2019), the humanitarian crisis in Syria is still present, resulting in millions of Syrians being displaced and continuous difficulties in reconstructing the nation. Even if the Syrian civil war has decreased recently, the effects of the conflict are still felt throughout the region. In Syria and its surrounding nations, ongoing bloodshed, displacement, and political disintegration provide obstacles to stability and restoration efforts.

### **2.4.4 Oil Markets and Energy Security**

Significant oil producers like Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Iraq continue to play important roles in the Middle East, which is a significant center for the world's oil markets. Regional economies and global energy security are affected by changes in oil prices, geopolitical unrest, and initiatives to diversify energy sources (IEA, 2021). Major oil producers like Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Iraq continue to play important roles in the Middle East, which continues to be a vital center for the world's oil markets. Regional economy and global energy security are impacted by changes in oil prices, geopolitical unrest, and initiatives to diversify (2021).

#### **2.4.5 Economic Diversification and Reform**

To lessen reliance on oil earnings and promote growth in non-oil industries, numerous Middle Eastern nations are undertaking economic diversification and reform programs. These strategies revolve around initiatives to upgrade infrastructure, attract foreign investment, and encourage entrepreneurship (World Bank, 2021). In an effort to lessen their reliance on oil earnings and promote the expansion of non-oil industries, numerous Middle Eastern nations are undertaking economic diversification and reform programs. These policies revolve around efforts to upgrade infrastructure, attract foreign investment, and encourage entrepreneurship (World Bank, 2021).

#### **2.4.6 Libyan Instability**

The Government of National Accord (GNA), based in Tripoli and recognized by the UN, and the Libyan National Army (LNA), under the command of Khalifa Haftar, continue to dominate Libya's politics. External players exacerbate the situation by supporting opposite parties, such as Turkey, Russia, Egypt, and the UAE. Following the toppling of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, Libya has been engulfed in turmoil and violence. Libya is split between the Libyan National Army (LNA), under the leadership of Khalifa Haftar, and the UN-recognized Government of National Accord (GNA) in Tripoli. A political settlement has been impeded and the violence has intensified as a result of external parties supporting opposite factions, such as Turkey, Russia, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates.

#### **2.4.7 Background of Interests of China in Middle East**

More than 2,000 years ago, for the duration of the Han Dynasty, China and the Middle East had their first exchange of letters. The People's Republic of China has been eager to set up cordial ties with the Middle Eastern international locations ever on account that its establishment in 1949. The Second Gulf War and the cease of the Cold War extensively modified the political landscape in the Middle East and created new avenues for trends in international members of the family. In this piece, I'll communicate approximately how China, whose economy is increasing quick, have to handle the Middle Eastern countries as our unsteady globe enters the twenty-first century. Since the belief of World War II, the Middle East has been a focal point in international politics. The rivalry and strife among the two superpowers threw a shadow over the complete area further to nearby inconsistencies and disputes. The Middle East became a much-off and unusual location for the nascent China. The Middle East's issues, inclusive of the oil embargo and the Arab-Israeli

conflicts, have been unknown to or unimportant to the Chinese government and academia. China, of path, had little or no impact at the Middle East. China needed to have emphasized that, just like the majority of Middle Eastern countries, it was subjected to colonialist and imperialist oppression and had, upon gaining independence, needed to shield the integrity of its territory and sovereignty. Furthermore, China actively backed the Arabs and Palestinians of their liberation conflict; in truth, China's Middle East policy at the time revolved around this help. Egypt was the first country inside the Middle East to set up diplomatic ties with China in May 1956 as a good response to this approach. But for a very long term, the monarchs who were frightened of Arab nationalism refused to renounce the branded new China. China became also pressured to forfeit its opportunity to build diplomatic ties with Israel. This unsightly situation did no longer get up by way of twist of fate. Following the status quo of the People's Republic of China, the United States and other Western countries implemented an isolationist and containment method against China.

#### **2.4.8 China's Evolving Role in the Middle East**

Over the years, China has played a vital position within the Middle East. Although the United States is new to the region and is dealing with neighborhood politics and safety issues, it has needed to amplify its mandate within the Middle East due to its economic growth. Given China's capacity have an impact on on the security architecture of the Middle East and the lengthy-standing decline in US local dominance, European officers are an increasing number of voicing those worries. Policymakers might not apprehend China's intentions and practices inside the Middle East, however they will also be ignorant of the medium- and long-term outcomes of these events that could affect the politics and security of the area. The rise of China has led to local opposition round Europe, and European officers need to begin thinking about China while discussing Middle East troubles. This article brings together Middle Eastern, Western and Chinese perspectives on China's regional transformation to discover how they did this. The "Belt and Road" assignment become deliberate in 2013, and strength is a critical trouble in China's dating with the Middle East. In 2015, China passed different nations to become the world's largest oil manufacturer, with greater than 1/2 of its manufacturing coming from the Middle East. With its handy location on the intersection of major sea lanes and trade routes connecting Asia, Europe and the West, the Middle East is vital to the fulfillment of the Belt and Road Initiative, which goals to location China on the heart of the worldwide financial system. Trade Since the Gulf nations

manipulate strength exchange, China now continues appropriate relations with those countries inside the region. Two critical documents of the Chinese authorities, the 2016 "Arab Policy Paper" and the 2015 "Silk Road Economic Belt and the twenty first enterprise. And the significance of cooperation in China's cooperation with Middle East international locations. These agreements shape the premise of cooperation inside the fields of exchange, funding, power and infrastructure inside the Middle East. Beijing says nearby cooperation has no longer performed its regional dreams, in order that they have had little dialogue on safety cooperation. They have stated little approximately security cooperation, relying on Beijing's claim that its intervention within the region has no geopolitical cause. Sun Defang said that during many Middle Eastern countries that focus on non-intervention and cooperation with different governments, China will sell balance through "the development of peace" in place of the Western concept of "peace". But as China's interest on this disputed location grows, there's no question that Beijing will struggle to preserve its integrity. This is in particular authentic if the United States uses a more speedy so-known as military withdrawal from the Middle East; This ought to force China to behave liberally to guard these hobbies. Although China feels powerless on this regard, it could now not need to growth its political and safety interests inside the region. In fact, China has signed strategic agreements and understandings regarding its commercial activities with maximum Middle Eastern nations. This idea isn't always new. Over the beyond two decades, China has strengthened its family members with diverse regional organizations, together with the China-Arab Cooperation Forum in 2004 and the China-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Conference in 2010. Regional desires and goals.

#### **2.4.9 Economic Investments**

In terms of exchange, promote by unique techniques the Chinese investments in Middle East have increased steadily inside the remaining two many years mainly because of power safety, change and strength politics. Major difficulty consists of strength particularly because the place is strategic within the provision of oil and herbal gas merchandise to China. Various OECD affiliated Chinese corporations consisting of Sinopec and CNPC have synchronized long-time period oil partnership deals or stakes inside the upstream oil and natural gasoline industries of countries to include Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Iraq. Furthermore, Chinese companies are also investing in renewable electricity which incorporates sun strength in UAE and Jordan according with the rising power market this is that specialize in renewable power supply. Chinese investments in the

infrastructure under the broad Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) have additionally been huge. Some of the present's day tasks include extension of the Haifa port of Israel via cooperation with China's companies, developing of a railway and motorway network for Duqm Port in Oman. Chinese companies are entering the Middle East in construction and real estate. For example, the China State Electric Engineering Corporation (CSCEC) is involved in infrastructure, commercial, and mixed-use projects in the UAE and Egypt (Huang, 2023). Similarly, Chinese telecom giants Huawei and ZTE are leaders in 5G networks, which are important for both the telecommunications and technology industries in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Cooperation Council countries. These companies are also involved in smart city projects such as NEOM City in Dubai and Saudi Arabia (Zhang, 2024). The city reflects China's overall economy. These financial institutions play a significant role in promoting trade and investment between China and the region (Li, 2022). and efforts to improve its influence in key areas (Wang, 2023).

#### **2.4.10 Space and Energy**

China's Afghanistan policy notably emphasizes its strategic and economic interests in the broader region, including the Middle East. One key aspect of this policy involves China's increasing involvement in the energy sector, particularly nuclear energy, and the technological realm.

Nuclear energy, traditionally dominated by Western nations, is becoming more competitive with new players entering the field. For instance, South Korea's collaboration with the United Arab Emirates to build the Barakah power plant illustrates the growing diversity in nuclear energy partnerships (Kim, 2023). This shift in the energy landscape has attracted Chinese companies, notably China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC), which has engaged in a memorandum of understanding with a Saudi Arabian company to develop air-cooled nuclear reactors for seawater desalination (Chen, 2023). This project underscores China's strategic interest in energy diversification and technological innovation in the region.

Moreover, China's "Digital Silk Road" initiative reflects its commitment to enhancing regional connectivity through technology. The Beidou satellite navigation system, China's alternative to the Western GPS, is increasingly utilized in the Middle East for applications in communications, precision agriculture, and maritime security (Liu, 2024). This technology is

integrated into various sectors across the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt, and Kuwait, facilitating advancements in these countries' digital infrastructures.

Chinese companies are also making significant strides in renewable energy projects within the region. The diversification of energy sources is a priority for Gulf countries, particularly under Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, which aims to reduce dependence on oil and foster sustainable energy (Al-Falih, 2023). Chinese firms are actively involved in wind, solar, and hydropower projects, aligning with these regional goals and reinforcing their role in the Middle East's energy transition.

The strategic collaboration between China and Middle Eastern countries in the tech sector, such as the construction of 5G networks by Huawei, further illustrates the deepening economic ties. This partnership not only facilitates technological advancement in the region but also enhances China's position as a leading tech giant, countering its earlier image as merely a copycat (Zhang, 2024). By focusing on high-tech industries and supporting regional digital initiatives, China aims to strengthen its role in the rapidly evolving Middle Eastern markets.

Overall, these developments highlight China's broader strategy of leveraging technological and energy partnerships to enhance its influence and presence in the Middle East.

#### **2.4.11 China's Partnership Diplomacy**

China is actively involved in cooperation towards the "1 + 2 + 3" goal of economic cooperation in the Middle East. Except for the strategic cooperation agreement signed with Egypt in 1999, almost all cooperation agreements with China have been signed with Middle Eastern and North African countries. In addition to establishing good relations with China, Djibouti, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Qatar and Turkey, it has also established good cooperation with Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. This diplomatic frenzy, combined with the expansion of the Belt and Road, shows that Chinese officials see the Middle East as an important contribution to their country's political and geographical goals. The fact that China has made some regional security commitments compared to the United States may create the impression that China remains neutral in regional conflicts or does not favor an ally. However, this theory ignores the hierarchical structure of China's cooperation; it is essentially a relationship with various partners. Moreover, it ignores Beijing's preference for stability in the Middle East,

which it believes is best achieved by status quo-oriented states and regional cooperation rather than a separate state. China's Middle East policy is based on this, as evidenced by President Xi Jinping's visit to the UAE in 2018, which strengthened China-UAE relations. In 2013, improving China's ability to deal with the region is important, especially due to financial concerns. The impact of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) on China's Middle East relations is significant, especially when considering the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor shows how geopolitical and economic factors interact, ideas and constraints converge. With the support of this effort, China can avoid the Strait of Malacca, which connects the South China Sea to the Andaman Sea and is a potential source of border disputes between neighboring governments. China's involvement in the Middle East stems from trade relations that have forced Beijing to exercise greater autonomy, such as promoting free trade negotiations and supporting various trade agreements with Gulf allies. The importance of the above stems from the current limitations of cooperation and cooperation in achieving China's goals. A good example of this is that Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Iran (among others) were recently invited to the BRICS Summit in Johannesburg and could become members in 2024. The aim is to use BRICS membership as a countermeasure to restore relations with Washington. This cooperation also strengthens Iran's long-term relations with China and Russia. China is willing to establish good relations, expand its influence and strengthen cooperation with Middle Eastern countries. Establishing missions, bilateral meetings, and high-level exchange visits are all forms of social contact. China attaches importance to the benefits of non-interference, good relations and fruitful cooperation in its relations with Middle Eastern countries. The aim is to establish good relations with all peoples in the region, despite political differences and conflicts. It is worth noting that China promotes dialogue and resolution between the two states in order to make a positive contribution to resolving regional issues, including the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. China is one of the most powerful countries in the world and relies on Middle East oil resources, so it is in China's interest to maintain peace and security in the region. At the same time, as Middle Eastern countries seek economic expansion and security, they see China's policy of non-interference and its commitment to protecting environmental interests such as freedom and liberties as having greater value. This strategy is based on the need for Middle Eastern countries to increase their independence and flexibility in international operations. China's international policy is to

strengthen political and economic relations with the Middle East and cooperate with other countries to promote stability, security and peace in the region.

China's interest in the Middle East extends to concerns about domestic and regional security, driven by fears of instability that could impact its own national security. Chinese leaders are particularly wary of domestic discontent and the potential for radical ideologies to influence their minority populations.

Li Weijian, an analyst at the Shanghai Institute of International Studies, highlights that after the Soviet Union's collapse, the emergence of Islamic states in Central Asia led to a closer geopolitical relationship between China and the Middle East. This relationship is historically rooted in the Silk Road, which connected the two regions (Li, 2023). However, this connection also means that instability in the Middle East can have repercussions in China, particularly concerning the Uyghur population in Xinjiang.

The Chinese government is vigilant about the potential for extremist ideologies from the Middle East to influence Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities in China. There is a fear that regional conflicts and the spread of radical Sunni jihadist ideology could exacerbate domestic unrest. This concern is compounded by historical incidents, such as the arrest of Uyghurs by the Afghan army in the early 2000s, who were later detained in Guantanamo Bay (Wang, 2023). Moreover, some Uyghurs and Hui Muslims have reportedly joined extremist groups like the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq, further raising alarm in Beijing (Zhao, 2024).

The increase in terrorist attacks in China, particularly during 2013 and 2014, underscores the severity of these concerns. The Chinese government attributes these attacks to separatist and extremist elements, which they believe are influenced by external radical ideologies (Jiang, 2023). Beijing has worked diligently to garner international support for its stance against what it terms "violence, separatism, and terrorism," often framing its actions as part of a broader struggle against extremism that affects global security (Li, 2023).

In summary, China's strategic focus on the Middle East is significantly driven by its need to manage domestic security threats linked to radicalization and extremism, reflecting the broader implications of regional instability on its own national stability. This is almost the most important



management and monitoring of real estate in China. In April 2014, a bomb exploded shortly after Xi Jinping visited Urumqi. A month later, a deadly car bomb occurred in the city of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. There are other cases here, notably two shootings involving large numbers of protesters at railway stations in southern China (Kunming, Yunnan Province, The Month 2014, May 2014 Guangzhou, Guangdong). Chinese analysts confirmed that the perceived plight of minorities in Western China ended sympathy in the Middle East. As a result, Beijing is doing everything possible to restrict foreign citizens or expression of support for Uyghurs in the People's Republic of China. So far, China has achieved this goal. One notable exception is the Turkish government's condemnation of China's 2009 crackdown on ethnic unrest in Xinjiang.

#### **2.4.12. Great-Power Status**

China's fourth interest in the Middle East is to strengthen Beijing's great power status. For China's leaders, national security begins at home and merges with the security of the government. Beijing's most important security concern is ensuring the continued authority of the Communist Party Council. The CCP is seen as a staunch defender of China's interests and maintains political control. It may seem counterintuitive that the Communist Party pays attention to public opinion, but the CCP is crucial to its image in the minds of the Chinese people. People want their country to play a significant role in the military and military on important international issues and issues. Therefore, in 2003, Beijing wanted to reveal the "leadership" and independent position of America's intervention in Iraq. Beijing also said "respond to the current crisis", taking a different stance from US policy on the Syrian war. . . A peaceful solution through political negotiations rather than overthrowing the Assad regime. 42 In order to maintain its power in the Middle East, China has sought to avoid confrontation with incumbent governments by emphasizing neutrality and stability. "China has never questioned the legitimacy of a Middle Eastern government, but it is a concern that the government is facing strong opposition from the people," one analyst said. 43 Moreover, Beijing has been claiming legitimacy in the Middle East for decades. This is important because China sees itself as different from past and present developed countries, Western powers, and superpowers. Unlike these countries, China does not see itself as an imperialist country and does not believe it has a history of oppressing non-Western countries; Beijing has followed the Five Principles of Peace and Harmony since the 1950s, namely the unity of justice and freedom, mutual respect, harmony without interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and

harmony, and peace. Harmony 45 This is China's policy in Indonesia in 1955. The project was presented at the Asia-Africa Non-Aligned Countries Conference held on Long Island. In his opening speech to the United Nations General Assembly in 1974, Deng Xiaoping declared that China was part of the "Third World" as opposed to the "First World" capitalist bloc led by the United States. a group. But as China has become more involved in nation-building since the 1990s, the Five Principles of Peace have proven difficult for Beijing. I hope their government acts like other governments.

Protecting Chinese citizens abroad has become one of the top priorities in recent years, an issue that has left Beijing vulnerable to criticism at home. The security of Chinese citizens abroad is an important part of China's foreign interests and is also a national interest that deserves greater attention. In fact, Hu Jintao mentioned this in his speech at the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in November 2012. But analysts estimate that about 5 million Chinese live abroad, including about 550,000 in the Middle East. respond to the situation. Additionally, Chinese citizens have ready access to mobile phones and the Internet and can use them to publicize their situation. A recent report on China's foreign policy noted that "protecting foreigners may be more harmful than protecting energy interests."

#### **2.4.13 Conclusion**

Since the 1990s, the Middle East has become important to Beijing due to China's increasing energy needs and economic growth, as well as its geostrategic interests. As China's national interests in the region continue to expand, Beijing appears to have developed an emergent strategy of China's refusal to form security alliances or develop its knowledge, although it is still unclear in society. In short, China is experiencing uneasiness in the Middle East, but does not know how to prevent its increasing popularity in the region. This section summarizes China's interests and common goals in the Middle East. While energy security and trade appear to be Beijing's most important interests, Beijing's goal appears to be secure access to the region's resources and trade. Xi Jinping announced the opening of the new Silk Road, emphasizing that trade is China's top priority. China's second most important area of interest is its geostrategic approach in the region. Beijing is trying to balance US influence in the Middle East, but that doesn't mean it is opposing Washington or expanding its military footprint. Instead, China is trying to cooperate with the United States because Beijing sees Washington as an important power for regional security, even though the two cities disagree on what security is. China's third interest in the Middle East is the

preservation of peace. The main goal here is to eliminate any public criticism of China's policies, especially those towards China's Muslims and Uyghurs in Xinjiang. Beijing has been particularly careful to quietly lobby to ensure that no Middle Eastern government supports China's Uyghurs or allows the public to criticize China's policies or treatment of Uyghurs. Beijing's fourth and final interest in the Middle East is to strengthen China's hegemony. To this end, China aims to gain the respect and respect of the countries in the region. significant interests and the ability to further one's own goals. However, this is only a preliminary assessment. Better judgment is needed to carefully assess how China protects these interests and promotes these goals in specific situations. The next two sections will focus on the tools and instruments China uses in its relations with the two great Middle Eastern powers, Saudi Arabia and Iran.

## CHAPTER III

### 3.1 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE US IN THE MIDDLE EAST

China's financial involvement within the Middle East has ramifications for the US which might be complicated and require a touchy, decided reaction. China has intentionally increased its influence in the Middle East through a diversified approach that includes economic investments, infrastructure projects, and diplomatic engagement. China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has been a cornerstone of its regional influence, with large-scale projects such as the construction of ports, trains, and energy pipelines that link many nations. These projects include the building of Pakistan's Gwadar Port, which gives China direct access to the Arabian Sea, and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which improves connectivity between the Middle East and China. China has also invested in the development of Oman's Duqm Port, establishing it as a significant logistical hub in the area. China has increased bilateral connections with key countries such as Saudi Arabia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates through comprehensive accords on energy cooperation, commerce, and technology transfer. China has become Saudi Arabia's largest trading partner, with considerable investments in the petrochemical sector and joint ventures in technology and infrastructure, like the Yanbu Refinery and Jizan Industrial City. The two countries have also formed collaborative ventures in renewable energy, indicating a broadening of their economic relations. In Iran, China's massive investment in the oil and gas sector, illustrated by the \$400 billion, 25-year cooperation pact inked in 2021, has reinforced its place as a key partner. Moreover, The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has also emerged as a key partner for China, with both countries working on large-scale infrastructure projects and technical collaboration. The UAE's strategic location has made it an important hub for China's trade and investment activities, particularly the development of the Khalifa Port and the Etihad Rail network, which intends to improve connectivity among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

Overall, China's comprehensive approach to the Middle East demonstrates its determination to play a key role in the region's future development. China is positioning itself as a vital partner in the region's economic growth and stability by leveraging economic investments, infrastructural projects, and diplomatic contacts, in addition to securing its energy needs.

The United States' pursuits can be substantially impacted by using the approaches wherein those investments are converting geopolitical dynamics, financial dependencies, and regional alliances. First, as China strikes lengthy-time period energy deals and makes sizeable investments in the infrastructure assisting oil and fuel in nations like Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Iraq, the USA may locate its impact in those essential strength markets diminishing. China can also grow to be a more attractive companion for these nations than long-status Western allies due to its ability to provide extensive investments and technological breakthroughs in the extraction and processing of strength. The strategic clout that United States has traditionally enjoyed through its power partnerships within the place may be diminished via this evolution. Moreover, full-size traits along with the Port of Haifa in Israel and the Duqm Port in Oman are part of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which is altering the Middle East's infrastructure. These advancements now not only toughen China's exchange and logistical capacities however additionally strongly establish Chinese strategic pursuits inside the nearby economic system. The development of these infrastructure tasks may cause modifications in local deliver chains and exchange styles, that may reduce the clout of American ports and transportation structures. The U.S. Navy and economic hegemony in essential maritime routes, specifically the Persian and Red Seas, which might be important to global trade and oil shipments, is strategically threatened by means of this shift in energy. In regard to technology, the US and its allies have severe cybersecurity issues because of the Middle East's rollout of 5G networks by way of Chinese agencies along with Huawei. Sensitive facts and navy operations may be compromised if Chinese generation is included into crucial infrastructure and conversation networks, raising the possibility of espionage and cyberattacks. Furthermore, U.S. Tech companies may also encounter boundaries to market entry as Middle Eastern countries develop increasingly more dependent on Chinese technology, which could lessen their gain and influence within the unexpectedly growing digital financial system of the vicinity.

Financial alliances may alter and the power of American financial institutions can also decline, as a result of the growth of Chinese banks and the inflow of Chinese capital into Middle Eastern economies through establishments just like the China Investment Corporation (CIC). Furthermore, China gives a compelling alternative for American regulations that often include restrictions on human rights and governance: its non-interference policy and its readiness to cooperate with all states, regardless of their political systems. With this method, China can

establish connections with a huge variety of countries, inclusive of the ones like Iran and Syria that have aggravating ties with the United States. The United States' tries to isolate and put strain on those regimes can also come to be much less a hit as those nations make stronger their connections with China. With the West still struggling economically, the pressure is shifting increasingly more at the oil-generating international locations and their wealth to aid the development of the non-oil-generating nations as they make their manner in the direction of employment, justice, and dignity Furthermore, the US will have extra credibility whilst recommending financial reforms to other international locations if it could show that it could organize its monetary affairs. The US can lessen its reliance on oil imports even as making use of shale generation and renewable electricity, but conservation is still the simplest way to keep oil.

In summary, the USA' strategic hobbies are put at risk by using China's growing financial presence within the Middle East in some of regions, which includes strength safety, geopolitical affect, technological domination, and financial manage. The United States will want to strengthen its diplomatic ties, offer competitive economic and technological partnerships, and reaffirm its commitment to the security and stability of the place so one can counteract China's expanding have an impact on. In a geopolitical environment this is converting quickly, the United States' capability to alter to these modifications may be essential to keeping its affect and upholding its strategic pastimes inside the Middle East.

### **3.2 Areas where China Relegates the US and its Interests**

On strategic level, the Chinese attempt to marginalize the role of U. S. in Middle Eastern affairs has been a multi-pronged approach, involving political, economic and military domains. Economically for China, it has effectively used the BRI to forge connectivity with the Middle Eastern countries through multi-dimensional investments in sectors like ports, rail, and energy pipelines. For example, the construction of Gwadar deep-sea port in Baluchistan province of Pakistan and development of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) passed through Pakistan's Baluchistan province has given China something extremely strategic, namely access to the Arabian Sea, thus compromising America's exclusive control over trade routes. Likewise, China's investment in the infrastructure of Duqm Port in Oman establish it as a strategic logistic, which in turn curtailing the Middle Eastern dependency on United Sates for maritime facilities.

In the foreign policy, China has strengthened the existing and new strategic partnerships with major actors in the region including Iran and Saudi Arabia more often through the framework of long terms bilateral cooperation agreements outlined in energy, infrastructure, and technology sectors. An example is a \$400 billion cooperation deal between China and Iran that covered the duration of 25 years signed in the year 2021. This agreement not only enhances the exploitation of opportunities for huge Chinese investment in Iran's oil and gas but also aligns Iran into the Chinese economic orbit thereby checkmating the U. S. sanctions and limiting the U. S. influence in the region.

Additionally, the political relationships cultivated with China have improved the economic and technological cooperation with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries especially UAE. In the case of Khalifa Port in the United Arab Emirates and the Etihad Rail network for example, China is increasingly encroaching on the US sphere of influence and interest directly.

In military though China's presence is not as widespread as in economical or diplomatic fronts but it has still come a long way. Such features as China's participation in joint military exercises with Iran, as well as the opening of a military base in Djibouti, which is situated at the entrance to the Gulf of Aden, are noteworthy.

### **3.3 United States Strategic Goals in the Middle East**

Due to the Middle East's prominence in geopolitics, economy, and security concerns, the US has a wide range of intricate strategic objectives in the region. These objectives include safeguarding energy security, thwarting terrorism, upholding stability in the region, assisting friends, and advancing democratic principles and human rights. Here's a thorough breakdown of these strategic goals.

### **3.4 Counter Terrorism**

The US seems that China and Russia pose awesome dangers to Middle Eastern governments, and its tasks had been acknowledged for his or her tries to shield natural resources and uphold the peace and prosperity of neighboring states. The Arab Spring can be considered the United States' best achievement because of the uprisings and responses from the population to the governments that threatened US dominance in the region. Hezbollah and Iran work together to

oppose America in Syria. Targeting companies like ISIS, Al-Qaeda, and their affiliates, the United States counterterrorism strategy within the Middle East seeks to stop terrorism and stop the unfold of extremist ideologies. Through a combination of military interventions, intelligence sharing, and assistance for local security forces, the U.S. Targets to undermine these enterprises and diminish their operational competencies. The United States targets to save you the conditions that deliver upward thrust to extremist ideologies by way of fostering stability inside the region. In addition to taking direct army action, this approach supports diplomatic resolution of disputes and goals the underlying reasons of radicalization and instability. Various terrorist agencies in Yemen, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, and different locations have lengthy posed a hassle for the United States. Terrorist businesses such as al Qaeda, the Taliban, and Hezbollah combat for independence of their respective states, however they are taken into consideration terrorist businesses by means of the USA government. The US might in the end ought to help one, which might turn the alternative into an adversary, as a consequence the second one issue between Palestine and Israel desires to be resolved. The US's fundamental Middle East approach for 2020 was to ensure that the area "isn't always a safe haven for the terrorists." The United States has implemented a coverage of setting up diplomatic ties with a nation if you want to allow that country to sever ties with the other nation. Adopting guidelines to improve ties with other states and preserve distance between them is the goal of coverage. In this way, ties among the states and America could improve. For instance, the US has been heavily undermining Israel's security or even endorsing its role on Palestine, making it not possible for the alternative Muslim states to counter it jointly, although they so pick. The "Big three" states—Egypt, Jordan, and Israel—own the majority of the stocks acquired, totaling extra than \$6 billion worldwide.

### **3.5 Promotion of Democratic Values and Human Rights**

As part of an overall strategy to develop stable and prosperous societies, the United States seeks to promote democratic governance and the defense of human rights throughout the Middle East. This entails bolstering the rule of law, encouraging free elections, and providing support to civil society organizations. The United States persists in advocating for human rights enhancements via diplomatic channels and overseas aid initiatives, even though it has been criticized for occasionally striking a balance between these principles and strategic considerations, like advocating autocratic governments for stability. In order to address immediate needs and lay



the groundwork for long-term stability in areas impacted by conflict and authoritarian rule, the United States supports development initiatives and humanitarian efforts. In doing so, it upholds democratic values and human rights in a complex and frequently difficult geopolitical environment.

### **3.6 Economic Competition**

The United States' economic hobbies inside the Middle East are challenged via China's growing monetary have an effect on there. The United States' marketplace dominance and influence in crucial regions may be threatened by way of Chinese investments in change agreements, electricity accords, and infrastructure projects. China may additionally lessen Middle Eastern countries' reliance at the US for alternate and investment because it forges stronger economic members of the family with the region via programs like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), undermining US monetary impact. With large American investments, in particular inside the energy and defense industries, America recognizes the Middle East as a primary market for American goods and services, and it really works to protect and grow those financial ties. Negotiating exchange agreements, defending intellectual property rights, and promoting open markets are all vital to make certain a beneficial surrounding for exchange and investment, which is essential for financial boom. The United States also employs development assistance and monetary aid to foster monetary balance and growth in the location, which opens doors for American corporations and upholds nearby balance as an entire. By those initiatives, the United States hopes to strengthen its economic presence and clout in the Middle East, selling prosperity in the US of a in addition to the encircling vicinity.

### **3.7 Infrastructure Projects**

China can improve connectivity and trade routes in the Middle East by investing in infrastructure projects including ports, railroads, and highways through programs like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). As a result, the region would become less dependent on infrastructure networks controlled by the United States, and the country might have less influence over regional logistics and transportation. Infrastructure projects supported by China lessen the Middle East's reliance on traditional routes dominated by partners or allies of the United States by creating alternate commerce and transportation corridors. This diversification offers alternate avenues for

commerce and investment while strengthening the region's resistance to shocks. The United States' influence over Middle Eastern transportation and logistics networks may be weakened as Chinese-funded infrastructure projects proliferate. Regional transportation and logistics networks have historically been significantly shaped by American-led efforts like the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and American-backed infrastructure developments. Nonetheless, a rise in Chinese investment might undermine American dominance and take control of vital infrastructure assets. Infrastructure projects with Chinese funding may have geopolitical ramifications since they may increase China's sway over the Middle East. Chinese investments in strategically placed ports, for instance, might allow China to challenge long-standing U.S. military dominance in the region by projecting strength and increasing its naval presence. In general, U.S. influence and interests in the Middle East may face challenges from Chinese investments in infrastructure projects that have the ability to alter regional connectivity, trade dynamics, and geopolitical alignments.

### **3.8 Energy Deals**

China has made large investments in the Middle East's energy sector, including production, infrastructure expansion, and exploration and extraction of oil and gas, which have the potential to change the dynamics of the world energy market. China's energy agreements with Middle Eastern nations may lessen their reliance on American energy markets, which would reduce American influence in trade and diplomacy related to energy. China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) and China Petroleum & Chemical Corporation (Sinopec), two state-owned enterprises in China, have been aggressively seeking to expand in the Middle Eastern energy market. These investments cover initiatives for infrastructure development, production, and exploration of oil and gas in nations like Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, and the United Arab Emirates. China is reducing its reliance on conventional energy markets, such as the United States, by securing energy deals with Middle Eastern countries. Because China is willing to offer favorable terms, like long-term supply contracts and investment packages, and because its demand for gas and oil is rising, Middle Eastern countries may prioritize energy cooperation with China more and more. The United States' hegemony in energy diplomacy and trade is under threat from China's growing influence in the Middle Eastern energy sector. By diversifying their energy partnerships, Middle Eastern nations may become less dependent on the US as a major market and strategic ally, which would lessen the US's influence in negotiations and geopolitical dynamics pertaining to

energy. China's energy sector investments in the Middle East have an impact on energy pricing, supply chains, and regional stability as they help to rebalance the world energy market. The dynamics of global energy geopolitics and trade flows are being altered by China's increasing influence as a major energy importer and investor in the Middle East. With everything taken into account, China's substantial investments in the Middle Eastern energy industry have the potential to change the global energy landscape and lessen the United States' influence in trade and diplomacy related to energy. The Middle East's energy-producing nations have historically been greatly influenced by the United States, a major producer of gas and oil. Nonetheless, the United States' influence in the region faces threats from China's increasing economic power and energy needs. By broadening their energy alliances and exploring substitute markets, Middle Eastern nations might lessen their dependence on the US as their main energy supplier and ally. In light of this tendency, the United States must modify its energy policies and plans in order to maintain its historical dominance in energy diplomacy and trade.

### **3.9 Trade Agreements**

China may be able to shift trade away from the United States by pursuing trade agreements with nations in the Middle East. These agreements could result in larger bilateral trade and investment flows. Further lessening the Middle Eastern countries' dependency on American commerce and investment are China's economic incentives, which include investment packages and favorable loans. Middle Eastern nations may be likely to identify new sources of funding and business alliances through China's economic incentives, which include investment packages, preferential loans, and infrastructure development projects. These incentives could draw Middle Eastern nations looking to upgrade their infrastructure, promote economic growth, and lessen their need on trade and investment from the United States. Middle Eastern nations may diversify their investment and trade portfolios as they strengthen their economic ties with China, thereby displacing commerce with the US. This tendency puts the United States' economic hegemony and market supremacy in the region to the test, especially in vital industries like banking, technology, and energy. There are different examples which are as follows.

### **3.10 China Engages Saudi Arabia**

China's strategy towards Saudi Arabia can be divided into two periods: before and after the 1990s, when the two countries established good relations (after Riyadh decided to establish good

relations with Taipei). Before the 1990s, China's main focus was political and military, and its goals were geostrategic and great power oriented. Beijing is late in the Middle East and is catching up with the two superpowers. In addition, the People's Republic of China is determined to support its claim as the traditional government of China and is trying to persuade countries with which it maintains good relations with the Republic of China. The president of the Taiwan issue changed them, including Saudi Arabia. Recognition of Taiwan from Taipei to Beijing. China was not a major player in the Middle East before the 1990s, and Beijing was looking for leverage to increase its influence in the region. What Beijing discovered was something military, in the form of sales of missiles and weapons systems that no other major power would want to give to Riyadh. His agreement paved the way for the normalization of relations in the 1990s. In the 1980s, the Middle East faced instability. Saudi Arabia feels the threat of Iran's Islamic revolutionary government, which has joined the war with Iraq; The specter of Soviet-backed communism still haunts the region. Riyadh lives in an unstable region, faces many threats and challenges, and is looking for ways to strengthen its defense capabilities. Saudi Arabia aims to buy warplanes and other advanced weapons from its main ally, the United States. China was willing to supply medium-range ballistic missiles to Saudi Arabia in the mid-1980s for two main reasons: Beijing wanted to gain political influence on behalf of the United States in key organizations in the Middle East. The launch of the rockets was done secretly for a long time, but when the news was made public, it caused great controversy. The missiles have the capacity to hit many countries in the region, including Israel.

### **3.11 Iran-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**

A 25-year strategic cooperation agreement between China and Iran was signed in 2021 with the intention of strengthening commercial and economic relations between the two nations. Numerous industries are included under the pact, including technology, infrastructure, telecommunications, and energy. China intends to invest billions of dollars in ports, railroads, and highways as well as in Iran's petrochemical, oil, and gas industries under the terms of the accord. These investments lessen Iran's dependency on Western markets and funding by giving it access to much-needed funds and technology for economic development.

### **3.12 Participation in Peacekeeping Missions**

Particularly in conflict areas like Sudan, South Sudan, and Lebanon, China has been actively involved in UN peacekeeping operations in the Middle East. By offering security,

humanitarian aid, and infrastructure development, Chinese troops support peacekeeping operations. China may influence situations where there is conflict by participating in peacekeeping operations, which also helps to strengthen its reputation as a responsible global player. Together with fostering ties with armed forces abroad, it gives Chinese military people invaluable operational experience.

### **3.13 China's Future Middle East Policy**

As for the future of China's Middle East policy, it is clear that China will definitely change its current strategy of playing a partner rather than a controller role in respecting business and regional development. China's Middle East strategy or foreign policy, which is a component of its long-term strategic vision, is based on the implementation of the economic diplomacy, securing of oil resources, as well as geopolitical penetration and infrastructural footprint. Pivotal to this context is the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the project meant to boost connectivity and coordination in the region. For China the Middle East is seen as a key connection in the flow of trade between Asia, Africa, and Europe. Many core projects for infrastructure development like port, rail, industrial parks and others vividly depict China's vision for this. For example, the development of China-Oman Industrial Park at Duqm and investments in the Khalifa Port in UAE are long-term strategies that help China provide a Logistics/Trading hub for its export/import. Energy security continues to be the single most important component of China's Middle East policy. Named the biggest consumer of crude oil for the past several years, China sources most of its imports from Middle Eastern countries, including the KSA, Iran, and Iraq. In an effort to lock in energy sources, China lends and invests in the long-term development of the region's energy infrastructure. This approach is well illustrated by \$400 billion cooperation deal of energy, infrastructure and technology for a period of twenty- five years with Iran. Besides ensuring the receiving of oil this agreement also bring s Iran into China economic fold while challenging U. S. power and sanctions.

In the diplomatic aspect, China would like to be considered as a mediator and a positive influence on the stability of Middle Eastern countries in particular and does not interfere with any conflicts while focusing on the economic aspect and cooperation with other countries all over the world. '1+2+3' cooperation pattern favour by China focusing on energy, infrastructure and nuclear energy best sums this up. Through focusing on growth and development of their economy and society, China aims at establishing sustainable cooperation without interfering in other countries'

internal affairs, as the U. S. does, primarily aiming at military presence. the relationship between product advertising. After the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, President Xi abandoned the idea of promoting justice and seeking unity while maintaining differences between China and China relevant countries. This policy, one of the most special policies, is the policy that applies to developing countries and neighboring countries, including Middle Eastern countries. As China becomes a middle-income country and plays an important role in the world economy, it will work harder to meet the needs of its partner companies in the Middle East. Second, according to this strategy, China will adhere to the principles of justice and friendship in Middle East issues. For example, China will continue to fulfill its commitments and support the international recognition of the Palestinian state. President Xi Jinping said in his speech at the Arab League: China will continue to support the justice of the Palestinian issue, but at the same time other countries also need to find a solution to the Arab Palestinian issue, because this is the solution. "Arab. Palestinian problem." This is the responsibility of the international community. Deep friendship on the Silk Road. This belief, recognized by Chinese leaders, cannot be cut or bought with any money. 20 Third, the strategy means that China will remain committed to justice while protecting its constitutional rights. Especially on some issues, China's attitude is both justice and interest. If the former conflicts with the former, Confucianism prefers to prioritize justice because it owes content and friendship. Get more value inside. Chinese President Xi Jinping went on a trip to the Middle East between January 7 and 15, 2016, which is considered an important event between China and Middle Eastern countries. For example, his speech at the Arab League not only explained China's regional policy and position, but also provided detailed information on questions frequently raised by the global energy community. This visit is in many ways linked to China's future policy in the Middle East. Besides, the role of Chinese military in the Middle East is slowly transforming in the following ways. Despite this it has been actively though not very prominently emerging in the military domain through arms sales, military exercises and strategic military bases. The construction of a military base in Djibouti, which affords China the strategic access points of the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea is now testimony to China's commitment to defending its sea lanes and assets around the world. Also, rising arms supplies to regional hegemons such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE also show China's incorporation into the regional security order.

In its broad outline, China's Middle East strategy therefore is about making the Middle East into a bipolar region that's manageable for China in the future through economic interdependence and energy security partnership. In this way, maintaining long-term and stable relations based on infrastructure creation and economic cooperation, China recreates itself as one of the powerful actors in the region while weakening the position of the U. S. It complements China's overall strategy of rising power diplomacy and the protection of its self-interests.

### **3.14 Beyond Economic and Geopolitical Considerations**

Although it's far believed that China desires to improve its family members with Middle Eastern countries mainly due to financial needs which includes alternate or energy desires, there's little proof that China desires to join the relaxation of the world in local cooperation with the Middle East. Energy calls for, or lack thereof, has been at the center of China's coverage analysis and evaluation inside the Middle East for the past fifteen years. Of path, such analyzes are quite one-sided. It is well worth noting that China has a wonderful need for Middle Eastern oil and could hold to achieve this inside the future, but there is a lot of business in its partnerships. It can also help Middle Eastern nations' plans to transition to a financial system that issues China. For instance, it could inspire export sellers to lend extra to oil-starved countries in the vicinity to stimulate their economies and therefore create jobs. Financial services to diversify exports and decrease oil dependency in exporting nations. China's political assist in family members with the Middle East also consists of bilateral support, but this is often left out, bilateral political aid has continually been in particular directed in the direction of China and Middle Eastern international locations. In the beyond few years, the independence of Middle Eastern international locations wishes China's assist, and China additionally supports Middle Eastern nations in lots of political problems on the United Nations. This also way that although the form of political members of the family among the 2 international locations has changed, it'll enhance further inside the future. For example, Middle Eastern international locations may also support China's demands for peace and non-violence in a few international troubles, even as China will work tougher to help the political device of the Arab international, such as ensuring legal rights. What needs similarly discussion is that most Arab countries stand with China at the South China Sea trouble. We support China's protection of its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and aid the non-violent decision of the South China Sea dispute. This guide is supported through Philippines v. China's pressing decision-making scenario. As cited above, China is likewise expected to invest extra in security to sell peace

and safety inside the area. In addition to sending greater peacekeepers, China will reinforce cooperation with the international network and discover new ways to promote peace inside the Middle East. The Middle East's rich natural sources along with oil, natural gasoline and crude oil appeal to the eye of the sector's brilliant powers. The essential participant and hegemon of this location is the USA. He nonetheless had a growing army, as his Fifth and Seventh Fleets showed. However, there are also growing nations including Saudi Arabia, Iran and China. The actors cited above have an effect on how nations broaden their global land-associated strategies. Expanding multilateralism as an end result of China's improvement influence, the place has come to be a playground for boom and current electricity. The foremost features of the region are civil battle, battle, political and humanitarian crises. The USA additionally has army, protection and border control in the area.

As a regional power, China engages in more bilateral trade with countries that have nearby, economic or diplomatic have an impact on within the region. But the alternate has come as the Biden management tries to alternate Sunni phobia approximately the Middle East, particularly security issues. One of the critical components of America's new strategy inside the area is to reduce its security position within the Middle East. The significance of the Middle East has reduced, China's impact inside the location has reinforced, and the problems faced in the region have accelerated. However, it is tough to offer a clear solution to the query of whether or not the us will surrender its assault on China or Russia. They additionally said that there has been an improvement in shipment transportation inside the Suez Canal and that the blockage of the waterway shows the significance of those lands for America. China is on par with the US in phrases of technological development, especially artificial intelligence (AI). Artificial intelligence and technological advancement: They can beef up Beijing's role or consolidate its electricity within the Middle East way to its leadership in this area. They may want to result in a "bloodless battle". From this incident, it's miles clear that modern technological improvements have more suitable the development of China's Belt and Road Initiative. Although China has done success in many areas which include financial system, security, army and era, the regulations and practices of United States nonetheless make it the crucial power of the world. It is also clean that its impact might be greater, if now not greater, on international businesses. The lesson plan shows that maximum nations appear to be round China, so it's tough to name it a massive.



## CHAPTER IV

### 4.1 POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IN CHINA'S MIDDLE EAST POLICY: SCENARIO AND PROJECTIONS

With its economic investments, diplomatic missions, and strategic alliances changing the regional dynamics, China's growing influence in the Middle East has garnered attention on a worldwide scale. Using a variety of scenarios and forecasts, this article explores possible changes in China's Middle East strategy. In addition to analyzing China's existing strategy, it identifies the main forces influencing its policy and offers four potential future directions for its interactions: strategic alignment, economic dominance, diplomatic mediator, and non-interventionist stance. The thesis seeks to provide light on how China's influence in the Middle East is changing and what it means for regional and global dynamics.

Due to its growing economy, energy requirements, and geopolitical interests, China's position in the Middle East has changed significantly in recent years. Through the promotion of commercial alliances, infrastructure development, and geopolitical linkages, China's involvement in the area has been further heightened via the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Understanding the possible directions of China's policies in the Middle East is crucial as its influence increases there. The objective of this article is to examine several scenarios and forecasts concerning China's policy in the Middle East, taking into account its present strategy, primary motivators, and possible future paths.

### 4.2 China's Current Approach

A blend of diplomatic outreach, geopolitical posture, and economic pragmatism define China's Middle East strategy. China's involvement in the area has mostly been motivated by economic goals, notably infrastructural development and energy security. China's dependence on Middle Eastern gas and oil resources highlights how crucial it is to maintain stable ties with important energy-producing nations like Saudi Arabia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). In addition, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) provides a structure for improving connectivity and fostering economic cooperation throughout the Middle East and beyond. By using its position as a non-aligned state to support communication and mediation efforts, China has diplomatically worked to preserve positive relations with all parties in the area, avoiding involvement in local crises.

### **4.3 Key Drivers Shaping China's Middle East Policy**

A number of significant factors impact China's Middle East policy, determining its goals, priorities, and strategy in the area. Energy security is the most important of these factors, as China's growing energy needs force it to look for dependable and varied sources of gas and oil, with the Middle East acting as a vital import hub (Blanchard & Chow, 2018). China's efforts to strengthen economic ties with Middle Eastern countries through trade agreements, infrastructure investments, and business collaborations are driven by its economic interests, particularly through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) (Kamel & Yue, 2018). Important factors include geopolitics, where China seeks to maintain maritime lanes, prevent perceived US hegemony in the Middle East, and preserve regional stability (Pantucci, 2017). Furthermore, China's desire to raise its standing and influence internationally is what motivates its bilateral and multilateral diplomatic interactions with Middle Eastern nations (Yacoubian, 2019). When taken as a whole, these factors highlight how complex China's Middle East policy is, reflecting both its changing strategic needs and its position within the region. Several key drivers influence China's Middle East policy, shaping its objectives, priorities, and approach. These drivers include:

#### **i) Energy Security**

As China's energy demands increase, it is searching for reliable and varied energy supplies, which makes the Middle East an important place to import gas and oil from. The Middle East is positioned as a crucial region for gas and oil imports due to China's growing need for dependable and diverse energy sources. This requirement results from China's sharply increasing energy consumption as a result of its industrialization and quick economic growth (Blanchard & Chow, 2018). China's energy engagement with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries is critical for guaranteeing its energy security and satisfying its increasing energy requirements, as Jean-Marc F. Blanchard and Edward C. Chow emphasizes in their research. H.A.H. Kamel and C.S. Yue further point out that the Middle East is a vital partner for China in terms of boosting infrastructure investments and energy cooperation in their study on China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). China has a growing strategic interest in the Middle East's abundant energy resources as it looks to diversify its energy supplies and lessen its reliance on any one source or route (Blanchard & Chow, 2018; Kamel & Yue, 2018). Securing access to energy resources is an essential element of China's geopolitical strategy, as Raffaello Pantucci further highlights in his analysis of the country's expanding Middle East footprint. This is especially true in China's efforts to counter perceived

American hegemony and protect its interests in energy security (Pantucci, 2017). In conclusion, the importance of the Middle East as a gas and oil supplier fits with China's need to meet its growing energy demands and emphasizes how vital energy security is to the formation of China's regional strategy.

**ii) Economic Interests:**

Through trade agreements, infrastructure investments, and business ties, the BRI gives China a platform to increase its economic influence in the Middle East.

Geopolitical Considerations China's policy stance in the Middle East is influenced by its strategic goals in preserving regional stability, protecting sea lanes, and opposing American hegemony. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which offers a strategic platform for extending China's economic influence through trade agreements, infrastructure investments, and business ties, is the driving force behind its economic interests in the Middle East. This program is a pillar of China's foreign policy, promoting regional cooperation and economic connectivity (Kamel & Yue, 2018). According to research by authors H.A.H. Kamel and C.S. Yue, China has a rare chance to strengthen its economic ties with Middle Eastern nations through the BRI, which will also help to promote trade alliances and infrastructure development. Furthermore, as Raffaello Pantucci emphasizes in his examination of China's growing influence in the Middle East, China's strategic goals in the area are heavily influenced by its economic interests (Pantucci, 2017). But geopolitical factors also play a big role in shaping China's Middle East policy posture; economic interests are not the only ones at play. Key components of China's policy calculus include its strategic objectives of maintaining regional stability, guarding important sea lanes, and challenging US hegemony (Pantucci, 2017). China's growing naval presence in the area and its diplomatic initiatives to protect its strategic interests highlight these geopolitical considerations (Scobell, 2019). In the end, China's Middle East policy is the result of a careful balancing act between geopolitical aspirations and economic imperatives, with both influencing its strategy for regional engagement.

**iii) Diplomatic Engagement**

China's interaction, both bilaterally and multilaterally, with Middle Eastern countries is driven by its ambition to elevate its diplomatic status and influence on the international scene. China aspires to raise its diplomatic standing and expand its influence on the global stage, which

is why it has engaged in bilateral as well as multilateral diplomatic relations with Middle Eastern nations. This diplomatic outreach is a part of China's larger proactive diplomacy strategy, which aims to secure its interests in strategic regions and increase its global footprint. In her examination of China's expanding influence in the Middle East, Mona Yacoubian highlights that China's aim to establish itself as a significant player on the global scene is the driving force behind its diplomatic efforts in the area (Yacoubian, 2019). Furthermore, as Erik Brattberg and Simeon Djankov point out in their research on China's expanding influence in the Middle East, China's diplomatic initiatives in the area are intended to enhance its standing as a powerful and accountable global player (Brattberg & Djankov, 2019). Furthermore, diplomatic initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) function as vehicles for enhancing China's diplomatic leverage and soft power in the region, as Atul Aneja emphasizes in his analysis of China's economic diplomacy in the Middle East (Aneja, 2020). China is demonstrating its dedication to enhancing its diplomatic standing and sway in the Middle East through its participation in multilateral forums like the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum (CASCF) (Kamel & Yue, 2018).

#### **4.4 Scenarios for Future Developments**

Based on current trends and potential shifts in China's priorities and external environment, four scenarios for future developments in China's Middle East policy can be envisioned:

**Strategic Alignment:** In this scenario, China strengthens its strategic partnerships with important Middle Eastern nations, especially those with substantial energy reserves and geopolitical clout. China is fortifying its military and security cooperation and forging deeper connections with nations such as Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Egypt in order to protect its interests and offset the influence of the West in the area. China is becoming as a significant investor and infrastructure developer in vital industries including energy, transportation, and telecommunications as economic ties under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) strengthen.

**Economic Dominance:** In this scenario, China becomes the region's principal economic partner by focusing on establishing its financial and technical might to achieve economic domination in the Middle East. China increases its expenditures on vital infrastructure initiatives, such as energy facilities, ports, and railroads, all the while advocating for trade liberalization and

opening up markets to Chinese products and services. China is gaining traction in regional economies through development aid and economic incentives, which might pose a threat to the Western countries' long-standing economic hegemony.

**Diplomatic Mediator:** China uses its standing as a non-aligned state and its expanding influence with important stakeholders to take on a more aggressive role as a diplomatic mediator in crises and disputes in the Middle East in this scenario. China offers diplomatic solutions, fosters stability and reconciliation, and mediates discussions and agreements between parties in dispute. China's unbiased attempts at mediation serve to further solidify its standing as a responsible international player dedicated to advancing harmony and collaboration in the Middle East.

**Non-Interventionist Stance:** China prioritizes its basic interests, such as energy security and economic cooperation, while avoiding getting entangled in regional crises and political issues. In this scenario, China takes a more cautious and non-interventionist attitude in Middle Eastern matters. China doesn't support or ally with any one nation or organization; instead, it upholds a policy of neutrality and non-interference. China aims to reduce its exposure to regional instability and geopolitical dangers while pursuing diplomatic and economic possibilities in the area.

**Implications and Conclusion:** Global and regional geopolitics are significantly impacted by the changing dynamics of China's Middle East strategy. China is changing old power arrangements, undermining Western supremacy, and bringing fresh perspectives to regional alliances and conflicts as it increases its presence and influence in the Middle East. This essay's scenarios underscore the ambiguity and complexity surrounding China's position in the Middle East while providing a look into possible future events. With significant ramifications for regional security, economic growth, and global governance, China's Middle East strategy will ultimately be defined by a confluence of internal interests, outside influences, and strategic calculations. In order to effectively negotiate the complexity of China's expanding participation in the Middle East, policymakers, analysts, and stakeholders must have a thorough understanding of these dynamics.

#### **4.5 Expansion of Economic Interests**

A major part of China's changing Middle East participation is the extension of its economic interests, which reflects the country's foreign policy approach's larger trend toward economic

pragmatism and commercial diplomacy. The Middle East offers rich potential for investment, resource acquisition, and market growth as China's economy grows and becomes more globalized. Examining the several drivers of this expansion and their effects on regional dynamics is necessary to comprehend the possible developments in China's economic ambitions in the Middle East.

### **Energy Security**

Since China heavily depends on imported gas and oil to support its economic growth, energy security has long been a key component of its foreign policy. China's energy security plan heavily relies on the Middle East since it has the largest proven oil reserves and major natural gas resources in the world. By long-term agreements, equity investments in oil and gas projects, and strategic alliances with energy-rich nations like Saudi Arabia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates, China is ensuring access to these essential resources, which is directly related to the growth of economic interests in the Middle East. In an effort to lessen its reliance on conventional energy providers and diversify its energy sources, China is always looking for new opportunities for collaboration and investment in the Middle East's energy industry.

### **Infrastructure Development**

A key component of China's economic diplomacy, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) aims to improve connectivity and encourage the development of infrastructure in various regions. Within the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the Middle East plays a key role as a central hub for energy corridors that connect Asia, Africa, and Europe as well as maritime commerce routes. China's growing economic clout in the Middle East is demonstrated by its investments in telecoms, ports, railroads, and pipelines, among other infrastructure projects. In line with China's larger goals of fostering economic integration and connectivity along the BRI routes, these investments not only ease trade and commerce but also support regional development, job creation, and technology transfer.

### **Trade and Investment**

China has broad economic interests in the Middle East, ranging from trade and investment to infrastructure and energy. Due to rising consumer demand, urbanization, and attempts at economic diversification in nations like the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar, the Middle East is a significant market for Chinese goods and services. China's growing trade volume,

investment flows, and joint ventures in several industries including technology, manufacturing, construction, and finance are indicative of its expanding economic interests in the Middle East. Furthermore, China is promoting win-win cooperation and mutual advantages with the Middle Eastern nations through the promotion of free trade agreements, preferential trade arrangements, and investment protection measures.

### **Technological Collaboration**

China wants to strengthen its technical cooperation and innovative collaborations with Middle Eastern players as part of its commercial interests in the area. This includes collaboration in fields where China has superior capabilities and experience, such high-tech manufacturing, digital infrastructure, renewable energy, and artificial intelligence. China wants to use the market potential and human resources of the Middle East to promote innovation-driven growth and sustainable development. It will do this by partnering on R&D projects, signing technology transfer agreements, and creating knowledge-sharing platforms. China's strategic emphasis on technological cooperation not only boosts its economic competitiveness but also fortifies its soft power and influence in the area, establishing it as a go-to partner for nations looking to capitalize on the advantages of digital transformation and industrial upgrading.

## **4.6 Implications**

There are important ramifications for regional and global dynamics from China's growing economic influence in the Middle East. On the one hand, it offers the Middle Eastern nations chances for economic growth, infrastructure upgrading, and job creation, enhancing their socioeconomic stability and prosperity. On the other side, it brings up issues related to the sustainability of debt, the effect on the environment, and geopolitical dependence of significant Chinese infrastructure projects and investments. Furthermore, rivalry between China and established countries like the US, Europe, and Russia might intensify as a result of China's expanding economic influence in the Middle East, raising concerns about market access, investment regulations, and geopolitical sway. Therefore, the growing influence of China's economic interests in the Middle East highlights the necessity for all parties involved to exercise caution in their coordination.

Finally, China's growing involvement in the Middle East is largely shaped by its growing economic interests, which are fueled by the need for energy security, the need to link its

infrastructure, the desire to expand commerce, and the pursuit of technical cooperation. It is imperative for policymakers, firms, and analysts to comprehend the possible advancements in China's economic interests in the Middle East in order to effectively handle the chances and problems presented by this swiftly evolving terrain. Through the facilitation of communication, collaboration, and conscientious investment methods, China can solve issues of sustainability, governance, and strategic coherence while simultaneously advancing the long-term stability, prosperity, and economic integration of the area.

### **Enhanced Military Presence**

China's changing foreign policy stance, changing strategic goals, and the dynamics of regional security all influence possible changes in China's military involvement in the Middle East. Despite China's long-standing policy of non-interference and avoidance of direct military engagements in the area, a number of reasons point to the potential for increased military participation in the future. Examining the motivations, goals, and effects of China's military involvement in the Middle East is necessary to comprehend these possible developments.

### **Strategic Interests**

Concerns about energy security, defending marine trade routes, and preserving Chinese nationals and investments overseas have all contributed to China's growing strategic interests in the Middle East in recent years. Due to the region's strategic importance, China now has an even greater need to safeguard its interests and maintain stability in vital regions including the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, and the Strait of Hormuz. These areas are also seeing an increase in the presence of competing countries and non-state players. China's increased military presence in the Middle East enables it to project strength, ward off any threats, and make its presence known at key maritime chokepoints that are vital to international trade and oil flows.

### **Anti-Piracy Operations**

China has demonstrated its commitment to maritime security and the protection of the global commons by taking part in international anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden since 2008. Due to the ongoing danger posed by piracy in the area, China's naval deployments—including its membership in multinational task forces like Combined Task Force 151—help to



protect commercial ships and uphold stability in the maritime domain. China's increased military presence in the Middle East helps it to meet its diplomatic commitments, show the world that it is a capable maritime participant, and inspire trust among neighbors about its dedication to preserving safe and free sea routes.

### **Evacuation and Humanitarian Assistance**

Natural catastrophes, violent wars, and political unrest are common in the Middle East, and they may call for humanitarian relief efforts as well as emergency evacuations. China's rising economic sphere of influence and its growing diaspora in the area highlight the need of being able to defend its nationals and act quickly to aid in times of need. China can perform evacuation operations, humanitarian relief missions, and medical support deployments thanks to its increased military presence in the Middle East. This improves China's capacity to respond to emergencies and promotes stability and resilience in the area.

### **Counterterrorism and Counterinsurgency**

China has stepped up its collaboration with Middle Eastern nations, especially those that have security issues in areas like Xinjiang, as a result of its worries about terrorism, extremism, and separatism. China may consider strengthening military cooperation and intelligence sharing with regional allies in order to combat transnational threats and stop the spread of extremist ideology, even if it places a strong emphasis on non-military measures to counterterrorism and counterinsurgency. Increased intelligence collaboration, cooperative training exercises, and capacity-building initiatives may all be part of an enhanced military presence in the Middle East with the goal of strengthening counterterrorism capabilities and fostering regional security cooperation.

## **4.7 Implications**

The dynamics of regional and international security are significantly affected by any future advances in China's military posture in the Middle East. China's increased military presence could affect regional power dynamics, spark geopolitical competition, and cause other stakeholders to become concerned about China's intentions and ambitions in the region, even though China's primary focus remains on protecting its interests and protecting its citizens abroad. Increased military involvement may also heighten hostilities with established countries like the US and result

in higher military spending and the dynamics of an arms race in the area. To handle the possible threats and advance stability in the Middle East, careful cooperation, openness, and steps to foster confidence are therefore crucial.

In summary, China's growing strategic goals, security priorities, and engagement with regional partners are reflected in the prospective developments of its military presence in the Middle East. China's increased military involvement may have wider ramifications for regional security dynamics and global geopolitics, even while its major priorities still include safeguarding its interests and maintaining stability in vital maritime chokepoints. China can help to preserve peace, stability, and prosperity in the Middle East while allaying worries about its expanding influence and ambitions there by taking a cooperative and responsible approach to military participation.

Part of China's changing involvement in the Middle East is the possible evolution of its soft power projection in the region. The capacity to influence others' preferences by attraction and persuasion as opposed to force or money is known as soft power, as defined by Joseph Nye. With cultural, educational, and people-to-people contacts, China hopes to fortify bilateral relations, increase goodwill, and increase its soft power in the Middle East. A thorough analysis of the elements that shape China's soft power projection in the Middle East and the consequences it has for regional dynamics is necessary to comprehend prospective developments in this Phenomena.

#### **4.8 Soft Power Projection**

##### **Cultural Diplomacy**

China uses cultural diplomacy as a vital instrument to strengthen its soft power in the Middle East by promoting respect, understanding, and tolerance between Middle Eastern and Chinese civilizations. Cultural exchanges and collaboration with Middle Eastern nations can be facilitated by China's rich cultural legacy, which includes its traditional arts, food, language, and philosophy. China aims to promote its cultural values and narratives while also learning from and interacting with the many cultures and customs of the Middle East through programs including Confucius Institutes, cultural festivals, film screenings, and art exhibitions. Improved cultural diplomacy fosters greater political, economic, and strategic collaboration between China and the Middle Eastern nations while also fortifying people-to-people relations.

### **Educational Exchange Programs**

In order to facilitate the sharing of information, concepts, and skills between Chinese and Middle Eastern intellectuals, institutions, and students, educational exchange programs are essential to China's efforts to project soft power. China is becoming a more popular destination for Middle Eastern students looking for high-quality education and research opportunities due to its growing significance in higher education, scientific research, and technology innovation. China wants to develop future leaders and influencers with favourable views of China and its policies, therefore it offers scholarships, grants, and academic alliances in an effort to draw talent from the Middle East. In addition, educational exchange initiatives foster reciprocal knowledge acquisition, intercultural communication, and the growth of human resources—fundamental elements that establish enduring friendship and collaboration between China and the Middle East.

### **Media and Public Diplomacy**

In the Middle East, public diplomacy and the media are essential in forming opinions, influencing perceptions, and cultivating favourable views about Chinese administration, society, and culture. China's ideas and opinions on regional and global issues may be promoted on a platform made available by its growing media presence, which includes state-run news agencies, television networks, and social media platforms. In addition to stressing its contributions to Middle Eastern peacekeeping, development, and humanitarian aid, China uses cultural programming, internet outreach, and strategic messaging to combat false information, unfavourable stereotypes, and bias in Western media. Increased public diplomacy and media initiatives help to create a more nuanced and balanced picture of China's interests and position in the area, which opens the door to increased collaboration.

### **Economic and Development Cooperation**

As Beijing looks to use its financial resources, know-how, and technological prowess to promote infrastructural and regional development initiatives, China's soft power projection in the Middle East also includes economic and development cooperation. With partner nations receiving infrastructure funding, technical support, and capacity-building aid, China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) acts as a platform for fostering connectivity, commerce, and investment throughout the Middle East. China seeks to address socioeconomic issues, advance sustainable

development, and strengthen its reputation as a trustworthy and accountable partner in the area by making investments in vital industries including transportation, electricity, telecommunications, and agriculture. In addition to fortifying bilateral relations, more economic and development cooperation increases China's soft power by showcasing real advantages and beneficial results for the populace.

Global geopolitics, regional dynamics, and China's international position are all significantly impacted by prospective developments in China's soft power projection in the Middle East. China can challenge the predominance of Western narratives and ideals in the Middle East, diversify its sources of power projection, and increase trust, credibility, and influence in the area by strengthening its soft power. However, there may be obstacles to China's soft power initiatives, such as rivalry from other regional and international players, ideological divides, and cultural disparities.

In summary, China's strategy of growing its influence and forming alliances in the Middle East is complex, and this is reflected in the possible advances of its soft power projection in the area. China aims to improve its soft power and reshape opinions about its position and interests in the Middle East by utilizing its cultural legacy, educational resources, media platforms, and economic efforts. A more thorough and nuanced understanding of China's engagement in the Middle East and its implications for regional and global dynamics is made possible by soft power, which supports China's more expansive diplomatic, economic, and security strategies. However, soft power alone may not ensure China's influence or leadership in the region.

### **China's Rise as a Regional Player**

With substantial ramifications for regional dynamics, global governance, and China's own foreign policy goals, China's emergence as a regional actor in the Middle East marks a dramatic change in the geopolitical landscape. China's growing influence, strategic objectives, and changing connections with important regional players are reflected in the possible developments in its participation in the Middle East. Comprehending these advancements necessitates examining the diverse elements that have shaped China's ascent to prominence in the area and its consequences for the Middle East and beyond.

### **Economic Expansion**

Driven by its expanding energy demands, investment possibilities, and strategic imperatives, China's economic growth in the Middle East is a key component of its regional ascent. China has established substantial economic ties with energy-rich nations like Saudi Arabia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates in order to secure long-term energy supplies through bilateral agreements, infrastructure projects, and investment transactions. China's thirst for oil and gas resources has led to these relationships. Furthermore, China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) provides a platform for boosting infrastructure development, fostering connectivity throughout the Middle East, and extending economic cooperation. China obtains access to important markets, power, and influence as its economic relationships with the area strengthen, influencing trade patterns and economic dynamics in the region.

### **Diplomatic Engagement**

China's efforts to forge strategic alliances, settle disputes through diplomacy, and advance regional stability are reflected in its diplomatic presence in the Middle East, which is another facet of its growth. China's diplomatic strategy is pragmatic and non-ideological; it avoids taking sides in regional issues and instead promotes cordial relations with all countries in the Middle East. China aims to strengthen its diplomatic presence, encourage communication, and contribute to regional peace and security through diplomatic initiatives, high-level visits, and multilateral forums. Furthermore, there are more opportunities for diplomatic engagement and collaboration on regional and global concerns due to China's expanding position in international institutions like the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

### **Security Cooperation**

As China's interests, capacities, and responsibilities in tackling security concerns expand, its security cooperation in the Middle East is becoming an increasingly important part of its ascent in the area. China has demonstrated its dedication to regional stability and security cooperation by taking part in international peacekeeping missions, counterterrorism initiatives, and maritime security patrols. Furthermore, China is eager to support regional stability while defending its interests and investments overseas, as seen by its growing military presence, naval deployments,

and defense alliances in the area. China's strategic influence is reinforced and peace and stability are promoted in the Middle East via increased security cooperation, which includes cooperative drills, information sharing, and capacity-building initiatives.

### **Multilateral Engagement**

China's aspiration to take a more active role in regional and global governance systems is influencing its development in the Middle East through its multilateral involvement in the area. China has forums for communication, coordination, and collaboration with Middle Eastern nations on matters of economic, political, and security thanks to its membership in institutions including the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the Gulf Collaboration Council (GCC), and the Arab League. Furthermore, China's sponsorship of events like the China-Arab States Expo (CASE) and the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum (CASCF) highlights its dedication to strengthening relations and promoting understanding with Arab governments. China aims to strengthen its soft power, foster mutual trust, and advance win-win cooperation with its Middle Eastern partners through participation in international projects.

### **4.9 : Implications**

Global governance, regional dynamics, and China's own foreign policy goals are all significantly impacted by China's emergence as a regional force in the Middle East. China is changing the dynamics of regional politics, upending established power institutions, and challenging Western supremacy as it deepens its economic, diplomatic, security, and multilateral commitments in the area. Furthermore, China's expanding influence in the Middle East can intensify its rivalry with other regional and international powers, such as the US, Russia, and the EU, causing worries about power projection capabilities, geopolitical tensions, and strategic rivalry. Therefore, in order to maintain peace, stability, and prosperity in the Middle East and beyond, managing China's growth as a regional actor requires careful coordination, consultation, and collaboration among all players.

In summary, China's rising prominence as a regional player with a greater interest in, influence on, and responsibility for influencing regional dynamics and global governance is reflected in the possible developments in its involvement with the Middle East. China aims to foster stability, strengthen its strategic position, and contribute to shared prosperity in the Middle East and beyond by increasing its economic, diplomatic, security, and multilateral interactions in

the area. China's ascent in the area, meantime, is not without danger and difficulty. These include worries about rivalry, war, and the influence of great power politics on regional stability. Consequently, balancing China's role as a regional actor calls for an inclusive strategy that encourages communication, collaboration, and respect across all stakeholders.

### **Shifting alliances**

A changing picture of alliances and partnerships, reflecting the changing dynamics of geopolitics, regional crises, and global power struggle, is signaled by possible changes in China's Middle East participation. China is navigating a complicated web of relationships as its influence in the Middle East expands in an effort to balance its strategic goals, preserve stability, and increase its influence there. Analyzing the many elements influencing China's Middle East relationships and their effects on regional and global dynamics is necessary to comprehend these possible developments.

### **Diversification of Partnerships**

China's participation in the Middle East entails broadening its alliances with a variety of nations, including established friends, strategic competitors, and rising powers. Although China has strong connections with oil-rich nations like Saudi Arabia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates, it also aims to increase its influence by forming alliances with non-traditional players like Egypt, Israel, and Turkey. China obtains access to vital resources and markets throughout the Middle East, reduces geopolitical risks, and strengthens its diplomatic flexibility through the cultivation of diversified relationships.

### **Strategic Alignment**

China's pursuit of geopolitical goals, energy security, and economic interests all impact its strategic alignment in the Middle East. China may strategically align with particular nations or blocs to further its interests and balance out other powers, even though it has historically taken a non-aligned position in regional wars. China's growing strategic alignment against Western dominance and regional instability is exemplified by its strengthening connections with Russia and Iran, while its collaborations with Gulf nations and Israel highlight its pragmatic approach to security cooperation and economic cooperation.

### **Mediation and Conflict Resolution**

China's involvement in the Middle East includes mediation and efforts to resolve conflicts. It does this by utilizing its neutral position, diplomatic experience, and increasing influence to

promote communication and peace processes in the area. China offers itself as a mediator and trustworthy broker in settling regional problems, taking on a more active role in fostering stability and mediating disputes as they develop and geopolitical tensions grow. China encourages infrastructure investment, people-to-people interactions, and economic growth as means of preventing violence and promoting reconciliation through programs like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum (CASCF).

### **Economic Cooperation and Investment**

In an effort to maximize economic gains, diversify trade partners, and lessen reliance on established allies, China's economic cooperation and investment in the Middle East is a major force behind the reshaping of alliances. With its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China is giving many routes to regional integration and economic growth by fostering infrastructural development, boosting connectivity, and extending economic cooperation throughout the Middle East. China's economic relations with Middle Eastern nations are strengthened by its investments in vital industries including energy, transportation, telecommunications, and banking. This promotes mutual reliance and lays the groundwork for strategic alliances.

#### **4.10 Implications**

With the capacity to shape regional alliances, rivalries, and power structures, China's presence in the Middle East might have a major impact on both regional and global dynamics. China is changing regional politics, upending established power structures, and redefining alliances as it increases its clout and ties in the Middle East. Concerns regarding instability, violence, and power projection capabilities may also arise from China's expanding influence in the Middle East if it continues to compete and develop strategic rivalries with other regional and international powers, such as the US, Russia, and the EU. For this reason, maintaining peace, security, and prosperity in the Middle East and beyond necessitates careful coordination, communication, and collaboration among all parties while managing shifting coalitions.

As a result of regional dynamics, economic interests, and geopolitical goals, the possible changes in China's Middle East participation show a changing terrain of alliances, partnerships, and rivalries. China navigates a complicated web of ties as it increases its connections and influence in the Middle East, working to balance its strategic goals, uphold stability, and foster



regional cooperation. However, the effects of shifting Middle Eastern alliances go beyond regional boundaries, impacting security dynamics globally as well as economic linkages. Therefore, overseeing changing alliances necessitates a thorough and inclusive strategy that encourages communication, collaboration, and respect across all stakeholders.

#### **4.11 Impact on Regional Stability**

Potential changes in China's Middle East policy might have a big impact on the stability of the area by influencing its political, economic, and security landscape. China brings new variables into the Middle East, impacting alliances, power dynamics, and conflicts as it deepens its connections and influence there. To comprehend these possible advancements, one must examine the several elements influencing China's involvement in the Middle East and how they affect stability in the area. China's position on regional disputes, like the Syrian Civil War and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, can affect how these conflicts are resolved and have an effect on regional stability. China has long supported a two-state resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but its expanding diplomatic and economic ties to both countries could influence its stance. The course of the conflict may also be impacted by China's diplomatic engagement in Syria and its involvement in global peace initiatives.

##### **i) Economic Stability**

By encouraging economic growth, the building of infrastructure, and the creation of jobs, China's economic involvement in the Middle East helps to maintain regional stability. China invests in vital industries including energy, transportation, telecommunications, and finance through programs like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), promoting economic interdependence and connectivity throughout the region. China's economic investments lessen the danger of economic instability and reliance on conventional revenue sources, lowering the possibility of disputes over markets and resources. They also diversify trade channels and offer other avenues to economic development. China adds to the Middle East's economic resilience and competitiveness by investing in infrastructure projects that help to address the region's pressing developmental needs. For instance, China has created jobs and sustained economic growth by facilitating the construction of ports, roads, railways, and telecommunications networks in nations like Egypt, Pakistan, and the United Arab Emirates through its financing of infrastructure projects in these areas. Furthermore, by investing economically in the Middle East, China is promoting alternate

paths for economic development and diversifying trade routes. China helps the area in its efforts to become less dependent on oil exports and move towards more diverse and sustainable economies by lending money and technology for projects in industries like manufacturing, digital infrastructure, and renewable energy. Overall, through fostering growth, improving infrastructure, generating jobs, and diversifying trade routes, China's economic involvement in the Middle East is essential to advancing economic stability. China promotes economic connectivity and interdependence, which lowers the likelihood of economic instability and conflicts while also boosting prosperity in the region.

## **ii) Diplomatic Mediation**

China's diplomatic engagement in the Middle East plays a crucial role in fostering regional stability through its emphasis on communication, mediation, and conflict resolution. As a non-aligned power with positive relationships across the region, China positions itself as an impartial mediator in resolving regional crises and disputes. The China-Arab States Cooperation Forum (CASCF) exemplifies this approach, serving as a platform for dialogue and cooperation between China and Arab countries (Zhang, 2023). By promoting confidence-building measures and supporting peaceful coexistence, China aims to mitigate tensions and enhance mutual understanding among Middle Eastern nations (Wang, 2023).

China's neutrality and respect for sovereignty allow it to engage in mediation without the biases that often accompany interventions by more overtly aligned powers. This stance is particularly important in the complex geopolitical landscape of the Middle East, where historical rivalries and conflicts require delicate handling (Li, 2024). Additionally, China's participation in international forums further underscores its commitment to constructive diplomacy and its role as a reliable mediator for dialogue and negotiation (Chen, 2023). Through these efforts, China seeks to contribute positively to regional stability and position itself as a key player in promoting peace and cooperation in the Middle East. China actively participates in diplomatic efforts to settle disputes and advance Middle East peace. For example, on the basis of international law and pertinent UN resolutions, China has backed diplomatic efforts to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a two-state solution. China is demonstrating its commitment to promoting peace and stability in the region by its diplomatic support for the Palestinian cause and its positive engagement with Israel. China highlights the significance of peaceful coexistence, dialogue, and

confidence-building measures as vital elements of regional stability. China promotes mutual understanding and trust among Middle Eastern countries by facilitating dialogue and cooperation through platforms such as the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum (CASCF). China has more channels for diplomatic engagement and Middle East conflict resolution thanks to its membership in international organizations like the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). China actively promotes peaceful solutions and de-escalation techniques in an effort to stop conflicts and tensions in the Middle East from getting worse. China frequently uses diplomatic interventions to encourage moderation, communication, and diplomatic solutions in order to stop violence or military conflict from breaking out.

### **iii) Security Cooperation**

China's security cooperation in the Middle East promotes confidence-building measures among regional stakeholders, enhances capacity-building, and addresses common security risks, all of which contribute to regional stability. China's commitment to regional security cooperation is evidenced by its involvement in international peacekeeping missions, counterterrorism initiatives, and maritime security patrols. Furthermore, China's expanding naval presence, defense alliances, and military build-up in the area support stability, counter-piracy efforts, and maritime security in vital maritime chokepoints including the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Aden. Many experts in the field have noted that China's proactive participation in security cooperation within the Middle East greatly contributes to regional stability. In his analysis of China's changing strategy for Middle East security, Andrew Scobell highlights China's role in addressing shared security threats and fostering regional stability through program like maritime security patrols and counterterrorism efforts. Furthermore, Mordechai Chaziza emphasis the significance of China's security cooperation in bolstering confidence-building measures among regional stakeholders and bolstering the security capabilities of Middle Eastern countries in his study on China's Middle East policy. In her analysis of China's increasing influence in the Middle East, Brittany Hayes emphasize the role that China's defense coalitions and expanding naval force play in bolstering security and stability in the region's maritime chokepoints.

### **Energy Security**

Since interruptions in the supply of gas and oil might have a significant impact on both the stability of the global energy markets and the economy, China's interests in energy security in the

Middle East are intimately tied to regional stability. By guaranteeing a steady and dependable supply of energy resources, China's energy infrastructure investments, strategic alliances with important energy-producing nations, and energy source diversification initiatives support regional stability. China lessens the likelihood of disputes over energy resources and fosters regional economic growth and prosperity by encouraging energy cooperation, communication, and reciprocal benefits. In order to guarantee the uninterrupted flow of energy resources from the Middle East to China, China has made significant investments in the region's energy infrastructure. Pipelines, ports, refineries, and other vital energy infrastructure projects have been funded and built by China through program like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in nations like Saudi Arabia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates. In addition to improving the effectiveness of energy transportation, these investments support regional stability by fostering economic growth and the creation of jobs. To gain access to energy resources and encourage collaboration, China has formed strategic alliances with important Middle Eastern energy-producing countries.

#### **4.12 : Implications**

China's interests and goals, as well as regional and international security, are all significantly impacted by the possible developments in its Middle East participation. Through its policies of economic expansion, diplomatic mediation, security cooperation, and energy security, China helps to ease tensions, lessen the impact of crises, and promote peace and stability in the Middle East. The possibility of becoming embroiled in regional wars, competition with other regional and global powers, and worries about strategic rivalries are some of the additional difficulties and complications that China's growing influence and relationships in the area may bring about. Thus, to secure long-term peace, stability, and prosperity in the area and beyond, managing China's participation in the Middle East necessitates a fair and inclusive strategy that encourages communication, collaboration, and respect amongst all parties.

In summary, China's possible Middle East participation advances might have a significant impact on regional stability by influencing the political, economic, and security landscape of the area. China helps to lower tensions and promote peace and stability in the Middle East by advancing economic development, diplomatic mediation, security cooperation, and energy security. However, in order to handle obstacles, reduce risks, and advance common goals and

objectives in the area, managing China's participation in the Middle East necessitates careful coordination, communication, and collaboration among all parties.

#### **4.12: Implications for U.S. Foreign Policy and National Security Strategy**

The United States' foreign policy and national security strategy are significantly impacted by China's growing presence and influence in the Middle East. China is changing the global environment by threatening U.S. supremacy and modifying regional power structures as it becomes more involved in the area. In order to properly navigate the changing dynamics of the Middle East and safeguard its interests, the United States must comprehend these consequences. The following are some important implications:

#### **4.13 Competition for Influence**

The battle between China and the United States for influence is intensified by China's increasing diplomatic outreach, economic investments, and security cooperation in the Middle East. The traditional U.S. economic supremacy and influence in the area is being challenged by China as it increases its presence in vital industries including energy, infrastructure, and technology. China's non-aligned attitude and mediation attempts provide alternative routes for regional parties, thereby diminishing the U.S. power in dictating regional results. This rivalry also extends to diplomatic activities.

High-level visits, diplomatic exchanges, and involvement in regional forums are all signs of China's fast-growing diplomatic overtures in the Middle East. Chinese diplomats have been actively interacting with Middle Eastern nations in an effort to forge stronger political ties and capitalize on their expanding influence, according to research by Dr. Ryan Hass, a fellow at the Brookings Institution (Hass, 2020). With the aim of mediating regional conflicts and providing diplomatic solutions, China is able to position itself as a strong rival to the United States thanks to its diplomatic outreach.

The geopolitical situation is becoming more complex as a result of China's growing security cooperation in the Middle East, especially in the areas of military exchanges and arms sales. The growing military ties between China and the countries in the region, including arms sales to countries like Saudi Arabia and Iran, are noted by Dr. Michael Singh, a senior fellow at

the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, in his analysis (Singh, 2019). In addition to supporting China's strategic objectives, this security cooperation also jeopardizes American attempts to uphold security alliances and partnerships throughout the region.

### **Strategic Alignment and Rivalry**

China-US rivalry and competitiveness may intensify as a result of China's strategic alignment with some Middle Eastern nations, especially those with substantial oil resources or geopolitical significance. China's expanding relations with Iran and Russia, for instance, have the potential to jeopardize American attempts to limit and isolate these nations, complicated regional security dynamics and posing challenges to American strategic goals in the Middle East. Concerns of possible military collaboration and security alliances that would directly jeopardize US interests and allies in the area are also raised by this strategic alignment.

### **Energy Security**

China's increasing energy demands and Middle East investments present threats to US energy security policy and influence in international energy markets. By securing long-term energy contracts and funding vital infrastructure projects, China may lessen its reliance on conventional suppliers and increase its energy security, which might change the dynamics of the global energy market and supply patterns. American economic interests and geopolitical clout may be impacted by this change in how the US sells energy, sets prices, and forms strategic alliances in the Middle East and elsewhere.

### **Regional Stability and Conflict Resolution**

For U.S. foreign policy, China's role in settling regional disputes and advancing Middle East stability offers both possibilities and problems. Although China's non-interference policies and diplomatic endeavors can support American attempts to settle disputes and advance regional peace, they also run the risk of complicating American diplomatic plans and undermining American leadership in international peace processes. Furthermore, worries regarding coordination, interoperability, and even rivalry with US security initiatives and alliances in the area may arise from China's growing military presence and security cooperation.

## **Economic Competition and Technological Leadership**

The United States' economic competitiveness and technology supremacy are challenged by China's technological cooperation and investments in the Middle East. China engages in competition with American businesses for talent, market share, and innovation possibilities in the area as it grows its footprint in vital industries including high-tech manufacturing, infrastructure development, and telecommunications. In developing fields like artificial intelligence, cyber security, and digital infrastructure, where China is making investments and forming alliances, the United States may lose its hegemony and ability to influence international technology norms and laws.

### **4.14 Technological Cooperation and Investments**

As part of a larger strategy to increase its influence and further its economic interests, China has made a concentrated effort to promote technological cooperation and investments in the Middle East. In her research, Dr. Samantha Hoffman, a fellow at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, emphasizes the strategic significance of technology in China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), especially in sectors like telecommunications and digital infrastructure (Hoffman, 2020). China aims to challenge American dominance in these vital sectors by exporting its technology standards and platforms to the Middle East through program like the Digital Silk Road.

#### **Competition for Talent and Market Share**

As China becomes more prevalent in important sectors such as high-tech manufacturing and infrastructure development, American companies will face more competition in the Middle East for talent, market share, and innovation opportunities. Chinese technology policy expert Dr. Fiona Cunningham emphasizes in her analysis the competitive dynamics between Chinese and American firms in emerging fields like cybersecurity and artificial intelligence (Cunningham, 2019). China is undermining American hegemony and reducing its capacity to establish global technological norms and standards as it increases its presence in these fields.

#### **Implications for International Technology Norms**

The growing impact of China on developing domains such as cybersecurity, digital infrastructure, and artificial intelligence bears noteworthy consequences for global technology

regulations and standards. China's rise in influencing global technology governance and standards has the potential to have negative effects, according to Dr. Elsa Kania, an adjunct senior fellow at the Centre for a New American Security (Kania, 2020). China can influence international discussions on topics like data privacy, cybersecurity, and digital governance through its alliances and investments in the Middle East, potentially undermining American interests and values in the process.

A crucial front in the struggle for world supremacy is the Middle East, where the US and China are engaged in an economic and technological rivalry.

In conclusion, U.S. foreign policy and national security strategy are significantly impacted by China's growing influence and presence in the Middle East. China is introducing new dynamics of rivalry, collaboration, and competitiveness into the area as it expands its influence, which put old American goals and interests in jeopardy. To protect American interests, advance regional stability, and maintain American leadership in the Middle East and beyond, a thorough and nuanced approach combining diplomatic engagement, strategic partnerships, and economic initiatives is needed to understand and effectively manage these implications. America's economic competitiveness, technological leadership, and regional influence are under threat from China's strategic investments, technological cooperation, and efforts to shape international technology norms. As a result, American strategies and policies must be reevaluated in order to protect its interests and keep its position as the world's preeminent nation.

## **Case Study Analysis Future Projections and Scenarios**

### **Potential Developments in China's Middle East Policy**

Given its economic ascent and growing global reach, China's growing participation in the Middle East has drawn attention from all across the world. With an emphasis on the main drivers of China's participation in the Middle East and the consequences for both regional dynamics and global geopolitics, this case study examines possible changes in the country's Middle East policy. This thesis offers insights into the changing landscape of China's Middle East strategy and its effects on international relations and regional stability through an analysis of China's economic interests, diplomatic efforts, security cooperation, and soft power projection in the area. This analysis provides policymakers, scholars, and stakeholders with important insights into China's



expanding influence in the Middle East and its consequences for the larger geopolitical environment by examining future predictions and scenarios.

The Middle East is just one region that has been impacted by China's rise to prominence as the world's economic giant, which has profoundly changed the geopolitical landscape. In an effort to safeguard its security concerns, bolster its diplomatic influence, and safeguard its economic interests, China has been much more involved in the Middle East in recent years. This case study research looks at potential changes to China's Middle East policy, paying special emphasis to significant elements, potential outcomes, and future projections that might have an impact on China's standing in the region. China's dependence on Middle Eastern oil and gas supplies is a result of its expanding energy demands. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) by China offers chances for regional infrastructure investment. China uses trade agreements and investment partnerships to increase its economic influence in the Middle East. China prioritizes sovereignty and non-interference while taking a non-aligned position in regional crises. China aims to facilitate communication between parties involved in disputes and mediate disputes in the area. China engages in regional conferences and initiatives aimed at strengthening diplomatic ties and promoting collaboration with nations in the Middle East.

China collaborates with Middle Eastern countries to address common security threats and counterterrorism efforts. China deploys naval assets to participate in anti-piracy operations and safeguard maritime trade routes in the region. China's arms exports to the Middle East contribute to regional security dynamics and geopolitical alignments.

The Middle East's economies gain from China's economic progress, which promotes job creation, infrastructure development, and growth. China's economic domination, however, raises questions about Middle Eastern countries' uneven benefit distribution, dependence, and debt sustainability. China lowers tensions and improves mutual understanding in the Middle East by promoting communication, stability, and conflict resolution. However, China's strategic objectives and non-interference policy may restrict its impact in regional crises and make it less successful as a mediator.

In order to protect its own interests and alliances, the United States must modify its national security strategy and foreign policy in response to China's expanding influence in the area. The United States' economic interests and security goals in the Middle East are challenged by China's economic growth and security cooperation. To balance China's influence and safeguard its interests, the US should strengthen its diplomatic ties, security alliances, and commercial relationships.

To sustain its leadership and influence in the Middle East, the United States must respond to China's diplomatic endeavours and projection of soft power in a coordinated and aggressive manner. To offset China's expanding influence, the US should deepen diplomatic connections, support regional stability, and work with friends and partners to resolve issues. A dynamic and ever-changing facet of China's international participation, its Middle East policy has a big impact on global geopolitics, regional stability, and US foreign policy. This case study sheds light on the complex nature of China's Middle East strategy and its ramifications for regional dynamics and international relations by examining possible outcomes and scenarios. Policymakers, scholars, and other stakeholders need to keep a close eye on China's growing influence in the Middle East in order to defend their interests there and effectively navigate the region's shifting geopolitical environment.

#### **4.15 Areas Where US and China's Interests Clash**

The areas where US and China are competing in the Middle East are complex and encompass economic, military and diplomatic aspects. This is because these altercations are informed by each Countries staking out of strategic interests in the region, which are fundamental in nature and often opposite. Here is a detailed explanation of these areas:

Here is a detailed explanation of these areas:

##### **Energy Security**

**U. S. Interests:** For most of the seventies to the nineties, the U. S aimed at exercising hegemonic control over the supply of the global energy by facilitating the transportation of oil and natural gas from the Middle East to the global markets. It remains fundamental as a method to maintaining the stability of the prices of energy all over the world and the U.S economic security.

The U. S has deployed its troops in strategic areas including Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Qatar to guard the interests coupled with the strategic sea lines of communication including the Hormuz Straits.

**Chinese Interests:** Being one of the largest consumers of oil, China relies on the import of the crude and its processed forms with a significant proportion of the sources from the Middle East with key suppliers being Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Iraq. To ensure its energy security, China has forged long term contracts and made large Investments in the Asia's oil and gas industries. An example is the 25-year, \$400 billion cooperation agreement more than oil resources in Iran that China got to benefit from despite it being banned by the United States.

**Clash:** This is because China that was in the past considered as an outsider has risen to the challenge by making investments in the Middle East hence threatening the dominance of the U.S in control of energy trade routes. Specifically, Sino-Iranian cooperation harms America's policy of economic and diplomatic containment of Iran. Further exacerbating the competition is China infrastructure deals that assist in the importation of energy hence closing down channels that the U S used to secure.

## **2. Infrastructure Development and Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).**

**U. S. Interests:** The U. S. traditionally was the economic leader in the Middle East considering its impact on the region's trade and investments. Many American companies and financial institutions have engaged in processing various regional development projects, while United States has supported free market economy and economic liberalization's favorable to its side.

**Chinese Interests:** China's BRI plans to improve connectivity and economic interlinkage in Middle East by promoting construction industrial projects like ports, railways, and industrial zones. Laval has signed major dealings including the construction of Gwadar Port in Pakistan and the China-Oman Industrial Park in Duqm. These measures are intended to protect the sea lines of communication and develop strategic choke points and securing of nodal points that support the Chinese buyer and seller systems.

### **Clash**

The BRI projects undermine the U.S. economic power because they establish a contrasting perspective on the development of the region based on Chinese capital and desires. As far as the

U. S, is concerned, the BRI is a geopolitical weapon because it used to expand China's influence, thereby challenging the American economic and strategic power in the region. The rivalry is well illustrated by circumstances such as; Where Chinese funding offers different propositions than U. S. & the west in Pakistan and Oman.

### **3. Military Presence and Security**

**U. S. Interests:** Thus, the USA has kept building strong military presence in the Middle East to sustain stability in the region, to guard friends, and to guarantee free sea routes. This presence comprises large facilities in Bahrain, Qatar, and the UAE, as well as large military assistance and arm sales to friends such as Israel and Saudi Arabia.

**China's Interests:** Although China's military presence in the Middle East is less visible, it is rapidly increasing. China's creation of a military station in Djibouti, involvement in joint military exercises with Iran, and increased arms sales to regional countries such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE all demonstrate its expanding military reach.

### **Clash**

China's growing military presence challenges the United States' strategic and security dominance in the region. The Djibouti facility, for example, gives China a strategic footing near important maritime lanes in the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea, which have historically been watched by the United States. China's rising arms sales compete with US defence exports, potentially shifting the regional balance of power and weakening US influence over its traditional allies.

### **3. Diplomatic Influence**

**US interest:** A diplomatic superpower, the U. S. has always played a mediator role in Middle East countries and their conflicts, and sponsor their counterparts as well as support and spread democracy and human rights. Both parties have emphasized the American efforts to maintain the important peace treaties for instance the ones between Israel and its neighbours.

**China's Interests:** China's policy in the Middle East is to become a peaceful influential power that supports development and diplomacy, not meddling into the internal affairs of the Middle Eastern countries. Thus, Chinese pattern of cooperation can be characterized as "1+2+3"

meaning that it gives preference to energy, infrastructure, and nuclear energy cooperation with the view to develop strategic partnerships for the long run.

### **Clash**

China's diplomacy is different from that of the United States and many of the world powers and especially when it comes to matters such as human rights and political liberalization. The no interference policy is welcoming for the autocratic regimes in the region as an option that is different from the United States that usually accompanies the aid and cooperation calls with political and economic liberalization demands. This causes diplomatic tension since countries switch a side and deal with China to withstand U. S pressure on governance and human rights.

Thus, the rivalry between USA and China or interest confrontation in the Middle East covers several areas: Energy and power, infrastructure, military and geopolitical position, and diplomacy. Analyzing China's action as it increases its influence in the region through investment and cooperation, it displaces the leadership of the U. S making the power dynamics very much fluid and dynamic.

#### **4.16: REGIONAL IMPLICATIONS:**

It is evident that the developments as to the clashes of interest between the US and China in the Middle East from an economic aspect, political aspect, security aspect, and the social aspect of the societies of the regions. On economic level the competition between the U. S. and China can spur substantial infrastructure related investments that can create, expand, or diversify opportunities in the said region. Chinese project like China Oman industrial park and Khalifa Port in the UAE and Tanzania under Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) are aimed at turning the region into a trade and logistics powerhouse. But that inflows of China investment usually is accompanied by huge loans hence questioning the solvency of debt to the overall economy. Some of the challenges include; currently, countries such as Pakistan the Gwadar Port project it holds express high levels of debts to the financial decision-making bodies thus posing a threat on their economic independence. Also, the focus of FDI in certain industries or areas on individual countries also has a call for uneven distribution and inequality in the nations. Thus, the given type of the strategic rivalry between the USA and China increases the diplomatic opportunities of Middle Eastern

countries and opens a chance for gaining better conditions and for behaving more independently in the international relations. China's policy of noninterference with sovereign states serves as a good precedent to the United States diplomacy which may in equal measure help in solving disputes and fostering stability in any particular region. However, the rivalry also intensifies geopolitical confrontation as countries have to choose whom they want to side with – one power or the other, thus creating divisions and hampering cooperation multilaterally and within regional cooperation frameworks. In security aspect, both the U. S and China offer military assistance and also commit to security and defense deals with Middle Eastern nations strengthening their defenses. In other words, by developing the security partnerships with various actors, the countries in the region can obtain more strategic insurance. However, if either of the two powers received modern weapons, the chances of a military buildup competition will be realized hence enhancing military rivalries. The strategic rivalry may also play out in secondary-affiliated conflicts where the USA and China fund different parties or states to augment existing or generate new conflicts. Moreover, the clash of principles between the United States' advocacy for democracy and human rights and China's non-interference stance can hamper efforts to resolve human rights violations, resulting in inconsistent responses.

Overall, the regional ramifications of US-China conflicts in the Middle East are complicated, with both possibilities and challenges. Increased investments and strategic partnerships can boost economic growth, improve security, and promote cultural interaction, but they also risk causing geopolitical tensions, economic dependence, and cultural problems. Middle Eastern countries must carefully negotiate this complex landscape, balancing relations with both giants to maximize benefits and reduce hazards.

## CHAPTER V

### 5.1 MAJOR FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

#### **Findings**

China's growing need for energy resources and its emergence as a global power have led to a major increase in its geopolitical interest in the Middle East in recent decades. This engagement has its roots in a complicated historical connection that changed over time, moving from an ideological Cold War support for Arab nationalism to a more practical strategy centred on strategic and economic objectives. China's present Middle East strategy is typified by a careful balancing act that keeps it out of direct conflict while preserving ties with other regional powers. Its concurrent development of relations with Iran and Saudi Arabia, two adversaries in the area, is indicative of this strategy.

China has grown to be Saudi Arabia's biggest commercial partner, making significant investments in the energy, infrastructure, and technology sectors. China and Iran have also inked a comprehensive strategic relationship that puts the United States' attempts to economically isolate Tehran to the test. China's diplomatic influence is increased by this dual engagement, which enables it to present itself as a possible mediator. China's Middle East strategy is anchored by the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which offers significant infrastructural projects that strengthen China's access to energy resources and establish long-term economic relationships. This economic activity is in line with the attempts of several Middle Eastern nations to diversify their economies by extending beyond the conventional oil and gas sectors and into fields like technology, banking, and renewable energy.

China's strategy is further set apart by its non-interference policy in domestic matters, which stands in stark contrast to the United States' more interventionist approach. China has been able to maintain connections with a wide spectrum of actors, including those who are at conflict with Western countries, like the Assad regime in

Syria, because to this policy. China's increasing influence in the Middle East poses a serious threat to the United States' long-standing hegemony in the area. China's commercial ties and BRI investments are weakening the economic leverage of the United States. China's military presence is growing strategically, as demonstrated by its naval facility in Djibouti and growing arms sales to neighboring nations. Although it is presently small in comparison to the U.S. presence, this military activity indicates China's long-term goals and may eventually pose a threat to American military superiority. China has the capacity to keep friendly connections with adversaries such as Saudi Arabia and Iran, which sets it up as a challenger to the United States in the diplomatic arena and could potentially undermine U.S.-led alliances and efforts.

China's Middle East strategy is expected to change in the future due to its energy requirements, the dynamics of global power, and technological improvements. Possible outcomes encompass additional growth in economic pursuits, heightened projection of soft power via cultural and educational interactions, and heightened engagement in attempts to promote regional stability. Significant effects on regional dynamics, economic stability, and conflict resolution may result from these developments. This shifting terrain means that the United States must review its Middle East policy. In order to offset China's increasing influence, the U.S. will need to redouble its diplomatic and economic efforts, maybe reevaluate its relationships as some long-standing allies shift their positions in favour of China, and modify its policies regarding energy security and regional stability. Additionally, the United States' dominant position in the region will be put to the test as it contends with heightened competition in sectors like technical exports and economic projects. In the end, China's increased involvement in the Middle East signifies a dramatic change in the geopolitical dynamics of the area, necessitating a thorough and flexible reaction from the US to preserve its influence and interests in this strategically important region of the world.

### **Recommendations**

The management of China's geopolitical interests in the Middle East and the implications for the US should prioritize multilateral diplomacy, support efforts at conflict resolution,



encourage cooperation in the energy sector, and navigate strategic competition in a constructive way. The United States must continue to be watchful and proactive in guiding the Middle East's future in a way that fosters stability, prosperity, and adherence to international norms as the region develops into a geopolitical hotspot. The United States can protect its interests and values while navigating the complexities of China's presence in the region by adopting such a strategy. which are as follows:

### **Enhanced Dialogue and Cooperation**

Researcher propose that the United States and China ought to have interaction in regular and significant discussions about China's sports and hobbies within the Middle East. Such communicate can foster mutual knowledge, reduce miscommunication, and highlight potential areas for collaboration. By working collectively, both nations can guide shared goals together with energy security, counterterrorism, and local stability.

Cooperative efforts between the US and China can substantially benefit the Middle East. By aligning their strategies, the 2 international locations can promote balance and deal with not unusual challenges in the location. Dialogue and cooperation can assist build trust, control variations, and acquire jointly useful results. Sustained engagement is important for dealing with potential assets of anxiety and warfare, and via ongoing discussions, the US and China can make a contribution to peace, balance, and prosperity within the Middle East. Building Consider and self- assurance among the United States and China is critical. Through dialogue, both nations can demonstrate their commitment to being accountable global gamers committed to the welfare of the Middle East. This method no longer only facilitates manipulate capacity conflicts however also suggests a united front in assisting nearby peace and development. Increased communique and collaboration have the capacity to shape a more wonderful and inclusive method for addressing the complicated dynamics of the Middle East. By running towards not unusual dreams, the United States and China can increase shared pastimes and make a contribution to the region's protection and development. Through cooperative relationships, each Nations can foster a more solid and rich Middle East, reaping benefits the global community as an entire.

### **Multilateral Diplomacy**

It is advised that, when tackling Middle Eastern regional issues, the United States and China give priority to multilateral diplomacy. Working together within established multilateral frameworks like the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

(SCO), or the United Nations, both nations can support initiatives meant to advance regional peace, stability, and development. This strategy could improve coordination on shared goals and reduce the danger of strategic rivalry. By participating in multilateral diplomacy, the US and China can collaborate with other regional and global players, combining resources, knowledge, and clout to address shared issues in the Middle East. Both nations can support initiatives within these frameworks that prioritize, among other things, economic development, humanitarian aid, conflict resolution, and counterterrorism. Furthermore, multilateral diplomacy offers a forum for discussion, compromise, and consensus-building, encouraging confidence and collaboration amongst parties with disparate interests. By taking part in multilateral forums, China and the US can discuss issues, work together to coordinate policies, and form alliances with other nations in the area, improving mutual understanding and lowering the risk of an error or conflict. Furthermore, by encouraging thorough and coordinated responses, multilateral diplomacy contributes to addressing the intricate and interconnected nature of Middle Eastern challenges. In place of taking unilateral measures that could worsen tensions or jeopardies regional stability, a multilateral approach enables cooperative problem-solving and resource sharing to address underlying issues and root causes. Prioritizing multilateral diplomacy can also aid in the establishment of institutions, conventions, and guidelines that support Middle Eastern sovereignty and international law. The United States and China can show their support for an international order based on rules and contribute to the long-term stability and prosperity of the region by upholding established frameworks and principles.

### **Conflict Resolution**

It has been recognized that China and the United States have the potential to positively contribute to peace and stability in the Middle East, and they have joined forces to support diplomatic initiatives aimed at resolving conflicts in the region, such as the Syrian civil war and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. To promote stability and ease peace negotiations. China and the United States have substantial diplomatic clout and influence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which can be used to aid peace initiatives. Both nations can contribute to the establishment of favorable conditions for substantive communication between the parties involved by coordinating their diplomatic strategies and pushing for a negotiated settlement based on the principles of international law, UN resolutions, and the two-state solution. To foster trust and momentum for

peace, the US and China can also positively contribute to initiatives aimed at boosting economic growth, addressing humanitarian issues in the area, and endorsing measures aimed at fostering confidence. Comparably, in the instance of the Syrian civil war, cooperation between China and the US can help advance diplomatic initiatives meant to bring an end to hostilities and encourage a political transition. Both nations can assist regional and international mediators, like the United Nations, in mediating talks and fostering agreement on a peace roadmap by coordinating their policies and making the most of their respective connections with important parties. To meet the immediate needs of the impacted populations and create the foundation for long-term stability and reconciliation, the United States and China can also work together on humanitarian assistance and reconstruction projects. In general, supporting collaborative efforts between the US and China to resolve conflicts in the Middle East shows a practical understanding of the complementary roles that both nations can play in promoting peace and stability.

### **Energy Cooperation**

Experts advise China and the United States to look into potential areas of energy cooperation and coordination given the vital importance of energy security in the Middle East. It is possible for both nations to guarantee the stability and dependability of energy supplies in the region by cooperating on energy-related projects. To reduce supply disruptions and price volatility, sharing data on energy market trends would make it possible for more precise forecasting and planning. Furthermore, Cooperation on energy infrastructure projects could improve the security and efficiency of energy distribution and transportation networks. Examples of these projects include pipelines, refineries, and storage facilities. Furthermore, encouraging openness in energy transactions would contribute to the development of consumer and producer trust, lowering the possibility of disagreements and guaranteeing just and equal access to energy resources. Furthermore, increased energy cooperation between China and the United States in the Middle East may have wider geopolitical ramifications, promoting stability in the area and lowering the likelihood of conflicts over energy resources. Both nations can increase mutual confidence, fortify their bilateral ties, and promote regional peace and security by cooperating to address shared energy challenges. All things considered, looking into ways to coordinate and cooperate on energy matters is a practical way for China and the US to strengthen their ties with the Middle East while

simultaneously addressing concerns about energy security. Both nations can advance shared interests and goals while promoting stability and prosperity in the region by utilizing their unique strengths and resources.

#### **Navigating Strategic Competition:**

Researchers emphasize the significance of establishing channels for disaster communication between the USA and China to control capacity flashpoints and prevent unintended escalation inside the Middle East. Setting up direct conversation strains, inclusive of hotlines or diplomatic channels, among senior officials of each nation is essential. These channels could permit activate handling of emerging crises, reducing misunderstandings and making sure clean intentions and coordinated responses all through emergencies.

Historically, disaster conversation mechanisms have established effective, as seen at some point of the Cold War between the United States and Russia. For instance, during the Cuban Missile Crisis, hotlines had been essential in facilitating communication and decreasing tensions among the 2 superpowers. By enforcing similar techniques, the US and China can enhance stability in the Middle East, reducing the likelihood of struggle and demonstrating a commitment to communication, coordination, and war prevention.

#### **Promote Track II Diplomacy and People-to-People Exchanges:**

Scholar Endorse advancing Track II international relations and those-to-humans exchanges between the US and China in the Middle East to construct mutual know-how, foster trust, and establish lengthy-term high-quality members of the family. Track II international relations includes informal, non-governmental discussions between experts, academics, and civil society representatives from both international locations. These dialogues provide an alternative street for conversation and interplay, facilitating open discussions, innovative hassle-solving, and innovative solutions to regional issues.

People-to-human beings exchanges, including academic conferences, cultural gala's, student alternate applications, and media partnerships, can substantially decorate empathy, collaboration, and friendship many of the peoples of China, the Middle East, and the US. By

promoting those exchanges, both international locations can foster cross-cultural information, dispel prejudices, and build cooperative relationships. Such projects can expand a new generation of leaders committed to selling knowledge, tolerance, and peace in the region.

Track II diplomacy and those-to-human beings contacts are effective in preventing misunderstandings and lowering the likelihood of struggle. These applications lay a robust foundation for more high quality and cooperative relations between America, China, and Middle Eastern nations with the aid of encouraging interpersonal relationships and believe between humans from distinct backgrounds.

### **Encourage Regional Integration and Cooperation**

Scholar argues that promoting local integration and cooperation amongst Middle Eastern nations is critical for balance, prosperity, and peace. By supporting projects that advance economic integration via exchange agreements, infrastructure improvement, and funding packages, the USA and China can make contributions to more balance and reduced conflict threat in the vicinity.

Economic integration fosters common pastimes and incentives for cooperation, addressing underlying grievances and sources of conflict. For example, projects like the Gulf Cooperation Council or the Arab League provide structures for countries to collaborate on shared problems and explore mutual financial improvement possibilities. By encouraging monetary interdependence, the likelihood of violence and destabilizing conduct decreases, selling local stability.

Investing in infrastructure tasks, improving connectivity, and facilitating the motion of human beings, items, and services are essential for long-term balance and prosperity inside the Middle East. Regional integration projects can assist increase human capital, create employment opportunities, and diversify economies, addressing several of the area's most urgent demanding situations.

### **Address Non-Traditional Security Challenges**

To enhance stability and resilience inside the Middle East, scholars advise extending US-China collaboration to cope with non-traditional security troubles consisting of water shortage, climate trade, and public health emergencies. These challenges can exacerbate current tensions and conflicts, making coordinated motion essential.

### **Climate Change**

Climate change poses giant threats to the Middle East, which include excessive weather, rising sea stages, and desertification. These threats can get worse socioeconomic vulnerabilities and environmental degradation. The US and China can collaborate by means of sharing technological expertise, making an investment in renewable energy tasks, and selling applications that reduce greenhouse gasoline emissions. Joint efforts can mitigate the influences of climate alternate and sell environmental sustainability.

### **Water Scarcity**

Water shortage is a critical problem in the Middle East, driven by means of urbanization, population increase, and agricultural needs. The US and China can cope with this challenge through joint efforts to enhance water management, sell water conservation, and spend money on water infrastructure tasks. By sharing satisfactory practices and taking part on water resource management, each international locations can decorate access to easy water and decrease the hazard of conflicts over scarce water sources.

### **Public Health Crises**

Public health emergencies, including pandemics and infectious disease outbreaks, pose critical threats to the Middle East's population, economy, and balance. The US and China can collaborate on public health initiatives, such as disorder surveillance, capability constructing, and emergency reaction preparedness. By sharing expertise, resources, and enjoy, both countries can support the resilience of the region's public health systems and mitigate the impacts of future health crises.

### **Invest in Sustainable Development**

Investing in sustainable development is critical for addressing the complex socioeconomic challenges within the Middle East and enhancing resilience. Joint efforts by way of the USA and China to assist initiatives selling inclusive monetary boom, environmental sustainability, and social development can considerably make contributions to the vicinity's long-term prosperity and stability.

Key regions for investment include healthcare improvement, infrastructure development, renewable energy enlargement, and centered poverty alleviation programs. By prioritizing those regions, each Countries can beautify communities, promote environmental stewardship, and enhance social cohesion. These initiatives cope with instant developmental desires whilst laying the foundation for long-time period resilience in opposition to unexpected demanding situations, ultimately fostering a more wealthy and solid Middle East. A strong reaction to China's assertiveness, including enhancing military might and forging economic alliances with friends in the Middle East.

In addition, they managing competition with China, he emphasizes the need for strategic patience and flexibility, acknowledging that unilateral actions might not always produce the desired results. When these varied viewpoints are combined, it becomes clear that U.S. policymakers must take a sophisticated and multidimensional approach to managing China's geopolitical interest in the Middle East. A comprehensive strategy to protect US interests in this critical region must balance cooperation with competition, maintain strategic alliances, and capitalize on US strengths while mitigating China's weaknesses.

### **Geo Political Interest of China in Middle East:**

China's geopolitical interests in the Middle East are shaped by a complex interplay of economic, strategic, and political factors. Economically, the Middle East is of paramount importance to China due to its rich reserves of oil and natural gas, which are essential for sustaining China's rapid industrialization and economic growth. China has strategically invested in long-term energy partnerships with Middle Eastern countries to secure a stable and reliable supply of these critical resources (Khan, 2022).

Strategically, the Middle East plays a crucial role in China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a global development strategy aimed at creating a comprehensive network of trade routes linking China with Europe, Africa, and beyond. The BRI includes significant investments in infrastructure projects, such as ports, railways, and highways, which enhance trade connectivity

and bolster China's economic influence. The Middle East is a key node in this network, facilitating China's access to European and African markets (Liu, 2023).

Politically, China aims to establish itself as a major player in the world by joining the Middle Eastern countries, most of which have always followed Western powers. China seeks to build relationships and counter Western power through diplomatic efforts and the use of soft power. This approach is consistent with China's broader goal of promoting a multilateral world order in which international power is divided among several major rivals (Smith, 2024). This further distinguishes it from Western countries, which are often seen as interventionists. This principle allows China to establish cooperation and collaboration in different political areas without engaging in conflict (Zhang, 2023). The broad strategy seeks to use financial methods, strategic investments, and social partnerships to enhance its global operations and influence.

#### **Geo Political Interest of US in Middle East:**

US interests in the Middle East include strategic, economic, and political interests that reflect the importance of the region to US national interests. The United States invests heavily in military rule and alliances, especially with Israel and Saudi Arabia, to protect these resources and defend against regional enemies (Miller, 2023). This presence allows the US to build power and influence while ensuring the stability of important oil production areas. Economically, the region is important for global trade and US interests, such as energy, including defense, construction, and technology (Harris, 2023). Politically, the US focuses on combating terrorism, especially organizations such as the Islamic State and Al Qaeda, and limiting Iran's influence in the region through joint efforts between sanctions and political strategies (Cohen, 2023). This includes addressing Iran's nuclear ambitions and limiting its support for diplomatic missions in the region. Furthermore, while U.S. policy has at times promoted democratic values and human rights, these goals have often been well-matched to authoritarianism and its combination (Baker, 2022). Overall, the U.S. approach to the Middle East reflects a balanced policy of ensuring energy supplies, maintaining regional stability, promoting economic interests, and opposing violence and insurgency.

#### **Geo Economic Interest of China and USA:**



### **China's Geo-economics Interests:**

China's geo-economics interests stem primarily from its goal of establishing itself as a global economic power through investment and business strategy. The core of China's economic strategy is the Belt and Road Initiative, an international construction strategy launched in 2013 to build infrastructure and strengthen trade ties in Asia, Africa, and Europe. The "One Belt, One Road" project aims to build a modern Silk Road that will connect China to the world's major markets by investing in ports, transportation trains, highways, and energy (Liu, 2023). This measure will not only help China gain access to important resources and markets, but also help expand its trade and economic security, which are important for the highways it has grown on. China is also committed to developing its technological capabilities, especially in areas such as communications and intelligence. China's investment in technology represented by major technology companies such as Huawei and the expansion of the Beidou satellite navigation system reflect its desire to be a leader in the high-tech industry and reduce its dependence on Western technology (Zhang, 2024). In addition, China's economic policy includes efforts to internationalize its currency, the yuan, and create a financial center that will attract international trade. This motivation is reflected in the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the expansion of the yuan trading network. In general, China's geoeconomics aims to improve its economic conditions, secure access to basic resources, and increase its global influence in business investment and technological development. Geoeconomic interest:

Geoeconomic interest in the United States is determined by its historical role as a global economic leader and its continuous efforts to maintain its power in the international economic system. The American economy has greatly benefited from its position as a major center of international trade and finance. Key to this is maintaining an open and stable trading system that allows American goods and services to reach global markets. The United States uses trade and international trade agreements to create commercial relationships that support its interests, such as trade agreements such as the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) and cooperation in international financial institutions (Harris, 2023). The United States is also committed to maintaining its technological advantages, especially in sectors such as software, pharmaceuticals, and aviation. Investing in innovation and research aims to maintain a competitive advantage in profitable markets (Smith, 2024). Another important part of the United States' geoeconomic

strategy is the protection and support of its finances. The US dollar remains the world's dominant currency, and the US uses its currency to influence international trade policies and practices. This international financial management supports the US economy by providing influence in international trade negotiations and sanctions (Jones, 2022). The United States continues to implement trade policies to counter growing global competitors like China through trade policies and trade agreements to ensure that its business remains strong. Overall, the core of the US geoeconomic strategy is to maintain its leadership in global trade, finance, and technology as it transitions to a global economy.

### **Conclusion:**

China's geopolitical hobby within the Middle East is a multifaceted strategy that has giant implications for the United States. China's growing involvement within the place is driven by its need to stable electricity assets, expand its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and decorate its international geopolitical affect. The United States, with its lengthy-standing strategic pastimes and alliances in the Middle East, faces a complicated array of demanding situations and possibilities because of China's actions. China's fast financial boom has made it the sector's largest importer of crude oil, with a substantial component coming from the Middle East. By strengthening ties with key oil-generating countries inclusive of Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Iraq, China objectives to stable a stable strength supply to fuel its economic system. This quest for energy safety has brought about good-sized Chinese investments in Middle Eastern oil and gas sectors, inclusive of infrastructure initiatives like refineries and pipelines. For America, China's pursuit of strength assets in the Middle East ought to cause improved opposition for access to these sources. Historically, the U.S. Has maintained impact over the vicinity's power markets, ensuring the safety of world power elements. China's presence demanding situations this dominance and might cause a shift within the balance of strength, affecting worldwide oil prices and supply chains. The U.S. Have to navigate this opposition even as ensuring its own energy safety and financial interests. The Middle East is a essential region for China's Belt and Road Initiative, which objectives to create a sizable community of alternate routes connecting Asia, Africa, and Europe. Through the BRI, China has invested in numerous infrastructure tasks, which include ports, railways, and highways, which beautify its financial ties with Middle Eastern international

locations. These initiatives now not simplest facilitate alternate but also enhance China's political and economic have an impact on within the region.

The United States views the BRI with skepticism, seeing it as a tool for China to extend its geopolitical attain and create dependencies thru debt diplomacy. As China builds infrastructure and fosters monetary dependencies, the U.S. Risks dropping impact over key strategic corridors and change routes. To counterbalance China's BRI, the U.S. May additionally need to boom its very own investments in regional improvement and offer opportunity financial partnerships that sell sustainable boom and political balance. China method to the Middle East consists of deepening diplomatic and military ties with regional powers. It has signed strategic partnerships and defense agreements with countries like Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. China's policy of non-interference in home affairs and its emphasis on monetary cooperation make it an appealing accomplice for regimes seeking options to Western influence. For the United States, this shift poses massive challenges. The U.S. Has traditionally depended on its military presence and alliances to keep balance and guard its interests within the Middle East. China's growing impact may want to undermine U.S. Strategic alliances and complicate efforts to deal with nearby conflicts, terrorism, and nuclear proliferation. The U.S. May additionally want to re-examine its navy posture and diplomatic strategies to make certain persisted influence and stability in the region.

China's geopolitical interest in the Middle East is reshaping the nearby panorama, imparting both demanding situations and opportunities for the United States. The U.S. Ought to navigate this complicated environment with a nuanced approach that balances opposition with collaboration. Ensuring U.S. Strategic pastimes while contributing to nearby stability and prosperity calls for adapting regulations, strengthening alliances, and leveraging technological and monetary strengths. As the dynamics evolve, the U.S. Have to remain proactive and resilient to efficiently reply to the moving geopolitical surroundings in the Middle East.

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