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<https://topjournals.uz/index.php/jsru>**A KEY ELEMENT IN IRAN'S FOREIGN POLICY****Muhammadyusuf M. Makhkamov***Researcher**Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies**Tashkent, Uzbekistan***ABOUT ARTICLE**

**Key words:** Iran's foreign policy, cultural richness, regional alliances, pragmatic interests.

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**Abstract:** This article discusses a key element in Iran's foreign policy. Iran, with a long history of civilization and cultural richness, has continually strived to establish a strong presence in the global arena. One of the key elements in Iran's foreign policy strategy is the building of regional alliances, stemming from both historical ties and pragmatic interests. These alliances not only stabilize the region but also provide Iran with an opportunity to exert its influence and pursue its national interests. This article will delve into Iran's approach towards creating and nurturing regional alliances and its significance in shaping its foreign policy.

**ERON TASHQI SIYOSATINING ASOSIY ELEMENTI****Muhammadyusuf M. Maxkamov***Tadqiqotchi**Toshkent davlat sharqshunoslik universiteti**Toshkent, O'zbekiston***MAQOLA HAQIDA**

**Kalit so'zlar:** Eronning tashqi siyosati, madaniy boyligi, mintaqaviy ittifoqlari, pragmatik manfaatlari.

**Annotatsiya:** Ushbu maqolada Eron tashqi siyosatining asosiy elementi muhokama qilinadi. Tsivilizatsiya va madaniy boyliklarning uzoq tarixiga ega bo'lgan Eron doimiy ravishda global maydonda kuchli ishtirok etish uchun harakat qildi. Eron tashqi siyosati strategiyasining asosiy elementlaridan biri ham tarixiy aloqalardan, ham pragmatik manfaatlardan kelib chiqadigan mintaqaviy ittifoqlar qurishdir. Bu ittifoqlar nafaqat mintaqani barqarorlashtiradi, balki Eronga o'z ta'sirini o'tkazish va milliy manfaatlarini amalga oshirish imkoniyatini ham beradi. Ushbu maqola Eronning mintaqaviy

ittifoqlarni yaratish va rivojlantirishga yondashuvi va uning tashqi siyosatini shakllantirishdagi ahamiyatini o'rganadi.

## КЛЮЧЕВОЙ ЭЛЕМЕНТ ВНЕШНЕЙ ПОЛИТИКИ ИРАНА

*Мухаммадюсуф М. Махкамов*

*Исследователь*

*Ташкентский государственный университет востоковедения*

*Ташкент, Узбекистан*

### О СТАТЬЕ

**Ключевые слова:** Внешняя политика Ирана, культурное богатство, региональные альянсы, прагматические интересы.

**Аннотация:** В этой статье обсуждается ключевой элемент внешней политики Ирана. Иран, обладающий долгой историей цивилизации и культурным богатством, постоянно стремится установить сильное присутствие на мировой арене. Одним из ключевых элементов внешнеполитической стратегии Ирана является построение региональных альянсов, вытекающее как из исторических связей, так и из прагматических интересов. Эти альянсы не только стабилизируют регион, но и предоставляют Ирану возможность оказывать свое влияние и преследовать свои национальные интересы. В этой статье мы углубимся в подход Ирана к созданию и развитию региональных альянсов и его значение в формировании его внешней политики.

### KIRISH

Iran's engagement in the regional sphere is primarily rooted in its deep historical ties and cultural connections with neighboring countries. Throughout centuries, Iran has fostered cultural, educational, and economic interactions, enriching the relationships it holds today. Shared languages, religious practices, and historical events contribute to strong bonds with countries like Iraq, Afghanistan, and Lebanon. This historical foundation fosters mutual trust and a sense of belonging, enabling Iran to project its influence while pursuing its foreign policy objectives.

Iran's foreign policy is intricately shaped by the Shiite factor, which stems from its historical, ideological, and geopolitical considerations. As a major Shiite Muslim power in a predominantly Sunni region, Iran leverages its religious identity to extend its influence and pursue its strategic objectives. This article examines the significance of the Shiite factor in Iran's foreign policy and its implications for regional dynamics.

## THE MAIN FINDINGS AND RESULTS

### Historical Legacy:

Iran's historical legacy as a center of Shiite Islam has profoundly influenced its national identity and foreign policy outlook. With a majority Shiite population, the country has been at the forefront of the development and propagation of Shiite religious and intellectual traditions. This historical background fosters a sense of responsibility and duty towards Shiite communities worldwide.

### Ideological Motivations:

The 1979 Islamic revolution, led by Ayatollah Khomeini, established an ideological foundation for Iran's foreign policy. The principle of velayat-e faqih, or the rule of the Islamic jurist, underpins Iran's governance structure and its ambitions to export the Islamic revolution. This ideology positions Iran as the guardian and protector of Shiites globally, driving its efforts to support Shiite communities in various countries.

### Geopolitical Considerations:

Iran's geopolitical position in the Middle East plays a crucial role in its foreign policy calculations. The predominantly Sunni nature of the region, coupled with the rivalry with Saudi Arabia, a Sunni-majority country, accentuates the Shiite factor. Iran seeks to expand its influence, counter its regional adversaries, and establish itself as a leader of the Shiite world. This allows Iran to project power and gain influence over Shiite communities in countries such as Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Bahrain, and Yemen.

### Support for Shiite Communities:

Iran provides political, financial, and military support to Shiite communities and organizations across the region. By backing groups like Hezbollah in Lebanon and Shiite militias in Iraq, Iran aims to extend its influence and bolster Shiite political power. This support not only strengthens Iran's regional positioning but also helps cultivate alliances with like-minded actors committed to Shiite empowerment.

### Resistance Against Sunni Extremism:

Iran positions itself as a staunch opponent of Sunni extremist groups, such as the Islamic State (IS) and al-Qaeda. The Shiite factor serves as a rallying point to defend Shiites against persecution and acts as a counter-narrative to extremist ideologies. Iran's involvement in regional conflicts is often justified as a defense of Shiite communities, enabling it to garner support and forge alliances with non-state actors sharing its opposition to Sunni extremism.

Iran has consistently faced regional threats, ranging from the Iraq-Iran war to more recent conflicts in Iraq, Syria, and Yemen. To safeguard its security and interests, Iran endeavors to create and maintain strong regional alliances. By forming coalitions with neighboring countries, Iran establishes a collective security apparatus to prevent regional instability, maintain regional balance,

and deter common threats. In times of crisis, these alliances facilitate collaboration, intelligence sharing, and military cooperation. These efforts aim to fortify Iran's national security, stabilize its immediate environment, and ensure peaceful coexistence with its neighbors.

#### Expanding Economic Interests:

Economic interests play a vital role in shaping Iran's foreign policy objectives. By building regional alliances, Iran aims to expand its economic presence and secure access to regional markets. Through agreements like the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Iran has not only sought to ensure its nuclear program's legitimacy but has also pursued economic integration with European nations. Moreover, alliances with Arab countries allow Iran to benefit from energy cooperation, investment opportunities, and regional infrastructural development. Strengthening economic ties through regional alliances enables Iran to bolster its economy and enhance its geopolitical influence.

#### Building Soft Power:

Another crucial element in Iran's foreign policy strategy is the pursuit of soft power. Iran recognizes the importance of enhancing its image abroad and fostering influence through cultural diplomacy, education, and media networks. By cultivating regional alliances, Iran promotes its cultural and religious values while challenging anti-Iranian sentiments. Scholarships, exchange programs, and cultural events contribute to building mutual understanding and rapport. This extensive soft power network allows Iran to project its values, shape public opinion, and counteract regional resistance to its policies.

Iran has long been a country with a rich history and a complex foreign policy agenda. One of the key elements shaping Iran's foreign policy decisions is ideology. Ideology plays a critical role in defining Iran's regional and global aspirations, guiding its international relations, and influencing its interactions with other nations. This article aims to explore the significance of ideology as a key element in Iran's foreign policy and its implications for regional stability and global politics.

#### 1. Historical Context:

To understand the role of ideology in Iran's foreign policy, it is crucial to delve into its historical context. The 1979 Islamic Revolution, led by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, marked a turning point in Iran's political landscape. The establishment of an Islamic republic led by clerics fundamentally transformed Iran's domestic governance and set the stage for an ideologically driven foreign policy. The revolution projected Iran as a proponent of Islamic principles and a challenger to Western influences in the region.

#### 2. The Concept of Islamic Republic:

At the heart of Iran's foreign policy is the concept of an Islamic republic. The country's leadership identifies itself as the representative of the Islamic Ummah (community), seeking to

promote Islamic principles, justice, and equity as guiding principles in international relations. This ideological foundation shapes Iran's diplomatic initiatives, alliances, and strategic objectives.

### 3. Resistance Against Western Hegemony:

One of the core tenets of Iran's foreign policy is resistance against perceived Western hegemony. Iran views itself as standing against imperialism and dominance by major global powers, particularly the United States. This ideology drives Iran's approach to regional conflicts, such as its support for militant groups like Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Palestine, who are seen as resisting Western influence in the Middle East.

### 4. Pursuit of Revolutionary Export:

Iran's ideology-driven foreign policy extends beyond its immediate neighborhood. The concept of exporting the Islamic revolution was a central component of Ayatollah Khomeini's vision. Iran has historically supported various revolutionary and anti-Western movements worldwide. This support ranges from political, financial, and ideological assistance to various non-state actors and insurgent groups. Iran's engagement in Iraq, Syria, Yemen, and other destabilized regions can be traced back to its ideological pursuit of exporting the revolution.

### 5. Regional Influence and Power Projection:

Iran's ideology-driven foreign policy is heavily focused on building regional influence and projecting power. The country seeks to establish itself as a regional power in the Middle East, challenging the traditional power dynamics in the region. This is particularly evident in its rivalry with Saudi Arabia, where the two countries vie for dominance and influence across various proxy conflicts. Iranian support for Shia communities and groups throughout the region is rooted in its ideological objectives and its desire to shape the regional balance of power.

### 6. Nuclear Ambitions and National Pride:

Iran's pursuit of nuclear capabilities is often seen as a manifestation of its ideology and a source of national pride. The nuclear program is portrayed as a symbol of technological advancement, self-sufficiency, and resistance against Western pressures. Iran's nuclear ambitions and its defiance of international calls for restraint have major implications for regional stability and global non-proliferation efforts.

### 7. Balancing Act:

While ideology plays a critical role in shaping Iran's foreign policy, the country's leadership also recognizes the need to balance its ideological objectives with pragmatic considerations.

Iran maintains diplomatic relations with various countries, even those with which it may have ideological differences. The pursuit of economic interests, regional stability, and countering common threats are factors that may temper Iran's ideological positions in certain circumstances.

## CONCLUSION

The Shiite factor holds immense importance in Iran's foreign policy, shaping its regional ambitions, alliances, and engagement strategies. Rooted in historical, ideological, and geopolitical considerations, Iran's emphasis on the Shiite dimension allows it to establish itself as a leader and protector of Shiites globally. While the Shiite factor is a central element, Iran's foreign policy is multifaceted, encompassing various other factors such as national security, economic interests, and ideological aspirations beyond the Shiite sphere. Understanding Iran's foreign policy requires a nuanced appreciation of the Shiite factor and its interplay with broader regional dynamics.

Regional alliances have long been a key element in Iran's foreign policy, enabling it to navigate the complex dynamics of the Middle East and assert its presence globally. Historically grounded cultural connections, countering regional threats, expanding economic interests, and building soft power are all significant reasons behind Iran's efforts to foster regional alliances.

Ideology serves as a fundamental element in Iran's foreign policy decision-making. It defines Iran's regional and global aspirations, shapes its alliances and adversaries, and influences its interactions with other nations. The ideology-driven foreign policy presents both challenges and opportunities for regional stability and global politics. Understanding Iran's ideological foundations is crucial for navigating diplomatic engagements and promoting constructive dialogue in the region and beyond.

As Iran continues to develop its foreign policy strategy, building stronger and more cooperative regional relationships will remain pivotal in preserving stability, influencing regional developments, and advancing its national interests in an ever-changing global environment.

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