

Influenceability of the Islamic Republic of Iran's national security by the geopolitical developments of the Arabian Peninsula

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Considering recent geopolitical developments in the Persian Gulf states and the Arabian Peninsula, the present thesis, titled “Influenceability of the Islamic Republic of Iran's national security by the geopolitical developments of the Arabian Peninsula”, aims to study the reasons for the influence of these countries on national security of Iran. The Islamic Republic of Iran and countries of the Arabian Peninsula are of great importance in the Middle East because of their huge hydrocarbon reserves and strategic position. These countries are located in a region of the world that has always been influenced by geopolitical developments and conflicts between regional and trans-national powers. The existence of two important strategic straits of Hormoz and Bab Al-Mandeb and also huge oil and gas reserves in this region have made trans-regional power greedy. On the other hand, the presence of two groups of Muslims, Shiites and Sunnis, has led to the development of two major cultural, intellectual, and religious hubs in the Muslim world in this region. Moreover, there is a regional competition on achieving maximum benefits between Iran and countries of the Arabian Peninsula, including Saudi Arabia. Hence, the present thesis, titled “Influenceability of the Islamic Republic of Iran's national security by the geopolitical developments of the Arabian Peninsula”, aims to identify the geopolitical outcomes of the influence of the Arabian Peninsula on national security of Iran. According to this objective, two main hypotheses are raised here as follows: 1- Religious differences in the Arabian Peninsula could have an impact on the national security of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 2- The presence of trans-regional powers in the Arabian Peninsula could have an impact on the national security of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Due to cultural, economic, and regional ties, Iran and the Arabian Peninsula have always had mutual geopolitical impacts on each other. Therefore, analyzing the

influenceability of Iran's national security by the geopolitical developments of the Arabian Peninsula can be regarded as a new area of research in political geography. The present study aims to explain the reasons and causes of religious conflicts and presence of trans-regional powers in the Arabian Peninsula and their influence on the national security of the Islamic Republic of Iran using descriptive-analytical methods and library studies.

Keywords : geopolitics, national security, Iran, the Arabian Peninsula

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