

"Chinese-Gulf Relations and their Impact on the American Role"

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Abstract:

The study examined Chinese-Gulf relations and their impact on the American role in the Arabian Gulf region in the period from 2000-2023, by explaining the roots of the relationship between the Republic of China and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, the extent of its impact on the American role in the region, and the future effects that affect Arabian Gulf region. The study was launched from a pivotal goal of explaining the indicators that supported the Chinese position for advancement in the Gulf region, and which affected American hegemony in the region through the extent of each country's dependence on Gulf oil coupled with the volume of intra-regional trade. Which answers the study's questions: To what extent have American relations been affected by the Chinese role? What is the Chinese strategy followed in the Gulf region? In answering the questions, the study relied on the idea of methodological integration with research and focused on the descriptive approach and the comparative approach in analyzing aspects of the subject of the study. The study concluded a set of results, the most important of which is that the development of Chinese-Gulf relations affected the American role through China's endeavor to increase its economic influence in the Gulf region based on a long-term strategy linked to the Belt and Road project, which links the Arabian Gulf with many international agreements that help it impose its political and economic influence. To preserve the security of the region, China used the method of resolving regional disputes through diplomatic means, which had a negative impact on the American role, in terms of reducing the process of purchasing American weapons and dispensing with American protection for the Gulf region.

Keywords: Chinese-Gulf relations, the American role, the Arab Gulf region.

INTRODUCTION

Regional policy is considered part of the state's foreign policy, which helps countries highlight their sovereign role. When studying the Arabian Gulf region, we find that China seeks to achieve its goals and interests, influenced by the results of the Cold War, which led to transformations and changes in the course of international and regional relations. These changes were different from what they were. It was before and during the Cold War, especially for the major powers regarding strategic interests and power relations that influenced China's foreign policy, which relied on countering the interference of the United States of America in its regional affairs.

After the Cold War and what the United States achieved by defeating the Soviet Union and emerging as a superpower in the global international system, and with the Communist Party taking control of China, China pursued a policy of economic expansion globally, as it was the easiest way for China to compete with the United States in world leadership.

In light of this, the current study deals with Chinese-Gulf relations and their impact on the American role, through a quick presentation of the foreign policy of both China and the United States of America. The emergence of Chinese-Gulf relations (economically, politically, and security) will also be briefly addressed, and then this study will attempt to reveal the relations. Chinese Gulf and its impact on the American role; By discussing the developments of these relations and the motives and reasons behind them through a review and various dialogues

before and after the Cold War, what are the foundations that led to the development of Chinese-Gulf relations, and what are their repercussions on the American role in the Arabian Gulf region.

Importance of the study:

The Gulf region is gaining special importance in international politics, because of the oil reserves it contains that feed the industrialized countries, whose industries depend on cheap oil energy. It is also a distinctive geographical region because it is located between three continents, and thus it has become the covetousness of the great powers, where the American role emerged during a certain period. After the Cold War, which extended its control over the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, and in the first quarter of the twenty-first century, There have been Chinese economic transformations that have affected the American position in the Gulf. The importance of this study came to clarify the role of China in the Arabian Gulf region, which is considered one of the largest economic countries in the world. Is this role limited to marketing its goods or is it seeking political-military hegemony? Hence the importance of the study is represented in its two aspects. Scientific and practical:

Theoretical scientific importance:

The study is represented by several considerations, the most important of which is that it places in the hands of the researcher and reader information and data about the development of Chinese-Gulf relations and the impact of American-Gulf relations, especially since China, during the Cold War period, was classified with the developing countries along with the Arab countries.

Practical importance:

The practical aspect of the study is that it places in the hands of the decision-maker the most important internal and external elements and variables that affect the Arabian Gulf region, and an explanation of the role that China plays in the Gulf region, and what are the implications of that.

Study objectives:

The objectives of the study are limited to clarifying the roots of Chinese-Gulf relations, and the extent of their impact on American-Gulf relations, which could bring about a change in the general orientation of the Arabian Gulf region. It also includes a statement of the Chinese strategy in the Arabian Gulf region. Is it limited to the level of economic expansion, or are there intentions to extend China's influence? Politically, this will be verified by analyzing the regional and international variables that led to the development of relations between the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and China. Analyzing the reason for the decline of the American role in the Arabian Gulf region, analyzing the strategic dimension in Chinese-Gulf relations, and whether they are limited to economic relations, and analyzing the future of the relationship between the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and China and its impact on the American presence.

The problem of the study and its questions:

The security and strategic environment in the Arabian Gulf region witnessed many developments and changes at the beginning of the third millennium, and there emerged a role for China in the Gulf market that developed unexpectedly, which could affect American-Gulf relations, as this study lies in explaining the Chinese role in the Arabian Gulf region and its ability. Influencing US-Gulf relations, and within these data, the study sought to answer the following pivotal question: What role does China play in the Arabian Gulf region? The following sub-questions branch out from this question:

1. To what extent have American-Gulf relations been affected by the Chinese role in the Arab Gulf region?
2. What importance can the GCC countries achieve for China and the United States?
3. What is the Chinese strategy in the Gulf Cooperation Council region?

Study method:

This study was based on the idea of methodological integration in studying political phenomena, and therefore the study focused on using the historical approach to study the roots of the Chinese-Gulf relationship, showing the extent of the differences between them, researching the nature of the changes that occurred in this relationship, studying the history of the Gulf-American relationship, and stating the American strategy towards the Gulf

Cooperation Council countries. Gulf during the study period, where the past will be extrapolated to find out the developments that occurred in it. The descriptive and analytical approach is used to analyze the nature of Chinese-Gulf relations, and to describe the events that led to their development. The American role in the Gulf region is also described by explaining and analyzing the impact that was reflected on this role and showing the indicators that led to the American decline in the Gulf region. The study also relied on the comparative approach to study Chinese relations and analyze them from all aspects. The American role in the Gulf region was also studied, and the aspects of weakness and strength were analyzed and compared to the Chinese case.

Chinese-Gulf relations

During the Cold War period, China pursued a foreign policy aimed at improving and strengthening its relations with its neighboring countries, with two main goals. The first goal is to cancel the sanctions imposed on it by the United States and its allies, and not to isolate or restrict it. In addition, it is to create a regional environment that enhances China's ability and ability to play an influential role in the region. This policy reflects China's desire to be an active and contributing member of the international community, preserving its sovereignty and national interests, and enhancing its regional and global role in the current and future period (Tayeb, 2015, pp. 5-12).

After the Cold War, China moved towards building itself as a regional power, then a global power. It clarified its vision and developed a scientific plan to implement this vision, taking into account the opportunities and challenges available to it in the Asian region. It aims to achieve regional superiority and use the regional base as a starting point to achieve its status as a great power, and given Due to the great transformation that China began in 1978, China began to modernize the economic, political, military, and scientific sectors, and this was a starting point for China to expand its horizons, open up to the outside world, and bring foreign investments and companies to the country. Thus, China's presence increased at the regional level through its accession to regional organizations. And addressing its issues with neighboring countries (Shaarawy, 2018, p. 3).

China has achieved many supportive capabilities, whether economically, politically or militarily, and has led to the formation of an effective pattern of foreign policy at the regional and international levels. China has overcome the difficulties that prevented it from adopting a regional vision, thanks to its ability and success in identifying cooperation strategies with Asian regional arrangements. Futurism. Thus, it becomes clear that the role played by the active powers in the new regional balance in the Asian continent, especially the Chinese role in that period, enabled China to avoid escalation and clash with the movements of the active international powers, especially the United States of America and other regional powers supportive of its policies, such as Japan and India. (Fsisif, 2018).

The Arabian Gulf is considered a golden region for China, as it works to supply its goods to it and at the same time it needs oil, given that the Gulf region has an active economic market and large quantities of oil and gas. On the other hand, the United States is considered one of the countries in the world that benefits most from the Gulf economy. It has many military bases in the region, which makes it concerned about the Chinese role in the region, especially when economic development began to surface, as the volume of intra-regional trade increased unexpectedly over a quarter of a century, which is the reason from which the study's hypothesis was launched, given that the economic factor has begun to play an important role in The world has even become a fundamental role in the international balance of power.

Oil and energy resources have played a major role in strengthening the ties between China and the Arab Gulf states, as this has led to enhancing trade and economic exchange between the two parties. This increasing growth in economic cooperation between the two countries was a major reason for reaching special agreements aimed at establishing a free trade area and so on. China and the Arab Gulf countries exchanged mutual benefits by taking advantage of their natural resources and economic and trade needs, and these special agreements to establish a free trade zone are considered an important step to enhance economic cooperation, settle relations between the two countries, and achieve greater progress and prosperity in the future (Abdel Aziz, 2020, p. 107) .

In the 1990s, Chinese-Arab relations witnessed remarkable development, and many considered these steps important to enhance cooperation between the two countries. Among these steps was the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 1990 AD. China was striving to secure cheap oil sources to meet its development needs.

The Chinese strategy towards the oil-exporting Gulf states was focused on intensifying diplomatic efforts to

cooperate with them. Senior Chinese leaders made multiple visits to the region. For example, former Chinese President Jialing Zemin visited Saudi Arabia in 1990, and during his visit he announced the establishment of an oil partnership. A strategy between the two countries. Based on this agreement, a contract was signed between China and Saudi Arabia allowing China to secure its oil imports from Saudi Arabia for a renewable ten-year period. China also concluded similar agreements with other countries in the Middle East region, such as Oman, Yemen, and Iran (Abdullah, 2018).

These agreements and diplomatic efforts contributed to strengthening economic cooperation between China and the Gulf states, achieving mutual exchange of benefits, and enhancing economic stability in the region. They also reflect China's commitment to strengthening strategic partnerships to ensure securing its energy and economic needs in the future (Qandil, 2007, p. 132). The Gulf region has become the most important region from China's point of view in meeting its energy needs. China's dependence on this region has increased despite its attempt to diversify the sources of oil supplied to it. The share of oil imported from the Middle East has reached more than half of China's needs.

Specifically, Saudi Arabia and Iran accounted for 30% of total oil imports. On July 21, 1991, China and Saudi Arabia signed an agreement to establish an oil partnership that strengthened the nature of bilateral cooperation in the field of energy, and also led to strengthening cooperation between the two countries in the field of oil investments, trade, and oil technology (Zhongmin, 2016).

These economic moves reflect the importance of the Gulf region to the Chinese economy and the urgent need for energy sources from this strategic region. Given the continued economic growth in China and its increasing dependence on energy, it is expected that these oil partnerships and cooperation with the Gulf countries will continue in the near future.

After the oil crisis in 2014 and the sharp decline in its prices, oil-exporting countries realized the importance of diversifying their sources of income to avoid blacking out one source. The efforts of these countries focused on exploring different options to expand their production base, so that oil prices fell sharply from about \$115 per barrel to less. From \$70 in 2014 (Ayadi, 2019, p. 13), 22 Gulf and Arab countries sought to achieve diversification through innovative methods.

One of these roads is the New Silk Road, which enhances China's economic and strategic position, and at the same time provides investment opportunities in infrastructure and mega projects in the Gulf countries. Over recent years, China has increased its economic and diplomatic ties with the Middle East, and most investments focus on energy, infrastructure, nuclear energy, new energy sources, agriculture, and finance. These investments aim to achieve China's interests and enhance social stability in the Middle East. China skillfully exploits its soft power and economic advantages to build strong relations with Arab and Gulf countries, strengthening its position as a non-colonial power and respecting the principles of democracy (Qandil, 2007, pp. 125-138).

There is huge cooperation in the field of energy between China and the Gulf states, as China has become the largest consumer of energy in the world. Currently, the Arab Gulf states are considered the largest exporter of imported oil to China, and since the United States of America has reduced its oil imports, China has become the main market for exports. Oil from the Gulf countries, surpassing the United States and Japan, and China is considered by the Gulf Cooperation Council countries as a huge market not only for oil exports, but also for petrochemical products and metallurgical industries. These countries believe that these two sectors can play an important role in strengthening their economies and achieving diversification in sources of income. This long-term strategy is based on diversifying the resources of these countries and benefiting from mutual cooperation between China and the Gulf countries in various sectors, which enhances trade exchange and deepens economic partnerships between them. Both Parties, (Al-Youssef, 2017, pp. 90-110).

Recent years confirm that Chinese-Gulf relations are close mutual relations, as the Arabian Gulf region is considered one of the most important major regions in the world for exporting energy, including oil and gas. Indeed, China is the second largest oil consumer in the world after the United States of America. Therefore, it is logical to enhance the prospects for cooperation between the two sides by increasing the volume of trade and investment, as both parties need the other. During recent years, these relations have witnessed remarkable development, as China and the Arab Gulf countries exchanged benefits and available opportunities. This reflects the importance of developing and strengthening this partnership in a way that serves the interests of the two countries and enhances future cooperation between them (Diab, 2008, p. 109).

After 2013, Chinese-Gulf relations witnessed remarkable progress and openness, especially in the political and

economic aspects, thanks to the Belt and Road Initiative that was proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping. This initiative was a distinctive mark in the history of Chinese-Gulf relations. This period comes to confirm the development and deepening of relations between China and the countries of the Arab Gulf region, and bears witness to the commitment of both parties to enhancing cooperation and mutual understanding to achieve their common interests.

International competition and growing Chinese-Gulf relations

China has realized the multiple challenges it faces in the international environment, including the challenges that arise from the pressures that the United States could impose on Middle Eastern oil, especially Arab oil. This reality represents pressures on China in the field of obtaining Arab oil and is reflected in its independence and economic development. This matter is an important determinant of China's foreign policy orientations towards the Middle East region in general, and towards the Gulf states in particular (Diab, 2008, p. 122). China's foreign policy is characterized by realism and joint cooperation with other countries, and at the same time, China seeks to compete with American influence in regions of the world, especially those that are rich in resources, such as the Gulf region (Abdel Hafez, 2021, p. 42). China has succeeded in using its enormous economic potential to enhance its political influence in the Arab Gulf states. With the aim of challenging American global influence, the Arabian Gulf region is considered one of the regions witnessing the escalation of international competition between China and the United States of America, due to its enormous wealth, strategic resources, and strategic location . In light of the above, it is clear that the Arabian Gulf region occupies a prominent position in Chinese foreign policy, as it has material and commercial potential that makes it the focus of attention of international powers. One of the most important determinants of Chinese policy towards the region is the oil sector, as the region contains two-thirds of the oil reserves discovered in the world. In addition, Iran and Israel are important regional determinants that influence Chinese policy toward the Gulf. China's primary goal in the region is to ensure a continuous flow of its oil and energy needs from the Gulf countries at the lowest possible cost. China also seeks to achieve other economic goals in the region, such as securing investments and expanding the volume of Chinese-Gulf trade, in addition to supporting some Arab issues.

China uses a variety of tools to achieve its political goals in the region. These tools include strengthening Chinese-Gulf relations through strategic cooperation agreements and participation in the "Economic Belt and Maritime Silk Road" initiative. China also seeks to increase the volume of maritime trade with the Gulf countries and provide support for some issues. Arabic. Despite the decline in Russia's role globally, it seeks to restore its leadership role and influence in the region. Therefore, Chinese foreign policy in the region is focused on avoiding bias between Iran and Israel and maintaining a balance in relations with everyone. China faces challenges from the United States, which is increasing its participation in discussing the issue of Russia. In the region, Which places an additional burden on its foreign policy and movements in the Arab region, which prompts the researcher to study the American role in the Gulf region in light of this Chinese progress, which may affect the American presence.

US-Gulf relations

The Gulf region is characterized by strategic importance in international politics. Because it contains huge sources of energy, this importance implies an imbalance of power at the local level in the Gulf due to the change in the balance of material forces after Iraq left the balance equation with Iran. Therefore, the role of the United States of America plays a vital role in protecting the region, as it is indispensable. The role of the United States in protecting the Gulf extends through successive American administrations since the British withdrawal from the region in 1971 until the present day. The importance of this role comes from the need to ensure the stability and safety of the region, and to secure the flow of oil and gas vital to the global economy. Thanks to the region containing enormous energy potential, the Gulf remains an important and vital region on the international scene, and the continued role of the United States enhances its stability and security and maintains its importance in the field of politics and economics (Abdel Hafez,, 2021).

During a period of approximately the past three decades, the strategic doctrines of all Arab Gulf states were formed based on the belief that establishing close and comprehensive relations with the United States is considered the best way to enhance security and defense in the region. This belief was established by the idea that the United States represents the cornerstone of security and defense, and led to ignoring Developing independent regional

security capabilities and establishing broad security relations with external parties other than the United States,

This dependence was of varying degrees among these countries. In light of this perspective, the Arab Gulf states seek to go beyond this traditional approach and achieve diversity and pluralism in their security and defense partnerships. This transformation seeks to enhance regional independence, diversify sources of security support, and enhance cooperation with other countries at the regional and international levels (Atwan, 2003).

In this way, the Gulf states reflect their firm commitment to enhancing security and stability in the region, and seek to expand the scope of their strategic partnerships by dealing with various global parties, and not just relying exclusively on the United States (Sick et al., 2020: 68). Since 2012, US oil imports from the Gulf have seen an erratic decline, fluctuating between an average of 1.5 million barrels per day until 2018. (US energy Information Administration, 2021) until it decreased to about 770 thousand barrels once in 2020. (US energy Information Administration, 2021).

After oil prices improved, exports diversified, and imports decreased, which provided the Gulf Cooperation Council countries with an opportunity to reduce the growing trade deficit with the United States in recent years, in 2019, the volume of trade exchange between the United States and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries reached about 74.4 billion dollars, but was affected. Trade was affected by the pandemic between 2020 and 2021, where it clearly declined. In light of this situation, some GCC countries worked to reduce the trade deficit with the United States, and Saudi Arabia in particular was able to achieve a trade surplus with the United States in 2021. This surplus is attributed to the increase in oil prices and the contraction of Saudi imports from the American market, as the volume of... The surplus reached about \$267 million as of July 2021, (United Census Bureau, 2021) after Saudi Arabia respectively recorded a deficit in 2020 of about \$2.1 billion and \$1.1 billion in 2019, mainly driven by a decline in oil prices. American imports from the Gulf Cooperation Council had fallen. For example, Saudi Arabia declined significantly between 2018 (United Census Bureau, 2021) and 2020. Trade relations between the United States and the Gulf countries witnessed a clear decline. The volume of trade between the two countries declined from 24.065 billion dollars in 2018. To \$8.99 billion in 2020.

On the other hand, Saudi Arabia's imports from the United States declined from about \$13.6 billion in 2018 to about \$11.1 billion in 2020, which means a decrease of \$2.5 billion. Despite this, the trade balance was in favor of the United States, as Saudi Arabia recorded a deficit. Trade worth an estimated \$2.1 billion in 2020 in trade with the United States, In addition, Oman has moved to become the second Gulf country to achieve a trade surplus with the United States, with the surplus amounting to approximately \$179 million as of July 2021, (United Census Bureau, 2021).

With regard to Oman, it has witnessed an improvement in the trade budget with the United States, as Oman's trade deficit was reduced in 2020 to \$315 million compared to \$791 million in 2018. This decrease in the Omani trade deficit is attributed to Oman's increased sustainability to other competitive markets. To import goods. As for Bahrain, in 2019 it sought to reduce its trade budget deficit with the United States to its lowest levels in years. The deficit declined to only \$10 million until July 2021, down from \$285 million in 2020 and \$356 million in 2019. 2019. (United Census Bureau, 2021).

In 2019, Qatar was heavily dependent on the American market, as the volume of its imports from the United States was four times the value of its exports, and Qatar's trade deficit with the United States was about \$4.8 billion. However, Qatar is seeking to reduce the size of the deficit this year Qatar's trade deficit with the United States declined in 2020 to \$2.2 billion, and declined further to \$275 million during the first seven months of 2021. This deficit is considered the lowest level in the history of trade between Qatar and the United States. In 2019, it was classified The size of the trade deficit between Qatar and the United States is the largest deficit in the Gulf. It amounted to about \$4.8 billion, and this deficit declined to \$2.2 billion in 2020 due to the impact of the closure of economies and the disruption of global trade resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. (World Bank, Kuwait trade, 2019) In 2019, Qatar was importing from the United States. Five times what it exports to the American market, and Qatar relied on the United States continuing as its most important economic partner.

On the other hand, a few countries in the Gulf region, such as the UAE, have succeeded in increasing the proportion of their exports to the American market, thanks to the diversification of their export sectors, as non-oil sectors represent 70% of the UAE's gross domestic product. Despite this, the UAE leads Gulf countries in terms of the size of their worsening trade deficit with the United States. However, the value of the deficit remained huge, reaching about \$11.7 billion in 2020 in favor of the United States, and about \$15.6 billion in 2019. The volume

of trade between the United States and the Emirates is considered the most growing and dynamic, especially with regard to the diversification of trade goods outside oil products, which represent the basis Trade exchange between the rest of the Gulf countries and the American market. (United Census Bureau, 2021).

It is clear from the previous context that the American strategy in the Gulf region is a strategy of interest and control, which allowed the Chinese entry into the Gulf arena, and this presence is likely to affect the American role, especially since Chinese relations with the Gulf Cooperation Council countries have begun to develop towards intertwining, which will It is discussed in the third chapter. The previous data also show that the competition between the United States and China, as the two largest superpowers, has reached new levels and has become the main dynamic on the global scene. This development shapes the system of international relations, and causes difficult choices before the Arab Gulf countries. On the one hand, there is growing concern. From Washington, On the other hand, there is a rising China that represents an important economic partner. Despite this, the future of the China-GCC partnership will not only be determined by what the two superpowers want to benefit from the Gulf monarchies, but it also depends on what the Gulf states expect from them. The results that will emerge from the rivalry between the two superpowers, and this prediction highlight the strange and complex relationship between China and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

Although the China-Gulf Summit announced the unity of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, it does not have a unified and coherent vision regarding the regional approach to the competition between the United States and China. There are significant differences in the positions of the Gulf countries towards China and the competition with the United States. These differing opinions can be divided into three groups as follows:

The first group: “hedging countries”, which includes Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Both countries adopt a clear policy of hedging against the US withdrawal from the region, and therefore they have included the comprehensive strategic partnership with China in their agenda. Riyadh and Abu Dhabi are actively seeking to diversify their sources of armament, and consider China a major alternative for military equipment. Which the United States refuses to sell to them.

The second group: “balancing countries”, which includes Qatar and Oman. Both countries have developed closer relations with China by opening up national infrastructure and digital networks to Chinese investment. However, they are cautious regarding the US-China rivalry and are keen to maintain their close military ties with the US. Qatar has deepened its relationship with the US military and played a vital role in the evacuation from Afghanistan in 2021. In return, Oman avoided purchasing Chinese military equipment and signed a new strategic framework agreement with the United States in 2019 granting the US Navy access to the port of Duqm.

The third group is known as “cautious countries,” and includes Kuwait and Bahrain. The two countries have opened their doors to Chinese investment and construction projects, but they have refused to transform commercial relations into strategic relations. National security is considered vital for Kuwait and Bahrain, given their limited military capabilities, and about 13,500 soldiers are stationed. American in Kuwait, Bahrain hosts the US Navy's Fifth Fleet and US Naval Forces Central Command, and participates in US-led military alliances, and therefore, both countries are considered more willing to bear the consequences of dealing with China than their neighbors.

With the two superpower rivalries and multiple conflicts, such as the war in Ukraine and the struggle for technological and economic dominance, the GCC countries have been forced to make wise choices between Washington’s grand strategy and its important economic partner, China. The different strategies that each country follows in dealing with the rivalry between the United States and China will affect ultimately, the security and stability of the region This may lead to the division of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

Therefore, the Arab countries in the Gulf must develop a diplomatic framework to address differences in their foreign policies and prevent the region from becoming an arena of conflict between Washington and Beijing. If the Gulf countries fail to do so, competition may arise between neighboring countries, with unforeseen effects on the region.

A forward-looking vision for the development of Chinese-Gulf relations and its impact on the American role

The American policy towards the Gulf states is considered an exploitative policy, as the United States seeks to exploit their oil resources. It is known that the United States seeks to fuel the conflicts and disputes taking place in the Gulf region, and this became directly clear during the Arab Spring crises, which had a role in exacerbating

these crises. Also about studying the American role inside the Gulf during the period of the Gulf-Qatari crisis We find that the United States had an oscillating position on this crisis. When it supported the blockading countries, at other times it took a mediating position and when it defended the Qatari position (Bani Qasim, 2019, p. 94). When we return to the American position towards Iran, we find a difference in position. It supported Iran in... The time of the sheep came at the expense of its relations with the Gulf States, but it took the opposite position after the Islamic Revolution. (Ismail, 2019, p. 277). It is noted that the United States played a dual role in resolving global crises, especially the Gulf crises. It played a multifaceted role in supporting one party at the expense of another, while at the same time playing the role of conciliator (mediator), and at all times we find that disputes serve the interest of increasing American hegemony in the region. Gulf, and this is in the case of the pessimistic scenario.

Fixed scenario

This fixed scenario is considered one of the scenarios that adopts the realistic approach, which expresses the situation or problem as it exists on the ground. It is neither optimistic nor pessimistic. When referring to the Gulf situation, it is possible to divide it into two parts, the first talking about the American role and the second talking about the role. Chinese. American foreign policy is shaped in the context of preserving the supreme interests of the state, and in view of the capabilities that the United States of America possesses that have placed it at the forefront of the global scene with its leadership of the new world order, it strives by all means to preserve this position that it occupies, and to this end it makes use of all its official and non-official institutions. formal, The United States seeks to maintain the possibility of oil continuing to reach American markets as is the case, and to maintain the military cooperation between the United States and the Gulf states that has been known for a long time. According to an annual report prepared by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute on recent arms sales, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which is fighting a costly war in Yemen, was the second largest arms importer after India, and its purchases were concentrated from the United States and the United Kingdom.

Arms sales helped grow the American economy by creating more job opportunities, at the same time the Gulf states provided the United States with oil, and served as platforms in the framework of Washington's "war on terrorism," as Bahrain is considered the home of the US Navy's Fifth Fleet, in addition to Washington uses air bases in the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Saudi Arabia in its fight against terrorism. It is likely that China will fail to impose its security hegemony on the region, and the United States will continue to impose its influence through its military bases, especially since China has taken a distinguished economic position. China still maintains the highest rate of economic growth, in addition to being ranked second in terms of the size of the national product. Overall in the world, China has focused on the economic factor and given it priority in both domestic and foreign policies. It worked to build new centers of influence, relying on mutual economic relations and huge financial aid to developing countries. China also sought to implement a policy of openness to the outside, paying attention to foreign trade and industry, as well as future projects intended to be implemented, such as the Belt and Road project, which is likely to maintain its position. Chinese in the Gulf economy.

Analysis

The study dealt with Chinese-Gulf relations and their impact on the American role in the Arabian Gulf region from 2000-2022, which is the period in which Chinese-Gulf relations developed, which affected the American role in the Gulf region and there appeared international competition over the region. This study came to answer the main hypothesis of the study that there is A development in Chinese-Gulf relations negatively affects the American role in the Arabian Gulf region, where it is assumed that there is An inverse relationship between the development of Chinese-Gulf relations and US-Gulf relations. The study showed that Chinese-Gulf relations in the period after World War II until the end of the Cold War were normal relations in which there was no kind of military, political or economic openness, so China was exercising the role of non-interference and closure. It is entirely within the Wall of China, but it began to open up and develop significantly to foreign markets after the year 2000 AD. Which focused its economic expansion on the Gulf region, which is considered the region with global oil abundance, and here the problem of the study raised its questions, which were answered during the study chapters as follows:

Have US-Gulf relations been affected by the Chinese role in the Arab Gulf region?

The American-Gulf relations are ancient relations, which began in varying periods before independence and

after Britain's departure from its territories, where the United States adopted a policy of providing security and protecting it from any external threat, at the expense of the oil agreements and privileges granted to it by the Gulf states that pervaded the American economy. It was keen to fully acquire these oil capabilities. The benefit of companies that obtained oil exploration concessions amounted to approximately 75% of the profits from the extracted oil. After the growth of Chinese power and its rise in the economic field, Chinese companies headed to establish themselves in the Arabian Gulf, which provided them with large quantities of oil at prices that help them manufacture their goods at preferential prices. Here, China was able to influence the United States in terms of its almost complete control over the Gulf markets that were dependent on the American market. It also worked to open Chinese factories and companies in the Gulf territories, which reduced the opportunity for American companies to market their goods in the Gulf region.

What importance can the GCC countries have for China and the United States?

The international system is a complex system based on inter-relations that depend on achieving interests, where the majority of countries in the world practice their interconnection and interconnection with countries through the amount of benefit resulting from this relationship. The Gulf countries achieved the desired benefit for the United States in all aspects, as the United States spread its military bases throughout the Arabian Gulf region, and there was no country left without establishing an advanced American military base in it, until the number of soldiers in it reached approximately 30 thousand American soldiers, and this gives it a force on Gulf soil through which it can implement its strategies and achieve its goals. This gave it the political advantage in which the United States began to interfere in the internal affairs of the Gulf countries, especially since it is considered one of the largest oil resources in the world that supports the American economy, and it was also supplying many European countries with oil on the grounds that they are countries loyal to the United States, as it achieved in the periods previously, an active market for American goods due to the economic abundance of Gulf societies due to their high incomes. As for the importance that the GCC countries can achieve for China, China has sought to limit it to the economic aspect, considering it the most important aspect for China that can achieve the goals it seeks, especially since China adopts a character of non-interference in the internal affairs of countries and seeks to develop its economic system that can give it a real power in the international world, China has achieved the Belt and Road project in which the Gulf countries participated, which is estimated at hundreds of trillions, and which will enter the Gulf region as an economic merger between the Gulf countries and the Republic of China. It has also achieved fertile ground for its companies to supply their goods, which will bring them profits that help them advance their economy, especially since China is considered the second largest importer of Gulf oil, which helps it manufacture cheap goods.

What is the Chinese strategy in the Gulf Cooperation Council region?

These are strategic moves by exploiting the developments that the region has witnessed to its advantage, in terms of extending its scope of influence and securing its strategic interests in geographical and vital areas, including the Arabian Gulf region, where it sought to strengthen its relations with the Arab Gulf states at all levels, fields and investment sectors. Which followed its golden rule, which says, "Diplomacy is in the service of the economy, not the economy in the service of diplomacy." This gave an advantage to the development of the Chinese economy, which made China focus on economic relations by implementing its strategy, in obtaining the largest share of the Gulf market in addition to oil and natural gas.

While China sees that American dominance in the Gulf is declining, its approach to achieving great power status and influence has been cautious and hesitant, and provoking instability does not benefit China, which has neither the will nor the ability to fill the regional security role occupied by the United States. Instead, China has developed strategic partnerships with key Gulf Cooperation Council countries whose support could enhance its status as a great power and allow it to project its influence in new arenas. It has adopted a strategic approach to hedging, which international relations theory tells us is an option for countries that want to continue to reap the benefits of a regional system that suits their ambitions. The hedging strategy focuses on deepening engagement. With various countries in the region, not alienating anyone, and not antagonizing the strongest country, it usually starts with stronger economic ties, builds toward deeper political ties, and slowly consolidates influence and power in the region - an apt description of China in the Gulf, over the past 20 years.

Studies indicate that the Arab region is one of the most unstable regions in the world, and this is what gave the United States the uniqueness of countries in terms of the ability to provide support. When referring to the first Gulf War, it was noted that the United States had a desire to increase the life of this war on the grounds that it

served its interests by thwarting the force. The strongest Iraq in the Gulf region, and the destruction of Iran because of its conflict with American policy, The United States also had a role in igniting the Iraq-Kuwait war, which we previously referred to by examining it through consultations between the Iraqi Foreign Minister and the American ambassador regarding Iraq's entry into Kuwait, which the United States considered to be of no consequence. And then it formed an international coalition to wage war on Iraq. This gives evidence that the American policy is a policy of creating conflict, as if it says "divide and rule," especially the emergence of the American role in the Arab Spring revolutions in supporting the revolutionaries in some countries that oppose their interests on the grounds that they support freedom, while they supported Political systems in other countries are considered to preserve the security of the region, such as China, which seeks to give the character of diplomacy in resolving international problems without resorting to force. Which supports the idea of opening horizons between China and the Gulf countries, which paved the way for supporting trade. When referring to the previous table, based on the statistical center of the Gulf Cooperation Council, we find that the volume of trade exchange between China and the GCC countries, in 2015, was 146.2 billion dollars, while in 2021, it was 228.9 dollars, an increase of 82.7 billion dollars. One billion dollars over seven years, which indicates that there is development in economic relations between the two parties. While the volume of trade exchange between the United States during the same period in 2015 was 90.6 billion dollars, while the volume of trade exchange in 2021 was 70.6 billion dollars, which is a clear decline of 20 billion dollars in favor of China, which made China seek to resolve disputes between the countries of the region without resorting to weapons, because in the case of peace there is Its commercial market is more active than in a state of war, unlike the United States, whose market is active in a state of war by selling weapons to the conflicting parties.

Results:

The countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council have formed an important axis in the foreign policies of the major countries, due to their strategic importance. China has been interested in the Arab region after the Cold War, and has increased its interest in the Gulf region because it is considered a geographical area with economic advantage, whether in terms of oil extraction and export or in terms of import Chinese goods, China adopted the idea of economic hedging, which made it able to spread its economy with ease. It is known that the United States is dominant in the Gulf region, so the Chinese economic role emerged and affected this role, which created American decline and Chinese progress. After research and analysis of the subject of the study and its hypothesis, the study came out with a group from the results:

1. The roots of American-Gulf relations go back to the year 1833 AD with the Sultanate of Oman, and they began to deepen and improve in the period that followed the discovery of oil in the region in 1930 AD, while Chinese-Gulf relations have long-term historical roots, which began with the ancient Silk Road in which trade The Chinese are open to the Arab world, but during the First World War they froze this relationship due to the Arab regimes' dependence on Western colonialism.
2. China adopted a strategy of non-interference in the internal affairs of countries, which adopted the saying "diplomacy in the service of the economy rather than the economy in the service of diplomacy," which came from China's awareness that the economic factor has become an important factor in determining the centers of power in the international system.
3. Oil is a fundamental variable in Chinese-Gulf relations, as China depends on it for its industries and to cover its needs, given that it is used in the manufacture of cheap goods that help it compete in the market. China's needs for Gulf oil will increase in the coming years due to the increase in the size of its industries and exports.
4. Chinese-Gulf relations are based on a policy of mutual dependence. China needs oil and Gulf investments, and the Gulf countries need Chinese industries and technological development, which has supported the Chinese position towards Arab issues in international forums.
5. The impact of political change in the Arabian Gulf region and the imbalance of regional power in the Arabian Gulf region, after the Iraq War and after the rise of Iran as a superpower, had a positive impact on the Chinese-Gulf rapprochement.
6. The United States focused on the military factor by deploying its soldiers throughout the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, considering that political hegemony would provide it with an economic climate that would help it plunder the Gulf's resources.
7. China has continued to rely in its foreign policies towards the Gulf Cooperation Council countries on a realistic,

pragmatic policy, far from narrow ideological considerations and in a manner that achieves its interests at the global level.

8. The Chinese economic development, which has been reflected in the Gulf countries for the better, and the development achieved by Chinese companies in the infrastructure of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, especially since there are countries that have witnessed a decline in their economies at the current stage, have led to increased entanglement in Chinese-Gulf relations.

9. China sought to resolve crises and conflicts through peaceful means out of concern for its interests, which considers peace to be what brings it the greatest benefit, and it sought to create a Gulf-Iranian rapprochement, while the United States supported the conflicts and their parties in indirect ways so that it could sell the largest amount of weapons, which is what It puts the Gulf region in a state of tension.

10. It turned out that the economic ties between the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and China led to the consolidation of relations between the two sides in political and security terms, and that Chinese criticism of the United States' campaigns for democracy and combating terrorism is consistent with the position of the governments of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, which reject any American interference in Internal affairs Rejecting any American interference in internal affairs, China is likely to increase its participation in security and regional arrangements in order to protect the roads that supply China with energy. China also seeks to strengthen its efforts in combating terrorism and organized crime because destabilizing the security and stability of the region will reflect on Chinese interests.

11. There is a decline in the American role in the Gulf region, which was affected by the Chinese economic progress, as the volume of trade exchange between the United States and the Gulf countries reached 116.9 billion dollars in 2014 AD, declining to 70.9 billion dollars in 2021 AD, which is a clear decline, while the volume of Chinese Gulf trade exchange during the same period developed with an increase of 82. One billion dollars, meaning that Chinese relations had a negative impact on the American role.

12. China's size geographically, demographically, and militarily makes it an upcoming power. Its distinctive strategies and diplomacy may pave the way for it to ascend to the throne of the new international order. All international powers are watching China's movements, trying to monitor them to understand China's policy toward international affairs.

Recommendations:

1. The necessity of creating "one unity" among the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, by establishing a unified currency for these countries, similar to the European Union, so that the Council becomes a single political and economic force, as stated in the Council's decision at the twenty-second session in Muscat (2001) in Establishment of a "customs union".

2. The need to benefit from the scientific and practical expertise of Chinese experts in the Gulf region to correct their economic conditions, make structural reforms, transfer advanced technology to their countries, and rely on a strategy that ensures the continuation of this.

3. The necessity of providing a database and information about the size and number of investment and commercial opportunities for Chinese companies and Gulf private sector companies to increase the volume of trade exchange between the two parties, although there has been qualitative and quantitative development in recent years.

4. Support scientific research in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries that will help technological development, which has begun to play an important role in the development of countries in light of globalization.

5. Supporting research and studies concerned with the economic field, especially what is being done about Chinese economic cooperation with the GCC countries, so that the decision maker can have information and data about the volume of trade between China and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

6. The necessity of activating the Gulf Cooperation Council system more effectively to prevent American or foreign interference in the fateful decision-making of the Gulf States.

7. Resolving internal crises between the Council countries through negotiations and through the special bodies of the Gulf Cooperation Council Organization, and not allowing any force to interfere, which may affect the political development process of the member states.

8. Work to develop the military power of any of the GCC countries so that it can confront the external dangers that may threaten any of the GCC countries, which would make them abandon American military bases.

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