

## Iran-Saudi Arabia Rapprochement and its implications for Pakistan

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### Abstract

The historical rivalry between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Iran has traditionally been one of the main causes of the Middle East instability that has been expressed through proxy wars in Syria, Iraq, and Yemen. This paper will explore the changing geopolitical opportunities bearing after the normalization of relations in 2023 and will examine the future implication of this on the security of Pakistan, its economy, and future diplomacy into 2026. Based on the qualitative, descriptive-analytical approach to research, the study examines how Pakistan, as a nation geographically and religiously placed in the midst of two giants, manages to play a mediator role as it tries to balance its internal sectarian fault lines. Some of the central findings indicate that even though rapprochement has immense potential in terms of security of energy and economic interconnectedness in the region through project development including the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline, the challenges associated with the foreign intervention of power, and international sanctions are still critical. The paper concludes that to protect its national interests in this changing environment, Pakistan needs to implement a delicate strategy of a peacemaker that is based on the focus on de-escalation and institutionalized security cooperation.

**Keywords:** China, Interests, Iran, Middle East, Pakistan, Peace, Rivalry, Saudi Arab

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## Introduction

Rivalries and tensions in the region have been around for a long time in the Middle East. One of the longest-lasting conflicts is the tense relationship between Iran and Saudi Arabia. There are differences in history, religion, and geography that have led to the war between these two major powers. It has changed the way things work in the area many times. New events, on the other hand, have made people hopeful that relations could improve, which has led to rumours of a big warming of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia. A big change in their relationship could have a big impact on the Middle East's security and vital location, especially for nearby countries like Pakistan. There is a lot of conflict in the past between Iran and Saudi Arabia because of religious differences, political rivalries, and power struggles in the area (Dawn, 2016). After Saudi Arabia and Iran broke up, there have been proxy wars and ideology fights all over the area. Saudi Arabia is mostly Sunni, and Iran is mostly Shia. These stresses can be seen in many ways, such as in the geopolitical games going on in Syria and Iraq and the proxy wars going on in Bahrain and Yemen. Both countries are getting more and more angry at each other, blaming the other of meddling in their own affairs and making the area less stable. Though this is the case, new diplomatic signs show that both Iran and Saudi Arabia want to find ways to get along again. Concerns about the economy, safety, and a desire to lessen the effects of outside influence in the area are just some of the reasons why this could happen. Because the world is shifting its attention to renewable energy sources, both countries have had to diversify their economies and depend less on oil earnings. This shared economic need has made it possible for foes to talk to each other and work together. Also, the threat of extremism and terrorism in the area is growing, which has made Iran and Saudi Arabia rethink their security priorities. Because of the long-lasting conflicts in Syria and Yemen and the rise of non-state players, everyone wants to fight forces that make things less stable. Since both countries know how important it is for the region to be stable, they may want to look for ways to work together to solve their common security problems and make the area safer. The possible warming up of relations is very important for Pakistan, which is a neighboring country with historical links to both Iran and Saudi Arabia (Figueroa, 2023). Pakistan has always been careful to keep its relationships with these two regional powerhouses in check, because it is aware of the complicated sectarian politics within its own borders. If Iran and Saudi Arabia were to stop fighting, Pakistan might be able to work together on economic issues, the area would be safer, and Pakistan's foreign policy would be more balanced.

On the other hand, if conflicts between these countries rise, it could be hard for Pakistan to keep its citizens safe and negotiate with other countries. Because of these events, this study will look into what an easing of tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia might mean for Pakistan on an economic, security, and political level. Pakistan needs to understand what the shifting elements in the Middle East mean for the country in order to make sound decisions regarding its international strategy and comprehend the complex international relations in the region. An expected warming of relations among Iran and Saudi Arabia would immensely influence Pakistan's economy. Iran and Saudi Arabia are both gigantic players in the world energy market since they are two of the best oil producers. Pakistan is encountering trouble getting adequate energy and requirements to seriously change how it gets its energy, so working with these oil-rich countries is indispensable. Key energy organizations with Pakistan could result from further developed relations among Iran and Saudi Arabia. These would simplify it to trade energy, work on establishment projects together, and make intrigues in the energy region. Pakistan's economy could genuinely benefit from better money related fortitude, which would help with energy issues and stimulate monetary turn of events. A

peaceful objective among Iran and Saudi Arabia would in like manner consist to improve the security situation in Pakistan by making the area more stable and cooperative. Nearby conflicts in Afghanistan and Kashmir, as well as the growth of extremist organisations, increase the likelihood of security issues in the region. If Iran and Saudi Arabia can put their conflicts in the past and promote a cooperative security framework, it might create a safer and more stable environment for Pakistan to address its own security challenges. Political opportunities for Pakistan may also arise as a result of a future warming of relations. Due to its longstanding ties to both Iran and Saudi Arabia, Pakistan has frequently found itself mediating disputes between the two countries in an effort to maintain peace. If these regional nations could improve their relations, Pakistan could play a role in facilitating communication and cooperation. With its diplomatic status enhanced, Pakistan may be positioned to take the lead in resolving crises and maintaining peace in the region. The challenges and concerns that accompany the evolving situation in the Middle East must, however, be kept in mind. According to (Benmansour,2023), the resumption of diplomatic relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia may be hindered by long-standing animosities, continuing regional tensions, and the involvement of external forces. The economic objectives, security measures, and diplomatic ties of Pakistan are all susceptible to the whims of global politics. Pakistan must adapt its foreign policy to the evolving situation in the region, despite the potential advantages of an Iranian-Saudi peace accord. Finally, if Iran and Saudi Arabia were to threaten to sever ties, it would cause a dramatic shift in Middle Eastern politics and have far-reaching consequences for neighbouring countries like Pakistan. As these regional countries want collaboration, Pakistan must analyse the shifting relationship from a diplomatic, security, and economic perspective to devise a strategy that safeguards its interests while contributing to stability in the area. In order to navigate the complex and ever-changing political landscape of the Middle East, Pakistan must demonstrate intelligence and adaptability in its handling of its relations with Iran and Saudi Arabia.

## Research Questions

1. Which main geopolitical and economic factors played key role in rapprochement between Iran and Saudi Arabia.
2. How could this normalization reflect the Internal Security of Pakistan and embolden its stance as a mediator in the region.
3. What are the major economic, energy prospective, and the external challenges that this diplomatic shift presents to Pakistan?

## Research Objectives

1. In order to examine the changing aspects of the Iran-Saudi conflict: Understand how the proxy warfare has evolved into a tactical thaw due to a mutual economic demand and regional security.
2. To analyze the impacts on the national interests of Pakistan: Estimate the consequences of an enhancement of the relationship between Tehran and Riyadh on the domestically sectarian stability and energy security of Pakistan.
3. In order to determine the obstacles to continued normalization: Inquire about the part of external forces and historical animosities that could prevent the sustained success of this rapprochement.

## Theoretical Framework

Realism indicates that the rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iran is not grounded on some turn-around friendship, but rather a far-calculated national interest and survival in the changing world order. In this light, it is observed that the two countries have realized that the

high expenses of proxy war and the economic isolation are no longer affordable and thus they have opted to have a tactical thaw to maintain their influence in the region. In the case of Pakistan, this entails maneuvering in an environment where diplomatic change is fueled by the politics of power game and security conundrums instead of ideological reconciliation.

## Material and Methods

This is an analytical study that tries to figure out what problems and chances come up for Pakistan as a result of the warming of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia. There are also policy choices in the paper to help deal with the problems and make the most of the chances. A qualitative method was used because it is an analytical study about an ongoing problem between two states. One benefit of qualitative research is that it can include different and sometimes opposing points of view in the same study. This is what happened with ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia and Pakistan's importance. The best way to study relationships between countries is through a qualitative method, as these are based on people's motivations.

## Literature Review

The paper explores the present status of Iran's relations with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and analyzes these relations in the context of recent history. The question is to comprehend the underlying dynamics and how they would develop in the future. The paper must have gone deeper into the manner in which the scenario in Iraq has affected the relationship between Iran and the GCC states. Due to the geographical position and the historical background, Iraq is the country that can influence the situation in the region considerably. The contribution and influence of nuclear issue, presumably, to the nuclear program in Iran, are probably investigated. This is one of the greatest points of conflict in the relationship of Iran with the international system, including the GCC states. The article explores the greater local conflict between Iran and Saudi Arabia. Such competition has been in form of numerous wars in the Middle East which has led to the instability of the region. Existence of strong Shia groups in some GCC states such as Bahrain and Saudi Arabia (Cronin, 2011).

This thesis will examine the impact of this proxy war between Iran and Saudi Arabia on Pakistan particularly in the context of sectarian conflict. According to this book, the emergence of extremist Sunni militants under Zia-ul-Haq rule brought about the beginning of sectarian war in Pakistan. According to people, the Iranian Revolution and the Saudi subsidies of religious interest groups in Pakistan were fueling religious interests in Pakistan turning it into a battlefield of the proxy war between the Saudi Arabia and Iran. The thesis relies on the stability-instability paradox to demonstrate how the proxy war would render Pakistan less stable back home and more religious violence, particularly in case Iran acquires nuclear weapons. The competition between Iran and Saudi Arabia is who will be the most powerful nation in the region. This is observed in Pakistan where the funding of religious schools and the extreme political groups is done. Pakistan is an epicenter of the pro-Saudi Sunni and pro-Iran Shiite as the two nations attempt to attain power. The concept is that in case Iran acquires nuclear weapons, the Shiite groups in Pakistan might become more aggressive, and Iran may support unconventional warfare more. This will, in turn, contribute to an increase in the instability of the situation at home and increase ethnic violence in Pakistan. This thesis demonstrates that power relationships in the region, nuclear weapons, and sectarian divisions in Pakistan are all interrelated in a complicated manner. (Ahmed, 2013).

This paper discusses the difficult Pakistan-Iran and Pakistan-Saudi Arabia relations, in the context of religious, historical and geopolitical factors. Past incidences such as the military coup of General Zia in Pakistan in 1977, the Iranian revolution in 1979 and the Soviet-Afghan

war had altered the relations between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Iran. Due to these happenings, there was a lot of closeness between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia and strategic and religious alliances were formed. During the 1980s and early 1990s, Sunni and Shia political parties developed, allegedly with the assistance of Saudi Arabia and Iran. This complicated the situation. In Iran, the population was concerned about the relations that Pakistan had with Sunni and Saudi Arabia. The post 2001 relations: Since the year 2001, Pakistan and Iran have been on good relationships. However, that was not the case during the era of the PPP government (2008-2013) that saw relationships being drawn nearer. This raised concerns among Saudi Arabia which made it attempt to gain more power in Pakistan. Relations between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan improved when the ruling party of the country in 2013 was the PML-N. This was due to the fact that Saudi Arabia was attempting to counter the influence of the increasing influence of Iran on Pakistan. This encompassed visits by key individuals and a huge amount of Saudi Arabian money to Pakistan. In 2014, when the Saudi crown prince visited Pakistan, the two countries joined forces against Iran and its ally Bashar al-Assad in the Syrian conflict. It was reported that Saudi Arabia was discussing providing arms to rebels in Syria yet Pakistan denied the allegation. This was of even greater concern to the Saudis when the Houthi gained control of Yemen in 2014 causing a military intervention by the Saudis. The Saudi Arabia requested Pakistan to join but Pakistan opted to remain neutral as it wished to remain fair with both Iran and Saudi Arabia. The government of Pakistan was concerned in 2015 about the consequences of deploying the troops to Yemen to the internal security of the country and the response of various religious groups. Although Pakistan invited Saudi Arabia, it informed Saudi Arabia that it was with them and the reason why it had chosen so. The relations of Pakistan with Iran or Saudi Arabia are influenced by numerous factors other than the condition in the Middle East. These are the nuclear agreement with Iran, regional alliances, the Saudi governmental priorities, the relations of Pakistan with India, the terrorism threat and the militancy of Islamist groups. In brief, Pakistan must maintain a narrow control among Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the handling of historical, religious and political aspects. They also need to contend with wars within the region and transformations occurring in the entire world. The nation attempts to maintain the relations on the level of being neutral and just and also to consider the national interests of the country (Sial, 2015).

The Iran Nuclear Deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is a major political victory that will see the nuclear conflict between Iran and other nations brought to an end. The deal was reached between Iran and the P-5+1 states, which are the US, UK, France, Germany, Russia, China, and the EU. It is seen as a "win-win" situation that shows how communication can be used to solve problems. The Iran Nuclear Deal addresses worries about Iran's nuclear program by putting limits on it and requiring checks and balances to make sure it is peaceful. It is emphasized that when resolving global issues, conciliatory discussions produce superior results to organized activity. The arrangement alters the international scene in the Middle East, affecting overall local security. Yet again Iran is by and by prepared to talk with the rest of the globe. Its fundamental effect in the region will foster now that it can rejoin the overall neighborhood. Iran's efforts to standardize its global standing have Israel and Saudi Arabia as the only local nations concerned. The arrangement may be seen by Saudi Arabia, an Iran-foe close by, as a danger to its effect and key standing. Since Israel has dependably conflicted with Iran's nuclear program, they may be cautious about the plan out of stress for their security. The Iran Atomic Arrangement makes it likely that atomic weapons will spread all through the Center East. Because of stresses over Iran's creating influence close by, other Center Easterner states could investigate their own nuclear

desires. This might conceivably elevate pressures in the area. Lifting approvals and reappearing the overall economy are two huge benefits that Iran will gather from the arrangement. The accessibility of billion-dollar venture open doors has made it more straightforward for the Iranian economy to recuperate. Pakistan approaches the financial open doors given by the Iran Atomic Arrangement due to its nearness to Iran. Reviving Pakistan's economy can be achieved by enhancing regional trade and economic ties. A huge diplomatic victory, the Nuclear Deal with Iran has the potential to alter the political climate in the Middle East. Although the deal alleviates concerns about Iran's nuclear programme, it introduces fresh challenges and alterations to the region. A number of key players in this diplomatic development are Iran, the possibility of a proliferation domino effect, Saudi Arabia, and Israel. Taking advantage of its strategic location near Iran and exploring new business opportunities, Pakistan has the potential to become a regional leader in economic growth and connectivity (Hussain, 2015).

Iran and the P5+1 countries—China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States—signed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which marked a significant shift in Middle Eastern politics. The deal marks a shift from the lengthy history of ill will between the US and Iran and was reached after extensive negotiations, with a focus on Iran's nuclear programme. US allies in the region especially Israel and Saudi Arabia have noticed this change of US foreign policy. Fearing that the nuclear ambitions of the Iranians would amount to a military threat, Israel had in the past insisted on the application of a military option in dealing with the situation. Israel wanted the matter to be more direct and in this regard it took the matter to the US Congress and asked it to support it. Saudi Arabia, the long-term ally of the United States and the local hegemony took a more passive stance during this period. In making this stand, Saudi Arabia is articulating its wish to continue enjoying regional peace as well as security by having to depend on the United States. The Kingdom in its responses has expressed its worry on the increasing influence of Iran in the region. Their varied response by both Israel and Saudi Arabia indicates how challenging it is to deal with allies in the region by the US. This situation is further complicated by anxiety about the increasing influence of Iran and the policies of Saudi Arabia that meddle with the situation and have left many Gulf and Arab states in a precarious situation. The current developments in the Middle East are such that both the Saudi Arabia and the Iran might have to learn to coexist. In order to do this, they would have to strike a balance between power and cohabitation in their respective spheres of influence. Above all; these Middle Eastern nations will probably remain seeking the US as a main player in maintaining the situation under control and to balance power in the region. The JCPOA will alter the nature of US and Iran interaction with each other, which may result in alteration of politics of the region. (Pasha, 2016)

The primary objective of the study is to investigate the way a security system should be established in the Middle East with emphasis in ensuring that Iran and Saudi Arabia improve their relationship. The importance of the fact that such types of regional partnerships should occur promptly when combating violent extremism is emphasized. The paper examines them under the following perspectives: The paper examines the power struggle in the Middle East and is likely to unravel the core issue as to why people are fighting in the region with much emphasis on the Iran-Saudi Arabia conflict. Determining and analyzing the negative outcomes of this power struggle such as wars in the region, proxy wars, and increased religious tensions. Raising awareness about some of the critical issues that can be addressed through states in the region cooperating with each other. This may refer to, but not be restricted to Seeking solutions to cooperate in combating terrorism and violent extremism, both of which are threats to regional security. Locating conflicts in the region and recommending how all people

can collaborate to resolve them, it may be through dialogue and diplomacy. Considering how to enhance the process of security cooperation, such as information exchange, conducting joint military exercises, and implementing mechanisms to enhance trust. The paper can consider how multilateral soft power and diplomacy can assist Iran and Saudi Arabia to coexist once again by making comparisons with the Iran nuclear deal (JCPOA). Considering ways the diplomatic approaches that prove to be effective in other instances can be applied in this case, focusing on dialogue, negotiation, and means of establishing trust. Discussing the ways a warming of the relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia can influence the security of the region and how it can be utilized in order to resolve the disputes and reduce the level of tension and how this region can become a place where there will be no argument left to work. This is because it helps identify and discuss the obstacles and issues that can render the establishment of a security system difficult, particularly those that originate due to historical animosity, political interests in the area or even domestic apprehensions. The research simply views everything in a grandiose perspective of examining not only the key causes of issues in the area but practical means that individuals can collaborate. This is evident by the emphasis on the speed with which we should proceed due to the struggle with violent extremism. Such a strategy would most likely only succeed provided that key nations in the region, such as Iran and Saudi Arabia, were willing to prioritize regional peace over their historical differences (Tehsin, Iran-Saudi Arabia Rapprochement: Preventing Conflict Formation in the Middle East, 2018).

The paper discusses the transformation of the Middle East and the rivalry between two major regional powers Saudi Arabia and Iran which have been competing at the strategy level. It highlights the role of Pakistan as a peace broker amid the two nations in order to preserve the peace in the region.

The study's goal is to look at how ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran are changing and what that means for the Middle East. A detailed and analytical approach is used in the study. Books, articles, journals, newspapers, and magazines are examples of secondary materials that are utilized in conjunction with qualitative research approaches. Taking a gander at the most recent progressions in Saudi Arabia and Iran's relationship and understanding the impact of their longings to overpower the locale on Pakistan and the Middle East is the fundamental objective. The world of politics, monetary climate, and social surface of the Middle East are going through massive changes at the present time. Individuals and groups pursuing their own objectives in the region and beyond will face both opportunities and challenges as a result of these changes. The getting through aggression that exists between Saudi Arabia and Iran is assuming a critical part in the forming of key changes in the Center East. Iran-Saudi Bedouin Relations: There has always been rivalry among Iran and Saudi Arabia over who can lead the Middle East. This conflict transcends different cutoff points, including those of reasoning, geology, and religion. There are a number of instances in which the disparate situations that these two nations have in relation to provincial conflicts have resulted in intermediary conflicts, including Yemen, Syria, and Iraq. Despite commonplace strains, Pakistan has arranged itself to mediate among Iran and Saudi Arabia. Pakistan, which is pleasant with the two nations, has endeavored to work with correspondence and normal understanding between them. This intercession means to make the district more secure and more tranquil. Utilizing a distinct and insightful structure, the review sees how Iran's relationship with Saudi Arabia has changed over the long haul. To illustrate its subjective examination philosophies, it draws on a wide range of optional materials, including books, insightful diaries, articles, and papers. The most recent improvements in the relationship between Iran and Saudi Arabia are the subject

of this investigation. A couple of occasions of this could recollect changes for the area's useful components, new global components, or key discussions. Events that could exhibit an improvement in relations between the two nations are solidly noticed. The review takes a gander at what the Saudi-Iranian clash meant for the Center East overall. It breaks down the consequences for the area's security, strength, and advancing conflicts. The focus also considers Pakistan's expected impact and role in determining this competition's outcome in its role as a peacemaker. The survey's overall goal is to give an expansive diagram of the creating thought of Saudi Arabia's and Iran's relationship, the interceding position of Pakistan, and the repercussions of this shift for the whole Place East. It adds to the current writing on territorial advancements by enlightening the Center Eastern international circumstance's intricacy (Zahra, 2020).

The focused on association between Saudi Arabia and Iran is the fundamental wellspring of the dispute and precariousness in the Persian Narrows and the Middle East. The impact of the uplifting disputes and tensions between significant nearby powers on nations going from Iraq to Yemen is dissected in this survey. Nuclear power and energy policy are also at the center of the dispute, which extends beyond geopolitics. How to fix the problem is a topic of debate among scholars? While some advocate for a system of shared protection, others favour a superpower at the helm. This research concludes that a balanced approach would be the most practical and practical strategy to deal with the impending war between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Examining the historical context through a descriptive-analytical lens sheds light on the origins of this competition. Afterwards, measures and recommendations that can be used to improve conditions and establish more stability in the region are provided. Iran-Saudi competition, regional strife, stability, shared security, the Persian Gulf, the Middle East, and the reign of superpowers. Conflict and instability have been commonplace in the Persian Gulf and the Middle East as of late. The animosity between Saudi Arabia and Iran is a major factor in this. This study aims to delve into the past of this rivalry by tracking its evolution and analysing its impact on local dynamics. Superpower domination and a concept of collective security are not endorsed by the study. As an alternative, it proposes a balancing approach as a more sensible and workable solution to the present problem. A look back at the evolving nature of the Iranian-Saudi dispute. Imagine a balanced approach to regional concerns and consider what it would entail in practice. Using a descriptive-analytical technique, the study compiles data from a variety of online and library resources. Research into historical documents, academic articles, and geopolitical assessments can shed light on the Saudi-Iranian rivalry. Examining the origins of the rivalry, the paper identifies significant moments and influences that have moulded the contentious relationship between Iran and Saudi Arabia. A knowledge of the past is necessary for a knowledge of the present, whether the subject is sectarian conflicts or global manoeuvres. The feasibility and efficacy of employing a balanced approach to resolve regional conflicts, as well as its practical consequences, are examined in the study. The benefits and drawbacks of a power-balanced partnership are discussed in greater depth here. The report makes changes based on an analysis of the data that aim to reduce instability in the Middle East. Placating drives, methods for settling conflicts, and frameworks for regional coordinated effort are exceptionally significant for the group. In the end, the survey surmises that a fair system could turn out to be a judicious and valuable technique for managing the discussion between Saudi Arabia and Iran. By giving setting and engaging reflection on logical consequences, the audit adds to the procedure with discussion on security in the Middle East (Chitsazian, 2020).

This article looks at how Saudi Arabia's and Iran's long-standing animosity is largely to blame for the current instability in the Middle East. The assessment saw that the two countries are participating in hardliner middle person fights with a ultimate objective to change each other's power in the locale. The monetary and inside security of Pakistan are antagonistically impacted by this. With a blend of emotional and consistent techniques, the survey dives into the possibility of the Saudi-Iranian contest, the use of delegate conflicts, the incorporation of various nations, and their impact on Pakistan. Figure out how much the competition between Saudi Arabia and Iran is driven by partisan intentions. Take a look at how the two nations are using proxy war to achieve their goals in the region. External forces are discussed in the third section. Investigate the role of foreign powers, such as Russia or the United States, in the operation of proxy wars. Determine the impact on Pakistan's economic and social safety of the rivalry between Saudi Arabia and Iran. To address these four primary concerns, we apply both a qualitative and a logical methodology. The study draws on academic publications, geopolitical analysis, and regional studies to attempt to paint a comprehensive picture of the Saudi-Iranian rivalry and its implications for Pakistan. According to the article, sectarian ambitions fuel Saudi Arabia and Iran's rivalry, which in turn exacerbates the instability in the Middle East. In this section, we will examine how both governments resist one other's influence in the area through proxy warfare. It achieves this by exploring delegate war frameworks. This section of the investigation investigates the capabilities of external powers and identifies the roles that countries like Russia and the United States play in the middlemen clashes that rage in the Middle East. The review uncovers that Pakistan is defied with various hardships because of Saudi Arabia's and Iran's contention. Sectarianism, wild radicalism, internal polarization, and money related issues are completely made more likely, and its relationship with the two countries are affected hence. The paper talks about the issues Pakistan has with its systems towards Saudi Arabia and Iran because of the nonstop confusion in the Middle East. It examines how severe radicalism, monetary risks, and sectarianism have made Pakistan a focal part in this regional battle. By looking at the ongoing conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran and what it means for the rest of the Middle East, this study helps us understand Pakistan's problems at home and abroad. The study shows how complicated sectarianism is and how Muslim countries in the area are dealing with a lot of different problems. (Faheem, 2021)

The changing relationship between Saudi Arabia and Iran has many effects. It is influenced by stark contrasts, mixed-race populations, international power, and the needs of people locally and globally. This article examines how ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran are changing and how that is affecting Pakistan. It looks at issues of wellbeing, the economy, and severe and hardliner strains. This paper examines the new efforts at discretion, particularly by Iraq, and evaluates the conceivable degree and impacts of these efforts to unite individuals because the ongoing world of politics offers opportunities for harmony. The questionnaire has an emotional platform and reaches the conclusion that it is difficult to achieve concordance in this complicated relationship. In the case of Pakistan, it highlights that strategic efforts are necessary to ensure that the heightening between Saudi Arabia and Iran does not affect the relationship between countries but instead makes life difficult to Pakistan and other nations in the region. This study analyzes the implications of such association to the economy, security, and inner governmental problems in Pakistan, although it is a complex task. The paper also examines the prospects of coping in the prevailing political environment, on the recent mediation attempts. image the transformation of the ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran over the long run taking into account severe, racial, and political elements. Consider the impact of

the war between Saudi Arabia and Iran on Pakistan in terms of security, economy and harsh and ethnic tensions. Research the intensification and implications of current endeavours in order to keep pace, with interest in late undertakings at affirmation, particularly by Iraq. Think up diplomatic courses of action against Pakistan keeping in view the thin line between de-escalation and full mediation. The paper employs the qualitative methodology and draws inspiration in the form of academic papers, geopolitical evaluations, and area studies. The paper examines the historical and current developments to have a clearer image on the Saudi Arabia and Iran relations and the influence on Pakistan. The paper examines the complex Saudi Arabia Iran relations. It examines the differences in religion, the relations between various ethnic groups as well as the political influence that these two countries exert in the region. The historical background of the matter gives us insight into the existing dispute. The paper examines the impact of Pakistan by considering security concerns, economic concerns as well as fault lines in the country brought about by religious and ethnic disparities. This is aimed at providing a complete picture of how this relationship between Saudi Arabia and Iran can influence the national interest of Pakistan. The paper considers recent efforts to get along particularly, the efforts of Iraq to initiate arbitration. Considering objectives and outcomes of such types of projects, the research question is whether the current political reality offers opportunities of the development of relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Lastly, the research proposes political strategies of Pakistan as means of terminating useful recommendations. The article emphasizes the necessity of specific initiatives and provides a less invasive way that is aimed at de-escalation but also takes into consideration the complexity of the relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Ultimately, the paper also provides a critical examination of the association between Saudi Arabia and Iran and its impact on Pakistan. This research contributes to the discussion on the stability of the region and the policy of diplomacy in the Middle East by going through the intricacies and examining the recent work at arbitrating. (Saleem, 2022).

In this study, the problems and chances that Pakistan faces because of the growing peace between Iran and Saudi Arabia are looked at in great detail. The normalization deal between these important countries will have a big impact on Pakistan's policies and strategies in its local and wider neighbourhood. Using methods from qualitative research, this study looks at the problems that the normalisation deal might cause and the chances that it opens up for Pakistan. The paper also gives strategic suggestions for reducing problems and making the most of chances that have come up because of the warming of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia. The people, groups, and organizations in this list are important to the government because they have a say in Pakistan's foreign policy, trade relations, economic plans, and activities around the world. Do a thorough study of the problems Pakistan might face because of the current warming of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia. Included in this should be matters of diplomacy, economics, and security. Investigate the opportunities that Pakistan has gained from the normalisation pact, such as enhanced diplomatic ties, regional stability, and economic cooperation. Provide key government stakeholders, semi-government groups, and private organisations with tailored strategy recommendations. In light of the opportunities and challenges that have arisen since Iran and Saudi Arabia mended their friendship, the purpose of these recommendations is to assist policymakers in making the most informed decisions possible. Examining the myriad ways in which the warming of ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia has affected Pakistan will be the goal of this qualitative study. To come up with its conclusions and suggestions, the study will look at academic literature, geopolitical analyses, expert views, and relevant case studies. The paper will look at

possible problems that Pakistan might face because of the changing relationships between Iran and Saudi Arabia. These problems could be political, economic, or security-related. The study will look at the good things that might happen because of the normalisation deal between Iran and Saudi Arabia. These good things could include more economic cooperation, better diplomatic relations, and more stability in the area. The study will come up with strategic suggestions for important government partners, semi-government organizations, and private groups. These suggestions will give you steps you can take to deal with problems and make the most of chances. The research's findings and suggestions will be very helpful for policymakers, governmental bodies, academic institutions, and private groups that are trying to figure out how to change Pakistan's security, economic, and diplomatic plans now that the Middle East is changing. In addition to new ideas and suggestions, this study gives a full picture of how Pakistan can handle the difficulties that come with the warming of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia, making sure that its economic and foreign policies are well-informed and well-planned. (Abbasi, 2023)

This article goes into great detail about how Iran's strategy towards its neighbor to the east, Pakistan, works. The study says that even though these countries are very different and have global problems, they will have to work in the future, even if things change at home and abroad. Pakistan has always been an important and useful partner to Iran, not only when it was a monarchy, in 1979, but also when it turned into an Islamic Republic after that. Due to the fact that the national interests and the goals of both states are at odds with each other, this cooperation is not expected to go as far as a deep strategic alliance. Also, issues such as foreign sanctions, concerns of safety, and lack of money are likely to prevent the relationship from expanding further. This essay carefully looks at two separate times; the time of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi before 1979 and the time after the Islamic Republic of Iran was founded. Security, economics, and politics are the three main areas of collaboration on which the study is based. The considerations like economic cooperation, national interest, security issues, international sanctions, Iran-Pakistan relations, and collaboration come into the picture. Examine evolution of Iranian-Pakistani relations starting with the rule of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi and proceeding towards Islamic Republic. Possible areas of collaboration: Study of political climate, economic situation and security situation of Pakistan and Iran would be important in order to understand the causes and dynamics of cooperation between them. Please delineate and discuss how the national goals and aspirations of the two states clash with each other. Discuss other global issues, such as financial challenges, security and international sanctions. Explain how you think relations between Iran and Pakistan will be developing in the future, taking into consideration the problems and chances in the areas of politics, the economy, and safety. A lot of academic literature, geopolitical analyses and historical records, as well as relevant case studies were used in historical and analytical way to do the research. The main idea of the study is to look at the political, economic and security the ties between Iran and Pakistan. By examining the historical background closely, we can observe the change in ties between Iran and Pakistan over a period of time and under various political regimes. Areas where we can work together: The study is revealing what types of partnerships are and how large they are in the political, economic and security areas. It also gives an idea of how these partnerships evolved over the years. Contradictions and Challenges: The international sanctions, security concerns, and financial constraints are some of the contradictions and challenges that have been identified. Their effects on bilateral relations are then looked at. The study makes predictions on the future of relations between Iran and Pakistan on the basis of a review of the past and the problems that are taking place now. This piece is very useful for policymakers,

academics and professionals interested in learning more about the difficulties, opportunities and complexities of relations between Iran and Pakistan. The information contributes to what is known about the international and geopolitical changes in the region. The research provides a more complete picture of the past and present aspect of relations between Iran and Pakistan. It provides a new perspective on the challenges and chances that comprise this important strategic situation. (Czulda, 2023).

### **Future Outlook: Steering Through a New Era of Fragile Stability (2026 and Beyond)**

As of 2026 we can say that the Iran-Saudi rapprochement has left behind its symbolic "honeymoon phase" and is now in a stage of rigorous testing, in which the initial familiarity that resulted from the so-called "Beijing Effect" has given way to a security architecture characterized by Minilateral arrangements and a concerted effort towards economic integration. For Pakistan the next few years will be constructed around three pillars:

#### **The Move towards Institutionalized Security**

Since the first agreement in 2023, the most significant growth has been the appearance of defense frameworks formally. The September 2025 Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement (SMDA) between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia stating expressly that an attack on one state will be treated as an attack on the other has fundamentally changed the strategic calculus in the region ((CSIS), 2025).

The 2026 Challenge: Pakistan is now faced with the delicate task of honoring this strategic bond with Riyadh but ensuring that it maintains the "shuttle diplomacy" that was effectively deterring Iranian strikes on Saudi territory in the escalations in the region in late 2025 (Council, 2026). The future also requires Pakistan to be a "security stabilizer" to ensure that local friction does not become a bigger conflict.

#### **Economic Connectivity vs. Geopolitics Sanctions**

Of the economic dividends of the rapprochement is unfinished business. While Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 and China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) provide a roadmap for a trilateral relationship, outside pressures are still holding back.

Pipeline Dilemma: The Iran-Pakistan (IP) Gas Pipeline is the best example of this struggle. Despite an approved ten-year extension in early 2026, the project faces "non-viability" issues arising from the threat of international sanctions and lack of outside money in conflict-ridden areas (Pakistan, 2025).

### **3. China's "Dual- Track" Mediation**

China has moved from the status of one-off broker to permanent region stakeholder. Beijing's 2026 strategy is based on "strategic restraint" - putting maintenance of energy flows through the Strait of Hormuz above direct military engagement (Affairs, 2026).

The Pakistani Advantage: For Pakistan, China's continued involvement provides a "Great Power" umbrella to make three-way cooperation (Pakistan- Iran- Saudi Arabia) more possible, particularly as China develops its digital and physical infrastructure across the region (Shift, 2025).

#### **Result and Discussion**

With a main focus on how the relationship between Iran and Saudi Arabia is changing, the studies and pieces listed above offer a thorough look at the political situation of the Middle East. The main ideas, like historical background, proxy wars, outside interference and what it means for neighbouring countries like Pakistan, help us to get a better sense of how things work in this complicated area.

(1) **Rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia:** Studies show that the long-lasting rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia is a big cause of instability in the Middle East.

- People have told that the competition of gaining the power in between these countries have led to proxy wars in Syria, Iraq and Yemen which her led to tensions and conflicts in the area.

(2) **Urgency for Regional Partnerships:** - Everyone agrees that we need regional partnerships right away to deal with important problems like violent terrorism, regional conflicts and rising religious tensions. These problems must be solved quickly which demonstrates how important it is for countries to work together in terms of security measures and political efforts.

(3) **Effects on Neighbouring Countries, Especially Pakistan:** - Pakistan's role as a peacemaker and mediator in the area is talked about a lot, with a focus on how strategically important it is in navigating the problems that come up to due to the rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia. The studies look into how the policies of Pakistan are affected by the changes that have occurred in the region and suggest political means of dealing with the problems and seizing chances.

**Positive Developments and Diplomatic Efforts** Recent events, like the Iran Nuclear Plan (JCPOA) and tries to mediate an inquiry among Iran and Saudi Arabia are looked at in view of checking whether to incite better essential ties and to lower pressures.

The assessments concentrate on the interrelated thought of political occasions in the Middle East and examines the prospect of relaying solidarity to the area.

(5) We can get a clear picture of what the relationship between Iran and Saudi Arabia means for public interests and territorial stability by looking at it from the perspectives of safety, economy and strategy.

(6) The examinations give more comprehensive overview of Pakistan's contribution to the region by determining the importance of Pakistan's role in the Iran-Saudi Arabia connection.

(7) The Meaning of Nuanced and Changed Approaches All through the investigation, one rehashing subject developed: neighborhood security ought to be moved closer with a nuanced and changed perspective, one that spotlights on trust - managing talking, common activity, and reassuring estimations.

The eighth is future and examination attempts to forecast it and separates designs, existing issues and anticipated interest regions on Iran and Saudi Arabia.

## Conclusion

The Center East's complicated sociopolitical scene is itemized and nuanced in the review, which focal point on the cooperations among Saudi Arabia, Iran, and respectively countries, for example, Pakistan. Focuses covered consolidate irrefutable foundations, regional adversaries, middle person conflicts, as well as greater impacts of mollifying propensities, for example, the Iran Nuclear Course of action (JCPOA). In accordance with the investigation, the Iranian-Saudi struggle mostly affects Center Eastern size. Additionally, they include finding calm game plans, and complexity of power components. Taking into account current headways, for instance, the JCPOA and tries to decide the Iranian-Saudi conflict through mediation, it checks out at the likelihood of positive outcomes. Pakistan's mediation and peacemaking tries are acquiring unquestionable quality in the locale. Pakistan's geopolitical map is studied considering the links between Iran and Saudi Arabia. As a way to determine issues and get the most out of possibilities, they normally ponder on optional decisions. Taken by and large, the assessments fight for a nuanced and equitable procedure for close by security, one that spotlights on correspondence, cooperation, and trust-building. All in all, the examination enlightens the complicated snare of connections and issues in the Center East. Additionally, they underscore the importance of benevolent endeavors in the settlement of the versatile strategy centered issues tormenting the suitability of the location.

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