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Question No 2

On March 10, Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed to restore diplomatic ties seven years after severe relations. The regional rivals committed to reopening embassies in Tehran and Riyadh by May 2023. Explain in detail the impacts of this agreement on changing global world order.

1. Introduction

The restoration of diplomatic ties between KSA and Iran was mediated by China which have ended years of hostility, humanitarian crises, violence and sectarian division in the Middle East. The instability have resulted decline in foreign investment, low economic growth and disturbing the regional peace by setting up proxy wars against one another. The rapprochement of Saudi-Iran relation is a major setup to Israel and West foreign policy. Moreover, it have a significant positive impact for Pakistan with growing opportunities. Therefore, China which act as a dealbreaker played the role of mediator to develop both the countries setup dialogue, challenging the US led hegemon, shifting the global world order towards multipolarity.

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2. AN OVERVIEW OF SAUDI IRAN RELATION

1976	Iran's Islamic Revolution
1987	Irani pilgrims were demonstrators with Saudi Security forces in Makkah.
1988	Saudi Arabia ended diplomatic ties with Iran
2011	Syrian uprising war
2004	War in Yemen
2015	Iran Nuclear deal Iran started it nuclear deal which was a threat to Saudi.
2016	Execution of Nimr al Nimr
2018	US exits from JCOPA deal.
2019	Iran Attack on oil facility in Saudi Arabia
2020	Assassination of Soleimani
2021	Shift to Iran's East policy started
2022	Negotiation started by Saudi and Iran for dialogue
2023	Restoration of diplomatic Relationship

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3. The need for restoration of ties with

i) KSA is looking forward to achieve its economic goals.

To enhance its economic goals, KSA is looking forward to enhance its cooperation with its neighbouring country. Iran which is a major threat for KSA is hindering it in achieving its economic strength. So, a need for dialogue was needed.

ii) Iran wanted to break the Israel foreign policy of isolation.

Israel which is a major threat for Iran is developing its formal relation with Gulf countries to isolate Iran. The agreements like Abraham Accords, growing informal ties with KSA was a threat to Iran, so in order to ~~Iran~~ overcome this and attract Gulf monarchies Iran opted to develop its ties with Saudi.

4. Impact of Saudi-Iran Reapproachment on World order

i) Yemen

Saudi Arabia and Iran have been

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Geostrategic rivals in Persian Gulf. The war have enhanced sectarian division and both the countries have support ~~ex~~ its rivals to setup proxy war in the region. The civil war which started in Syria in 2011, Iran support Houthi Rebel while KSA supports the government of Mansour Hadi. More than 60% of urban country is destroyed leading to millions of people being displaced.

ii) Syria

In Syrian war both the countries support opposite to one another. Iran support the Bashar-Al Assad Regime while KSA supports Syrian Army and The Rebel groups.

Both of these countries a important for KSA due its strategic location. The war in Syria and Yemen have led to unprecedented destruction, lower economic growth and refugees crises. The reapproachment of two will help to escalate regional war and economic crises.

iii) A setback to Foreign Policy of Israel

While all the Arab countries are restarting ties not all countries in Middle East are happy

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with the rapprochement. The developing of bilateral and diplomatic relation is a major threat to Israel.

Israel opposition leader term this as a total and dangerous foreign policy and a failure of Israel government

Yair Lapid

The former PM of Israel term the rapprochement as a serious danger for Israel.

iv) The Decline of US influence from Middle East and US policy to contain China

Since the beginning of 2000's, the US have shifted its foreign policy for the containment of China.

i) Absence of KSA from National Security policy of USA

In the National Security Policy of USA 2022,

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KSA was absent from it. The main focus was on containment of China and Russia.

ii) USA blames MBS for the Murder of Jamal Khashoggi

Biden has stated in his several speech that KSA is a pariah country and MBS has killed the journalist Jamal Khashoggi which has antagonized the Saudi Monarch.

iii) USA has reintroduced its military budget to KSA

With the ongoing war in Russia - Ukraine, there is an increase in oil prices. The visit of Biden to KSA was to increase the oil production so that oil prices can be reduced. Under OPEC, MBS refused and in return Biden re-introduced its military budget and decrease its troops by 2000 in KSA.

MBS cannot survive for more than two weeks if USA don't provide military to KSA

Biden

This statement from Biden has also antagonized MBS

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iv) USA decrease its military troops from Yemen

USA decrease its military support to Yemen which resulted in weak negotiation with Houthi Rebels.

5. The Changing World Order

China which is the major importer of oil by KSA and Iran is changing the world regional dynamics. The growing economic rise of China and its mega project BRI is enhancing its growth and popularity.

Iran which have international sanctions is also included in the project of BRI.

With the inclusion of Saudi Arabia in BRI, will provide its more potential and trade routes across the region.

6. USA China clash over Taiwan is changing world to multipolarity

Since USA and China confront on trade war, with growing economic rise, military capacity of China is a threat to USA hegemon. The flashpoint of over remains on Taiwan which China consider it to be a

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part of China. The war in Indo Pacific will decide the future hegemony.

According to Henry Kissinger;

The future of war will not lie in Afghanistan or Iraq but the one who controls Indo Pacific.

It is believed that China will take control over Taiwan by 2025, this will decrease the USA influence from the region followed by serious confrontation by Middle East.

7. Benefit to Pakistan from Saudi Arabia and Iran Reapproachment

i) Decrease of sectarian division

The reapproachment of Saudi Iran will help to overcome sectarian division in Pakistan and region. It will decrease sectarianism in the country.

ii) Securing good relations with neighbours

Since the inception of Pakistan, Pakistan have

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face serious internal and external threats. The securing good relations with Iran will help in socio-economic uprise.

a) Chabahar Port

The Chabahar port can act as a twin sister port with Gwader port and help to divert traffic.

b) The development of Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline

Pakistan is energy Thirst country. Therefore developing of Iran - Pakistan gas pipe line will help to overcome gas shortage.

c) Help to eliminate Iran oil which is sold in black to Pakistan

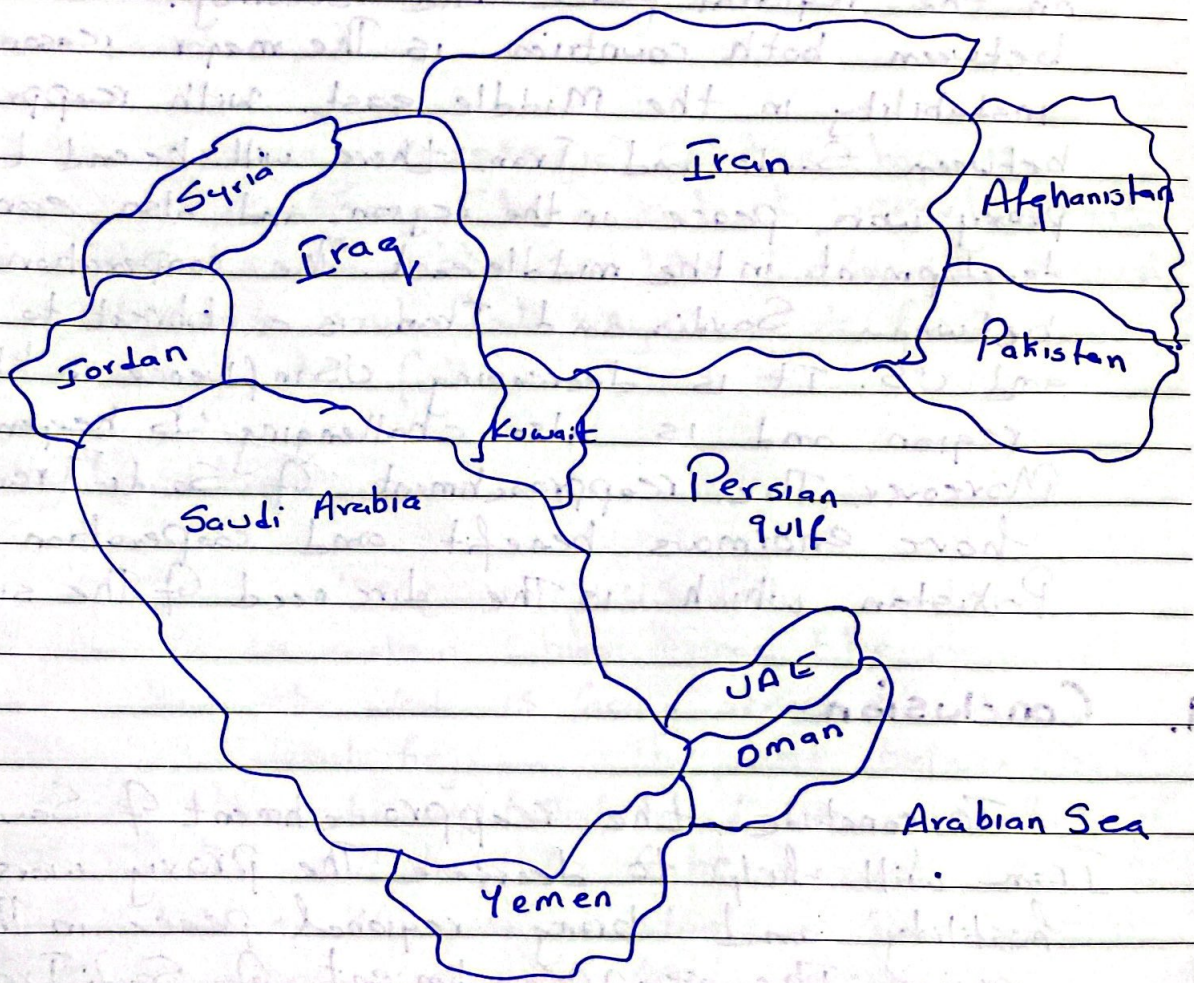
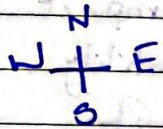
Because of International sanctions, Iran is selling its oil in black. Therefore developing of rapprochement will help to decline the sale of Iranian oil in black.

iii) Improvement in Security dynamics in the country

As developing economic and bilateral trade

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relation with Iran, this will help to overcome security threats and violence, illegal migrations of the people.



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8. Critical Analysis

The rapprochement of Saudi-Iran economic and bilateral relationship have a positive impact on the regional peace and security. The hostility between both countries is the major reason of instability in the Middle east. With rapprochement between Saudi and Iran, there will be end to proxy wars, peace in the region and also economic development in the middle east. The cooperation between Saudi and Iran is a threat to Israel and US. It is decreasing US influence in the region and is also challenging US hegemony. Moreover, the rapprochement of Saudi-Iran have enormous benefit and cooperation for Pakistan which is the dire need of the situation.

9. Conclusion

To conclude, the rapprochement of Saudi and Iran will help to decrease the proxy wars, hostility and bring regional peace in the region. The rapprochement of Saudi-Iran is a rising threat for Israel and US which states that there is decrease of influence of those both in the region. Rapprochement will also help Saudi and Iran to ~~bring~~ focus on economic growth, regional investment, connectivity

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projects, new potential market and also exchange of culture.

