

Critically evaluate US-China geo strategic competition in middle east & its implication on global power politics.

ANSWER

1. Introduction

The region which was left barren, and not given importance for years has become the centre of focus. Middle-east was considered trivial with on going wars in Syria, Yemen, Lebanon and others. But, recent years have shown some significant progress by the two great powers — that have elevated the status of middle-east. The geo strategic competition of Washington & Beijing have raised the eye brows — and now the whole world is keeping any eye because the action here will be felt by the world.

2. Middle Eastern states : An Overview

There are several countries in middle east that are considered as rich in oil. For years, the west were attracted to them, but the internal weakness of middle-eastern states led them to civil war. However, since past few years, the region of middle east is

becoming significant — as there are states of global powers.



MAP: Middle East

3. USA geo-strategic move in the middle east to maintain its hegemony

3.1 JCPOA Deal

The joint comprehensive plan on Action on Iran nuclear deal was signed by P5+1 (USA, UK, France, Russia, China) + (Iran). This deal will empower Iran in nuclear resources, but not with such level of enrichment that is used in nuclear weapon. Through this, Iran

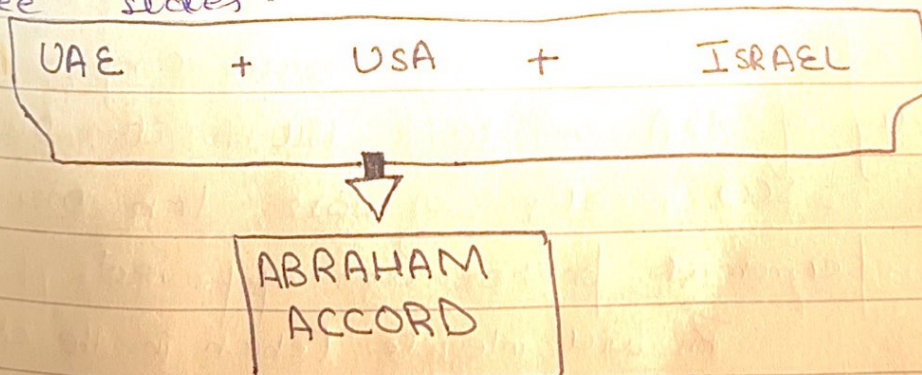
will get certified level of uranium.

However, the deal signed by Obama administration was cancelled by Trump regime — considering it as worth deal. This cancellation imposed a dent on relation of Iran and USA further, which means further trust deficit.

Now, the Biden administration is working on its revival, but no such sign can be seen in this regard — because Israel and Saudi Arabia are not happy with it.

3.2 Abraham Accord

As Israel is the strategic partner of Washington, so this accord was formed to integrate it in the global economic horizon. The deal was signed, which will strengthen economic, social & political relation between three states.

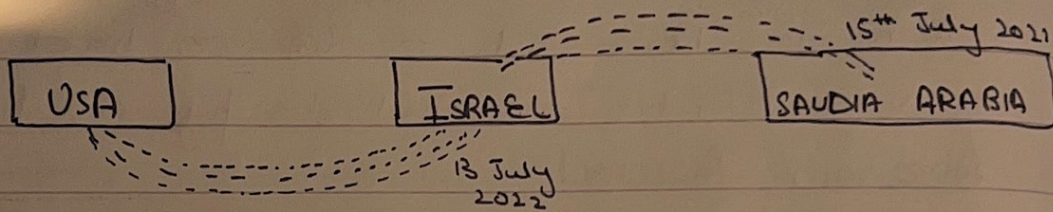


This USA measure will help

Washington to penetrate more in the region.

3.3 Biden visit to middle east

Biden made the visit to middle east states to strengthen the weak ties. As the relations were deteriorated with Israel & KSA due to some of Biden's statements. Therefore, he made the visit — which was not considered a diplomatic victory.



4. China geo-strategic move in the middle east to penetrate its importance

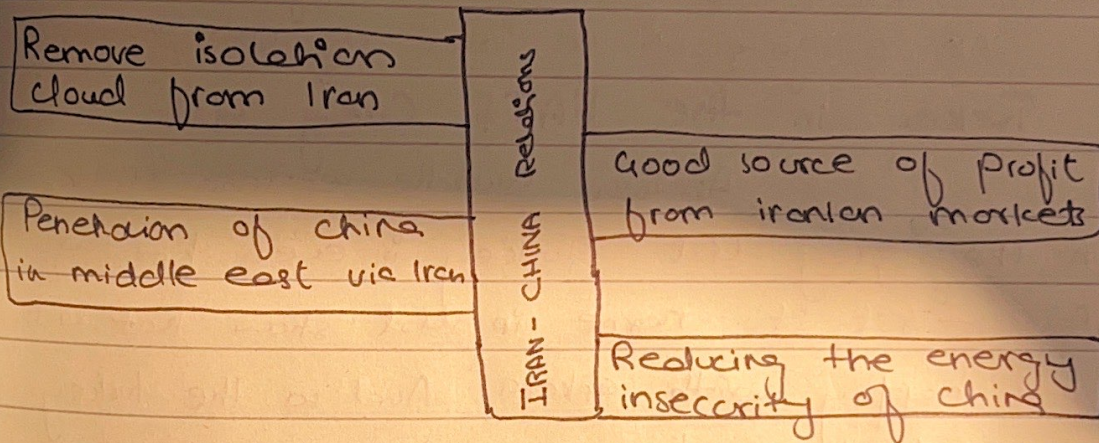
4.1 SCO meetings and membership

The platform of SCO is getting significance at the global forum. Many of the middle east states — which were considered a close ally of USA are having tilt to it. Such as in the SCO meeting of 2022, Iran membership as the permanent partner was approved.

This will integrate Tehran in the China led block, and also able to counter USA.

4.2 Heavy investment of Beijing in Tehran

China made a ~~visit~~ historic investment in Iran — opening the ways of new ties. Almost \$400 billion will be invested in Iran in different sectors of the country. This investment in Iran will



4.3 Xi Jinping visit of royal standard to Saudi Arabia

As compare to Biden, Xi Jinping received a purple carpet royal welcome in KSA. They whole heartedly welcomed the Chinese president — which portrays the tilt of kingdom to Beijing. Strategic partnership pact was signed between them in various areas.

5. Critical evaluation of this global great game in middle east:

5.1 UAE in the FATF Grey List

UAE is grey listed in FATF. This act shows that things which were quite different between USA & UAE after Abraham accord is no more same. This gives signal that UAE is going to be out of USA horizon.

5.2 Turkey in the FATF Grey List

Another middle-eastern state is in the grey list. Turkey is even part of NATO — but its name in list show that USA is not happy with Ankara. And so, the Turkey is also not giving positive gesture — this all blocks the Washington smooth way to middle-east.

5.3 OPEC+ Decision of reduction in oil supply

Opec+ means Opec countries along with Russia have made the decision to reduce the oil production by 20000 barrels per day. This decision show that Biden visit to kingdom was useless or even an insult. Because the main reason was to increase the oil supply for stabilizing the market. However, after this decision, Washington agitated, and even some proposal of

NOPEC were given on table — but no concrete things.

5.4 Balancing relation between KSA &

Iran — heavy responsibility on China

On one hand, China has invested a large sum of capital in Iran. And on other hand, the strategic partnership is signed with Kingdom.

As both Tehran and Riyadh are considered as rival states in middle-east — so China has to be wary of ~~not~~ balancing between two states.

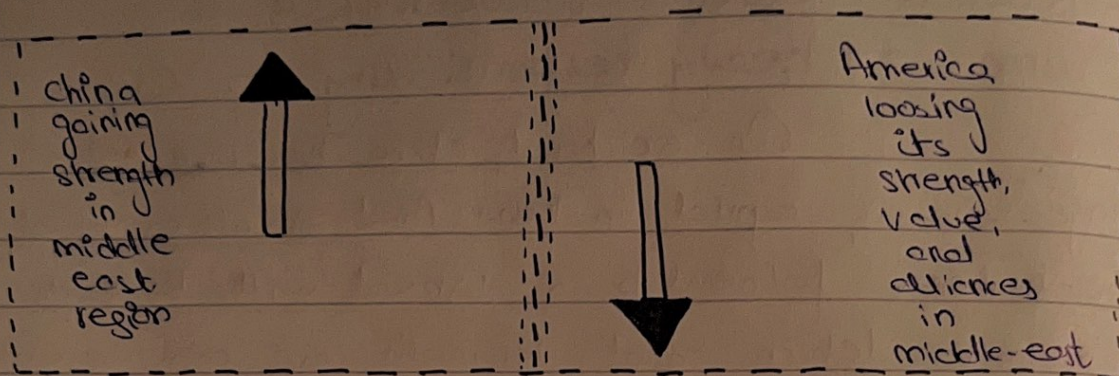
5.5 Israel not happy with USA currently



5.6 Afghanistan in misery due to USA rigidity

Washington is not releasing funds & not accepting Afghanistan regime — which is why the Afghans are in great misery. So, another state of middle-east is not in favour of Washington.

6. Overall middle east situation in global power dynamics



7. Conclusion

To conclude, the region which was few years back known as the main supports of USA is no more the same. The same region loose its ~~to~~ significance due to chaos, civil wars and other internal weakness. However, in recent years, the region is getting attention - even being called as the power determiner. The great game between USA and China is on the go in middle-east. And the results are not quite relaxing for Washington. Therefore, the new reality is that countries in middle east are more inclined and willing to form alliance with Beijing more than any other state.