

Question: How do you see the increasing rapprochement deal between KSA and Iran? Analyse sociopolitical implications on Middle East and Palustan. What measures would you recommend Islambad to follow?

→ Changing World Order in Middle East

The changing world order in Middle East is evident through this agreement between Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Iran. The rapprochement deal is brokered by China between two ideological, regional and political adversaries. It is essentially signalling towards China's growing influence.

→ Deconstructing the reasons of divide.

Muslim World stands polarized at the hands of two regional adversaries KSA and Iran, which has engulfed the Middle East in the quagmire of proxy wars. KSA is depicted as monarchical authority while Iran is theocratic democracy which denies the monarchical rule as un-Islamic tendency. Moreover, there

→ Sectarian Fault lines in demography

Both countries are divided on the basis of sectarianism. KSA has majority of Wahabism while Iran has majority of Shiism. Both countries want to acquire hegemonic influence on Middle East. Iran voices the rights of Shiite community and accused KSA for violating them. In 2016, when Saudi Arabia

executed Sheikh Nimr who was strong advocate of Shiit community in Eastern province of Saudi Arabia and was a critic to sunni royal family. So, Riyadh ^{and} Tehran clash was inevitable. Supreme leader of Iran threatened KSA ~~of~~ ~~of~~ with "Divine Vengeance" and Riyadh's embassy was stoned in Tehran after which Saudi Arabia cut ties with Iran.

→ China's Brokered Deal

Negotiations between Riyadh and Iran started in 2021 where both met in Baghdad Iraq for five meetings. In 2022, UAE and Kuwait sent their ambassadors to Iran, withdrawing their support from Saudi Arabia's 2016 diplomatic cut. Recently, in 2023 Iran's president Ebrahim Raisi visited China and China acted as a mediator to break deal between two adversaries which is a diplomatic win for China. Leveraging its soft power, China was successful in making the agreement between the two because of maintained relations with both of them as China is their essential oil customer.

→ Glance at the deal

Under this rapprochement deal, both the countries will reopen their embassys. Moreover, they have reached to the understanding of reviving 2001 ~~econ~~ cooperation treaty and 1998 economic, trade and investment deals.

→ Pakistan wholeheartedly welcomed the deal.

"We welcome the historic deal between Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Iran for resumption of diplomatic ties"
~~Ex-PM~~ Ex-PM Shehbaz Shareif

→ Why deal now?

The reconciliation agreement ~~being~~ signed between rivalries has reasons of national interests. Saudi Arabia wants to lower the financial pressure on its economy which was waving because of expensive deals with USA for weaponry stuff for which KSA uses to curtail Iran's influence in the region. As it has suffered economic pressure due Iran-backed rebels attacks on oil facilities. Iran on the other hand wants relief in sanctions being imposed on it and want to integrate in the region.

Implications on Middle East.

It would be beforehand to predict the positive potential outcomes of the deal but if this agreement gets successful and both rivalries develop mutual trust and respect, there are chances of reduced violence in Middle East.

Stability may emerge in Yemen, Syria, Iraq and Lebanon which are in dire need of development.

Moreover, it would be overly ~~passion~~ optimistic to think the end of Iran backed militant groups on which Iran ^{has been dependent} ~~is trying~~ to curtail the influence of Saudi-US nexus.

It can be predicted that this deal can bring Middle East to stability and peace. Moreover, the Israel's desires of developing relations with KSA can be put to end. This China's brokered deal would help to grow China's influence in the region, surpassing United States.

China has already received laud from the leaders of Arab League praising Beijing's role in deal. This deal would bypass ~~China's~~ US wish to crack a billionare deal between KSA and Israel called normalization deal.

Pakistan and Reapproachment deal

Pakistan welcomed the deal with open heart. Pakistan being the state, sandwiched between the neighbour (Iran) and big financial supporter (KSA) has been long wanting to maintain ties between the both. Pakistan shall be able to interact more openly with Iran. Specially, Iran gas pipeline offer and ~~offer~~ of providing cheap energy to Pakistan can be made more interactive. Pakistan has chance to gain much from this deal. Moreover, Pakistan can ask actively participation of both on Kashmiri cause. Pakistan can hit multilateral deals with both to boost its economy. Islamabad would have to take vigilant steps.