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Current Affairs

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Q = Explain Saudi Arabia - Iran Conflicts. What are the implications of Saudi Arab and Iran deal.

Introduction Saudi Arab is a Sunni Dominated Country which has the leading role in the Middle East. The Saud Family controls the Political and regional affairs of the state, however the Maulana Abdul Wahab Sahab controls the religious matters of the state, and both these groups co-exist in Saudi Arab supporting and accommodating each other in bilaterally. Saudi government start promoting Wahabi Islam in cold war by different means.

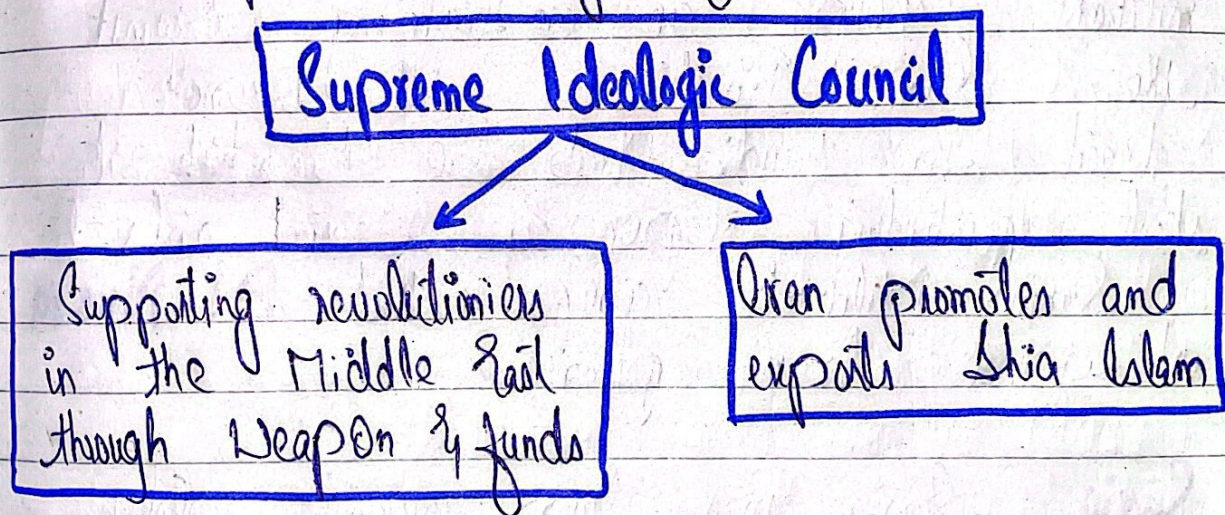
Promoting Jihadist Literature

Saudi Arab in 1979 was

Promoting Wahabi Islam in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Middle East

Arab fighters were sent to Afghanistan for Jihad

Meanwhile Iran was ruled by Raza Shah Pahlavi who believes in secular policies, and he follows westernization and secularization. However in 1979 revolution occurs in Iran, due to which Raza Shah Pahlavi was overthrown and a complete new government was formed which works under **Supreme Ideological Council** led by Imam Khomeini. Who is the supreme body of Iran.



Both countries start interfering in the regional and foreign affairs of Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Yemen due to geo-political and geo-strategical importance.

Iraq Iraq is a Shia dominant country by it was led by Saddam Hussain who was the great rival of Iran and fought with Iran for decade. After the US intervention

in Iraq, Saddam Hussein was overthrown because of using Weapons of Mass Destruction. and the government came under Noor-ul-Malik who was Shia himself. and also was supported by Iran. It was a threat for Saudi Arabia because it has immediate borders with Iraq, and Iran got a territorial entry. However Iran start supporting **Mehdi Militia** who were Shia militant groups and are fighting against the Sunni Rivalries. It became a threat for Saudi Arab due to which it start providing weapon & financial aids to Sunni Militant group called **Al-Nusra** who against Iran proxies.

Syria Syria was Sunni dominant country but it was ruled by **Alii Shias**.

- 1, **Hafiz - ul - Asad (1971 - 2000)**
- 2, **Bashar - ul - Asad (2000 - 2024)**

Bashar - ul - Asad was an ally of Iran, but his government was not acceptable by Saudi Arab because of Sunni dominant country. There fore Iran supports Bashar-ul-Asad government, however Saudi Arab

and other GCC countries start supporting Al Nusra Rebels and Free Syrian Army (FSA) against Bashar-w-Asad government. and Iran wants Assad to be in power because of two factors

- ① Iran wants to maintain its Presence in Syria.
- ② Iran wants to enjoy the continuous supply of weapons and aids to Hezbollah through Syria.

Lebanon Lebanon has 65% Sunni Population and 25% Shia Population, but its government run according to Power Inclusivity.

Power Inclusivity

① Prime Minister Must be Sunni

② President will be Christian

③ Speaker will be Shia

Hezbollah, a non state actor have a control on the Southern part of Lebanon, Shia dominated region. And it is so powerful group that government is unable to fight against it, therefore government balance peaceful

relations with Hezbollah.

- Hezbollah are the proxies of Iran, and were fighting for three basic reasons.
- ① They were fighting against Israel.
 - ② This militant group was fighting against Sunni militant groups like Al-Nusra and Free Syrian Army.
 - ③ It has so powerful implication in Lebanon that it also runs the political affairs of the state, as majority of Shia candidates in elections win by the support of Hezbollah.

Yemen 2014. Yemen was facing civil war since 2014. The main militant group **Houthi Rebels** are the proxies of Iran which were fighting against the Mansur Hadi government. However Saudi Arab provide both weapons & financial supplies to Mansur Hadi government to fight against Houthi Rebels. Even Saudi Arab and Mansur government has missionaries from Sudan called Rapid Support Force (RSF) to crack the Houthis down.

Yemen have a very important geo-strategic importance for Saudi Arab, as through its **Gulf of Aden (Bab-al-Mandeb)** 70% of its trade ~~are~~ is affiliated. The more the presence of Iran and its proxies in Yemen, the more will be a threat for Saudi Arab trade.

Implicit Saudi Arabia - Iran Deal 2023

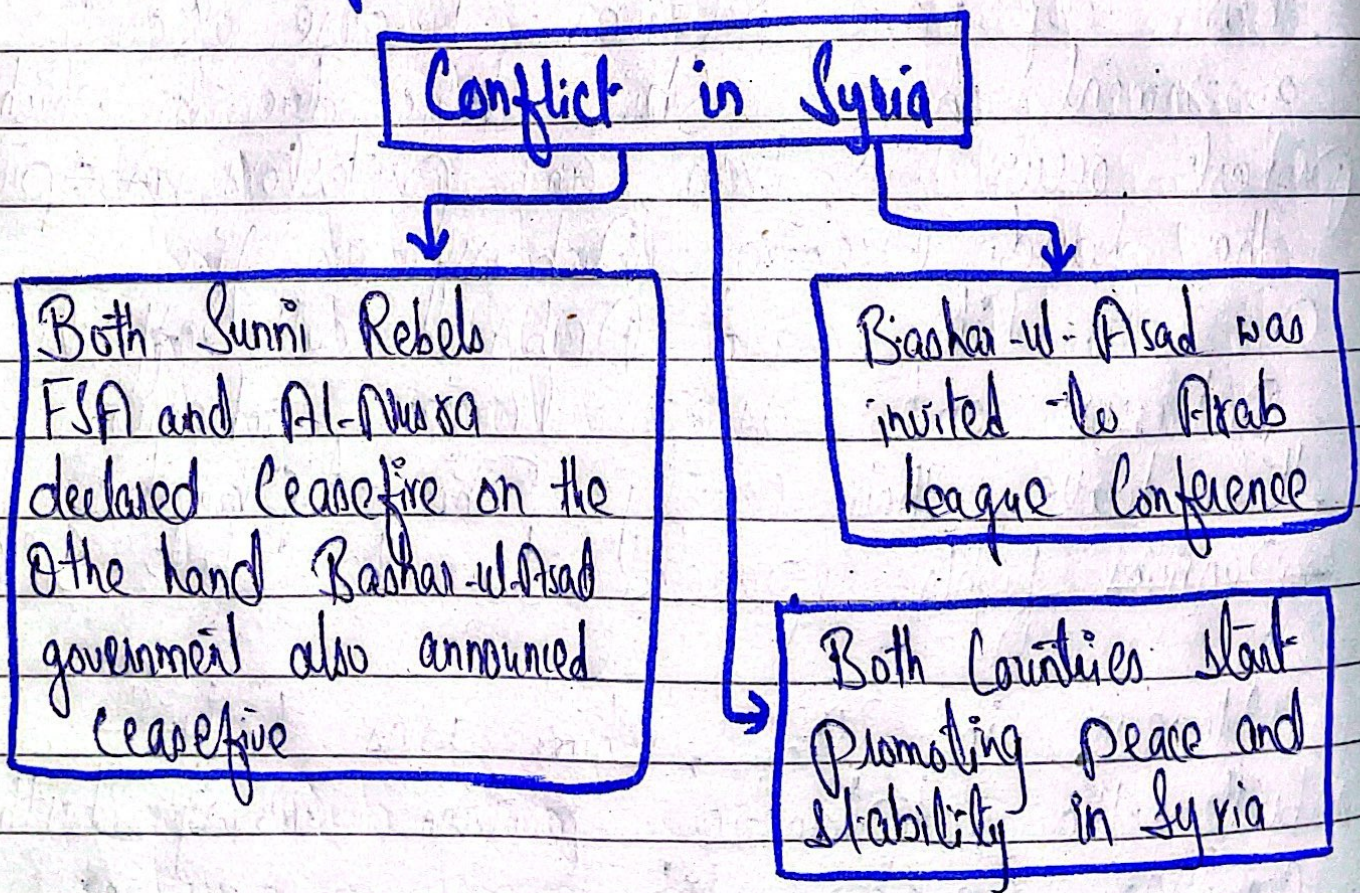
In 2016 Saudi Arabia and Iran cut off their diplomatic relations because Saudi government hanged Shia Cleric, due to which protest occurs in Iran, and protestors set fire the Saudi Arabian Embassy on fire. Due to which Saudi Arabia call off its Ambassadors and asked Iranian ambassadors to leave their country. This diplomatic expansions fights expanded to the whole GCC.

However in 2023, China wins to build rebuild the diplomatic relations among both countries due to which,

- ① Both states announced to reopen their embassies in each other capitals.
- ② King Salman and President of Iran visited each other country by accepting invitations.

- ③ Both countries removed the restrictions on Visa, due to which Iranians ~~can~~ are allowed to perform Hajj in Makkah and Madinah and Saudi residents are allowed to visit Ziarat across Iran.
- ④ Saudi Arabia and Iran also start trade relations with each other.

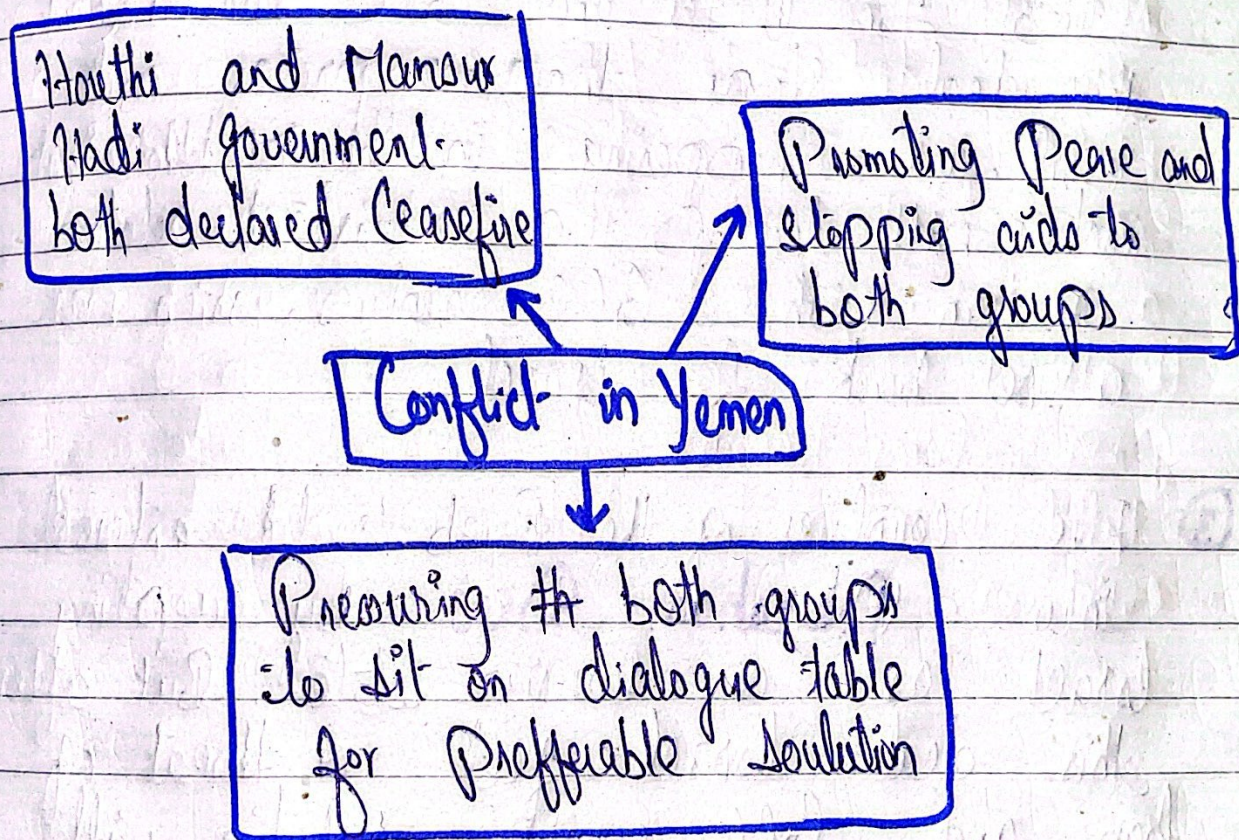
Implications of the deal on the conflicts in Syria



Implications of deal on the Conflicts in Yemen

Houthi Rebels supported by Iran ~~are~~ are

fighting of Saudi Arabia against the government of Hadi. Mansur



Implications on Israel Foreign Policy

- ① Israel always wanted Iran to be isolated, as Iran was a common threat for Israel and middle east countries. When Iran start utilizing Uranium upto 80%, Israel start accusing that Iran is preparing nuclear weapons, and it want to dismantle their nuclear project. But this deal put Iran from isolation.

② Iran support proxies like Houthis in Yemen, Mehdi Militia in Iraq and Hezbollah in Lebanon which was a common threat for Israel and GCC countries. But this deal stops the insurgencies and evil was happening in the Middle East and will develop a co-existent relation of Iran with GCC countries, which was a set back for Israel.

③ Five countries of the Arab world entered into **Abraham Deal**, by accepting Israel as a sovereign state. But after this deal Israel feel a threat of Iran and GCC countries relation will trigger counter its dominancy in the region.

Implication of the deal on Pakistan.

① Saudi-Arab - Iran Conflict is producing sectarianism tension in Pakistan. As many of the Madrasa and Imam Barga are producing Hate Literature which result in a great instability, as both of these groups are producing militant groups.

Groups

Sunni groups

- ① Sipah-e-Sahaba
- ② Lashkar-e-Tahrik

Shia Groups

- ① Sipah-e-Muhammad
- ② Tehreek-e-Jafaria Pakistan

But this deal result in defusing sectarian tensions in Pakistan.

- ② Pakistan Foreign Policy get confusing because if it is not able to be neutral, when it enhanced its relation with Saudi Arabia because of its social, political & religious aspects here will get antagonized and its tilt toward Iran, KLF get antagonized.

But this deal get Pakistan to have a balanced relations with both Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Conclusion

Saudi Arabia and Iran wants their geo-political and geo-strategical importance in the middle east, due to which they support proxies and other militant groups to establish their dominance in these regions. However 2023 Iran-Saudi Arabia deal that was adopted by China, will create a diplomatic relation between these two countries, and they stop supporting their proxies.

both financially and militarily - to stabilize
peace in these countries. These
This deal creates peace and
stability in few countries like Pakistan,
Syria and Yemen from every aspect
Whether it is Political, Social or
Economical, however it will also create
a set back for a country like Israel.
It also creates a major impact on Global
Power Politics, because it allows trade and
bilateral cooperation between Iran and G8
countries.