

Critically analyze the impact of Saudia Arabia, Iran controversy on regional Politics and stability of Middle East. How can this controversy be resolved to maintain peace in the region.

1. Introduction
2. Impact of Saudia, Iran Controversy on Regional Politics.
 - a- Promote separatism b/w Sunni and Shia/Ideological conflicts.
 - b- Economic loss
 - c- Increase in Weaponization and Militarization
 - d- Inactive role in International organizations
 - e- Give rise to conflicts and proxies
 - f- Oil market dynamics
 - g- Intervention of super powers
 - h- Instability
 - i- Security issues due to foreign intervention

Ways to Resolve it :-

1. Diplomatic engagement
 - a- At Islamic organizations
2. Cultural Exchange
3. Regulate tariff free trade

4. Third party mediation
5. De-escalation in Proxy theaters
6. Counter terrorism cooperation

Introduction:-

The decades old Saudi Iranian rivalry has created a downfall in stability of the region. With each government facing domestic pressure, religious sects hyper activities, economic degradation and political imbalance. The rivalry between these two countries has separated the Muslim world into 2 parts on the base of religious sects i.e Sunni and Shia. Because of conflict b/w these two Islamic centres, Muslim world is facing proxy wars and foreign intervention that disturbs the peace of region. Both of the countries want regional hegemony in the Islamic sphere. Beyond political and military powers, the conflict is also fueled by ideological differences. The Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizes a distinct interpretation of Islamic ed governance while Saudia promotes more

traditional and conservative view

Ideological Differences:-

Historically Saudi Arabia, a monarchy and home to the birthplace of Islam, saw itself as the leader of the Muslim world. However it was challenged in 1979 by the Islamic revolution in Iran which created a new type of state in the region, a kind of revolutionary theocracy, that had an explicit goal of exporting this model beyond its own borders. This ideological difference give rise to space and that space is filled by third party which result in serious drawbacks and losses like proxies in neighbouring countries and extremism.

Economic Losses:-

International sanctions have significantly impacted Iran's economy. Estimates suggest that sanctions have led to annual losses up to 60 billion in energy investment and 50 \$

billions lost in oil revenue. Sanctions have also increased import cost by 24% on average, further straining the economy. In Saudi Arabia there is diversity of planning projects and oil sources. But the machinery used in KSA is of America so the profit is of America that they are providing machinery and as a result are taking oil from KSA.

3- Increment in Weapons and Military :-

Saudi Arabia allocates approximately 7.1% of its GDP to defense spending while Iran defense budget is significantly lower because of sanctions and focusing on cost effective strategies. But still Iran has more active personnels in the defense system. Iran mostly focus on Asymmetric warfare techniques.

4. Inactive role in Islamic International Organizations :-

The OIC comprising 57 Muslim countries has aimed to promote unity and cooperation among its members. However its involvement in the Saudi Iranian rivalry has created challenges to its neutrality.

Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC) led by Saudi Arabia to combat terrorism in the Islamic world and Iran is excluded from it. From 2023 GCC hasn't tried to restore to normalize this conflict.

5- Give rise to conflict and Proxies:-

The Middle Eastern region had a long history of sequential authoritarianism, political instability and sectarian disputes. While it continues to be riddled by multi faced issues of violence in distinctive territories, the Iran Saudi rivalry for asserting dominance and religious legitimacy intensifies the complexities of the conflicted region. From 1980-88, the first indication of the proxy war surged in the

Iraq. The chaos of the Arab Spring in 2011 further escalated the scope of interventions to foster support in region. Iran has supported multiple non state actors in Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Yemen and Bahrain. The dual containment policy of the USA and economic sanctions against Iran which is accused of being facilitated by Saudi Arabia.

6 Oil Market Dynamics:-

Geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, particularly involving Iran and Saudi Arabia, have historically caused fluctuations in oil prices.

In May 2025, reports of potential Israeli strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities led to a surge in oil prices, with Brent crude futures increasing by 97 cents to 66.35 dollars per barrel.

Such volatility impacts global markets, influencing inflation and economic stability world wide

Ways to Resolve it :-

1- Diplomatic Engagement:-

A diplomatic engagement strategy to resolve or mitigate the Saudi Arabia Iran conflict would need to be multi-layered, inclusive, and regionally supported, given the deeply rooted path to resolve sectarian, geopolitical, security concerns. Problems should be discussed and resolved at GCC platform. The UN and OIC can offer technical support and international legitimacy. The EU can provide economic incentives and mediation framework.

2- Cultural Exchange.

As both the countries have different ideologies and are central hub of Islam due to historical places of early days of Islam. KSA should allow Iranian to perform Umrah. Scholarships and technical assistances programs ~~based~~ based on technology should be offered by both sides.

3-

Regulate Tariff free trade:-
 Like EU Union & Gulf countries should also promote tariff free trade. This will not only enhance the opportunity of economy but various issues that are root cause of hatred feeling shall be reduced. Middle East is rich in oil resources so this aspect should be utilized to promote harmony and good relations with stable political and economic system.

Third Party Mediation:-

Other Muslim countries and Islamic organizations should participate in removing grudges. China, ~~the~~ Bahrain and Turkey had played a vital role in removing escalations. UN should also take certain measures for maintaining peace in Middle East. Both countries should join the same organizations where they can discuss their issues directly and member states can also help them to achieve stability.

De-escalation in Proxy Theaters-

Proxy wars are the source of political degradation and economic stability.

Iran and KSA are fighting proxy wars with the help of various non state actors.

This not only causes demographic losses but distances are

promoted with hatred feeling.

But in 2023, diplomatic relations between Iran and Saudi

have been restored due to

Chinese-Iraqi brokered talks, which have positive implications

in the political climate of Middle East.

Counter Terrorism Co-operation-

Tehran has spent ~~700~~ 700 million dollar on terrorist groups

including Hizbullah and

Hamas, though its ability to

provide financial support in

2019 was constrained by

crippling US sanctions. Saudi

launched Islamic Military

Counter Terrorism Coalition which

focuses on the current turmoil

in the Middle East.