

Current Affairs Test 3

Q2. INTRODUCTION

Peter Baker wrote in **New York Times** regarding Iran and KSA normalization that it has **'upended US diplomacy in Middle East?'**

KSA - Iran rapprochement is a significant set back for the foreign policy of Israel and the US. The growing China clout in Middle-East is ringing alarm bells for US diplomacy. It symbolizes Biden Administration's decreasing diplomatic footprint in Middle-East. Similarly, Israel's foreign policy too faces potential setbacks due to this normalization. Israel's major foreign policy objective has been the containment of China and the portrayal of China as an antagonist in Middle-East, the root of all conflicts. This normalization ~~also~~ can also have security implications on Israel as it can revive the Arab alliance against Israel, jeopardizing Abraham Accords and the significant strides Israel has made to be recognized in Middle East.

1. NORMALIZATION OF KSA- IRAN RELATIONS, A POTENTIAL SETBACK FOR ISRAEL'S FOREIGN POLICY

The normalization of KSA-Iran relations will have the following setbacks for the foreign policy of Israel,

1. A Setback of Israel's Major Foreign Policy Objective, the Containment of Iran

Israel Foreign Policy Objective \Rightarrow

- Containment of Iran
- Portrayal of Iran as an Antagonist
- Faultlines in Middle-East

Israel's major foreign policy objective has been the containment of Iran

threat. Iran's Axis of Resistance directly threatens Israel and questions its legitimacy. For establishing good relations with Middle-Eastern countries, Israel it is important for Israel to contain Iran.

Iran



Axis of Resistance



Quds Force

Houthi

Hamas

Hezbollah



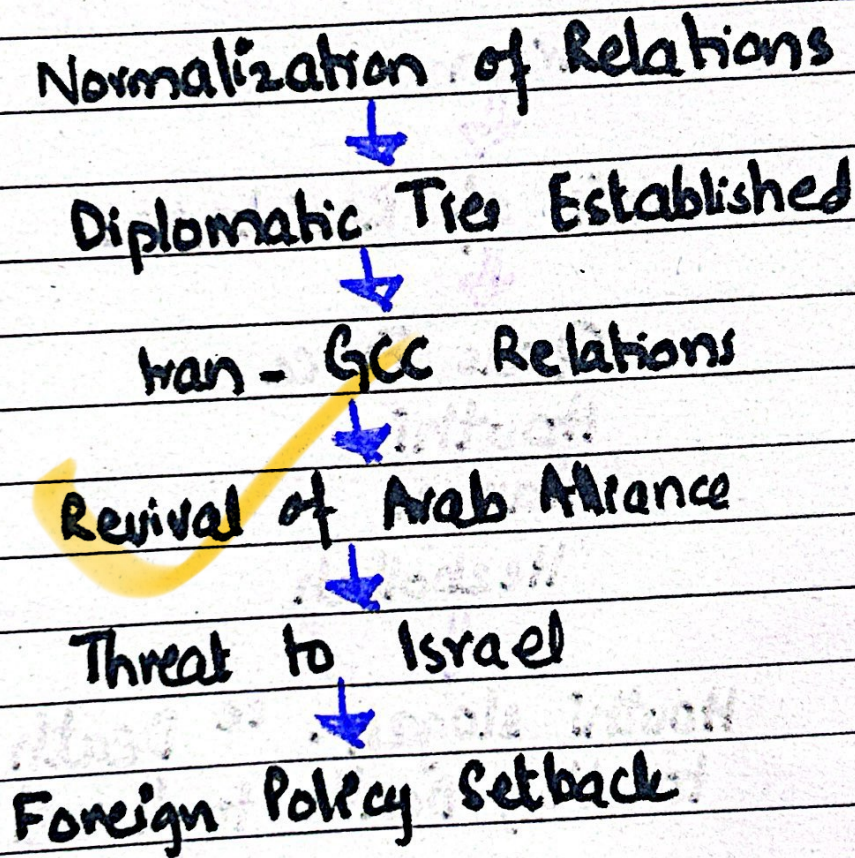
Houthi slogan - "Death to US, Death to Israel"

Iran's Axis of Resistance is a direct threat and must be contained by Israel. The normalization of relations between KSA and Iran is a setback for Israel's foreign policy.

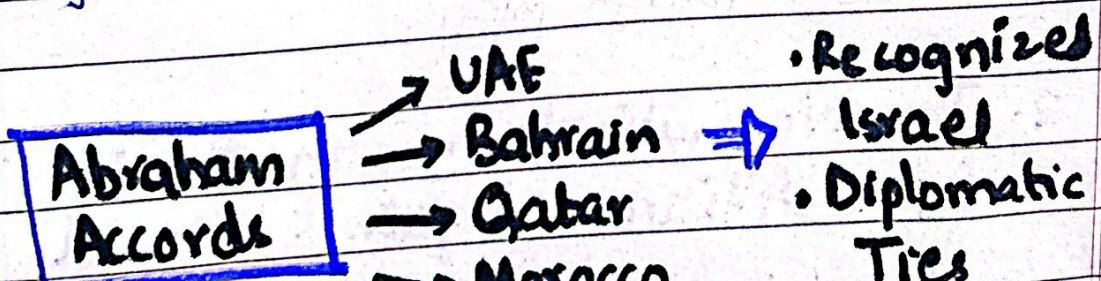
2. The Normalization can Revive Arab Alliance Against Israel

Israel has fought major wars with

Arab countries. The normalization of relations between KSA and Iran can revive the Arab alliance, bringing Muslim countries together. This will be a threat to Israel's territorial integrity and sovereignty.



Thus, the normalization of KSA-Iran relations can jeopardize Abraham Accords and other relations established by Israel in the region.

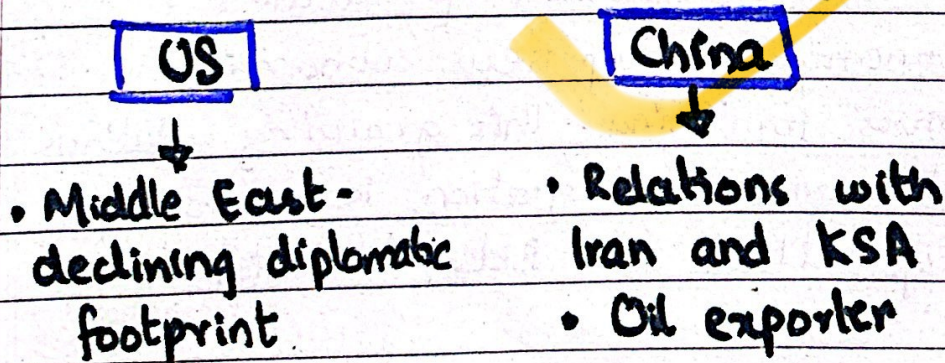


II. KSA-IRAN NORMALIZATION, A POTENTIAL SETBACK FOR US POLICY IN MIDDLE-EAST

KSA-Iran normalization is a setback for US policy in the following ways,

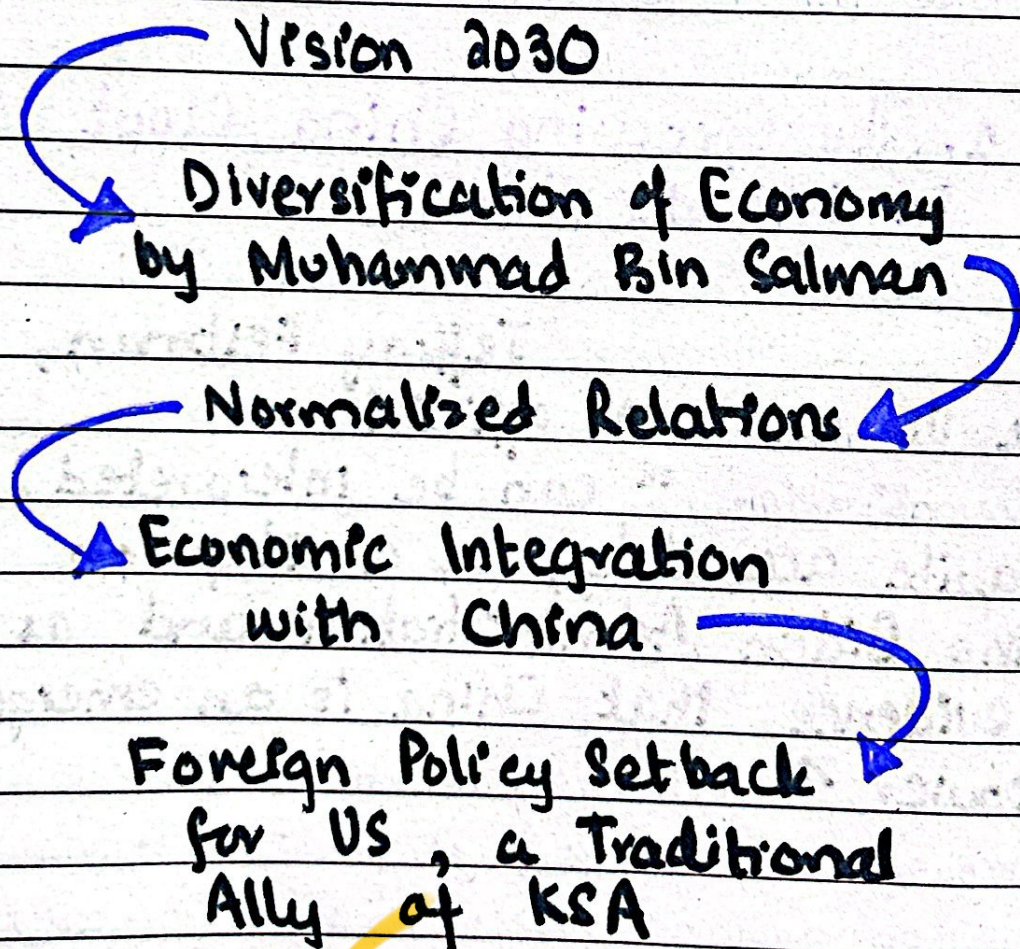
1. The Growing China Clout in Middle East

According to Jeffrey Feltman, a US and UN official, the normalization "can be interpreted, quite accurately, as a slap on the Biden Administration and as evidence that China is an emerging power". This normalization project brokered by China, establishes China as an emerging power with significant clout in Middle-East.



The declining diplomatic footprint of US and the growing clout of China is alarming for US foreign policy.

2. Diversification of KSA Economy under Vision 2030 and Opportunities for China



The diversification of Saudi's economy opens up new economic avenues for China. This growing relations and economic integration is a foreign policy setback for Biden Administration.

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CONCLUSION

Number of arguments are less

The normalization of KSA-Iran relations ~~are~~ would be a setback for US foreign policy and Israel's foreign policy. US foreign policy is losing its footprint in Middle-East. The sway US held over KSA and other Middle-Eastern countries is declining with the emergence of China. While, US provided security guarantees to KSA, China provides investments and economic integration. Similarly, Israel's foreign policy is facing a setback as Iran is normalizing relations with archrival. Israel is threatened by unity within Middle-East and by Iran's Axis of Resistance.

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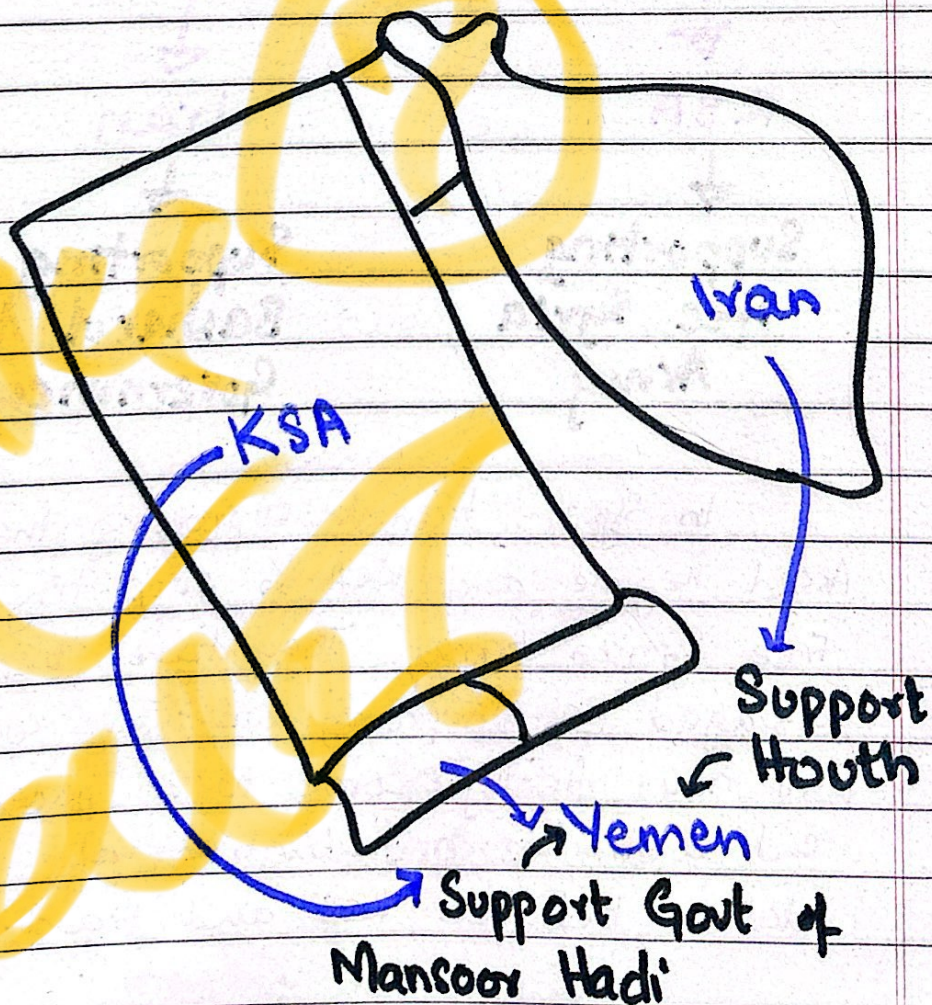
Q3. INTRODUCTION

KSA-Iran rapprochement will not only change dynamics in the Middle East, but will also have positive implications on Pakistan. Middle-East has been engaged in multiple conflicts in different countries. KSA and Iran have been fighting proxy wars in Syria and Yemen. The severe destruction caused in these countries by these conflicts was due to the support of KSA and Iran to proxies. With the normalization of relations, peace will return to Middle-East. KSA and Iran have already withdrawn their forces, bringing an end to these conflicts and destruction. This peace brokered by China will also have far reaching implications on Pakistan. The sectarian conflict in Pakistan ~~and~~ between Sunni and Shia factions can ease tensions. The foreign policy confusions that Pakistan has been facing because of this rivalry can now be resolved. Pakistan can now adopt independent foreign policy and can pursue projects without pressure from one party or the other.

1. THE IMPLICATIONS OF KSA-IRAN RAPPROACHMENT ON CONFLICTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

KSA-Iran rapprochement will have the following implications on conflicts in the Middle East,

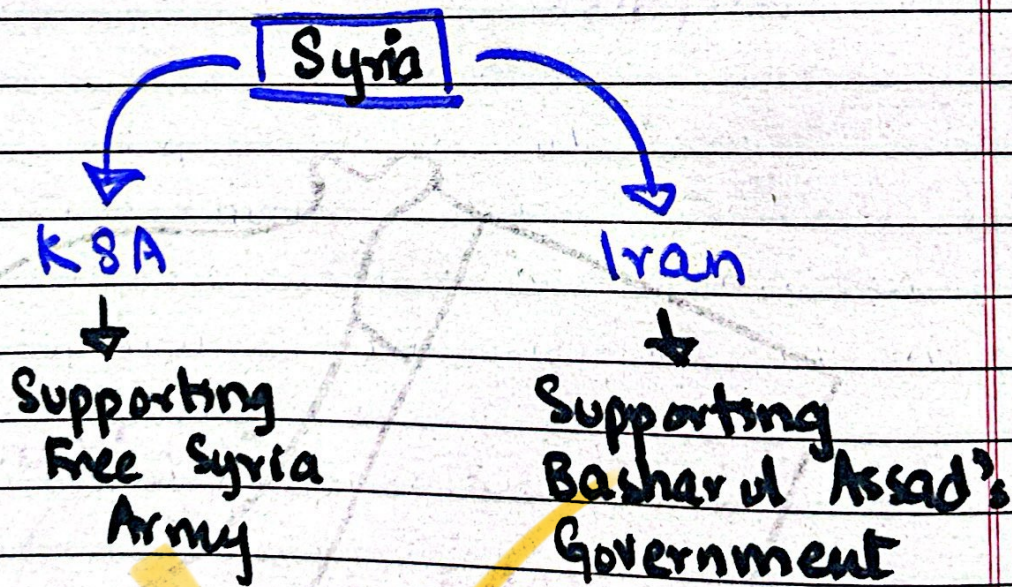
1. Implications for Yemen Conflict



In the Yemen conflict, KSA has supported Mansoor Hadi's government and Iran has supported Houthi rebels.

The normalization of relations between the countries has led to a ceasefire in Yemen as both countries have withdrawn their support.

2. Implications for the Conflict in Syria



In Syria, Iran is supporting the Assad regime and KSA is supporting Free Syria Army. They have been engaged in a proxy war. This conflict will now finally come to a peaceful end with the normalization of relations between KSA and Iran.

11. THE POSITIVE IMPLICATIONS OF KSA-IRAN APPROACHMENT ON PAKISTAN

The implications of normalization between KSA and Iran are as follows,

1. A Easing of Sectarian Tensions in Pakistan

Pakistan has been undergoing a sectarian conflict between Sunni and Shia factions. These tensions can ease and the sectarian warfare can be resolved with the normalization of relations between KSA and Iran.



**Sectarian Outfits
in Pakistan**



Lashkar-e-Jhangvi
Sipah-e-Sahaba
Sipah-e-Muhammad



Easing of Tensions

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The easing of tensions will bring peace and stability to Pakistan.

2. Implications on Foreign Policy of Pakistan

Pakistan Foreign Policy Confusions



- Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline
- Yemen War

During Yemen War Pakistan did not send its troops to Yemen because of its relations with Iran. Pakistan only deployed troops for the protection of Saudi forces.

Similarly, Pakistan has not been able to pursue projects like gas pipeline between Iran and Pakistan due to relations with KSA.

With the normalization of relations between two countries, Pakistan can now revive projects such as Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline and can integrate Chabahar port with Gawader.

Foreign Policy Options for Pakistan



- Revive Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline
- Integrate Chabahar with Gawadar
- Revive railway line between Iran and Pakistan.

This normalization of relations can open new avenues for Pakistan's foreign policy.

CONCLUSION

The Iran-KSA rapprochement has far reaching implications for the entire region. It will bring peace and stability to the region. It will allow Pakistan to pursue an independent foreign policy while maintaining good relations with both countries. This will have far reaching implications for Pakistan.