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7TH TÜRKİYE - GULF DEFENCE AND SECURITY FORUM



New Discoveries
in the Turkish - Arab
Security Ecosystem



Milli Savunma ve Güvenlik Enstitüsü
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“New Discoveries in the Turkish - Arab Security Ecosystem”

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Türkiye-Middle East relations or more specifically Türkiye-GCC relations, in which more strategic dialogue is yet to be developed in a coordinated way despite the common historical and cultural roots, need to be uplifted from a fragile level to a stronger strategic cooperation level that is able to adapt to new balances, new roles and new alliances, which is a necessity rather than an option. Historical facts and state of affairs have long reminded this through a large number of crises, which is a clear picture for a farsighted vision.

Türkiye gained Strategic Partner Status (2008), as the first country outside the region, except the US and the EU. This status implies a high-level regular institutional dialogue embraced by the region's countries, particularly in terms of commercial relations, which is perfectly portrayed by the exponentially increased trade volume.

The search for strategic dialogue, among other factors, based on trust has a significant role in these developments, which have had remarkably positive outcomes for both sides of this bilateral or multilateral relations. The need for “building strategic interdependence and trust” is still an integral part of the relations between Türkiye - Gulf Countries, despite the brotherhood rooted in religion, language, history, geography etc. Acting vigilantly in managing the priorities and divergences between the countries in the region is significant so that they do not become exploited regional vulnerabilities and security gaps, which would only be closed by concentrating more on common risks and opportunities.

Considering the Gulf's geopolitics and geostrategic position, Saudi Arabia-Iran rivalry rooted in the regional and sectarian divergence between Shiite and Sunni, which dates back to the Safavids, is another significant issue.

The impact of Tehran - Riyadh rivalry, which is characterized by a regional power struggle fueled by Iran Islamic Revolution (1979) have been felt by the Middle East region, Gulf countries in particular. The Shiite regime, which is established after the revolution, and the its foreign policy approach underpinned by expansionist strategies have been perceived, by the Gulf or the Arab countries in general, almost as a threat to national security.

The Arab Spring, which started in December 2010, gave further momentum to Iran across the Middle East region and fueled the Shiite-Sunni sectarian tensions in terms of the Gulf countries. The ongoing civil war, including Syria and Yemen, has brought along with it a large variety of geopolitical and geoeconomic problems in terms of the Gulf countries.



The impact of Iran's Shiite-based expansionist and containment policies, following the invasion of Iraq by the US, on Baghdad, Damascus, Beirut and Sana'a has increased the perception of threat to national security among the Gulf countries, Saudi Arabia in particular, and the Arab countries in general. It appears that a regional "alliance belt" in the Middle East region has emerged from the fact that the Shiite Houthis' control over capital city Sana'a and the northern parts of the country.

It appears that a newly emerged explanation model, which is called Ideo-Pragmatic Model (IPM), fits the case perfectly when it comes to understand or explain the security perspectives and foreign policy engagements of authoritarian regimes such as Iran. The country tends to pursue either pragmatic or ideological perspectives, which are often interchangeable depending on the character of the threat to the survival of the state. This model can also be used to analyze the security perspectives and foreign policy engagements of certain countries such as Cuba, North Korea and Venezuela.

The developments witnessed by history over the last decade, which have had the impact that almost equates to those may only felt in a duration of up to a century, represent a milestone for the change in standards for production, consumption, growth and conventional power, as well as security and Defence. Policy scenarios and some exercises for fresh insights into the national/international "immune system" and strategic shift have become a priority issue on the agenda. So, studies/researches and collaborative works together with the Gulf Countries for the "Security/Defence/Space Ecosystem and Strategic Transformation of the Future" represent a priority for an essential balance.

Sub-Themes

New Discoveries in the Turkish - Arab Security Ecosystem

Safe Crescent of Fertility and Balance Partnership

New Threats and Opportunities in the Ecosystem Cyber Security, Food Security, Production-Consumption Security

Cooperation in the Security and Defence Ecosystem of the Future

Defence Industry | Black | Sea | Weather | Space | Police | Gendarme | Intelligence | Strategic Sectors