

## **Articles**

\* Editorial Note/ Seyed Rasoul Mousavi

\* **Theoretical and Factual Bases of the UK Foreign Policy towards Islamic Republic of Iran / Seyed Mahdi Hosseini Matin**

\* **Iran, the Middle East and International Security / Keyhan Barzegar**

\* **The Role of Think-Tanks in Foreign Policy / Seyyed Hamed Razie**

\* **European Union in Emerging International System: Obstacles and Challenges / Houshang Karimi**

\* **Evolution of the European Common Foreign and Security Policy in the Constitutional Treaty / Hamid Zanganeh**

\* **Security of International System in Light of Climate Change / Farshad Roomi**

\* **Gaza Developments in Light of International Humanitarian Law/ Hamid Reza Dehghani Poudeh Report**

**The 16<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Central Asia and the Caucasus**

## **Book Review**

*US Foreign Policy in the Middle East: The Roots of Anti Americanism*

*Japan and China in East Asian Integration*

*Globalization and It's Counter – Forces in Southeast Asia*

## **Theoretical and Factual Bases of the UK Foreign Policy towards Islamic Republic of Iran**

The process of decision making in foreign policy of great and influential states in international politics is a matter of interest for researchers of international studies. Despite the position of the UK in international system and the effects of this country on peripheral space of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the foreign policy of this country has not been as much the subject of research and analysis as the United States. Few researchers have studied the decision making process of the UK foreign policy. The question here is what kind of factors and elements have been shaping the UK foreign policy towards Islamic Republic of Iran in recent years. What is the direction of the UK foreign policy towards Iran? The more we recognize these effective elements accurately, the better we will be able to foresee the foreign policy actions of that country. Recognizing the direction of the UK foreign policy we will be also able to influence on this process.

## **Iran, the Middle East and International Security**

This article aims to study the current place of Iran in security system of the Middle East and international security. The new political, security and geopolitical developments in the Middle East after the September 11 and Iraqi invasion has made the Middle Eastern issues more general, interconnected and international. This has also connected the security system of the Middle East to international security system. The new development has also changed the political and power structure of the region in favor of Iran resulting in strengthening the regional role and bargaining power of the Islamic Republic in the region.

The author believes that increasing Iran's role is due to enjoying a higher geopolitical position as well as cultural and ideological elements of power of the country from one hand and the new political and security developments in the region and emergence of a new definition of the nature of threats for international security from the other. From this view Iran is a point to link the Middle East security to international security. The author concludes that Iran has a good opportunity to strengthen its strategic position in the region.

## **The Role of Think-Tanks in Foreign Policy**

Are there heads of states, prime ministers or ministers in all states who have the capacity to solve the whole problems by themselves? Aren't they in need for advices, prescriptions and analyses to tackle the complicated problems in domestic and external environments? Which group is capable of helping them in confronting the problems? Could governmental groups provide unbiased suggestions? Aren't they attached to the concerns of their parties in providing these suggestions?

The problems and crises are not shaped overnight. There should be pre-arrangements to prevent these challenges. A group of thinkers, political elites and sociologists are needed to make arrangements for a better society. In some countries this kind of think-tanks are established to assess the future threats and efficiently decrease the challenges and crises. This article aims to provide some answers for these questions and study the role of think-tanks in domestic and foreign policy.

### **European Union in Emerging International System: Obstacles and Challenges**

The European Union undoubtedly is one of the most significant and cohesive political-economic complexes in contemporary world. The European Union phenomenon could be interpreted as “Unity in Variety” based on the fact that this integrated community bears fragmentation and centrifugal inclinations and presents a various collection of political, social and cultural units.

During half a century of existence, the European Union has been influenced by different trends and waves. These trends could be categorized at three different levels: The domestic level (national level within member states), regional level (the European level) and international level (world system). The current European Union is in fact a product of these three forces. Aiming at understanding the status of the European Union, its future role and its integration process, we need to emphasize the most important domestic and regional challenges and obstacles in front of it as well as international trends and players affecting this union.

The present article aims to introduce the most important challenges of the European Union in domestic level and the role and influence of the United States on integration process of this union. Finally a more obvious image of the status of the EU and its prospect in international system will be achieved.

### **Evolution of the European Common Foreign and Security Policy in the Constitutional Treaty**

Despite the fact that the Constitutional Treaty was set aside and the Lisbon Treaty is adopted, it is still of importance to assess the subjects enshrined in the Constitutional Treaty. The position of “High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy” of the European Union and correlation and cohesiveness of members of the Union in common foreign and security policy is among the debates of interest for researchers. The text of the Constitutional Treaty includes structural and permanent cooperation in the area of defense and security. This article is aimed at analyzing this matter in detail.

### **Security of International System in Light of Climate Change**

The negative effect of human being on environment has reached to the point that has evolved into a global challenge. The emergence of different aspects of climate change and its implications on earth’s inhabitants has made this

issue as a hot debated subject in diplomatic talks between states and international community. The environmental concerns once a matter of conflict between north and south is nowadays a global concern. Every day we hear something about natural disasters and losses all around the world. The number of the people killed in these disasters has exceeded the number of killed in military conflicts in recent years. This is proving a bitter fact that the human being has raised a brutal enemy which no single individual, government and organization could confront. Threats emerged from global warming while beyond political borders is contributing to instability in the world and threatening international security. There is a great concern that the current system of the world management would not be able to tackle this new challenge.

### **Gaza Developments in Light of International Humanitarian Law**

The present article will take a look at the history of the Israeli occupation of Gaza from 1948 up to 1967 and afterwards and recent developments in this part of the Palestine. The unilateral withdrawal of the Zionist regime from Gaza in 2005, the Palestinian Legislative Council elections, the victory of Hamas, the Mecca Agreement and establishment of national unity government, the emergence of disagreements, Hamas sovereignty over Gaza and the blockade of Gaza will also be analysed. Then the author assesses the political and legal claims of the Zionist regime over Gaza and based on principles of international law in particular international humanitarian law it will assess the obligations of the occupier.

After proving the occupied nature of the Gaza strip, this article examines the continuous breaches of obligations by the Zionist regime as the war crimes and the responsibility of the international community and members and non-members of Geneva conventions.