



2020

Summary of position papers



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



position papers



In issuing (position paper) the center was keen to deal with the accelerating files and events in the Arab region and its surroundings with a dynamic that keeps pace with the speed and magnitude of geopolitical shifts, stampede or internal conflicts. The assessing situation is considered a research paper dealing with an emergency event, or emerging phenomenon, by monitoring its actors, analyzing its motives, and exploring its consequences.



The Future Of The Turkish-Russian Agreement In Idlib

➤ Earlier in March, the Turkish army launched its Operation Spring Shield military operation in Syria. This came on the back of the latest military development in Idlib which saw the killing of a number of Turkish soldiers, and saw the Syrian opposition losing large areas it had previously controlled following rapid advancements of Syrian regime forces in the north-western regions of Syria. The most recent of these areas is the city of Idlib, bordering Turkey, and where the Sochi Agreement has been repeatedly violated – the Syrian regime continues to receive unlimited support and air coverage from Russian forces. This prompted Turkey to escalate with a force that was the strongest of its kind in Syria, and has caused political tension between Turkey and Russia and mobilisation from both parties to display their military capabilities in northern Syria.

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The Effect Of Covid-19 On The Economic Competition Between China And The Us

➤ The coronavirus (COVID19-) emerged in China last December at the height of the trade competition and mutual sanctions between China and the US, specifically in the Wuhan Province - the largest industrial stronghold in China. This caused a significant decline in production and the cessation of many factories and traffic as a result of the measures the authorities imposed in an attempt to limit the spread of the disease and reduce losses. However, they failed to contain it, leading to the spread of the virus to most countries of the world. As of midday, March 2020 ,21, the numbers of those afflicted with COVID19- exceeded a quarter of a million globally, including the US, Europe, and the Arab region and its neighbours, with the number of deaths reaching 284,724 ;11,842 infected; and 93,576 fully recovering.

Covid19- Pandemic prevalence and implications

➤ Three months after its appearance in China last December, Covid19- turned from a crisis specific to China, into a global pandemic, according to the World Health Organization on March 11. Before it was classified as a pandemic, Covid19- had manifested across the globe, in all countries bar 22; and as of April 4, it had caused the death of nearly sixty thousand (58,929) and with more than one million and one hundred thousand cases (1,100,283), with the numbers rising by the minute. The number of deaths is expected to reach hundreds of thousands before any treatment is attained.

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The Effect Of Falling Oil Prices On Top Oil-Producing Countries

➤ On April 20, the prices of US oil contracts for May delivery fell to their lowest level in history, crashing below 0\$ a barrel, in parallel with the drop in available storage spaces globally. This unprecedented predicament is due to the abundance of oil supply that global economies no longer need as a result of the almost complete closure of many airports, ports, factories and companies due to the Covid19- pandemic affecting the world. Indeed, the repercussions of the pandemic have led to a decline in global oil demand to about a third.

Where Will The Libyan Scene Head Following The End Of The Skhirat Agreement?

While the various Libyan parties were occupied with facing the Corona pandemic, and following forces of the Libyan Government of National Accord taking control over important areas that were under Haftar's control, Khaleefa Haftar announced on April 2020 ,27 the dropping of the Skhirat Agreement. He also announced his appointment as sole ruler of Libya with a popular mandate. This came as a surprise for the various parties - both opposition and supportive.

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Political Developments In Yemen After The Transitional Council Announced Self-Administration In Aden

Motivation And Prospects

➤ The Southern Transitional Council (STC), on Saturday 25 April 2020, announced self-administration and declared a state of emergency across South Yemen, most notably in Aden, the interim capital of the Republic of Yemen. This was followed by measures confirming it was progressing in its steps aimed at dividing Yemen.

Russian Interventions In Libya And Us Threats

motives and limitations of influence

➤ On May 2020 ,26, Commander of the US Africa Command, Stephen Townsend, announced that Russia had sent fighters to Libya to support the forces of Khalifa Haftar. The announcement claimed that the fighters left Russia for Syria first, where they were repainted to disguise their Russian origin, before heading to Libya.

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Us Protests And The Impact On President Trump's Popularity

➤ Since May 25, many US cities have witnessed major protests with an unprecedented momentum. This followed the killing of US citizen George Floyd at the hands of an American officer with racist motives.

Iran's bombings

motives and outcomes

➤ The Iranian sphere has been experiencing a new kind of war. Since June 25, Iran has witnessed successive bombings of a number of factories and military institutions, causing significant damage, the results of which are still unknown to the public in light of the secrecy of official state media.

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Beirut Explosion And Its Repercussions On Lebanon

➤ Beirut witnessed an explosion the size of which is unprecedented in Lebanon's modern history. This occurred when 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate, which had been stored in Beirut's port since 2014, caused an explosion that extended to at least seven to eight kilometres, with a seismic energy equivalent to 4,5 degrees on the Richter scale, according to Jordanian earthquake monitoring stations that recorded the explosion at 18:08 on that fateful day.

Scopes And Consequences Of The Turkish-Greek Dispute

➤ Tension returned between Turkey and Greece regarding natural gas reserves in the Eastern Mediterranean. The dispute restarted following the signing of the border agreement between Greece and Egypt on August 6, in which Turkey saw a flagrant violation of its continental shelf. This prompted it to announce the return of its drilling expeditions in the Mediterranean, which had stopped temporarily following German and European mediation.

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French Advances In The Region

Motives And Dimensions

France's moves in the region have hastened significantly in recent years. To preserve its position as an influential actor in the region, not only did it provide various types of support for Haftar's forces in Libya, but it also showed remarkable presence in the Lebanese file, where it was one of the first countries that rushed to visit Beirut after the explosion that destroyed the city's port in early August 2020. These acts are attempts to impose political and economic agendas that are seen as part of its efforts to employ the region's files in order to revitalise its declining role in the Middle East, especially in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Impact Of Us Election Results On The Arab Region And Its Neighbourhood

➤ On November 2020 ,3, the most important elections in the world will take place, where Americans will elect the President of the United States of America. Whilst record numbers registered to participate early in the voting processes across the states, electoral campaigns for the two candidates - Republican President Donald Trump and his Democratic rival, Joe Biden - intensified ahead of the elections to gain votes.

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A Reflection Of Biden'S Victory On The Gulf

Following the presidential victory by the Democratic candidate, Joe Biden, it seems that the Gulf states will witness several changes in various files, be it related to their domestic affairs or to their regional relations. The previous US administration, led by former President Donald Trump, had represented a turning point for countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) because Trump clearly sought to serve his allies in the region by reducing and blocking Iranian influence. He did this by withdrawing the US from the Iran Nuclear Deal in 2018, as well as imposing economic sanctions. Indeed, the Gulf crisis has hit the Gulf system politically, socially and even on a security level, leaving the door open for Iranian influence for the upcoming stage, particularly because the Peninsula Shield Force of the GCC is no longer able to confront any common enemy from outside the region.

The Future Of Normalisation With Israel Under Joe Biden

➤ The fourth and final year of Donald Trump's presidency of the US saw a wave of Arab regimes normalising with the Israeli occupation. The normalisation project was led by the UAE and Bahrain, as well as the new leadership in Sudan. The Egyptian and Omani regimes welcomed the normalisation of relations, while Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia refused to join. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia mandated Israel's approval of the establishment of a Palestinian state before making a move.

Despite Trump's loss in the presidential elections and the victory of his opponent, Joe Biden, the normalisation project continues, including a visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bahrain, Abdul Latif Al-Zayani, to Tel Aviv on November 2020 ,18.

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The Future Of Iran In The Arab Region Under Biden'S Rule

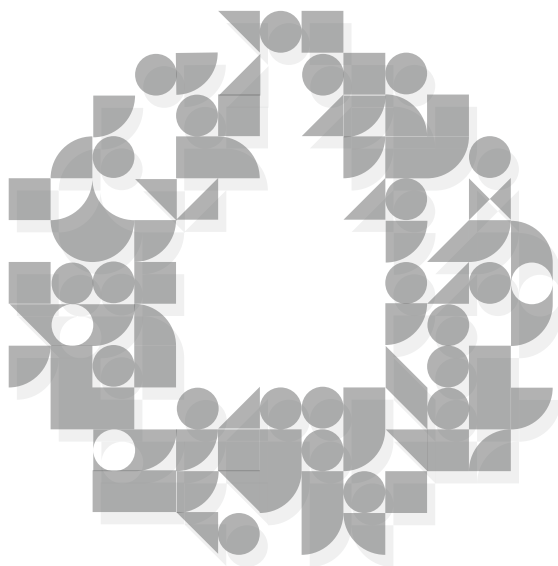
Iran is looking forward to resuming negotiations with US President-elect Joe Biden on its nuclear program and other files. Similarly, it looks forward to the lifting of economic sanctions after facing four years of pressure during the term of US President Donald Trump, whilst Arab countries affected by Iran's policies looked on, awaiting developments in US policy towards Iran. These are expected to be reflected on the nature of Iran's presence in the Arab region, especially in western Asia. This assessment of the situation deals with the nature of Iran's presence in the Arab region and the relationship with its strategy. It also examines potential scenarios for Iran's presence under Biden's rule.

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Gulf reconciliation and its implications for the region

➤ Dialogue resumed about nearing a Gulf reconciliation after Kuwaiti Foreign Minister, Ahmed Nasser al-Muhammad al-Sabah, announced on Friday 4 December that his country's efforts, in collaboration with Donald Trump's Administration, culminated in the proximity of a Gulf reconciliation, as "fruitful discussions took place". The announcement was met with congratulatory responses, regionally and internationally, for the mediation efforts aimed to resolve a crisis that has affected many of the region's files. Meanwhile, the responses of the countries concerned with the reconciliation were conservatively welcomed. of senior adviser to the US President, Jared Kushner, to Doha, the visit of the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister to Egypt, and several days passing by, no serious indications emerged, with the exception of some statements of an improvement in the relations between the Gulf countries at a bilateral or collective level. There was very little media and political preparation for a reconciliation.



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