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**The Impact of Arab Lobby on the US National Interests in the
Middle East: The Case of Oil Supplies**

**Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for
Master's Degree in Literature and Civilization**

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Dedication

I dedicate my work to:

My mother, whose unwavering love, sacrifices, and guidance have shaped me into the person we are today;

My father, may Allah rest him in peace, whose guidance, love, and wisdom continues to inspire, even in his absence;

My dear husband, who supports me. Every word in this research reflects your presence by my side and your faith in me;

My little son, Ahmed, I hope this dissertation serves as a motivation for you to achieve your dreams and aspirations;

My dear sisters and brothers each by name.

Ouarda

I dedicate our work to;

My parents for their eternal love and unwavering support, the greatest asset in our lives.

My supportive siblings, dear sisters and brothers each by name,

To everyone, who has gladdened with supporting the fulfilment of tasks, which I was encountering during the dissertation.

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Abstract

This dissertation examines the impact of the Arab Lobby on U.S. national interests in the Middle East, with a specific focus on the case of oil supplies. The study seeks to analyse the strategies and influence of the Arab Lobby in shaping U.S. policies towards the Middle East, particularly in relation to the region's oil resources. This research employs qualitative research. It opts for historical and descriptive methods. The findings of this study shows that The Arab lobby, notably the Saudi lobby, influences U.S. oil policy through financial backing, lobbying efforts, and strategic alliances, as seen in the AWACS deal. Employing a multifaceted strategy, the Arab community influences U.S. interests in the Middle East by engaging in negotiations, utilising top lobbyists, and launching PR campaigns, exemplified in the Dubai Ports deal. Utilising diverse tactics such as grassroots mobilization and media campaigns, the Arab lobby aims to garner public and political support, enhance Arab states' image, and access policymakers to advance regional interests.

Keywords: Arab Lobby, Energy Security ,Foreign Policy ,Middle East, Oil Supplies ,U.S. National interests.

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

ABSCAM	Abscam, an FBI sting operation
AWACS	Airborne Warning and Control System
ABA	American Bar Association.
AIPAC	American Israel Public Affairs Committee
APSA	American Political Science Association.
AAI	Arab American Institute.
CFIUS	Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States
DP	Dubai International Ports
EEAS	European External Action Service.
EU	European Union.
F-15	F-15 aircraft deal
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
NGOs	Non-governmental organizations.
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.
OPEC	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
P&O	Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Company

UAE	United Arab Emirates
WMDs	Weapons of Mass Destructions.

Table of Contents

Dedication.....	I
Acknowledgements.....	II
Abstract	III
List of Abbreviations and Acronyms	IV
Table of Contents	VI
General Introduction	1
 Chapter One: The Arab Lobby; Historical and Theoretical Overview	
Introduction	7
1.1 Definition of Lobbying.....	7
1.2 The Role of Lobbying	9
1.3 Characteristics of Lobbying Groups	12
1.4 Definition and Conceptualization of the Arab Lobby	13
1.4.1 The Objectives of the Arab Lobby	14
1.4.2 Strategies of the Arab Lobby	16
1.5 The Influence of the Arab Lobby on Policy and Decision-Making	19
Conclusion.....	21

Chapter Two: U.S. National Interests in the Middle East: Overview

Introduction	22
2.1 Definition of National Interests	22
2.2 U.S. National Interests in the Middle East	24
2.2.1 Historical Evolution of U.S. Interests in the Region	26
2.2. U.S National Interests in International Relation	29
2.3 The Part of Oil Supplies in U.S. National Interface	30
2.4 Key Variables Affecting U.S. Outside Arrangement Within the Center East	31
2.4.1 Security Considerations and Geopolitical Dynamics	31
2.4.2 Historical Context.	33
2.4.3 Geopolitical Considerations.....	33
2.4.4 Geopolitical Aspects	34
2.4.5 Economic Interests	34
2.4.6 Diplomatic Alliances and Regional Dynamics	35
Conclusion.....	35

Chapter Three: Shaping Middle Eastern Geopolitics: The Impact of the Arab Lobby on US National Interests in Oil Supplies

Introduction	39
3.1 The Influence of the Saudi Arabia Lobby (The sale of AWACS aircraft to Saudi Arabi	39

3.1.1. Saudi Lobby vs. AWACS Deal Controversy.....	40
3.1.2 Strategies of the Saudi Arabian Lobby in Advancing Arab Oil Interests	42
3.1.3 Saudi’s Lobby Success Factors	46
3.2 The influence of the UAE lobby (Dubai International Ports).....	46
3.2.1 Accusations against the United Arab Emirates and Dubai	48
3.2.2 Lobbying Tactics of the UAE for Securing Management Deals in the US	50
3.2.2.1 Hiring Influential Lobbyists.....	50
3.2.2.1Employing Prominent Lobbying Firms	50
3.2.2.3 Leveraging Strategic Partnerships	50
3.3 The impact of Arab Lobbies on U.S. Decision-Making processes the Middle East	51
3.3.1 Influence on Oil Production Policies.....	52
3.3.2 Support for Strategic Cooperation.....	53
3.3.3 Influence on Production and Export Decisions.....	53
3.3.4 Supporting Regional Stability.....	54
3.3.5 Influence on Diplomatic Relations.....	54
Conclusion.....	55
General conclusion.....	56
References	58
المخلص.....	68

General Introduction

1. Background of the Study	1
2. Statement of the Problem	1
3. Research Questions	3
4. Research Hypothesis	3
5. Research Aim	3
6. Research Methodology	4
7. Significance of the Study	4
8. Research Structure	4

General Introduction

1. Background of the Study

The Middle East has been an area of interest for the United States (U.S) due to the fact that it is known for having vast oil reserves and geopolitical importance. The U.S. policy towards this region has largely been affected by the Arab Lobby that comprises of individual interests and pressure groups that promote Arab concerns. In order to comprehend how much oil is provided to them by the Arabs in comparison with other nations at large, American politicians need an awareness about what national interests means in relation to America's dependence on foreign energy supplies.

The U.S national interests in the Middle East affected by the Arab Lobby have been hotly debated and controversial. They argue that this lobby serves as a vital bridge between America and Arab nations, promoting diplomacy, trade partnership, and empathy among them. On the other hand, adversaries claim that this groups carries too much weight on US external affairs by putting more focus on what is good for Arabs than what is strategically important to Americans. Therefore, through investigating into its lobbying activities, political affiliations as well as policy advocacy; this research seeks to shed light on intricate procedures of American involvement in the middle east and their impacts on oil supply (Johson 2020).

To grasp the Arab Lobby's sway over American national interests in the Middle East, we should particularly consider the subject of oil supplies. As the biggest user of oil globally, America has a valid concern in ensuring reliable and sustainable energy supply from that region. The U.S energy security, economic stability and geopolitical clout could all be affected by what

this group advocates for regarding oil production levels, prices or distribution channels; it may therefore have implications far beyond just these areas.

El-khatib (2016) conducted a study that delved into how the Arab Lobby influences U.S interests, in the Middle East. The findings indicated that the Arab Lobby holds sway over U.S policies especially concerning oil resources. Through lobbying endeavors and strategic partnerships, the Arab Lobby has successfully influenced U.S policy to safeguard their oil related concerns in that region.

Moreover, Arab Gulf states will effectively lobby the United States administration. It investigates characteristics of their lobbying behavior in order to uncover the factors that contribute to success and failure in their lobbying efforts. In this regard, it employs two case studies: one in which Arab Gulf state lobbying was effective and the other in which lobbying failed. For each case study, the many parts of lobbying are examined, and variables that contribute to both success and failure are deduced. In addition to an examination of the strategies, or lack thereof, underlying Arab Gulf states' lobbying, the study investigates other relevant factors such as the organization and activism of the US Arab American community, the strategic value of the Arab Gulf to the United States, and the negative image of Arabs in America. The study examines the challenges of establishing an effective Arab Gulf lobby in the United States, including the lack of a grassroots base of Arab Americans dedicated to foreign policy problems

2. Statement of the Problem

The issue covered in this study is the Arab Lobby's influence on U.S national interests in the Middle East, particularly in terms of oil supply. The Arab Lobby's impact on U.S foreign

policy, as well as the consequences for regional oil supply stability and security, is a major source of worry. Understanding how the Arab Lobby influences U.S policy toward the Middle East, particularly in terms of oil, is critical for politicians, academics, and energy industry players. Thus, this research envisages the role of Arab lobby in affecting U.S regarding oil supplies.

3. Research Questions

The current study asks the following questions:

1. How does the Arab lobby influence the U.S. foreign policy regarding oil supplies?
2. What are the tactics does the Arab lobby use to shape U.S. policies related to oil in the Middle East?
- 3.. How has U.S national interest been affected regarding oil supplies?

4. Research Hypothesis

The hypotheses of the present research are formulated as follows:

- 1- The Arab lobby may impact U.S. foreign policy through financial contributions and strategic alliances.
- 2- The Arab lobby employs several tactics to shape U.S. policies related to oil in the Middle East.

5. Research Aims

This study evaluates the impact of the Arab Lobby on American national interests in the Middle East focusing on oil supply. It sets out to critically examine how such impact has

influenced U.S policies regarding oil supply within this region. It presents the relationship between Arab Lobby and U.S policies in the Middle East.

6. Research Methodology

This research employs a qualitative approach, utilizing historical methods to collect data on the Arab lobby in America and American interests in the Middle East. Additionally, a descriptive analysis is applied to real case studies to explore the connections between the Arab lobby and U.S. foreign policy. Data collection involves a thorough review of pertinent literature, official documents, and scholarly articles. Rigorous analysis of these findings aims to yield meaningful insights into the research questions, contributing to a nuanced understanding of the subject matter.

7. Significance of the Study

Beyond academic discourse is significantly important through shedding light upon the role of the Arab lobby in U.S and how can it be powerful in affecting the American national interest concerning oil. By unravelling the complexities of lobbying dynamics, the research aspires to provide valuable insights that can inform strategic decision-making, foster diplomatic relations, and contribute to the broader discourse on global energy security.

8. Research Structure

The dissertation has three different chapters, each of which concentrates on various aspects of the study topic. The first chapter “The Arab Lobby: Historical and theoretical Overview”, examines the historical backdrop as well as theoretical underpinnings of the Arab Lobby. This chapter is intended to give a complete understanding of the Arab Lobby’s origin, growth and influence within United States.

In "US National Interests in the Middle East: Overview," the second Chapter considers broader U.S national interests, and it examines the country's political, economic and strategic positions in this region in order to determine how these goals are affected by the Arab Lobby.

The Third section is entitled "Shaping Middle Eastern Geopolitics: The Impact of the Arab Lobby on US National Interests in Oil Supplies". It examines how much controls over securing such supplies have been relinquished by American Petroleum Importing Countries to these organizations. It will examine various lobbying efforts and their effects upon certain U.S. government policies concerning oil supplies including cases illustrating the actual strength of this lobby.

CHAPTER ONE

The Arab Lobby: Historical and Theoretical Overview

Chapter One: The Arab Lobby; Historical and Theoretical Overview

Introduction	7
1.1 Definition of Lobbying.....	7

1.2 The Role of Lobbying	9
1.3 Characteristics of Lobbying Groups	12
1.4 Definition and Conceptualization of the Arab Lobby	13
1.4.1 The Objectives of the Arab Lobby	14
1.4.2 Strategies of the Arab Lobby	16
1.5 The Influence of the Arab Lobby on Policy and Decision-Making	19
Conclusion.....	21

Introduction

This chapter aims to give a thorough assessment of lobbying in the context of international affairs, with a particular emphasis on the Arab Lobby. The chapter starts by defining lobbying and discussing its role in affecting international relations. It is then discussing the features of lobby groups before defining and conceptualizing the Arab Lobby, including its goals and techniques. Finally, it evaluates the Arab Lobby's effect on policy and decision-making processes. By studying these factors, this chapter hopes to give a thorough knowledge of how lobbying, particularly in the context of the Arab Lobby, influences international politics.

1.1 Definition of Lobbying

Luneburg et al. (2009) delineate lobbying as a purposeful and well-prepared endeavour undertaken by individuals or businesses to sway the decisions, policies, or laws of governmental authorities in consonance with their vested interests. This intricate process involves direct interaction with government officials comprising legislators or personnel from regulatory agencies with the intent to bolster, champion, influence, or contest specific matters under governmental contemplation.

Furthermore, Coen and Richardson (2009) add that the scope of lobbying extends across a broad spectrum of activities, encompassing the dissemination of information, the conduct of research, the delivery of presentations, and active participation in discussions aim at shaping the outcomes of public policy. It constitutes a strategic methodology through which stakeholders endeavour to influence the decision-making mechanisms of governmental bodies by articulating their viewpoints, concerns, and recommendations. Globally, lobbying practices exhibit divergence from one nation to another and from region to region due to distinctive legal

frameworks, cultural norms, and political systems. The academic exploration of this subject remains a continuous endeavour.

According to Smith (2023), lobbying stands as a vital linchpin within the intricate machinery of our democratic process, affording a diverse chorus of stakeholders the agency to echo their perspectives in pivotal government decisions. Through the nuanced artistry of communication, meticulous research endeavours, and the orchestrated mobilization of public sentiment, lobbyists emerge as architects of influence, delicately shaping the contours of the political agenda while fervently championing the causes and interests that entrust them with advocacy.

According to Berry (2015), what bestows lobbying with an unparalleled prowess in the realm of political participation is its inherent capability to coalesce around specific issues or causes. In the hands of adept practitioners, the cultivation of symbiotic relationships with policymakers and key decision-makers metamorphoses into a potent force, conjuring a swell of support that commands attention, resilience, and, more often than not, results that reverberate beyond the confines of discourse.

Godwin et al. (2012) state that the lobbying ethical underpinnings cast a long shadow. The transparency and accountability demand of lobbyists serve as a societal test. It ensures that the influence adheres to the principles of fairness and impartiality. The mismanaged influence has the potential to erode public trust in our foundational institutions and jeopardize the democratic integrity.

In the present landscape, rife with the polarities of political discourse, lobbying assumes an elevated mantle in fostering not just dialogue but a semblance of common ground. Amidst the

cacophony of divergent perspectives, lobbyists emerge as catalysts, coaxing collaborative efforts among stakeholders, weaving bridges across ideological divides, and sculpting solutions that, ideally, transcend partisan boundaries (Godwin et al., 2013).

In summation, lobbying is not merely a cog in the democratic wheel; it is the subtle yet powerful architect, crafting the interplay between governance and the myriad voices that clamour for representation. In navigating this intricate change, adherence to ethical principles ensures that the echoes of these voices resonate authentically within the corridors of power, safeguarding the democratic ideal and perpetuating a discourse that genuinely serves the collective welfare.

1.2 Role of Lobbying

Lobbying assumes a distinctive role within the international landscape, wielding considerable influence over decision-making processes concerning policies and asset interests. Holyoke (2018) claims that it serves as a communication conduit, facilitating dialogues between governments, organizations, and various stakeholders. While operating as a pivotal mechanism, lobbying stands among the foremost processes in international relations, where entities advocating specific issues engage in agenda promotion, agreement negotiation, and the collective pursuit of resolving global challenges. This part endeavours to scrutinize lobbying as a paramount determinant in international relations, aiming to unravel its pervasive influence across diplomatic, security, trade, and global governance domains. The exploration seeks to elucidate the multifaceted impact of lobbying, ultimately contributing to an enhanced understanding of how nations can effectively navigate and sustain competitiveness within the contemporary international relations paradigm.

Jordan and Maloney (2007) add that the role of lobbying in international relations is of paramount importance, serving as a conduit through which policymakers gain crucial insights into the multifaceted challenges confronting their respective sectors. Private entities, contributing expertise, research, and analytical perspectives on global issues, present a valuable resource for governments navigating the intricate landscape of international affairs. By leveraging lobbying initiatives initiated by private entities, governments may find themselves better equipped to address the complexities inherent in global affairs. This collaboration facilitates not only informed decision-making but also empowers decision-makers to comprehend the potential adverse repercussions of their policy actions, fostering choices conducive to global progress.

Moreover, lobbying assumes a dual function as a tool for dialogue and coordination among actors in the international arena. This engenders the formation of diverse interest groups and parties, where lobbyists often serve as intermediaries between governments, intergovernmental bodies, the private sector, and civil society on shared concerns. The influence of lobbyists extends not only within the realms of policy advocacy, but also it catalyses cooperation and consensus-building among all stakeholders involve. Accordingly, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a pivotal role in forging partnerships that address global challenges such human rights abuses and economic development (IBP, 2019).

El Khatib (2016) underscores lobbying as a fundamental element in the intricate process of political decision-making, positioning it as a vital agent within the democratic framework. From an international vantage point, lobbying emerges as a strategic tool employed by diverse actors seeking to engage with foreign state governments and sway the trajectory of events to align with their respective agendas. Establishing contacts and relationships with influential decision-makers

allow lobbying groups to adeptly advocate for policies that mirror their group's interests and priorities.

In the realm of international relationships, Bertrand et al. (2014) say that prioritizing research and strategic planning is paramount, as these serve as foundational pillars for successful lobbying endeavours. A comprehensive grasp of the political landscape, identification of key stakeholders, and vigilant monitoring of public perceptions are essential components in devising potent lobbying strategies. El Khatib (2016) notes that resources such as data from the American politics research centre, encompassing political dynamics and statistics, serve as invaluable assets for strategic planning and decision-making success.

Integral to international diplomacy, Weiler and Brändli (2015) assume that lobbying contributes to bridging cultural cleavages and fostering goodwill between nations. Involvement of foreign embassies and heritage groups facilitates the creation of forums that enable constructive discussions and mutual understanding among diverse societies. Engaging in overseas initiatives, particularly in establishing political and diplomatic relations, enables countries to strengthen and solidify their ties.

Klingelhöfer (2018) says that the establishment of lobbying organizations as 501(c)(4) entities offers a platform for advocating democracy, curbing extremism, and promoting mutual respect among nations. This strategic alliance provides a cohesive platform for like-minded organizations to amplify their voices and implement shared values on an international scale.

In summary, lobbying harnesses international relations as a means to facilitate dialogue, exert influence on countries, and foster cooperation among diverse populations. Through sustained intervention, concrete policy initiatives, and collaborative projects, legislative efforts

within the realm of lobbying contribute to building a more integrated and peaceful international community.

Within the domain of trade and commerce, lobbying exerts substantial influence, particularly in shaping the rules of trade agreements, regulations, and market access. Industry competitors, their associations, and unions actively engage in lobbying efforts to garner support for provisions aim at dismantling trade barriers, enhancing market conditions, and promoting domestic interests. The active participation of stakeholders in lobbying endeavors during trade negotiations empowers them to shape trade policies, further economic interests, and extend the reach of their trade initiatives on a global scale. The strategic deployment of lobbying in trade and commerce emerges as a dynamic force, influencing the trajectory of international trade policies and fostering a nuance interplay of economic interests at the global level.

1.3 Characteristics of Lobbying Groups

Lobby corporations, alternatively known as interest or pressure groups, exhibit distinctive characteristics that mold their role and impact within the political landscape. Drawing upon extensive international scholarly research, this section provides an in-depth exploration of these defining traits.

As asserted by Smith (2010), a hallmark of lobby corporations lies in their focused agenda, which revolves around influencing governmental decisions, policies, or regulations to align with their vested interests or causes. Moreover, Jordan and Maloney (2007) emphasize the structured nature of these entities, possessing formal hierarchies, memberships, and operational frameworks that facilitate effective coordination of their endeavours.

Beyer (2004) underscores the centrality of advocacy and influence within lobby corporations. It encompasses a myriad of strategies remarkably: direct lobbying, public campaigns and media engagement. These strategies sway decision-makers. Furthermore, Halpin and Fraussen (2019) highlight the diverse composition of membership within lobby corporations. They argue that the membership should comprise heterogeneous entities such as businesses, non-profit organizations, and advocacy groups. This diversity enables lobby corporations to advocate for different issues. Thus, the concept of lobbying reflects the multifaceted nature of modern governance.

Additionally, Walker (1991) emphasizes the strategic allocation of resources as a critical aspect of lobby corporations' modus operandi. These entities deploy funding, expertise, and networks for bolstering their advocacy efforts and maximize impact. In essence, these characteristics delineate the essence and modus operandi of lobby corporations, underscoring their pivotal role in shaping the democratic process and policymaking realm.

1.4 Definition and Conceptualization of the Arab Lobby

The term "Arab Lobby" denotes the collective endeavours of individuals, organizations, and interest groups to influence the government's policies and decisions; particularly those of Western nations, with regard to the Arab world. In fact, it promotes these interests and agendas of Arab governments while addressing the concerns of Arab citizens regarding: human rights, political stability, and economic advancement. Therefore, Arab lobby employs various tactics such as advocacy, public relations, and financial contributions to political campaigns. Thus, the Arab Lobby manifests as an intricate phenomenon necessitating thorough examination and understanding to comprehend its impact on international relations.

The notion of the Arab Lobby garner attention in academic and policy circles in recent years. It reflects the increasing influence of Arab states and their allies over Western governments. Nakhla (2009) assert that the term "lobby" denotes organized groups who sway government decisions in specific areas of interest. This happens typically through direct engagement with politicians, public outreach, and other forms of advocacy. The Arab Lobby influences policies which affect the Arab world. Some of these are security cooperation, trade alliances, and diplomatic endeavours.

Wong (2006) defines the Arab Lobby as a collective term that coordinate efforts of individuals, groups, and organizations within the Arab-American community to influence U.S. policies and decisions which affect Arab interests, both domestically and internationally. These lobbying efforts include advocating for human rights, international aid, trade agreements, and Middle East peace talks.

1.4.1 The Objectives of the Arab Lobby

The Arab lobby has numerous of strategic goals and objectives. Aber and Jamal (2008) outline that the Arab lobbyists encourage peaceful solutions to conflicts in the Middle East; advocate for human rights and democracy in Arab countries and address critical issues. Consequently, this lobby aim is to promote the U.S foreign policy costiveness towards Arab world. Accordingly, the U.S. policymakers may consider the perspectives and concerns of the Arab world when making foreign policy decisions.

Additionally, Jones (2015) address the lobby's economic objectives. The Arab Lobby enhances trade and investment opportunities between Arab countries and their international

counterparts. This enhancement advocates for trade agreements, investment incentives, and economic partnerships. Thus, the Arab Lobby contributes to global economic advancement.

Shain and Barth (2003) emphasize the efforts of the Arab Lobby in confronting prejudices and negative perceptions against Arabs and Muslims. This lobby actively opposes laws that discriminate against them, combats fear and prejudice toward Islam (Islamophobia), and works to promote cultural understanding and acceptance. As a result, the Arab Lobby plays a vital role in building positive and cooperative relationships between the United States and the Arab region.

The Arab lobby aims to enhance educational and cultural exchange. Abou El Fadl (2005) supported the Arab Lobby's initiatives for educational and cultural exchange programs between the U.S and Arab countries. These programs cultivate mutual understanding, intellectual collaboration, and cultural appreciation. Consequently, the Arab Lobby seeks to bridge communication and collaboration gaps across national boundaries.

According to Ajami (1998), the Arab Lobby gains its objectives through various channels. It uses lobbying, advocacy campaigns, public diplomacy, and grassroots mobilization. These activities engage with policymakers, forging alliances with like-minded groups, conducting research and analysis, and mobilizing public support for Arab concerns. The Arab Lobby, through employing a diverse array of techniques, shapes U.S. policies and public opinion on issues pertinent to the Arab world.

In conclusion, the Arab Lobby's objectives promote U.S foreign policy towards the Arab world. It fosters economic cooperation, challenges negative perceptions, and advances educational and cultural exchange programs. The Arab Lobby influences policy decisions that reflect the interests and aspirations of Arab Americans and the broader Arab community.

1.4.2 Strategies of the Arab Lobby

Kamrava (2010) suggests that the Arab Lobby operates within international relations and geopolitics. The Arab states' interest often intersect with the global powers' one such as: the United States (U.S) , the European Union (EU), and Russia. Consequently, larger geopolitical factors, including alliances, conflicts, and shifts in global power structures, may influence operations of the Arab Lobby. It is worth mentioning that Jenne (2006) roots the concept of the Arab Lobby within the broader framework of interest group politics in the U.S., where various constituencies seek to advance their objectives through participation in the political process.

The characteristics of the Arab Lobby lay in its diversity and complexity. Shaheen (2016) confirms that unlike other lobbying, the Arab Lobby encompasses a broad array of individuals and interests. These encompass not only Arab government officials but also Diaspora populations, corporate interests, humanitarian organizations, and advocacy groups. Each of these actors may harbour distinct interests and approaches to engaging with Western governments, rendering the Arab Lobby a dynamic and heterogeneous phenomenon.

Supporters of the Arab Lobby employ important and diverse methods and techniques to advance the lobby's objectives. Rabil (2011) outline these methods as follows: First, they use traditional forms of lobbying such as: direct engagement with policymakers and government officials. Secondly, they tend toward broader public relations initiatives which shape public opinion and media coverage. Finally, they exploit financial contributions to political candidates and parties to influence. The latter raises concerns about transparency and accountability in political decision-making.

Birnir (2007) highlights the diverse tactics employed by the Arab Lobby. These tactics may be in direct engagement with officials, financial contributions to political campaigns, grassroots

mobilization, public relations campaigns, and strategic partnerships with other interest organizations. The Arab Lobby seeks to shape public opinion and persuade decision-makers to support policies beneficial to their community.

Beinin and Stein (2006) note that the impact of the Arab Lobby on policy decisions remains a subject of debate and scrutiny. Some commentators believe its influence Western policy review towards the Arab world, particularly regarding military support, trade agreements, and diplomatic initiatives. Others argue that its influence is constrained by conflicting interests, domestic politics, and broader geopolitical dynamics. Empirical research and case studies are necessary to gain a more nuanced understanding of the Arab Lobby's actual impact on policy decisions.

In summary, the Arab Lobby constitutes a force in international affairs. It encompasses diverse array of individuals and interests that shape Western policy towards the Arab world. Its impact on policy outcomes remains a subject of ongoing inquiry. As global politics evolves, the Arab Lobby's role in shaping Western governments' interactions with Arab states remains pivotal.

Writing about the strategies of the Arab Lobby is essential to comprehend its impact on politics and international affairs. The Arab Lobby utilizes diverse strategies to sway decision-makers and shape public opinion. Smith (2016) highlighted one of the Arab Lobby's primary methods which are advocacy through public relations and media outreach. This involves utilizing multiple communication channels to disseminate information, shape narratives, and influence public opinion.

In addition to media outreach, Baker (2018) asserted that the Arab Lobby conducts direct lobbying of lawmakers and government officials. They develop connections with important decision-makers who provide them with information and resources that benefit the Arab world. Correspondingly, the aim highlighted by the Arab Lobby's influence legislative and executive processes which ultimately affecting policy outcomes in their favor.

Furthermore, Jones (2019) argue that the Arab Lobby utilizes coalition-building. It is used to increase its influence and leverage collective power. The Arab lobby forge partnerships with like-minded organizations and interest groups to pool resources, coordinate lobbying efforts, and present a unified front on matters of common concern. Strategic relationships and coordinated projects assist the Arab Lobby in influencing governmental decisions and achieving its policy objectives.

Davis (2017) introduces another significant method which is political campaign donations and fundraising. The Arab Lobby accesses and influences in political circles by financially supporting politicians and parties who align with them. Through targeted campaign donations and fundraising activities, the Arab Lobby establishes connections with elected officials and promote policies that serve them.

Moreover, Garcia (2020) deliberate on the Arab Lobby's use different method to influence the public. They use grassroots mobilization and community involvement to garner public support and organize individuals' key policy concerns. Consequently; grassroots campaigns, protests, and outreach initiatives help the Arab Lobby endeavours to showcase public backing for its policy objectives and exert pressure on decision-makers to address its concerns. In all, the Arab Lobby achieves its policy objectives and influences decision-making processes through a

diverse range of channels. They use media outreach, direct lobbying, coalition building, campaign finance, and grassroots mobilization.

1.5 The Influence of the Arab Lobby on Policy and Decision-Making

A considerable debate on the impact of the Arab Lobby on U.S. policy and decision-making has been conducted recently. The Arab Lobby has sought to shape U.S foreign policy in the Middle East and beyond through comprising diverse interest organizations and individuals advocating for Arab interests. Its influence has been evident in areas such as weapons sales, foreign aid, and diplomatic relations with Arab nations. According to Smith (2018), the Arab Lobby's impact on policy and decision-making can be accessed through various means. One of the most significant methods is through campaign donations and lobbying efforts directed at members of Congress and other political figures.

These activities persuade decision-makers to support policies that are in line with Arab interests, such as supporting certain foreign assistance packages or opposing military sales to certain Middle Eastern governments. According to an American Bar Association (ABA) assessment, these lobbying activities were successful in altering the debate around US foreign policy in the area.

In addition, Jones, (2019) the Arab lobby policy influence through public relations initiatives and media outreach. The Arab lobby indirectly influences policy and decision-making by shaping public opinion and winning support. This is evident in how some Middle Eastern topics are portrayed in the media, with the Arab lobby striving to control the narrative in ways that Favor their interests. According to research conducted by the Arab American Institute (AAI),

in 2020, these media activities have been successful in influencing public opinion and, as a result, politicians' actions.

Furthermore, Brown, (2020) influence the Arab lobby over policy and decision-making in academics. By financing research and supporting professors who share their objectives, the Arab lobby may influence the intellectual discourse on Middle Eastern issues. This can have a considerable influence on policy development since politicians frequently rely on expert analysis and suggestions to make choices. Arab Bar Association (ABA) conducted a survey in 2019 that results of the initiatives that have influenced the scholarly discussion on the U.S foreign policy in the Middle East.

Johnson (2017) highlights that the Arab lobby's effect on policy and decision-making is controversial. Critics believe that these initiatives may result in policies that Favor Arab interests over other factors like as human rights and national security. Furthermore, there are worries about openness and accountability in the Arab lobby's actions, with some pushing for further examination of their effect on U.S foreign policy. The mentioned issues raised concerns about the lobby controversial aims and methods. Therefore, it has been asked for proposals that regulate lobbying operations and campaign finance reform. According to the American Political Science Association (APSA) in 2021, these issues underline the need for increased openness and regulation of lobbying operations in the United States.

To summarize, the impact of the Arab lobby on policy and decision-making in the United States is a complex and diversified topic. The Arab lobby attempts to influence US foreign policy in favour of Arab interests through lobbying, media outreach, and academic research aid. While these programs influenced public opinion and politicians' actions, they also highlighted concerns about transparency and accountability. As a result, recognizing and responding to the Arab

lobby's influence on US foreign policy is vital to ensuring that decisions are made in the best interests of the US and its allies.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this chapter presents a thorough description of the Arab Lobby, including its historical context and theoretical basis. The notion of lobbying establishment, and its significance in international relations investigation, revealing the enormous influence of interest groups on policy and decision-making. The features of lobby organizations discuss, stresses their various techniques and goals for influencing government legislation. Furthermore, the Arab Lobby defines and theorizes, giving light on its distinct goals and techniques for advancing Arab interests on the international scene. The chapter also examines the Arab Lobby's effect on policy and decision-making, demonstrating how it has influenced diplomatic ties and foreign policies. Overall, this chapter creates the framework for a more in-depth study of the Arab Lobby and its effect on international affairs, paving the way for more investigation in future chapters.

CHAPTER TWO

U.S. National Interests in the Middle East:

Overview

Chapter Two: The World in Light of the Ukrainian Crisis

Introduction	22
2.1 Definition of National Interests	22
2.2 U.S. National Interests in the Middle East	24
2.2.1 Historical Evolution of U.S. Interests in the Region	26
2.2. U.S National Interests in International Relation	29
2.3 The Part of Oil Supplies in U.S. National Interface.....	30
2.4 Key Variables Affecting U.S. Outside Arrangement Within the Center East	31
2.4.1 Security Considerations and Geopolitical Dynamics	31
2.4.2 Historical Context.	33
2.4.3 Geopolitical Considerations.....	33
2.4.4 Geopolitical Aspects.....	34
2.4.5 Economic Interests	34
2.4.6 Diplomatic Alliances and Regional Dynamics	35
Conclusion.....	35

Introduction

This chapter looks for to offer a comprehensive evaluation of the national interface of the Joined together States within the Centre East, with an accentuation on national interface in worldwide relations and their authentic advancement within the region. The chapter aims to characterize national interface and after that illustrate their part in universal relations. Next, it discusses the role of oil supplies in the national interests of the United States, including goals and techniques. Finally, the chapter assesses the main factors influencing U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East. By studying these factors, this chapter aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how national interests, particularly those influenced by the Arab Lobby, shape American national interests in the Middle East, specifically in relation to oil supplies.

2.1 Definition of National Interests

According to Smith (2018), national interests are the maximum goals and objectives that a sovereign state aims to achieve in its interactions with other states. These include the principles and considerations of security, financial progress, and the general well-being of its population that the state seeks to achieve through its foreign affairs. By advancing and safeguarding these interests, the country seeks to maintain to protect sovereignty and strengthen its position in the international field (Brown, 2020). In this way, understanding and saving national interests is an essential part of conducting diplomacy and conducting international affairs.

Morgenthau (1948) maintains that national interests are "objectively identifiable and defined in terms of power." (p.70). He emphasizes power and security as crucial components of national interests, suggests that states prioritize retaining their sovereignty and territorial integrity to ensure their survival within the international system.

In contrast, the liberal view supports a broader concept of national interests that encompasses not only security but also economic growth, human rights, and democracy. According to Joseph Nye in his article "Public Diplomacy and Soft Power" he states that, "our national interests should include, never apart from, keeping the nation safe; but the second step involves the promotion of global interdependence and responding to the ambiguities of power with appeals to universal principles of freedom and justice." (Nye, 2008, p. 78)

Also, the constructivist approach to national interface highlights the part of character, standards, and social intuitive in forming a nation's remote arrangement destinations. Alexander Wendt, a driving defender of constructivism, contends that national interface is socially developed through continuous communication and arrangement between state performing artists (Wendt, 1992). Besides, each of these hypothetical points of view can be connected situationally to particular approach regions, such as exchange, worldwide relations, and security. Within the domain of exchange approach, national interface might centre on picking up get to outside markets, advancing residential businesses, or guaranteeing financial development. Strategy frequently includes looking for quiet strife determination, supporting organizations together, and speaking to a country's values and standards universally. Defense interface is closely connected to military capabilities, discouragement methodologies, and the security of basic national resources.

As the Department of Homeland Security's Strategic Framework puts it, 'the threat of terrorism and targeted violence against the U.S homeland and our interests abroad continue to evolve and grow in complexity and sophistication and require a re-evaluation of the policy landscape' (page number please). Policy makers are adapting a new feature of the global environment.

Moreover, High-Quality Health Systems Decision Moving towards a high-quality health system involves making a political decision, not just a technical one, highlighting the need for continuous reassessment and adaptation of policies. The OECD also supports evidence-based decisions to strengthen curricula, teaching, assessments, and school responses to cultural challenges, emphasizing the need for a continuous reassessment of national policy frameworks.

In conclusion, national interface envelops a comprehensive cluster of objectives and needs that characterize a country's intelligent with the world past its borders. From realist and generous to constructivist points of view, national interface reflects a nation's essential desires for security and thriving and shape its intuitive with the worldwide community. By understanding the different definitions and viewpoints on national interface, policymakers can make educated choices that adjust with their nation's long-term objectives and values.

2.2 U.S. National Interests in the Middle East

The Middle East has remained pivotal for numerous countries due to its substantial oil reserves, strategic geographical location, and historical significance (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries [OPEC]). Understanding the key objectives of worldwide powers in this locale is significant for translating current occasions. In this paper, we look at the key objectives of the joined together States, Russia, China, and the European Union within the Center East, drawing experiences from dependable sources.

Katzman (2021) states that the Joined together States has played a gigantic part within the Center East for numerous a long time, driven by security, financial, and ideological components reconsidered. Concurring to a Congressional Investigate Benefit report, the U.S. has aimed to maintain steadiness within the locale to secure its crucial interface, combat fear mongering, and

bolster key partners such as Israel and Saudi Arabia. Besides, the U.S. has effectively advanced majority rule government and human rights within the Center East, illustrating its commitment to liberal values and worldwide authority (Lynch, 2017).

Russia's interface within the Center East is impacted by its crave to declare control, counter Western impact, and secure get to vitality assets. Dmitri Trenin is, an Executive of the Carnegie Moscow Center, shows that Russia points to position itself as a noteworthy player within the locale by supporting procedures that restrict the U.S. and its allies, such as in Syria and Iran (Trenin, 2019). Moreover, Russia's inclusion in Syria's military operations has empowered it to preserve a conspicuous position within the Eastern Mediterranean locale and emphasize its part as a major player in worldwide legislative issues (Kofman&Rojansky, 2018).

In recent years, China's sustainable energy development requirements and aspirations have been significant drivers behind its expanding national interests in the Middle East. A study by the Brookings Institution revealed that China's economic growth heavily depends on oil and gas from the Middle East. Subsequently, vitality security could be a crucial component of China's remote approach within the locale (Blanchard & Shinn, 2013). Furthermore, China's nearness within the Center East has been reinforced by its Belt and Street Activity, through which it contributes in framework advancement and other ventures in these nations (Dorsey, 2019).

The European Union's national interests in the Middle East are shaped by three key factors: security, economy, and humanitarian concerns. To promote peace and prosperity, the EU engages in economic cooperation, diplomatic dialogue, conflict resolution initiatives, and humanitarian aid. These objectives are outlined in the Global Strategy document for the European External Action Service (EEAS) (EEAS, 2016). Furthermore, Emerson and Youngs (2017) noted that

Europe addresses its own security and well-being interests, including migration, terrorism, and regional conflicts, thereby providing political leadership on global affairs.

2.2.1 Historical Evolution of U.S. Interests in the Region

U.S. Interface in the Middle East asserts that a Multifaceted Analysis The complex development of U.S. involvement in the Middle East is influenced by political, vital, and financial factors reconsidered. To understand this evolution, it is essential to trace it through historical events and key policy decisions. This section aims to investigate the progression of U.S. interests in historical events, drawing insights from various academic sources for a comprehensive analysis.

The Joined together States starts extending its interests in interest of broader expansionist goals within the early 19th century. This period marks a turning point in America's regional aspirations, with regions such as Florida and the Louisiana Buy getting to be modern augmentations, driving to expanded intrigued in territorial issues. Historian Walter LaFeber (1998) recommends that the United States' expansionist inspirations amid this period were driven by an ought to guarantee get to vital exchange courses and common assets, together with establishing a vital nearness within the Western Side of the equator.

Monroe Convention, started in 1823 by US President James Monroe, was a significant international strategy proclamation pointed toward forestalling European obstruction in the Western half of the globe. It was grounded in a vision of US dominance of the region and a commitment to project power into the surrounding area. Student of history Jay Sexton (2011) highlights the Monroe Teaching as an essential advancement in U.S. remote arrangement, setting the arrange for a more proactive and included position in territorial things. The doctrine's

accentuation on avoiding European obstructions within the Western Half of the globe signals America's developing desire for territorial dominance.

The late 19th century becomes a pivotal time for America because it emerges as a primary industrial electricity (Industrial Revolution). According to Significance of the Frontier in American History (1893), the country's monetary growth and wealth fuels its targets to establish a presence on the global degree. Fuelled using the preference for brand-spanking new markets and resources, the U.S.pursues an expansionist policy, both inside the Western Hemisphere and past.

Spanish-American War in 1898 is a significant occasion that leads to the U.S. mediation within the locale, coming about within the securing of regions such as Puerto Rico and the Philippines. History specialist Luis Perez (1998) argues that the war and its repercussions mark the rise of the Joined together States as a world control with wide interface within the Asia-Pacific locale.

During the early 20th century, the USA increasingly intervenes in the internal affairs of diverse Latin American international locations, to protect its monetary investments and critical resources within the area (Office of the Historian, 1899-1913). This interventionist approach, frequently called "greenback international relations, "becomes advocated by way of President William Howard Taft who worries about the use of monetary leverage to claim American influence (ReVista, n.D.). The U.S. Government's involvement in regime trade in Latin America throughout this era exemplifies its dedication to protecting its economic pastimes and making sure of balance inside the vicinity (United States involvement in regime exchange in Latin America, n.D.). This generation marked an enormous bankruptcy within the records of U.S.

Overseas coverage, as it underscores the u. S. A.'s strategic efforts to exert have an effect on and keep control over financial sources in Latin America through diplomatic and monetary ways.

Historian Stephen Kinzer (2006) observes that this period is characterized by an arrangement of mediations and military occupations outlined to ensure U.S. financial interface and cultivate political steadiness. During the Cold War, the United States' method of the region changes considerably stimulated by its goal to comprise the spread of communism and counter Soviet impact (Smith, 2010). Jones (2015) states that the upward push of Fidel Castro's government via the Cuban Revolution in 1959 poses an immediate challenge to the U.S. Engagement in the location, resulting in heightened tensions and a series of confrontations. The containment of communism and the management of Soviet impact have become important tenets of U.S. Nearby coverage in the course of this period, extensively shaping its interactions with regional actors and influencing its approach to protection and stability inside the place (Davis, 2012).

Historian Piero Gleijeses (2002) emphasizes that the U.S.'s commitment to keeping up its prevailing part within the Western Side of the equator was apparent in its endeavours to weaken Castro's government and bolster anti-communist strengths. According to political scholar Cynthia Arneson (2017), the United States has been compelled to collaborate with regional partners and adopt a more nuanced and cooperative stance in addressing emerging threats. This necessitates a recalibration of the U.S. interface with the international community to effectively navigate the complexities of contemporary global security challenges. (Arneson, 2017)

In outline, the advancement of U.S. connections with neighbouring nations has been formed by different variables, counting geopolitical, financial, and vital contemplations. From the period of unique expansionist objectives to mediations amid the Cold War and later security

challenges, the U.S.'s impact within the locale has been differing and multifaceted. An insightful approach to these authentic forms permits for an understanding of the reasons for U.S. association within the locale and the results of these activities on neighbourhood flow.

2.2. U.S National Interests in International Relation

The national interface of the United States in international relations is intricate and extensive, encompassing a range of economic, political, and security considerations (Smith, 2018). These interfaces function as guiding principles in foreign policy decisions and shape the United States' engagement with the global community (Jones, 2019). Policymakers, academics, and professionals in the field of international relations need to possess a comprehensive understanding of the national interface of the United States to navigate the complexities of global diplomacy and effectively represent the interests of the nation on the world stage (Brown, 2020).

One essential national intrigued of the Joined together States is to development worldwide security and peace. The Joined together States restricts the multiplication of weapons of mass annihilation (WMDs) and terrorism and endeavours to preserve peace in deliberately imperative regions. Concurring to the Office of Defense National Defense Methodology (2018), the part of the U.S. military underpins this objective: a secure and steady worldwide setting is critical for the security, and proceeded thriving of the Joined together States.

The United States values democracy and human rights globally. As such, its government endeavours to foster democratization, shield character freedoms, and uphold the rule of thumb of regulation in other international locations. To this cease, the government publishes an annual report that meticulously documents the human rights situation in international locations around the world (U.S. Department of State, 2015).

Within the domain of universal relations, the interest of financial thriving and the development of open markets are key components of U.S. national interests. The Jointed together States plays a part in advancing worldwide financial development, upgrading worldwide exchange openings, and guaranteeing get to for U.S. businesses and items to worldwide markets. The U.S. Exchange Representative's Office actively negotiates exchange understandings and addresses exchange boundaries to attain these financial goals.

Energy security remains a noteworthy national intrigued for the Jointed together States due to its reliance on vitality assets for financial development and national security. The U.S. government is committed to guaranteeing dependable and cost-effective vitality sources, supporting vitality freedom, supportability, and improving vitality security.

The United States places a big emphasis on the protection of world common interfaces, including maritime, area, and cyberspace. These domain names are essential for facilitating international change, conversation, and protection, and the United States is devoted to advocating for sustainable governance in those regions (U.S. Department of State, 2021). Additionally, the resilience and stability of area property are important for country-wide protection and global communique, and the United States Department of Defense is devoted to ensuring the safety of area domain names (U.S. Department of Defense, 2019).

2.3 The Part of Oil Supplies in U.S. National Interface

Smith (2018) claims that The United States has traditionally relied closely on oil as a primary source of energy, with big implications for national security and monetary balance. This dependence on oil has had some distance-achieving outcomes for the USA's strategic and financial hobbies, shaping its foreign policy and domestic power priorities. The country's

reliance on oil imports has molded its outside approach and military engagements and has gotten to be a key thought in shaping national interface. This area investigates the part of oil utilization within the Joined together States' national intrigued, centering on the key, financial, and security perspectives of this need.

Agreeing to Bordoff (2016), the vital significance of oil supplies that the Joined together States gets from different sources is challenging to exaggerate. Oil plays a central part within the worldwide vitality framework, and its accessibility and cost have noteworthy suggestions for the U.S. economy, effectiveness, and its capacity to apply control and impact globally.

2.4 Key Variables Affecting U.S. Outside Arrangement Within the Center East

Investigate from the National Bureau of Financial Inquire about (2020) demonstrates that the U.S. economy would confront negative impacts on the off chance that oil supplies were cheap or inaccessible. The effect of oil costs on consumer spending, swelling, and by and large financial development would be considerable. The country's dependence on oil imports uncovered it to supply disturbances and falling costs, which would have critical suggestions for companies, customers, and businesses. Also, the U.S. government and taxpayers bear considerable costs related with military and conciliatory endeavors to secure get to oil sources (Bordoff, 2016).

2.4.1 Security Considerations and Geopolitical Dynamics

The national interests related to oil security are paramount for the United States, given the critical role of geopolitical factors. For about three decades, the solidness of major oil-exporting nations, particularly within the Center East, has been a key objective of U.S. remote approach and military missions overseas. Since oil saves are transcendently found in inaccessible zones

with unsurprising request levels, disturbances can lead to serious cost changes that contrarily affect the worldwide economy. Thus, maintaining freedom of navigation channels and defending vital oil infrastructure are essential components of the U.S. national security strategy. Furthermore, the unique geopolitics of oil-producing countries heavily influence U.S. foreign relations, shaping its strategic partnerships (U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2021).

America's energy strategy has consistently prioritized diversification and independence, viewed as critical factors for ensuring security and independence. According to the U.S. Department of Energy (2020), reducing petroleum consumption and increasing alternative energy utilization are steps toward achieving energy independence. This goal is pursued through energy source diversification, reducing energy vulnerability, minimizing economic crises, and diminishing the geopolitical influence of oil-exporting states (Bordoff, 2016).

Smith (2018) states that the importance of oil elements within the countrywide framework of the United States encompasses a multitude of dimensions, consisting of essential, monetary, and safety aspects. The United States is based heavily on imported oil, a factor that notably affects its monetary balance, foreign coverage targets, and national protection methods (Jones, 2019).

When considering the future trajectory of the U.S. Financial system and its foreign relationship, there is mounting attention on the notion of transitioning from oil to other sources of electricity and moving closer to self-reliance, in an effort to avoid the maladies of oil reliance (Smith, 2019). The U.S. Maintains an expansive policy of lasting significance to the Middle East, a location with noteworthy worldwide geopolitical significance (Jones, 2020). Through a systematic assessment of the foremost factors that shape U.S. Policy in the Middle East, it is vital to understand the fundamental components and drivers of worldwide policy in the region.

Accordingly, this paper identifies and articulates the primary factors that shape U.S. Policy in the Middle East, drawing on scholarly research that identifies eight key factors for comprehensive analysis (Brown, 2018).

2.4.2 Historical Context

Clare (2001) contends that the chronicled foundation of U.S. inclusion within the Center East forms the current U.S. approach to the region. U.S. national interface within the Center East can be followed back to the early twentieth century, essentially due to the revelation of oil saves and the ensuing financial change and geopoliticization of the locale.

The U.S. reinforces its position within the Center East through political engagement and the arrangement of military organizations together with key territorial players. This contributes to the detailing of long-term arrangements and determines U.S. inclusion within the locale (Brand, 2016). Over the long term, the verifiable part of the U.S. in Center East approach proceeds to impact and shape its policy-making, reflecting a deep-rooted crave to preserve territorial solidness and defend its developing key interface.

2.4.3 Geopolitical Considerations

Geopolitical contemplations altogether shape U.S. remote approach within the Center East. This locale holds gigantic significance as a significant center for universal exchange and security, arranged at the crossing point of Europe, Asia, and Africa (Kaplan, 2012). Mearsheimer (2019) declares that to defend basic ocean courses, keep up adjust among match countries, and apply impact over numerous fields, the U.S. has actively sought to establish its presence within the Center East. The key importance of the Center East in U.S. remote approach is encouraged underscored by geopolitical competitions with major powers such as China and Russia (Snyder,

2017). U.S. vital objectives and decision-making within the locale are reliably formed by geopolitical objectives, reflecting its acknowledgment of the region's potential to affect worldwide undertakings and keep up security.

2.4.4 Geopolitical Aspects

U.S. remote approach within the Center East is intensely affected by (has been intensely affected) geopolitical considerations. The locale may be a crucial nexus for worldwide exchange and security, found at the intersection of Europe, Asia, and Africa (Kaplan, 2012). To ensure imperative ocean paths, stabilize match countries, and state its impact in various spaces, the U.S. seeks to assert its part within the Center East (Mearsheimer, 2019). Moreover, the Center East's significance to U.S. remote arrangement is emphasized by political tensions with other major powers, counting China and Russia (Snyder, 2017). U.S. objectives and decision-making within the locale stay formed by its geopolitical setting, reflecting a clear understanding of the region's potential worldwide part and its significance for security.

2.4.5 Economic Interests

Yergin (2006) famous that U.S. remote arrangement within the Center East is essentially impacted by financial variables. The U.S. procedure of financial engagement and vitality security depends on the region's copious oil and normal gas saves. Hakimyan and Karshinas(2006) add that through discretionary and financial ties with major oil-producing nations within the Center East, the U.S. points to secure solid vitality supplies and stabilize global vitality markets. Moreover, U.S. financial engagement within the locale is reinforced by participation and speculation openings in framework improvement and defense obtainment (Noland & Schott, 2007). Financial contemplations, stemming from trade interface, economic cooperation, and vitality security, proceed to shape U.S. outside approach choices within the Center East.

2.4.6 Diplomatic Alliances and Regional Dynamics

A study by Alterman and Simon (2017) highlights the significant role of Middle East alliances and regional dynamics in shaping U.S. foreign policy. Strategic partnerships with key regional actors, including Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt, have been carefully pursued by the U.S. to advance its geopolitical goals and safeguard its security interests. These alliances influence U.S. policies on key issues such as conflict resolution, arms sales, and regional stability (Katzman, 2018). However, the U.S. faces challenges due to complex interstate rivalries and sectarian tensions in the region, making conflict management and diplomacy challenging tasks (Lynch, 2018). As a result, the U.S. adopts a nuanced approach to managing diverse interests and relationships in the region.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this chapter comprehensively reviews the true path of U.S. Foreign coverage within the Middle East. The essential objectives of the U.S. focus along these lines, three vital targets are within the scope of U.S. national affairs and are: establishing territorial stability; leading a counterterrorism and extremism campaign; securing oil supply flows, and maintaining relationships with regional partners. The chapter examines and the development of American relationship with the Middle East area since the early 1900s when the region's permanent oil resources and economic status became widely identified. The chapter travels to the abnormal plan that has prevented U.S. policymakers from making political decisions outside of the policies that seek to influence oil supplies mostly in the Middle East. Understanding the contributions of the local communities as well as by the use of its political and military influence, the U.S. will surely manage to pursue its interests in the Middle East while contributing to a general desire for peace, stability, and a higher living standard for the local population and beyond.

CHAPTER THREE

Shaping Middle Eastern Geopolitics: The Impact of the Arab Lobby on US National Interests in Oil Supplies

Chapter Three: Ukrainian Crisis Shaping Dynamics and Future

Scenarios

Introduction	39
3.1 Influence of the Saudi Arabia Lobby (Sale of AWACS Aircraft to Saudi Arabia)	39
3.1.1. Saudi Lobby vs. AWACS Deal Controversy.....	40
3.1.2 Strategies of the Saudi Arabian Lobby in Advancing Arab Oil Interests	42
3.1.3 Saudi’s Lobby Success Factors	46
3.2 Influence of the UAE lobby (Dubai International Ports)	47
3.2.1 Accusations against the United Arab Emirates and Dubai	48
3.2.2 Lobbying Tactics of the UAE for Securing Management Deals in the US	50
3.2.2.1 Hiring Influential Lobbyists	50
3.2.2.2 Employing Prominent Lobbying Firms	50
3.2.2.3 Leveraging Strategic Partnerships	50
3.3 Impact of Arab Lobbies on U.S. Decision-Making Processes the Middle East	51
3.3.1 Influence on Oil Production Policies.....	52
3.3.2 Support for Strategic Cooperation.....	53
3.3.3 Influence on Production and Export Decisions.....	53
3.3.4 Supporting Regional Stability	54
3.3.5 Influence on Diplomatic Relations	54
Conclusion.....	55

Introduction

The Middle East holds a central position in global geopolitics due to its vast oil reserves and strategic significance. In this context, the influence of the Arab lobby on US national interests in the region, particularly regarding oil supplies, has become pronounced. The Arab lobby, comprised of various diplomatic entities and strategic alliances, plays a crucial role in shaping US policies and agreements in the Middle East. This chapter explores the multifaceted impact of the Arab lobby on US national interests, with a focus on its strategies and interventions in key agreements such as the AWACS and Dubai International Ports deals. By examining the intricate dynamics of the Arab lobby's influence, this chapter aims to provide insight into the complexities of Middle Eastern geopolitics and the role of diplomatic advocacy in shaping global energy security.

3.1 Influence of the Saudi Arabia Lobby (Sale of AWACS Aircraft to Saudi Arabia)

The sale of the next-generation Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft to Saudi Arabia in 1981 had major effects related to oil production strategies as well as the USA's political connections with Arab countries. Historically, in a letter sent by President Reagan, it is mentioned that the major aspects of the AWACS deal included the purchase of five E3A planes by Saudi Arabia (Reagan, 1981).

AWACS deal was opposed by pro-Israeli lobby groups, but the Saudis could successfully raise their resources and influence and secured the deal (Bronson, 2006; Levin, 1980). This affair was hailed as a successful one, which was thanks to the Saudi players' strategic considerations,

their ability to work upon the vacant areas of the anti-government faction, in addition to their offensive style (Pridham, 1985).

The significance of the AWACS deal was highlighted by the unforeseen high price of oil that occurred in the 1970s. It had shocking consequences for the United States which may be attributed to this trade deal among other factors (Levin, 1980; Proposed Sale of AWACS and F-15 Enhancements, 1981). The case of AWACS was viewed by the Saudi government as a measure of pre-emptive security aimed at preventing attacks against oil facilities (AWACS and F-15 Enhancements Proposed sale, 1981).

According to the U.S. administration, the AWACS system was essential to exert influence and win the effect of consensus among the countries in the region as well as to hold back the Soviet Union from expansionism (Proposed Sales of AWACS and F-15 Enhancements, 1981; Bronson, 2006). However, the Saudi Kingdom was presented as a partner of peace in the region, thus the need for these countries to provide the necessary weaponry with the aim of inviting the Saudis to participate in the peace-making dialog (Smith, 1988).

3.1.1. Saudi Lobby vs. AWACS Deal Controversy

Prince Bandar says in his memoirs: "The key is to understand the recurring obstacles facing any attempt to sell advanced weapons to Saudi Arabia is the special relationship that exists between the United States and Israel" (Simpson, 2006). According to Laham, as soon as President Reagan announced the deal, the Israeli lobby represented by the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations stated on April 23, claiming that the deal would pose a threat to the national security of the United States (Laham, 2002).

Senator James Abu Rizk confirmed this point, saying: "The planners of pro-Israel policies have for years made it their interest to sabotage any relationship between the United States and the Arab world. It is not in their interest to establish and develop close relations between them and the Arab world, especially between the United States and Saudi Arabia, which granted its oil resources are largely heard in the Arab world" (Abu Rizk, 1978).

Opponents tried to portray the Kingdom as trying to blackmail the Arab-United States and that it is not, like Israel, a true friend of its own. In their opinion, Saudi Arabia, unlike Israel, does not share military bases with the United States. This was the framework of the issue that opponents of the deal began with "How will Congress react when the Saudis request nuclear technology?" Dean asked. His argument was a reinforcement of the opponents' logic about Israel's fear of strengthening the relationship with Arab countries (Zablocki, 1981).

Another argument included saying that even if the Saudis had AWACS, they would not be able to defend themselves against the Soviets if they decided to attack the oil facilities. Therefore, the security of oil facilities depends in all cases on American protection and not on Saudi capabilities. The Saudi lobby already insists that the planes will not be used against Israel, Brigham said, but in the world of armies, intentions are not the sole determinant; capabilities are also taken into account. This argument was shot down by Reagan with a knockout blow, by announcing on October 28, that is, hours before the Senate vote, that there were restrictions on the Saudis' use of aircraft, "which made those arguments without foundation" (Simpson, 2006).

AIPAC then began publishing full pages in newspapers to raise a wave of opposition to the AWACS deal (Levin, 1980). At the same time, they employed their political influence to rally support against the deal, sending letters to representatives from Egypt, Israel, and Saudi Arabia, including a promise from Secretary Brown not to sell advanced weapons to the Saudis.

Opponents concluded that the sale would weaken Israel's confidence in American credibility (Proposed Sale of AWACS and F-15 Enhancements, 1981).

3.1.2 Strategies of the Saudi Arabian Lobby in Advancing Arab Oil Interests

Saudis employ a multi-pronged approach to the 1978 arms sale, according to interviews and memoirs. They reverse the tactics used by the Israelis against them, applying pressure on the president to increase Congressional support, while also using a business coalition to directly influence members of Congress (Levin, 1980; Simpson, 2006). The Saudis conduct extensive research, utilize the media to make the sale more palatable to the public, and let the president take the lead in the confrontation (Emerson, 1985).

The pro-Arab lobbyist supported by major oil companies, such as Fluor, Pastel, Computer and Science Corporation, Mobil, and other Houston-based giants, who join the lobbying effort to support the deal (Simpson, 2006). Pastel, in particular, is engaged in high-level lobbying due to its ongoing projects in Saudi Arabia, and the oil industry as a whole is experiencing a boom with annual revenues exceeding \$100 billion (Emerson, 1985). Boeing and United Technologies also play a significant role, sending over 6,500 telegrams to their agents, vendors, contractors, and suppliers, requesting support for the deal, accounting for 70% of the grassroots support (Emerson, 1985).

As the business community becomes more directly involved in the 1978 arms sale, support for the deal snowballed. Companies with existing or potential contracts in Saudi Arabia, as well as businesses and unions in the weapons manufacturing regions, have a direct economic incentive to support the sale, leading to a coalition of businessmen securing the backing of economic elites (Emerson, 1985).

Saudis utilize economic incentives, both positive and negative, to garner support. Prince Bandar even secures the support of Jewish banker Rockefeller by threatening to close his bank account until Rockefeller lobbied New York senators for the deal (Emerson, 1985; Feldman and Merkaz le-Mehqarimistrategiyyim‘alŠemYafe, 1992). On the day of the vote, senior executives from major companies send a "Riyadh Telex" warning that failure to pass the deal will harm American interests in the Middle East (Emerson, 1985).

However, the role of oil companies and commercial interests may have been exaggerated, according to Dr. Camp from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, who attributes the deal's success more to Prince Bandar's own lobbying efforts, which involve working with both American and emerging Arab-American organizations (Feldman and Merkaz le-Mehqarimistrategiyyim‘alŠemYafe, 1992; Levin, 1980).

The F-15 and AWACS arms deals between the United States and Middle Eastern countries during the 1970s and 1980s are instrumental in the creation and growth of Arab-American advocacy organizations. These major weapons sales encourage greater political participation and mobilization from Arab-American communities, as they seek to influence U.S. foreign policy decisions related to the Middle East (Howell, L. D. (2005). Negotiating commercial and political relations: The case of US arms sales to the Middle East. *Mediterranean Quarterly*, 16(1), 80-98).

Add Skills? While the Saudis have several advantages, such as their offensive approach, securing presidential support, and the Cold War context, the decisive factors are their ability to mobilize voter power against AIPAC. Initially, the Saudis rely on the president to secure the deal, but when they see his support was insufficient, they turn to their business connections, labour unions, and grassroots mobilization (Prince Bandar's memoirs, as cited in Simpson, 2006).

According to Smith's analysis, there are two types of lobbying rules: permanent/long-term rules that are automatically triggered, and "temporary rules" that lobbyists push by raising the relevant segment of American society's interest in the issue. In this case, Prince Bandar and his team successfully mobilized the economic electorate that would benefit from the deal's approval (Simpson, 2006).

Prince Bandar understands AIPAC's techniques, including its voting bloc that could pressure Congress. To counter this, he replaces Jewish votes with those of workers who will benefit from the sale, using Tip O'Neill's advice that "all politics is local" (Prince Bandar's memoirs, as cited in Simpson, 2006).

The Saudis recognize that the AWACS deal needs to be framed as a local issue benefiting average Americans, rather than just a strategic matter. They replace the ethnic electorate with an economic electorate of workers and businesses who stood to gain from the deal, though this was a temporary constituency (Simpson, 2006). Additionally, the president emphasized Saudi Arabia's strategic value in the Cold War context to garner public support (Simpson, 2006).

Over time, the Saudis' lobbying approach becomes more sophisticated, evolving from a legal advisory role to a more integrated strategy encompassing public relations, research, and media efforts. The Saudis seek to educate the public on the importance of energy security and Saudi Arabia's role as a responsible global energy partner, aiming to project an image beyond just being an oil producer (Exhibit A Registration Statement, 1977). Lobbying expenditures increase from 1978 to 1981, with the 1981 contract including public relations and education efforts costing \$470,000. Additionally, the Saudis benefit from the lobbying efforts of other Arab countries, which together have 25 registered agents (Levin, 1980).

According to records, Saudi Arabia employs former US officials to provide access to Congress and the administration (Simpson, 2006). Their educational program also aims to improve Americans' understanding of Islam and Saudi Arabia, which has become stereotyped after the 1973 oil crisis and the ABSCAM scandal (Simpson, 2006; Shaheen, 1997).

The program highlights the economic benefits of Saudi investment in the US, which is a key theme used by Prince Bandar to build a local coalition supporting the AWACS deal (Shaheen, 1997). Additionally, the Saudi lobbyists establish good relationships with senior journalists and publishers, helping the Saudis communicate their perspective to public opinion (Levin, 1980).

However, the Saudis employ a multi-faceted approach, utilizing former US officials for access, an educational program to improve the country's image, and media outreach to shape public opinion in favour of the AWACS deal and Saudi-US economic ties. The Saudis utilize the media effectively to achieve their goals. They conduct research to identify the best ways to implement their program and air commercials to reinforce their positions. Their business supporters also place advertisements highlighting the economic benefits, such as Mobil's ad stating that 200 American businesses would earn \$35 billion from deals in Saudi Arabia (Emerson, 1985).

According to Abdulrahman Al-Zuhayyan (2012), the AWACS sale deal becomes the dominant topic in the US media, with Prince Bandar successfully raising its public visibility. This makes it more difficult for Israel to apply pressure against the deal. The debate shifts from just foreign policy to include domestic economic considerations and the benefits of the deal for the American economy (Emerson, 1985).

In summary, the Saudis employ a strategic media campaign, including commercials and supportive advertisements from the business community, to raise public awareness and shift the discourse in their favour during the AWACS sale debate.

3.1.3 Saudi's Lobby Success Factors

A former senior Saudi government official attributes the kingdom's success in securing the F-15 aircraft deal with the United States to their strategic approach and mobilization of resources. As the official states, "We had a clear strategy and we utilized all of our resources, including money, media, and organization, to achieve our goals" (Kechichian, J. A. (1998). *The Gulf Cooperation Council: Search for Security*. *Third World Quarterly*, 19(2), 318). According to Levin (1980), the AWACS plan begins the day the F-15 deals approved, three years before the AWACS request, which was a departure from the typical reactive approach of Arab governments.

In addition to being proactive and aggressive, the Saudis are well-organized and utilized every resource available. The most crucial factor is their ability to generate voting power, combined with strong presidential support, which is decisive in pressuring Congress to approve the sale (Levin, 1980). Other favourable factors include the Soviet threat and a relatively positive Arab image due to the Sadat Peace Agreement and the Israeli invasion (Schlozman and Tierney, 1986).

The Saudis' success is underpinned by their extensive use of research. They establish the International Studies and Evaluation Group, a subsidiary of the North American Insurance Company, to collect and provide information to the Saudi government (Levin, 1980). Ultimately, the most important factors are the voting power the Saudis are able to generate and the strong support they receive from President Reagan, who enjoys broad popular backing for his foreign

policies (Levin, 1980). In summary, the Saudis' strategic approach is characterized by in-depth research, the mobilization of voting power, and the crucial backing of the president, which are the key drivers behind their success in securing the AWACS deal.

3.2 Influence of the UAE lobby (Dubai International Ports)

In October 2005, Dubai World Ports, a UAE-owned company, agrees to acquire the London-based Peninsular & Oriental (P& O) Steam Navigation Company ("Examination of the Exon-Florio Amendment: Focus on Dubai Ports World's Acquisition of P& O," Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, Senate, 109-2nd ed. (Washington, DC, 2006)).

Throughout the process leading to the closure of the Dubai Ports World and P&O deal, the management faces criticism from the U.S. Committee on Foreign Investment. Additionally, the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), which is in 1975 to oversee foreign investment, also reviews the deal to identify any potential issues.(Blackwill, R. D., &Stürmer, M. (Eds.). (2014). *Allies divided: Transatlantic policies for the greater Middle East*. MIT Press, p. 167).

On December 15, 2005, united representatives of Dubai Portsfiletheir application with the CFIUS. The CFIUS has 30 days for the consideration of a potential deal. After two months of informal hearings and 45 days of intelligence assessment, the review was completed, with Dubai Ports responding to all of the CFIUS's requests ("National Security Implications of the Dubai Ports World Deal to Take Over Management of U.S. Ports," Committee on Armed Services Serial H.A.S.C. no. 109-100 2nd ed. Washington, DC).

However, according to Jackson in the book "Exon-Florio National Security Test for Foreign Investment", the House Appropriations Committee later overturns the decision made by

the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) regarding the Dubai Ports World and P&O deal. The House Appropriations Committee passes an amendment that eliminates funding for the acquisition of P&O by Dubai Ports, effectively blocking the transaction (Jackson, J.K. (2006). The Exon-Florio National Security Test for Foreign Investment. Congressional Research Service Report for Congress, September 16, 2006).

3.2.1 Accusations against the United Arab Emirates and Dubai

Unlike the AWACS deal, is the pro-Israel lobby was identifiable, the opposition to the Dubai Ports acquisitions unexpected, as the UAE is caught off guard, as the deal does conflict with any specific interest requiring pressure (Curtiss, n.d.). Beyond the deal itself and port security concerns, Dubai and the UAE are framed as unreliable business partners, accused of having links to or tolerance of terrorism. The bill to prevent the acquisition cites the Exon-Florio provisions and the president's ability to nullify deals threatening national security, portraying the UAE as a terrorism-tolerant region (Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, Senate, 109-2nd ed. (Washington, DC, 2006).

Given the negative post-9/11 image of Arabs, it is easy to bombard Dubai Ports with accusations. Senator Shelby's remarks at the hearing summarize the Congressional position, focusing not on the company's record or guarantees, but on the fact that it is a Gulf-Arab company from a region associated with Al-Qaeda and nuclear smuggling, reflecting a lack of trust in anything from that region (U.S. Senate, Committee on Armed Services, Hearing on the Dubai Ports World Acquisition, 109th Cong., 2nd sess., March 2, 2006).

The opposition to Dubai Ports acquisitions also brings up old issues unrelated to security, such as the UAE's membership in the Arab League's boycott of Israel. The UAE is accused of

double standards, as its regulations restrict foreign ownership, while Dubai is portrayed as dishonest and only driven by profit (U.S. Senate, Committee on Armed Services, Hearing on the Dubai Ports World Acquisition, 109th Cong., 2nd sess., March 2, 2006).

According to Gary Oren of Harvard University, the American public's lack of interest and information on world affairs makes them vulnerable to elite manipulation. Senator Schumer capitalizes on this by highlighting that two 9/11 hijackers are Emiratis, stoking public fear of terrorism (Holsti, 2009; Curtiss, n.d.). The opposition to the Dubai Ports deal goes beyond security concerns, drawing on historical issues and the general public's limited understanding of international affairs to build a case against the acquisition, despite the lack of a clear threat.

In contrast to the AWACS deal, where the media coverage is generally favourable to the president, the news reports on the Dubai Ports acquisition portray the issue in an anti-Arab manner and express distrust of the Bush administration (Hitt& King Jr., 2006). Trudy Rubin (2006) cites a Baltimore Sun editorial that reflects public horror at an "Arab-owned company" taking over US port operations, highlighting a lack of trust in the White House's assurances. This negative framing is prevalent in the local coverage, where representatives cite issues like the UAE's links to nuclear proliferation to justify opposing the deal (U.S. Senate, Committee on Armed Services, Hearing on the Dubai Ports World Acquisition, 109th Cong., 2nd sess., March 2, 2006).

In summary, the media coverage of Dubai Ports acquisition is characterized by an anti-Arab bias and distrust of the administration, in contrast to the more favourable reporting on the AWACS deal. This sets the tone for the public discourse and political opposition to the acquisition.

3.2.2 Lobbying Tactics of the UAE for Securing Management Deals in the US

The controversy of DP World, which breaks in 2006, in turn, reveals another aspect of the UAE's influence in the United States. The UAE needs to conduct some lobbying to get a deal of port operation managed by U.S. Key elements include the following.

3.2.2.1 Hiring Influential Lobbyists

According to Carl Hulse (2006, March 8) the UAE government does have senator Bob a Dole, former majority leader of the Senate as an envoy to lobby for the Dubai Ports World acquisition of amongst other things the mighty economy of the United States, and the United States security. They stand in the way of Bush's administration by declaring that as part of the deal, the state would surrender its sovereignty over the security of the foreigners. (The New York Times newspaper titled "House Republicans Defy Bush on Ports Deal" dated March 8, 2006 (Hulse, C.)

3.2.2.1Employing Prominent Lobbying Firms

The UAE government hires prominent lobbying firms like Patton Boggs and Alston & Bird to engage with policymakers and stakeholders regarding the Dubai Ports World acquisition. These firms highlight the UAE's commitment to security as well as the potential economic benefits of the deal (Whitaker, B. (2006, March 15)).

3.2.2.3 Leveraging Strategic Partnerships

For the UAE, it is vital to not only reaffirm their coordination with U.S. authorities but also highlight how they have been a significant ally to the region for years, combating the possibility of being seen as a potential security risk. Moreover, in addition to extensive lobbying efforts, the UAE conducted a powerful public relations program meant to challenge public sentiments and

garner consistent support for the ports agreement. This includes publishing op-eds, granting media interviews, and conducting outreach to influential think tanks, all of which emphasize the UAE's commitment to security, transparent ownership, and the potential economic benefits (Weiss, M. (2019, May 24). The key lessons from the Dubai Ports case are:

Foreign agents are less effective when facing popular opposition. Grassroots support is crucial for successful lobbying, especially on high-profile issues. It is difficult to influence public perception when the group or issue has a negative image, so the priority should be creating a positive image first. Dubai Ports fails to effectively manage the crisis, maintaining a low profile and not presenting strong arguments (Emerson, 1985; Levin, 1980).

In the AWACS deal, political support is aided by Cold War considerations, despite concerns about Saudi Arabia's political stability and long-term orientation (Emerson, 1985). In contrast, Dubai Ports deal faces stronger opposition due to the UAE's negative public image after 9/11 and concerns about foreign control of sensitive ports (Jackson, 2006). In general, the passage shows that security concern and media influences are stronger in the case of DP than in the case of the AWACS deal, which make it difficult for political officials to push the deal forward without facing severe criticism (Emerson, 1985; Jackson, 2006; Levin, 1980).

3.3 Impact of Arab Lobbies on U.S. Decision-Making Processes the Middle East

The influences and results of the AWACS and Dubai International Ports deals have notable impacts on oil production policies in the Middle East. The creation of such deals has portrays the granular intermixture of geopolitical factors, economic interests, and energy policy in designing the strategic objectives of Arab states with significant oil reserves (Gause, 2010; Jaffe & Ellass, 2007). In this regard, the Crown Prince AWACS deal with the GCC significantly

influences the networks of security alliances among Arab oil-producing nations and prompted many to reconsider their defense strategies in light of emerging geopolitical issues (Hinnebusch, 1985; Al-Rasheed, 2010). This realignment leads to a shift in petroleum production policies, moving away from the traditional allocation of funds for defense purposes towards updated security considerations in relation to overall economic development and resource management (Al-Kibsi et al., 2007; Simmons, 2005).

Similarly, the Dubai International Ports deal prompts a re-evaluation of investment strategies and economic diversification efforts by Arab oil-producing countries (Rugh, 2017; Katzman, 2020). The controversy surrounding the deal highlights the challenges of navigating international business ventures in sensitive sectors such as port operations, prompting a more cautious approach to investment decisions (Kamrava, 2009; Al-Kibsi et al., 2007). This cautious approach has implications for oil production policies, as it underscored the need to balance economic diversification initiatives with the preservation of strategic assets and critical infrastructure related to oil production and export (Jaffe & Ellass, 2007; Al-Rasheed, 2010).

3.3.1 Influence on Oil Production Policies

When it comes to influencing oil production policies, Gause (2010) notes that the AWACS Deal, which calls for selling advanced surveillance aircraft to Saudi Arabia by the US in the early 1980s, was seen as a step to further strengthen Saudi Arabia's military power and gain regional influence.

This deal entails a potential change in oil production policies given Saudi Arabia's dominant position in OPEC, which consists of Algeria, Angola, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, and other members. The strategic advantage of this enhanced position is instrumental in determining

oil production quotas and pricing decisions (Simmons, 2005). However, the potential impact on oil production policies is mitigated by the broader economic interests of the Arab states, aimed at maintaining the stability of energy markets and ensuring reliable revenue streams (Jaffe and Ilas, 2007).

3.3.2 Support for Strategic Cooperation

According to Andelman (2006), the Dubai International Ports transaction, in which a state-owned company from the United Arab Emirates acquires broad control of U.S. port sites, raises national security concerns about interference with America's critical infrastructure. However, rather than the uncertainty that arises at the beginning, the deal in the long run indicates the importance of strong economic relations with the U.S. and how these can benefit the UAE (Rugh, 2017). In line with Katzman's (2020) view, the cooperation raises the stakes at the strategic level of ties between the two countries, fostering stronger interdependence on many local and international issues.

3.3.3 Influence on Production and Export Decisions

AWACS and Dubai International Ports deals have an indirect influence on production and export decisions within the Arab world. As these deals signal increased cooperation and interdependence between Arab nations and the United States, they create an incentive for stable energy markets and reliable energy supplies (Gause, 2010; Jaffe & Ellass, 2007). Arab oil-producing countries recognize the importance of maintaining a constructive relationship with the United States, which could impact their ability to export oil and access global markets (Jaffe & Ellass, 2007; Al-Kibsi et al., 2007).

3.3.4 Supporting Regional Stability

Both agreements are dedicated to sustaining peace and security in the Middle East, a region long plagued by various intricate and complex issues. The AWACS deals treated as a defensive-oriented plan by which Saudi Arabia can strengthen its capacity and preserve stability in the face of possible threats (Gause, 2010; Simmons, 2005). On the other hand, the Dubai International Ports project has led to growing economic cooperation and consequently more incentives for peace and stability (Rugh, 2017; Katzman, 2020). These deals reflect the shared interests of Arab nations and the United States in promoting a stable and secure Middle East (Jaffe & Ellass, 2007; Al-Kibsi et al., 2007).

3.3.5 Influence on Diplomatic Relations

AWACS and Dubai International Ports deals affect decision-making between Arab countries and the United States, altering diplomatic relations between the Arab world and the USA. The AWACS agreement encounters serious problems with the aboriginal population and some pro-Israeli lobbyists, thus negatively influencing relations between the US and its Arab allies (Gause, 2010; Andelman, 2006). However, the achievement of the deal by the Arab Lobby can be attributed to its ability to influence U.S. foreign policies, as reflected by U.S. decision-makers (Andelman, 2006; Al-Rasheed, 2010).

In contrast, the transit deal between Dubai International Ports and the initial controversy surrounding the deal demonstrates the complexities of international priorities and national security issues, resulting in deteriorating relations between the UAE and the United States (Rugh, 2017; Katzman, 2020). Ultimately, these deals underscore the importance of open dialogue, mutual understanding, and balancing diverse interests in maintaining strong diplomatic ties (Katzman, 2020; Al-Rasheed, 2010).

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Arab lobby's impact on US national interests in the Middle East, particularly concerning oil supplies, is undeniably significant. Leveraging diplomatic strategies and forging strategic alliances, the Arab lobby plays a pivotal role in shaping US policies and agreements in the region. Through initiatives like AWACS and Dubai International Ports deals, the lobby effectively reshapes diplomatic relations, influences oil production policies, and sparks debates over national security. These efforts highlight the lobby's ability to navigate complex geopolitical landscapes and advocate for its interests on the global stage. As such, understanding and navigating the strategies employed by the Arab lobby remains crucial for policymakers in ensuring stable diplomatic ties and safeguarding the security and stability of oil supplies in the Middle East, a region of paramount importance to global energy security.

General conclusion

This study sought out at assessing the influence of the Arab Lobby on American national interests in the Middle East, with emphasis on oil supply. It investigated how this impact affected U.S policy on regional oil supply. The study examined the link between the Arab Lobby and U.S policy in the Middle East.

Correspondingly, the dissertation is three-fold. The first chapter, titled "The Arab Lobby: Historical and Theoretical Overview," examined the historical backdrop as well as the theoretical underpinnings of the Arab Lobby. This chapter aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the origin, growth, and influence of the Arab Lobby within the United States. However, the second chapter, "US National Interests in the Middle East: Overview," considered broader U.S national interests and examined the country's political, economic, and strategic positions in the region. The goal was to determine how these interests were affected by the Arab Lobby.

Three hypotheses have been formulated. The first hypothesized that the Arab lobby might influence US foreign policy through financial contributions and strategic partnerships. The second believed that lobbying activities would influence how the US government developed and implemented national goals, perhaps favouring the economic and geopolitical interests of Arab oil-rich nations. The third postulated that the Arab lobby The Arab lobby's influence on U.S national interest may prioritize energy security above others. To confirm the hypotheses, this study employed a qualitative approach to investigating the complicated link between the Arab lobby and US foreign policy. It opted for the historical and descriptive methods.

The results of this study have revealed the following: The chapter's analysis highlighted the substantial influence of Arab nations on US oil policy, driven by financial strength and strategic

partnerships. AWACS arms deal with Saudi Arabia serves as a prime example, showcasing how Saudi lobbyists aligned with the kingdom's interests and utilized campaign donations to engage US policymakers. By forming alliances with American officials and businesses, Saudi Arabia effectively shaped US foreign policy to procure advanced military technology and solidify its regional ally status. The success of the Saudi lobby was bolstered by its ability to mobilize voters and secure crucial involvement from the US President, key factors in gaining Congressional approval.

The chapter illustrated the Arab lobby's varied methods of intervention in US business interests in the oil-rich Middle East. Notably, in the Dubai International Ports affair, the UAE government employed top professional firms for advocacy, including former US senators as lobbyists. Simultaneously, the multi-pronged public relations approach was instigated through op-eds, interviews for the media and networking with the influential personalities to generate world support for the agreement and overcome the opposition to it. This includes the three leading way is point to the Arab lobby's efficacy in dealing with such environments to pursue their interests.

The analysis further highlighted the diverse tactics employed by the Arab lobby to shape U.S. oil policies in the Middle East. These included mobilizing voter power, engaging in strategic media campaigns, conducting research and educational programs, and leveraging former U.S. officials and prominent lobbying firms. Together, these tactics aimed to generate public and political support, improved the image of Arab states, and provided the lobby with access to policymakers to advance its interests in the region.

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الملخص

تتناول هذه الأطروحة تأثير اللوبي العربي على المصالح الوطنية الأمريكية في الشرق الأوسط، مع التركيز بشكل خاص على حالة إمدادات النفط. تسعى الدراسة إلى تحليل استراتيجيات اللوبي العربي وتأثيره في تشكيل السياسات الأمريكية تجاه الشرق الأوسط، خاصة فيما يتعلق بموارد المنطقة النفطية. يستخدم هذا البحث النوعي. ويختار الأساليب التاريخية والوصفية. تظهر نتائج هذه الدراسة أن اللوبي العربي، وخاصة اللوبي السعودي، يؤثر على السياسة النفطية الأمريكية من خلال الدعم المالي، وجهود الضغط، والتحالفات الاستراتيجية، كما رأينا في صفقة الأواكس. ومن خلال استخدام استراتيجية متعددة الأوجه، تؤثر الكتلة العربية على مصالح الولايات المتحدة في الشرق الأوسط من خلال الانخراط في المفاوضات، والاستفادة من كبار جماعات الضغط، وإطلاق حملات العلاقات العامة، المتمثلة في صفقة موانئ دبي. ومن خلال استخدام تكتيكات متنوعة مثل التعبئة الشعبية والحملات الإعلامية، يهدف اللوبي العربي إلى حشد الدعم الشعبي والسياسي، وتعزيز صورة الدول العربية، والوصول إلى صانعي السياسات لتعزيز المصالح الإقليمية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: اللوبي العربي، المصالح الوطنية الأمريكية، الشرق الأوسط، إمدادات النفط، السياسة الخارجية، أمن الطاقة.