

ISRAELI-SAUDI PARTNERSHIP: REALITIES AND PROSPECTS

ІЗРАЇЛЬСЬКО-САУДІВСЬКЕ ПАРТНЕРСТВО: РЕАЛІЇ ТА ПЕРСПЕКТИВИ

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Abstract. *In this scientific article, we examine today's realities and future prospects of the Israeli-Saudi partnership in the context of dynamically evolving Middle Eastern geopolitics. Exploring the multifaceted dimensions of this strategic cooperation, the study delves into the diplomatic relations, security considerations, and economic ties between Israel and Saudi Arabia. Using a comprehensive analytical framework, the study sheds light on the motivations behind this unprecedented regional alliance and examines its implications for the broader Middle East security paradigm. By revealing the intricacies of this diplomatic rapprochement, the article aims to provide valuable information to scholars, politicians and observers interested in the geopolitical dynamics of the Middle East.*

Key words: *Israeli-Saudi relations, Middle East, Middle Eastern geopolitics, regional alliances, security cooperation, diplomatic rapprochement, Middle Eastern security paradigm, regional stability.*

Анотація. *У цій науковій статті досліджуються поточні реалії та майбутні перспективи ізраїльсько-саудівського партнерства в контексті близькосхідної геополітики, що динамічно розвивається. Досліджуючи багатогранні виміри цієї стратегічної співпраці, дослідження заглиблюється в дипломатичні відносини, міркування безпеки та економічні зв'язки між Ізраїлем і Саудівською Аравією. Використовуючи комплексну аналітичну базу, дослідження проливає світло на мотиви цього безпрецедентного регіонального альянсу та вивчає його наслідки для ширшої парадигми безпеки Близького Сходу. Розкриваючи тонкощі цього дипломатичного зближення, стаття має на меті надати цінну інформацію науковцям, політикам і спостерігачам, які цікавляться геополітичною динамікою Близького Сходу.*

Ключові слова: *Ізраїльсько-саудівські відносини, близькосхідна геополітика, регіональні альянси, безпекова співпраця, геостратегічне партнерство, дипломатичне зближення, близькосхідна парадигма безпеки, регіональна стабільність.*

Introduction

This scientific article examines a critical problem of modern international relations — the formation of an alliance between Israel and Saudi Arabia. Against the background of the complex

geopolitics of the Middle East, this partnership brings dynamic changes with profound consequences. The study problem requires a detailed review of the motives, consequences and future vectors of this cooperation. The scientific significance lies in the unique opportunity to deepen our understanding of the evolving geopolitical landscape in the Middle East. By studying the realities and prospects of the Israeli-Saudi partnership, researchers contribute to the scholarly discourse on international relations, diplomacy, and regional security. This analysis sheds light on the intricate web of historical, cultural and geopolitical factors that underlie the alliance, enriching our understanding of regional cooperation marked by historical rivalry. From a practical point of view, revealing the realities and prospects of the Israeli-Saudi partnership is crucial for politicians, diplomats and analysts in the field of international relations. As transformative changes are taking place in the Middle East, the findings of this study directly influence foreign policy decisions, regional stability initiatives, and conflict resolution strategies. Understanding the practical implications of this alliance helps decision makers navigate the complexities of diplomatic engagement and strategic alignment.

The purpose of the article is to explore the historical, geopolitical, and strategic factors that led to the establishment of the Israeli-Saudi partnership, as well as to analyze the broader geopolitical implications of this partnership in the Middle East.

The source base of the research is at the stage of its formation, taking into account the dynamics of events in the Middle East and the rapid development of Israeli-Saudi cooperation. A large number of publications and analytical reviews are offered by such journals as "International Affairs," "Middle East Policy," and "Journal of Middle East Studies." Think tanks such as the Brookings Institution, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and the Center for Strategic and International Studies frequently publish research on Middle East geopolitics, particularly on the prospects for an Israeli-Saudi partnership.

The Middle East during the last century is a region characterized by complex geopolitical dynamics, historical conflicts and changing power structures. Key to understanding this complex landscape is the definition of a security paradigm that encompasses the multifaceted strategies, interests, and challenges that shape security politics in the region.

Security in all its definitions is key to understanding the Middle East region in its broadest sense in the context of a wider geopolitical scale. Moreover, it is the security paradigm that forms the new geopolitical reality in this region and influences the formation of alliances and strategies in the middle of the region. The security paradigm in the Middle East can be defined as a framework of policies, strategies and actions undertaken by states and non-state actors to protect their national interests, territorial integrity and political stability in a region marked by historical conflicts, power struggles and socio-cultural diversity. This paradigm goes beyond conventional military concerns to encompass economic, political, and ideological aspects that affect the achievement of security.

In this context, such characteristics of the Middle East security paradigm as historical conflicts and power struggles come to the fore. The security paradigm of the Middle East is deeply rooted in historical conflicts, including the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Iran-Iraq war, and territorial disputes. These conflicts have led to historic grievances, shaping regional perceptions of security and influencing public policy. Over the past few decades, the region has become a major arena for proxy wars, where global and regional powers support opposing factions to advance their interests. This has led to complex alliances and confrontations, such as the rivalry between Saudi Arabia and Iran, further exacerbating security concerns.

During the last thirty years, since the end of the Cold War, the political and strategic profile of the Middle East has been changing quite rapidly. Middle Eastern dynamics became relatively stable, and the United States began to play the role of a dominant external player that actively participated in strategic decisions in the middle of the region. Today, a combination of revolutions, civil wars in the region, US fatigue from global leadership, Russia's return to the region as a regional player, as well as terrorism, energy conflicts, and the struggle for resources have quite thoroughly changed the geopolitics of the Middle East.

The peculiarity of Israel's policy in a conflict-prone environment

Israel occupies a unique and complex place in the Middle Eastern subsystem of international relations. The historical context, strategic importance and interaction with neighboring countries determine the role of the State of Israel in the region. The creation of Israel in 1948 during the Arab-

Israeli conflict led to the formation of a national identity, and most importantly, security imperatives, which to this day play a decisive role in the formation of foreign policy. The geopolitical location at the crossroads of continents provides both advantages and creates a kind of vulnerability. While formal peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan mark diplomatic progress, informal alliances are forming to counter common threats despite limited recognition. In this context, the formation of the foreign policy of the State of Israel played an important role in the transformation of the Middle Eastern subsystem of international relations.

In the political space of the Middle Eastern region, at first glance, Israel looks like a kind of "unusual phenomenon", a state that, due to the long-standing conflict with the Arabs, by definition aligns itself exclusively on the West - both from a values point of view and in terms of foreign policy. However, in reality we are dealing with much more complex and ambiguous things.

From the very first days of its existence, Israel faced a number of serious challenges, the solution of which is, in fact, a guarantee of the "success" of the development of any state. Among them, one of the key ones was the challenge of finding ways to overcome diplomatic isolation: legitimization in the international political arena, finding points of contact and ways of forming a positive model of relations with Muslim countries.

As for Israel's regional policy, it generally focuses on a few key categories to address its own geopolitical and socio-economic challenges. First of all, it is about security and defense policy. Given Israel's complex security environment, much of its regional policy is based around ensuring national security, which mainly consists of countering threats from neighboring countries, terrorism, and potential military conflicts. The policy includes defense cooperation with strategic allies, intelligence sharing, and efforts to counter regional destabilization.

Israel's security and defense policy is primary in its broader foreign policy. Given the country's unique geopolitical context and historical experience, ensuring national security is a fundamental imperative that significantly determines Israel's interaction with the international community and its regional neighbors. Existential threats and historical context date back at least to the creation of Israel as a state in 1948. This process was accompanied by conflicts with neighboring Arab countries, which questioned the existence of the state as a whole. The historical context in the form of numerous wars and ongoing tensions has deeply rooted the importance of security in the national psychology. The memory of past conflicts and an understanding of the potential of existential threats continue to shape Israel's approach to foreign policy.

The deterrence of enemies and the formation of a circle of trust are also taken into account in that process. Israel's strong defense capability and deterrence policy are the key elements of foreign policy. By maintaining a powerful defense apparatus and demonstrating its ability to effectively respond to any aggression, Israel seeks to prevent potential adversaries from carrying out hostile actions. This increases its credibility in the eyes of regional and global actors and has the effect of strengthening regional stability: Israel recognizes that a stable regional environment contributes to its own security. Israel's defense policy is aimed primarily at preventing regional destabilization, which could have far-reaching consequences for its own stability and security. In this regard, working with regional partners and stakeholders to address shared security challenges contributes to a more stable Middle East, which has certainly been reflected in Israeli Middle East policy for at least the past decade. Thus, Israel's constant focus on its own security creates a basis for diplomatic engagement both with traditional allies and with countries that were previously skeptical of its policies. Security cooperation is the basis for building alliances, building trust and promoting common interests, leading to broader cooperation in areas beyond security.

In the sphere of diplomacy, Israel's regional cooperation priorities reflect a dynamic restructuring of traditional alliances and a strategic desire for stability. Diplomatic initiatives, once limited by historical animosity, now govern a landscape where the interests of countries in the region converge, creating opportunities for diplomatic engagement. The normalization of relations with some Arab states marks a paradigm shift, signaling a move away from historical animosity toward a more pragmatic approach and cooperation. The pursuit of regional stability becomes a spearhead of Israel's diplomatic calculations, recognizing that a stable regional environment that fosters cooperation fosters broader global integration. By developing diplomatic ties and building relationships with regional partners, even unofficial ones, Israel seeks to contribute to a

transformational narrative where cooperation replaces conflict and shared interests serve as the basis for diplomatic engagement.

The influence of the USA on the foreign policy of Israel and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

For many decades, the United States has pursued a number of core interests in the Middle East: the fight against terrorism and the prevention of nuclear proliferation; ensuring the free flow of trade and security in the region; protection of Israel and mediation in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Despite the transformation of American foreign policy over the past few years and the reducing the influence on global affairs, it is worth noting that Israel remains the key non-regional priority of the US foreign policy.

Nevertheless, the Middle East is a rather conflict-prone region, the balance of powers in the region varies depending on the foreign policy tasks of the states, coalitions are quite situational, and the religious factor plays a significant role in making political decisions.

In this context, the partnership between the USA and Israel, the foundations of which were laid after the Second World War, looks quite stable. The United States and Israel share a unique and multifaceted partnership that has evolved over decades, shaped by historical, geopolitical, and cultural factors. This alliance, often characterized by a strong bond, has features that distinguish it from other typical bilateral relations between the two countries. A study of the dynamics of the American-Israeli partnership reveals a complex interplay of strategic interests, shared values, and occasional tensions.

The United States was one of the first countries to recognize Israel's independence, thus laying a solid foundation for the relationship. Historical events such as the Cold War played a crucial role in the formation of this alliance, as both countries found common ground in opposing Soviet influence in the Middle East. One of the key features of the American-Israeli partnership is shared strategic interests. The Middle East is a region of geopolitical importance, and both countries have recognized the importance of cooperation on issues such as the fight against terrorism, regional stability and deterring common enemies. Israel is a key ally of the United States in a region marked by complex challenges.

The military dimension of the US-Israeli partnership is a prominent aspect that distinguishes it from many other alliances. The United States continuously provides military aid and technological support to Israel, increasing its defense capabilities. This cooperation not only has strengthened Israel's security, but also allowed the United States to create a reliable and technologically advanced partner in the region. Beyond strategic interests, the American-Israeli partnership is deeply rooted in shared values and commitment to democracy. Both countries are proud of their developed democratic governance, human rights and the rule of law. This commonality fosters a sense of kinship and understanding between them, strengthening the ties that bind them even in times of diplomatic challenges.

The key role of the United States in the regional life of Israel can be summarized due to the following factors: annual aid in the amount of approximately 3 billion US dollars, the active work of the AIPAC committee, the constant export of new weapons, the interchange of intelligence information, etc. Moreover, the United States has a number of interests in the Middle East that are fully aligned with the regional priorities of the State of Israel.

Thus, the US-Israeli partnership is a unique and complex alliance shaped by historical, strategic, and cultural factors. The bond between the two nations, which has stood the test of decades, reflects a shared commitment to democracy and shared interests in the turbulent Middle East. Despite periodic difficulties, the partnership continues to grow, demonstrating resilience and adaptability on the global stage. As the geopolitical landscape changes, the US and Israel face new opportunities and challenges, further confirming the uniqueness of their enduring partnership. Thus, the significant role of the USA is worth noting in formation of Israel's regional foreign policy goals and objectives in the context of the current international political situation.

The foreign policy of the KSA was also structurally influenced by the United States, so its formation by sole Arab efforts was limited for a certain period of time. In this regard, Israel was more autonomous, because it simply had to reckon with the opinion of its senior partner, while conducting an independent foreign policy. Looking at the evolution of Saudi policy through a historical prism, it can be stated that since the early 1970s, the KSA began to distance itself from the US and moved to an active phase of forming its own foreign policy priorities and goals, which were less and less

influenced by the US [D.Sanger, 2015]. The real expansion of the circle of strategic partners, which was now not limited to the United States, took place in the mid-1980s, but it was more a survival necessity than an attempt to form the institution of a strategic partnership.

Nevertheless, for the US, the alliance with Saudi Arabia has long been the focus of foreign policy in the Middle East. The origins of the US-Saudi Arabia partnership can be traced back to the mid-20th century, when the two countries began cooperating on issues of mutual interest. Relations strengthened during the Cold War, when the United States sought to counter Soviet influence in the region. The subsequent discovery of oil in Saudi Arabia further strengthened the strategic importance of the partnership.

Therefore, the defining feature of the US-Saudi Arabia partnership has always been and remains energy security. Saudi Arabia has vast oil reserves, and the United States has always sought to maintain a stable and reliable source of oil from the region. This economic dimension of the alliance has influenced diplomatic, economic and military cooperation between the two countries.

Since 9/11, counterterrorism cooperation has become a critical aspect of the US-Saudi partnership. Both countries share a common interest in fighting extremism and maintaining regional stability. Intelligence sharing, military cooperation and efforts to counter radical ideologies have been central to their joint efforts to address complex security challenges in the Middle East.

This partnership is also marked by a mutual desire to influence regional dynamics in the Middle East. Saudi Arabia, as a key player in the Arab world, and the United States, as a global superpower, are working together to address shared challenges such as Iranian influence, the Yemeni conflict, and broader regional stability. This strategic alignment determines the policies and actions of both countries in the complex geopolitics of the Middle East.

Despite a number of problems that exist between the two countries, in particular in the field of human rights protection, the partnership between the United States and Saudi Arabia is a special alliance formed by historical, economic and geopolitical factors. The dynamics of this partnership reflect the complexity inherent in the intersection of national interests, regional stability, and global security. As the Middle East continues to evolve, the U.S. and Saudi Arabia are trying to adapt and work together to address new challenges, even as some differences have emerged recently.

The United States played a key role in influencing the formation of the alliance between Israel and Saudi Arabia, shaping the strategic landscape of the Middle East. The historical context of the US involvement in the region, driven by geopolitical considerations and common security interests, contributed to the development of this informal alliance.

The United States has historically pursued a strategy of fostering alliances with key regional players to maintain stability and protect its interests. Israel and Saudi Arabia's cooperation with the US positions them as significant partners in addressing shared challenges, including countering Iranian influence and promoting regional security. The US has been and remains a major supplier of military aid and technology to both Israel and Saudi Arabia, contributing to the creation of a joint security apparatus. This not only strengthened the military potential of these countries, but also created a basis for mutual cooperation in countering regional threats.

US diplomatic efforts have played a role in encouraging dialogue between Israel and Saudi Arabia. Without being formal allies, the two countries have found common ground in certain geopolitical scenarios facilitated by US diplomacy. The US-brokered normalization agreements between Israel and some Arab countries, known as the Abraham Accords, created a more favorable environment for regional partnership.

Since the US has a profound influence on the regional dynamics of the Middle East, its policies, statements and military presence affect the calculus of both Israel and Saudi Arabia, prompting them to readjust their strategies and potentially find areas of cooperation. US influence creates both challenges and opportunities for the Israeli-Saudi alliance. While aligning with the US improves their security and economic prospects, it also exposes them to regional tensions and the complexities associated with US foreign policy decisions.

In summary, the United States is a key element in the development of the alliance between Israel and Saudi Arabia, shaping the strategic landscape and influencing the potential for increased cooperation between these regional states. The dynamics of these tripartite relations continue to unfold in response to changing geopolitical realities and common problems in the Middle East.

The influence of the new geopolitics of the Middle East on establishing cooperation between Israel and Saudi Arabia

In the context of world globalization, the reduction of the US presence in the Middle East, as well as the return of Russia to the race for leadership and increased presence in the region, Israel resorted to the search for new partnerships that could satisfy national interests and provide the necessary level of security for survival in a conflict-prone environment. In the absence of (or insufficiently high level of development of) relations with neighboring Arab countries, strategic relations with an Islamic but non-Arab state could become for Israel a kind of "bridge" to the region, which should ultimately lead, if not to the settlement of the Middle East conflict, then, at least, to the minimization of threats to Israel's national security, as well as to a more favorable arrangement of forces in international organizations.

Thus, Israel's regional politics have undergone significant transformational changes over the past ten years at least. The components of Israel's regional policy were, firstly, Israel's support of various non-Arab ethnic and religious minorities in the Middle East (which gave Israel the opportunity to play a complex geopolitical game, the strategic goal of which was to "shake up from within" the Arab regimes hostile to Israel), and secondly, the creation of alliances with non-Arab Muslim states located on the regional periphery, with the aim of changing the balance of power in the region in favor of Israel [M. Ayoob, 2018].

So, in the environment in which Israel found itself, the concept of a "peripheral alliance" crystallized, the essence of which came down to the need to find allies in a hostile environment based on ethnic and religious lines.

Israel's primarily "security-regional" vision of partnership does not coincide with the Kingdom's global reflections on this topic. Saudi Arabia represents the Arab bloc and for quite a long time actually opposed the existence of Israel as such. Until the interests of both states began to coincide in terms of creating an anti-Iranian coalition. The main actors in the geopolitical game in the Middle East have clear goals: Iran and Saudi Arabia are trying to contain each other and keep the balance, Israel is trying to counter both the nuclear and regional ambitions of Iran. From this point of view it follows that Israel and Saudi Arabia share one strategic and regional goal - the containment of Iran.

Far from being a region characterized by European-style cooperation, the Middle East is full of ancient antagonisms and bitter geopolitical rivalry. Saudi Arabia's recent rapprochement with Israel can best be explained by reference to the proverb "The enemy of my enemy is my friend." The enemy in this case is Iran, which both countries perceive as a threat to their strategic interests in the Middle East. Iran is engaged in a fierce competition with Saudi Arabia for influence in the Persian Gulf and the Middle East in general [Haaretz, 2009]. Moreover, Riyadh seems to be losing this competition in the context of events in Syria, Lebanon and Iraq.

The reasons for Israel's improved dialogue with Saudi Arabia are more complex. The common front against Iran is one of the factors that determine Israel's policy. Iran challenges Israel's nuclear monopoly in the region and uses its influence in the Levant to thwart Israeli dominance in the region, and is therefore considered a threat by Israeli policymakers [D.Sanger, 2015]. Equally important, the Israeli authorities believe that improving relations with Riyadh will also serve other important purposes.

First, Saudi Arabia's first steps in establishing relations with Israel may encourage other Arab countries, especially the oil-rich Gulf countries, to open their economies to Israeli investment and technical know-how, thus Israel will reap significant economic benefits. For example, the visit of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to Oman in 2018 and other senior members of the Israeli cabinet to the UAE are part of the same strategy [M. Ayoob, 2018]. But the success of this strategy depends critically on how Israel develops a significant, if unacknowledged, relationship with Saudi Arabia.

Second, the Netanyahu government calculated that improving relations with the Saudi regime, which remains the location of the two holiest sites in Islam and the world's leading oil exporter, would help resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, although not entirely in Israel's favor, but at least with minimal losses. This would help Israel maintain the status quo, or more specifically, control the entire area between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, without granting the Palestinians any right to citizenship and thereby diluting Jewish political dominance in the area. Moreover, with Riyadh's

help, the status quo will be acceptable to other Arab and Muslim countries, as some of them, such as Egypt and Pakistan, depend on Saudi largesse.

Saudi-Israeli rapprochement was also actively supported by the Trump administration. Jared Kushner, the former president's son-in-law and the man who ran the administration in the Middle East, developed a special relationship with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman [Middle East Monitor, 2019]. He used this, among other things, to train the prince to accept Israel's point of view on the Palestinian issue and to convince the Saudi regime, and he had considerable success in this regard, as it was achieved before the Khashoggi case began.

The United States is also very interested in a joint front between Saudi Arabia and Israel against Iran, which is seen as America's main adversary in the Middle East. The opposition of both Riyadh and Tel Aviv to the Iran nuclear deal laid the foundations for such a common front. The rise to power of Donald Trump and his subsequent withdrawal from the nuclear deal have further emboldened Saudi Arabia and Israel in their confrontation with Iran.

Things were progressing quite smoothly until Israeli-Saudi relations were disturbed after the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, apparently on the orders of the Saudi regime. Senior officials of the two governments, including Mossad Chief Yossi Cohen, have met with each other on several occasions, although these meetings have been kept secret. It was at this time that Riyadh was particularly interested in acquiring modern Israeli-made surveillance technologies in order to strengthen control over Saudi society and its neighbors [Middle East Monitor, 2019].

Nevertheless, the assassination of Jamal Khashoggi, which is believed to have been carried out on the orders of the highest echelons of the Saudi government, caused some problems in the further establishment of bilateral relations. First, the two main interlocutors from Saudi Arabia, Qahtani and Assiri, were removed from their key positions because of their involvement in the Khashoggi case, and this resulted in the halting of Saudi-Israeli interactions in key areas [M. Ayoob, 2018].

Second, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has been the focus of intense criticism since Khashoggi's death, and he is also responsible for events in Yemen that have left thousands of civilians dead and millions of people still on the brink of starvation.

Nevertheless, the rapprochement between the two countries continued on the sidelines, without attracting too much attention. Supported by the United States, which maintains strong ties with both countries, these classified interactions have focused on intelligence sharing, counterterrorism efforts and cooperation on regional security. The secretive nature of this relationship reflects the delicate balance that both countries must strike to deal with internal conflicts.

After the American elections, newly elected President Joe Biden continued the work of his predecessor in normalizing relations between the two Middle Eastern power centers. Although the relationship between the American president and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has been strained, to put it mildly, not least because of the lack of compromise on the part of the US regarding the settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and US pressure on the kingdom to increase oil production, progress in promoting an agreement with Israel has been notable.

Also, two visits of Israeli officials to Riyadh became a kind of historical event: the first took place on September 10, 2023, when Israeli diplomats firstly officially visited Saudi Arabia to participate in a meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, and later, at the end of September, a visit to the Minister of Tourism of Israel took place to the kingdom.

As of today, negotiations for the signing of a historic agreement between Israel and Saudi Arabia are suspended after the attack by Hamas on Israeli territory on October 7, 2023. For its part, Riyadh explains that it is impossible to continue negotiations as long as violence continues in the region to achieve political goals. The Americans have their own opinion on this matter. For example, US President Joe Biden believes that Hamas was motivated to attack Israel in part by a desire to prevent that country from normalizing relations with Saudi Arabia. U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said the Hamas attacks may have been motivated in part by a desire to derail the most ambitious part of the United States' initiative: cementing diplomatic ties between rivals Israel and Saudi Arabia. The two largest powers of the Middle East have a common enemy in Iran, a generous military and financial sponsor of Hamas.

Conclusions

The nascent Israeli-Saudi partnership represents a significant shift in the geopolitical dynamics of the Middle East. Driven by shared interests, stealth diplomacy and a desire for regional stability, the two nations are cautiously exploring areas of cooperation once thought unthinkable. While challenges remain, the evolving relationship underscores the volatility of Middle Eastern alliances and the potential for unexpected partnerships that will shape the future of the region. As geopolitical landscapes continue to evolve, the Israeli-Saudi partnership is sure to be at the center of regional debates with ramifications that extend beyond the borders of these two nations.

The signing of the agreement between the two countries will also have far-reaching implications for the Middle East region and certain benefits for both countries. Saudi Arabia seeks security guarantees from the US to protect itself from Iran. For Israel, the signing of this historic agreement contributes to the resolution, at least partially, of the Arab-Israeli conflict and will open the door to the Arab world more widely, as the peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan did. Normalization agreements will contribute to a more stable regional environment by strengthening diplomatic ties and reducing historical tensions. Improved relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia, two key regional players, could have a positive impact on the overall stability of the Middle East.

Normalization agreements will also open possibilities for economic cooperation and development. Shared economic interests such as trade, technology sharing and investment can contribute to regional prosperity and stability by addressing socio-economic challenges that often fuel regional tensions

Furthermore, it is important to note that their shared antagonism towards Iran and their close relationship with the United States will ultimately play a role in the development of new approaches to regional stability through the joint efforts of Israel and Saudi Arabia.

The trend towards normalization means a change in traditional alliances in the Middle East. As more countries recognize Israel and establish diplomatic relations, this is helping to reshape regional partnerships, influencing the geopolitical landscape and potentially reducing the risk of conflict. Establishing formal ties facilitates direct communication, allowing countries to resolve disputes, manage crises, and work toward shared regional goals.

Common points of contact and mutual benefit in certain areas have already been identified, so today it is about creating comprehensive partnerships that will help not only to confront regional threats, in the form of Palestine, Iran or Lebanon, but also to develop a joint strategy for preventing crises and facing new challenges and be ready to take on obligations to solve global and regional problems.

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