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Analysis of Geopolitical Genomes Affecting Iran and Saudi Arabia in Regional Conflicts: A Case Study of Three Countries—Yemen, Syria, and Bahrain.

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Abstract

Geopolitical genomes are geographical phenomena related to independent political units with sovereignty or the same countries that require strategic thinking for their internal and external policies. These genetic codes, unique to each country, enable the prediction of foreign policy analysis and the actions of actors at national, regional, and global levels.

Since Iran and Saudi Arabia are the two main and influential players in the South-west Asia region, knowing their geopolitical genomes is very important for the analysis of their foreign policy and geopolitical codes.

The current research aims to identify the influential genomes of the two countries in order to find out how they influence in shaping their foreign policy and explain the

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role of these genomes in the most important areas of conflict between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

The research hypothesis suggests that the distinct geopolitical genomes of Iran and Saudi Arabia serve as the foundation for conflicts between the two countries at the regional level, especially impacting the national spaces of Syria, Yemen, and Bahrain.

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The research methodology employed is descriptive-analytical and relies on information and library sources. The results of this study indicate a direct relationship between the genomes of the two countries and the escalation of competition and conflicts between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

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Methodology: The research methodology is descriptive-analytical, based on information and library resources.

Problem Statement: Gene, genome, and gene mapping are concepts rooted in biological sciences. Countries exhibit characteristics based on their geopolitical structures, which are reflected in their foreign policy behaviors. Analyzing these characteristics aids in understanding and predicting the actions of national actors within the international system. The genetic map of a country's geographic policy is regarded as a geopolitical code by rival nations and shapes the strategic outlook of that country's foreign policy towards the target nation. Since governments are key actors in the international system, it should be noted that their foreign policy originates from their ideologies, values, and concerns. Hence, it is essential to recognize that geopolitics and geography significantly influence the foreign policy decisions of governments.

Understanding the geopolitical genomes of countries is crucial for comprehending their maneuvering capabilities and engagements at both regional and global levels. The significance of geographic factors in elucidating foreign policy objectives and national interests cannot be understated. Acquiring knowledge of these genomes facilitates an understanding of the geographical and geopolitical

components of other political entities in both structural and functional dimensions. This knowledge plays a vital role in shaping geopolitical interests and recognizing geopolitical challenges for national leaders and decision-makers.

The relationship between Iran and Saudi Arabia, two significant countries in the Middle East, has witnessed numerous fluctuations, experiencing phases of convergence and divergence. The cooperation and competition between the two countries before the Islamic Revolution of 1357 transformed into conflict and tension, impacting the regional atmosphere. The conflicts between Iran and Saudi Arabia have been driven by various reasons, reflecting a form of competition where parties aim to hinder each other from achieving their goals by bolstering their positions and competing for scarce resources.

These conflicts stem from the distinct geopolitical genomes of Iran and Saudi Arabia, significantly influencing the development of their divergent foreign policies. Genomic discussions between the two countries have primarily arisen within the context of geopolitics, and this factor has significantly contributed to the persistent conflict between them.

In this article, we seek to answer the question: What role do the geopolitical genomes between Iran and Saudi Arabia play in the spread of conflicts between the two countries at the regional level?

The hypothesis of the research is formulated in such a way that it suggests that the distinct geopolitical genomes between Iran and Saudi Arabia underlie and perpetuate the conflicts between the two countries at the regional level, particularly within the national contexts of Syria, Yemen, and Bahrain.

Conclusion: Geopolitical genomes are specific and distinct human and natural geographic elements related to a political unit (country) that play a major role in shaping the domestic and foreign policy of that country. These genomes can be both producers and destroyers of national power at the same time.

The results of the study on the mentioned genomes and their impact on the foreign policy of Iran and Saudi Arabia show that the different geopolitical genomes of the two countries, which mainly make sense in the geopolitical and ideological fields, have cast a shadow on the relations between these two countries. These genomes and geopolitical codes resulting from them, which form their foreign policy agenda, have led to differences in the declarative and prac-

tical positions of two important actors in the region.

Both political entities are striving to outdo their rivals and achieve regional supremacy by leveraging their power-generating genomes and imposing restrictions on power-destroying genomes. Their competition, along with their conflicts, which stem from geopolitical interests and concerns arising from their differing genomes, has broadened the scope of militant actions by the parties across the entire region. These conflicts encompass various geopolitical dimensions such as territorialization and geopolitical influence at the regional level, conflicting and divergent geopolitical positions, and discordant political and ideological attitudes.

In the meantime, extra-regional powers such as Israel and the United States have entered into regional conflicts, including in Syria, Yemen, and Bahrain, by adopting codes aligned with Saudi Arabia and playing a role. Based on this, it can be said that the hypothesis of the research about the effect of the actions of these two countries in deepening the conflicts of these political units at the regional level is confirmed.

In this way, the differing ideologies and geopolitical stances of the two countries, such as Wahhabism versus Shiism, the conservative political system of Saudi Arabia versus the revolutionary and aggressive political system of Iran, and the radicalism and extremism of the Saudis versus the pluralism that governs Iran in their worldview and adoption of geopolitical codes, have been influential. The two countries have engaged in regional competitions that have demonstrated their impact.

Based on the analysis of the effective genomes of the two countries and the geopolitical codes they have adopted, the dominant approach in their relations is a geopolitical one focused on competition, conflict, and security-military actions, while avoiding a geopacific approach based on peace and cooperation. The continuation of this process and the use of conflicting codes towards each other will perpetuate tension in the region. Therefore, in order to reduce tension in their foreign relations, it is necessary to implement tension-relieving and converging policies.

Key words: Iran, Saudi Arabia, Geopolitical Genome, Conflict, Geopolitical Code