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The expansion of NATO to the southern Mediterranean based on the Istanbul talks

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Abstract

Countries enter into an alliance considering that their interests are maintained in achieving a common goal. It can be said that countries that have enough power to achieve their goals or have regional and international power may act through alliances and enter alliances to reduce costs, reduce time, or justify their country's actions in interventions in other countries. Originally a regional military alliance, the United States reorganized NATO in 2008 to address the problem of power security (economic, political, and military) in Western Europe and the Mediterranean in a way that would suit its interests. be consistent from the Second World War. In 1949, 12 countries from North America and Western Europe signed the Washington Treaty and established the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Initially, the organization's

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main goal was to prevent Soviet expansionism. But NATO had two other goals: to prevent the revival of nationalist militarism in Europe through a strong North American presence on the continent, and to encourage European political integration. After 73 years, NATO has grown to 30 member states through Eastern enlargement after 1991. This organization still plays an important role for international peace and stability and more so in the transatlantic region. In fact, NATO, which was a product of the era after the Second World War and the beginning of the Cold War, after the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union and the transformation of the norms and rules of the game in the international system, faced an existential crisis and the lack of a strategic competitor in international interactions, the functional existential philosophy of NATO faced with fundamental challenges and even this question arose among NATO members and the international community that basically, what position will the organization that was created in the face of the Soviet threat have after the collapse of the Soviet Union? However, with the request of the United States of America and by understanding the global situation and the international system and recognizing their position through changes and changing their approach from military and defense approaches to political and social approaches, NATO members were able to guarantee their survival and implement the new NATO expansion strategy. To influence NATO's strategic-security. The concept of NATO expansion is based on the strategy of change while continuity, which is considered one of the transatlantic policies of the United States, and prescribes the necessity of increasing the scope of NATO in order to improve its strategic-security position. In the meantime, the Middle East and the Persian Gulf as regional security subsystems have taken a special place in NATO's strategic vision. The Middle East and the Persian Gulf have been important for many reasons for the United States, which has an undeniable role in the expansion of NATO to this region. And for this reason, in recent years, this region has focused the most power and energy of the military and diplomatic apparatus of that country. What is important is the quality of order and security in the region. Analyzing the cooperation between NATO and the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council in the framework of the 2004 document, and the possibility of expanding this cooperation to the south, is an issue that the current research has addressed. The research believes

that the future cooperation between NATO and the South, and specifically the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, will advance in the framework of dealing with new threats by helping to build a regional cooperative security model centered on Iran.

In general, the NATO Istanbul Cooperation Initiative will be open to all interested countries in the region who agree with the initiative's goals, including the fight against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Within the framework of this initiative, the Atlantic Council treats each interested country based on its rightful status. In line with its interests in the Persian Gulf region, NATO established the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative to formalize its actions within the framework of the initiative's principles and goals. In this regard, NATO seeks to expand its influence in the region gradually and in stages, and does so within the framework of its programs.

This initiative also complements NATO's special relationship with Mediterranean dialogue partner countries. In general, NATO has put the following measures in its agenda to achieve its goals within the framework of the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative:

- Resolving regional conflicts, including the conflict between the Arabs and the Zionist regime;
- Encouraging and promoting regional economic cooperation;
- The adoption of a more stable and long-term approach by central foreign actors towards modernization and democratization in the region
- Removing restrictive commercial activities in the economic field with the aim of helping vulnerable countries and supporting the sustainable development process of the region
- Decisive actions regarding challenges such as drug or human trafficking and fighting widespread diseases such as AIDS in helping the countries of the region
- Encouraging support from states and nations interested in modernization and democratization in the region

When NATO announced its Istanbul Cooperation Initiative in July 2004, it envisioned practical cooperation with the Middle East beyond the six GCC countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates,

and the GCC countries) started. This initiative was welcomed by the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf with a mixture of interest and suspicion. On the one hand, the rapidly evolving and volatile security environment in the Persian Gulf region certainly provided an opportunity for foreign actors to get involved and encourage and implement reforms. The Persian Gulf Cooperation Council has been looking for alternative approaches to escape the inherent instability of the past three decades. NATO was potentially an alternative. On the other hand, the initiative presented in the framework of NATO is nothing more than a mechanism by which the West can continue to control the region. Western policies were considered in the past. How NATO can help usher the region into a new security era remains to be seen.

Key words: NATO, Brussels, Eastern Europe, Istanbul, Mediterranean, Iran.