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Inter-regionalism; China's Economic Cooperation Model and Regional Order in the Gulf Cooperation Council (2004-2023)

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Extended Abstract

Introduction

The economic agenda of the People's Republic of China has changed in recent years, along with continuous economic growth, in order to develop and consolidate power in the structure of international political economy. Given the importance and vital position of the Gulf Cooperation Council in the structure of international political economy and the West Asian region, this research attempts to address the fundamental question of what impact China's economic policies in the West Asian region have had on the relations between the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council in terms of solidarity, intra-regional competition, interdependence, etc.? The research hypothesis is designed with a qualitative method and an explanatory approach in such a way

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that inter-regional relations between China and the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council have led to the formation of a network of relations between the members of the Council, which has strengthened the increase in the level of cooperation, competition, and interdependence between them.Therefore, this study attempts to examine the impact of the interregionalism study area on indicators of cooperation and competition in the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Research Method

In this research, a qualitative method and an explanatory approach were used, and its data analysis was based on explaining the causal relationship between variables. For this purpose, primary and secondary sources including domestic and foreign documents, books and authoritative articles, searches on the Internet, specialized treatises, etc. were used to collect information.

Findings

The research hypothesis is designed in such a way that interregional relations between China and the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council have led to the formation of a network of relations between the council members, which has strengthened the increase in the level of cooperation, competition and interdependence between them. Therefore, this research attempts to examine the impact of the field of study of interregionalism on the indicators of cooperation and competition in the Gulf Cooperation Council. The research findings confirm the fact that within the framework of China's partnership strategy model, investment and relations between the parties have expanded rapidly and under the influence of the conclusion of bilateral agreements on comprehensive strategic and interregional partnership of the 2004 cooperation framework, relations between the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council have changed towards increasing convergence, regional competition and interdependence.

Conclusion

Given the increasing economic development of the People's Republic of China and its expanding interdependence with the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, we are witnessing an all-round strengthening of relations be-

tween the parties in the form of interregional regimes and institutions such as the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, the Belt and Road Initiative, the 2004 Framework Agreement on Economic, Trade, Investment and Technology Cooperation, free trade negotiations, the 3+2+1 cooperation model, etc. The agreements described are merely part of China's bilateral and multilateral agreements with the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The aforementioned relations, in terms of interregional relations, indicate the strengthening of relations between the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the government of the People's Republic of China in a networked manner and in various economic, political and social dimensions.The aforementioned interactions can be explained at the level of regional government relations and, accordingly, while strengthening inter-regional relations in the form of various treaties and agreements, they have had important effects on intra-regional relations between the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council in order to strengthen convergence and increase intra-council competition. In this regard, bilateral agreements related to strategic partnerships, the 3+2+1 cooperation model, especially in the fields of energy, infrastructure, trade, investment, nuclear energy, space satellites, new energies, etc., are aimed at strengthening competitive aspects between the members of the Cooperation Council. On the other hand, interactions related to the Free Trade Agreement, China-GCC Strategic Dialogue, Arab Policy Document, Belt and Road Initiative, Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement, 2004, etc.It is aimed at increasing the convergence of the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council at the intra-regional and inter-regional levels with the People's Republic of China. Therefore, the inter-regional relations between China and the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council have led to the formation of a network of relations between the members of the Council, which has strengthened the level of cooperation, competition and interdependence between them. The outlook for relations shows a wide range of common interests; while the cooperation between the parties continues, China's presence in the GCC countries will further expand and this country will become a key partner for the development of the GCC countries alongside the West, and the relations between the parties will find a more structured approach to coordinate mutual goals and interests.

Key words: Interregionalism, People's Republic of China, Gulf Cooperation Council, Economic Policy, Strategic Partnership.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest in conducting this research study.