

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



INDIA WEST ASIA RELATIONS



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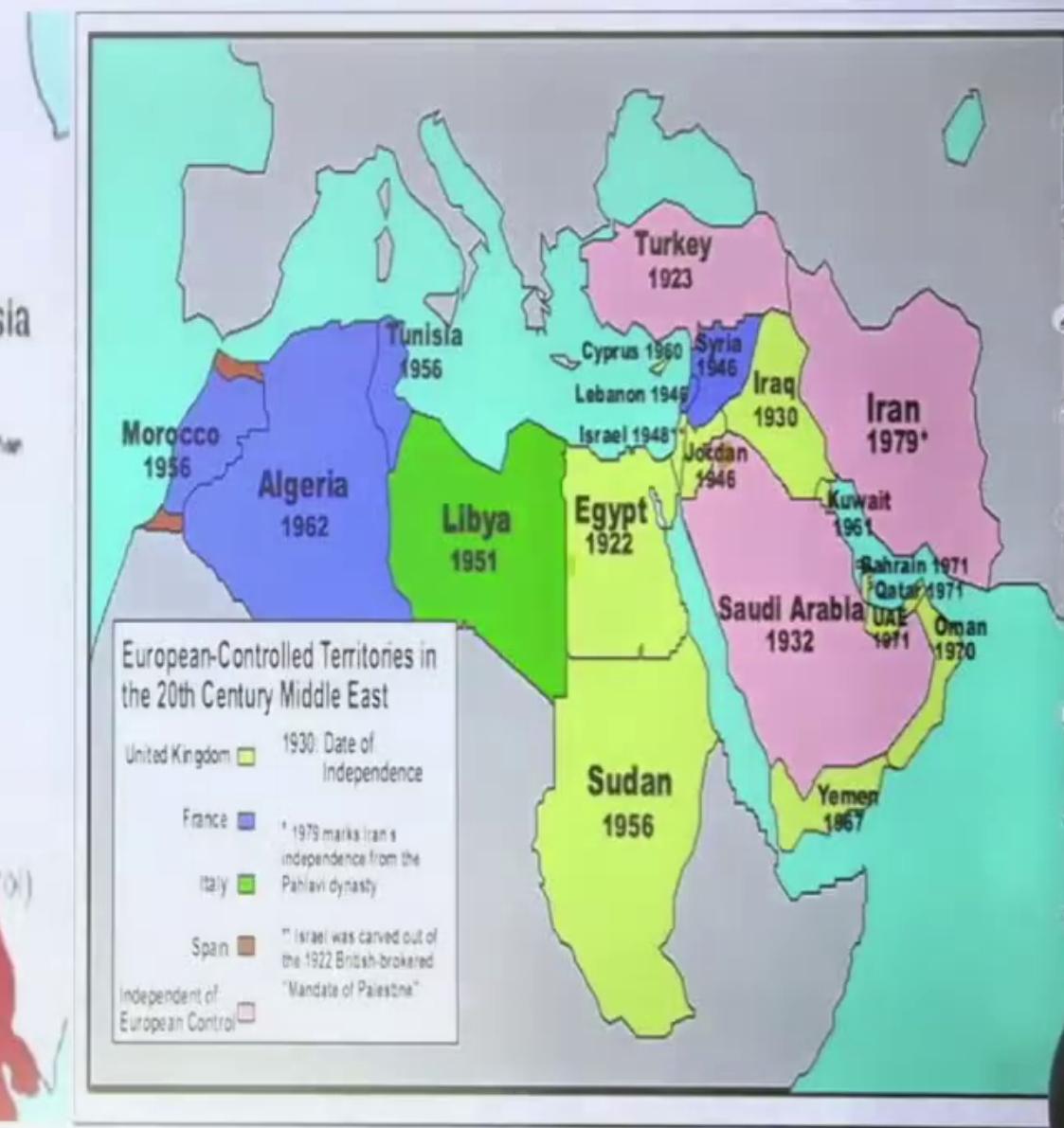
India-West Asia



An Intro



- West Asia is the **most sensitive zone** of international politics.
- The most important aspect of West Asia is **its location** it is situated at the **major trade routes**.
- The region is bountiful with **oil and natural gas**
- It is the **cradle of human Civilization** like the Mesopotamian Civilization.
- The place of three prominent **Abrahamic religions** Judaism, Islam and Christianity.
- it is a **very heterogeneous society** therefore in news due to ethnic and civil classes.



Modern politics in West Asia

- The beginning of capitalism the major capitalist countries had eyes on West Asia, **up till world war** it was under **Ottoman**, after it came under **colonial powers like British and French**.
- The **arbitrary boundary clearly** visible on map is evident that how colonial powers use the policies like **divide and rule** in the region.
- **India sees West Asia and northern Africa** as one entity having following ethnic groups.
 - 1.Arabs the largest group
 - 2.Persians (Shias)
 - 3.Turks (Turkey)
 - 4.Jews (Israel)

The important countries

- **Iran**- one of the most powerful country in west Asia, in a race to become superpower by acquiring nuclear weapons.
- **Gulf countries**- they are **Gulf monarchies, mostly pro USA, Saudi Arabia is most powerful in this block**. At present they are not united example Qatar not inline with GCC nations.

Arab Spring: started in Tunisia as Jasmine revolution 2011. Wave of pro-democracy protests and uprisings, challenging some of the region's entrenched authoritarian regimes. Demonstrators expressing political and economic grievances, the movement got a strong hold in Egypt under Muslim Brotherhood.

Qatar supported the movement whereas Saudi and USA did not, further tensions were escalated when Qatar was alleged to have sponsored terrorism by US and Saudi Arabia.

The important countries

- **Qatar** has huge oil and gas reserves, largest **sovereign wealth fund**, it has improved relations with Iran & other gulf nations.
- **UAE** also does not support extreme rivalry with Iran due to Iran's strategic location in Persian Gulf. **Even Oman** wants good relations with Iran.



India and West Asia

West Asia comes under **Extended neighbourhood/West Asia policy** of India.

India treats it **more than a gas station**, with an activity involvement in our security, **a secure west Asia is critical** for security of India.

With **ASEAN nation we target 200-billion-dollar trade**, while we are already doing **more than that** with gulf nations.

India has **more soft power presence** in this area, as compared to China.

Remittances from west Asia are more than annual investments from the USA.

India-Israel-Palestine

Israel formation has been criticised from pre independence era, Gandhi was opposed to this as he said this will never let peace prevail in west Asia.

Pandit Nehru carry forward his legacy and India opposed its formation in UN 1947. At the time of independence India's dependency on Gulf was more than Israel.

India kept rallying the Palestine cause catering the **sentiments of Muslim minorities in the nation**.

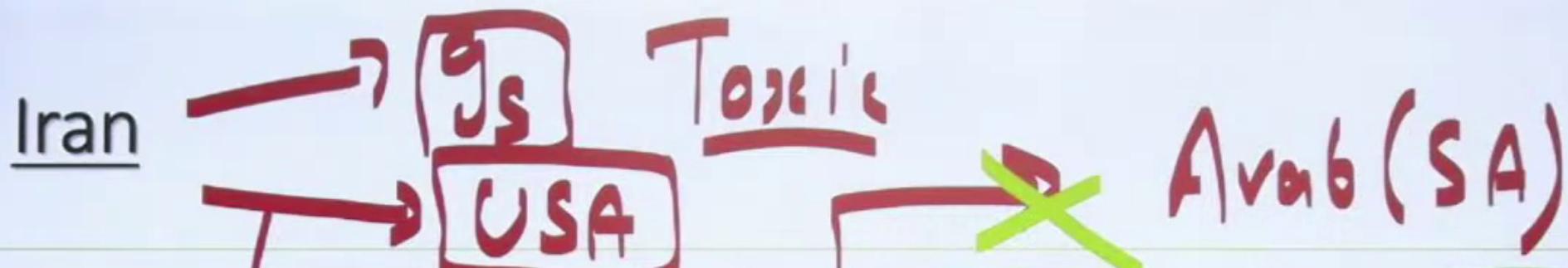
However, **Israel has offered help to India at critical times**. E.g. Kargil war.

The relations got deepened but they were never made public.



Israel under Modi Government

- The present state of closeness is attributed to **convergence of two democracies on multiple fronts**
- In 2014, India abstained from voting against Israel at UNHRC for Israel violence in Gaza.
- In 2017 Modi became the first Indian PM to visit Israel, he also broke the convention by not visiting Palestine.
- This shows **a tilt towards Israel**, there was a time when India even justified terrorist acts committed by PLO.
- **Palestine cause has become a orphaned issue after Arab Spring**, though India support to Palestine has been diluted yet not ended.
- **India did not support US sponsored resolution in UNGA**, recognizing Jerusalem as capital of Israel.
- India does not want to give impression to Israel that it deserves most special treatment. We should not forgot **close defence cooperation** Israel has with China.



The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (**JCPOA**) was signed in **2015** but **USA withdrew (2018)** citing proliferation of **terrorist groups** from Iran and its **missile program**.

Iran know US can't afford a war therefore, not frightened by US and its sanctions, **this boycott has helped Iran gain sympathy from gulf nations and from super powers like Russia and China.**

Aftermath of the Baghdad Airport Airstrike that targeted and **killed Iranian general Qassem Soleimani** relations have further deteriorated.

Look west policy 2005

Currently, the Look West Policy focuses on three main axes:

1. The Arab Gulf countries
2. Israel
3. Iran

- It **recognize geopolitical significance of Pakistan with a constructive role**, providing a link between India and west Asia. **Example IPI pipeline.**
- It says for an **independent role of India** in west Asia.
- India **not to take sides between Arabs and Israel, the Shia and Sunni, or even Kabul and Islamabad** until it becomes absolutely unavoidable. It says for **paramagnetic approach**.
- Leverage the common **Islamic link**.
- **Preventing a destabilization of Kabul** by the Taliban has already emerged as one of the highest priorities for India's national security strategy.
- Increase the **economic integration with GCC** nations more engagement via **bilateral visits**.
- Last is to have a **defense diplomacy** with increased security cooperation.

The Abraham Accords

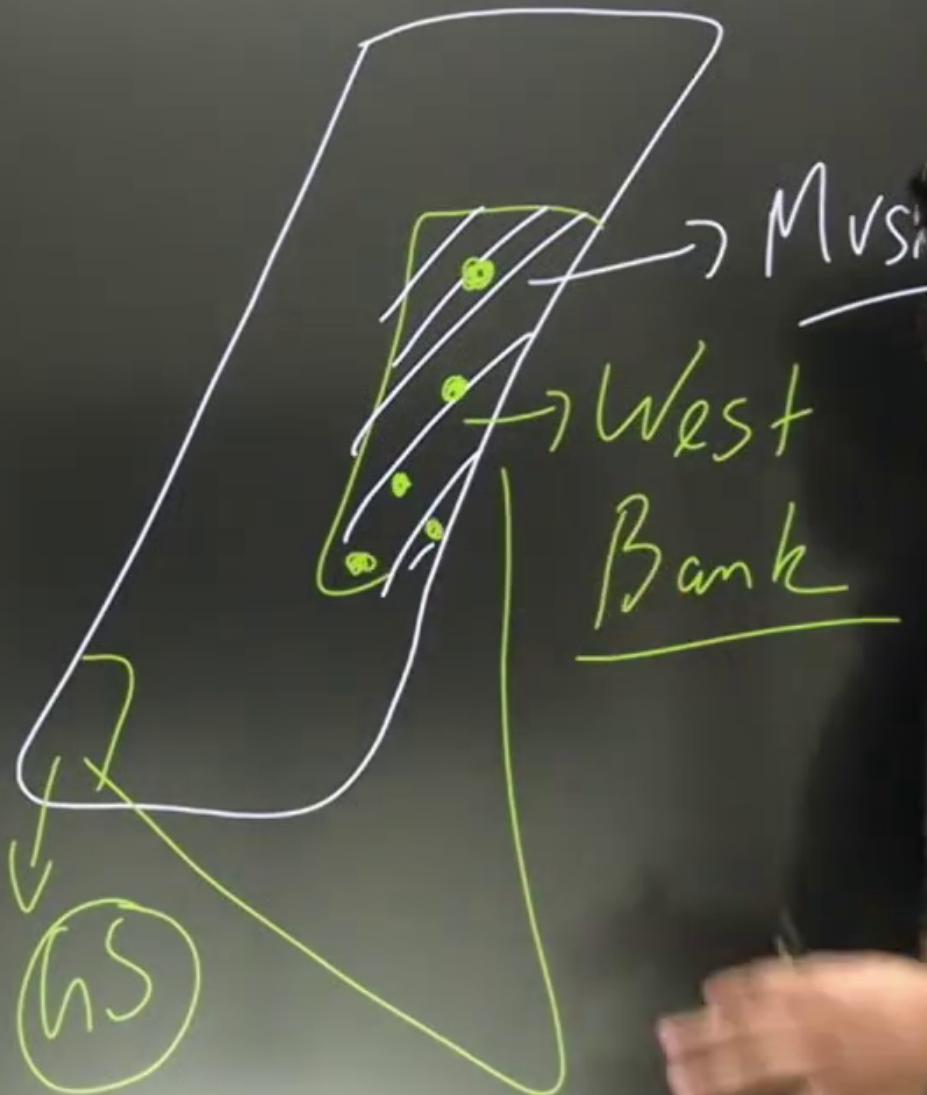
The agreement that will lead to a full normalization of diplomatic relations between the nations Israel, UAE & Bahrain.

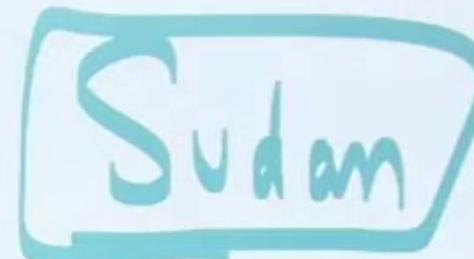
As part of the dual agreements, both the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain recognized Israel's sovereignty, enabling the establishment of full diplomatic relations.

Israel has agreed to suspend annexing areas of the occupied West Bank as it had been planning to do.

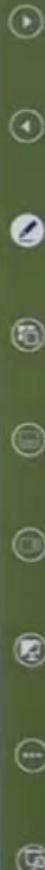
It strengthens the opposition against Iran as per UAE and USA needs.

In December 2020, Morocco joined the accords and normalized relations with Israel after the Trump administration recognized Moroccan control over the disputed Western Sahara region.





- In January 2021, Sudan joined the Abraham Accords and normalized relations with Israel after the Trump administration agreed to remove Sudan from the State Department list of "state sponsors of terrorism"^[12] and provide a \$1.2 billion loan to help Sudan clear its debts to the World Bank.
- As of March 7, 2023, Prime Minister Netanyahu and Foreign Minister Eli Cohen are in talks with the Americans to **expand the Abraham Accords** with **Indonesia, Niger, Mauritania and Somalia**.



The New QUAD/I2U2

- I2U2 was initially formed in October 2021 following the Abraham Accords between Israel and the UAE, to deal with issues concerning maritime security, infrastructure and transport in the region.
- At that time, it was called the 'International Forum for Economic Cooperation'. That was referred as the "West Asian Quad"
- Significance**
 - ✓ Security Cooperation
 - ✓ Technological Hubs
 - ✓ Food Security
 - ✓ Market

