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IRAN'S NUCLEAR THREAT TO THE GULF REGION AND THE WORLD: NEW REGIONAL STABILITY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GULF STATES

Introduction

Before coming to the current effect of Iran over the Arab Gulf region which is deeply connected to the past, both nations have very rich history started with the Islamic conquest of Persia (633–656) led to the end of the Persian Empire, the achievements of the previous Persian civilizations were not lost¹. Since then the Iranians never forget the Islamic conquest, they always tried to find the way to regain their empire, especially after the new Shi'i Islamic sector came to rule Iran.

In the past half century Gulf region found itself in the middle of a power play ground, shortly before Islamic Revolution at the times of "Shah Iran" the US found him and his country as the police officer for the region, with full US and western support. On the other hand the Soviet Union has supported Iraq fully with armament and experts. Gulf States found themselves in the center of border conflict between Iraq and Iran.

The two main regional powers started to focus on having enough domination on the Gulf area obviously because of the importance of the Gulf as an important strategic sea path, Strait of Hormuz which is the shortest sea path leading to Asia and India specifically, made it an imperialist focus for centuries. In the same way, old colonies struggled to invade the Arab Gulf region for the purpose of controlling this Strait, to secure their colonial route to India and Asia, new colonists of modern time do the same, to dominate the Strait in order to secure their oil supplies from the largest oil and gas producing region in the World. The Strait of Hormuz, at present as it always was "a regional source of geopolitical dispute"².

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_conquest_of_Persia

² Ali Al-Hail, Arab Gulf Region And The Giant Powers, Part I, ccun.org, October 5, 2007

The Iranian strategic ambitions varies from one Arab country to an other, Iran consider the area as vital goal aiming to maximize its Geostrategic weight in the face of Americans and Israelis, Iran believes that Israel aiming to penetrate the Gulf region under the cover of normalizing relations with the Gulf countries³ those fears came out first on the mind of "Khomeini" the Islamic revolution leader when he took over Iran " Israel will try to penetrate our region economically, the followers took this note seriously after the Arab Israeli peace process was started, they all believe that Israel will increases its economic, technology and to enable it to impose its supremacy on the rich Gulf region.

In the following parts of this essay I will discuss the threats brought to the Gulf region through the Iranian nuclear ambitions, and what this will effect the security and stability of the Arab Gulf states and the world as well, the discussion will be in four parts the first will take the changes in the region in the past decades, then Recent Iranians developments and Current Nuclear Status, the third part will under take the dimensions of Iranian nuclear threat to the Region, at last I will Clarify the Gulf States Anticipations and Responsibilities toward Regional Future Stability, finally I will conclude this essay.

³ http://www.moqatel.com/openshare/Behoth/IraqKwit/31/sec07.doc_cvt.htm

Part 1

General Regional Changes in the past decades

Historical over view

It is fruitful to know some of the historical sides of the region before coming to recent changes, the region in the past 300 years was dominated by European powers and the Gulf region was the first to be under their control, it was invaded and dominated. The Gulf witnessed the "English horse feet before any other part in the Arab World"⁴, the strong countries at all times struggled to dominate the gulf region cause they believed that they will control the world keys if they do so, and they will have the upper hand over a strategic Gulf.

From all perspectives, the Arab Gulf is strategically is essential at present, as it was in the past. Its vitality came from its unique position as a main gate and naval route through which the oil from Arab Gulf States and Iran is flew to the industrial countries in the West.

The Shah of Iran was the first Iranian leader who declared that the Gulf region is a geostrategic extension, and the vital area of Iran also Iran is responsible for the security of the Gulf as a region. Shah was able to obtain a U.S. approval to become the Gulf policeman.

Islamic Revolution in Iran.

On November 4, 1979, the U.S.⁵. Faced another unexpected development. Iranian Islamic students held the US embassy personnel in Tehran as hostages with Khomeini's approval, demanding the exiled Shah to be returned to face trial in Iran.

⁴ Ali Al-Hail, Arab Gulf Region And The Giant Powers, Part I, ccun.org, October 5, 2007

⁵ http://canadawatch.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=477&Itemid=61

The Khomeini revolution guard, who organized and led the takeover⁶, used the Iranian public anger and the fear that the U.S. is willing to return him back to power as it had before. Khomeini and his forces objective was to destroy the reputation of the Shah forces, to insure the power in their hands, in order to establish their Islamic country

Iranian Demographic Domination.

As a result of the revolution, Iran had so many course of action to play in the Arab Gulf region. The Statistics from Arab Gulf region suggest that approximately, 40% of Arab Gulf region citizens are originated from Persian background. Further, around 40% of Arab Gulf region are Shi'is⁷.

That Arab Gulf Shi'is would possibly, support Iran in any coming dispute, as they have a high degree of loyalty towards their Shi'i's mother state. Interpretation indicates that, the Sunni-Arab Gulf citizens and the -Shi'i Arab Gulf citizens feel some kind of racism from governments in the region by preferring their fellow citizens for main posts and other benefits which creates a desire for revenge among Shi'i citizens in the region.

Iran Iraq War.

Started at 1980 up to 1988, with the full blessing of the west and the US, in order to regain the balance in the region, and to create anew defensive wall against the expanding of the Iranian Islamic revolution toward the west, which endangering their power supplies to the industrial countries, Iraq earned the gulf Arab countries full support during its war with Iran, Iran will never forget that support. By the end of that war the two countries were exhausted and the area was at the edge of collapsing, at the result no winning and no loser the only winners are the countries who export the war machinery.

⁶ Larry Everest ,U.S.& Iran: A History of Imperialist Domination, Intrigue and Intervention - Part 5 SEPTEMBER 28, 2007

⁷ Ali Al-Hail, Arab Gulf Region And The Giant Powers, Part I, ccun.org, October 5, 2007

The Iraqi Invasion of Kuwait

It was a major clash between Iraq and Kuwait as a direct result of the Iraq Iran war, resulted in long Iraqi occupation of Kuwait which led to a direct military action executed by United States and coalition forces.

The invasion started on August 2, 1990 and within two days of intense combat, most of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces were either overrun by the Iraqi Republican Guard or escaped to neighboring Saudi Arabia⁸.

The conflict developed as a result of the Iran-Iraq War as mentioned. The invasion by Iraqi troops was met with immediate international actions by the UN Security Council against Iraq. The expulsion of Iraqi troops from Kuwait started in January 1991 and was an influential victory for the coalition forces, finally Kuwait was liberated and Iraqi territory was penetrated.

All Gulf Countries were started to think seriously to defend their existence as the gulf cooperation council treaty made for, in fact this step was the first real test to the will of the defending and maintaining the security of the region.

The 2003 invasion of Iraq.

Which began on March 18 to May 1, 2003, was led by the United States, and backed by British forces and smaller contingents from Australia and Poland. Other countries were involved in its aftermath⁹. This invasion* was the ignition of the chain of wars and fights still going on, some on ethnical basis, others on sectarianism background, with a wide opening gate for terrorists free movement through out the region.

⁸ US News articles, Col. Sulaiman M. al-Otaibi, KUWAIT CITY, Aug. 2, 2007
⁹ www.rollitup.org/politics/39032-just-case-you-forgot.html

The objectives of the invasion, according to U.S. and U.K. were "to disarm Iraq of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), to end Saddam Hussein's support for terrorism, and to free the Iraqi people." Both head of states emphasized on the extreme danger of the regime in Iraq and the danger of its capabilities of weapon of mass destruction, they also emphasized on the necessity of disarming Iraq, the actual trigger was establishing a long term existence in the region in order to control and insure the oil supplies.

No such weapons were found. In January 2005, the Iraq Survey Group concluded that Iraq had ended its WMD programs in 1991 and had no WMD at the time of the invasion; although some misplaced or abandoned remnants of pre-1991 production were found¹⁰.

General Effects on The Region

Those changes in addition to Afghanistan's war made significant dangers to the region could be summarized as follows:

- The region became an opining struggle field between the different powers in the world.
- The region became a major terror passing bridge between the east (Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran) and the west (Iraq, Syria, Lebanon) with a widely opining borders and freedom of movement for weapons and terrorists.
- New era of Ethnic struggling wake – up in Iraq, Iran, Syria, Lebanon, in addition to Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- Lack of internal security at all moderate countries.
- Creation of new armament race style in the region.
- Deepening the hatred toward the west specially the US among the peoples of the region.

¹⁰ cfav.blogspot.com/2006/12/george-w-bush-elite-force-aviator.html

Part 2

Iran's Recent Developments and Current Nuclear Status

The US and the western countries construct a permanent threat to the region

Long time prior to Islamic revolution, the US with the cooperation of some European countries decided to nuclearize Iran. The late Shah's plans in the early 70's to construct twenty nuclear stations all were approved by the US¹¹. The purpose of those plants is to be a forward US bias in the face of the Soviet Union with a side benefit to control the fields of oil in the region.

Construction of a 1300 megawatt power plant at Bushehr was started by Germany's Kraftwerke Union, a Siemens subsidiary, with technology and major components supplied by several US suppliers at very high prices¹². Each side has different view and purpose, as for the Iranians (specially after the Islamic revolution) the aim is to deter both The US and Israel from expanding their influence in the region, on the other side the US planned to insure its existence in the area in addition to earn billions of dollars from nuclear power plant contracts in Iran. Work on the Bushehr nuclear power project was started in 1976. Work was halted after the 1979 Islamic revolution. By then 80 percent work on the Bushehr plant had been completed¹³

Iraq the only safety pen

During the period 1980-88 the two 1300 mega-watt reactors at Bushehr were repeatedly bombed by the Iraqi Air Force with US spy satellites fed info¹⁴ at end of the

¹¹ Iranian Missile and Nuclear Threat Air Marshal AYAZ AHMED

¹² www.defencejournal.com/dec98/iranian-missile.htm

¹³ Iranian Missile and Nuclear Threat Air Marshal AYAZ AHMED

¹⁴ www.defencejournal.com/dec98/iranian-missile.htm

war Iran started again to resume its plans with Germany, but all efforts were failed under the pressure of Federal German government.

Iran looks for new partners

Iran turned to Russia and a \$800 million agreement was signed on January 08, 1995 to complete the unfinished nuclear power plant in Iran. Under this agreement, one nuclear reactor of 1000 MW was to be made operational within four years¹⁵, this agreement put the US in real challenge, the nuclear power in the hands extremist Islamic regime on one hand and the future threat to Israel on the other hand, all this came along with the possibility of blocking the oil flow to the US and industrial countries.

Under intense US pressure Moscow backed out from the agreement to build the 1000 megawatt nuclear power plant at Bushehr. On January 05, 1995 US and Israeli officials claimed that Iran was within five years of producing a nuclear weapon device¹⁶. Despite the continuous pressure, Iran insist to keep up with its project under the cover of peaceful nuclear usage, this put all Gulf States under the mercy of regional powers.

New American strategy

The US strategy toward the Middle East was obviously clear after the Iraq Iran war, the US fully supported Iraq against Iran then the US diplomacy dramatically changed at the end of that war, the fundamental rule is "Chop the wings of developing middle powers of the region to maintain US-Israeli supremacy over oil rich Gulf States and potentially rich and powerful Iran"¹⁷. US planning for long term existence in the region by imposing sanctions or creating threats as a part of its new regional strategy of domination.

¹⁵ Iranian Missile and Nuclear Threat Air Marshal AYAZ AHMED

¹⁶ www.defencejournal.com/dec98/iranian-missile.htm

¹⁷ Iranian Missile and Nuclear Threat Air Marshal AYAZ AHMED

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Iran is one of the original signatories to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) which has been in force since 1970. Iran claims that it is developing a nuclear program for domestic energy use¹⁸, Iran focused on its rights to possess the nuclear program for domestic energy use, the actual Iranian intentions are not fully clear to the international community yet, this uncertainty was made clear by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) the agency cannot verify the "peaceful nature" of Iran's program, depending on this Iran could any time shift its nuclear activities toward military purposes, Iran now (against the international will) continuing to develop its uranium enrichment program, Iran now have the scientific, technical and industrial capacity eventually to produce nuclear weapons if it decides to do so.

Iran producing nuclear fuel.

Iran has managed to convert yellowcake into uranium hexafluoride gas, which are now fueling the centrifuges in its main nuclear facility in Natanz. Experts say that 3,000 working centrifuges, spinning nonstop for a year could enrich enough uranium to power an atom bomb. Iran is said to be aiming to have as many as 54,000 workable centrifuges¹⁹.

This capability gave Iran a step forward to join the nuclear countries; also they are capable of threatening the region stability and peace, especially if we know the size of hatred and the desire to revenge. As a fact Shi'i never live in peace with Sonni, Persians never live in peace with Arabs; this power will give Iran supremacy over Arab Countries.

¹⁸ www.adl.org/iran/qa.asp

¹⁹ www.adl.org/main_Anti_Semitism_International/iranian_threat_faq.htm

Secret nuclear weapons program

Some intelligence reports stated that Iran had a secret nuclear weapons program started at 1980 through 2003 directed by the "Iranian military entities working under government direction"²⁰. Iran produces a heavy water at *Arak* facility, which is as scientists approved, it could be used for the producing plutonium. Russia built an \$800 million nuclear power plant at Bushehr (in December 2007 Russia transferred fuel for the reaction) and helped train 700 Iranian nuclear engineers²¹. According to all that Iran now has the crude substance, machinery, scientists, and the will under the motive to produce the nuclear weapons.

Iran's nuclear weapons program a problem for the region

Iran now represents the center of the instability in the middle east as it has the extremist regime with an open boundaries to the east Afghanistan where the Qaida has its existence and activities, also to the west where the Qaida in Iraq, simply Iran has the axis to export and import the terror from Afghanistan in the east to Lebanon in the west with the help of Syria and Hizb Allah in Lebanon, Iran is the source of destabilization in the Gulf region through its continuous support to the extremist groups and parties in the area such as Hizb Allah in Lebanon and the Shi'i in Iraq in one hand, and around the globe by threatening the stability of the most important region as the main source of oil in the world, having or attempting to have a nuclear capabilities on the other hand .

It has defied the international community with its support for terrorism and cultivation of extremist forces. It has thumbed its nose at international efforts to ascertain the extent and purpose of its nuclear program²². Iran's nuclear program in the hands of such regime will endanger the gulf region and the area, what makes the problem deeper

²⁰ www.adl.org/main_Anti_Semitism_International/iranian_threat_faq.htm

²¹ www.ziopedia.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6603&Itemid=96&lang=ko

²² Resolution on the International Community and Iran's Development of Nuclear Weapons, as adopted at ADL's annual meeting of the National Commission on November 3, 2007.

the existence of the nuclear threat from Israel as well; the region is trapped between the two nuclear powers Israel and Iran.

Regime Governs Iran

Since the revolution which overthrew the monarchy in 1979, Iran has been governed by an Shi'i regime which has aggressively faced and encountered the international political scheme, the world received the new leadership in Iran with cautious hopes that Iran will reform its views to the regional issues, but those hopes were vanished in 2005 when Ahmadi Nejad became the President. Both Ahmadi Nejad and Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the country's powerful Supreme Leader, are uncompromising hardliners.

Part 3

Dimensions of Iranian Nuclear Threat to the Region

Foreign Threats to the region.

Iran is one of the foreign powers aiming at dominating the Gulf region. The U.S.A and England planned their new strategy to create and establish declared and undeclared military bases in Arab Gulf States. The US invasion and occupation of Iraq made it possible for Iran to expand its influence in the region, by mobilizing the Iraqi Shi'i along with the unique relations with Syria and Hizb Allah in Lebanon. Also Israeli business delegations began flowing into the Arab Gulf region for allegedly, making businesses²³.

The Arabs and the new threat.

Arab leaders of the Gulf region believe that Iran will not use its nuclear capabilities - if they have it - in the future. The assessment of Iran's nuclear intentions hopes that Iran will be rational state and will use its nuclear capabilities for deterrence only²⁴. Arabs build their assessment biased on the surrounding nuclear powers such as Israel and the US, Iran will think twice before getting involved in any nuclear action, as for the Gulf Arab states they will be stuck in the middle between the two sides in any future struggle in the region.

Moreover, military commanders sometimes do not appreciate the implications of using nuclear weapons. There is a risk that Iranian Revolutionary Guard leaders will say "why not use it since we have it?"²⁵ biased on above, the Arab Gulf states' position

²³ Ali Al-Hail, Arab Gulf Region And The Giant Powers, Part I, ccun.org, October 5, 2007

²⁴ Emile El-Hokayem, The Arab Gulf states and the Iranian nuclear challenge, January 6, 2005

²⁵ <http://www.stimson.org/pub.cfm?id=217>

becomes more critical, they need the protection and to be helped when they are in need, also they share the region security with the unfavorable neighbor “ Iran”, in this case they decide to hold the stick in balance, not to be in the US side nor in the Iranian side, the Arab leaders are unwilling to pay a high a price in which they consider as losing battle, if they lose Iran they will endanger the region stability and if they lose the US they will lose the future protection they might need, and they calculate that they have to encourage Iran to be apart of the regional economic future planning and development, also they would like Iran to accept that the security guarantees can only be guaranteed by United States and Europe by the meaning of let them protect their interests while we are developing our regional economics

Hazards of Civilian nuclear program.

As it is well known , the nuclear power has its other hazards in addition to the destruction it can cause, Even if the program is intended only for peaceful purposes, mainly we are talking about the environmental risk that Gulf states should not miscalculate. The nuclear technology that Iran has acquired is not state-of-the-art. The Russian-built Bushehr reactor is located on the Iranian coast, only 250 kilometers from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and 350 from Qatar²⁶. It could cause real damage to environment and humans if any future nuclear incident occurred. This diminution should be taken into consideration.

Iranian Threat brings other nuclear threat.

Gulf countries and all Arab area must think carefully, what the Iranian nuclear project will drive to the area as a whole, we as Arabs has to take into considerations If the threat comes from a nuclear Iran or from US attempts to contain it. An aggressive US attempt to prevent Iran from going nuclear might affect domestic stability in the Gulf if Iran decides to choose a non-conventional means such as terrorism²⁷.

²⁶ <http://www.stimson.org/pub.cfm?id=217>

²⁷[http:// www.stimson.org/pub.cfm?id=217](http://www.stimson.org/pub.cfm?id=217)

The diplomatic confrontation between the US and Iran if it escalates will intensify the risks of military confrontation and that they would suffer from a possible conflict. All Gulf countries have a growing fear over the likely threat to the Arab Gulf states from foreign countries recently, the Arab Gulf States identify the US, Israel, and Iran as threats to the region stability

Part 4

Gulf States Anticipations and Responsibilities toward Regional Future Stability

Gulf Countries seeking Balance.

Lacking industrial and military capabilities, Gulf States find themselves obliged to balance between the US \ Israeli demands, the main demands are not to threatening at any time the US interests in the region nor the existence of Israel with the demands of Iran which looks for a greater role in the region. Such policy is the guarantee for them to preserve their developmental programs²⁸.

It is understandable that the world reactions depends on the interests of the super powers only, Arabs has no reactions toward the occupation of the three UAE islands by Iran this could be seen as Arabs balancing policy_(Iranian occupation in 1971 of the three UAE islands of Greater and Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa)²⁹. The real fear is to be used by the US as a part of political settlement between the US and Iran to suspend their nuclear program, the Gulf countries seems to be the weakest in the formula, the US which own the power on one side and Iran who hold the papers on the other.

Not To Be Caught in Between.

Did the countries of the Arabian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which Created on May 25, 1981, the Council comprises the Arab Gulf states of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Those countries isolated them selves

²⁸ Arab Gulf Region And The Giant Powers, Part I, By Ali Al-Hail, ccun.org, October 5, 2007

²⁹ Abdullah's Speech to the UN and the Road Ahead, Monday, October 15, 2007

from the war between Iran and Iraq in the early 1980's, they have recently, done the same, in the conflict between the US and Iran³⁰.

All Arab countries of the Gulf cooperation council took their clear decision not to participate in any American action against Iran, this decision was easily to be understood from the region leaders activities, first the visit of UAE prime minister to Iran, the participation of Iranian president in the GCC summit, also the visit of King Abdulla of Saudi Arabia to UK, he made it clear that GCC countries will not be involved in any possible American action, all leaders emphasized the same idea³¹.

Awareness-Buildup.

Arab Gulf region countries of the GCC now has clear idea and decision not to allow any foreign forces to use its land, air, or sea to launch any attacks against Iran, this clear position drive the US to carry out its exercises in the Gulf without the involvement of any Arab country. Eight months to develop an awareness to the tense reactions, Arab Gulf states had increasingly, been manifesting an opposition to strike at Iran by the US from its lands or seas³².

Some of the Gulf Arab countries individually announced that they will be out of any US plans against Iran one of those countries United Arab Emirates (UAE), despite its suffering from Iran's occupation of its three Islands. Also Qatar which harbors the US Central Command HQ, Al-Sailiyya military base, and al-Udeid Air Base was the first to declare it would not allow an assault to be taken place on Iran from the US Qatar-hosted-military basis³³.all GCC countries have the same view toward this issue.

³⁰ Ali Al-Hail, Arab Gulf Region And The Giant Powers, Part VII , ccun.org, November 5, 2007

³¹ Ali Al-Hail, Arab Gulf Region And The Giant Powers, Part VII: Why Did the Gulf Arabs break ranks With Bush Administration's Agenda to attack Iran, ccun.org, November 5, 2007

³² Ali Al-Hail, Arab Gulf Region And The Giant Powers, Part VII, ccun.org, November 5, 2007

³³ Ali Al-Hail, Arab Gulf Region And The Giant Powers, Part VII, ccun.org, November 5, 2007

The Arab countries, are not Iran's strategic target at the moment, Iran Has two strategic goals at the time being, the first is to maximize it's regional role in the Middle East as a major player, and the second is to impose supremacy on the Gulf region as the only main power, seeking the control of marine Gulf, both are harmless to geostrategic situation of these countries at this stage³⁴.

Iranian race with Israel(as the only regional powers) will create a regional balance, any Iranian success will be at the expense of Israel and vice versa, therefore the Iranian-Israeli dispute is not doctrinal, but it is practical dispute, this could be the only benefit the Arabs will gain toward stabilizing the region. Final result the Arab Iranian relations are beneficial to the Arab countries, as the strategic objectives on all central issues for the regional parties are in harmony. These objectives could be summarized in the reduction of Regional geostrategic weight of Israel and to decrease American domination in the region.

Iran aims to block the American Middle East strategy, what supports Iran's position at this time is the huge rise in the oil price, this made just a thinking of launching a military strike against Iran, is a distinction type of insanity, which will effects Iran's and the region exporting oil while the raising of oil prices will shake the worlds economy as a whole .

Arab Gulf states has to study the situation from a different perspective, they must understand that Iran's specific features plan aiming basically to impose some kind of supremacy on the Arab Gulf region, which is consider Iran's vital area, Arab States should follow a line with the following considerations:

- The necessity of dealing with Iran, as regional big power.
- Iranian role that takes an upward track at this stage and in the next stage as well.
- It is not of any party interest to create Arabian - Iranian confrontation at this stage, and the Gulf rejecting approach to the US policy toward Iran

³⁴ <http://meria.idc.ac.il/journal/2001/issue1/jv5n1a2.html>

Therefore, the Gulf countries need to review its regional cooperation objectively with the importance of activating the weight of the Gulf Cooperation Council politically and from security point view to achieve a relative strategic balance between them and Iran, and not to ignore the American position in this formula.

The US Presence in the Region.

The United States, up to the month of March 28, 2007 kept about 40,000 soldiers, including marines in the Arab Gulf region³⁵. This figure, not including the US troops in Iraq which is apart of Gulf region, the total number of the US forces in the region exceeds 220.000. this existence effects all strategic³⁶ stands in the area, even the Iranian plans, in some way this existence give the Arab countries the strategic strength in the face of Iran's ambitions. What happened in Kuwait gave the Iranians a good lesson to be learned in the future.

Arabs like a non nuclear Iran and region.

Arab states prefer a non-nuclear Iran but they are unwilling to take on the costs of negotiations or confrontation with Iran³⁷. The obvious imbalance of power between the Arab Gulf states and Iran, in the light of an absence of the common political decision Caused weakness toward facing regional issues, in fact Arab as any nation in the world prefer a non nuclear neighbor, on the other hand they cannot force Iran to stop its nuclear activities unless they expel the US forces out of their countries and Israel stops its nuclear activities too.

³⁵ Ali Al-Hail, Arab Gulf Region And The Giant Powers, Part VII, ccun.org, November 5, 2007

³⁶ <http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2002/iraq/deployment.map/index.html>

³⁷ Stimson center, The Arab Gulf States in the Shadow of the Iranian Nuclear Challenge, working paper, May 26, 2006, p 9

Conclusion

The Arabian Gulf region Witnessed since the Iranian Islamic revolution a serious events caused political, economical and military changes, those changes effected the whole Arab World as well, one of the most prominent events is the Islamic revolution in Iran with new revolutionary ideologies aimed first at geographical proximity, followed by the Iran-Iraq war which lasted for about eight years, two of the most important and largest Arab Gulf States and the most influential in both international and regional politics has exited from this war with less military capabilities .

The declared statements and actual behavior of the Iranian leadership on various occasions states that there are three main purposes of the Iranian national security at the present time those are as follows:

- To substitute the absence of other regional power in the strategic Arabian Gulf specially after the defeating of Iraqi armed forces.
- Keeping the principles of the Shi'i Islamic Revolution at home and abroad to spread it out.
- To be the largest regional influential power.
- To be the head of any security arrangements for the Gulf region, this security should be maintained by gulf coastal countries only.

The Arab - Iranian relations always effected by constantly international and regional changing conditions, sometimes unfriendly and sometimes reconciliation covered with caution, but the loss of confidence is the general nature of this relationship, in light of Iran's continuous search for a regional role to dominate the region's countries on basis of it is the powerful State and its capability of formulation and maintaining regional security, away from any interference from outside powers.

As any only regional power Iran now practicing the domination over the gulf Region, by threatening the stability in deferent ways and forms, The Forms of Iranian threat to the security of the Arab Gulf can be identified as follows :

- The clear Iran's regional ambitions in the Arab region in general and the Gulf countries in particular, were represented by the occupation of the three UAE islands and not accepting any peaceful solutions .
- The dreams of Iranian Empire by the exporting of the Iranian revolution, and expanding its political influence to other States.
- Continuing Iranian claims to participate in security arrangements for the Gulf region, making the process of maintaining the security of the Gulf limited to the regional structure of the coastal States only .

Finally this paper reflects my opinion as writer not my country or region, the changes in the past decades has created anew threat to the region as mentioned in part one those changes formed a nuclear Iranian threat as Iran trying to develop its nuclear capabilities, the countries of the Arab Gulf countries are crippled and having no power over Iran as the world does.