

# IRAN AND THE UNITED STATES AND THE NEW MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT

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## **Abstract**

This study offers an analysis about the motives of the regional settlement between Iran and the United States in the Middle East. In addition, this paper examines the decline of American hegemony both globally and regionally which in turn ended the unipolar era of the international system. The study claims that due to this radical shift some regional powers have emerged. In doing so, this paper highlights the strategic changes that paved the way for such adjustments, which began at the fall of the Iraqi and Afghan regimes. As a result, this has formed the case of a regional vacuum due to the absence of an active Arab role and the failure of the US war on terrorism. Therefore, this study submits that the political landscape in the region and the decline of the US are contributing variables to highlighting Iran as a first alternative for the United States in the region. In fact, the ease in the relations between Tehran and Washington is the result of the overall changes that have swept the region. This is clear evidence for the emergence of Iran as a first and an alternative power to the United States. However, this shift and the new balance in the relations does not absolutely represent Iran as an alternative for America in the region but rather its emergence as an absolute power due to its military expansion and influential politics in the region. This paper argues that the expansion of the Islamic state's geographical extent in Syria and Iraq as well as the failure of the international coalition led by the United States to end this expansion marked a turning point and an urgent need for US administration to accept Iran as a regional power. Indeed this shift is marked as one of the least viable solutions out of the Syrian and Iraq deadlock, and as a partner indirectly in the international war on the Islamic state. In short, the paper concluded that the United States' influence in the Middle East region was declining slowly in the light of the expansion of Iranian influence in the region and different parts of Africa and Latin America. This has created an appropriate international atmosphere to accept Iran's presence in the Middle East as a substitute for the United States. This emergence of the new power may pave the way to a new sectarian violence.

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**Keywords:** Hegemony, power, Islamic state, regional

**Introduction:**

The international system witnessed dramatic changes, which in turn affected its collapsed structure after two and a half decades of the Eastern bloc fall, the features of a new international system started to appear due to a series of retreats in the hegemony of the United States as a single dominant force, which forced the US to sign settlements.

The consequences of the United States Leadership's retreat, Chaos and Crises in International System as well as the Middle East, the rise of the Iranian regional influence in the Levant will lead to settlements between two contradictory forces (Iran vs. United States). This in turn will strengthen the United States acceptance for the emergence of a new regional power in the most attractive arena since this arena has been a strategic area for the U.S. interests.

Geneva Convention is a quantum leap in the history of the Iranian-American relations after decades of the radical speech control over their political one. The radical speech is replaced by a conciliatory one, which in turn seeks an international solution to ensure Iran's right to nuclear weapons, and the right of the West to adopt international procedures concerning the nuclear program of Iran in order to calm the international community, the United States and its allies in particular.

This convention facilitated the process of signing regional settlements and indirect partnerships in the war on terrorism, Syria, Iraq and Yemen, which has been in the midst of the international and regional compromises. There are varieties of changes that provided a forum for a serious discussion about the international and regional developments after taking into consideration all the internal and external factors that affect its frame. The first factor is the Change in the American response because of its failure in the war on terrorism. Second, the success of Iran in filling power vacuums in Syria as well as its expansion in Tikrit, which is one of the main obstructions of the Islamic State in Iraq. Third, Iran is spreading its influence with the rise of the Houthis in Yemen with an international and American silence.

The geographic expansionism of the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq, and the failure of the international alliance led by the United States to stop this expansion are stated to be an urgent need for the United States to accept Iran as a regional dominant force. Furthermore, it highlighted the importance to accept Iran as a solution for its retreat from Syria and Iraq and an indirect partner in the international war on the Islamic State.

### **Theoretical Framework of the study:**

The political settlements between Iran and the USA in the Middle East have created a wide controversy between academics and thinkers at global and regional levels. This happens in the light of Iran's policies that have been largely successful in the Levant, giving itself an unprecedented degree of influence there at the expense of the United States, and after entering the competitive arena because of the increasing conflicts in Syria and Iraq.

In order to understand the negotiations over the relationships between Iran and the USA, it should be noted that there are many theories that explain this converting. According to the realist theory, the international system is concerned with states that always act in accordance with their national, economical or political interests. Therefore, the more powerful the state is the less wars and violence will arise. Based upon this theory, Iran having a nuclear weapons capability can potentially increase its influence as well as avoid military confrontation. Besides, America sees that the military confrontation with Iran will threaten its influence in the Middle East.

Alliance formation theory (Balance of Power) is connected with relationships of security cooperation between two or more sovereign states in order to avoid dilemmas. In this view, Iran regional and international alliances have magnified the urgency for diplomatic solutions. In addition to the balance of threat theory, which maintains that attaining the military and nuclear capabilities is the most important concern of the countries that is defined as power plus perceived aggressiveness. The Iranian threat and the fear it produced by attaining these capabilities became a powerful driver for establishing a balance threat in order to seek survival in the international system.

Theory of games assume that the situation is a win-lose problem, and they respond very aggressively, or competitively, trying to get as much as possible for themselves, and consequently as little as possible for their opponents. This tends to increase the opposition of the other side, cause the conflict to escalate. A cooperative conflict, on the other hand, can often improve even win-lose situations, as the parties can learn more about what each needs and then determine together the fairest way to cooperate.

The last theory is the international negotiations, which examines negotiation and its research methodology. In his book, Mohamed Badr Aldin talked about the theoretical methodology of international negotiations. He assumed that there are four dimensions, which offered some explanations about the international negotiations process. The first dimension defined negotiations as collection of processes in which two or more parties with conflicting and compatible goals and interests and seek to reach agreement on a transaction by a swap. The second one considers negotiations as a

strategic interaction between two parties. This interaction is defined as a collection of behavioral patterns, which is expressed by individual parties that are cooperating to make decisions. The third one considers negotiations as a joint decision-making process in which points of views are used in order to reach an agreement. As for the last dimension, negotiations are defined as a bargaining process between two parties seeking to reach an agreement to settle a matter of mutual concern or resolve a conflict.

### **The history of U.S.-Iranian relationships after the arrival of the Islamic Revolutionary to Government:**

Throughout recent history, the United States and Iran have engaged in a diplomatic relationship. Relations have been up during the reign of the Shah, but mostly down since the 1979 Islamic Revolution and subsequent hostage crisis at the U.S. Embassy in the Iranian capital. Therefore, the USA has imposed some of the unilateral sanctions on Tehran like the American's sanctions, collective sanctions like the European's ones and the international sanctions, which are imposed by the United Nations Security Council.

The hostage crisis at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran signals a thaw in the U.S.-Iranian relationship. As a result, comprehensive sanctions were imposed against Iran over its nuclear program. During Ahmadinejad terms in office, the relations between the two countries witnessed many changes, which weaken the case for better relations. This period is characterized by the severe aggression against the West, which was in turn followed by the USA's radical speech that is called "Axis of Evil". The speech describes Iran as an active state sponsor of terrorism, which threatened the American's interests as well as its allies all over the world. Relations continued to be negative to reach the threat of military invasion against Tehran. The international response to Iran's nuclear program was strong because of the Iranian revolution that is raised in 2002 when an Iranian opposition group reveals that Iran is developing nuclear facilities at Arak.

Diplomatic relations between both countries started to get better after the election of Hassan Rouhani, the Iranian's President, who wanted to rebuild diplomatic relations with Western powers, and deal with other countries on the basis of mutual interest. Since Iran is an active member in the international arena because of the series of changes that happened in the Middle East, which help Iran to be a fundamental and affective player in the area, especially after the evolution of Syrian conflict with Iraq.

### **The motives that contributed to the normalization of relations between Iran and the US after the crisis of the nuclear program:**

The absence of the Arab role in the Middle East, Iran's flourishing influence in Syria and Iraq, the Chinese and Russian growing influence,

which happens due to the American retreat from the global stage are all strategic factors that play a vital role in creating regional and Middle Eastern compromises between Iran and the US.

### **The American Retreat from the Middle East:**

World War, in which George Push invaded what is called "terrorism" after the historic events on September 11, is formed a compound curve in the military policy of the US, and speeding up the collapse of the American Strategic Society because of it's failure in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria wars in two rounds. The first round is represented by the destruction of two states, and spending 6 trillion Dollars. The other one characterized by the invasion of the Islamic State, which is failed after the expansion of the Islamic State at the expense of the American's allies, despite of building an international alliance that consisted of almost 50 states, which participated in air strikes that invaded the Islamic State's influence which in turn failed to achieve any tangible progress. Hence, U.S. military technological superiority is no longer assumed to the dominant force in the Middle East due to internal structural factors. The internal factors is caused because of the retreat of the American economy, while external ones happened due to the retreat of the American's influence and dominance in at the global and the regional levels because of the withdrawal of the US's military from the two states with no results. Based upon the previous perspective, it is clear that Iran is the single most dominant force in the region that ensures the regime's survival and without any competitors to fight Iran in Syria and Iraq, which will bring it considerable achievements in these conflict arenas.

Besides, the United States no longer needs access to Middle East under any foreseeable circumstances is defined by the coming together of a number of factors. The change in Washington priorities and increase its concern in East Asia according to a document that issued in January 2012, and the strategic changes in Iranian-American relations, resulting in the advancing of Iran across the Middle East. In the emerging of the Iranian influence, these primordial identifications have come to the fore. Lastly, the absence of the United States concern in the Middle East is happened due to US shale revolution "shale Gas", which contributed to the loss of the Gulf Oil. The availability of large quantities of shale gas will further allow the United States to consume a predominantly domestic supply of gas, which means to be free of the daily Middle East affairs duties that are imposed through the efficiency of the Gulf Oil. It also considered a focal point for the Asian Policy.

### **The Growth of the regional and the international influence of Iran:**

Iran holds a position of immense strategic importance because located in the most important strategic region in the world. It is, in effect, a vital link between Asia, the Middle East and Europe. Besides, it is located between the Arab Gulf in the south and Russia in the north. Besides, its proximity to the Orient, in which there is oil wells, increases its importance. In addition, Iran's location along the east-west trade route and oil wealth has raised its regional position, and allowed it to hold much more significance.

Iran's geographic position plays a significant role in its political and strategic presence among the great states. It also affected its rule as a regional player especially after the Islamic revolution in 1979, which considered being a quantum leap in the regional and global emergence of Iran, and Iran is no longer subordinated to the US during Shah Government.

After the failure of the American's Administration in its war against terrorism and the retreat of its global and regional hegemony, Iran expanded its influence throughout the Middle East taking advantage of the crisis in the Levant and its regional alliances in order to be one of the most prominent players in the arena. Moreover, the international atmosphere after Geneva Convention paved the way to the emergence of Iran in the light of the American and Israel's fears.

America's war against terrorism contributed to the reinforcement of Iran's position as a regional force. Washington provided an opportunity for Iran to gain a regional and international position after the collapse of the Afghan and Iraq regimes, which were a direct threat to Tehran. Therefore, Iran consolidated its dominance in Iraq and Lebanon. Iran is also became the dominant power in other Arab states; Gaza, the Middle of Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The fall of the Iraqi regime and America war in Iraq are vital factors that helped Iran to be a dominant force and political indicator in the region.

Iran's endeavors to possess the tools of the military, political and the economical hegemony and influence have not been stopped during the Islamic revolution in 1979 till these days. According to a report issued by the Pentagon on August 2010, Iran will have an army with 20 million soldiers. Moreover, Iran is supporting groups, organizations and states that threaten the American's interests and allies, which means that Iran is undeniably the most influential external force across the Middle East.

On the other hand, Iran does not deny its main political clear goal, taking into consideration that it is a superpower with huge geopolitical capabilities – **population** (75 million people), **area** (1,6 square kilometers), **and it saves almost 30 million Dollar from oil and gas wealth every year.** Moreover, Iran has an ancient Persian civilization with a huge conventional

military force. In order to have all the elements of the superpower state, Iran must have *nuclear weapons* capabilities.

There is no doubt that Iran's growing regional expansion and the spreading number of its political alliances allowed it to extent its influence throughout the Arab world, and meet its strategic interests because of its regional and international force in the Middle East without competitors. This happened after the withdrawal of the United States administration from the Levant as a direct player as a result of its military withdrawal from Iraq.

### **The absence of the Arab leading role:**

The absence of the Arab leading role regarding US's influence was not happening because of the absence of the Arab dimension caused by the Arab nationalism throughout the past decades. The absence of such a role caused by the political and ideological changes of the Arab communities, which in turn shifted from nationalism to the Islamic part. Also, the absence of Russia from the regional arena for more than two decades resulting granting *America* the legitimacy to spread its *hegemony* over the entire world; and the Gulf war, which divided the Arab response into supporter and oppositionist.

Changes that affected the structure of the regional and international system revealed the Crisis in the Arab World's Leadership. The absence of the regional stability, the divisions in the Arab world, the regional raging conflicts are all a real dilemma of an active Arab role in the region resulting in the division without focusing of the common denominators in order to get out of the recent crisis.

The Arab region did not witness the emergence of a leadership for its interactions except by the existence of a case of solidarity regarding some issues like the Palestinian one. Patterns of the emergence of the Arab leadership characterized by the hegemony of an Arab State to occupy the system or the distribution of this system between two states or more through multiple periods. The Arab situations that were ended in the first decade of the second millennium, is followed by a serious of security, political, economical, cultural, American and Israeli penetrations.

The hegemony of the United States over the Arab's decision-making process resulted in the subordination of the authority foundation in the Arab region to the United States without taking into consideration the Arab priorities. These priorities are exhausted from the burdens of division due to the blind subordination and the absence of an independent Arabic program in order to lay the foundation of the missing regional stability throughout the emergence of the era of Arab dependency.

The weakness of the role of the Arab League in finding a solution for the regional issues is caused by the retreat of the Arab role in general, and its

subordination to the ruling regimes in the Arab countries. The role of the Arab League is limited to provide a political cover regarding the foreign interventions in the Arab states that witnessed conflicts and crises like Syria, Libya and Iraq with no consequences about finding a solution to the Arab response.

The absence of the Arab role led to the emergence of foreign players in the Arab crises, growth of the Iranian influence in Syria and Iraq and the acceptance process of the United States for the rise of the Iranian leverage in the region as the beginning of a settlement in the region between Tehran and Washington.

### **Geneva Convention and the beginning of the coup in the Iranian-American relations:**

After passing almost three and a half decades of international sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran, which in turn revealed the solid, will of this State, these sanctions have collapsed to bring an end to the isolation of Iran, much needed relief from international sanctions, and a new chapter in U.S.-Iran relations.

Relations between Iran and the United States improved dramatically due to a variety of factors. One of them is the election of Barack Obama as a president for the United States. After taking office, President Obama declared his determination to build confidence among all parties and pave the way for comprehensive talks on all aspects of Iran's nuclear program. Talks also carried the prospect of a broader dialogue on a wide range of issues regarding the formulation of understanding for their enmity.

Iranian presidential election, 2013 played a vital role in normalizing Iran's relations with the United States. President Rouhani, who won these elections, has made the climax of a dramatic shift in relations between the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran, which in turn ended the hostility between the two forces and pave to have an interim Geneva Convention.

Geneva Convention considered to be a shifting point in the history of the Iranian-American relations after hostility for decades. It is also considered to be an international confession in which Iran is a nuclear force. This is reflected Iran's position both regionally and globally. Geneva Convention provided Iran with the right to have 20% of its *reserves* of *uranium*. This comes within the conditions of Iran's sovereignty and its right to have nuclear technology.

Geneva Convention was created as a result of the international failure to weaken Iran throughout imposing tough sanctions on its regime. On the other hand, Iran has faced sanctions from the US by a strategic scheme,

which is based on setting up alternatives for its economy to suppress these sanctions or reduce their impacts on its economy and animal life.

There is no way to understand the equation of Geneva Convention without understanding the American restricted options in depth after the regional and the global changes. In his book, *Strategic Vision: America and the Crisis of Global Power*, Zbigniew Brzezinski, an American political scientist and geostrategist, argued that there is no military solution to Iran's problem. He also stated the importance of engaging Iran in the regional settlements.

By this logic, the United States seek to normalize relation with Iran in order to withdraw from the Middle East with no losses, keep its old allies and build new alliances with partners, who were enemies in its war on terrorism these days.

### **The Iranian and the American Policy in the light of the increasing power of the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq, and the threat of the regional security and Iran's interests:**

The power of the Islamic State and its military increased in Syria and Iraq, and some scattered areas in Africa and East Asia. The failure of the international alliances led by the United States to stop the Islamic State's geographic expansion forced the international parties to accept Iran as a regional force, a solution to withdraw from the Levant and an indirect partner in their international war on the Islamic State.

### **The American Failure in its war on the Islamic State:**

The withdrawal of the U.S. military from Iraq and the Sectarian war rise in Syria and Iraq have increased the influence of the Islamic State, and made justifications to create an atmosphere to expand its influence at a regional level due to its inflammatory speech in the media.

After its withdrawal from Iraq, The United States occupied the region once again and formed an international alliance, which included more than 50 foreign and Arab states in order to destroy the Islamic State. The goal that was set by the United State did not achieve any goals, but the influence of the Islamic States has increased more and more everyday, and its speech harmony regarding what is called "Sectarian War" that happen in the regions.

Washington's World War 1 on terrorism or what is called "al-Qaeda-Islamic militant organization" after September 11 attacks has no consequences, instead the support as well as the geographic expansion of Al-Qaeda have expanded. Although the number of its fighters did not exceed hundreds and the restrictions over its expansion in the borders of Afghanistan, the success of al-Qaeda-Islamic militant organization is a tragedy for the United States administration in the equation of triumph.

Today, World War 2 on the Islamic States is facing the same conditions of the World War 2 on al-Qaeda-Islamic militant organization. Factors of failure shaping the new war on terrorism are more than the ones of the previous war on al-Qaeda. Taking into consideration what is happening in the world, the strikes of the international alliance could not have the ability to size the geographic expansion of the Islamic State, and instead the Islamic State continued its battles in Syria and Iraq despite of the heavy air attacks and Iran's air military intervention.

The government of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, a successor to the Islamic State previous leader Abu Omar al-Baghdadi, has contributed to a major development concerning the work of its variety state agencies, the formation of its institutions and their accurate and specific tasks. These institutions combine the nature of the institutions in the modern State and its tasks on the one hand, and the nature of the Islamic State and its working conditions that are described as ambiguous and complex on the other hand. That's what made us to be in front of such a strange case, especially the case of the fusion between the State's image and the secret organizations at the same time. In this way, the Islamic State is an exception it terms of its institutions and what is happening all over the world, which resulted in the energy and power of the Islamic State to face the international alliance.

The complexities of regional conditions and the overlap of its denominations, which were presented as a representative for the Sunni to challenge the Iranian and Western aggression, have deepened the emergence of the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq, and expanded its public support resulting in its emergence as a central party in the sectarian proxy in the near future.

The rising costs of the American war on Islamic State may create an American internal refusal to continue the war, which will lead to an end in favor of the Islamic State. A report issued by one of the US research centers demonstrated that the costs of the military campaign led by the United States against the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq is almost 13-22 billion dollars a year in the case of an escalation in the military actions.

The factors that contribute to the failure of the international war on the Islamic State started to be clear in the light of the decline of international choices regarding air strikes without any ground intervention. This in turn will weaken the chances for an international alliance success to eliminate the Islamic State because the Islamic State is using unorganized military mechanisms.

### **The Iranian-American war against Islamic State:**

The acceptance of the United States and Iran to establish diplomatic relations is reflected on the sensitive files in the Middle East. The most

dangerous one of them all is the war on the Islamic State, which is considered to be the deadliest war in human history.

The major turning point in the development of polices between the two states in the Levant was the drafting of the Geneva Conventions. This resulted in the forge of serious partnership in the war on terrorism in order to dismantle and fight the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq that is considered to be a central enemy to the states' interests in the region.

The U.S. and Iran have moved into a state of détente that is resulted in the deletion of Iran and Hezbollah from the list of terrorists' threats of Washington annual security report, which noted to Iran and Hezbollah's efforts in the war against the Islamic State.

This step comes drastically with Iran's movements in Syria and Iraq. This happened because of its battle in Tikrit that led by the General Qasim Sulimani and the emergence of the United States as a central party in the battle. This emergence came up as a result of the military and the political orders regarding carrying out air strikes, which will show the real partnership in the war on the Islamic State and the understanding between the two nations in some of the core cases in Iraq.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Secretary of State, John Kerry, permitted that "Iran's stepped-up military strikes against Islamic State targets will be positive". All these military and political responses will reflect a state of satisfaction inside the White House concerning Iran's military operations in Iraq, which in turn would contribute to seal future settlement agreements in the region.

Obama's administration has markedly worked to achieve its goals in the Middle East through the formation of international and regional alliances. These alliances will help to achieve their goals at low cost, in cooperation with their allies in bearing the burdens of the future duties of crisis that is similar to the vase in Libya and the international war against the Islamic State (Leading from Behind and sharing the burden with allies).

The expansion of the Islamic State's influence and its threats to the Iranian-Western interests in the region were a new key point to build cooperative relations between the two states, which will begin a new stage of settlements into the theaters of traditional conflicts powers.

### **Syria and Iraq are circles of settlements between Iran and the United States:**

As the conflict in Syria entered its fifth year, the international focus is no longer on the destruction of Bashar Al-Assad's government. The changes, which exhausted the international forces by the rise of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, forced them to change their responses in order to withdraw from the regional crisis with less casualties and consequences.

Declining the importance of Gulf Oil in the American's Strategy has been one of the main motives, which contributed to settlements with Iran, especially after the internal changes that happened in Iran due to the imposed sanctions that weaken the local economy. This in turn has reflected on the internal Iranian policy that described as flexible when negotiating with the West about nuclear weapon. It also reflected on the United States' urgent need to have an alliance to fill the vacuum after its military withdrawal from Afghanistan, a partner in its war on the Islamic State, Syria and Iraq and a strategic alliance of Turkey that started to have an independent response towards the Syrian file.

The factors that will lead to settlements between Iran and the United States do not appear to be limit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has continued to pursue a strategy throughout its sphere of influence, using political, economic, and military tools to promote its agenda. Iran's growing alliances in the East and the West have created a new American response regarding the regional equation. The Russia-Iran Strategic Alliance has been one of the most significant alliances that started to play as one of the main competitors against the American hegemony in the regional equation, which has resulted in the change of the American response about the war in Syria. The US decision to free Syria from a tyrannical regime was due to the Russian involvement in the war and its response to the Syrian System, which considered its last favorite battleground located on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea.

China-Russian's growing global influence in the Middle East has been carrying a number of factors that affected the structure of the dominant forces in the region, which in turn reflected on the creation of new settlements on the nuclear issue and the acceptance for Iran's growing influence in Syria and Iraq.

This change came up because of the American retreat from the regional issues in order to rearrange its priorities in the Levant without causing threats to its strategic interests in the region.

Iran's military and political influence in Syria and Iraq is one of the main factors that affect the settlements between Iran and the United States and the nature of these settlements, its shape and context. The most important issue is that the United States did not struggle to stop the Iranian's influence in the region; instead, it supported the influence expansion of Iran by providing Iran's allies with military services in Iraq. Besides, the international alliance led by the United States continued its invasion against the positions of the Islamic States influence in order to degrade and ultimately destroy” Islamic State militants extend into Syria and Iraq.

Based upon the United States' strategic responses towards the Syrian System, and the permission of John Kerry, the Secretary of State, about

America's willing to negotiate with Bashar Al-Assad, the President of Syria, these permissions revealed that the change in the American response was due to the effect of the Iranian-Russian response on this file. This considered as a big challenge to the American's Administration and an instrument to embarrass America in front of its alliances in the region.

The fact the America and Iran normalize their relations caused a huge development, which reflected on the regional arena. This normalization has been made in order to formulate harmonious responses for the war on the Islamic States and end the Syrian crisis, which will be a new beginning to settlements in the Levant in which Iran will fill the vacuum that the United States left.

What is happening now has happened before, when the United States agreed to retreat from Iraq at the end of 2011 according to a security agreement between the new Iraq and Iran, the Middle East has become a region of influence between Iran and the United States' alliances.

The Iranian-American settlements were unforgettable during the war on Iraq and Afghanistan. The new geopolitical scene The new geopolitical scene in the region is paving for new settlements with the regional situation, which started to form itself through the emergence of players but with more influence than before as a result of their military and political victory due to the confession in which Iran is the dominant force in the region.

In this scene, Iran's power system as a developing country accomplished without any competitors in the regional arena. The Arab Gulf States and Turkey are working as inactive supporters in the region according to an international guidance, which will make Iran the single biggest winner from these settlements due to its increasing influence and battles in Syria and Iraq. Furthermore, Iran is an alternative to the United States without making concessions on the role of old allies. Therefore, the American interests required that the Middle East should not be an independent strategic force away from the American influence.

### **Conclusion:**

The decades of conflicts between Iran and the United States ended with the beginning of a new era in the diplomatic, military and security relations regarding their war against the Islamic State. This war has been considered as a dangerous aggressor to the interests of both nations in the Middle East because of its control over Syria and Iraq regions, and the inability of the international alliance to stop its expansion through Damascus and Baghdad.

A variety of motives as well as strategic factors played a vital role in the emergence of Iran as international and regional force at the expense of the retreat of the United States, the world's dominant international force

against the international regional system. This retreat resulted due to China Russia's presence in the theater of the conflict and the support of their allies in the region. These regional and international factors have made significant changes in the nature of the Iranian-American relations to control their war on the Islamic State. This in turn has forced the United States to accept settlements with Iran, which was forbidden for the United States to accept them in the past.

Geneva Convention described as a fertile ground to hold political Iranian-American compromises in the Middle East. These compromises have confined to end Iran's nuclear crisis in a way that will keep Iran as the national dominant force and calm the international community regarding the nuclear program. Moreover, they have also confined to the American's acceptance for Iran's influence expansion in Syria and Iraq in a way that will maintain the good self-image of the United States, which have failed to end the crisis due to the increasing influence of the Islamic State in the regions.

The ambiguous situation in the Middle East, in the light of the growing influence of Iran and the Islamic State, is starting to be clear because of the retreat of the United States from the region because of the restrictions imposed on its interests. That in turn will pave the way for the emergence of a new stage of a sectarian conflict that will lead to a great sectarian war.

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