

## Abstract

This century, which is about to come to an end, has witnessed numerous events. Among the most important events were the two destructive World Wars where, as a result, an international order of dual poles, which lasted for the last four centuries, was established. Another two major events occurred during the last decade of this century, which they are: the collapse of the Soviet Union and the emergence of the European Union as a political and economic power in the World. Also, one should keep in mind the fierce wars that broke down, the peaceful attempts of some fighting countries and the civil and democratic changes that swept thorough many countries. These events and movements will influence the coming international order, especially that we are on the threshold of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The raised question here is whether "the United States will remain the only great power dominating the international and Middle Eastern policy or will there be other partners as the European Union who is expected to play a major role in determining the features of the international and Middle Eastern policy."

This dissertation has tried to answer this question by providing tangible givens and by following a scientific method. It has come to a conclusion that the current international order passes through a transitional period that is a labor period. The results of this labor period became tangible and obvious. The USA is no more capable of directing all its allies towards the foreign policy that will only serve its interests. Many countries, especially the usual allies of the USA no longer respect the American laws that support imposing economic sanctions on countries that stand against the American Administration's will. Moreover, the USA is no longer capable of waging wars on its own since it cannot shoulder the burdens of these wars. In the first and second Gulf War and the Baltic War, the American incapability was noticed. The American policy makers admitted that the USA can no longer sustain its hegemony and control over the entire World because that exhausts it economically and contradicts with its declared foreign policy that supports democracy and human rights movements. The American's retreat on the international arena on one side, and the collapse of the former USSR on the other side, left a vacuum that the Western European countries, within the framework of the European Union, has filled. The increased growth in the European Union countries economic power and the prominent position they occupied in the international trade market helped them to fill that vacuum. After demolishing Berlin Wall ten years ago, the European Union countries developed their economic unity forms. These



forms became clear in promoting the four freedoms and fortifying and developing the foreign European policy, especially the "Euro-Mediterranean" one. Barcelona's declaration in 1995, when the European Union countries declared the independence of the European decision and the elimination of dependence on America, was the challenge of the century. The dissertation reached a conclusion that the Euro-Mediterranean project actually started 10 years ago or more, but it was officially hardened in 1995. The European-Mediterranean project gives the European Union a political role to play in the Arab World. For instance, their role in the peace process has increased. Moreover, Berlin declaration in 1999 emphasizes the determination of the European Union countries to play a political role parallel to the financial role they play in supporting the peace process. The dissertation also concluded that the European Union's demand to activate its political role in the region and to solve the Israeli-Arab conflict is no more than a clear indication of its need to maintain their political and economic interests in the Arab World. Therefore, this dissertation was designed to answer many questions related to the European Union's support, to implement the resolutions of the International Law and to acknowledge the rights of the Palestinian people because this support and acknowledgment are the keys of security and stability in the region. Finally, it concluded that the European Union's demand to have an active political role in the peace process and to solve the Israeli-Arab conflict is no more than a clear indication of the European Union's need to maintain their interests in the Arab World. Maintaining these interests and searching for new ones do not function under the Israeli-Arab conflict. However, these interests can be achieved and flourish under achieving political stability and security. Thence, this dissertation has answered the question related to the European Union's interest in implementing the United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338 and in acknowledging the Palestinian people's right because obtaining the Palestinian people's full rights is the key for stability and security in the Arab World.