

**Abstract:**

This study focuses on the Iranian foreign policy towards her eastern neighboring states namely, Pakistan and Afghanistan during (1991-2001). This period witnessed dramatic changes on the international arena: most notably the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the predominance of the USA as the single most powerful nation in the world. This was marked by a US invasion of Afghanistan which has borders with Iran. Moreover, this period witnessed changes on the internal Iranian scene, most importantly the change of the Iranian political approach from an Islamic revolution to a state that is open to the West.

By these positions, Iran attempted to earn a significant status among the eastern neighboring countries. This study discusses the Iranian foreign political positions towards the Eastern neighboring countries (Pakistan and Afghanistan), as well as towards the international community. It also tackles the impact of the adoption of diplomatic approach with these two countries, through the political situations of Iran in its foreign policy. This study has investigated and searched for the domestic and international changes that have affected the Iranian policy, and pushed it forward to make changes in its internal and external situations.

The research problem will be posed in the following question: How did the international changes affect Iran's foreign approaches towards her eastern neighboring countries between 1991- 2001?

To address this question, the study sought to analyze a good deal of literature on the change to world politics during the period under examination and foreign policy concepts and application.

The study consists of five chapters. The first dealt with the foreign political positions of the state and the diplomatic tools, as well as the definition of the Republic of Iran with respect to minorities, the components of the Iranian regime and diplomacy. The second chapter was devoted to the foreign political Iranian positions. Chapter three dealt with the political positions of Iran in dealing with the developments happened on the Afghani Arena. The fourth chapter tackled the Iranian political positions towards the developments occurred on the Pakistani

Arena. The last chapter was dedicated to the results of the Iranian foreign political positions towards the eastern neighboring countries.

The study concludes that Iran benefited from the dramatic changes which the world went through, such as, the collapse of the Soviet Union resulted in a wide-scale reduction in the strategic importance of Iran. Therefore, it strived hard to change its external and internal political approach in an attempt to gain international prestige. It unified the Shi'ites of Afghanistan to support stability and to expand its influence and authority through the means of diplomacy. The economic reforms carried out by Rafsanjani led to a period of relatively economic growth, and the high levels of consumption, in turn, led to relative prosperity; to the expansion of the middle class; to a significant increase in the levels of education and to the rise in age-average of life-span for population. During that period, Iran has adopted the neoliberal economic policies. The government and parliament also encouraged privatization and non-governmental organizations as a precondition to move to a market system, internal economic liberalization and an approach that is more open to the international economy.