

The New Geopolitical and Economic Pattern of the Middle East Based on the Background of "the Belt and Road"

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Abstract: After the outbreak of the "Arab Spring," the geopolitical pattern of the Middle East has undergone earth-shaking changes, showing a complex situation. This new situation is complex, revolving around multiple hotspot issues, characterized by the interweaving of multi-layered geopolitical games. At the same time, in the Middle East, the subjectivity of major powers is prominent, and the geoeconomic structure of the Middle East presents a new situation, which not only makes the countries in the Middle East face unprecedented economic pressure but also makes the countries in the Middle East face the huge challenge of economic transformation. In addition, the export-oriented characteristics of the economic pattern in the Middle East have become increasingly prominent, which in turn enhances the uniqueness of the local geoeconomic pattern. In the Middle East, the important problems "the Belt and Road" construction project lie in the security risks and economic risks brought about by geopolitical risks, terrorism, and conflicts between countries. Therefore, starting from the development background and status quo of "the Belt and Road", this paper formulates a series of effective measures to deal with it according to the characteristics of the new geopolitical economy in the Middle East.

1. Introduction

After the drastic changes in the Middle East, the political situation in the Middle East has undergone new changes, forming a complex geopolitical situation characterized by chaos and turmoil. In addition, there are disputes between local countries and games between major powers such as the United States and Russia in the Middle East. These have also created new trends due to the drastic changes in the Middle East. Moreover, due to the special status of the Middle East, international relations have also had far-reaching influences and changes. Specifically, the geoeconomic structure in the Middle East is undergoing major transformation and upgrading. The internal conflicts among oil-producing countries in the Middle East gradually intensify, the geopolitical relationship is fragmented, and the characteristics of an export-oriented economy are steadily highlighted. In the context of "the Belt and Road", the advancement of the Middle East is faced with new geopolitical and geoeconomic risks. Therefore, in the scientific and rational advancement of "the Belt and Road" construction in the Middle East, it is necessary to understand the Middle East's opportunities and challenges correctly. As far as possible to formulate efficient and scientific measures and programs.

2. Characteristics of the New Geopolitical and Economic Pattern in the Middle East under the Background of "One Belt and One Road."

In the context of "the Belt and Road", the complexity and importance of the Middle East are reflected in the political and economic situation. Therefore, after the drastic changes in the Middle East, political and economic factors are always intertwined in the Middle East, and interaction influences each other[1]. In addition, we should realize that after the outbreak of the upheaval in the Middle East, the geoeconomic and political pattern of the Middle East is quietly changing, which is mainly reflected in energy, economy, and trade, as shown in Figure 1.

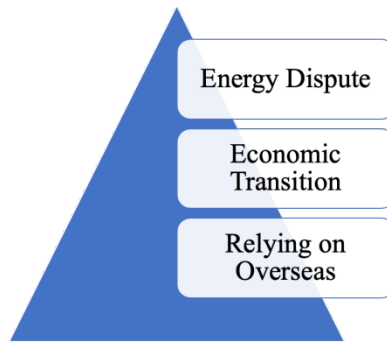


Figure 1 Features of the New Geopolitical and Economic Pattern in the Middle East under the Background of "the Belt and Road"

2.1 Energy Battle

As the primary variable of geoeconomics, energy has always been the main resource that various regions compete for in the Middle East. With the continuous acceleration of the global integration process, the global energy geography has undergone drastic changes, and the internal conflicts among oil-producing countries in the Middle East have gradually intensified.

At present, it is the first time in the past 100 years that the Middle East's position in the world's energy structure has continued to decline, so the position of the world's oil depots has been shaken. Moreover, when the external shock is further intensified, the competition among oil-producing countries in the Middle East is also intensifying, and the competition and conflict among these countries are mixed with various factors, such as religion, energy, etc. [2].

2.2 Economic Transformation

After the drastic changes in the Middle East during the "Arab Spring", the economies of the Middle East countries suffered unprecedented heavy losses, causing huge economic losses. Most countries in the Middle East were facing huge financial pressures, severe economic pressures, and transformation challenges [3]. At this time, the geoeconomic pattern of the Middle East is showing new changes. Due to factors such as the drastic changes in the Middle East, regional civil wars, and continued low oil prices, the economic growth rate of the Middle East countries has slowed down significantly, which has directly led to a continuous decline in the amount and quantity of foreign direct investment. Growing differences in economic influence across countries

2.3 Overseas Dependence

Countries in the Middle East are highly dependent on overseas countries, which also makes the Middle East unique in the global geo-economy, and the spillover effect of countries in the Middle East is also relatively significant. The economic situation in the Middle East is characterized by a low degree of integration, fragmentation, and conduction. At the same time, the economic situation in the Middle East is also affected by local security and development issues. For a long time, the economic development situation in the Middle East has been turbulent and faced with the task of economic development and transformation. It is the object of assistance from foreign countries and international organizations in many aspects, such as development funds, development plans, economic reforms, etc. In terms of economy, the Middle East is facing severe challenges, and major reforms are needed to improve the quality of economic growth, thereby providing more employment opportunities for the growing population in the Middle East and reducing unemployment [4]. In addition, Middle Eastern countries have high conductivity in many aspects, such as politics, economy, culture, religion, etc.

3. The Impact and Preventive Solution of the New Geopolitical and Economic Pattern in the Middle East on China's "the Belt and Road."

3.1 Impact

In dealing with foreign affairs and international cooperation, China has always adhered to seeking common ground while reserving differences and is committed to building a new type of international relations with win-win cooperation. In the context of the new era, "the Belt and Road" initiative proposed by China has become an influential force in the geoeconomic and political landscape of countries and regions along the route, as shown in Figure 2.

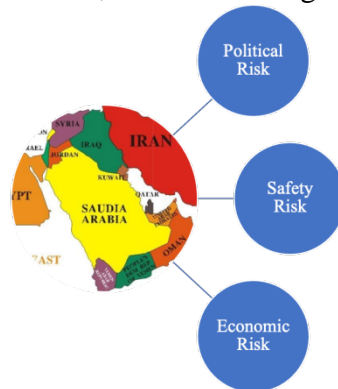


Figure 2 Three Major Impacts

On the one hand, "the Belt and Road" initiative insist on starting from the common interests of countries and regions along the route, creating good development opportunities and employment opportunities for these regions and countries, and improving local employment rates and autonomous driving capabilities [5].

On the other hand, constructing " the Belt and Road" will help strengthen the geoeconomic and political ties between countries and regions along the route, thereby enhancing the infrastructure construction and trade exchange platform construction in the Middle East and countries enhancing regional cooperation. The circulation and development of various elements between the two are shown in Figure 3.

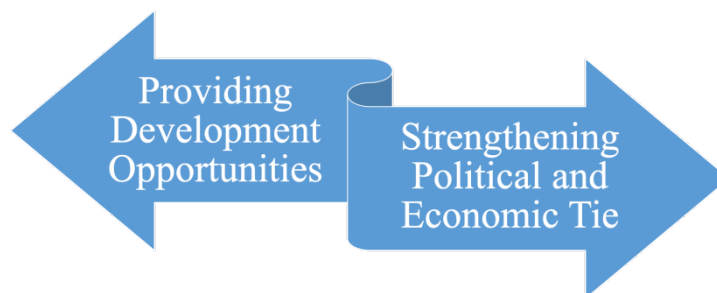


Figure 3 Two Major Achievements

3.1.1 Political Risk

At present, the political and economic games of countries in the Middle East are characterized by Cold War and Factionalization. This situation shows that my country needs to face high political risks when dealing with exchanges and cooperation between the Middle East and countries. In addition, the new interventionism of Western countries and the competition among countries in the Middle East have directly led to the security dilemma in the Middle East.

At the same time, an anti-Iran coalition has emerged in the Middle East, which has also gradually deteriorated the environment still faced by the major powers in the Middle East. And on the hotspot issues in the Middle East, a series of active counterattacks and actions by Iran have further led to turbulence in the Middle East. In addition, an anti-Iran alliance has emerged in the Middle East, which has also gradually deteriorated the environment that the major powers in the Middle East are still

facing. At the same time, on the hot issues in the Middle East, Iran's situation is volatile [6].

In addition, in the Middle East, the most abundant resource is petroleum energy, and the most scarce resource is water resources, which has led to the water resources in the Middle East becoming the main resource that countries and regions compete for. Water is the guarantor of peace in the Middle East and triggers conflict and even war. In the Arab-Israeli peace process, water is an unavoidable hot issue, and it is also the most sensitive political issue in the peace process of the Middle East countries. Therefore, from a long-term perspective, if the water resources problems in the Middle East cannot be solved in a scientific and just way, various political conflicts and struggles will continue to arise.

Undoubtedly, these various factors have further accelerated the deterioration of the geopolitical and economic environment in the Middle East, bringing certain risks and challenges to China's interactions with countries in the Middle East. Moreover, implementing and developing "the Belt and Road" initiative in the region faces certain security and political risks.

3.1.2 Security Risk

At present, terrorism and regional conflicts in the Middle East are constantly spilling over, which has led to the construction and development of "the Belt and Road" in the Middle East facing greater security and religious risks. The Middle East is the region with the highest concentration of hot issues globally, and many new problems have emerged before the old problems in the Middle East have been resolved. This makes the old and new problems in the Middle East intertwined, and conflicts and wars in various countries are one after another. No doubt increases China's Risk of promoting "the Belt and Road" initiative in the Middle East[7].

At the same time, the risks of conflicts and terrorist attacks among countries in the Middle East are relatively high, which directly affects China's overseas projects in the region and directly threatens the smooth construction and development of "the Belt and Road" project.

3.1.3 Economic Risk

At present, there are mainly three types of problems in the Middle East countries and regions, namely energy politicization, economic equalization, national transformation, institutionalization, etc. These problems have brought a lot of risks to China, and the most prominent of these directions is geoeconomics risk. As we all know, the Middle East is an important source of energy for many countries and an important object of international energy cooperation and can occupy an important position in China's energy security system. At the same time, the energy in the Middle East directly affects the changes in the local geopolitical pattern and is also directly related to the security issues in the Middle East. For China, as the energy politicization in the Middle East becomes increasingly prominent, my country may face huge security risks in dealing with the Middle East issue.

3.2 Preventive Solution

In the context of the current "the Belt and Road" construction, this paper proposes a series of targeted countermeasures based on the Middle East's new geopolitical and economic situation, combined with China's national conditions and diplomatic strategies, as shown in Figure 4.

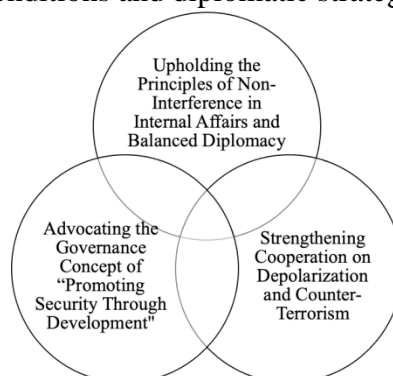


Figure 4 Coping Strategies

3.2.1 Uphold the Principles of Non-Interference in Internal Affairs and Balanced Diplomacy

At present, the geopolitical situation of major powers in the Middle East is deteriorating. My country should adhere to the principle of non-interference in internal affairs and peaceful diplomacy and avoid facing greater security and political risks. Moreover, affected by various factors, such as geographical environment, internal conflicts in Middle East countries, and the involvement of external powers, it is difficult for some projects of "the Belt and Road" construction project to achieve full coverage and full promotion in the Middle East. According to local differences, cooperation policies of "harmony but difference" can only be formulated in different countries. Specifically, the important fulcrum countries and countries along "the Belt and Road" mainly include Saudi Arabia, Iran, Turkey, and Israel. Coordinate and balance the development of relations with other countries and further promote constructing "the Belt and Road" to achieve practical results in the Middle East [8].

First of all, China should attach great importance to the geopolitical risks between countries in the Middle East, always adhere to the principle of independence and autonomy, and try to avoid getting involved in religious disputes and political conflicts between countries in the Middle East and avoid getting involved in games between major powers outside the region. Therefore, my country's adherence to the foreign policy of non-alignment is the principle of my country's diplomacy in the Middle East. It is also the advantage of my country's diplomatic strategy in the Middle East.

Secondly, my country should take security issues as the basis for cooperation with countries in the Middle East. Only when security risks are reduced can my country better implement "the Belt and Road" initiative among countries in the Middle East, and it will avoid local conflicts and countries' interests.

Finally, due to the influence of various factors, such as geographical environment, internal conflicts among Middle East countries, and the involvement of external powers, it is difficult for some projects of "the Belt and Road" construction project to achieve full coverage and full promotion in the Middle East. Under such a background, my country can only formulate a "harmony but different" cooperation policy according to local differences. Specifically, the important fulcrum countries and countries along the "Belt and Road" are mainly Saudi Arabia, Iran, Anji, Turkey, and Israel. China should strengthen its relationship with these countries using "the Belt and Road" construction and energy and economic cooperation, effectively coordinate and balance the development of relations with other countries, and further promote the construction of "the Belt and Road" to achieve practical results in the Middle East.

3.2.2 Strengthening Deradicalization and Counter-terrorism Cooperation

China needs to strengthen de-sophistication and prevention and control cooperation with Middle East countries and formulate scientific and scientific methods to reduce non-traditional security threats, especially terrorism. At the same time, in the face of complex hotspot issues in the Middle East, my country should not only act like a major power to help countries in the Middle East enhance their security capabilities but also resolve hotspot issues in the Middle East based on non-interference in internal affairs and non-alignment. In the security governance affairs in the Middle East, we should comprehensively improve security cooperation between my country and the countries in the Middle East.

3.2.3 Advocating the Governance Concept of "Promoting Security Through Development."

In the context of "the Belt and Road" construction, as a major country in the world, my country should advocate and implement the governance concept of "promoting security through development" and continuously introduce a series of policies and measures to promote the economic and social development of the Middle East. Such as "the Belt and Road" construction project. Participating in the governance and resolution of hotspot issues in the Middle East as a major responsible country will help China to promote "the Belt and Road initiative" further and policies in the Middle East, as well as the cooperation and Development between China and countries in the Middle East.

4. Conclusion

To sum up, in the context of "the Belt and Road" era, countries in the Middle East are facing huge economic transformation challenges. China should pay attention to the docking of the development vision with the Middle East countries, increase the attention to local people's livelihood issues, and strengthen local capacity for independent development. At present, China should continue to promote the construction and development of "the Belt and Road" in the Middle East as a major country, enhance the local independent development capability and level, create more entrepreneurial opportunities, and effectively resolve local hotspot issues and disputes.

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