

## Small Sample of a Documented Analytical Paper

### INSTRUCTION:

1. The length of this paper (in English) is 3 to 5 single-spaced pages in blank and font 12.
2. The paper must be well-documented like the following sample.
3. Your paper should have the same format as the following sample.
4. Deadline for uploading this paper into your university system is 8 January 2017.
5. Use **all** required readings from our 4 lectures for your paper in addition to the new sources that you find with your own internet research.
6. This paper is a role playing exercise which brings theory, method, and policy together.
7. Please put yourself in the place of one Persian Gulf state leader: Answer 2 related questions: How would you identify and manage your country's "disloyal opposition"?
8. The following is a short (not exact) sample of an analytical paper with the right format.

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For this module, our topic is: "**Oil, Politics, and Development.**"

Your discussion question is: How do you explain the impact of Oil Politics in Economic Development (or lack of economic development) in the Middle East (**based on our module required readings & your own Internet articles**)

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**Place Your Name here: Mr./Ms. ??????????**

### **PART 1: Introduction**

In the politics of the Middle East, the discussions of "Oil, Politics, and Development" overlap and interact for a number of reasons. Oil dollars provide the opportunity for development and change. However, the same dollars bring special challenges to the Middle Eastern leaders and masses.

### **PART 2: Required Reading**

In debating the standards of living for Middle Easterners today, one must consider the impact that oil has had on these standards. There would be virtually no economic development had it not been for oil's discovery and in turn, the livelihoods of ordinary citizens certainly see the effects of its use in the global market. Unfortunately, notions of political development have not necessarily progressed along the lines of economics' ups and downs throughout modern Middle Eastern states (**Bill, 307**). Because oil is such a precious commodity, and the region suffers from a lack of resources in general, it has produced a substantial amount of wealth for the countries which are able to export it. Others, it seems has little means to finance its government or stimulate their economies, the bulk of which currently export typical developing world commodities: textiles, food processing, and construction (**Bill, 309**).

A huge problem incurred by a heavily oil-reliant economy is the lack of an agricultural sector.

The Middle East is the world's largest importer of foods, especially processed ones. And unfortunately, since oil is the main driver of incomes, when global prices go down, so does the ability of the government to finance debts incurred by food imports. It is important to note that the Middle East has, even before oil been a region of importation, serving as the place where east meets west. Even in ancient times as Lunde's article points out, commodities have passed through this region to be traded, sold, or used as their own (**Lunde, 250**). It is even interesting to see a new relationship "re-open" so to speak between Saudi Arabia and China. A non-political and in fact non-threatening business relationship with the Chinese is favored by the Saudis whose relationship with the U.S. has been on the rocks since September 11th (**Fattah, 215**). Another example of a severe economic turndown because of U.S. interventionism can be seen in Iran where a policy of isolationism was executed against them following fallout in relations with the U.S. (**Salehi-Isfahani, 200**). Because of continued economic grief faced by the Middle East which sees the root of most of their problems caused by Western colonialism and imperialism, thus we see the roots of Islamic militancy (**Munson, 227**).

The two paradoxes highlighted in Bill's book provide a better understanding of the lack of political progression in the Middle East (**Bill, 315-30**). While some countries such as Kuwait and Oman were able to guarantee a little more political participation for its citizens, these liberations were back dropped by substantial welfare payments by the government to enhance their daily lives.

A huge problem associated with these oil-producers is issues of succession, and as such is an impediment to the political processes. Though some countries experiment with dictatorships and democracy, such as the situation in Iraq is proving, some nations are still experiencing traditional monarchical rule. And though democracy is so yearned for by the West, in Iraq it seems that ethnic conflicts are undermining any democratic progress there (**Bennett, 220-1**). Monarchies however, aren't quite what the doctor has ordered either. Because a number of the oil-producing states have monarchies, the question of succession is an important one. From Bahrain to Oman, each state is finding more and more difficulty in passing the torch to a well-qualified leader which leads one to ask: "Why even continue the traditional system" (**Peterson, 195**).

Well, an answer to that would be these systems have remained in place because of their abundant oil wealth. Places like Kuwait have managed to quell any sort of frustrations with the current regime with welfare gifts, and thus the citizens of Kuwait have much higher standards of living and generally content with the regime. It will be interesting to see how these countries deal with further drops in the prices of oil, to see just how they will deal with their citizenry and whether or not the issue of succession will be quite as important.

### **PART 3: My Internet Research Articles**

While conducting my own internet research, a question that I have had particular interest in is what are the functional reasons for Iran mobilizing support for Hamas? I understand that Ahmadinejad is trying to hide the country's economic instability with propaganda laced in the media, however what are the long-term benefits of this relationship and how does it affect my world in the United States? One reason in particular could be that a minority in ethnicities, the Shiites would be able to gain major support in the dominantly Arab-Sunni world if they

supported a Sunni movement (**Slackman**). Frankly, the U.S. should be concerned that Iran is trying to make more friends in the region—this would only be accompanied by more tension toward us. Iran should be our number one priority when the Obama administration takes hold of the White House. Former Defense Secretary William Perry has noted that Iran’s nuclear program will likely be Obama’s first extreme crisis in handling foreign policy (**Slackman**).

Another logical explanation for Iran to side with Hamas is Iran’s goal of becoming a regional superpower. If Hamas is victorious, Iran will have a sphere of influence stretching all the way to the Mediterranean (**Slackman**). And despite the glory of being cited as a “friend to the victorious over Israel” Iran has been discreet of its support. If their position was publicly pronounced and Hamas is defeated, then their hopes of maintaining a foothold over the Mediterranean would cease, and Iran would have no leverage to offer the new administration in Washington (**Bronner**). And although propaganda of the media in Iran has thwarted suspicions by voters that their economies resources are actually in depletion because of Iran’s lending to Hamas, Iranian motives are no secret to Israel. President Shimon Peres made clear that Gaza will not come under the jurisdiction of Iran (**Economist**).

## **PART 4: Conclusion**

In sum, I wonder what we should do in popping the Iranian bubble that is slowly taking over the Middle East. Writers of the book: “Restoring the Balance: A Middle East Strategy for the Next President” have offered the following rhetoric of foreign policy in Iran: reduce America’s armed forces in Iraq and begin talks with Tehran as soon as Obama steps into office; pressure Israel to end its occupation in Palestinian settlements; convince Russia to stop its supply to Iran’s nuclear program by reducing U.S. support for Georgia and Ukraine’s admittance in NATO. Whether or not these are efficient ways to eliminate the conflict in Iran remains under speculation, considering this book was written before recent Israel-Gaza attacks in December. However the sooner we downturn this conflict, the more diplomacy we will be able to exercise over the Middle East in achieving our own security goals according to Obama.

(Word Count = ????)

## **Works Cited**

**Bronner**, Ethan. “Mission to Iran” The New York Times. 16 January 2009, **New York Times.com** (NYT ), <<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/18/books/review/Bronner-t.html?ref=books>>

The **Economist**, “How Iran fits in” Economist.com 17 January 2009, **The Economist.com**.(Economist) <[http://www.economist.com/world/mideast-africa/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=12959539](http://www.economist.com/world/mideast-africa/displaystory.cfm?story_id=12959539)>

**Slackman**, Michael. “Iran Gives Hamas Enthusiastic Support, but Discreetly, Just in Case.” **New York Times.com** (NYT). 12 Jan. 2009