

Arabs' Perspectives on President Donald Trump's Policies Towards the Middle East "Jordan, the Palestinian Cause, and the Gulf States"

Summary

The book examines the policies of the new US administration following President Donald Trump's re-election to a second term. It explores these policies from political, strategic, legal, and economic perspectives. In its study, the book considers the new administration's team orientations, the parameters and features of its anticipated policies, the opportunities and challenges they entail, and potential ways to address them.

The first chapter of the book discusses the new US administration's approach to the Palestinian question, indicators of its retreat from the "two-state solution"—a retreat expressed by President Trump in several statements during his first term (2017- 2021).

It also examines the effects of the new government's composition, its members' backgrounds, and their political viewpoints or affiliations. It also discusses the defining characteristics of Trump's US policies toward the Palestinian issue: 1) the current administration's ideological stance, 2) its international alliances, 3) international law, 4) UN organizations, and 5) the UNSC resolutions in this regard .

The researchers argue that the expected repercussions of Trump's policies include primarily increasing support for Israel, the resumption of the "Abraham Accords" normalization process away from solving Palestinian cause, the marginalization of the Palestinian Authority, and a push for a "minimum" settlement of the Palestinian issue through the revival of the 2020 "Deal of the Century" announced by Trump during his first term .

Furthermore, the chapter presents opportunities for Arab states to engage with the current US administration, primarily because of the administration's vested interests in the region and its focus on domestic affairs. The US perspective and the existence of several files that the current administration might be preoccupied with.

The second chapter examines the new US administration's approach to Jordan amid regional geopolitical changes. Such a US approach includes the administration's apparent lack of objection to the annexation of the West Bank, which serves the agenda of the extreme right in Israel, and the belief that Jordan's strategic importance has diminished .

In this context, the administration will continue its policy of creating rivals to Jordan's role in the region, signaling a decline in Jordan's importance and standing in this administration's eyes. Such a policy also perpetuates the so-called "alternative

homeland" theory for Palestinians, as claimed historically by different Israeli leaders, especially the right wing .

The chapter also examines the parameters and features of the US administration's policies toward Jordan, which are characterized by Jordan's importance to successive administrations as a regional pillar promoting stability .

Furthermore, it explores the opportunities and challenges arising from the new US administration's policies and the tools Jordan can use to address them. The researchers in this chapter highlighted Jordan's importance as a key partner in maintaining regional security and stability, as well as in the peace process related to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The third chapter addresses the determinants and features of the US administration's policies under Trump towards the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. The research raises many concerns based on the previous experience with the first term of the Trump administration. They posed as the weak support for the GCC's policies against Iran .

They also referred to the Houthis' attack on the Oil reserves of Saudi Arabia, where the US military presence did not defend its air and land at that critical moment .

The researchers noted that the GCC possesses material and geopolitical capabilities, as well as extensive relations within the regional and international systems, to preserve its interests and existence. They yet focus on the opportunities and challenges arising from the policies of the new US administration, as well as the tools for addressing them .

They cite the US administration's earlier attempt to push some Gulf members towards normalization agreements in pursuit of security from Iran's threats and ambitions. However, the challenges posed by Trump to the Gulf countries can be avoided, on the one hand, through Gulf consensus.

The book concludes that the era of Trump in the Oval Office in Washington creates many challenges to the Arab Position regarding Palestine, Jordan, and the GCC. In its three chapters, featuring distinctive researchers from different fields and countries, it provided preliminary estimates and many questions yet to be answered within the first year of Trump's presidency regarding the Middle East in general and Palestine, Jordan, and the GCC in particular.