

**Review of the Research supervisor, candidate of historical sciences, PhD doctor Zh. Abdallah Mohd Diyab al-Noimat's thesis on "Central Asia and the Caucasus in Iran's foreign policy strategy 1991-2021"**

It is no secret that Iran is striving for leadership not only in the Muslim world, but also among the world countries.

In this regard, the novelty of the research proposed by the dissertation is a comprehensive study of the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in relation to the Caucasus and Central Asian countries.

The countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus are economically and politically important for neighboring countries (Russia and Iran) and superpowers (China and the USA) on the one hand. This importance is primarily due to the energy resources these countries possess and their location in the heart of Asia, which forms convenient land routes for the transportation of oil and natural gas through their territory.

Iran's foreign policy towards these countries is also seen as a lifeline to escape US sanctions, re-establish regional control and return them as a major player in the region.

The doctorate student rightly pointed out that Iran's relations with the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus will break away from the sanctions and blockade imposed by the United States and pave the way for peace on the domestic front.

Although Iran understands the importance of Central Asia and the Caucasus region, it also knows that there are many big countries and big players with interests in the region. Not only Russia, but also countries such as China and the United States are interested in this. It is true that Iran is worried about the expansion of political, economic and cultural influence of Turkey in this region, which considers these countries close to them historically and culturally (Islamic). Therefore, Iran faces many difficulties in determining its foreign policy in relation to these countries. On the one hand, it does not want new enemies to appear (for example, Turkey and the Arab Gulf) and wants to have good relations with the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus, becoming major allies with Russia and China.

Here, in his research, answering these questions, the dissertation examines the foreign policy trends of Iran in relation to the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus, tries to consider the future of this strategy and its impact on the region in general and Iran in particular.

In order to preserve its regional interests in the region, it seeks answers to the question of what were Iran's foreign policy strategies in relation to the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus in the period 1991-2020.

I believe that there are still points to be added and improved in the dissertation work. In particular, Iran's foreign policy regarding Afghanistan and Azerbaijan should be analyzed in connection with Iran's social development stages.

I would like to pay more attention to the theoretical reasoning of the researcher's conclusions and findings in each section. At the same time, it is necessary to fully correct technical errors.

In general, this work is written according to the requirements and has its own value. Therefore, the dissertation of Abdalla Mohd Diyab al-Noimat on the topic "Central Asia and the Caucasus in Iran's foreign policy strategy 1991-2021" submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the specialty "6D020900 - Oriental Studies" can be submitted for defense taking into account the indicated shortcomings and recommendations. i count

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