

without tension and difficulties, and numerous issues would undoubtedly arise.

How serious do you think Trump is in this positioning, and to what extent are these continuous statements part of his transactional policy aimed at applying maximum pressure in one area and maneuvering around it to gain further concessions from the opposing side, in a manner akin to the carrot and stick approach?

The negotiation method employed by the US and Israel is based on pressure, bargaining, and securing maximum demands. However, given the current conditions, I believe these statements do not seem very genuine. If they were to occur, it would likely lead to a confrontation between the US and Egypt, in which case other Islamic and Arab countries would, to some extent, stand behind Egypt. Therefore, under the current atmosphere and conditions, this forced relocation to Egypt or the claims made regarding Saudi Arabia will not be feasible.

On the other hand, it is essential to note that Turkey, Qatar, and the new Syria are currently pursuing a kind of Muslim Brotherhood inclination, which has always been problematic for Egypt. Ultimately, the internal issues of these countries will determine their positions. We are faced with diverse and complex contradictions both domestically and throughout the region, which could prove dangerous and place countries in a race to get closer to the Israeli regime and the US, revealing a significant vulnerability in the process.

We are witnessing a new directive from Trump to strictly enforce the policy of maximum pressure against Iran. As time progresses, we will need to confront increased US involvement in the Iran-phobic and re-securitization of the Iran issue. Given the regional developments and the evolving relationships between Iran and certain Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia, since 2015, do you think these countries will have the motivation to align with the US on this policy, or will they seek to ease tensions between Tehran and Washington, or at least manage them?

First, we need to assess how and to what extent the regional countries position themselves alongside Iran. I believe that if hostility between Iran and the US escalates, the regional countries will urge Trump to pursue dialogue with Iran to safeguard their own security. However, how much they are willing to invest in this effort requires careful consideration, as their stance is not solid enough to effect significant change. Over the years, Iran has sent positive messages to the regional countries, but it remains to be seen whether these messages have been sufficient to alleviate their concerns. Some regional countries feel pressure and danger from Iran, and despite knowing that any problems in the region would also harm them, they might not mind that pressures on Iran continue, as long as they do not escalate into war. Such behavior in foreign policy can be seen as competitive; while maintaining camaraderie and shared perspectives on many issues, these countries may welcome US pressures against Iran to gain more leverage and protect themselves

from threats, but only to the extent that it does not lead to conflict—rather, they seek pressures that redefine Iran's position so it no longer poses a threat to them. The policy of this government [Pezeshkian's administration], as well as those of previous administrations focused on reform, construction, and hope, is to cultivate a brotherly, friendly, and non-threatening relationship with neighbors and regional countries, ensuring that they do not genuinely perceive a threat from us and are reassured that Iran's economic strengthening will also benefit them. In contrast to this perspective, there exists another belief that neighboring countries should feel threatened and humiliated for Iran to progress; however, such an approach is not in anyone's interest. The priority is for others, especially neighbors, not to feel threatened by us, so they do not collaborate with our adversaries or condone pressures against us. This is a delicate balancing act that our policymakers must pay attention to at this stage. Currently, we are faced with specific conditions in the region and in relation to the US. In these complex and sensitive circumstances, diplomacy must take precedence, and today, we need this concept more than ever. Diplomacy is a comprehensive endeavor, one that involves dialogue, whether we are negotiating or not. At this moment, Trump has signed his specific order for maximum pressure against Iran, and Tehran has explicitly stated that it will not negotiate under such conditions. However, this does not signify the end of diplomacy; if the US and Iran find themselves on equal footing, negotiations could once again take shape, allowing us to return to a diplomatic framework.

What impact do you think Trump's proposal and Netanyahu's insistence will have on the normalization project between Islamic and Arab countries and Israel, known as the Abraham Accords? Will these stances set countries like Saudi Arabia back a few steps on this path?

It is highly likely that if the Americans attempt to operationalize their announced intentions regarding the relocation of the people of Gaza, the so-called Abraham Accords will collapse, and the concept will cease to exist. The relationship between Arabs and the US will not progress in any shared space. The Abraham Accords were founded on the basis of two independent states, Palestine and Israel, UN Security Council resolutions, and the Oslo peace negotiations. However, the current position being articulated by the US and Israel involves abandoning Gaza and relocating its people to other territories, which has no connection to the negotiations that took place previously. That said, we must see how firmly the Arabs will stand against these positions. Nonetheless, I fundamentally believe this plan somehow circles back to the Abraham Accords, as it suggests that the US and Israel want Hamas to have no presence in Gaza, and this region would ostensibly fall under the control of the Palestinian Authority. It does not seem that this forced relocation plan for the people of Gaza is the endpoint.

The interview was conducted by the Persian service of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA).

Dangerous project of Israel, US been revealed

By Mostafa Najafi
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ANALYSIS

In a rare occurrence, these statements elicited fierce reactions from Saudi Arabia. In a statement by the Saudi Foreign Ministry, while categorically rejecting Netanyahu's demands, phrases such as "ethnic cleansing," "extremist, occupying mentality," "brutal Israeli occupation," and "systematically practicing injustice towards the Palestinian people for more than 75 years" were used. At the same time, most Arab countries have also condemned Netanyahu's and Trump's statements in their own statements and have adopted a unified position against the American-Israeli plan to forcibly relocate Gaza's people.

It appears that Netanyahu's visit to America and Trump's stances regarding Iran, Gaza, and Arab countries are meaningfully linked, and a far-reaching American-Israeli plan for the entire region can be gleaned. As such, a few key points are worth mentioning:

1. Trump has repeatedly emphasized that Israel is small and needs to grow, and Netanyahu has echoed Trump's statements, saying that Israel cannot become smaller than it is. This means that Israel is unlikely to withdraw from some of the Occupied Territories and will pursue a policy of "Occupation and Annexation" with American backing. Gaza and the West Bank are the most critical points in this occupation-driven plan.
2. Behind this plan, figures such as Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law, likely play a significant role. In fact, Kushner had previously stated in an interview: "Gaza's waterfront property, it could be very valuable, if people would focus on building up livelihoods. It's a little bit of an unfortunate situation there, but from Israel's perspective, I would do my best to move the people out and then clean it up."
3. The "Peace Through Power" strategy seems to have made its way to the Middle East before anywhere else. There, it encompasses two major projects: the first project, "The Iran containment project," appears to have gained momentum, and we may witness major developments between Iran and the America-Israel axis in the coming months. The second project, the project to normalize relations between Arabs and Israel, which is known as "The Abraham Accords," seems to have undergone significant changes compared to the past, including increased pressure on Arab countries to abandon the independent Palestinian state project.

4. Containing and confronting Iran by America and Israel likely serves as the precursor

Recent statements by Trump and Netanyahu regarding the future of Gaza, the relocation of its people to Arab countries, and the establishment of a Palestinian government on Saudi soil have deeply shocked Arab leaders, particularly the Saudis.

Trump recently described Gaza as a "big pile of rubble" and claimed that America would take over the Gaza Strip, take responsibility for cleaning out the unexploded ordnances and other dangerous munitions left behind in the area, and develop it economically.

Trump's plan for the takeover, ownership, and violation of the sovereignty of Gaza's people, which has been met with enthusiasm by Netanyahu and Zionists, has stunned Arab and even Western leaders. A plan that has pleased Netanyahu so much that he, in his own colonialist statements, has demanded that the people of Gaza be taken to Saudi Arabia, where a Palestinian government could be established.



US President Donald Trump (R) meets with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the Oval Office of the White House, in Washington, on February 4, 2025.
● EVAN VUCCI/AP

to the normalization project. Netanyahu's statements could confirm this claim. He said: "It's peace through strength. When we are very strong and we stand together, the objections that are raised now that it's insurmountable are going to change. When we complete the changeover in the Middle East, when we cut the Iranian axis down even further, that will set the stage for an additional agreement with the Saudis and with others." Therefore, in the new regional plan proposed by Israel and America, all obstacles and challenges must first be overcome to impose peace on the Arabs. The same "Peace Through Power"!

5. This position of America and Israel has made Arab countries more concerned than ever before as they now perceive Trump and Netanyahu's threats to their regional interests. That is why they have tried to oppose it with a

Palestinians return to the northern Gaza Strip on January 27, 2025.
● KHALIL KAHLOUT/FLASH90



Containing and confronting Iran by America and Israel likely serves as the precursor to the normalization project. Netanyahu's statements could confirm this claim. He said: "It's peace through strength. When we are very strong and we stand together, the objections that are raised now that it's insurmountable are going to change. When we complete the changeover in the Middle East, when we cut the Iranian axis down even further, that will set the stage for an additional agreement with the Saudis and with others."

public statements of Netanyahu, Trump, and American and Israeli officials.

8. It appears that Netanyahu does not want to miss the opportunities Trump's America has offered him. In such a situation, the likelihood of growing tensions and major clashes in the region is very high. Despite the current calm, it seems that Israel's security and military plans, with Trump's backing, are entering a new phase in the region.

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