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## **Israel's Foreign Policy Orientations Towards West Asia**

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# **ISRAEL'S FOREIGN POLICY ORIENTATION TOWARDS WEST ASIA**



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**Manipal  
June, 2021**

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**ISRAEL'S FOREIGN POLICY  
ORIENTATION TOWARDS WEST ASIA**

**A Dissertation Submitted to the Department of Geopolitics and  
International Relations in Partial Fulfilment for Master's  
Degree in Geopolitics and International Relations**

**Supervisor**

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**By**

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**June, 2021**



**MANIPAL**

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Date: 14 June 2021

## DECLARATION

I declare that the dissertation entitled "Israel's Foreign Policy Orientation towards West Asia" submitted by me for the award of the degree of Master of Arts in Geopolitics and International Relations of Manipal Academy of Higher Education is my own work. The dissertation has not been submitted for any other degree of this University or any other University.

(Krupa Susun Varghese)

## CERTIFICATE

I recommend that this dissertation be placed before the examiners for evaluation.

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If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy! (Psalms 137: 5-6) These lines have always encouraged me to develop my interest in the region of Israel. Discovering the land of Israel where the roots of three Abrahamic religions have created an impact on the West Asian region brings me to dig into the possibilities of Israel's connection with the others in the same region.

I would like to thank The Almighty for showering his blessings throughout my dissertation work. Also, extend my sincere gratitude to my parents who have shown keen interest and supported me to take up this dissertation work with full dedication.

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## **ABBREVIATIONS**

GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
ILA	Israel Land Authority
INSS	Institute for National Security Studies
ISIS	Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant
IRENA	International Renewable Energy Agency
JCPOA	Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action
NPT	Nuclear Non- Proliferation Treaty
PA	Palestinian Authority
PLO	Palestine Liberation Organisation
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
US	United States
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republic

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## **ABSTRACT**

The dissertation on the theme 'Israel's Foreign Policy Orientation Towards West Asia' is a collection of various perceptions and history that shape its relations with the other countries in the region. The geostrategic importance of the region and the geopolitical confrontations has opened up numerous debates over the years about the region. Foreign Policy interpretations require a backing of theoretical perceptions in the realm of international relations. Israel's foreign policy is backed by various national interests that are embedded in its history, perceptions and geographic ambience. There are few glimpses of Israel's foreign policy and the primary attraction is diplomacy. A diplomatic channel connects Israel with the rest of the regional countries.

The dissertation work has also tried to look into the earlier Israeli perceptions about the Arabs and vice versa. The Arabs never were ready to have talks or negotiations with Israel but that changed last year in 2020 with the Abraham Accord. This normalisation has indicated that Israel does not aim to remain hostile and isolated in the region especially when Iran has increasingly extended its presence and the activities of the non-state actors like Hezbollah have been at the forefront. On the domestic front, there were few negative patterns such as instability of the government that has affected the foreign policy apparatus.

The regional environment of West Asia has two patterns of amity and enmity that is Israel's relations with countries like Iran, Turkey, Syria and Lebanon and non-state actors have strained the relationship whereas Israel's relations with the recent normalised countries like UAE and Bahrain represents cordial relations. The coordination and cooperation is not essentially a route to peace unless there is a solution to some of the crucial debates on Palestinian issue and dealings with Iran. Another aspect that comes into the picture while talking about normalisation is the involvement of the USA in the agreement. The actors involved in the agreement perceive it differently and following their national interest. One of the key and collective interests between the actors was regarding Iran's emergence as a regional threat.

The research does a modest attempt to understand the perceptions, challenges and future of the relationship between the countries in the region. Another crucial point in the work is Israel's Foreign Policy outlook and relations with the particular countries in the region. It

gives an overall understanding of the regional dynamics of Israel and glimpses of a few governments which had led to major developments in the foreign policy of the country.

