

Examining Iran's Diplomatic Relations from the Perspective of Port Engineering Development




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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

While the theoretical framework is well-developed, the transition between Realism, Liberal Institutionalism, and Dependency Theory is abrupt. In the paragraph starting with "Iran's diplomatic strategies in port engineering development can be analyzed through the lens of several international relations theories," consider providing a linking sentence that justifies why these theories were chosen together.

The discussion highlights successful diplomatic engagements but does not fully analyze failed negotiations. In the section "Case studies of successful and failed negotiations," consider elaborating on why Iran's port agreements with European firms did not materialize.

The statement, "Sanctions have restricted Iran's access to global financial institutions and technological advancements," is broad. It would be useful to specify which maritime technologies (e.g., automated port management systems, advanced dredging equipment) have been affected.

The discussion frequently references Iran's position in global trade but does not compare its ports to those in the UAE or Oman. In the section that states, "Iran's major ports, including Chabahar and Bandar Abbas, require deep-water expansion," consider adding a direct comparison to Jebel Ali Port or Salalah Port to contextualize these limitations.

The section discussing geopolitical conflicts states, "Iran's engagement with regional partners such as China, Russia, and India aligns with realism," but does not account for potential risks of over-reliance on these nations. What contingencies does Iran have in case of shifts in these alliances?

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The literature review heavily favors Iran's diplomatic success but does not sufficiently address critiques of its maritime strategy. In the section that states, "Iran's diplomatic approach to port development is shaped by geopolitical considerations," consider incorporating opposing perspectives from scholars critical of Iran's reliance on China and Russia.

The article touches on Iran's historical maritime diplomacy but does not integrate it systematically. In the literature review, where it states, "Historical records indicate that Iran's port development initiatives date back to the Safavid era," it would be useful to connect these historical patterns to modern policy shifts.

The article lacks technical depth in engineering aspects. The sentence, "Engineering advancements in port construction and modernization have enabled the country to improve logistical efficiency," would benefit from specific examples of technological innovations adopted in Iranian ports.

The discussion on the Belt and Road Initiative claims that "China's financial and technical contributions have enabled Iran to develop container terminals," but it does not specify the nature of these contributions. Are these direct investments, loans, or technological partnerships?

The study focuses on governmental diplomatic engagements but does not address the role of multinational logistics firms and private investors. In the section on foreign investment, where it states, "Foreign investment trends have influenced Iran's port engineering development," consider discussing how private sector involvement differs from state-sponsored agreements.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.