

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Examining the Impact of the Consequences of the Shanghai Pact on Eurasian Security Using Structural Equation Modeling

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

This paragraph describes context but does not clearly articulate the research gap. You must explicitly identify what existing studies fail to explain and how your model fills that gap.

This claim requires theoretical anchoring. Introduce a core theory of regional security or institutionalism here (e.g., security community theory, regionalism) and position your work within it.

The domestic and foreign studies are presented as summaries without synthesis. Add a paragraph at the end of the section explicitly comparing findings, contradictions, and unresolved issues leading directly to your hypotheses.

Table 1 reports AVE, CR, MSV but does not report HTMT ratios. Given modern SEM standards, please add HTMT for discriminant validity confirmation.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

These axes are introduced descriptively but not formally developed into latent constructs. Clarify how each axis maps onto the variables later used in SEM.

Explain why a mixed-methods design was necessary for this research question. What does qualitative data add that SEM alone could not capture?

Define explicit inclusion criteria: years of experience, position types, policy involvement. Without this, the construct validity of expert judgment is unclear.

Given the exclusively Iranian sample, clarify in this paragraph how the study justifies drawing conclusions about Eurasian security rather than Iranian perceptions of Eurasian security.

Provide details: number of items per construct, example items, source of scale development (adapted vs. original). Currently this is insufficient for replication.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.