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## **СОЗДАНИЕ МИРА: РОЛЬ И ВКЛАД КИТАЯ И РОССИИ В ПРИМИРЕНИЕ НА БЛИЖНЕМ ВОСТОКЕ**

Статья посвящена эффективности и практике дипломатии великих держав с китайскими чертами на Ближнем Востоке в свете продолжающейся нестабильности в регионе, в частности ее решающей роли в примирении Саудовской Аравии и Ирана, а также палестинцев. Китай и Россия намерены выступать в качестве посредников на Ближнем Востоке и активно продвигать мирный процесс в регионе. Ближний Восток положительно отреагировал на инициативы Китая в области глобальной безопасности, которые также получили широкую международную поддержку и признание. В дополнение к демонстрации своей роли миротворца, дипломатическая практика Китая также привносит китайские программы и мудрость в международное управление. Китай внес свой вклад в создание сообщества человеческих судеб и продемонстрировал жизнеспособность и эффективность своей дипломатической идеологии.

*Россия высоко оценивает дипломатическую практику и мировоззрение Китая. Китай и Россия будут продолжать играть важную роль в решении ближневосточных проблем и сотрудничать, чтобы внести больший вклад в обеспечение мира и развития во всем мире в будущем.*

**Ключевые слова:** саудовско-иранское сближение, дипломатия великих держав с китайской спецификой, Пекинская декларация, инициативы в области глобальной безопасности.

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## **CREATING PEACE: THE ROLE AND CONTRIBUTION OF CHINA AND RUSSIA IN MIDDLE EAST RECONCILIATION**

*The article focuses on the efficacy and practice of great power diplomacy with Chinese features in the Middle East, in light of the region's ongoing instability, particularly its crucial role in the reconciliation of Saudi Arabia and Iran as well as the Palestinians. China and Russia are dedicated to serving as Middle East mediators and actively advancing the peace process in the region. The Middle East has responded favorably to China's global security initiatives, which have also received widespread international backing and recognition. In addition to showcasing*

*its role as a peacemaker, China's diplomatic practices also bring Chinese programs and wisdom to international administration. China has contributed to the creation of a community of human destiny and demonstrated the vitality and efficacy of its diplomatic ideology. Russia commends China for its diplomatic practices and worldview. China and Russia will continue to play a significant role in Middle Eastern issues and collaborate to contribute more to global peace and development in the future.*

**Key words:** *Saudi-Iranian rapprochement, great power diplomacy with Chinese characteristics, Beijing Declaration, global security initiatives.*

**Introduction.** Because of the effects of colonialism, imperialism, hegemony, power politics, and internal disputes, the Middle East's political system is generally defined by reliance and conflict [9]. Its influence has resulted in a long-term unstable security situation by intertwining traditional and non-traditional security threats in the Middle East, intensifying the security, development, and governance deficits, and creating a security dilemma among adversarial nations [2].

The United States has been heavily involved in the Middle East for decades after World War II, but the situation there has been worsening. Rather than bringing «democracy» and peace to the region, it has made things worse, which has indirectly resulted in the factionalization of Middle Eastern nations and violent conflict [17]. China and Russia, on the other hand, have made useful contributions to the Middle East peace process and are dedicated to serving as mediators in the region.

Saudi Arabia and Iran agreed to reestablish diplomatic ties in a trilateral joint declaration released by China, Saudi Arabia, and Iran in Beijing on March 10, 2023. Although complex and deeply ingrained, Middle East issues are by no means unsolvable, as demonstrated by the Saudi-Iranian rapprochement in Beijing. External forces should give good offices a chance, give peace a glimmer of hope, and convince rather than provoke [18]. China continues to employ the idea of great power peace diplomacy in other contexts. 2024 High-level Palestinian faction representatives participated in a reconciliation dialogue in Beijing from July 21 to 23, hosted by the Chinese government, and signed the Beijing Declaration on Ending the Divide and Strengthening Palestinian National Unity (henceforth referred to as the «Beijing Declaration»). For the first time, Palestinian factions convened in a country in the east that is remote from the Middle East, displaying to the outside world a significant act of solidarity in overcoming divisions [5].

A new paradigm for resolving international disputes and promoting world peace, as well as the fact that China is a responsible, responsible, and peace-loving great power, have all been demonstrated by these two diplomatic practices, demonstrating the relevance of great power diplomacy with Chinese characteristics.

**China contributes positively to the security governance of the Middle East.** A fresh wave of Middle Eastern rapprochement has been aided by the restoration of diplomatic ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran. The restoration of diplomatic ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran is advantageous for mutual collaboration and exchanges.

The main objective of Saudi Arabia and Iran's national strategy is economic development. Since diplomatic relations have resumed, the two countries have demonstrated strong economic complementarity, and there is a great deal of potential for future cooperation. The reopening of embassies has also been made possible by the ambassadorial exchange, which has greatly facilitated personnel exchange and the implementation of security and economic cooperation agreements between Saudi Arabia and Iran [20]. Saudi Defense Minister Khalid bin Salman and Iranian Armed Forces Chief of General Staff Mohammad Baqeri agreed to increase defense cooperation during a phone conversation in December. Saudis and Iranians expressed their willingness to sign an agreement on avoiding double taxation at the second meeting of the Tripartite Joint Commission of China, Saudi Arabia, and Iran, which took place on November 19, 2024. The participants also praised the advancements made in Saudi and Iranian consular services. Iranian foreign policy specialist Abbas Asrani stated in an interview with Xinhua that «the rapprochement between the two countries is even deeper than initially envisaged by outsiders.»

With the reconciliation of Saudi Arabia and Iran, the Middle East's geopolitical pattern and situation has also changed, giving the region a chance to calm down and resolve some other hotspot issues. As a result, the terms «resumption of diplomatic relations,» «reconciliation,» and «development» have become regional buzzwords. «Development» used to be the catchphrase for the area. These intensive reconciliation processes are the «peace dividend» brought about by the resumption of diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran. The Syrian foreign minister visited Saudi Arabia for the first time in twelve years, the Yemeni peace process made progress, Qatar and Bahrain agreed to reestablish diplomatic ties, and Turkey and Egypt strengthened their bilateral ties [12]. Furthermore, Iran's official admission to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the invitation extended to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Iran to join the BRICS cooperation mechanism have increased the role and influence of Middle Eastern nations in regional and international organizations. Security has become the preferred option for regional nations, development has taken center stage in the Middle East, and China's active mediation is a major factor in the rise of a new wave of Middle Eastern reconciliation. China's attempts to settle disagreements and conflicts through discussion and consultation have addressed the Middle East's needs for peace and development and are in line with their interests. As a result, the region has responded favorably to China's efforts, which have also set the stage for the 14 Palestinian factions to meet in Beijing.

The Global Security Initiative's effective implementation of the Saudi-Iranian Beijing Dialogue serves as a crucial model for resolving conflicts and disagreements in the Middle East, demonstrating that consultation and dialogue are the best ways to address the region's security challenges. The resumption of diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran marks a historic achievement for China's Middle East foreign policy and the first time China has mediated a conflict between two Middle Eastern powers that are 10,000 miles apart. Historically, diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran have been broken and then resumed three times [4]. China's

influence in the Middle East was greatly increased by the restoration of diplomatic ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran, and its role as a mediator in the region was reinforced by its successful negotiation of the Iran-Saudi agreement. In addition to encouraging China to pursue a more active and practical foreign policy in the Middle East, the successful practice of China mediating the Saudi-Iranian reconciliation in Beijing has also helped to bring about peace and stability in the region and usher in a new phase of China's Middle East foreign policy. The recent wave of Middle Eastern reconciliation demonstrates that equal footing consultation is increasingly becoming the norm for interactions between Middle Eastern nations. One of the most important areas for the Global Security Initiative (GSI) is the Middle East. China has made it clear in the GSI concept paper that it will implement the five-point initiative to achieve security and stability in the Middle East and that it will settle disagreements and conflicts among Middle Eastern nations amicably through consultation and dialogue [6].

The Shia-Beijing reconciliation serves as an example for the Palestinians, showing that even in the face of complicated histories and interests, it is possible to identify the «greatest common denominator» of each party's interests through effective communication in order to achieve cooperation for development. 2024 High-ranking officials from 14 Palestinian groups participated in a reconciliation discussion and signed the Beijing Declaration in Beijing in July at China's invitation. signed the Beijing Declaration and engaged in dialogue. With the goal of preserving regional stability and peace, Russia proposed keeping in touch with all parties involved in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in reaction to the start of a new round of hostilities. China calls on the Palestinians to set aside their internal conflicts and contradictions and achieve internal peace and stability in order to deal with external challenges and crises. China also recognizes and respects the historical background and interests of the parties involved in the reconciliation process. It is evident that China's actual Middle East practices and the ideas promoted in great power diplomacy with Chinese characteristics are consistent with Russia's support for preserving regional peace and stability.

The international community has praised China's strategy of using conversation and consultation to settle disagreements and conflicts between nations amicably, and worldwide security efforts have become more widely accepted. Other Middle Eastern nations and regional organizations have taken a keen interest in the restoration of diplomatic ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran. According to Abdul Aziz Al-Shabani, a researcher at the Saudi Center for Political and Strategic Studies in Riyadh, the three nations' combined efforts led to China's successful mediation of the restoration of diplomatic ties between Shah and Iran. He also sees this as a successful Middle Eastern implementation of China's Global Security Initiative [7]. According to Qatar's Al Jazeera, Jassim Mohammed Al-Budawi, the secretary general of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (CCAG), praised the agreement to restore Saudi-Iranian relations and all other efforts to improve regional security and peace. In a statement, the Palestinian Presidency expressed gratitude for China's proactive involvement in achieving the deal. The deal is expected to improve security and stability in the Middle

East, according to the foreign ministries of Egypt, Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon, and Qatar, among others [8].

Many have also expressed great gratitude to China for helping the Palestinian groups sign the Beijing Declaration. In addition to thanking China and other nations that helped advance the process, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called this «an important step forward in promoting Palestinian national unity» and urged all Palestinian factions to fulfill the commitments made in the declarations and dialogues. The Palestinian National Liberation Movement (Fatah) leader in charge of foreign affairs, Abdullah Abdullah, praised the crucial role that China has played in fostering peace among the Palestinian factions. He claimed that the «desire to defend their rights» of the Palestinian people is something that China well understands. The Beijing Declaration is another «good step» toward Palestinian national unity, according to Husam Badran, a prominent figure in the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas). According to him, «the most desirable and acceptable solution to the post-war Palestinian predicament» is the formation of an interim national reconciliation government centered on Gaza's post-war administration that was agreed upon during the Beijing Dialogue. China has demonstrated via concrete measures that it is a goodwill and active mediator, a champion of Middle East security, a win-win and mutually beneficial cooperator, and a champion of peace and unity. «Seek peace, even if it is far away from China,» the Middle Eastern media have bemoaned, quoting the Arab saying, «Seek wisdom, even if it is far away from China.»

**The idea of Chinese-style great power diplomacy is still very much alive.** The signing of the declaration by 14 Palestinian factions in Beijing and the reconciliation between Saudi Arabia and Iran in Beijing are two striking examples of Chinese diplomacy in the Middle East, demonstrating the ongoing viability of the idea of great power diplomacy with Chinese features. The legacy and evolution of the consistent diplomatic ideas and concepts since the establishment of New China [19] is known as Great Power Diplomacy with Chinese Characteristics. It not only incorporates the new demands of the times but also reflects the historical wisdom of the Chinese people. This idea places a strong emphasis on treating nations equally, respecting their fundamental interests and concerns, working together to resolve global problems through discussion and collaboration, and advancing the creation of a community of human destiny. The interests of all nations are connected in this era of globalization, and no nation can function independently. This idea not only offers the international community a fresh approach to collaboration, but it also applies Chinese expertise to the resolution of world issues. China promotes the ideas of peace, development, collaboration, and win-win situations under the direction of great power diplomacy with Chinese characteristics. It places a strong emphasis on respect for one another, equality, and mutual benefit between nations, as well as the peaceful resolution of conflicts and disagreements. Following the rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iran in Beijing, the two nations have progressively continued and even expanded their collaboration and exchanges in a number of areas, including as the economy, culture, science, and technology, in an effort to produce win-win outcomes and mutual benefits. In addition to sparking a fresh round

of Middle Eastern peace, China's mediation of the two main nations has facilitated the rapprochement between them and set the stage for the 14 Palestinian factions to convene in Beijing and sign the Beijing Declaration.

China has demonstrated to the international community through its two successful diplomatic missions in the Middle East that great power diplomacy with Chinese characteristics is effective, that it can help bring about peace in the region, that it offers a new paradigm for resolving international conflicts and disputes and for promoting peace and development globally, and that it is a responsible, peace-loving great power with a sense of responsibility. China has proposed Great Power Diplomacy with Chinese Characteristics, which is based on the new situation and new tasks at home and abroad by integrating the two major situations at home and abroad. It is an effective concept that keeps up with the times and has contributed Chinese wisdom to the world in the pursuit of peace and development. Given how frequently regional hotspot issues arise in today's international community and how these conflicts and disputes have not been fairly settled for a long time, the international community should work together to settle the disagreements and conflicts through dialogue and consultation, as this is a solution that is more in step with the times. In order to jointly protect international justice and equity, China and Russia, two powerful nations in the world community, strongly advocate multilateralism in their foreign policy, oppose unipolar hegemony and power politics, and frequently take a coordinated stance in the face of regional conflicts.

**One Chinese initiative to further the peace process in the Middle East is the Global Security Initiative.** The globe has grown more insecure in recent years, which is the direct cause of the global security program. While the international situation is marked by instability and uncertainty, the ability and accomplishments of the established international security institutions and mechanisms to uphold global peace, encourage international cooperation, and foster international development have been lacking. Traditional and non-traditional security challenges are also intertwined and resonate at the same frequency. The Russia-Ukraine conflict has significantly affected international security, regional security, and even the international order from a traditional security perspective. At the same time, China and the United States are still playing a strategic game in which the United States continues to repress China through economic «decoupling and breaking the chain,» political unilateralism, and intense pressure. It is also clear that global political camping, securitization, and ideological-ization are trends. The emergence of food, energy, and environmental problems, the slow pace of global economic growth, and the reappearance of new illnesses worldwide are all examples of non-traditional security. Maintaining international peace and advancing global development is becoming increasingly challenging due to the growing peace, development, security, and governance deficits [16].

At the Opening Ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference 2022, President Xi Jinping introduced the Global Security Initiative (GSI) for the first time. The initiative's primary focus can be summed up as «six perspectives» and comes in the face of an extremely complex and challenging international environment, as well as

previously unheard-of external risks and challenges. A common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable notion of security and collaborative efforts to protect global peace and security are the «six adherences» that best describe the Initiative's key components; devotion to the principles of respecting each nation's territorial integrity and sovereignty, refraining from meddling in another nation's domestic affairs, and honoring the social structures and developmental pathways selected by each nation's citizens; following the goals and tenets of the UN Charter, rejecting the Cold War mentality, opposing unilateralism, and abstaining from bloc politics and conflict amongst camps; the legitimate security concerns of all nations should be given priority, the principle of indivisibility of security should be upheld, a balanced, effective, and sustainable security architecture should be built, and the idea that one's own security should not be based on the insecurity of others should be rejected. Additionally, disagreements and conflicts between nations should be settled peacefully through consultation and dialogue, all efforts should be supported that promote peaceful crisis resolution, double standards should be avoided, and the misuse of unilateral sanctions and «long-arm jurisdiction» should be opposed. «long-arm jurisdiction»; and insisting on combining traditional and non-traditional security maintenance; and working together to address regional conflicts and global concerns like biosecurity, cybersecurity, terrorism, and climate change [11]. China has made a significant contribution to the field of international security through the Global Security Initiative (GSI), which is based on a shared, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security concept. Its goals are to support the reform of the global security governance system, solve the human security conundrum, and encourage the creation of a community of shared destiny for all people.

China's active involvement in Middle East issues, constructive role in Middle East affairs, mediation ability, and international influence as a major global power are all demonstrated by the signing of the Shah-Iraq reconciliation and the Palestinian Beijing Declaration. These agreements mark a significant increase in China's influence in the Middle East region and highlight the special strengths of its diplomacy. China needs to demonstrate influence in more general regional and international matters and intends to play a bigger part in international conflicts. China has shown that it is willing and able to play a larger role in international issues, which is a positive signal worldwide given the frequency of conflicts around the world. The signing of the intra-Palestinian Beijing Declaration and the facilitation of the restoration of diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran showed that China can be a responsible mediator and bring about peace in the most complex security situations. This also establishes a strong basis for China to mediate conflicts in other parts of the world [15]. China's influence in the Middle East is changing from a single economic dimension to a multifaceted one that includes politics, economics, security, and culture as its trade and economic ties with Middle Eastern nations continue to grow and strategic mutual trust continues to fortify [16]. This change gives China additional opportunities to participate more actively in international affairs while also fostering deeper cooperation connections with the Middle East. China has played a crucial role as a «impartial regulator» [13] by facilitating the signing of the Beijing Declaration by the Palestinian factions and the

resumption of diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran. This has helped to promote peace and development in the Middle East, provided China's wisdom and solutions for global governance, and increased China's influence in the Middle East and the international community, all of which have improved China's prestige and influence internationally, enhanced China's standing and reputation as a responsible major power on the world arena, as well as its worldwide prestige.

At the same time, China's concept of great power diplomacy, which has been successfully applied in the Middle East, and the vivid practice of demonstrating China's great power responsibility are embodied in the Saudi-Iranian reconciliation in Beijing and the signing of the Beijing Declaration by the Palestinian factions. China emphasizes its initiative and leadership in resolving the issues in the Middle East, actively plays the role of a torchbearer [3], actively encourages the reconstruction of the Middle East's security order with China's concept of peace, helps the region's countries break free from the old framework of power politics, and implements the new security concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable that China advocates. Additionally, China incorporates its concept of peace into the mediation process and its final outcome. The entire mediation process and its conclusion have been infused with China's conception of peace. The global security initiative has been institutionally embedded in China's dual-multiple cooperation documents with many countries [10], indicating that China's concepts, policies, and initiatives are playing a significant role in reconfiguring the regional security order. This is evident in both China's proposed strategy for the Gaza dilemma and the Saudi-Iranian diplomatic resumption, both of which are characterized by a distinct Chinese philosophy. Simultaneously, the notion of China's involvement in Middle East security governance has not only influenced China's methodical comprehension of the underlying causes and solutions of the region's security issues, but it has also established guidelines for China's involvement in Middle East security governance. China's extensive involvement in Middle Eastern security governance encompasses not only the implementation of the New Security Outlook and the Global Security Initiative concepts in the region, but also enhances China's experience in global security governance [12]. Important diplomatic actions of China's implementation of international security initiatives in the Middle East include successfully mediating the resumption of diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran and encouraging the signing of the Beijing Declaration by different Palestinian factions. In the midst of chaos, China has greatly benefited the globe by promoting the peaceful resolution of hotspot issues in the Middle East, demonstrating its great power commitment to pursue progress for humanity and commonwealth for the world [15].

China has established itself as a responsible large nation in the Middle East, particularly through its crucial role in promoting the reunification of Palestinian and Saudi-Iranian factions. In addition to emphasizing its own growth, this image actively engages in global governance by offering Chinese insights and answers to pressing regional and global problems. Through these initiatives, China has established a genuine, comprehensive, and three-dimensional national image of a major power and shown its position as a worldwide peacebuilder.

The Middle East's political landscape has changed, tensions have decreased, and other hotspot issues have been resolved as a result of the Saudis and Iraqis resuming diplomatic relations and the Palestinian factions signing the Beijing Declaration. The unstable Middle East scenario has long had a significant impact on the economic and security of the entire world. The region's overall security situation is unstable due to the antagonistic relationship between Saudi Arabia and Iran and the intensifying Israeli-Palestinian conflict.<sup>2023</sup> There has been a «wave of reconciliation» in the Middle East. <sup>2023</sup> On March 10, 2023, two «long-standing Middle East adversaries,» Saudi Arabia and Iran, announced their intention to reestablish diplomatic ties, mediated by China. «Announced the decision to restore diplomatic relations, the news, the world for the shock, the Middle East countries are also very encouraged. This dialogue not only marked the end of seven years of confrontation and isolation between Saudi Arabia and Iran, but it also had a cascading effect, opening the door to a détente situation that will help the region achieve long-term peace and security.» After that, ties between the Assad regime in Syria and the Arab nations led by Saudi Arabia started to thaw, and on May 7, Syria was admitted back into the League of Arab States. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia and Israel started to have more behind-the-scenes interactions. Furthermore, diplomatic relations have been restored or are in the process of being restored between Bahrain and Syria, Egypt and Syria, Bahrain and Iran, and Turkey and Egypt. A continuation of the Middle East's recent trend toward détente, the Saudi-Iranian rapprochement shows that Middle Eastern powers have started to address significant interstate issues with a managerial mindset of coordination and cooperation, further undermining traditional policy considerations that prioritize geopolitical rivalry and military options [12]. Meanwhile, in 2023, the Middle East's trend toward collaboration keeps getting stronger. Cooperation between Middle Eastern governments and between Middle Eastern and extraterritorial states has been renewed and strengthened against the backdrop of a surge of political «rapprochement» in the area.

Disagreements over Palestinian groups persisted even after the thaw between Saudi Arabia and Iran in early 2023 eased camp confrontations among Middle Eastern nations.<sup>2024</sup> Fatah and Hamas attended intra-Palestinian reconciliation meetings in Beijing at the Chinese side's invitation in late April, and the world took notice of the significant progress that was made [14]. In addition to ending the long-standing intra-Palestinian conflict, the signing of the Beijing Declaration is regarded as a significant historical moment in the cause of Palestinian liberation. It also greatly decreased Middle East tensions, paved the way for regional peace, and sparked the de-escalation of international relations across the Middle East. Furthermore, this reconciliation shows that the Middle Eastern nations will no longer rely exclusively on outside forces to maintain regional peace and stability, but rather will do so through peaceful consultation and dialogue. This unquestionably creates a solid basis for the region's future growth.

**Conclusion.** The major Powers' support is necessary for the mediation of regional conflicts since Middle Eastern affairs are complicated and marked by unpredictability and instability. Russia and China are happy that the Middle East crisis has stabilized.

China successfully mediated the Saudi-Iranian reconciliation in Beijing and the Palestinian Beijing Declaration, using the idea of great power diplomacy with Chinese features and a clear understanding of the global security strategy. China has proven to the world by tangible acts that the concept of settling disagreements and conflicts amicably through discussion and consultation works, offering invaluable experience and a model for international conflict mediation. Russia has exhibited a balanced and varied foreign policy in the Middle East in recent years, and Middle Eastern nations also require Russia as a partner. In the future, China and Russia will continue to have a significant impact on each other, support the ideas of win-win cooperation and peaceful growth, and contribute more to global peace and development.

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