

A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE UAE'S FORMATION FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORIES

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Summary

The rationale of this research is to investigate how prime theories of international relations, especially Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism, and Post-colonialism, may shed light on the initiatives and processes of the Trucial Sheikdoms (the sheikdoms that would eventually make up the United Arab Emirates) in their attempt to unite. The foundation of the UAE, from the political point of view was eventually facilitated by British support. Moreover, the unification was driven by mutual economic interests in the oil industry, while regional security risks and domestic tensions highlighted the need for a common security framework. The study subsequently examines the UAE's emergence as a prominent economic and political force in the Middle East, emphasizing its efforts to expand its economic activities in many sectors, its position as a facilitator in resolving regional disputes, and its proactive approach to international affairs.

1. Introduction:

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a country located in the Persian Gulf region, which was established during the period of British imperialism and has since developed its economy mostly from oil income (Bristol-Rhys 2009). Just over a century ago, the seven separate emirates were geographically separated and protected by a series of agreements with the British, which led to them being referred to as the Trucial States¹. The population at that time was relatively impoverished, relying on trade across the Gulf, date farming, fishing, and pearl diving to sustain themselves in a challenging environment (Bristol-Rhys 2009). But over time, the UAE has consistently maintained stability in an increasingly unpredictable Middle East, successfully preserving a traditional political system despite the influence of fast modernization and globalization (C. M. Davidson 2006). This article examines how British policies, which were driven by the desire to maintain British influence and promote regional stability, have affected the growth of the United Arab Emirates through an analysis of theories related to international relations (IR). We will look at how Britain's waning influence necessitated a shift in its regional strategy, which led to the encouragement of cooperation among the Trucial States in order to fend off perceived threats from adjacent rivals and maintain some degree of control over vital sea lanes (Zahlan 1978).

2. Objectives and Research Question:

This article examines the creation of the United Arab Emirates in 1971 using conceptual frameworks from international relations (IR) theory. Many investigations have been done on the emergence, performance or advancement of the modern UAE. However, there is a gap in studying the emergence of the UAE through the lens of IR theories. Therefore, the goal of the study is to

¹The seven Trucial States were Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm al Qaiwain, Fujairah and Ras al Khaimah

improve understanding of the political, economic, and historical factors that shaped this historic emergence in the Middle East by utilizing IR theories. How can theories of international relations explain the creation of the United Arab Emirates in 1971? is the main research question that will guide this study. This basic question allows us to investigate how prime theories of IR, including as Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism and Post-colonialism, could provide light on the goals and tactics of the Trucial Sheikdoms in their attempt to unite.

3. Methodology:

This study uses a qualitative research methodology utilizing primary and secondary data sources. The material for this research was gathered from several sources, including official papers, treaties, websites and diplomatic correspondence on the establishment of the UAE. This comprises archive materials from the UAE, Britain (the previous colonial power), and other pertinent nations. Secondary data was obtained from books, credible journal publications, and newspaper sections. The data collection procedure involves systematically exploring scholarly sources, public papers, and news stories concerning the establishment of the UAE. Academic books, peer-reviewed scholarly publications, and reputable web databases are utilized. Official papers, such as treaties and declarations, are also referenced. News articles from credible newspapers, especially those published around 1971, offer significant insights into current viewpoints and public discussion.

4. Theoretical Framework:

This paper's theoretical framework centers on the founding of the UAE and aims to elucidate the fundamental principles underlying the unification of the Trucial states. In this analysis, we will focus on the political, economic, and other factors that led to the unification of the Trucial nations and the international policies pursued by Britain as a colonial power.

The issue can be viewed from various perspectives within the field of international relations theories. Each theory emphasizes different occurrences. In 1973, Charles P. Kindleberger argued in his renowned work *'The World in Depression'* that *"States can cooperate economically with one another only when a hegemonic power holds the realm, economically and militarily."* This theory was established in the 1970s to elucidate the concepts of 'Pax-Britannica' and 'Pax-Americana'. Hegemonic Stability Theory (HST) proposes that anarchy is persistent. However, cooperation is possible when power is distributed in a particular way, where a dominant state ensures stability in the international order. The dominant state uses its authority to establish a liberal international economic system that promotes cooperation (Kindleberger 1973). However, the cooperation is limited to a short period and has no long-lasting effect. If the dominant power weakens, the regime cannot maintain its hegemony. The hegemonic state leads to the downfall of a regime. As the regime declines, cooperation likewise declines (Gilpin 1987). And the system returns to a state of anarchy. Power is the primary factor that determines international politics.

In the international arena, the hegemonic state exercises its leadership through two simultaneous processes, according to Arrighi and Silver (2001): the establishment of policies of general interest that deepen the division of labor and specialization of functions, and the escalation of other states in the path of development, mimicking the hegemon's strategies through cooperation at first, and competition in the second place (Fig.1, column 1). This scenario ultimately results in a hegemonic crisis, which is typified by three processes: new power configurations, escalation of societal tensions, and intensification of interstate and interenterprise competition (Figure 1, column 2). The formation of new hegemonies is entangled in this trajectory, which eventually leads to hegemonic "breakdown" and systemic disorder, typical of the mature stages of financial expansion (Figure 1, column 3). The system ultimately enters a new phase of state cooperation and once more emulates

the hegemon's development strategy with the rise of a new stabilizing state; this marks the beginning of a new hegemonic cycle (Arrighi and Silver 2001).

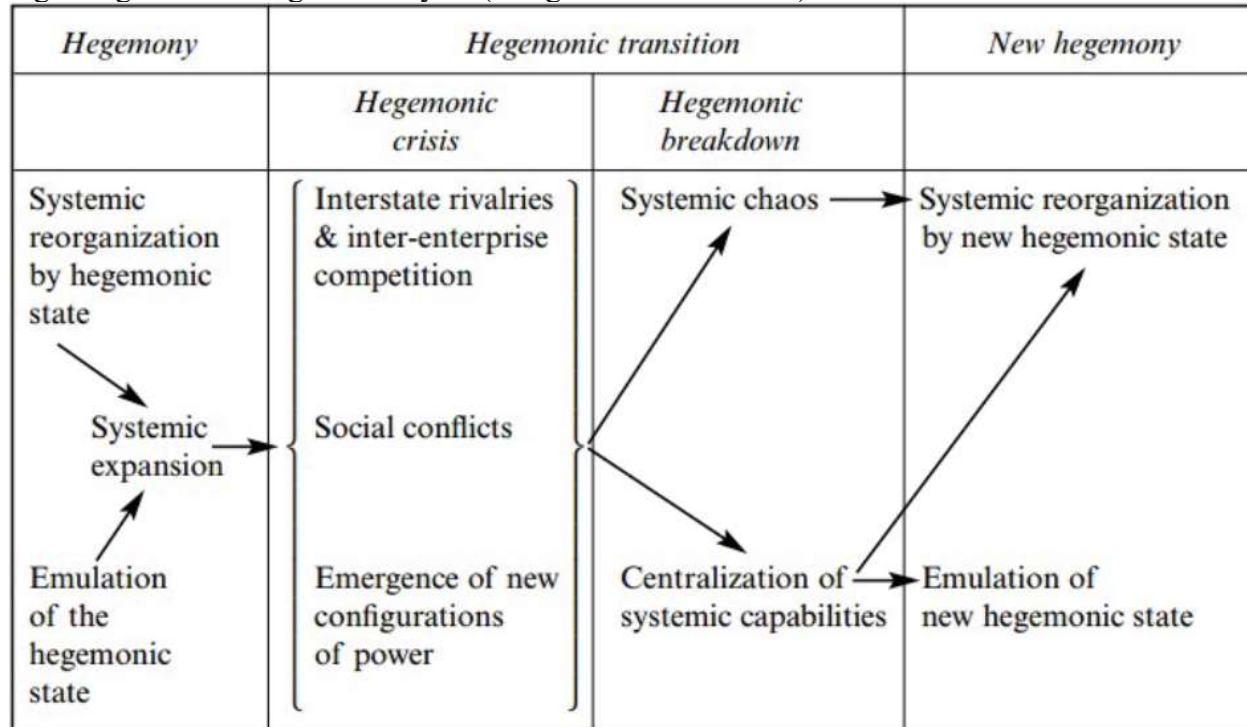


Figure 1: The dynamics of hegemonic transitions (Arrighi & Silver 2001, p.270)

Later in the analysis section, we will discuss Britain's significant influence in the Middle East during the establishment of the UAE and will try to explain this event through HST. Historical scholarship believes that the British predominance in the region created a reasonably stable environment, which enabled the Trucial States to concentrate on their internal development and contemplate the possibility of union.

Meanwhile, liberals argue that an international system functions best when individual activities or individual entrepreneurship are free from states' administrative or political control. Classical liberalism prioritizes private autonomy, financial independence, and limited government interference. It demonstrates how implementing these ideas on a global scale can promote peace, collaboration, and wealth among nations. Before unification, the Trucial States entered into a series of agreements to maintain regional peace, which aligns with the fundamental principle of liberalism. Liberalism, as an IR theory, focuses on social goods like peace, and harmony. Adam Smith is widely recognized as the progenitor of classical liberalism. In his key work, *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*, his primary preoccupation revolved around strategies to enhance the economic prosperity of nations (Smith 2008). In the analysis section, we will examine how far the UAE's focus on economic advancement and its rise as a worldwide trade center may align with this idea?

However, constructivism adopts a distinct perspective compared to realism and liberalism. Constructivism rejects any pre-existing assumptions or beliefs. Constructivists believe that reality does not inherently exist but is an outcome of social construction. Wendt (1999) argued that social constructivism is a social milieu in which states function as agents and engage in mutual interactions. Inter-subjective identity refers to the process by which states in the social

environment get to know and form thoughts about one other through reciprocal contact. Wendt brackets the corporate identity of states. The determining factor for states' interests is their inter-subjective identity. Inter-subjective identity is the one in which states develop through their interaction with each other. This identity is not given; instead, states create this identity. And if both of them perceive themselves as friends, they will make regimes to facilitate cooperation. So, identity is a significant focus of constructivism, as it highlights how shared identity influences the actions of a state. The analysis will test whether or not, the unification process of the UAE can be interpreted as an endeavor to establish a shared Arab and Emirati identity that goes beyond the previously existent tribal and sheikhdom identities.

Trucial states were colonial states; hence, post-colonialism affected their civilization's development. The primary focus of post-colonialism is the consequences of colonialism. Colonized people developed self-awareness and understanding of themselves through the lens of the colonizers. Western society imposes a dominant and influential control over our minds. Colonizers disseminate the belief of their superiority. Their whiteness is characterized as a state of being superior. The colonized individuals are seen to be inferior, uncivilized, and primitive. Hence, colonists are rationalizing their dominion in this manner. This is an example of a 'hegemonic discourse'. The colonized individuals are considered as the "other". Through time, they learned that they were culturally subordinate to the colonizers. The colonized individuals acquired a psychological understanding that they were of lesser worth. This hegemonic ideology allowed the conquerors to justify their dominant authority. The concept of racial binary divides humans into distinct racial categories. In the context of colonization, the colonized people learn about their identity and culture through Western perspectives and experiences. Later in the analysis section, we will thoroughly analyze the impact of British colonialism on the political structure of the Trucial Sheikhdoms. We will examine if the economic expansion and diversification of the UAE can be interpreted as a manifestation of decolonization.

The following Table-1 reflects the main features of realism, liberalism, constructivism and post-colonialism theory:

Feature	Realism	Liberalism	Constructivism	Post-Colonial Theory
View of International Relations	State-centric: States are primary actors.	Pluralistic: Multiple actors including states, NGOs.	Socially constructed: Shaped by shared ideas.	Critique of colonial legacies; Focus on the Global South.
Perception of Anarchy	Emphasizes anarchy, leading to competition and conflict.	Acknowledges anarchy but believes cooperation is possible.	Acknowledges anarchy but focuses on shared norms and identities.	Critiques the legacy of colonialism in shaping global power dynamics.
Approach to Power	Power politics: States seek to maximize power and security.	Believes cooperation can lead to mutually beneficial outcomes.	Considers power as socially constructed and influenced by norms.	Considers power dynamics within the context of colonial legacies.
Role of Institutions	Less emphasis on institutions; States	Emphasizes institutions as	Institutions play a role in shaping	Critiques institutions for

Feature	Realism	Liberalism	Constructivism	Post-Colonial Theory
	pursue interests autonomously.	mechanisms for cooperation and conflict resolution.	norms and behavior.	perpetuating colonial structures.
Perspective on Conflict	Conflict is inherent due to security dilemmas.	Conflict can be mitigated through diplomacy and cooperation.	Views conflict as a result of misperceptions and identity issues.	Views conflict as often rooted in colonial legacies and power imbalances.
Emphasis on Cooperation	Cooperation is possible but often secondary to security concerns.	Cooperation is seen as achievable and desirable for mutual benefit.	Cooperation is achievable through shared norms and interests.	Emphasizes cooperation among formerly colonized nations and challenges Eurocentric perspectives.

Table 1: Important features of realism, liberalism, constructivism and post-colonialism theories

Source: Devised by the author

5. Formation of the UAE:

5.1 From the Islamic Evolution to the Pre-Colonial Era

In the late seventh century CE, the Umayyads, the initial Islamic rulers, brought Islam and the Arabic language to the eastern Arabian Peninsula. Their existence was brief, and the Abbasids replaced them in the eighth century CE. Most nomadic individuals embraced Sunni Islam. However, certain tribes and communities in the Hajara Mountains and the eastern portions of present-day UAE have chosen alternative variations of Islam.

The pearling industry was that region's primary source of income, and the Aboriginal population was heavily dependent on it. However, locals often attacked British ships when they sailed into the area. That is why the lower Gulf region, known as 'the Pirate Coast', was frequently linked to the terms "barbarians" and "pirates" (Bristol-Rhys 2009). The British perceived piratical entities as causing significant harm to the coastal economy to further their own interests and gain control over profitable trade. The area's designation as "the Pirate Coast" highlighted the British concentration on the coastal territory, neglecting the inland and considering the residents as Bedouin (Bristol-Rhys 2009).

5.2 British Colonial Period and the Trucial States

In 1892, the Trucial States, which were separate Sheikdoms, entered into a contract with the British Government, establishing themselves as a British Protectorate (Martin Fullard, Guides Writer 2018). This indicated that the British would protect against any acts of vengeance, whether on land or at sea. Conversely, the Trucial States were prohibited from selling territory without obtaining permission from the British. This contract was advantageous because to the escalating global influence of France, Netherlands, and Portugal as colonial powers. The British pursued a durable resolution to retain authority over the region, guaranteeing the security of the Trucial States (Martin Fullard, Guides Writer 2018).

The (British) Indian Government's decision not to interfere in the Gulf region led to the hereditary ruling families gaining control over the politics of the Trucial States, Bahrain, and Qatar (Bradshaw 2020). The British were uncompromising in securing their interests in the Gulf. However, they failed to implement significant political, economic, and societal changes. The Arabian coastline of the Persian Gulf served as a strategic advantage for the British Empire. However, when the British Indian Empire ended in 1947, the Trucial States gained little from the British presence. The Foreign Office maintained its backing for the rulers during the post-Second World War period due to the absence of any feasible alternative to sheikhly rule (Bradshaw 2020).

5.3 Oil Discovery and the Independence of the UAE

Pearling was a prominent commercial activity in the Trucial States until the 1920s, with many people depending on it for their livelihoods (Martin Fullard, Guides Writer 2018). The business collapsed following World War I and the Great Depression in 1929. The industry regained its integrity throughout the challenges (Martin Fullard, Guides Writer 2018). The hiring of workers from the agricultural and tribal labor force in the UAE area throughout the nineteenth century resulted from the continuous fall in business and the subsequent impoverishment of the agricultural and tribal-pastoral sectors. In the early 1900s, the pearl industry in Abu Dhabi accounted for 95 percent of its revenues, and this was also the case for other emirates (Aqil 2018).

The crude oil and natural gas in the Emirates originate from fossilized remains of deceased organisms that sank to the seabed and decomposed approximately 60 million years ago (Heard 2019). Geological scientists visited this region in search of water, but eventually, after a long research period, they discovered oil. In 1922, the authorities made a deal to only offer oil concessions to those designated by the British government. In the 1930s, the rulers of Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Sharjah entered into agreements granting landing privileges to the Royal Air Force (RAF) in Abu Dhabi and Dubai and to Imperial Airways in Dubai and Sharjah (Bradshaw 2020). As compensation, the rulers were given yearly financial support and a fee for allowing landings, but their authority over exterior matters was significantly restricted. The accords represented an increased level of British intervention in the internal affairs of the sheikhdoms, which the rulers intensely disliked. The British government also entered into agreements and accords with the other Gulf States (Bradshaw 2020).

In 1968, the British Labor Government headed by Harold Wilson said that it was no longer financially capable of allocating £12 million annually to maintain its military presence in the Gulf. Consequently, it decided to remove its armed personnel from the region by the end of 1971. Due to financial considerations, the decision to withdraw from the 'East of Suez' region was made as part of the declared 1966-2007 plan (Onley 2007). Recent studies have demonstrated that the government possesses the financial means to maintain its military presence in the Gulf, particularly considering the significant role of Gulf oil in the British economy. The Arab world and the communist bloc expressed satisfaction with the statement, while the Conservative opposition, US Government, and Gulf rulers were very disappointed (Onley 2007).

It can be said that, the decision to create a Federation was largely influenced by the British decision, made at the beginning of 1968, to leave the Trucial States. Two of the most powerful Trucial Rulers, Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum of Dubai and Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan of Abu Dhabi, came to an agreement on this. Other Trucial Rulers were invited to join the Federation by the two. Though it appeared likely that both Bahrain and Qatar would choose independence in the end, they ultimately chose to join the Union of Arab Emirates. Ultimately, after the UK armed forces left the area, the UAE was established as a federation on December 2, 1971. Six of the seven emirates (Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm Al Quwain and

Fujairah) declared their union on 2 December 1971. The seventh, Ras al Khaimah, joined the federation on 10 February 1972.

The Modernity of the UAE: .6

Shortly after gaining independence, the UAE began economic development by capitalizing on oil exports, particularly in the 21st century. Since its formation, the UAE has developed a distinct national character reflected in its internal and foreign policies, closely mirroring the style of the President. The UAE performs prudence by refraining from hasty decisions and diligently evaluating alternatives before implementing any action. Additionally, it encourages the process of conciliation, cooperation, and consensus to alleviate confrontation and conflict. This method is based on the indigenous, collective society of the country, which is strongly shaped by the principles of Islam. The UAE is ready to promptly take action when necessary and assert its position on contentious matters, even if it means standing alone, as long as it aligns with the foreign policy establishment's convictions. The UAE actively endorsed a prompt global military reaction to the Iraqi incursion into Kuwait in 1990 (Abed and Hellyer 2001).

7. Why is the formation of the UAE important for the Middle East?

Before unification, the seven emirates encountered possible susceptibility. The UAE demonstrated a cohesive and unified stance, effectively discouraging external dangers and actively fostering regional stability. The UAE fostered regional trade and investment by consolidating resources and creating a unified economic zone (Bradshaw 2020). The liberal economic cooperation stimulated growth throughout the emirates. The UAE implemented a contemporary system of governance and enthusiastically welcomed technological progress, thereby inspiring other nations to contemplate following suit. The UAE's function as an intermediary in regional crises and its emphasis on constructive communication assist to fostering a more harmonious Middle East (Matteo2011).

7.1 Economic Importance

This formation can be a model for state-building in the Middle East. Again, it is a key player among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states. The UAE, known for its multifaceted economy, robust infrastructure, and free-trade zones, attracts substantial international investment. This enhances the economic appeal of the GCC for all member countries. Nevertheless, the UAE's liberal economic policies can lead to competition with other GCC governments, notably Saudi Arabia, which is facing an economic revival. The GDP development of the UAE has undergone a significant transformation over the past two decades, serving as a notable illustration for emerging nations in the Middle East. Again, it frequently takes a more proactive approach to its foreign policy than some GCC countries (Alkim 1989). It is a dominant regional force that actively interacts with different international players.

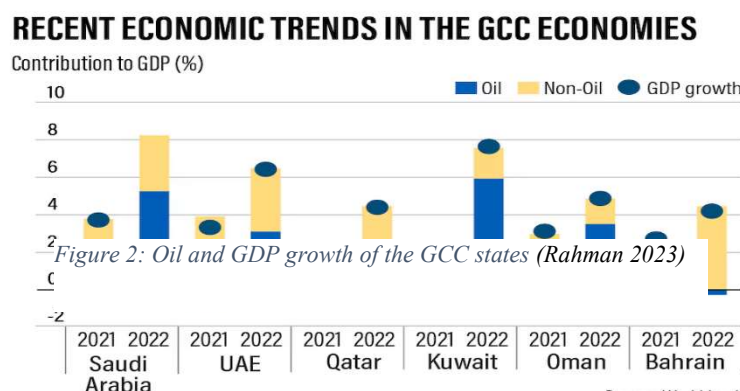


Figure 2 shows GDP is projected 2.8 percent in

that the UAE's to expand by 2023 (Rahman

2023). The country's non-oil economy is expected to grow by 4.8 per cent, primarily due to strong domestic demand in industries like tourism, real estate, construction, transportation, and manufacturing. Kuwait's economy is expected to expand by 1.3% in 2023, with the non-oil sector anticipated to grow by 4.4%, mostly due to increased private spending (Rahman 2023). The level of inflation in GCC countries is relatively low compared to other high-income countries.

The UAE is a significant business hub in the Middle East due to its political stability and well-developed infrastructure. Over the last one or two decades, the UAE has gained significant popularity as a tourism destination. Travelers from Western and Asian nations visit the UAE. The UAE promotes an open culture from an early stage. They are using this as a soft power in international politics. The UAE society is a fusion of Islamic, Asian, and Persian cultures. Their native culture is also very prominent, particularly outside Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Over time, this has had a significant economic influence on all Middle Eastern nations. In the past, people would often associate deserts with Arab or Middle Eastern countries. However, the UAE has altered people's perceptions and challenged this stereotype. Due to these factors, they have gained the ability to attract international investment and are experiencing rapid development.

The oil mines are another factor that attracted the oil investment of Western companies. The establishment of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) in 1962 signified the beginning of this progression (Khartukov 2024). The establishment of strategic alliances with international corporations persisted. For example, ADNOC partnered with British Petroleum (BP) in 1962 and subsequently built joint ventures with firms such as ExxonMobil and Total Energies in the following years (Khartukov 2024).

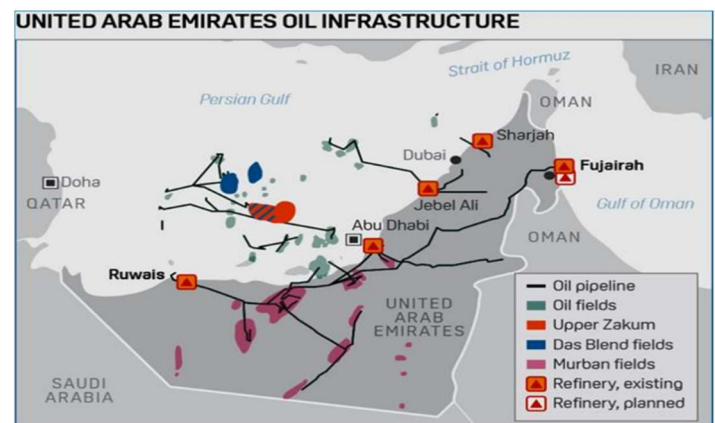


Figure 3: The Oil fields and pipelines of UAE (Khartukov 2024)

The UAE has mastered executing megaprojects, successfully generating astonishing tourist attractions and thriving commercial centers. The Burj Khalifa in Dubai and the Masdar project in the city portray a futuristic image, symbolizing ambition and development. This process of image development improves the UAE's global reputation.

7.2 Geopolitical Importance

It is located at the intersection of Asia, Africa, and Europe and is a pivotal geographical location. The UAE holds jurisdiction over crucial maritime routes in the Strait of Hormuz. The UAE's strategic location provides it with a significant advantage in controlling global energy flows, which, in turn, profoundly influences global markets. The UAE is a prominent center for hydrocarbon resources, with its extensive oil and gas deposits playing a crucial role in driving its economy and geopolitical influence. Although there are ongoing attempts to diversify, the export of hydrocarbons continues to be a fundamental aspect of its impact, particularly in light of increasing global energy needs.

The UAE's geopolitical policy entails meticulously handling and balancing these many forces. It maintains a strong alliance with the US while cultivating trade ties with China, skillfully managing a complex geopolitical environment. The UAE's pragmatic approach enables it to safeguard its interests and exert influence.



Figure 4: UAE Map in World (WorldAtlas 2023)

Strategic

Cordesman (2009) countries before building powers. This

command keeps threats in the area at bay. However, for it to work, partner states have to be able to send troops and other resources (Blanchard, 2018). The UAE has a robust and well-trained navy and much high-tech equipment. There are concerns about the UAE's dedication to a unified defense policy because it seeks military ties outside the GCC (Blanchard 2018). The UAE plays a substantial role in the military might of the GCC with its contribution to the Peninsula Shield Force. It allocates significant resources towards enhancing its military capacities, substantially contributing to maintaining security within the area. Though the cooperation among Middle Eastern states is insufficient, the UAE has the most significant number of military troops in this region after Saudi Arabia. Often, these states rely on Western powers like the United States, the United Kingdom, or other militarily strong states.

8. Can we call this formation as the first integration experiment in the Gulf?

While the integration of the UAE primarily centered around the member emirates, it was not originally intended to serve as a blueprint for broader cooperation among Gulf countries. The centralized structure of the UAE is designed to represent the unequal distribution of power among the emirates, though Abu Dhabi and Dubai exert considerable influence. The establishment of the UAE coincided with the withdrawal of British forces from the region. The motivation to maintain stability and security in response to prospective regional rivalry may have exerted a more influential force than only pursuing regional integration. However, this is the inaugural integration in the region. Undoubtedly, there are specific ramifications resulting from this significant consolidation. First, the UAE unified seven Sheikdoms into a cohesive federal system, consolidating hitherto autonomous political units (Abed and Hellyer 2001). These actions established a collective foreign policy, defense force, and currency, crucial regional integration components. Besides, the UAE promoted economic cooperation among its emirates. The oil revenue was distributed, infrastructure projects were carried out jointly, and customs restrictions were removed. This is consistent with economic integration theories highlighting the importance of reducing trade barriers and sharing resources. Moreover, establishing a federal government that used inclusive decision-making procedures established an instance for regional governance (Matteo2011). This statement reflects the functionalist perspective in IR, which asserts that cooperation on particular matters can result in broader integration.

7.3 Security and Importance

argued that GCC risk their security strong offensive united military

9. Analysis:

After examining the aforementioned discussion, it can be concluded that the Hegemonic Stability Theory (HST) provides the best suitable framework for understanding the formation of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The HST looks at the responsibility of a powerful state to uphold regional stability, which was essential to the formation of the United Arab Emirates. There are various perspectives on power relations, shared interests, and economic interdependence offered by constructivism, post-colonial theory, and classical liberalism. HST, on the other hand, can provide a deeper understanding of the UAE's founding in light of the power dynamics, public goods delivery, and institution-building that were impacted by the opportunities and challenges brought about by the British withdrawal from the Gulf.

HST highlights the importance of a hegemonic power in the international system that will provide public goods and free rides to the other sub-ordinate states. The hegemon will introduce international norms and institutions to run the international system. As a colonial power, Britain has been a hegemon for a long time. It was a benign hegemon. In the case of UAE, the British have mainly viewed the Trucial States as a series of settlements controlled by the rulers of the coastal city-states. Starting in the early 1930s, the British government's approach towards the Trucial States grew increasingly interventionist to facilitate the activities of oil company employees in the unexplored inland areas (Abed and Hellyer 2001). The British authorities closely monitored and often deliberately controlled how monarchs handled domestic affairs. They also showed concern for inter-tribal conflicts and growing territorial disputes in the hinterland (Abed and Hellyer 2001). Though the British ruled, they provided security to the Trucial States. When the oil was discovered, the Trucial States were thought to be unified, and eventually, the British Government declared it would give them independence. In the early 19th century, rulers were the sole addressees in every state for communication with the British government. The 'High Government' placed a 'Trucial Ruler' instead of a tribal sheik in the hinterland. However, by the end of the 20th century, the decline of the pearling industry led to resentment among merchants in these states, and the British government and foreign companies paid the rulers.

Britain's establishment of the 'Trucial System' enabled communication and dispute resolution among the emirates, enhancing regional security. The HST emphasizes the strategies employed by less powerful states in dealing with a global order dominated by a hegemonic power. The Trucial States utilized 'hedging strategies' to preserve their independence. Unification can be viewed as a strategy to enhance their negotiating power with Britain, enabling them to engage in negotiations for more advantageous economic and political conditions (Taryam 1990).

On the other, economic interdependence is seen by classical liberalism as the main force behind cooperation. Economic gains played a part, but that doesn't fully capture the prevalent security concerns before the country was united. When the British left a power vacuum, it may have resulted in turmoil. Beyond pursuing economic benefits, the emirates saw the union as preserving internal security and discouraging foreign threats. Fair play is a tenet of classical liberalism in international affairs. Nonetheless, there were power imbalances when the United Arab Emirates was formed. Abu Dhabi was crucial to the unification effort because of its greater oil riches and military might. So, classical liberalism finds it difficult to describe these power relationships and how leadership affects how things happen.

Often, constructivism underlines how shared identities and norms change over time. Although the emirates had historical and cultural links, the immediate security worries after the British left pushed them to join together. Constructivism may overstate how quickly and pragmatically

the Emirates came together to avoid a power vacuum, but it didn't look at how power works. Identity isn't essential here; safety and economic growth worries are more important.

Post-colonialism frequently highlights the influence of external control on the development of former colonies. The British exerted dominance over several territories worldwide, seeking to legitimize their control under the 'white man's burden' concept. They applied the same attitude in this area, as they referred to the Arab coastal population as 'barbarians; and 'pirates'. Although British influence certainly impacted the area, the internal dynamics among the emirates were the main factors that drove the unification process. The emirates were compelled to unite because of shared worries over security and potential instability following the British exit. Post-colonial philosophy primarily examines the acts of opposition and defiance against colonial authorities. Nevertheless, establishing the UAE manifests collaboration among emirates to construct a more stable and affluent future. This hypothesis is inadequate in explaining the hedging methods employed by the Sheikhdoms, which ultimately resulted in their attainment of independence.

10. Conclusion:

This study argues that Britain's strategic concerns about regional stability and the security of trade routes in the Gulf greatly influenced its decision to construct a single entity, favoring the idea of Hegemonic Stability Theory among others to analyze the UAE's formation process. However, the discussion above also acknowledges the geopolitical and economic factors that contributed to the formation of the UAE. Their shared economic interests, particularly in the oil sector, were the driving force for the emirates' unification. In addition, the potential for internal conflicts and the impending security threats from nearby enemies like Iran underscore the necessity of a single security framework. The convergence of these elements, along with the support of the British, resulted in the foundation of the UAE. The UAE's emergence as a prominent economic force in the Middle East has substantially impacted regional politics, drawing international investment and encouraging the expansion of its economy beyond its reliance on oil. The formation of the UAE exemplifies the intricate interaction between theories of international relations and the actual conditions in the Middle East.

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