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The Alignment of the United States of America and the United Kingdom in Energy Security Strategy: A Case Study in the Persian Gulf

Abstract: The United States (U.S.) and the United Kingdom (U.K.), as preeminent global powers and permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, sustain a vital partnership within the international system. The Persian Gulf, distinguished as a strategically pivotal region due to its abundant energy reserves, exemplifies their concerted efforts to ensure energy security – a critical issue of the 21st century. This study utilizes qualitative content analysis to explore the political, security, and military dimensions of the U.S.-U.K. strategic alignment, with the Persian Gulf serving as a focal case study. Specifically, the research investigates how these dimensions underpin the balanced relationship between the two nations in the context of energy security in the region. The central research question is: What specific political, security, and military dimensions define the strategic coordination between the U.S. and U.K. in the Persian Gulf? Related sub-questions examine their shared global interests in energy security policies within this region and assess the U.K.'s security and military contributions in the Persian Gulf as a mechanism supporting U.S. deterrence strategies in areas such as the South China Sea and Eastern Europe. Findings reveal that a primary objective for these powers is to enhance security, influence, and authority, as reflected in their energy security strategies. These strategies prioritize a blend of policies aimed at managing global energy resources and markets, with control over international transit routes identified as a fundamental instrument for achieving national objectives. Consequently, through strategic reassessment and adaptation, the U.S. and U.K. have forged robust ties with key energy suppliers, notably Saudi Arabia, navigating ideological disparities to secure energy-related advantages. These relationships significantly shape the security and strategic frameworks of both nations, particularly in the Persian Gulf.

Key words: United States (U.S.), United Kingdom (U.K.), energy security, Persian Gulf, strategic alignment

Introduction

Energy, particularly oil and gas, remains a fundamental driver of global wealth and power dynamics (Toffler, 2022). Despite significant economic advancements in the post-Cold War era, the global economy continues to rely heavily on fossil fuels, positioning energy security as a critical international concern (Ryantori, 2021). Oil reserves are diminishing in numerous regions worldwide, while energy consumption continues to rise, with viable alternative energy sources yet to emerge as a clear substitute (Shafiee, Topal, 2009). Consequently, major energy-consuming nations and global powers have

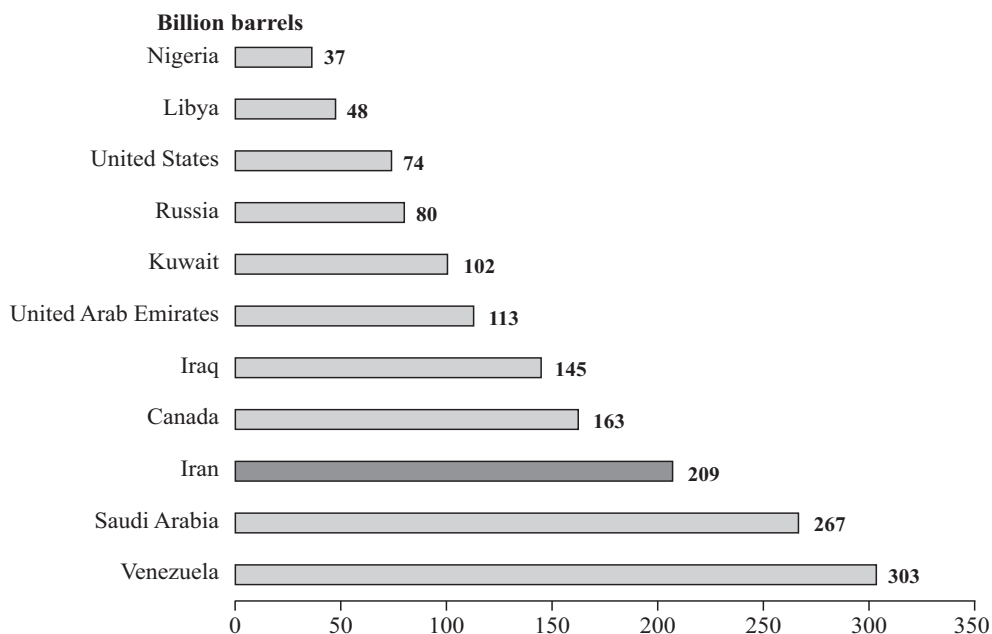
incorporated targeted measures into their energy policies to ensure security of supply. These measures, which vary based on national circumstances, include diversifying energy sources and transport routes, promoting domestic conservation, and reducing dependence on imports from geopolitically unstable regions.

The collapse of the Soviet Union precipitated a profound transformation in international relations, unmatched in scope since the Napoleonic Wars, establishing the United States as a dominant geopolitical force (Spykman, 2017). This shift demands distinct analytical frameworks to assess the U.S.'s role and influence on the global stage. Following the end of the Cold War, major powers have recalibrated their policies in relation to the U.S., with the United Kingdom strategically positioning itself as a transatlantic conduit. Leveraging U.S. predominance, the U.K. seeks to reinforce its influence over Europe and other regions (Tyler, 2007). The British government has articulated a vision of a "world community," advocating for global values, interventionist policies, and an anti-isolationist stance, often through unilateral strategies aimed at shaping the governance structures of targeted nations (Tyler, 2007). This approach complements the longstanding "special relationship" between the U.S. and U.K., enhancing their collaboration in foreign policy and security matters within the international community.

Since the early 20th century, the Middle East has emerged as a focal point of geopolitical and energy interests due to its substantial resources. The Persian Gulf, a vital geo-strategic region and a key conduit for global energy flows, holds particular significance in terms of geopolitics, geostrategy, and geo-economics (Barnes, Jaffe, 2006). Figure 1 illustrates the countries with the largest proven oil reserves as of 2024, highlighting the prominence of Gulf nations such as Iran, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Kuwait. This concentration of resources underscores the region's critical importance to industrialized nations, including the U.S. and U.K., driving their strategic engagement in the Persian Gulf.

Historically, the Middle East has served as a focal point for the presence of trans-regional powers, driven by its geopolitical significance and abundant fossil fuel resources (Barnes, Jaffe, 2006). Prior to World War II, the United Kingdom maintained a presence in the Persian Gulf for over 50 years, establishing a colonial influence that persisted until 1971, when it withdrew due to emerging challenges (Sadeghi, Hoseini, 2015). In recent years, however, there has been a noticeable resurgence of U.K. engagement in the region, often in collaboration with the United States. This renewed involvement coincides with a transformative reshaping of Western Asia's geopolitical landscape, where U.K. and U.S. policies have increasingly posed obstacles to the development of indigenous security frameworks in the Persian Gulf and surrounding areas (Devanny, Berry, 2021).

This shift aligns with broader changes in the global power structure, prompting adjustments in the power dynamics of key strategic regions (Spykman, 2017). The Middle East, with its critical geopolitical position and vast energy reserves, remains a linchpin for asserting global hegemony. The British government has positioned itself as a vital bridge between the United States and Europe, leveraging this role to emphasize its unique capacity to foster an international community focused on addressing global challenges such as terrorism (Tyler, 2007). This stance is reflected in its policy decisions, which prioritize actions with far-reaching international implications within a structured global framework.

Figure 1. Largest Proven Reserve Holders of Oil in 2024

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration (2024), *International energy statistics: Proven oil reserves*, <https://www.eia.gov/international/data/world>.

The oil market's volatility and the growing imperative of energy security have intensified focus on the Persian Gulf's energy resources. Projections suggest that this region will remain a reliable energy supplier for global consumers, particularly major and emerging powers, over the next five decades, shaping the energy market's structure and security dynamics (Koushki, Moslehi, 2019). Consequently, the energy policies of leading international actors, including the U.S. and U.K., continue to target this region as a strategic priority.

As a waning power, the U.K. seeks to preserve its influence by operating within an institutional framework, compelling the United States – the world's sole superpower – to align with international or regional organizations such as the United Nations Security Council, NATO, and the International Criminal Court (Rees, Davies, 2019). This cooperative approach enhances their coordinated efforts. In the current turbulent and competitive global environment, energy security has emerged as a central pillar of foreign policy for major powers, particularly the U.S. and U.K. The Persian Gulf, recognized as a premier energy region, plays an essential role in global supply chains, boasting the world's largest oil and gas reserves and controlling critical transit routes like the Strait of Hormuz (Sick, 2018). This study investigates the actions and strategies of these two nations in addressing energy security challenges, with a specific focus on the Persian Gulf, to elucidate the motivations behind their aligned foreign policies and their broader implications.

The primary objective of this research is to analyze the strategic alignment of the United States and the United Kingdom regarding energy security in the Persian Gulf.

This alignment is evaluated across political, security, and military dimensions, demonstrating how both countries pursue their national objectives in this sensitive region through collaborative efforts.

Research Questions

The study addresses the following key questions:

1. What specific political, security, and military dimensions define the strategic alignment between the U.S. and U.K. in the Persian Gulf?
2. What shared global interests do the U.S. and U.K. pursue through their aligned energy security policies in the Persian Gulf?
3. Does the U.K.'s security and military role in the Persian Gulf support U.S. deterrence strategies in regions such as the South China Sea and Eastern Europe?

Research Hypotheses

1. The U.S. and U.K. enhance energy security in the Persian Gulf through promoting regional stability, participating in collective security arrangements, combating terrorism, maintaining joint military presence, conducting joint exercises, and supplying weapons to regional allies.
2. The U.S. and U.K. share common interests in the Persian Gulf, encompassing sustainable access to energy resources, geopolitical stability, and countering the influence of rival powers, notably Iran.
3. The U.K.'s security and military engagement in the Persian Gulf is integral to U.S. plans for focusing deterrence policies in other strategic areas, including the South China Sea and Eastern Europe.

Historical Context and Research Literature

The historical evolution of transatlantic security dynamics has been extensively analyzed in scholarly literature. Valipour (2013) investigates the United States' role in shaping European defense policies following the Soviet Union's dissolution, arguing that the termination of the Cold War and the collapse of the bipolar international system significantly altered global security paradigms. This transition prompted debates regarding the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) relevance in a post-Soviet security landscape, free from the Soviet Communist threat. The disintegration of bipolarity fostered a movement toward a unified European military security framework, with major nations such as the United Kingdom, Germany, and France playing pivotal roles. Post-Cold War developments underscored the growing importance of enhancing European security and establishing an autonomous defense policy, positioning the European Union (EU) as an influential political and military actor. Despite structural and operational limitations in forming a cohesive European military, the EU is increasingly perceived as a potential counterbalance to U.S. influence and NATO's dominance (Valipour, 2013).

Bokharai Zade (2014) explores the underlying factors driving the alignment between the United Kingdom and the United States during regional crises and geopolitical developments. Rooted in the discipline of international relations, this study employs a histor-

ical, legal, and systematic approach to dissect the constitutive elements and behavioral norms governing interstate interactions. The analysis focuses on the synchronization of ambitious policy objectives, positing that the U.K. and U.S. have evolved into comprehensive allies within the global policy arena, particularly in recent decades (Bokharai Zade, 2014).

Mohammadian and Naghibzadeh (2019) examine the trajectory of the “special relationship” between the United States and the United Kingdom in the post-Brexit era. The 2016 referendum, which resulted in a 51% vote for the United Kingdom’s exit from the European Union, introduced significant uncertainties for foreign policy analysts concerning the future of U.K. domestic and international strategies. A key uncertainty pertains to the continuity of the unique bilateral ties between the U.K. and U.S., which have historically held a privileged position in their respective foreign policies. Leveraging a descriptive-analytical methodology and a futurology perspective, the study utilizes empirical data to project three potential scenarios – desired, feasible, and possible – for the future of U.S.-U.K. relations, influenced by political, economic, cultural, and security factors within the international context, particularly the EU. The findings suggest that the U.K.’s departure from the EU neither disrupts nor diminishes this relationship; rather, it reinforces the U.K.’s commitment to strengthening ties with the U.S. (Mohammadian, Naghibzadeh, 2019).

Mara et al. (2022) employ a regression modeling framework to assess the interplay between socio-economic development and energy security, noting a relative lack of scholarly attention to the nexus between energy security and national security. Their analysis identifies energy security as manifesting across international and national economic security dimensions. Empirical results indicate a statistically significant correlation between these factors in the United States, contrasting with weak or non-significant associations in other nations. This disparity raises critical questions about energy security’s role in geopolitical and geoeconomic strategies and highlights the absence of robust long-term indicators for integrated analyses of energy, economic, and national security dynamics (Mara et al., 2022).

Kazemzadeh et al. (2022) evaluate the effects of oil price fluctuations originating from Persian Gulf countries on U.S. energy security. The study introduces a novel index that accounts for the proportion of primary energy consumption, the share of energy imports by country, and the political risk associated with energy-exporting nations. Findings reveal that a 20% oil price variation in the Persian Gulf region impacts U.S. energy security by only 3%, attributable to effective U.S. governmental deterrence measures in the Middle East (Kazemzadeh et al., 2022).

Cox (2018) advances the field by developing a set of indicators to evaluate the security of long-term national electricity scenarios, extending existing models to include reliability, cost, diversity, trade, and acceptability. Applying these metrics to three long-term scenarios for the U.K. electricity system, the research identifies the lack of flexible and responsive supply capacity as a significant risk factor. Reducing overall energy demand emerges as the most effective strategy for enhancing energy security. The study further posits that energy security encompasses not only mitigating insecurity causes – such as unreliable fuel imports – but also optimizing responses through enhanced supply and demand flexibility. Additionally, it underscores the U.K. government’s collaboration with

major powers, including the United States, to address energy challenges in the Persian Gulf (Cox, 2018).

A review of the aforementioned studies reveals a notable gap in the literature: no comprehensive analysis has yet addressed the strategic alignment of the U.K. and U.S. in ensuring energy security within the Persian Gulf. This research seeks to fill this void by exploring this alignment, with the objective of addressing the following research questions and hypotheses.

U.S. Energy Policy in the Persian Gulf

Since the inception of the George W. Bush administration in January 2001, energy security has emerged as a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy, reflecting its strategic significance in national and global contexts (Bahgat, 2003). To address escalating energy demands and mitigate reliance on foreign imports, the administration established the National Energy Policy Development Group, which formulated a comprehensive strategy to enhance domestic energy resilience. As the world's preeminent oil consumer, the United States has projected an average annual increase in national energy consumption of 1.5% through 2020, with the Persian Gulf anticipated to supply over 20% of its crude oil requirements (Abraham, 2004). Long-term forecasts suggest that by 2030, U.S. net oil imports will rise from 53% to approximately 70% of total consumption, intensifying dependence on Persian Gulf oil exports (Abraham, 2004). The U.S. National Energy Policy underscores the Middle East's enduring role as a linchpin in global oil security, estimating that Persian Gulf oil-producing nations will account for 54% to 67% of global oil production by 2020, a trend likely to persist into subsequent decades (Bahgat, 2003). This policy framework highlights the region's geopolitical and economic centrality, driving sustained U.S. engagement to secure energy supplies amidst fluctuating global markets.

Dimensions of U.S.-U.K. Strategic Relations in the Persian Gulf

The strategic partnership between the United States and the United Kingdom in the Persian Gulf is characterized by an integrated approach encompassing political, security, and military dimensions, all oriented toward achieving their respective national security objectives (Saleh, Yazdanshenas, 2024). Politically, both nations align their foreign policies to pursue shared goals, including the promotion of regional stability, the mitigation of extremist ideologies, and the safeguarding of critical maritime trade routes (Baumann, 2012). This alignment frequently manifests in collaborative efforts to counter the influence of regional adversaries, notably Iran, through diplomatic initiatives and coordinated stances within international organizations, thereby reinforcing policies that advance democratic governance and human rights in the Persian Gulf (Pollack, Saab, 2017).

From a security perspective, the Persian Gulf confronts multifaceted threats, including terrorism, inter-state conflicts, and maritime piracy, necessitating robust countermeasures (Bilgin, 2019). The U.S. and U.K. engage in collective security frameworks,

which encompass joint military exercises, intelligence sharing, and capacity-building programs with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states. These initiatives are designed to bolster the internal security apparatus of regional allies and establish a credible deterrent against potential aggressors (Rees, Davies, 2019). Central to these efforts are counter-terrorism operations aimed at dismantling terrorist networks, preventing attacks, and enhancing the operational capabilities of partner nations through targeted training and resource allocation.

Militarily, the U.S.-U.K. alliance is exemplified by sustained joint operations in the Persian Gulf, underpinned by a significant military footprint that facilitates rapid response capabilities and power projection (Sick, 2018). This presence includes naval forces tasked with ensuring the security of vital chokepoints such as the Strait of Hormuz, a critical artery for global energy transit. Regular joint military exercises enhance interoperability and operational readiness, strengthening bilateral military cooperation (Sick, 2018). Additionally, arms sales and military assistance to Gulf states augment the defensive capacities of these nations, extending U.S. and U.K. influence across the region (Lu, 2020).

In aggregate, the strategic relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom in the Persian Gulf is anchored in a multifaceted framework that synthesizes political, security, and military strategies. This coordinated approach reflects their mutual interests in maintaining regional stability, neutralizing hostile threats, and ensuring uninterrupted access to energy resources, thereby shaping their geopolitical strategies within one of the world's most strategically sensitive arenas.

Shared U.S.-U.K. Global Interests in Energy Security Policy Alignment

The United States and the United Kingdom exhibit a convergence of strategic interests in their pursuit of energy security within the Persian Gulf region, a convergence driven by their mutual reliance on sustainable energy supplies, geopolitical imperatives, and the preservation of a rules-based international order (Koushki, Moslehi, 2019). This alignment underscores their collaborative approach to addressing energy-related challenges in a region pivotal to global stability.

A central pillar of their policy alignment is the prioritization of energy security, given the Persian Gulf's status as a critical repository of the world's largest proven oil reserves (Barnes, Jaffe, 2006). Instability in this region poses significant risks, with potential disruptions to oil supplies capable of triggering widespread economic repercussions for both nations, their allies, and the broader global economy (Barnes, Jaffe, 2006). Recognizing these stakes, the U.S. and U.K. have adopted policies aimed at ensuring a stable and uninterrupted flow of energy resources, emphasizing the promotion of regional stability and security as a fundamental strategy to mitigate such risks.

Beyond securing energy supplies, both nations share a vested interest in fostering a geopolitical environment conducive to their broader strategic objectives in the Middle East (Güney, Gökcan, 2010). Their cooperative efforts in the Persian Gulf are strategically designed to counterbalance the influence of rival powers, particularly Iran, which is perceived as a threat to regional stability and the security of critical energy transit routes (Güney, Gökcan, 2010). Through multifaceted collaboration – encompassing military presence, intelligence sharing, and diplomatic initiatives – the U.S. and U.K. work to prevent any single actor from dominating the region, thereby neutralizing potential ag-

gressors and maintaining a geopolitical equilibrium that safeguards energy resources and reinforces the global balance of power.

Economically, the energy policies of the U.S. and U.K. are intricately tied to their national interests, as stability in the Persian Gulf ensures the continuous flow of fossil fuels essential to their economies and those of their global partners (Mohammad, Sadeghiaval, 2023). Given their dependence on energy imports from this region, both nations prioritize strengthened cooperation in areas such as investment, trade, and energy partnerships (Mohammad, Sadeghiaval, 2023). Furthermore, a stable Persian Gulf fosters favorable conditions for investment in the oil market, enhancing economic ties not only with Gulf states but also with other energy-dependent nations worldwide, thereby amplifying their economic influence.

In recent years, both the U.S. and U.K. have increasingly acknowledged the necessity of integrating environmental and climate considerations into their energy security frameworks, reflecting a global shift toward sustainable development (Ansari, 2022). While pursuing renewable energy initiatives to reduce long-term reliance on fossil fuels, they remain cognizant of the immediate and medium-term necessity to secure traditional energy sources, necessitating continued focus on Persian Gulf stability (Ansari, 2022). This dual approach underscores the potential for joint initiatives to incorporate sustainable practices into energy extraction and consumption processes within the region, balancing environmental goals with energy security imperatives.

Ultimately, the alignment of U.S. and U.K. energy security policies in the Persian Gulf exemplifies the complexity of their shared global interests. By prioritizing sustainable energy access, geopolitical stability, economic prosperity, and an emerging commitment to sustainability, both nations aim to secure their own energy needs while contributing to the broader stability of the international system. This strategic alignment reflects their dedication to addressing multifaceted energy challenges through a cohesive global vision.

Analysis of Research Questions and Hypotheses

This section systematically addresses the research questions posed in this study, drawing on an extensive review of the literature to provide evidence-based insights into the U.S.-U.K. strategic alignment in the Persian Gulf, with a focus on energy security. The findings are structured to evaluate the political, security, and military dimensions of this partnership, as well as the shared interests and broader geopolitical implications, ultimately assessing the validity of the proposed hypotheses.

1) U.S.-U.K. Strategic Alignment in the Persian Gulf: Political, Security, and Military Dimensions

A) Political Dimensions

The political alignment between the United States and the United Kingdom in the Persian Gulf is deeply rooted in a longstanding tradition of bilateral cooperation, underpinned by shared strategic priorities aimed at maintaining regional stability and securing energy resources (Spykman, 2017). The Persian Gulf's pivotal role in global energy supply chains positions it as a focal point of foreign policy for

both nations (Barnes, Jaffe, 2006). A critical aspect of this political cooperation is the joint effort to address common threats, including terrorism, Iran's regional influence, and political instability among Gulf states. Through proactive diplomatic engagement, the U.S. and U.K. seek to foster greater alignment with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states, promoting political reforms, strengthening regional security institutions, and establishing diplomatic mechanisms for conflict resolution (Verdier, 2021). For instance, in response to heightened tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia in recent years, both nations have played a significant role in mediating disputes and de-escalating conflicts, thereby reinforcing stability (Saleh, Yazdanshenas, 2024). Additionally, their collaborative efforts within international organizations, such as the United Nations and NATO, have facilitated the development of a global consensus to counter regional threats, enhancing their bilateral relationship while solidifying their status as influential actors in Persian Gulf geopolitics (Yodfat, Abir, 2022).

B) Security Dimensions

Energy security constitutes a paramount strategic challenge in the Persian Gulf, driving U.S.-U.K. security cooperation in the region. The area's vast oil and gas reserves, combined with its strategic geographical position, render it vulnerable to a spectrum of security threats, including terrorism, piracy, political unrest, and military conflicts, all of which can disrupt energy production and transmission, with cascading effects on the global economy (Bilgin, 2019). To mitigate these risks, the U.S. and U.K. have prioritized maintaining regional stability through a robust military presence and comprehensive security collaboration. They have established key military bases in countries such as Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman, enhancing their capacity for rapid response to emerging threats (Wallin, 2022). Moreover, intelligence sharing and joint counterterrorism initiatives are central to their security strategy, aimed at dismantling terrorist networks and preventing attacks (Saleh, Yazdanshenas, 2024). A critical focus of this cooperation is the protection of vital maritime routes, particularly the Strait of Hormuz, recognized as one of the world's most significant energy transit chokepoints. The presence of U.S. and U.K. naval forces ensures the security of this route, safeguarding energy flows and reinforcing their roles as guarantors of regional stability (Chitsazian, Sadeghiaval, 2023).

C) Military Dimensions

The military presence of the U.S. and U.K. in the Persian Gulf is a cornerstone of their strategic objectives, serving as both a deterrent against threats and a mechanism for crisis management and de-escalation (Johnson, 2021). The U.S. maintains a network of military bases, including Al-Dhafra Air Base in Qatar and the Bahrain Naval Base, which enhance its ability to monitor and control regional dynamics (Wallin, 2022). The U.K. complements this presence with its own bases, notably in Bahrain, and actively participates in military cooperation initiatives (Devanny, Berry, 2021). Regular joint military exercises are conducted to improve interoperability and readiness, ensuring both nations are prepared to address potential threats (Wallin, 2022). Additionally, U.S.-U.K. military collaboration extends to the exchange of advanced technologies and the training of regional forces, bolstering the defense capabilities of Gulf states and reinforcing the U.S. and

U.K. as key security partners (Devanny, Berry, 2021). These efforts contribute to a stable regional security architecture, facilitating effective crisis management. In summary, the U.S.-U.K. strategic alignment in the Persian Gulf is grounded in a synergy of political, security, and military interests. Politically, their cooperation strengthens regional diplomacy and counters shared threats; from a security perspective, it ensures the protection of energy transmission routes and mitigates regional risks; and militarily, it enhances crisis management and regional stability. These findings substantiate the first hypothesis, which posits that the U.S. and U.K. enhance energy security through political stability promotion, collective security participation, and joint military operations.

- 2) U.S.-U.K. Strategic Alignment and Shared Interests in Persian Gulf Energy Security
The U.S. and U.K., as longstanding strategic allies, share critical interests in securing energy resources in the Persian Gulf, a region integral to their economic and geopolitical strategies. This alignment can be analyzed across several dimensions:

A) Military and Security Presence

Both nations maintain a robust joint military presence in the Persian Gulf, with U.S. bases in Qatar, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates, alongside U.K. naval forces, underscoring their commitment to energy security (Lotfi, Noormohammadi, 2023). Joint operations, such as missions to protect commercial vessels in the Strait of Hormuz, exemplify their coordinated security efforts (Lotfi, Noormohammadi, 2023).

B) Energy Diplomacy

Through energy diplomacy, the U.S. and U.K. strengthen ties with oil- and gas-producing Gulf nations, securing long-term supply agreements and investing in energy infrastructure to ensure resource access (Yazdi, 2023). These efforts enhance their strategic leverage in the region.

C) Countering Security Threats

The Persian Gulf faces threats from terrorism, piracy, and political tensions, all of which jeopardize energy security. The U.S. and U.K. counter these risks through intelligence cooperation and joint sanctions against destabilizing actors, such as Iran, as part of a broader strategy to maintain regional stability (Hensel, 2022).

D) Diversifying Energy Sources

While both nations pursue diversification through renewable energy and increased U.S. shale production, the Persian Gulf remains a vital energy source, necessitating sustained engagement to secure traditional supplies (Ansari, 2022).

This strategic alignment yields several benefits:

- Economic Stability: Securing Persian Gulf energy resources stabilizes global oil and gas prices, bolstering the economies of both nations (Elsayed et al., 2023).
- Increased Political Influence: Their military and diplomatic presence enhances their geopolitical influence in the region (Quamar et al., 2023).
- Strengthened Partnership: Cooperation in energy and security reinforces the U.S.-U.K. “special relationship,” serving as a model for international collaboration (Quamar et al., 2023).

However, challenges persist, including over-reliance on Persian Gulf oil, regional political tensions (e.g., Iran-Saudi disputes), and domestic criticism of the costs as-

sociated with maintaining a military presence. Despite these hurdles, the U.S.-U.K. partnership demonstrates a steadfast commitment to regional stability and global energy security, confirming the second hypothesis that their shared interests include sustainable energy access, geopolitical stability, and countering rival influences (Sargsyan, 2022).

3) The U.K.'s Security and Military Role in Supporting U.S. Deterrence Policies Globally

The U.K.'s security and military engagement in the Persian Gulf enables the U.S. to allocate resources toward deterrence strategies in other critical regions, specifically the South China Sea and Eastern Europe.

A) South China Sea

The South China Sea, a contested region rich in oil and gas reserves, is a focal point of U.S. efforts to counter Chinese influence. The U.K.'s role in securing the Persian Gulf allows the U.S. to redirect military and diplomatic resources to this theater, supporting stability and freedom of navigation (Vo et al., 2023).

B) Eastern Europe

In Eastern Europe, U.S. priorities center on deterring Russian aggression through NATO. The U.K.'s contributions in the Persian Gulf alleviate pressure on U.S. resources, enabling a stronger focus on bolstering NATO defenses and countering threats in the region (Stojčić, 2021).

This division of responsibilities yields mutual benefits:

- Global Energy Stability: Persian Gulf security ensures stable global oil and gas markets (Elsayed et al., 2023).
- Strengthened Bilateral Ties: The partnership reinforces the U.S.-U.K. special relationship (Quamar et al., 2023).
- Resource Efficiency: Shared responsibilities optimize resource allocation for both nations.

Conclusions

This study advances the scholarly understanding of energy security dynamics by offering a rigorous and comprehensive analysis of the strategic alignment between the United States and the United Kingdom in the Persian Gulf, a region of paramount geopolitical significance due to its extensive energy resources (Barnes, Jaffe, 2006). Through a systematic examination of the political, security, and military dimensions of their partnership, the research elucidates how these two nations synergistically leverage their collaboration to promote regional stability, mitigate multifaceted threats, and ensure uninterrupted access to critical energy reserves (Saleh, Yazdanshenas, 2024). The findings illuminate the intricate nexus between energy security and broader geopolitical and economic imperatives, providing nuanced insights into the interplay of great power politics in energy-abundant regions.

The analysis reveals that the U.S.-U.K. partnership is not merely a reactive mechanism but a proactive strategic framework designed to address both immediate and long-term challenges in the Persian Gulf. Politically, their alignment fosters diplomatic initi-

atives that counter threats such as terrorism and Iran's regional influence, while security and military cooperation ensures the protection of vital energy transit routes like the Strait of Hormuz, thereby safeguarding global energy markets (Chitsazian, Sadeghiaval, 2023). These efforts underscore the critical role of coordinated transatlantic strategies in maintaining stability within a volatile region, highlighting the broader implications for international security architecture.

From a policy perspective, this study offers actionable implications for decision-makers in the United States and the United Kingdom. It emphasizes the necessity of sustaining a cohesive approach to energy security in the Persian Gulf, particularly amidst escalating challenges, including regional conflicts, terrorism, and the growing influence of rival powers such as Iran and China (Pollack, Saab, 2017). Furthermore, the research advocates for a balanced integration of traditional energy security measures with emerging global priorities, notably the transition to renewable energy and the mitigation of climate change impacts (Ansari, 2022). By embedding sustainable practices into their energy policies – such as promoting cleaner extraction technologies and reducing carbon footprints – both nations can secure long-term energy resilience while addressing pressing environmental concerns, aligning with global sustainability goals (Ansari, 2022).

For the broader international community, this study highlights the pivotal role of energy security in shaping global stability and economic prosperity. It advocates for enhanced multilateral cooperation to tackle energy-related challenges, emphasizing the need to mitigate risks of supply disruptions through transparent dialogue and collaborative frameworks among energy producers and consumers (Koushki, Moslehi, 2019). Such initiatives can foster a more resilient and sustainable global energy future, reducing vulnerabilities to geopolitical shocks and promoting equitable access to resources.

In conclusion, this research not only enriches the academic discourse on energy security but also provides a strategic roadmap for policymakers navigating the complexities of great power competition in energy-rich regions. The U.S.-U.K. partnership in the Persian Gulf exemplifies the potential of coordinated action to address multifaceted global challenges, offering a model for international collaboration in pursuit of a stable and sustainable energy landscape.

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Współpraca Stanów Zjednoczonych Ameryki i Wielkiej Brytanii w strategii bezpieczeństwa energetycznego: Studium przypadku w Zatoce Perskiej

Streszczenie

Stany Zjednoczone (USA) i Wielka Brytania (UK), stali członkowie Rady Bezpieczeństwa Organizacji Narodów Zjednoczonych, utrzymują kluczowe partnerstwo w systemie międzynarodowym. Zatoka Perska, wyróżniająca się jako strategicznie istotny region ze względu na znaczące zasoby energetyczne, stanowi przykład ich wspólnych wysiłków na rzecz zapewnienia bezpieczeństwa energetycznego – kluczowej kwestii XXI wieku. Niniejsze badanie opiera się na jakościowej analizie treści w celu zbadania politycznego, bezpieczeństwa, militarnego oraz strategicznego wymiaru współpracy USA i Wielkiej Brytanii, przyjmując Zatokę Perską jako studium przypadku. Konkretnie, praca analizuje, jak te wymiary wspierają zrównoważone relacje między oboma państwami w kontekście bezpieczeństwa energetycznego w regionie. Główne pytanie badawcze brzmi: Jakie konkretne przesłanki polityczne, bezpieczeństwa i wojskowe definiują strategiczną współpracę między USA a UK w Zatoce Perskiej? Powiązane pod-pytania dotyczą ich wspólnych globalnych interesów w politykach bezpie-

czeństwa energetycznego w tym regionie oraz oceniają wkład UK w bezpieczeństwo i działania wojskowe w Zatoce Perskiej jako mechanizm wspierający strategię odstraszenia USA w takich obszarach, jak Morze Południowochińskie i Europa Wschodnia. Wyniki wskazują, że głównym celem USA i UK jest zwiększenie bezpieczeństwa, wpływów i autorytetu, co znajduje odzwierciedlenie w ich strategiach bezpieczeństwa energetycznego. Strategie te kładą nacisk na połączenie polityk mających na celu zarządzanie globalnymi zasobami i rynkami energetycznymi, przy czym kontrola nad międzynarodowymi szlakami tranzytowymi jest uznawana za podstawowe narzędzie realizacji celów narodowych. W rezultacie, poprzez strategiczną rewizję i dostosowanie, USA i UK nawiązały silne więzi z kluczowymi dostawcami energii, zwłaszcza z Arabią Saudyjską, pokonując różnice ideologiczne w celu uzyskania korzyści związanych z energią. Te relacje znacząco kształtują ramy bezpieczeństwa i strategię obu narodów, szczególnie w Zatoce Perskiej.

Słowa kluczowe: Stany Zjednoczone (USA), Wielka Brytania (UK), bezpieczeństwo energetyczne, Zatoka Perska, strategiczne współdziałanie

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