

**REASSESSING MIDDLE POWERS:
A CASE STUDY OF ESTABLISHED MIDDLE POWERS AND
THE IMPERATIVE FOR CONCEPTUAL REVISION**

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Abstract. This paper critically reassesses the concept of middle powers in the context of evolving global dynamics, including the recent recognition of Kazakhstan as a middle power. Traditionally associated with specific behavioral traits such as seeking multilateral resolutions and adopting compromise positions, middle powers face a disconnect between theoretical frameworks and their dynamic behaviors. The waning influence of the U.S.-led order and the persistence of outdated descriptors underscore the imperative for reconceptualizing middle power theory. Analysis of traditional and emerging middle powers, including Canada, Australia, Japan, South Korea, Brazil, India, and Kazakhstan, exposes a disparity challenging current perspectives. The UAE, with its strategic location and growing influence in regional and global affairs, also presents an intriguing case study in the evolving landscape of middle power dynamics. Despite its relatively small size and recent emergence on the global stage, the UAE has rapidly established itself as a significant player in various spheres, including diplomacy, trade, security, and development assistance. Drawing on theoretical frameworks of middle-power diplomacy from the UAE's foreign policy initiatives, this study highlights the unique characteristics and contributions of the UAE as a middle power in shaping regional and global dynamics. By analysing its strategic alliances, economic diversification efforts, and soft power projection, this article provides insights into the evolving role of middle powers in contemporary international relations.

The paper advocates for a comprehensive revision that embraces modern realities, dynamic assessment, inclusive perspectives, global cooperation, and contextual sensitivity. By incorporating the experiences and actions of diverse middle powers into a revised framework, scholars and policymakers can better understand the nuanced roles and contributions of middle powers in shaping international relations. This reconceptualization aims to capture the complexities of contemporary international relations, providing a valuable analytical tool for understanding the roles and contributions of middle powers in an ever-changing world.

Keywords: middle power, reconceptualization, multilateralism, global changes, regional influence, international relations, Kazakhstan, security

Basic provisions

This study delves into a diverse array of states self-identifying as middle powers and uncovers a disparity, challenging the utility of middle power theory in interpreting their actions, prompting a reconsideration of the concept. Shifting global dynamics, notably the weakening of the US-led order, highlight the need for a revised conceptual framework. In the realm of international political theory, reconceptualization emerges as a crucial process, acknowledging the historical contingency of concepts. Some geographic descriptors such as Far East, Horn of

Africa, Levant are still used but may be considered somewhat outdated or carry historical connotations or even deemed obsolete [1]. These descriptors, while still in use, may be viewed as lacking the descriptive precision or relevance to current affairs.

This paper advocates for the reconceptualization of the middle power, emphasizing its historical inseparability from its mid-20th-century origins. There is a need for a theoretical shift to align perspectives with the contemporary international structure [2]. Middle-sized states, in adapting to evolving dynamics, must continually reassess the middle power concept. Unlike great powers, middle-sized states lack the capacity to establish global frameworks and must navigate the changing system accordingly [3].

Introduction

The dynamics of global concepts necessitate periodic reassessment to align with contemporary realities. While there is a degree of conceptual ambiguity associated with the term middle power, these nations are most commonly recognized by their international conduct, often referred to as middle power states. This involves a proclivity for seeking multilateral resolutions to global challenges, a willingness to adopt compromise positions in international conflicts, and an inclination to adhere to principles of good international citizenship to inform their diplomatic endeavors [4]. Despite attempts at reform, these assumptions strongly persist, creating a disconnection between the theoretical framework and the evolving behavior of middle power states.

The call for reconceptualization is rooted in the concept's observed limitations in distinguishing or interpreting contemporary middle power states. By analyzing cases of various representative middle powers, including traditional ones like Canada, Australia, and Japan, the paper arrives at the conclusion that a reconceptualization is necessary for a more dynamic framework. The deliberate selection of representative states serves the purpose of assessing the analytical utility of the middle power concept. Furthermore, by including states such as South Korea, Brazil, India, and the recently recognized Kazakhstan, the paper aims to present a diverse range of cases that collectively illustrate the concept's applicability across different regions.

The UAE's journey towards becoming a middle-power state can be traced back to its formation in 1971. Initially reliant on oil revenues, the country has diversified its economy and pursued a proactive foreign policy aimed at fostering stability, economic development, and cooperation within the Gulf region and beyond. Over the years, the UAE has cultivated strategic partnerships with both Western powers and emerging economies, positioning itself as a bridge between East and West.

The paper concludes by pointing out that the middle power concept falls short in explaining the behavior of mid-sized states effectively. It suggests a need to rethink and redefine this concept. This process not only challenges existing ideas but

also opens opportunities for fresh and creative theoretical connections. The aim is to better understand how mid-sized states operate on the global stage by breaking away from traditional perspectives and embracing innovative approaches.

Description of materials and methods

The qualitative component of this study involved a thorough review of existing academic literature and policy documents to trace the evolution of the middle power concept in international relations theory and practice. This extensive literature review targeted peer-reviewed journal articles, books, conference proceedings, and white papers from both governmental and authoritative non-governmental organizations. Focus was placed on identifying shifts in the perception and strategic behaviors of traditional middle powers like Canada and Australia, as well as emerging middle powers such as Kazakhstan and India.

Additionally, the study analyzed archival material including speeches, official foreign policy statements, and international agreements to gauge how states themselves articulate their middle power status and strategies. Media sources, such as reputable international news outlets and official press releases from international bodies (e.g., the United Nations, World Trade Organization), provided contemporary insights into the actions and global engagements of middle powers. This content analysis helped in understanding the alignment or disparity between theoretical frameworks and actual state behaviors on the international stage.

For the quantitative aspect, this research employed statistical analysis to objectively measure and compare the capabilities and global influence of states classified as middle powers. Key indicators included economic metrics (GDP, trade volumes), military expenditures, demographic data (population size), and diplomatic activity (number of embassies, participation in international organizations, and treaty signings). Data were sourced from verified international databases such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, United Nations databases, and global military expenditure databases maintained by SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute).

Data were analyzed using statistical software to identify patterns and correlations between a state's resources and its international behaviors and roles. Cluster analysis was particularly utilized to group countries into categories based on similar characteristics and capabilities, providing a statistical basis for redefining middle power criteria in contemporary geopolitical terms.

As such, the research adopted an integrative approach, combining both qualitative and quantitative data to form a comprehensive understanding of the middle power phenomenon. This mixed-methods approach allowed for triangulation, enhancing the reliability and validity of findings by corroborating evidence from multiple sources and methods. It also facilitated a deeper exploration of how middle powers adapt their strategies within the shifting dynamics of global politics, highlighting the nuances and complexities that purely quantitative or qualitative methods might overlook. Together, these methodologies enabled a

critical examination of the middle power concept, challenging traditional views and proposing a revised framework that reflects the complexities of contemporary international relations.

All research methods were conducted under strict academic ethical guidelines. Care was taken to ensure the confidentiality and anonymity of sources where necessary, and all secondary data used were properly cited to acknowledge original authors and sources.

Results

Within the realm of International Relations (IR) theory, defining the characteristics of a middle power has been a subject of ongoing debate. Despite the lack of consensus, the prevailing theoretical approaches can be categorized into three perspectives: functional, behavioral, and hierarchical. The functional perspective contends that a nation qualifies as a middle power if it possesses the capacity to influence specific areas and functions in global affairs. For instance, Canadian diplomat Hume Wrong in 1942 outlined three functional criteria—extent of involvement, interest, and ability—that underscored Canada's middle power status [5].

The behavioral perspective, on the other hand, defines a country as a middle power based on the roles it plays or self-identifies with in international relations. According to Cooper and his colleagues, characteristics such as prioritizing multilateral solutions, adopting compromise positions in disputes, and embodying principles of good international citizenship typify the behavior of a middle power [6].

The third approach, the hierarchical perspective, employs standards related to a state's capabilities to rank and categorize nations. Medium-range capabilities become the defining criterion for middle powers, while great and weak powers undergo similar categorization based on this perspective. This approach often utilizes statistical indices, including territorial size, GDP, trade volume, foreign currency reserves, population, and military personnel count, to categorize countries hierarchically.

In examining the various types of middle powers, a distinction emerges between traditional and emerging middle powers. Traditional middle powers, represented by nations such as Canada, Australia, and Japan, have historically held significant roles in international affairs, wielding established global influence. Conversely, emerging middle powers, exemplified by South Korea, Brazil, UAE and India, are gaining prominence due to factors like rapid economic growth and shifting geopolitical dynamics [7].

Regional middle powers concentrate their influence within specific geographic spheres, actively shaping regional dynamics and contributing significantly to stability and development. Functional middle powers showcase excellence in particular domains, be it diplomacy, peacekeeping, or economic cooperation, thereby exerting influence within specialized areas. Adaptive middle

powers, characterized by flexibility and responsiveness to changing global circumstances, engage actively in addressing emerging challenges and contribute to the evolution of international norms.

As the theoretical landscape continues to evolve, there is a heightened emphasis on the role of middle powers in multilateralism, where they make significant contributions to cooperative approaches in addressing global challenges. This includes their active participation in global governance structures and institutions, reflecting a growing recognition of their vital role in shaping the international order [8].

Distinguishing states within the middle power category has proven to be a complex task. Scholars from the late 1960s onward revamped their methods, embracing new quantitative approaches to define middle powers hierarchically. The goal was to incorporate the study of middle powers into realist and liberal theoretical frameworks, expanding coverage geographically and thematically, although Eurocentric perspectives persisted.

Traditional middle powers like Canada and Australia consistently ranked in the top 10 or 20 in global lists, making the term "middle" puzzling in a world with 195 states in 2024. Additionally, states closely ranked to these middle powers, such as Russia, Brazil, or Iran, were rarely acknowledged as middle powers by policymakers or academics.

Similarly, states with strong quantitative claims, like Saudi Arabia or Pakistan and Nigeria, were frequently excluded. Subsequently, the behavioral definition emerged as the predominant approach to identifying middle powers and remains so today, despite facing significant criticism for its empirical utility [9].

Limitations of existing theoretical perspectives. While the concept of middle power proves instrumental for comprehending phenomena in international relations (IR), the current theoretical perspectives on middle power approaches display limitations in their explanatory capacity.

Critiques of the three prevailing perspectives—functional, behavioral, and hierarchical—highlight inherent theoretical weaknesses. To begin, these viewpoints face censure for their narrow concentration on specific facets and issues within international relations, particularly within the liberal-leaning political contexts of Western nations. These contexts accentuate the potential for cooperation among states, aiming to elucidate the roles of middle powers within this cooperative framework. For instance, behaviors ascribed to middle powers by the behavioral perspective encompass serving as catalysts, facilitators, and managers in diplomatic initiatives, collaborative activities, and institution-building, respectively. Notably, the functional and behavioral perspectives disregard realist concerns such as survival, security, and conflict, deeming them less decisive in defining the middle power concept.

Furthermore, despite their distinctive approaches, all three perspectives presume that individual state-level factors—ranging from a country's performance in specific functional areas to its behavior and quantifiable capabilities—stand as the

primary determinants of middle power status. This suggests that the established middle power perspectives presuppose individual-level features as the sole criteria for ascertaining whether a country meets the conditions of a middle power.

Discussion

Contemporary states no longer reflect the core theoretical propositions of the middle power concept. Looking at the traditional types of middle powers, such as Canada, Australia, and Japan, the conventional classification as middle powers may not entirely capture the nuanced nature of their global roles. These three countries challenge this categorization in several aspects. Economically, Canada and Australia's resource-rich economies, fuelled by natural wealth, transcend the typical economic strength associated with middle powers. Their considerable global influence challenges conventional perceptions. Additionally, in terms of military capabilities, both nations actively participate in international operations, surpassing the anticipated role of middle powers and showcasing a level of engagement typically associated with larger nations. Moreover, diplomatically, their involvement in global forums like the G7 and G20 demonstrates a proactive approach that exceeds the more passive roles traditionally ascribed to middle powers. Furthermore, their diversified partnerships challenge the idea of middle powers relying solely on alliances for global influence.

Japan, in a similar vein, provides another example where a nation's economic and military capabilities extend beyond the conventional middle power framework. The Global Firepower (GFP) index, which provides a unique analytical display of data concerning modern military powers, denotes Japan as a Top 10 global military power (2024 Military Strength Ranking). Finally, their regional leadership roles in North America, the Asia-Pacific, and Europe add another layer to their global impact, further complicating the conventional understanding of middle power dynamics.

South Korea, Brazil, and India present multifaceted challenges to the conventional concept of middle power, exhibiting characteristics that align with both great powers and smaller nations.

Starting with South Korea, its advanced and technologically driven economy places it closer to great power status. The nation's global economic influence, particularly in industries like electronics and automobiles, challenges the typical profile associated with middle powers. Simultaneously, South Korea's smaller geopolitical footprint and limited military assertiveness position it more in line with the characteristics of smaller nations.

In the case of Brazil, its sheer size and abundant natural resources defy the expectations of a middle power. The country's expansive geography and significant agricultural and mineral wealth align it more closely with the scale typically associated with great powers. However, challenges such as internal economic disparities and institutional weaknesses also place Brazil in the realm of smaller powers, revealing a complex positioning that transcends traditional categories.

India, with its massive population and growing economy, showcases attributes of both great and middle powers. While its demographic and economic strength suggest a trajectory towards great power status, India's regional and global influence is still evolving. The nation's nuanced role in international affairs places it in a transitional phase between middle and great power status, with certain elements resembling characteristics of both.

As for the UAE, one of its key pillars of the middle-power strategy is its active engagement in diplomatic initiatives aimed at resolving regional conflicts and promoting peace and security. The UAE has played a constructive role in mediating disputes in the Middle East, including the Yemeni civil war and the rift within the Gulf Cooperation Council. Furthermore, the UAE's participation in international peacekeeping missions and its support for humanitarian efforts have bolstered its reputation as a responsible and proactive global actor. In addition to its diplomatic endeavors, the UAE has emerged as a major economic hub with a diverse and robust economy. The country's strategic investments in sectors such as finance, tourism, aviation, and renewable energy have not only fueled its own growth but have also positioned the UAE as a key player in global commerce. Through initiatives like the Dubai Expo 2020 and the Abu Dhabi Economic Vision 2030, the UAE aims to further solidify its position as a center for innovation and trade in the 21st century. Central to the UAE's middle-power strategy is its utilization of soft power to enhance its global influence. The country has invested heavily in cultural diplomacy, hosting world-class events such as the Louvre Abu Dhabi and the Abu Dhabi Film Festival, which showcase its rich heritage and cultural diversity. Moreover, the UAE's emphasis on education, healthcare, and sustainable development has earned it admiration and respect on the international stage, bolstering its soft power credentials.

In summary, South Korea, Brazil, the UAE and India challenge the middle power concept through their economic strength and global influence, bringing them closer to the realm of great powers. Simultaneously, various factors, such as limited military assertiveness or internal challenges, also place them in proximity to the characteristics associated with smaller nations. The complex positioning of these countries underscores the evolving nature of global power dynamics, defying neat categorizations.

Kazakhstan's recent recognition as a middle power has positioned it as a notable subject for examining contemporary diplomatic practices. The country has entered the category of middle powers alongside Turkey, Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kazakhstan, India, Indonesia, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, Mexico, and Brazil, as highlighted in a compilation of articles published by the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) on January 23. According to the authors, middle powers are influential players in international politics. Experts argue that, despite the diverse nature of these nations, they share three commonalities: 1) *primary focus on economic development*; 2) *a strong emphasis on security and stability*, 3) *an aspiration for strategic autonomy*.

According to SWP experts, Kazakhstan meets the criteria of a middle power by prioritizing economic development and strategically utilizing its position between East and West. Andrea Schmitz, an expert on Central Asia from SWP, emphasizes Kazakhstan's attention to security, particularly in the context of instability in its southern neighbors. The country's well-known strategy of multi-vectorism, characterized by friendly relationships with various nations, is viewed as essential for achieving strategic autonomy. Despite the influence exerted by China and Russia due to geographical proximity, Kazakhstan maintains a diplomatic balance, actively cooperating with both Eastern and Western partners. The article underscores Kazakhstan's diplomatic significance, highlighting its collaboration with the United States, European countries, and participation in regional initiatives such as the EAEU, "One Belt, One Road," and the Global Gate initiative. Schmitz also notes the challenges and opportunities presented by the conflict in Ukraine, emphasizing its role in encouraging Kazakhstan to diversify its economy.

While the German Institute for International and Security Affairs positions Kazakhstan as a middle power, it is essential to recognize that the conventional understanding of middle power might need further revision, and Kazakhstan may not neatly align with the standard concept. The SWP acknowledges Kazakhstan's strategic positioning, economic aspirations, and diplomatic engagements, yet some complexities challenge the traditional criteria.

Firstly, Kazakhstan's dependence on oil production for its economy, as highlighted by Andrea Schmitz, reveals a significant vulnerability. This reliance on "easy money" poses challenges for economic diversification, and the country's ability to transition to a more sustainable economic model might impact its classification as a middle power. Additionally, while Kazakhstan actively engages with both Eastern and Western powers, the depth of its influence in major international decisions, such as its stance on the conflict in Ukraine, might be perceived as less assertive compared to conventional middle powers. These nuances indicate that the standard criteria for middle powers might require refinement. Kazakhstan's unique challenges and strategies underscore the need for a more nuanced and flexible understanding of middle power dynamics. As global geopolitics evolve, acknowledging the diverse ways in which nations exert influence and navigate international relations is crucial for an accurate classification of countries within the middle power framework.

Advocating for the reconsideration of the middle power concept does not seek to diminish the substantial contributions of those who have played a pivotal role in developing and maintaining the concept over the years. The term "middle power" authentically captured a vital dimension of the behaviors and perspectives exhibited by various states. To enhance the middle power concept and ensure its relevance in contemporary global dynamics, a comprehensive revision is essential. This revision may rely on:

Incorporating modern realities: Updating the criteria for middle power status to reflect the current geopolitical landscape and considering factors such as

economic influence, technological prowess, and diplomatic agility in addition to traditional metrics.

Dynamic assessment: Recognizing the fluid nature of international relations and acknowledging that states may transition between different power categories over time, which would lead to developing a framework that allows for flexibility in classification.

Inclusive perspectives: Broadening the scope of middle power attributes to encompass a more diverse range of behaviors and roles played by states in addressing global challenges. Emphasizing adaptability and collaboration in addition to historical criteria.

Global cooperation: Emphasizing the role of middle powers in fostering international cooperation, peacekeeping, and addressing transnational issues, as well as highlighting their contributions to global governance structures and institutions.

Contextual sensitivity: Taking into account the distinct regional and global environments within which states function, customize the middle power concept to be responsive to the particular challenges and opportunities encountered by individual nations.

By undertaking such a comprehensive revision, the middle power concept can be revitalized to better capture the complexities of contemporary international relations and the diverse ways in which states exert influence on the global stage. This approach ensures that the concept remains a valuable analytical tool for understanding the roles and contributions of states in an ever-changing world.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the evolving dynamics of global concepts, particularly the concept of middle powers, necessitate a critical reassessment to align theoretical frameworks with contemporary realities. The term "middle power diplomacy" has long been associated with nations demonstrating a proclivity for seeking multilateral resolutions, adopting compromise positions, and adhering to principles of 'good international citizenship' in their diplomatic endeavors. However, despite attempts at reform, these assumptions persist, resulting in a disconnection between theoretical frameworks and the dynamic behaviors of middle power states.

This study has undertaken a comprehensive exploration of states that are identified as middle powers, revealing a significant disparity that challenges the utility of current middle power theory in interpreting their actions. The shifting global dynamics, particularly the weakening of the US-led order, emphasize the urgent need for a revised conceptual framework. The process of reconceptualization is acknowledged as crucial, recognizing the historical contingency of concepts and the inadequacy of some geographic descriptors that may be considered outdated or obsolete. Advocating for the reconceptualization of the middle power concept, this research emphasizes its historical inseparability from its mid-20th-century origins. The call for a theoretical shift is underlined by the necessity for middle-sized states to continually reassess their roles in the evolving global system. Unlike great powers,

middle-sized states lack the capacity to establish global frameworks and must navigate the changing system accordingly.

The limitations of existing theoretical perspectives, namely the functional, behavioral, and hierarchical approaches, are evident. Critiques highlight their narrow concentration on specific facets within international relations, particularly within the liberal-leaning political contexts of Western nations. The paper argues that the established perspectives presuppose individual-level features as the sole criteria for determining middle power status, neglecting realist concerns such as survival, security, and conflict.

Examining various types of middle powers, including traditional and emerging middle powers, as well as regional, functional, and adaptive middle powers, this study reveals the complex and multifaceted nature of these categorizations. The evolving theoretical landscape emphasizes the crucial role of middle powers in multilateralism, where they contribute significantly to cooperative approaches in addressing global challenges. The examination of traditional middle powers such as Canada, Australia, and Japan challenge conventional classifications, particularly in terms of economic strength, global influence, military capabilities, and diplomatic roles. Similarly, South Korea, Brazil, the UAE and India present multifaceted challenges to the traditional concept of middle power, defying neat categorizations and showcasing attributes of both great and smaller nations. The inclusion of Kazakhstan in the list of middle power nations, as recognized by the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), adds a nuanced perspective to the discussion. While Kazakhstan meets certain criteria for middle power status, such as prioritizing economic development and strategically utilizing its geopolitical position, unique challenges and strategies suggest that the standard criteria for middle powers might require refinement.

The conclusion underscores the need for a more nuanced and flexible understanding of middle power dynamics. As global geopolitics evolve, acknowledging the diverse ways in which nations exert influence and navigate international relations is crucial for an accurate classification of countries within the middle power framework. The imperative for conceptual revision is clear, urging scholars and policymakers to embrace fresh and creative theoretical connections that better capture the intricate realities of mid-sized states on the global stage. In doing so, a more dynamic and adaptable framework for comprehending middle powers in the contemporary geopolitical landscape can be developed.

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ОРТА ДЕРЖАВАЛАР ТҰЖЫРЫМДАМАСЫН ҚАЙТА БАҒАЛАУ: «ОРТА КҮШ» МЕМЛЕКЕТТЕРІНІҢ ҚҰРЫЛУ МЫСАЛДАРЫ ЖӘНЕ ТҰЖЫРЫМДАМАЛЫҚ ҚАЙТА ҚАРАСТЫРУ ҚАЖЕТТІЛІГІ

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Аңдатпа. Бұл мақалада жаһандық динамиканың дамушы контекстінде орта державалар тұжырымдамасы сыни тұрғыдан қайта бағаланады, оның ішінде Қазақстанның жақында орта держава ретінде танылуы қараластырылған. Дәстүрлі түрде көпжақты шешімдерді іздеумен және компромисстік ұстанымдарды қабылдаумен байланысты орта державалар теориялық құрылымдар мен олардың динамикалық мінез-құлқы арасындағы алшақтыққа тап болады. АҚШ бастаған режимнің ықпалының әлсіреуі және ескірген дескрипторлардың сақталуы орта билік теориясын қайта қарастыру қажеттілігін көрсетеді. Канаданы, Австралияны, Жапонияны, Оңтүстік Кореяны, Бразилияны, Үндістанды және Қазақстанды қоса алғанда, дәстүрлі және жаңа орта державаларды талдау қазіргі перспективаларға күмән келтіретін теңсіздіктерді көрсетеді. Біріккен Араб Әмірліктері өзінің стратегиялық орналасуымен және аймақтық және жаһандық істердегі өсіп келе жатқан ықпалымен, сонымен қатар орта қуат динамикасының өзгертін ландшафтындағы қызықты жағдайды зерттеуді ұсынады. Салыстырмалы түрде шағын көлеміне және әлемдік аренада жақында пайда болғанына қарамастан, БАӘ өзін дипломатия, сауда, қауіпсіздік және дамуға көмекті қоса алғанда, әртүрлі салаларда маңызды ойыншы ретінде тез

танытты. Орташа күш дипломатиясының теориялық негіздеріне және БАӘ-нің сыртқы саяси бастамаларының эмпирикалық дәлелдеріне сүйене отырып, бұл зерттеу елдің бірегей сипаттамалары мен аймақтық және жаһандық динамикасын қалыптастырудағы орта держава ретіндегі үлесін көрсетеді. Стратегиялық альянстарды, экономиканы әртарапандыру бойынша күш-жігерді және жұмсақ күшті болжауды талдай отырып, бұл мақала қазіргі халықаралық қатынастардағы орта державалардың өзгеретін рөлі туралы түсінік береді.

Әртүрлі орта державалардың тәжірибелері мен әрекеттерін қайта қаралған құрылымға қосу арқылы ғалымдар мен саясаткерлер орта державалардың халықаралық қатынастарды қалыптастырудағы нюансты рөлдері мен үлестерін жақсырақ түсіне алады. Мақалада заманауи шындықтарды, динамикалық бағалауды, инклюзивті перспективаларды, жаһандық ынтымақтастықты және контекстік сезімталдықты қамтитын жан-жақты шолу қажет. Бұл қайта концептуализация қазіргі заманғы халықаралық қатынастардың күрделілігін қамтуға бағытталған, үнемі өзгеріп отыратын әлемде орта державалардың рөлі мен үлесін түсіну үшін құнды аналитикалық құралды қамтамасыз етеді.

Тірек сөздер: орта күш, қайта концептуализация, көпжақтылық, жаһандық өзгерістер, аймақтық ықпал, халықаралық қатынастар, Қазақстан, қауіпсіздік

ПЕРЕОЦЕНКА КОНЦЕПЦИИ СРЕДНИХ ДЕРЖАВ: ПРИМЕРЫ ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ ГОСУДАРСТВ «СРЕДНЕЙ СИЛЫ» И НЕОБХОДИМОСТЬ КОНЦЕПТУАЛЬНОГО ПЕРЕСМОТРА

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Аннотация. В данной статье критически переоценивается концепция средних держав в контексте развивающейся глобальной динамики, включая недавнее признание Казахстана в качестве средней державы. Традиционно связанные с поиском многосторонних решений и принятием компромиссных позиций, средние державы сталкиваются с разрывом между теоретическими рамками и своим динамическим поведением. Ослабление влияния режима, возглавляемого США, и сохранение устаревших дескрипторов подчеркивают необходимость переосмысления теории средней власти. Анализ традиционных и новых средних держав, включая Канаду, Австралию, Японию, Южную Корею, Бразилию, Индию и Казахстан, выявляет неравенство, бросающее вызов нынешним перспективам. ОАЭ, с их стратегическим расположением и растущим влиянием в региональных и глобальных делах, также представляют собой интригующий пример в меняющемся ландшафте динамики средних держав. Несмотря на свои относительно небольшие размеры и недавнее появление на мировой арене, ОАЭ быстро зарекомендовали себя как важный игрок в различных сферах, включая дипломатию, торговлю, безопасность и помощь в целях развития. Опираясь на теоретические основы дипломатии средних держав и эмпирические данные внешнеполитических инициатив ОАЭ, это исследование подчеркивает уникальные характеристики и вклад страны как средней державы в формирование региональной и глобальной динамики. Анализируя стратегические альянсы, усилия по диверсификации экономики и проекцию мягкой силы, эта статья дает представление о меняющейся роли средних держав в современных международных отношениях.

Включив опыт и действия различных средних держав в пересмотренную структуру, ученые и политики смогут лучше понять нюансы роли и вклада средних держав в формирование международных отношений. В статье содержится призыв к всестороннему пересмотру, охватывающему современные реалии, динамическую оценку, инклюзивные перспективы, глобальное сотрудничество и контекстуальную чувствительность. Эта реконцептуализация призвана охватить сложности современных международных отношений, предоставляя ценный аналитический инструмент для понимания роли и вклада средних держав в постоянно меняющемся мире.

Ключевые слова: средняя держава, реконцептуализация, многосторонность, глобальные изменения, региональное влияние, международные отношения, Казахстан, безопасность

Статья поступила 14.05.2024.