

**Title of the Thesis** : Evolution of Saudi-Israeli Relations: Implications for Regional Order  
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## **Findings**

**Key Words** : Saudi Arabia, Israel, Normalisation, Iran, Palestine, Radical Islam, USA.

This research study explores the normalization of relations between Saudi Arabia and Israel and its implications for the regional order in West Asia and North Africa. The study notes a significant shift in Saudi-Israeli ties over the past decade, driven by a desire to counter Iran's influence and secure their respective interests in the region. While the Saudi monarchy has not officially recognized Israel, there have been unofficial initiatives to improve relations. The normalization process has the potential to provide economic benefits, such as trade and investment opportunities, for both countries.

However, the normalization process is not without risks. Anti-Israeli sentiments are prevalent among Arab populations, especially those mobilized by Islamist ideologies. The ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict and Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory further complicate the process. Many Arab countries do not recognize Israel as a legitimate state, adding to the potential for conflict.

The study finds that the normalization of relations between Saudi Arabia and Israel is closely tied to external factors, such as the US withdrawal from the region and Iran's ambitions. Both countries see a common adversary in Iran and share a desire to counter radical Islamist movements. Saudi Arabia's pragmatism and its history of mediating peace initiatives contribute to the normalization process.

The study also highlights cultural and developmental aspects of the Saudi-Israel relationship, with an emphasis on increased cooperation in areas such as economy, tourism, trade, technology, and military. For Israel, normalization would end its isolation and provide a cooperative atmosphere in the region.

The research examines various factors influencing the Saudi-Israel relationship, including the historical context of Islam and Judaism, the role of ideologies (Zionism & Wahhabism), and the need for a balance of power in the region. It emphasizes the importance of resolving the Palestinian issue before full normalization.

The study acknowledges that the normalization process faces opposition, including resistance from global Muslims, which could destabilize the region. The discourse of regional order involves KSA and Israel seeking to maintain a balance of power while countering the influence of Turkey & Iran.

In conclusion, the study suggests that resolving conflicts and addressing the Palestinian issue are crucial for the normalization process. Saudi Arabia's focus on economic diversification and openness indicates a shift away from strict religious interpretations. The future of Saudi Arabia and the region may depend on business, trade, and openness. While the normalization process has started, there are debates about its potential political impact and the region's development.