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## THE EFFORTS OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA THROUGH VISION 2030 TO REDUCE THE KINGDOM'S OIL DEPENDENCY AND ITS IMPACT ON THE MIDDLE EAST'S STABILITY

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### ABSTRACT

*Oil has become the most valuable natural resource for human and state survival. In response to the Kingdom's heavy reliance on oil, the de facto leader of Saudi Arabia, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman announced an ambitious vision to end their dependence on oil and hold an essential role in transforming Saudi Arabia's oil-based economy into a modern economy. This article is intended to examine Saudi Arabia's effort and progress to accomplish the ambitious goals that require society reform within itself. In addition, this study will also attempt to draw the linkage on how economic reformation by one specific country will affect its relations with the other states, which leads to favorable conditions in promoting peace. Thus, in consideration of this article's purposes, a theory introduced by neoliberalist Robert Keohane and Joseph S Nye called Complex Interdependence, and Endogenous Growth theory will be used in analyzing the willingness of Saudi Arabia to change its stance from being addicted to oil and having more cooperation with other states along with non-state actors as well. By developing its economy and citizens' livelihood, Saudi will attract more partners to achieve Vision 2030 goals and promote peace in the international system.*

**Keywords:** Saudi Arabia, Middle East, Vision 2030

## UPAYA KERAJAAN ARAB SAUDI MELALUI VISI 2030 UNTUK MENGURANGI KETERGANTUNGAN MINYAK KERAJAAN DAN DAMPAKNYA TERHADAP STABILITAS TIMUR TENGAH

### ABSTRAK

Minyak telah menjadi sumber daya alam nomor satu yang paling berharga bagi kelangsungan hidup manusia bahkan negara. Dalam menanggapi ketergantungan kerajaan yang besar pada minyak, pemimpin de facto Arab Saudi, Putra Mahkota Mohammed bin Salman mengumumkan visi ambisius untuk mengakhiri ketergantungan mereka pada minyak dan memegang peran penting untuk mengubah ekonomi berbasis minyak Arab Saudi menjadi ekonomi yang lebih modern. Artikel ini dimaksudkan untuk mengkaji upaya dan kemajuan Arab Saudi untuk mencapai tujuan ambisiusnya yang juga membutuhkan reformasi sosial masyarakat Arab Saudi. Selain itu, penelitian ini juga akan mencoba untuk menarik keterkaitan bagaimana pembangunan ekonomi oleh satu negara tertentu akan mempengaruhi hubungannya dengan negara lain yang akan mengarah pada kondisi yang lebih kondusif dalam mempromosikan perdamaian. Dengan demikian, dengan mempertimbangkan tujuan artikel ini, sebuah teori yang diperkenalkan oleh neoliberalis Robert Keohane dan Joseph S Nye yang disebut Interdependensi Kompleks dan Pertumbuhan Endogen akan digunakan dalam menganalisis keinginan Arab Saudi untuk mengubah pendiriannya dari kecanduan minyak dan lebih banyak bekerja sama dengan negara-negara lain serta aktor non-negara. Dengan mengembangkan ekonomi, menciptakan lingkungan yang jauh lebih baik untuk kemajuan sumber daya manusia, Saudi akan menarik lebih banyak mitra untuk mencapai tujuan Visi 2030 dan mempromosikan perdamaian dalam sistem internasional.

**Kata Kunci:** Arab Saudi, Timur Tengah, Vision 2030

## INTRODUCTION

Our earth is blessed with abundant natural resources ranging from biodiversity and non-biological diversity resources such as water, air, stone, oil, metal, natural gas. These natural resources are blessings that humans can use to continue their lives. At the same time, natural resources could also become a curse to some people or regions when humans fight over natural resources (Wattimena, 2020). In general, natural resources, which always cause conflicts between people and even between countries are natural resources that cannot be renewed, like oil, metal, gold, and natural gas. Consequently, it causes competition and often leads to civil war and war between countries in a specific region.

The Middle East, also known as The Land of the Prophets, has a significant role in providing the world's oil supply and making the Arabian Gulf a valuable region globally. Nevertheless, the abundant oil has become a double-edged sword among Middle East countries as it creates regional rivalry and changes the relations map in the region (Wattimena, 2020). The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), which is considered as the regional leader of the Arabian Gulf, holds a crucial position in determining the stability of the Middle East along with its regional rival, Iran, through their proxy war. The rivalry between the two countries and the Middle East instability has deteriorated with external intervention by the United States of America in the region through its petro-alignment relations with Saudi Arabia, the biggest oil producer in the region (Yom, 2020). With Iran's anti-Western sentiment, the existence of the US in the region is clearly considered as a threat for Iran to achieve regional hegemony. On the other hand, the presence of the US also creates an adjacent relation with KSA through their *quid pro quo* arrangement where the US will protect the Kingdom's regime from Iranian

threat by offering security support in exchange for Saudi Arabia's oil (Kim, 2019). This kind of prominence provided by the US has made the KSA make its oil become their political 'weapon' and main revenue to achieve regional hegemony, which means, in reality, instead of utilizing and focusing the oil resource on advancing its domestic economy, KSA was put their focus on fulfilling US oil interest with the concept of 'oil for security' (O'Brien, 2020). Therefore, we knew that the Middle East oil, specifically Saudi Arabia's oil, has not only transformed the Gulf into a wealthy region but also established the region as the Western Lake as well (Banerjee, 2020).

Too much dependence on oil has created another serious problem for KSA's domestic economy, even to its national security. The unstable and unpredictable oil price will hinder its economic productivity from developing. Aware of the threat of too much reliance on oil has made the Crown Prince of KSA, Mohammed bin Salman, as the *de facto* leader of KSA, has navigated the kingdom in a new ambitious blueprint, Vision 2030 that was released in 2016 to end the Kingdom's 'addiction' on oil (Government of Saudi Arabia, 2016). Accordingly, through the release of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, there are significant changes within the domestic life of Saudi Arabia and more or less also affects Saudi's relations with other countries as well as the security condition in the Middle East region. Based on these preceding cases and evidence, we knew that conflict and peace could be shaped by the economic interest (Vernon, 2015).

Consequently, in this research, the writer will discuss about how does Saudi Arabia government makes efforts to deal with Kingdom's oil dependency and its impact towards the Middle East's stability. With the intent and purposes of this research, it was designed to broaden the reader's

knowledge on how nature resource and economic interests could affect the sustainability of a country and could reshape the stability and it would lead in promoting peace and prosperity in the international community. To answer the main discussion on how does KSA government make efforts to deal with Kingdom's oil dependency through Vision 2030, endogenous growth theory will be used in analyzing the efforts that KSA has made to free itself from addiction to oil by diversifying their economy. Emerged in the 1980s, the endogenous growth theory has differentiated and challenged the neoclassical growth theory (Romer, 1997). Endogenous growth theory argues that the economic growth of a country is formed as the outcome of internal processes. Notably, the proponent of endogenous growth believes that the improvement within the internal/domestic of a country will lead to economic growth and development, which will attract and foster more investments and innovation towards human capital for their prosperity. Therefore, good natural resource management, technology development, and skilled human capital are considered essential in the economic development of a country (Juhro & Trisnanto, 2018).

Moreover, another theory propounded by Robert Keohane and Joseph S Nye in their work titled "Power and Interdependence: World Politics in Transition" in the late 1970s, theory of complex interdependence will also be used in analyzing the impact of KSA economic reform on their relations with other partners both state and non-state actors which will lead into the establishing more favorable condition for KSA and the Gulf region as well. Keohane and Nye argue that in today's era, international relations has changed and become more interdependent with one another mainly in economic relations. According to this theory, states seek to expand their cooperation to fulfill

their common interest which will create prosperity and stability in the international system (Rana, 2015). From the complex interdependence theorist point of view, if one country's relations, particularly in economics, increased, the use of military forces and power balancing will decrease. Moreover, Keohane and Nye also argued that if the states have been in the 'interdependence' situation particularly in the economic field, they would likely avoid war and it will lead to peace as the states find that going to war is costly (Keohane & Nye, 1987).

Called as 'the Land of the Two Holy Mosques' has made Saudi Arabia's presence in the world, especially among Islamic states considered as the leader or the representative of the Islamic world. According to Sours (1991) in his study, there are two national symbols that Saudi Arabia has as the emerging regional leader in the Middle East. The first one is the royal family and the second one is the birthplace of Islam. Moreover, Thomas G Cardinali and Morgan L.A Murray in their study entitled "The Sunni-Shia Political Struggle between Iran and Saudi Arabia" stated that as the largest oil production and petroleum exporter in the world, Saudi Arabia holds a significant role in influencing the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), which affecting the member states of OPEC prefer taking the side of Saudi Arabia instead with Iran (Cardinali & Murray, 2013). Thus, all policies or choices that Saudi Arabia has made will inevitably affect the Middle East stability in the region (Berti & Guzansky, 2014). With those capabilities, Saudi Arabia has turned as the dominant country in the region and performed as the connector between the Middle East and the United States, which means Saudi Arabia has become a *de facto* spokesman for the Arab world. US former president, Sir George W. Bush, has stated that whoever leads

economics and dominantly in the region in the new world order will have close relations with the US (Sours, 1991).

According to Tzemprin et al. (2015) through his study, the origin of the instability in the Middle East was caused by the regional rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia in the term of difference sectarianism and ideology, which led to the geopolitics of the Arabian Gulf region were determined by the rivalry between these two countries as the superpower countries in the region (Tzemprin et al., 2015). On the other hand, Cardinali et al. (2013), Banerjee (2020), and Levy (1971) argue that the Middle East oil has a crucial role in creating instability in the region since it gives wealth and prosperity for all the Gulf countries which lead to competition. Back in the era of the Cold War, oil has created what has been called as Petro-alignment where's the great power states like the United States, Britain, and the Soviet Union offering security support to oil states' if they allow and provide oil for the great power states (Kim, 2019).

Correspondingly with its crucial role, two superpower countries in the region – Iran and Saudi Arabia – started competing with each other to seek and spread their authority and influence through their oil power as whoever controls the oil will have a more significant influence in the region (Wattimena, 2020). Moreover, oil power has changed Iran and Saudi Arabia relations, especially after the oil revolution happened (Levy, 1971). The instability in the Middle East in the modern era has been exacerbated by the intervention from the US since they need to pursue their oil interest by protecting and supporting Saudi Arabia that was justified by Carter Doctrine (Cardinali & Murray, 2013; Yom, 2020). Iran perceives the relations between these two countries as a threat to their security, by doing so, Iran seeks the balance over the US-Saudi Arabia alliance by developing Iranian nuclear power

(Whitcher, 2005). The Iranian nuclear program has escalated Iran – Saudi Arabia tension as Saudi Arabia perceived the nuclear program could endanger its security and worries that the US might perceive Iran as the Middle East regional supremacy (Steinberg, 2014). Moreover, Iran's massive cyber-attack towards Saudi Aramco – Saudi Arabia oil company – also worsened the tension and instability in the Middle East.

Based on the aforementioned previous studies, the gap that the writer will try to fill in through this research is how Saudi Arabia, who perceived as the leader and held crucial role in the Arabian Gulf region will shift their reliance on oil through Vision 2030 to restore their national security along with the stability in the region.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

In analyzing the topic, a qualitative method through archival or document-based research will be used in conducting the writer's future research (Lamont, 2015).

Therefore, to analyze whether or not Saudi Arabia has been moving gradually and implementing Vision 2030, the measurement of Saudi Arabia's economic diversification, society reformation, and broadening its relations with the other states will be examined through these four indicators GDP; government revenue; export and import revenue; and FDI. All of these indicators will assist the writer in analyzing and identifying the progress that has been made by the Saudi Arabia government and how it will change relations between Saudi Arabia and other countries in responding to Saudi Arabia's economic reform.

## **DISCUSSIONS AND RESULTS**

### **1. Vision 2030: The Efforts of KSA to end addiction to oil**

Since the first-time oil was discovered around nine decades ago on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1938, oil has become the crucial aspect of Saudi

Arabia's economic growth where it contributes 45% of its GDP and 95% of the Kingdom's export revenue, have made KSA as the biggest oil exporter in the world (Amran et al., 2020; Esmail, 2018; Moshashai et al., 2020). According to the IMF, there are four main government revenue sources: taxes, property income, sales of goods and services, and voluntary transfers (IMF, 2001). However, as one of the oil-producing countries in the Middle East, Saudi Arabia's income only comes from revenues generated by oil. Therefore, Saudi Arabia's oil dependency will mostly harm its own domestic stability and development. The heavy reliance on oil has made the kingdom focus on the oil industry to fulfill its previous national interest, security, as Saudi Arabia has long served United States' oil national interest to get military assistance from the US. Therefore, previous Saudi Arabia's policies and national interests were precisely centering and benefiting the US rather than Saudi Arabia itself (Azad, 2019). This fact seems to have been realized by the international organizations who are constantly alarming Saudi Arabia to reduce their dependency on oil in responding to the nature of oil itself that cannot be renewed and its risky unstable price (Murtaugh & Gang, 2020).

Responding to the Kingdom's dependence on oil along with the dramatic drop in oil price have made the *de facto* leader of Saudi Arabia, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, altered Kingdom's stance to reform and modernize the Kingdom's economy from an oil-based economy to technology and knowledge-based economy. Therefore, on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Vision 2030 was announced as the key role for transforming the Kingdom's economy to end the dependency on oil (Government of Saudi Arabia, 2016).

The principal point is to diversify the kingdom's economy by achieving a thriving economy. According to Saudi Arabia's official statement in the Vision 2030 document, attracting investors and boosting small businesses will be the primary key for Saudi Arabia's economic development (Government of Saudi Arabia, 2016).

Accordingly, the kingdom will support privatization and entrepreneurship by establishing Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) Authority. By the same token, Roy Harrod and Evsy Domar also argued that to achieve economic development in the long term it was determined by the high investment in a country (Juhro & Trisnanto, 2018, p. 6). The investment itself is not merely about human capital through technology and education, but it also consists of cultural investment, which has a positive impact on economic growth and income based on studies by Bucci, Sacco, and Segre in 2014 (Juhro & Trisnanto, 2018, p. 10).

In conjunction with the implementation of Vision 2030 in promoting a thriving economy, there are several long-term goals to be achieved, which are to lower the rate of unemployment from 11.6% to 7%, to increase SME contribution to GDP from 20% to 35% and to increase women's participation in the workplace from 22% to 30% (Government of Saudi Arabia, 2016). Moreover, based on the Fiscal Balance Program (FBP), investment should be the primary revenue for Saudi Arabia compared to oil by 2030 (Moshashai et al., 2020). It is understandable as these two aspects are essential to help the Saudi Arabia government create more job opportunities for people in the host country, support innovation, and increase export revenue in the non-oil sector. Therefore, regarding the aforementioned goals in developing their GDP to not dominate by oil revenue, the Saudi Arabia government has focused on attracting foreign direct investment. According to Elimam (2017), foreign direct investment (FDI) itself has become the main tool for economic development and stimulated the growth of a state's economy. To achieve this goal, the Saudi Arabia government has been emboldened and attracted foreign investment to invest within its country by allowing the foreign investors to hold 100% local companies in certain sectors and providing 15 different sectors, for instance in healthcare, industrial and manufacturing, agriculture and even tourism sector (Ministry of Investment, 2021).

According to a recent report by the Ministry of Finance Saudi Arabia, the total ownership by foreign and GCC investors were increased by 10.4% to 14.7%, along with the decreasing Saudi Arabia ownership from 89.6% to 85.3% as the implementation of Saudi Arabia Vision 2030 to improve Saudi business environment and attract domestic and foreign investors, kingdom's FDI inflows now have increased about 331% with total 1.278 new foreign companies. Saudi Arabia itself has deployed 50% of its investment in renewable and sustainable power sources (Ministry of Finance, 2020).

For GDP itself, there are several achievements that has been achieved by the Saudi Arabia government. Based on the IMF 2019 report, Saudi Arabia GDP rose to 2.2 percent in 2018, with the non-oil revenue improving to 2.1 percent from 1.3 percent in 2017 (IMF, 2019). The Trading Economics report in 2019 explained in more detail that Saudi Arabia's government revenue was increased to 926846 SAR Million compared to the previous year when government revenue was at 894711 SAR Million (Economics, n.d.). Moreover, according to the Saudi Arabia MoF report, Saudi Arabia's oil revenues have decreased to 53.5%, while the non-oil revenues have increased significantly since 2017 (Treasury, 2020). The other report was coming from the International Monetary Fund report, which stated that Saudi Arabia's non-oil revenue was increased by 59 percent of GDP while on the other hand oil revenue was declined and only contributed by 40 percent (IMF, 2019).

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Ministry of Finance also announced an improvement in Saudi Arabia's real GDP in the non-oil sector (Ministry of Finance, 2020). According to Saudi Arabia authorities and reports from the IMF, non-oil GDP growth has outperformed oil GDP growth since oil prices declined in 2014. On the other hand, the recent data report from GASTAT and Saudi Arabia Ministry of Finance shows that Kingdom actual GDP development of the non-oil sector was increasing from 2017 until 2019, as the decline happened in 2020 following the COVID-19 outbreak (Treasury,

2020). The latest improvement in Saudi Arabia's non-oil revenue was reported from Saudi Arabia stated that non-oil sectors contributed 60.2% to the kingdom's GDP in Q2 2021 (Ministry of Investment, 2021).

Furthermore, to gain more non-oil revenue, the Saudi Arabia government has regulated Sin Tax in 2017 by setting double taxes on cigarettes, soft and energy drinks (Moshashai et al., 2020). The Sin Tax has successfully increased Saudi Arabia non-oil revenue by contributing 42.1% to Saudi Arabia's 2019 revenue (Ministry of Finance, 2020).

Corresponding with the efforts mentioned above and its data, Saudi Arabia's revenue was still dominated by the oil industry sector indeed; however, it is worth to be noted that the improvement by Saudi Arabia's non-oil revenue is increasing with the declining income from oil revenue. In addition to the kingdom's effort, Saudi Arabia has shifted its stance and started to have more cooperation in different sectors. Therefore, Saudi Arabia is expanding their relations with other countries, specifically, they are starting to look for Eastern states. Saudi Arabia and China relations have become more warm and closer since 2018. China's Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, stated that China would firmly support and be ready to work with Saudi Arabia to achieve China-Saudi Arabia cooperation in energy, infrastructure, and investment fields to synergize China's Belt and Road Initiative with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 (China, n.d.). By the same token, in 2019, Saudi-China signed maritime industry cooperation to fulfill both countries' vision plan: Saudi Vision 2030 and China Belt Road Initiative (SPA, 2019). This close relationship is also reflected through the fact that in 2019, Saudi Arabia's top importer partner was China with a share of 27-billion-dollar USD (WITS, 2019). Besides China, Saudi Arabia also expands its relations to India by investing in renewable energy, petrochemicals, tourism, and technology (India, 2019). Moreover, Saudi Arabia has offered Pakistan economic opportunities in petrochemicals, power generation, and labor cooperation (Hincks, 2019).

Another focal point to be achieved by Saudi Arabia through Vision 2030 is a vibrant society. According to Vernon (2015), economic development invariably intertwines with good governance, decent access to jobs and business opportunities to earn income, fair access to justice, people being safe from harm, and the increasing or improving people's prosperity. To achieve a vibrant society, there are several projects as well as its progress and achievement that have been done by the Saudi Arabia government.

In April 2016, to show its solemnity to transform and modernize Saudi Arabia society that is contained as one of the main pillars of Vision 2030, the number of the Committee of Promotion of Virtue and Prevention Vice, also known as the religious police (هيئة in Arabic) was reduced as the first step to accomplish this goal. The religious police are responsible for maintaining Saudi's society life even economy to stay within the corridor of religious rules by prohibiting the selling activities and consumption of alcohol. They have the right to confiscate all goods contrary to the teachings of Islam, such as films, music, etc. In addition to all these religious police duties and authority, the religious police were also entitled to arrest all those who failed the religion's rules (HRW, 2016). In fact, the existence of religious police is a good thing in keeping Saudi Arabia's identity, but it will somehow become a backlash for the Saudi Arabia government. Previously, the religious police's power was remained unchecked that it led to citizens and visitors' harassment (Bashraheel, 2019; HRW, 2016).

The purpose of the reduction of sharia police is none other to support the kingdom's effort to modernize the country to become more moderate and tolerant towards all Saudi Arabia people and visitors. As the front line in serving and controlling society's spiritual guide, the religious police need to introduce and promote the values of Islam with full of hospitality. To make sure the freedom and the security of citizens and visitors are protected and create a moderate environment, the kingdom regime has released a royal decree to limit and ban religious police for intervening, questioning, even arresting

people, and they are compelled to report to the police or security forces (BBC, 2016).

Further improvement by the kingdom's attitude and stance towards its society was reflected through several new policies, especially in encouraging the participation of women. Specifically, in 2018, the kingdom started to allow women to go to the stadium without their relatives or guardian's consent (in Islam, they called as *mahram*), and officially give them the right to drive, allowing women to acquire passports and travel overseas and most importantly, women get the same opportunities as men to be a leader to increase women's participation in the workplace as stipulated in Vision 2030 goals (Kosarova, 2020). One year ahead, an unprecedented decision was taken to allow citizens from 49 countries to apply for the tourist visa (Rodriguez, 2019). Moreover, female tourists do not even have to wear abaya although certain dressing norms need to be respected (Skirka, 2019).

On the cultural side, the Saudi Arabia government has been promoting Saudi Arabia's culture and heritage to attract more visitors as one of the essential income sources for the kingdom. As the representative of the heart of Islam and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, the increasing number of Umrah and Hajj visitors would be crucial for Saudi Arabia to promote their culture and entertainment and introduce the Islamic heritage to visitors (Government of Saudi Arabia, 2016). Through these projects, it will contribute to the kingdom's economy, and as the result, more job opportunities will create. Moreover, the Saudi Arabia government has been doing several works to promote Saudi Arabia culture by cooperating with China in opening Saudi Arabia Cultural Exhibition in the Chinese National Museum, and Saudi Arabia was held China Cultural Exhibition in Riyadh National Museum as well (MoT, 2018). The latest event promoting Saudi Arabia's vibrant society and its rich nature was held on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, at Expo 2020 Dubai. Saudi's pavilion has successfully attracted approximately 500,000 visitors, including visit from the diplomatic delegation (Arab, 2021; Dubai, 2020).

## **2. KSA Economic Diversification**

### **Impact**

As one of the wealthiest countries in the Middle East and holding a crucial role in the region, every policy and change took by Saudi Arabia inevitably affects the other neighboring countries in the Arabian Gulf. Therefore, Saudi Arabia's efforts to move from oil dependency by diversifying its economy to achieve economic development would promote stability in the region besides promoting and helping its economic development.

Moreover, it might be unnoticed, but there is a linkage between Saudi Arabia's effort to reform and diversify its economy with the stability in the Middle East region itself. As we already know and has been proven by previous studies, the instability and rivalry in the Middle East were caused by oil. At the same time, Saudi Arabia's oil attracts the external actor from the other state, that is the US to have their influence escalated in the region. From this point forward, after Saudi Arabia released their Vision 2030, the changing nature of US-Saudi relations might change specifically in term of security cooperation. As Saudi Arabia's traditional ally and as a form of its effort to achieve its national interest, the United States has been securing its security enthusiastically by providing Saudi Arabia their military assistance.

Recently, Saudi Arabia who does not want to focus on oil with the decline of its oil production is no longer able to accommodate US national interest anymore. Then, there is no reason for the US to keep its military support as it does not align with the US Carter doctrine (Yom, 2020). We can see the retrenchment of the US in the region after President Joe Biden announced that the US would stop supporting Saudi Arabia in the region (Borger & Wintour, 2021). Last but not least, after the US announced they would stop their support for Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom altered its behavior and as the result, Saudi Arabia sought dialogue with Iran to head off the war in the region (Northam, 2020). The Iranian government accepted Saudi's invitation with the provision that there is no US intervention in the region

anymore (Fassihi & Hubbard, 2019). Moreover, another improvement in KSA and Iran relations was shown as both countries started to have trade activities (Hasan, 2021). It is also worth to be noted that through KSA Vision 2030, the improvement in its relations with Qatar also shows that the economic reform from a country would bring new 'hope' in reshaping the stability of a region (Qarjouli, 2021).

Some people might think that it will bring trouble for Saudi Arabia itself as they enjoyed US security assistance to keep themselves secure for a long time. However, if Saudi Arabia keeps their commitment and continually improves their efforts and progress to achieve all of the kingdom's goals that are contained in Vision 2030, the retrenchment of the US and the withdrawal of its military equipment from Saudi Arabia will not become a problem even a threat for Saudi. All the efforts taken by Saudi Arabia to 'free' the Kingdom from oil-based economy dependency is surely taking a long time and need more process. However, all the progress that have been made would help the Kingdom in realizing its Vision 2030 if Saudi Arabia show their consistency and consistently improve their efforts/projects along with keeping their relations integrated with the international community to create regional prosperity, security and stability as Saudi Arabia will have more complex relations and interdependence with the other states and even non-state actors in different sectors (Feierstein, 2018). Indeed, economic development by one country is not necessarily created peace, however, there will be no peace without economic development (Vernon, 2015).

Accordingly, as a result of Vision 2030 implementation, Saudi Arabia will need more partners ranging from state actors and non-state actors to expand their relations and cooperation in different sectors that will create more complex connections and interdependence that will lead to a more stable international community that can help to prevent states from having conflict between each other (Keohane & Nye, 1987; Rana, 2015).



## CONCLUSION

To conclude this research, the efforts made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia through Vision 2030 to diversify its economy from oil dependency is an excellent start for the Kingdom to re-emerge itself with a much more stable and modern domestic economic base. Moreover, if Saudi Arabia keeps their commitment to reforming economic-socio life, improving the kingdom's human resources, along with conduct cooperation in economic, technology, and culture fields with other states, even non-state actors would help the Kingdom's to be a modern country as desired and could reshape the stability in the Arabian Gulf region.

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