

Abstract

The politics of US sanctions against Iran since 9/11 till the date has become a Gordian knot to understand because the trajectory of relations between both states is subjected to various ups and downs which is the result of the interplay of certain variables. This research study is mainly focused on to explore, analyze, and explain the politics of US sanctions against Iran since 9/11 till date by highlighting the variables and their patterns of interaction that shape the relations between both states. To fulfill this purpose, a theoretical framework is being developed in this study by the researcher through opting relevant variables from theories of institutionalism and hegemony. Through the developed theoretical framework in this research study, an attempt is being made to provide a comprehensive understanding that how particular variables operationalize in a specific way that determine the relations between US and Iran since 9/11 till date. It is mainly highlighted in the research study that US policy-making institutions under the presidential administration of George W. Bush followed path dependent approach and used coercive power against Iran in order to fulfill its hegemonic objectives in the region of middle-east which resulted into deteriorated relations between US and Iran. However, under the presidential administration of Barack Obama US policy-making institutions demonstrated calculus approach and applied non-coercive power toward Iran to maintain its hegemonic interests in the region of middle-east that resulted into improvement in US-Iran relations through signing of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action in 2015. With this, it is also unveiled that under the presidency of Donald Trump, US policy-making institutions used calculus approach but employed the tool of coercive power to engage Iran that resulted into escalation of tensions between both states. US policy-making institutions under the presidential administrations of both Obama and Trump used calculus approach, but used different tactics i.e. non-coercive and coercive toward Iran which resulted into different implications on US-Iran relations. It is argued that the recent presidential administration of Joe Biden is also using calculus approach toward Iran by making its efforts to engage Iran however, which tool it would use toward Iran will determine the trajectory of future relations between both states. In addition to this, this research study is qualitative and explanatory with the application of longitudinal research design by using secondary resources to provide sufficient understanding of concerned research topic. Along with

this, the research has also delineated some potential recommendations by working on which stabled and normalized relations between both states can be attained.