

UAE- Israel Diplomatic Ties: A New Chapter for the Middle East

'Tectonic', 'Breakthrough', 'Radical', 'Deceptive', there is no dearth of scornful expressions for sudden UAE-Israel tie up announced by the President Trump. The trilateral agreement, referred to as Abraham Accords, has been the part of Trump's Government Middle East Peace Plan to normalise the relations between the United Arab Emirates and Israel. This includes full diplomatic ties, business relations and scientific corporation between the two countries. The rapport will transform the region by stimulating economic growth and spurring technological advancement and is bound to change the complete regional and global geopolitical landscape. Notably, the agreement propels Israel to forgo its annexation plan of Palestinian territories. However, Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu has clarified that the annexation of Palestinian territories in Samaria and Judea has been deferred but it will remain on the agenda. The wheels of history keep rolling relentlessly, UAE has become the third Arab country and first of the six Gulf States to normalize its relationship with Israel, after Egypt's peace treaty in 1979 followed by Jordan in 1994. Following the trail, it is expected that other countries of Gulf Cooperation Council; Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and Saudi Arabia will go along with UAE. Such associations shall not be new as Qatar and Oman had maintained trade ties with Israel for quite some time in past.

The Palestinian issue is undoubtedly the most complex issue which led to the boycott of Israel by the Arab and the Muslim countries ever since its creation. After World war I, United Kingdom ruled the territories in West Asia under a mandate from the precursor organization of United Nations i.e the League of Nations. After World war II, having failed in harmonizing the clashing interest of the Jewish and the Arabs, the UK handed the control to the United Nations. UN on the recommendation of a Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) created two states, with declaring Jerusalem as the international city. Since then, the partition plan has been constantly exposed by the Arab and the Muslim countries. The trilateral agreement looks more of a short-term plan and is definitely not an extensive peace plan that could resolve the Palestinian issue with the mutual consent of all Arab and Muslim countries. Palestinians have condemned the move stating it as a betrayal of Jerusalem, Al-Aqsa and the Palestinian cause. As predicted Iran, Hamas and Turkey have blamed UAE for its hypocritical behavior. Ironically, there have been diplomatic relations between Turkey and Israel for many decades but currently, Turkey is foreseeing its future with Muslim leadership. The agreement has been welcomed by Delhi as both countries are key strategic partners of India and are a major pillar of India's relationship with the west Asian region. India continuous its support for the Palestinian cause and hope to see a mutual and acceptable solution to the problem. In days to come, it will be worth seeing the reactions of other Arab and Muslim countries.

The tie-up has increased the restlessness of Pakistan as it's a connection with Saudi Arabia is wearing out. Both UAE and Saudi Arabia have surpassed Pakistan's request for a meeting of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to debate the Kashmir issue. The strategic opposition between Iran, Saudi Arabia and Turkey is leading to a geopolitical re-alignment in the region. Saudi Arabia and UAE are in support of US, their ally to undermine Iran's role in the region, while the USA considers it as an opportune time to put more pressure on Iran by bringing Israel into the picture.



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