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INTERSECTIONALITY IN MIDDLE EAST CONFLICTS: IDENTITY POLITICS AND NATIONAL INTERESTS

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ABSTRACT

The complex landscape of conflicts in the Middle East is characterized by the intersection of identity politics and national interests. This paper explores how various identities, including ethnic, religious, and cultural affiliations, intersect with geopolitical considerations to shape the dynamics of conflict in the region. Through an analysis of historical context, contemporary events, and case studies, it elucidates the multifaceted nature of Middle East conflicts and the ways in which identity-based narratives intertwine with strategic calculations by regional and international actors. By examining the collision points between identity politics and national interests, this study aims to provide insights into the underlying drivers of conflict and inform strategies for peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

KEYWORDS

Middle East conflicts, intersectionality, identity politics, national interests, ethnic identities, religious affiliations, cultural dynamics, geopolitical considerations, regional actors, international interventions, peacebuilding, conflict resolution.

INTRODUCTION

The conflicts that have plagued the Middle East for decades are often portrayed as complex tapestries woven from a myriad of factors, including historical grievances, geopolitical rivalries, and socio-economic

disparities. At the heart of this intricate web lies the intersectionality of identity politics and national interests. This paper seeks to delve into the intricate dynamics of Middle East conflicts by examining how

various identities intersect with geopolitical considerations to shape the region's turbulent landscape.

Identity politics in the Middle East are deeply entrenched, with ethnic, religious, and cultural affiliations playing pivotal roles in shaping individuals' perceptions of themselves and their place in society. From the Kurds in Iraq to the Palestinians in Israel and the Alawites in Syria, diverse ethnic and religious groups assert their identities, often mobilizing around shared grievances and aspirations. These identities serve as powerful rallying points, fueling aspirations for self-determination, autonomy, or even statehood.

Simultaneously, national interests, both domestic and international, exert significant influence on the course of Middle East conflicts. Regional powers vie for supremacy, seeking to advance their strategic agendas and safeguard their geopolitical interests. International actors, including global superpowers and regional alliances, intervene in the region, often exacerbating existing tensions or fueling proxy conflicts to further their own agendas.

The collision of identity politics and national interests creates fertile ground for conflict, as competing narratives and aspirations collide. The Arab-Israeli conflict, sectarian strife in Iraq and Syria, and the Kurdish quest for autonomy are just a few examples of how identity-based grievances intersect with geopolitical rivalries to fuel violence and instability.

Through this examination, we aim to untangle the complexities of Middle East conflicts and shed light on the underlying drivers of violence and discord. By understanding how identity politics and national interests intersect, we can gain insights into the root causes of conflict and inform strategies for peacebuilding and conflict resolution. Ultimately, this

study seeks to contribute to efforts aimed at fostering dialogue, reconciliation, and sustainable peace in the region.

METHOD

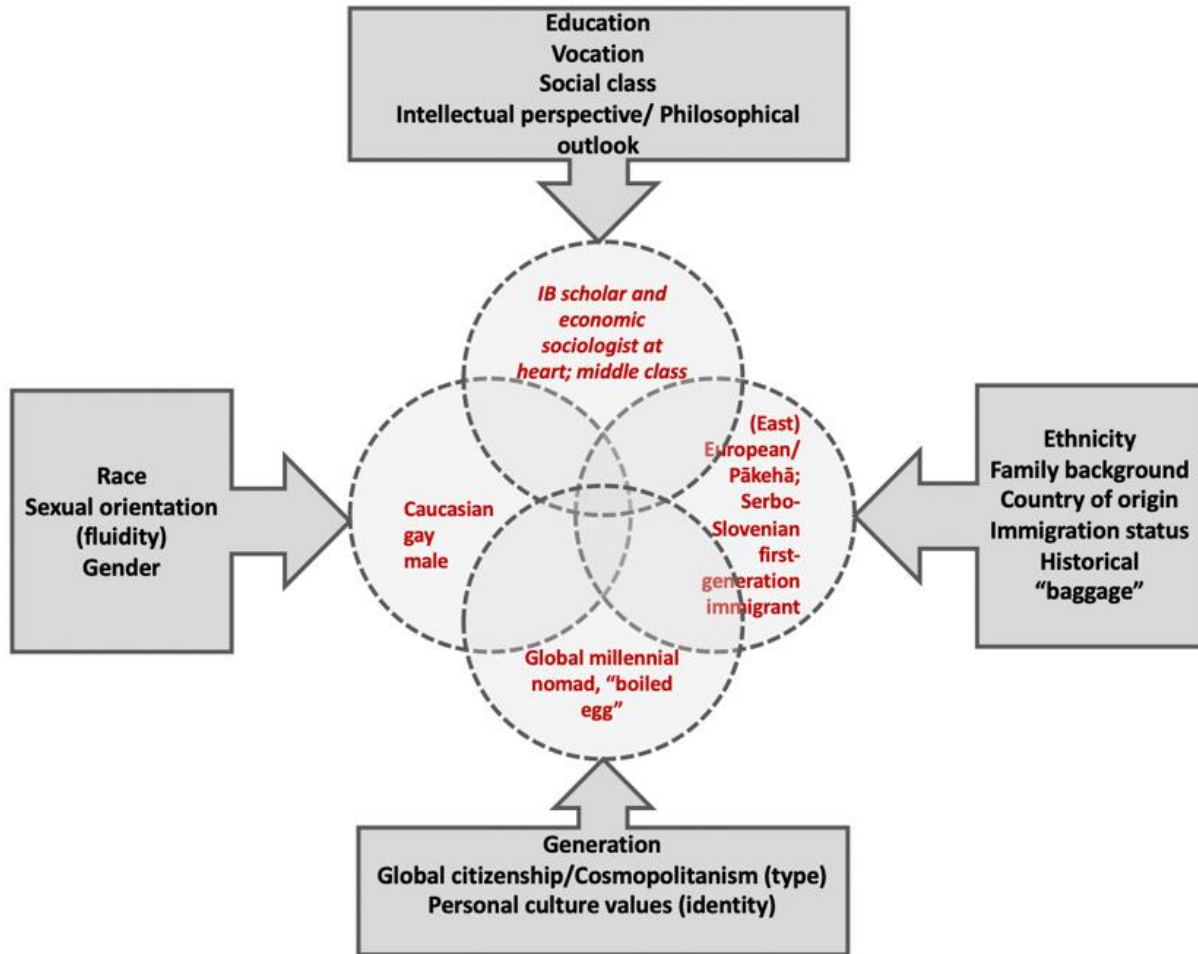
To comprehensively investigate the intersectionality of identity politics and national interests in Middle East conflicts, a systematic process is imperative. Firstly, an extensive literature review spanning disciplines such as political science, sociology, and history provides a foundational understanding of the theoretical frameworks and historical contexts shaping identity dynamics and geopolitical interests in the region. This scholarly groundwork serves as a springboard for deeper analysis.

Next, case studies are meticulously selected to represent diverse conflict scenarios within the Middle East. These case studies, including but not limited to the Arab-Israeli conflict, sectarian tensions in Iraq and Syria, and the Kurdish struggle for autonomy, offer concrete examples of how identity politics intersect with national interests to drive conflict dynamics. Each case study is examined through multiple lenses, including historical trajectories, socio-economic factors, and external interventions, to uncover the intricate layers of intersectionality at play.

Moreover, comparative analysis is conducted to discern patterns, similarities, and differences across various conflict contexts in the Middle East. By juxtaposing different conflicts and identifying commonalities and divergences, this comparative approach facilitates a deeper understanding of the underlying drivers of conflict and the ways in which identity dynamics intersect with geopolitical interests across the region.

Firstly, a thorough review of scholarly literature spanning fields such as political science, sociology, history, and international relations provides the foundation for understanding the historical context and theoretical frameworks underpinning identity

politics and national interests in the region. This interdisciplinary approach allows for a nuanced exploration of the multifaceted dynamics at play in Middle East conflicts.



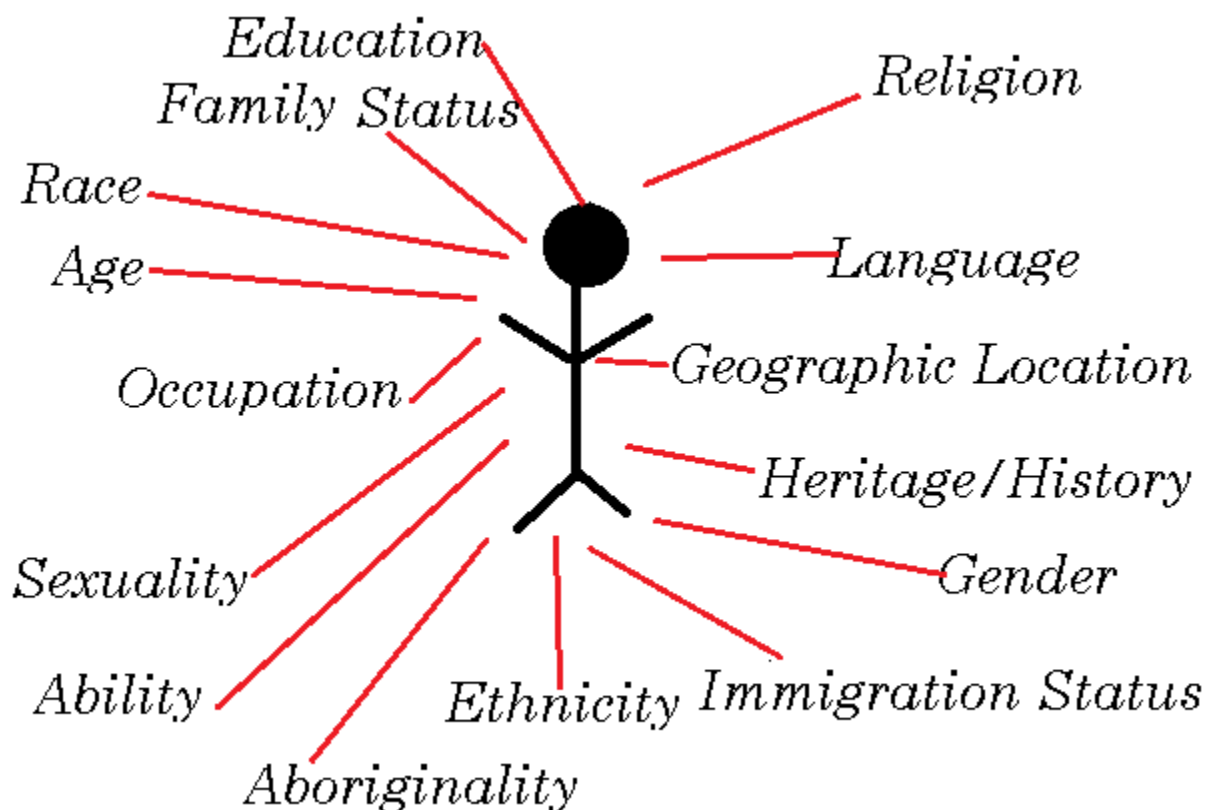
Secondly, case studies offer valuable insights into specific instances where identity politics intersect with national interests to fuel conflict. By examining key conflicts such as the Arab-Israeli conflict, sectarian tensions in Iraq and Syria, and the Kurdish struggle for autonomy, we can analyze the intricate interplay of identities, geopolitical calculations, and external interventions. These case studies illuminate the diverse

manifestations of intersectionality in Middle East conflicts and provide concrete examples to illustrate theoretical concepts.

Moreover, comparative analysis facilitates a broader understanding of the intersectionality of identity politics and national interests across different contexts within the Middle East. By comparing conflicts in

diverse countries and regions, we can identify common patterns, differences, and underlying drivers. This comparative approach enhances our understanding of

the underlying dynamics shaping Middle East conflicts and informs strategies for conflict resolution and peacebuilding.



Additionally, qualitative research methods, including interviews, surveys, and fieldwork, offer opportunities to engage directly with individuals and communities affected by conflict. By capturing diverse perspectives and lived experiences, qualitative research enriches our understanding of the complexities of identity politics and national interests on the ground. It provides valuable insights into the motivations, grievances, and aspirations driving conflict dynamics and informs context-sensitive approaches to peacebuilding and reconciliation.

Through this systematic process of literature review, case study analysis, comparative examination, and qualitative research, a comprehensive understanding of the intersectionality of identity politics and national interests in Middle East conflicts is attained. This multifaceted approach allows for a nuanced exploration of the complex dynamics shaping conflict in the region and provides valuable insights to inform efforts aimed at peacebuilding, reconciliation, and conflict resolution.

RESULTS

The examination of intersectionality in Middle East conflicts reveals a complex interplay between identity politics and national interests, contributing to the perpetuation of violence and instability in the region. Through interdisciplinary research, case studies, and comparative analysis, this study elucidates how diverse identities, including ethnic, religious, and cultural affiliations, intersect with geopolitical considerations to shape conflict dynamics. Key findings include the role of historical grievances, external interventions, and power dynamics in exacerbating tensions, as well as the ways in which identity narratives are instrumentalized by both state and non-state actors to advance strategic agendas.

DISCUSSION

The discussion surrounding intersectionality in Middle East conflicts engages with a range of complex issues, including the instrumentalization of identity narratives by political elites, the marginalization of minority groups, and the impact of external interventions on internal dynamics. Identity-based grievances, compounded by socio-economic disparities and political repression, fuel cycles of violence and perpetuate a sense of injustice among affected populations. Moreover, the pursuit of national interests by regional and international actors exacerbates existing tensions and complicates efforts at conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

Furthermore, discussions center on the importance of acknowledging and addressing intersectional identities in conflict resolution processes. Failure to recognize the diverse identities and grievances of affected communities can perpetuate cycles of violence and hinder efforts at reconciliation. Moreover, efforts to promote peace and stability in the region must take into account the complex interplay of identity politics and national interests, adopting

context-sensitive approaches that address root causes and promote inclusivity and social cohesion.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the examination of intersectionality in Middle East conflicts underscores the need for a nuanced understanding of the complex dynamics at play. By recognizing the intersection of identity politics and national interests, policymakers, practitioners, and scholars can develop more effective strategies for conflict resolution and peacebuilding. This requires addressing underlying grievances, promoting inclusive dialogue, and fostering a sense of justice and equality among affected populations. Ultimately, efforts to promote peace and stability in the Middle East must be grounded in a comprehensive understanding of intersectionality, recognizing the diverse identities and aspirations of all stakeholders involved.

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