

French Foreign Policy in the Middle East During President Macron's First Term: Researcher's Curriculum Vitae

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Abstract

The Middle East plays a crucial role in France's foreign policy. This study examines France's approach to the Middle East during Macron's first term, aiming to uncover the motives behind Macron's policies in the region and how he manages them. The significance of the study lies in analyzing how France maintains a traditional balancing approach with international actors. The hypothesis is that France adopts a traditional and reassuring approach and has close relations with Middle Eastern powers, assisting the president in achieving his goals. The study raises several questions, including how Macron's foreign policy in the Middle East has evolved since he took office, the nature of France's reassurance policy, the scope of France's economic cooperation with the Middle East, and the president's efforts in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. To achieve these objectives, the study employs an analytical and descriptive methodology. The study concludes that France often positions itself as a force for stability and conflict resolution, especially under President Macron, through active involvement in the region alongside a commercial presence. The results demonstrate that the key to understanding France's Middle Eastern foreign policy is recognizing the region as a focal point for the foreign policies of great powers like France. Additionally, French trade finds markets in the Middle East, and the mutual relations indicate a shared understanding between France and the Middle East at various levels.

Keywords: President Emmanuel Macron, France's Policy, Middle East, Palestinian Israeli Conflict, Reassurance Policy.

1. Introduction

1.1 Theoretical framework and previous studies

The Middle East is important to French foreign policy. The Arab policy of France has been central to its overall foreign policy since Charles de Gaulle could return history to its positive course. There have been historical and contemporary cultural relations between the French and the Arabs. Perhaps this was the source of French foreign policy toward Arabs, and Emmanuel Macron has only confirmed this during the 2017 presidential election campaign and since his election, emphasizing the Middle East in both his early foreign policy speeches and initiatives, determining to get involved in the affairs of the Middle East and to be very active in the files that can be resolved temporarily and to find channels of communication, The ongoing, intertwined nature of the relationship was confirmed by Macron's impromptu trip to Saudi Arabia to find a

solution to the crisis sparked by the resignation of the Lebanese prime minister in Riyadh. However, for more than 200 years, the Middle East has shaped and supported France's international ambitions. In turn, France has maintained a consistent presence in the region. As a result, it has strong political ties, close economic relations, and significant military presence throughout the region. France's relationship with regional powers has been intensely close at times. It is not surprising fact, then, that the Middle East has always posed a challenge to France's ambitions, and this has only become worse since the Arab uprisings. France is deeply concerned about the region's instability, and not just when it manifests itself. As a result, France has struggled to adjust its traditional realist approach to the region and its problems since 2011. Despite an initial turn during Nicolas Sarkozy's presidency and the early part of François Hollande's term, France has mostly sought to bolster Middle Eastern governments with "reassurance," providing reassuring responses to what it perceived as their anxiety faced with domestic instability, changes in the regional balance of power, and international unpredictability. The significant French involvement in international and regional crises, as well as security cooperation, has proven to be an important component in strengthening the relationship. As well as France's central role in European policy toward the Arab Israeli conflict, it is an intriguing case study for the evolving studies on Europeanization. When it comes to Middle Eastern issues, France has maintained its position as Europe's leader. It also has the added power to enhance its strength.

1.1.1 Previous Studies

Under President Jacques Chirac, these relations were renewed and returned to a sound policy toward the Arab region during his reign. Chirac established himself as an enthusiastic promoter of French-Arab politics during his first term as prime minister (1974–1976), and during his presidency, Chirac is the only Western leader who has established the closest relationship with nearly all Arab leaders. France's Arab policy (Politique Arabe de France or PAF) has made periodic appearances during the past three decades. Chirac established himself as an enthusiastic promoter of PAF during his first term as prime minister, during which he visited eleven Arab capitals and played host to fourteen Arab government heads, establishing a record at the time. He also signed contracts worth many billions of dollars with various Arab states. Chirac is the one Western leader who has established a close relationship with virtually all Arab leaders, to emphasize his Arab sympathies, and he makes a point of spending part of his holidays in the Arab world (Taheri, 2003).

The Middle East and North Africa region is going through a phase of important transformation. The "Arab Spring," the unending civil wars it provoked, and the many symptoms of a transition crisis and of an entry into modernity, which disrupt the balance of the region and spark powerful resistance. The geography of this crisis extends beyond the Arab world, from Eastern Afghanistan to South-West Mali and the Gulf of Guinea, to a point where the expression "arc of crisis" seems appropriate. The study raised questions about whether French policy has regarding this region sufficiently evaluated the magnitude of these transformations. Does it not rely on its historical heritage rather than on a prospective and strategic vision, as it should? Particularly given the ambiguity of the message conveyed in the region (...) in this context, how can France reinforce its influence in a zone so crucial to its identity, its security, and its economy? This report on French policy in the Middle East and North Africa is a geopolitical document. (...) Based on an original aggregative method of scattered data, this report provides new tools with which to understand the multiple relationships between France, the Middle East, and North Africa. The French strategy, understood in the long term, is compared to that of competing forces. This

set of analyses establishes the foundation for proposals aiming to define new French, but also European strategy (El Karoui, 2017).

This article examines France's relations with Middle Eastern states through the lens of Emmanuel Macron's foreign policy, who was elected President of France on May 14, 2017. The Middle East is a traditional foreign policy vector for the Republic, and thus one of the current leader's foreign policy priorities. This conclusion is based on the presence of specific factors that impede the implementation of smart policy in the region, which would benefit all Middle Eastern actors. The French president's disagreement with his international partners over Middle East regulations complicates the implementation of smart foreign policy toward the Arab world. E. Macron is currently paying close attention to the European integration policy, which raises many unresolved issues concerning the Middle East. Along with domestic political issues, this undermines the current French leader's authority (Komakha et al., 2022).

International Relations in the Middle East explore domestic and international foreign policy dynamics for an accessible understanding of how and why the Middle Eastern regional order has changed over time, developing an original theoretical approach to understanding the roots of regional conflict and cooperation. Ewan Stein identifies two main drivers of foreign policy and alignments by highlighting interactions between foreign policy trajectories in various states, including Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Turkey (Stein, 2021).

Emmanuel Macron, the French president, has made extensive proposals to strengthen the European Union. For fuller understand their nature and rationale, this article contends that it is critical to consider a key – yet often overlooked – aspect of Macron's foreign policy, his singular use of a civilizational lens to frame and structure his approach to global politics. Based on a discourse analysis of 211 foreign policy speeches, press statements, and interviews given by Macron between May 2017 and May 2021, this article demonstrates that he has advocated EU strengthening, arguing that it is necessary to protect both the international liberal order and what he refers to as 'European civilization,' and that France bear responsibility (Staunton, 2021).

2. Study Problem and Questions

During the 2017 presidential election campaign, the debate over the region was steeply polarized. Since his election, Emmanuel Macron has only confirmed this, emphasizing the Middle East in both his foreign policy and initiatives. The problem is that to shedding light on a new era of French foreign policy toward the Middle East during Macron's presidency, which presumes all parties' trust when faced with many issues and threats and overviews France's new era in convincing all parties to listen to French policy, provides an opportunity for Paris to take the lead in forging a European strategy, especially since France at various stages has been assuming a leadership role in Europe's common foreign policy, guided by de Gaulle's *politique Arabe*.

2.1 Study Questions

1. How has Macron's foreign policy looked in the Middle East since he took power?
2. What is France's reassurance policy?
3. What is France's economic cooperation with the Middle East?
4. Another question is what are France's president's efforts in the Palestine-Israeli conflict?

3. Importance of the Study & Objectives

3.1 Importance of the Study

The significance of this study demonstrates the importance of the Middle East as a key stage in France's foreign policy, one where it seeks to illustrate its active role as an international power in the region, punching above its weight and demonstrating the independence that is so important to the French sense of place in the world. It also stems from France's efforts to demonstrate its role in the new methodology for the presidency with Macron.

3.2 Study Objectives

1. This study determines Macron's policy toward the Middle East, which looks different from the former presidencies.
2. To define the reassurance policy.
3. Determine an overview of trade and regional economics support.
4. It reviews France's attitude toward the Israeli Palestinian question.

4. Method

4.1 Study Hypothesis

Given the reality, that France has close relations with Middle Eastern powers, which aid the president in achieving his goals and prompt France to rethink its strategy. The assumption is that France quickly returned to its traditional realism by adopting a "reassurance"-based approach to foster stability by assuaging its partners' perceived anxiety faced with domestic instability, regional changes, and international uncertainties. Despite this, the region faces numerous significant challenges.

4.2 Study methodology

To achieve its objectives, the researcher used a qualitative method to define the French President's strategies and gather in-depth insights into his active steps since he began his constitutional powers. A combination methodology based on a descriptive approach and a content-analytical method is used for the data collection and analysis of Macron's plans and moves toward the Middle East. The data collected in this study is drawn from journals, books, and online resource websites, and is a mixture of literature and material culture reviews of France's foreign policy and Macron's policy toward the Middle East.

4.3 The structure of the study

- First, Introduction.
- Macron, Foreign Policy: Defining Macron's approach to his classical style and commitment to Europe in terms of how he deals with Arab social issues and how he adjusts to the region's new power dynamics.
- Reassurance approach: This strategy is the latest manifestation of France's long-term pragmatic positioning in the region, which France can reap the benefits.

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- France's role in the Arab – Israeli conflict: This chapter examines France's most prominent movements along with Mr. Macron's efforts in this regard; in seeking a solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

❖ **Macron, Foreign Policy**

The president is a capitalist realist as well. Formally, his approach distinguishes the use of symbolism, strict communication control, and an agile personal style. "Agility" is a business term that refers to the willingness of organizations and individuals to adapt and innovate. It also refers to the willingness to use and master new technologies (Gomart & Hecker, 2018). Macron's stance on international issues can be explained by the circumstances surrounding his election, highlighting the ever-increasing entanglement of "foreign" and "domestic" affairs. (...) Consider an election campaign in which candidates seek to distinguish themselves primarily based on two, somewhat related, issues: France's relationship with Vladimir Putin and the appropriate attitude toward Syria. . . Throughout the campaign, Emmanuel Macron emphasized his commitment to Europe and his desire to revitalize France-Germany relations. (...) En Marche Emmanuel Macron created his movement in April 2016—and abroad, the transatlantic context, with Brexit (June 2016) and Donald Trump's election (November 2016). Some commentators have interpreted his victory as the beginning of a populist wave (Gomart & Hecker, 2018).

In December 2017, Emmanuel Macron returned from a three-day trip to West Africa, which was followed by trips to Algeria and Qatar. In Paris, he met Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to discuss Middle East peace prospects. The French president then hosted a climate summit on December 12, two years after the Paris agreement. The following day, the president led a group of "G5" African leaders in talks in combating terrorists in the Sahel and beyond. Mr. Macron confirms in his speech that France must be "ambitious" in the wider world and become a "great power again" with a sense of mission, arguing that liberal, democratic European countries have a duty to oppose authoritarians and address complex global problems together (Frenetic foreign policy, 2017). It tries demonstrating its influence and credentials as an international power by expanding beyond its borders and demonstrating the independence policy that is so important to the French sense of global existence.

French Policy

Defense and multilateralism promotion are the two axes of French foreign policy, and they serve as a rallying point for countries that value international law. Two interconnected issues, Iran and Syria, will bring these two key tendencies into play in the short term. Even if Tehran implements the Vienna Agreement (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, JCPOA) signed in July 2015 with the US, China, Russia, France, the United Kingdom, and Germany, Paris claims that its activities in the region and missile program are deteriorating of the strategic environment. Simultaneously, Donald Trump's hardening stance toward Iran and rapprochement with Saudi Arabia and Israel will logically necessitate Washington's withdrawal from the JCPOA and a new raft of sanctions. A complex transatlantic crisis is brewing (add to the Iranian issue protectionist decisions, as well as the imposition of extraterritorial legislative measures against the EU); it may be Macron's first major international crisis (Gomart & Hecker, 2018).

The founder of La République en marche presented himself as a new man, determined to take on crucial responsibilities: the embodiment of generational change and pragmatism, capable of bringing about sudden changes in tone - as symbolized by the much-discussed campaign manifesto on French colonialism in Algeria ("crime against humanity"). The intentions contained

in his program reveal a rather classic position: to assess general instability and consider the possibility of new crises. The Middle East offers a personality test for French politicians: here, diplomacy rests upon close relationships. Flexibility is necessary, but so is firmness and the ability to project strategically, now that France has military commitments to operations whose outcomes are uncertain (in Iraq and Syria). Macron has been hyperactive, rapidly moving from one issue to the next, [...] After the grand gesture of bringing together the Libyan competitors in July 2017 at La Celle-Saint-Cloud, the most photogenic operation was the rescue in extremis of Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri, the president who involved himself personally in this crisis (Gomart & Hecker, 2018, p: 53). Since taking office, E. Macron has tried defending his policy and firm promises to settle international issues.

Economic Existence

With economic diplomacy in mind, Macron may be a reformist-modernist, but he must also be selective, if not with respect to the weighty legacy of “French Arab policy,” at least regarding the choices made by his predecessors. In the Gulf, after Qatar and Saudi Arabia, Macron’s France was chosen as the champion, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), described as “the epicenter of this world in which globalization is accelerating.” The completion of the Louvre Abu Dhabi project at the end of 2017 gives us a spectacular symbol of surpassing the old orientalist reflexes. Certain conspicuous ease with Egypt also confirms the overcoming of the post-Arab revolution debate (...) the president is a capitalist realist who values economic diplomacy. Infrastructure, civil aviation, and weapons: the entire range of French goods is available in the Middle East. Following the GCC crisis in June 2016, Paris pulled off a coup by continuing to supply arms to Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Egypt on the one hand and Qatar on the other. Post-conflict situations have also been viewed as opportunities: at Iraq's reconstruction conference in February 2018, Jean-Yves Le Drian expressed his complete confidence in the market's potential, however fragile it is at that moment (Gomart & Hecker, 2018). Much was expected of Emmanuel Macron in the Middle East, where France's presence is undermined through a highly volatile and ever-changing situation. Every French president leaves his or her imprint on this issue. In this chapter, we have drawn out the outline of Macron’s foreign policy; we will review it in the next chapter, which is adopted from the newest in France.

❖ Reassurance approach

France's policy in the Middle East and North Africa dates back several hundred years, dated back to the 16th century by some scholars. However, the post-war features crystallized in the aftermath of the Suez Crisis and the Algerian War, when Charles de Gaulle sought to restore France's role and influence with the newly independent Arab states, from the situation that occurred in 1962 (at the end of the Algerian War). What later became known as "Arab Politics" has since gained legendary status in French foreign policy. The truth is that France did not pursue a homogeneous policy with all Arab countries, and it included Iran, Israel, or the Kurds as the main interlocutors in many cases. This policy has evolved as well, incorporating a clearer trade slant in the 1970s, even before the 1973 oil shock, and a stronger multilateral tone at the end of that decade. However, the recurring patterns are indisputable in France's pragmatic approach to the MENA region, particularly in terms of stylistics (...) (Lons, 2016). France's adopted role is to promote stability in the region, with pluralism in policy, and international cooperation.

The primary driver of French policy in the Middle East is national security concerns, both at home and abroad. Since the cold war's end, if not before, French governments have consistently

identified the MENA region as a major security concerns, on issues ranging from armed conflict to non-proliferation to terrorism (Alomar, 2017) For this reason, although its image in the region is often that of a peace-monger, due to its opposition to the war against Iraq in 2003, France has often supported, participated, and even led military action in the region. In 2017, one-third of French forces engaged in overseas operations were deployed in the MENA region (Rapnouil, 2018).

Following renewed "economic diplomacy" efforts under Hollande and Fabius, it has grown some major contracts, particularly in the military sector (such as the sale of Rafale jets to Egypt and Qatar, and Egypt's repurchase of two Mistral vessels with Saudi money). Indeed, officials acknowledge that the recent reassurance strategy is beneficial to securing economic "dividends" from the region (Rapnouil, 2018). France has emerged over many years in the Middle East through commercial presence in many countries as table (1).

Table (1): Trade Relation (Rapnouil, 2018).

MENA TRADE RELATIONS WITH FRANCE (2016)				
Countries	Ranking as a trade client (in MENA)	Total trade volume (Em)	Balance of trade (Em)	Ranking as a trade client (worldwide)
Algeria	1	8,068	2,093	15
Morocco	2	8,522	25	20
Saudi Arabia	3	7,916	371	21
UAE	4	4,664	2,567	28
Tunisia	5	7,401	-928	29
Qatar	6	2,042	1,591	42
Egypt	7	2,017	1,042	44
Israel & OPT	8	2,596	102	48
Lebanon	9	933	838	52
Iran	10	2,106	-662	58
Kuwait	11	757	-10	72
Jordan	12	370	308	75
Iraq	13	476	157	78
Oman	14	332	291	79
Libya	15	683	-331	94
Bahrain	16	208	42	106
Yemen	17	110	108	111

This source does not distinguish between Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Policy Challenge

With the advent of the Arab uprisings, dubbed the "Arab Spring" at the time, and the new and unstable regional environment that followed, this realist strategy faced a major challenge. A late move to support revolutionary governments and political movements lasted only a short time, and eventually reassurance became the dominant French response to this challenge. This approach is the most recent manifestation of France's long-term realist position in the region. The Arab uprisings shook France's traditional approach to its core, exposing long-standing, previously unnoticed tensions between its willingness to deal with states as they are and the need to recognize that civil society matters, even for regional security. Following the changes wrought by the Arab

uprisings, there emerged a much more threatening environment that demanded dramatic readjustments (Rapnouil, 2018).

France's response has been reassuring

France eventually realized that it needed to maintain effective relations with the governments of the region. This was not solely due to the conflicts themselves, though they quickly proved to be a legitimate source of concern. It was also caused by less visible aspects of a deep and widespread regional upheaval, with polarization along geopolitical, ideological, sectarian, and ethnic fault lines dividing the MENA region. There was even a sense that the role and survival of states – which were challenged in their ability to meet the expectations of their populations, including basic needs – were at stake. France witnessed a "systematic attempt to destroy states" in Iraq, Libya, Lebanon, Tunisia, and other places (Le Drian, 2016).

As a result, France's eventual priority was not going to be governance and democratization (...), but reassuring governments in the region that France would factor their preoccupation with stability into its own decisions. From a contentious revision of the bilateral agreement on judiciary cooperation with Morocco to end bilateral tensions after a judge briefly interviewed Rabat's counter-intelligence chief, to the close relationship with Saudi Arabia on major issues such as Syria, Iran, Egypt, and Lebanon, France has frequently taken its partners' concerns into account (Kadiri, 2015).

Obviously, French assurance has not always been consistent. Events, like other actors, have frequently taken France by surprise, inspiring its governments to various acts. However, France took this approach in many situations, particularly when security was at stake. During the 2017 presidential election campaign, Macron attempted to distance himself from the policies of his predecessors (...) Macron hinted that he would take a more traditional approach to the Middle East, citing De Gaulle, François Mitterrand, and Jacques Chirac (Rapnouil & Shapiro, 2017). Macron's agenda focuses heavily on peace and stability.

❖ The role of France in the Palestinian Israeli conflict

This chapter investigates the rhetoric-practice divide in French foreign policy in relation to Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories. It demonstrates that France has maintained a relatively consistent rhetorical position on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and Israeli occupation since 1967, based on condemnation of Israeli settlements in these areas and recognition of the Palestinian right to self-determination, which has over time crystallized, in France's support for the two-state solution.(...) France's attempts to advocate a two-state solution on a global scale while being accommodating to the occupation in its bilateral relations with Israel (Votolini, 2018). The status quo of the Israeli and Arab issues is considered by French policy.

The American move was not well received in Paris. The election of French President Emmanuel Macron has sparked hopes in Israel for a new era in Israel-France relations, particularly concerning the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Macron presented himself as an enthusiastic friend of Israel during his September 2015 visit Israel as Economy Minister in President Hollande's government. During his presidential campaign, Macron stated that unilateral recognition of a Palestinian state would jeopardize France's role as a mediator in the conflict and contended that a peace treaty must be signed with the consent of both parties. Macron has also spoken against the BDS movement, claiming that it violates French law and is not only anti-Zionist but also anti-Semitic.

During his campaign, Macron paid a visit to the Paris Holocaust Memorial, which commemorates the 76,000 French Jews murdered by the Nazis and their French collaborators. "Never again," he declared, conveying his French position – official in 1995 – of accepting responsibility for the fate of French Jewry during the Holocaust, as well as his determination to combat anti-Semitism. During the commemoration of the Vel d'Hiv roundup in July 2017.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a major source of point of contention in French Israeli relations, particularly on Jerusalem and settlement issues. Both Former French presidents Sarkozy and Hollande both declared their friendship for Israel while in office but followed traditional French pro-Palestinian policy. This was primarily due to Paris's ties with the Arab and Muslim worlds, its sizable Muslim population, and significantly anti-Israeli public opinion in France and Europe. Macron has stated that he will continue to support the two-state solution, East Jerusalem as the capital of the future Palestinian state. He has also maintained his long-held position that settlement is harmful to the peace process and "unhelpful" to regional stability. Another major point of contention between Israel and France is the status of Jerusalem, which France does not recognize as Israel's capital. During the UN partition deliberations in 1947, France advocated the internationalization of Jerusalem and the holy places (the Corpus Separatum). This was due to the value it placed on the city's numerous religious and welfare institutions, a concern that remains today. (...) On December 5, 2017, Macron called President Trump to try persuading him not to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel. The Elysee also issued a statement emphasizing that the status of Jerusalem must be resolved as part of peace talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians, with a focus on a two-state solution (Hershco, 2017). It is also important to note France's support for the UN resolution calling for international protection for Palestinian civilians in Gaza.

Macron took over the presidency in an exceptional and difficult context involving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In less than a year, he has witnessed the US recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and the brutal crackdown by Israeli forces in Gaza. Additionally, the French president's position in Jerusalem is unequivocal and consistent with the principles upheld by the Fifth Republic. and thus France - does not recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, as Macron stated in March 2018 at a dinner hosted by the Representative Council of Jewish Institutions of France (CRIF). The preferred path, he says, is to recognize Jerusalem "as Israel's capital and Palestine."

Bilateral meetings

In a joint press conference with Netanyahu in December 2017, Macron expressed his disagreement with the Israeli prime minister as well as his disapproval of the US decision on Jerusalem, calling on Israelis to "make a gesture toward the Palestinians."

Macron met Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Paris a few days later. The French president reiterated his commitment to the two-state solution, stating that France would not recognize a Palestinian state unilaterally because such a decision could not be "effective" in his opinion.

The French president, a relative newcomer to the world of politics, benefits from both the Israeli and Palestinian points of view from a position of "political virginity," which precludes any possible accusations of bias for the time being. However, as the leader of a permanent member of the UN Security Council, he also sees himself in a position where he must consider the potentially explosive nature of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

France's position on this issue, and its commitment to a two-state solution, is primarily principle. Paris has always emphasized the importance of adhering to international law, particularly the terms of UN Security Council Resolution 242, which serves as the foundation for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This is consistent with France's repeated calls for Israel to halt settlement construction in the Palestinian territories (Mikail, 2018). Macron sought to contribute to the resolution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

5. Conclusion

Returning to the hypothesis and questions raised at the beginning of this study, President Macron's stance on international issues can be explained by the circumstances surrounding his election, highlighting the ever-increasing entanglement of "foreign" and "domestic" affairs. The president, Macron's, moves are distinguished by their active and rapidly implemented from one issue to the next. The economic existence was expected by Emmanuel Macron in the Middle East, where France's presence is more required by a highly volatile and ever-changing situation to ensure its existence and achieve its interests. France's adopted role is to promote stability in the region, pluralism, and international cooperation, and its France has economic and military presence in the region, although it has no military action participation in the region. It can now be emphasized that France is attempting to match its ambition to punch above its weight and shape global politics in a world that is more competitive, flexible, and less state centric. Given the importance of the Middle East as a stage for France and a place of increasing interest for Europe as a whole, the region serves as a critical test case for achieving this goal. Moreover, such a reassurance strategy would assist in implementing those efforts. Concerning the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, Paris rejected the American move. French President Emmanuel Macron has expressed his opposition to unilateral recognition of a Palestinian state, claiming that it would jeopardize France's role as a mediator in the conflict, stating that a peace treaty must be signed with the content of both. Thus, France's presence with Emmanuel Macron policy is addressed by approaching various issues and adopting a reassurance policy in the Middle East.

5.1 Key findings

The study found a set of results that can be summarized as follows:

1. The key to understanding France's Middle East foreign policy is that the world recognizes the region primarily as a stage for foreign policy and great power politics – that is, as an opportunity for France to punch above its weight, freedom of maneuver.
2. The much-needed renewal of France's Middle East policy is only one aspect of a larger ambitious plan for Paris.
3. In a time, it appeared that France's approach to the Middle East was framed through the lens of mercantilism – the desire to secure lucrative export contracts.
4. Returning to the positive effects on France's policy, as there is cooperation and sharing points of view on various issues, it is evident that there is mutual understanding between France and the Middle East at various levels.

Conflicts of interest statements

All authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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