

# **The Impact of Imam Khomeini's Political Thought in Formulating Iranian Foreign Policy**

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## **Abstract**

The foreign policy of the Islamic Republic for its significance in determining destiny of the country has been repeatedly a subject to debate by analysts and politicians. There are three approaches to Iranian foreign policy in general. In the first approach, ideals of the Islamic Republic regarding Iranian foreign policy are taken into consideration; it is quite idealistic. The second approach avoiding extreme idealism puts foreign policy into analysis based on the real facts in a cultural or historical context. The third approach, however, presents a more accurate analysis and capacity of Iranian policy in the international system; it is moderate and avoids extremity compared with two previous approaches. The significance of this research is for the attempts the researcher has made to highlight the weak points of the first two approaches specifically with regard to the events such as seizure of American embassy in Tehran, acceptance of resolution 598 and the nuclear program of Iran before and after the departure of Imam Khomeini. The researcher however introduces the third approach as the best method in Iranian foreign policy which had been also emphasized by the great founder of Islamic Republic.