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EFFECT OF ARAB SPRING ON SHIA CRESCENT

In Iran, the Islamic Revolution took place under the leadership of Ayatollah Khomeini. After the Iran Islam Revolution, Iran has been trying to expand Shi'ism with the policy of idealism in the Middle East Region. This policy of Iran was perceived as expansionism by Sunni Arab countries. Due to this expansionist behavior, Iran has been accused of blockading the Sunni States by creating a Shia Crescent but Iran hasn't accepted these accusations. Iran used the concept of the Resistance Axis, which was put forward to defend Iran, Iraq and North Korea, which the US accused as evil axis, used it as a thesis against the Shia Crescent concept. Although Iran doesn't accept the Shia Crescent discourse, Iran has been acting in line with this discourse since the past by supporting the Shia people in Lebanon, Iraq and Bahrain and creating an organization of Shia origin in Lebanon. When it was understood that the Arab Spring, which later took the Arab Countries into the ring of fire, would not affect Iran, Iran turned this situation into an opportunity. Initially, Iran supported the Shi'ite people who took action in Bahrain, which supported the Arab Spring, and expressed the accuracy of these actions in every arena. However, Iran, which does not want to face Saudi Arabia and Gulf Countries directly, has not made a direct intervention towards this country. Later, after the Arab Spring jumped to Syria, there was a change in the rhetoric of Iran about the Arab Spring. Iran said that the events in Syria were directed against the Resistance Axis, which they thought they had formed with Lebanon and Syria, and that the actions took place within the Zionist, imperialist frame.

After these statements, Iran provided both military and economic aid to the Syrian regime. In this context, within the framework of Iran's idealism policy, we will try to prove by examining with the case study method that the scope of the Shia Crescent has the opportunity to expand under the influence of the Arab Spring. In this study, firstly, we will examine the concept of Shi'ism, followed by the Arab Spring process, Iran's idealism policy, and Iran's reaction to the countries living in the Arab Spring, and finally the concept of the Shia Crescent. Our aim is to demonstrate the positive impact of the Arab Spring on the Shi'ite Crescent.