Chapter 1: Introduction

Middle East refers to a region around the Persian and the Arabian gulf. It’s loosely defined by geographers and other social scientist as a region extending between southwestern Asia and North Africa. The region forms a single roughly quadrilateral land mass of about 3,542 (km) from west to east and 3,200 (km) from north to south, pierced by two sharply intruding seas on the south, the red sea and the Persian Gulf while one on the west is the Mediterranean sea. The region falls almost entirely between 25 degree east to 60 degree east longitude and 13 degree north to 42 degree north latitude. The countries which form the part of Middle East are- Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Palestine, Yemen, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Cyprus, Tunisia, U.A.E, Oman, Bahrain and Qatar.

The term Middle East came into prominence, when the term was first used by the Naval Historian, A.T. Mahan in 1902 in a discussion of British Naval strategy in relation to the Russian activity in Iran and the German project for Berlin to Baghdad Railway. The referred region by Mahan seems to be inadequate to explain with the existing term “Near East” and the ”Far East”2. Soon the term (Middle East) took on full official sanction and it became the standard term of reference for this region for political commentators and academicians worldwide.

The History of the Middle East dates back to the ancient times and throughout history the Middle East has been a major center of world affairs. The earliest civilization, Mesopotamia and Egyptian originated in this region. The Middle East is also the geographic origin of three of the world’s great religion- Christianity, Islam and Judaism. The Middle East generally has an arid and hot climate, with several major rivers providing for irrigation to support agriculture in limited areas. Many countries located around the Persian Gulf have larger quantities of crude oil.

1 Barkatullah khan, ‘The Middle East: A Spatial Perspective’ , Study Today, Delhi, pg - 4
2 The term “Near East” referred to the territories of Ottoman Empire in the Eastern Mediterranean region while the term “Far East” referred to the countries of China, Japan and the western Pacific Rim (North and South Korea, Indonesia).
Map 1.1 – Middle East Political Map
The oil exploration has brought an enormous improvement in this region of Middle East. Before 1940 it was possible to rank Middle East as one of the underdeveloped regions of the world. The region became geo-strategically important because of the presence of the large amount of crude oil (approximately 2/3 of the world reserve) and natural gases.

However Middle East can now be regarded as a major interface not only between the East and the West but also between the newer alignment of developed and developing nations. The economic strength of OPEC (Organizations of Petroleum Exporting Countries) since 1973 has been a major factor in world affairs. This has tended to enforce intense interest by outside power in the Middle Eastern affairs, with sustained attempts to gain or retain political, economic, and strategic advantages by the possession of military bases, trade links, and a patron-client relationship. It is also very much geo-politically significant as this region is centered on the junction of Africa, Asia, and Europe where the land mass is deeply penetrated by sea, control of ports and trade through the sea way has alternatively supported cities and commerce. The Middle East and North Africa are sometimes mistakenly referred to as the “Arab World”. In fact the region has a huge population of non-Arabs; Jews, Persian Turk, Kurd, Berber and few others also who live with their distinct culture and faith in this region of Middle East. Arabic is spoken by around 53 percent of the entire population.

The region is one of the most militarized region in the world and hence has gone through a series of war i.e, Arab- Israel war, including Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon etc (1948, 1956, 1967, 1973 war etc), Iran-Iraq war (1980-1990), two war against Iraq by USA (United States of America) and its allies in 1991 and 2003, and numerous other internal conflicts as civil war in Iraq Yemen, Algeria, Libya, Syria etc.

This region also witness a wave of uprising in 2011 against the regime who were corrupt and biased when on December, 2010, a 26 year Tunisian, Mohammed Bouazizi, an unemployed graduate and fruit vendor set himself on fire in protest of

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3 In 1973, the OPEC has used its oil resources as a tool to bring peace in the Middle East region and end to the Israeli invasion to its member countries, (Arab-Israel War) there was an Energy Crisis was created around the world when the OPEC had increased the price and lower down the production limit of its oil resource, as a result global crisis of petroleum was created which mounted enormous international pressure on Israel to end the war in Middle East.
being mal-treated by local authorities. The self immolation of Mohammed was as the immediate or fuse that lit the spark of revolutionary uprisings in the region. This immolation of Mohammed was taken up by an outraged public which eventually sacked the president, Ben Ali in Tunisia, the twenty-three years dictator, and set in motion the revolutionary eruptions which engulfed states of North Africa and the Middle East. Throughout the Maghreb, and the Middle East, uprisings occurred in Algeria, Morocco, Egypt, Libya, Bahrain, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Yemen etc with different intensity. Noticeable features of these protest movements are that there are mass movements of the poor, Unemployment, misrule, the rise of a large population of educated and semi-educated unemployed youths have combined to provide objective conditions for mass uprisings in the region. and their protest is directed against their leaders, the ruling classes some of who are corrupt, illegitimate, repressive and unwanted. Most of the movements are not only asking for regime change but structural change.\(^4\) The result of this system over the years has been the virtual absence of any development of a state bureaucracy or any form of institutionalized governmental structure. The Arab world on the “Sit tight Policy” of the autocrats in the region without addressing how the political soil of these Arab Countries have been murdered and watered for decades by external power.

In modern times, the Middle East remains a strategically, economically, politically and culturally a sensitive region.

1.1. Statement of the problem

In Middle East before the First World War (1914-1918) there were no major issues in this region except that the colonizers had been colonizing the region. The Jews have been migrating by then to these areas particularly to Jerusalem, their promised biblical holy land. The large scale migration to newly carve out Israel had worried the Arabs.

However, with the end of 1\(^{st}\) World War and British Balfour Declaration of 1917 for a Jews homeland at Jerusalem to Jews and promising the same Promised Land to Arabs in hope of getting favored by them during the war. After getting of Mandates by

British over Jerusalem, the Israeli–Palestinian existence issue came into limelight. Situation started getting worse over time, hatred, war with words and riots started taking place in Jerusalem and its surrounding area, underground militants group got formed which attacked each other (Israeli and Palestinian /Arabs). Insecurity amongst the people was very high by the end of Second World War (1945) situation has became much worse in today’s Palestine; a big difference has mounted up between Israeli and Palestinian Arabs, both fighting to reclaim the same land. The Israelis claimed, on religious ground, their holy land mentioned in their Old Testament (Jews religious Book) while on the other hand the Palestinian Arabs claimed on the ground that they are the original settlers where their ancestors had lived, own and are attached to the land which is also religiously holy for them. Jews wanted to take away this land from Arabs on religious grounds, and were well supported and sympathized by USA and other European countries after the Hitler Holocaust in Germany during Second World War.

Situation in Palestine became worse and vulnerable especially after the Second World War. Both groups (Jews and Arabs) started attacking each other and even targeted to British civilian and officials, in Palestine whom they considered as their common enemy. This soon resulted in return of the Mandate to UN (United Nations) by Britain, where the UN suggested a two nation policy which the Arabs refused but the Israeli welcomed and declared their independence in May 1948. Soon the area enflamed into War, the Arabs jointly fought against Israel but it was well technically supported with arms and ammunitation by USA and other. As a result, the Arabs lost the War and many part of their territory too.

Since 1948 after Israeli creation this region of Middle East has always been in news; many wars (1948, 1956, 1967, 1973, 1982, 2006 etc) have been fought on the

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5 Jerusalem is important in Islam because of its association with Prophets before Muhammad, and also of the tradition that Muhammad was miraculously taken there from Mecca by night, above the huge rock in Jerusalem which is regarded as the very place from which Muhammad's ascension began, the Dome of the Rock was built. This is one of the earliest and most beautiful buildings of Islam, first constructed around 690 on the orders of the caliph Abd al-Malik.

6 Jews Holocaust - It’s said that Hitler killed almost million of Jews in Germany in its Gas Chamber by cyanide gas during the Second World War to whom he considered as traitors of War. This sympathizes the whole world for Jews, especially by Britain and USA who supported them for settling in Palestine, their reclaimed holy land which was opposed by Palestinian Arabs who don’t wanted them (Jews) on their own cost.
Palestinian backyard making the region more volatile and dangerous but till today no permanent peace policy has been accepted. Today the situation is very vulnerable in the Palestinian area where the Palestinian sovereignty, State, right to return and refugee problem etc, are still unsolved. Development is hampered in the region because of the ongoing conflict, insecurity; loss of life and property and in the absence of a proper peace plan, the rift, between the Arabs and the Israelis is getting broader and deeper day by day. A different warfare of suicide bombing, organized terrorist activity and growing militancy bringing threat not only to Middle East, but a globally which somehow has its root linked with this Palestinians crisis of Middle East.

Beside the Palestinian cause, there are conflicts for regional hegemony, sectarian conflict, Border dispute and many more issues of conflict in the region. There were two major Gulf Wars, (1991 & 2003) where USA with its allies fought against Iraq and dropped hundreds of Cluster Bombs and killed thousands of civilians. There is also a continuous conflict of Israel with the Palestinian militant and underground wing especially Hamas in the Gaza and West Bank area in Israel, where in the name of security it has killed thousands of Palestinian by using Tanks, Sniper, Aerial Bombardment etc and occupied their farm lands, make them refugee and imprisoned them as in response to the Hamas. While on the Lebanese front there is always an exchange of artillery and rockets from the Hezbollah which has a strong control of southern Lebanon, another victim of Israeli torture. Majority of them are the Palestinian refugees who are fighting for their injustice with Israeli Defense forces making continuous threats in the region.

There has been border conflict within Middle Eastern countries. The region is being alleged to possess chemical weapon, weapon of mass destruction. Iraq, Libya, Syria is

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7 Hamas, in full, Harakat al-mugawama al-islamiya (Arabic, Islamic Resistance Movement), Palestinian Islamic insurrectionary group dedicated to expelling Israel from Palestine through armed struggle. Founded in 1988 with Shaykh Ahmad Yasin as leader. It arose through the revolutionary impetus generated by the Palestinian intifada, which began in late 1987, and established itself as one of the more extreme elements in the uprising.

8 Hezbollah (Party of God) a Shiite militia is an Iranian-backed force, controls parts of the south of the Lebanon. These guerrillas, who had been launching rocket attacks against northern Israel from southern Lebanon against Israeli torture to their peoples.
best example who are being alleged to posses these weapons and as result major sanction was being imposed at various span of time hitting their economy and livelihood by US, EU and their allies. This has also resulted into war, military action and foreign intervention in these matters within these countries.

This all has resulted in a major loss to life and property. This had hampered the development process and has increased the grievances, hatred amongst the people especially between Arabs and Israeli (along with their allies) and created a continuous threat and insecurity in this region of Middle East.

There is also an indirect conflict of the super powers of the world to control this area of Middle East because of its rich and abundant Oil and Natural Gas reserves, almost two-third (66%) of the world oil reserve is in this region, a very big market for their finished products and also of its optimal strategic location in the world, which is almost centrally located in the present world, from where controlling, watching and reaching to other parts of the world is much easier and optimally suitable.

It seems that an arms race is going on in this region, besides external conflict, internal conflicts in form of civil war and uprisings are also very much in this region (especially in countries of Iraq, Libya, Syria, Algeria, Iran, Egypt, Israel, Turkey, Iraq, etc mainly between Islamic and Modernist and between Shias and Sunnis). This is because of growing Islamism and their greater involvement in country politics and also because of the growing sectarian divide strategy applied and promoted by western countries to these region.

The insecurity has further increased with the greed of the west for rich oil resources and growing competence for the dominance and control of world market within the Middle Eastern countries.

Middle East is also a major water scarce region and this has made water to become a highly prized commodity and a potential source of armed conflict within it. Its diverse religions of Islam, Christianity, Judaism, and indifference among them add a further source of conflict (as Israel-Palestine conflict). Many resolution and document on Israel-Palestine were undertaken (UN General Assembly resolution 1948, Camp
David resolution in 1978, Madrid Peace Plan 1991, Road Map 2003 etc). Even OPEC (organization of petroleum exporting countries), GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) OIC (Organization of Islamic Countries) besides the UN, the US and other major world powers and organizational and institutional body is struggle to maintain regional security in this region of Middle East.

There are number of issues which are threatening to the security of this region, this somehow also threatens the world security in the form of global terrorism and in many cases the terrorists justify their acts in response to the Middle East crisis and Israeli torture along with its allies especially USA, France and Britain.

So an attempt for a proper and in-depth analysis of the various conflicts and conflict resolutions measures in the Middle East region was undertaken in this research thesis titled “A Spatio – Political Analysis of Regional Conflicts of Middle East”. This covers a detailed analysis of the distinct conflict and conflict resolution measures adopted in this region since World War II. An attempt was also done to identify the degree of relationship through regression analysis between conflicts, oil and development by assessing the data, analyzing the different indicators over time mainly since 1990 till date.

1.2. Literature Survey

Many Scholars around the world have worked on various aspects, phenomena of this Middle Eastern region during the different historical period of time. However on the issue of regional development, regional conflicts and conflict resolution of this region a lot of literature on the respective issues is available, few noteworthy contributions and relevant to this research are as follows:

Chomsky (2004)⁹ discussed in details the US foreign policy toward the Middle Eastern countries. Its intervention and intention during conflict and peacemaking. The Israeli alliances and backing by US and their Wars in the name of combating terrorism. The continuous torture and suffering of the Palestinian and illusions promises made during

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the different peace process by Israeli and other International Bodies. Further analyzing the future threats and security issues of the Middle East region.

Cordesman (2002)\(^{10}\) explains the uncertain Arab-Israeli peace process and the threat of war in the Middle East. He also provide a detailed guide to every significant aspect of military and strategic issues of the region, including conventional forces, arms transfers, force quality and morale, terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, the dynamics of specific ongoing conflicts, and the outcome of possible future conflicts. He analyses the role of regional actors; Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and the Palestinian Authority in this war of conflicts in the Middle East.

Dowty (2008)\(^{11}\) explains the intensity and evident intractability of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The endless clash between Jews and Arabs in the Middle East region. This book also expresses fairly and objectively the concerns, hopes, fears and passion of both sides (Arabs & Jews) making it clear why this conflict is waged with such vehemence. With historical perspective, identifies the roots and trace the evolution up to the current impasse. It offers a clear analytic framework for understanding the transformation over times and in doing so, punctures the myths of an age-old conflict with an unbridgeable gap between the two sides.

Forest & Sousa (2006)\(^{12}\) discussed the significance and importance of oil and the breeding Terrorism in the gulf region. The western interest for oil and particularly by US their foreign policy toward the gulf and African countries. Gulf oil trade relations and policies with global partners and the vulnerability of oil in the continuous conflict region of Middle East and during the peacemaking period in the Middle East.

Frankel (2007)\(^{13}\) discuss the demise of the unreliable and risk prone use of solid and liquid fossil fuel (Oil), and the development of sustainable world energy system which assures environmental quality and an equitable socio-economic system. Costs,

\(^{10}\) Anthony H. Cordesman (2002), ‘Peace and War; the Arabs-Israeli Military Balance Enters the 21\(^{st}\) century, Greenwood publishing groups, Westport, USA

\(^{11}\) Alan Dowty (2008), ‘Israel/Palestine, Polity Publishing, USA.


\(^{13}\) E.G. Frankel (2007), Oil and Security: Sands over Arabia: A world Beyond Petroleum, Springer, USA.
supply uncertainties, political factors and environmental damage in oil trade, the future of Middle Eastern region without oil and also review of the alternative fuel and energy conversion technology developments which will drive future energy use toward a cleaner, sustainable and more secure future.

Fraser (1995) has discussed in detail about the Arab-Israeli conflict, its origin and root causes for the conflict and how the nature and forms of the conflict goes on changing with times, the superpowers interest in this region of Middle East, their role in the making of Peace Process. It analyzed the impact of War to this region and attempts to attain the peace to this region of Middle East.

Geoffrey (2002) discuss in details the understanding of long history of conflicts in Middle East, including the disputes and peace treaties, the U.S., and international intervention, and the reasons why the Middle East has always been the most disputed territory in the world. It also covers the histories of the Arab nations as well as the post 9/11 Middle East.

Gopin (2002) demonstrate an era of diplomacy in the Arab-Israeli conflict. The style of Peace making, which neglected the deeper cultural and religious system and the basic need of average people which thus resulted in the failure of peace processes. He also provided a detailed blueprint of how the religious traditions in question can become a principal asset in the search for peace and justice in this region. He analyze the theoretical, theological and political plans what have been achieved thus far, as well as what must be done next in order to ensure effective final settlement negotiations and secure, sovereign, democratic countries for both peoples (Arabs and Jews).

Israeli (2003) provides a collection of articles about the fateful issues of war and peace in the Middle East, especially the evasive brand of war- terrorism and incitement. Horrific words of incitement, followed by atrocious acts of terror have occurred during the past

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16 Marc Gopin (2002), ‘Holy War, Holy Peace: How Religion Can Bring Peace to the Middle East, Oxford University Press, USA
few years. It also focuses on these themes and brings to bear both the benefit and the insight that the current world crisis occasioned by the terrorism and broad sides against western culture that al-Qaida and its allies have launched.

Khan (2008) provided an in-depth analysis to the contemporary Spatio-political thought and space relationship of Middle East. International boundaries and spatial issues, regional structure, continuity and change of Iran, regional distribution of agriculture and political parties, and the Oil history and politics within the Middle East is critically analyzed. He also provided a detailed blueprint of how the layout of the Middle East is shaping the destiny of the region, how the uneven relief in the region is responsible for the emergence of conflict. Petro-dollar economy of the region ,how the remoteness of the market and lack of infra structure prevented the region oil wealth from being utilized most extensively altogether with the West growing interest in controlling cheap oil to supply the capitalist economy. The regional disparities and diversities an explanation of the pulls and pressure has been extensively discussed. He also critically analyzes significant treaties within the region like Treaty of Golestan (1813), Treaty of Turkomanchy (1828), Treaty of Moharram (1881), Goldsmith arbitration (1817) and Satt-Al-Arab pact (1912).

Besides these ethnic ambivalent situation on the International border, the struggle for autonomy by Kurds people within the framework of territorial state. Further the book aims at analyzing the problem in the context of Spatio-temporal framework for a better understanding of the regional structure.

Khan (2000) analyses inbuilt geographical forces of the regional structures of Iran to explain the pull and push pressures. Its geographic bases and ethnic plurality, structure and areas of economic concentration and distinct conflict is further analyzed in details. The uprising in the Kordestan of Iran, the question of autonomy raised in the Baluch ethnic areas of south-east, the local overtone in the region of Azerbaijan

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and the regional pulls and stresses in the Turkoman dominated areas that poses serious problem is further discussed in detailed.

Long, Reich & Gasiorowski (2007)\textsuperscript{20} provides a through and comprehensive, country-by-country analyses of fundamental issues and critical contemporary events in the Middle East and North Africa. The present and future perspective of this region. It’s also including the fact sheets for each country, providing key data in an easy to find, understand and in easy to use format.

Maoz\textsuperscript{21} (1997) assessed the regional security of Middle East region, their past trend, present realities and the future challenges of this region. He emphasis by his work on the regional peace keeping, confidence and security building measures in Middle East, he overview the patrons, clients and allies in the Arab-Israeli conflicts and analyzed the importance and significance of Peace keeping and regional security of Middle East.

Milton and Hinchcliffe (2004)\textsuperscript{22} overviews of the contentious history of the region and analyzes the reasons behind these ongoing conflicts. The issue related to various military conflicts that have occurred and are occurring in the Middle East. It also provides us an excellent introduction to the political and military implications of these events, with well supported by several useful maps of conflict since 1945 in Middle East region.

Pasha (2000)\textsuperscript{23} overview the development of Middle East Peace Process mainly in between Israel and Arabs, especially after the 1973 War between Israel and Arabs. The American involvement in the Palestinian Questions and the Arab factor, in Egypt quest for Peace. He analyzed the problem of West Bank, and Gaza Strip in Palestine and the role of Gulf States in making of this Arabs Israel Peace Process and also in details it has discussed about the various important Conference, Summits, Declaration

\textsuperscript{22} Beverley Milton and Peter Hinchcliffe (2004), ‘Conflicts in the Middle East since 1945’, Routledge, London, UK
and Agreements for Peace, that has been taken in the Middle East. He emphasized the urgency of a proper Peace Policy for the regional security in the Middle East region.

Peters (2007)\(^{24}\) confronts the crucial security issues of present times and the troubled times to come in Middle East by these ongoing conflicts. The ideologies, religion and faith will of ferocious rebellions, genocide and global terrorism in this region. The foreign policy and domestic follies in this region against this new breed of enemies.

Quandt (2001)\(^{25}\) analyzes how the US has dealt with the complex challenges of Peace in the Middle East from 1967 Arab – Israeli war to the death of Yasir Arafat. It also reflects the US government document and other published materials relating to the Johnson, Nixon, Clinton and George.W.Bush presidencies. The text is also complimented by extensive documentary appendixes containing significant treaties, resolutions and speeches.

Raymond & Ehteshami (2002)\(^{26}\) provides an extensive examination of the foreign policies of the 12 Middle East states, their relationship within the region and with other International countries. Their policies during the conflicts and in during peace building within the region. The text also establishes a common analytical framework and delineates the regional and global arenas in which the Middle Eastern government operates.

Richard & Waterbury (2007)\(^{27}\) present a comprehensive analysis of the transformation of the political economy and development in the contemporary Middle East. His work focused on the interaction of economic development processes, state systems and social factors, whilst also documenting the many changes in the demography, education, labour markets, water and agriculture situation of these regions.

\(^{24}\) Ralph Peters (2007), ‘Wars of Blood and Faith: The conflict that will shape the 21\(^{st}\) Century’, Stackpole Books, USA.


\(^{26}\) Raymond A.H & A. Ehteshami (2002), ‘The Foreign Policies of Middle East States’, Lynne Rienner Publishers, Boulders, USA

Roskin & Coyle (2002) provides a detailed history of Middle East since ancient times from the ancient world. The Roman Period, Ottoman Empire and beyond. It links the events of the past with explanations for the situation at the present. He also provides a clearer picture of the enigmatic Middle East with its different cultures and faith.

Rubenberg (2003) conveys how Israeli policies have eroded Palestinian commitment to a peace process, how U.S. intervention has affected the region, and how pervasive corruption within the Palestinian government has played a role. Her somber conclusion supports the contention that peace in the region, while hoped depends entirely on unlikely shifts in policy and objectives on all sides. Which leaves the Palestinians further from realizing their aspirations for self-determination that at any time since 1967.

Selby (2003) provides numerous sources and narrative accounts of people coping strategies to examine the water crisis in the Middle East. The hydro politics by countries in the region. The future threats of war by water crisis and its impact on the politics, economy and region. He also analyzed the present vulnerability by water scarcity and threats in future within this region of Middle East.

1.3 Aims and Objectives

- To identify the nature of conflicts in the Middle East
- To analyze the various conflicts, Peace Plan and the reasons behind its failure in Implementation
- To analyze the oil politics with its impact on development and security of Middle East
- To understand the role of International organization (UN, USA, EU, GCC, OIC, OPEC etc) fostering conflicts

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28 M.Roskin & James J. Coyle (2002), ‘Empires, Wars And Battles: The Middle East From Antiquity To the rise of The New World’ Pearson Prentice Hall, USA.
29 Cheryl. Rubenberg (2003), The Palestinian: In search of a Just Peace, Lynne Rienner publishers, Boulder, USA
1.4 Hypothesis

- Middle East is a boiling cauldron of conflict
- Rich oil resource in the region has enhanced the conflicts

1.5 Data Sources

The Data was collected from different secondary sources in this research. Oil assessment of the Middle East region was done from the different Oil data indicators (Reserve, Production, Export, Import etc) collected from the United Nation Energy Year Book 2009. Data in this thesis was assessed mainly from 1990 to 2009 time frame because of the availability of the Data. Development scenario of the Middle East region was assessed by the data collected from different sources; World Development Report 2012, World Development Indicator-World Bank, Human Development Report 2012, Arab Development Report 2012. The data for the conflict was collected from the SIPRI Year Book 2012 (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Sweden). Data was also assessed from the Europa Year Book for the Middle East 2011, different government publication, Agreements, Treaties, Reports, Encyclopedia, Books, Journals etc.

1.6 Research Methodology

The qualitative research analysis was done after analyzing the various literally work done by eminent scholars from different field over time in form of books, published research papers in journals, related to this thesis. Bilateral agreement, treaties, reports, government and other publication also helped in the analysis. While the quantitative analysis is based on data collected from different secondary sources, mainly from United Nations and World Bank publications. Data in this research was taken from 1990 -2009 time frame because of the availability of the Data. The collected data of the various countries in the Middle East was organized under the different categories covering in order for further analysis of the trends and realities in the different countries of Middle East.
Various statistical and cartographic technique was used to analyzed and process the data. For processing and analysis of the data statistical software STATA 12 was used. Here Country level data on military expenditure, export, import, oil rents, GDP in constant USD, for the period 1990 to 2009 for 20 countries of Middle East region were taken in this study to find out the relationship between trade and conflict using panel data fixed effect regression analysis.

Fixed-effects (FE) method is used mainly whenever one is interested in analyzing the impact of variables that vary over time. FE explores the relationship between predictor and outcome variables within an entity (country, conflict, development, etc.). Each entity has its own individual characteristics that may or may not influence the predictor variables. When using FE we assume that something within the individual may impact or bias the predictor or outcome variables and we need to control for this. This is the rationale behind the assumption of the correlation between entity’s error term and predictor variables. FE removes the effect of those time-invariant characteristics from the predictor variables so we can assess the predictors’ net effect.

Another important assumption of the FE model is that those time-invariant characteristics are unique to the individual and should not be correlated with other individual characteristics. Each entity is different therefore the entity’s error term and the constant (which captures individual characteristics) should not be correlated with the others. If the error terms are correlated then FE is no suitable since inferences may not be correct and you need to model that relationship (probably using random-effects).

We did not use random effect panel data because the rationale behind random effects model is that, unlike the fixed effects model, the variation across entities is assumed to be random and uncorrelated with the predictor or independent variables included in the model. Fixed effects estimation is another method to eliminate the time invariant unobserved effect.
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Fixed effects model specifies as:

\[(Y_{it}) = \beta_i + \beta_1 X_{it1} + \beta_2 X_{it2} \ldots \ldots + \beta_k X_{itk} + u_{it}\]

Where
\(\beta_i (i=1\ldots n)\) is the unknown intercept for each entity (n entity-specific intercepts),
\(Y_{it}\) is the dependent variable, where \(i = \text{entity}\) and \(t = \text{time}\),
\(X_{it1}\) represents one independent variable,
\(\beta_1, \beta_2\) and \(\beta_k\) is the coefficient for that,
\(u_{it}\), is the error term.

The correlation between the fixed effect \(\beta_i\) and the explanatory variables will cause biases in the estimated coefficients. Thus, we need to eliminate \(\beta_i\) from the estimation. Fixed effects estimation is another method to eliminate the time invariant unobserved effect. Fixed effect estimation allows arbitrary correlation between \(\beta_i\) and explanatory variables. Random effect is valid only if \(\beta_i\) are uncorrelated with any of the explanatory variables.

Panel data fixed effect model specifies as:

\[\ln(Y_{it}) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \ln(\text{export})_{it} + \beta_2 \ln(\text{GDP})_{it} + \beta_3 \ln(\text{Oilrents})_{it} + C_i + T_t + \epsilon_{it}\]

Where
Subscript \(i\) and \(t\) denotes country and time, respectively,
\(\ln(Y_{it})\) = natural log of military expenditure (% of GDP),
\(\beta_1 \ln(\text{export})_{it}\) = natural log of percent of GDP export
\(\beta_2 \ln(\text{GDP})_{it}\) = natural log of percent of GDP in constant USD,
\(\beta_3 \ln(\text{Oilrents})_{it}\) = natural log of oil rents (% of GDP),
\(C_i\) = Country fixed effect,
\(T_t\) = Time trend,
\(\epsilon_{it}\) = unobserved error term
We have used the following estimation equations to examine the relationship between Military Expenditure with time, export, oil rent and GDP:
\[ Ln(Y_{it}) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 T_t + \beta_2 \ln(\text{export})_{it} + Ci + \epsilon_{it} \]

\[ Ln(Y_{it}) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 T_t + \beta_2 \ln(\text{export})_{it} + \beta_3 \ln(\text{Oil rents})_{it} + Ci + \epsilon_{it} \]

\[ Ln(Y_{it}) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 T_t + \beta_2 \ln(\text{export})_{it} + \beta_3 \ln(\text{Oil rents})_{it} + \beta_4 \ln(\text{GDP})_{it} + Ci + \epsilon_{it} \]

Where

Subscript i and t denotes country and time, respectively,

\( Ln(Y_{it}) \) = natural log of military expenditure (% of GDP),

\( \beta_1 \ln(\text{export})_{it} \) = natural log of percent of GDP export

\( \beta_2 \ln(\text{GDP})_{it} \) = natural log of percent of GDP in constant USD,

\( \beta_3 \ln(\text{Oil rents})_{it} \) = natural log of oil rents (% of GDP),

\( Ci \) = Country fixed effect,

\( T_t \) = Time trend,

\( \epsilon_{it} \) = unobserved error term

On the basis of the secondary data and above specified models, a scenario of oil, conflict and development was analyzed in Middle East region. This has also helped in identifying the casual relationship between conflict with oil wealth and development. Thus proving out the research hypothesis and achieving the aims and objective of this research.

Data was compared at intra-country level in the Middle East. Both the statistical and cartographic techniques like table, charts, bar-diagrams; choropleth etc was used for the representation of data. Software like, STATA, was used for analyzing the data while Arcgis 9.3 and Arcview3.2 software was used to prepared the Maps. Further these above techniques were used for the analysis and representation of the collected data.

1.7 Climatic Conditions of Middle East

Middle East is generally known to have, hot and dry climatic condition throughout the year. Its peninsular shape, surrounding by Sea (Red Sea, Arabian, Mediterranean, Caspian and Black Sea), its topography and other existing atmospheric climatic factor
(wind, altitude, Jet stream, air masses etc) play a significant role in making of such a climate. The high temperature surrounding summer and mild winter are the chief features of Middle East. An important feature of Middle East is that of altitude, it is consist of low laying and extensive areas, most of the Asia Minor\textsuperscript{31} and Iran for example lies around 1000m, above sea level and it reduces the temperature. A marked simplicity of rhythm prevails throughout the Middle East with few exceptions, July is the hottest month in lands but on the coast the maximum is delayed until August because of the slower absorption of heat by the sea and January is the coldest month of the Middle East.

1.8 Temperature

The distribution of temperature for the month of January in Middle East for the year 2011 has the following trends: - smaller island countries especially UAE (Dubai), Bahrain (Nicosia), Oman, Qatar have a very high temperature (16-17°C), compares to the other region of Middle East. The Northern and North Eastern part of Middle East comprising countries of Iran, Turkey, Syria, are having a low temperature (-0.1 to 3.5°C), extremely cold winter exist here, many times the temperature goes beyond the freezing point (below 0°C) at this month because of topographical and the winds coming from its north polar region. The western part of the Middle East comprising countries of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt, in the central part comprising countries of Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Cyprus, Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia while in the southern western portion of the Middle East covering countries of Yemen, have a moderately temperature in this month with an average July is the hottest month of the Middle East and if we see the temperature for the year 2011 we find the following trends: - The central and south eastern part of the Middle East comprising the countries of Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE and Oman are having a very high temperature, with an average between 46°C to 35°C in this month, here Oman is having the highest temperature of 46°C in this month.

\textsuperscript{31} Asia Minor is a geographic region in the south-western part of Asia comprising most of what is present-day Turkey. It’s a peninsula also called Anatolia, comprises all of the Asian part of Turkey and denotes the westernmost protrusion of Asia, comprising the majority of the Republic of Turkey.
The countries of Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Cyprus and in the north eastern part of Middle East comprising the whole of Iran in the middle East at this month enjoys a moderate temperature ranging between 35°C to 27°C. So in general, January is the coldest month and July is the hottest month in Middle East, here if we go through the average annual temperature of Middle East we notice the following trends: - the whole of northern part comprising the countries of Turkey, Iran, Syria, and Jordan, Yemen in the south western part and Tunisia in the western part are having a lower temperature comparing to the other parts and countries of Middle East. Countries comprising of Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Cyprus and Iraq are having a moderate temperature throughout the year in the region, while the central part of Middle East comprising the countries of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, UAE and Oman enjoys the highest annual average temperature in a year.

Here in Middle East Oman enjoys the highest temperature in both the month of January 28°C and July 46°C, while the difference of temperature for both the month of July and January is maximum in Saudi Arabia 28°C and Iran 27°C and is minimum in Yemen 8°C and Morocco 10°C.
1.9 Precipitation

In Middle East the rainfall is scarce and not uniform in nature except for the coastal region of Northern Iran and North East Asia Minor, Yemen upland and adjacent areas in the southern Arabia where the rainfall is good, which are climatically special cases, the whole of rest of Middle East has a strong marked of Mediterranean rhythm of summer drought and winter rain which are also spatial in winter. The distribution of rainfall in Middle East is largely controlled by two factor, topography and disposition of land and sea in relation to the rain bearing wind. Middle East is predominantly a continental area and influence only in certain region by proximity of relatively smaller area of sea, hence air masses reaching the Middle East from the west even through the oceanic region have lost some of their moisture and its only when a sea has allowed partial rejuvenation that considerable rainfall can develop, it might be therefore said that in most region rainfall tends to occur in proposition to the length of the coastline.

Rainfall in Middle East generally occur in early autumn when the dry summer air masses are displaced by more unstable current from the west, a few shots shower only occur during September but toward the end of October heavier and more prolonged falls often with spectacular thunderstorm announce the end of summer seasons. The real rainy seasons does not begin until about Christmas and even may delayed until New Year that the January, over the western part of Middle east, around the Mediterranean comprising countries of Algeria, Libya, Egypt, Cyprus, Israel, Lebanon, etc. January is the rainiest month because of the influence of Westerlies and Mediterranean Sea while in the eastern part comprising countries of Turkey and Iran with the influence of Black Sea and Caspian Sea maximum rainfall is in autumn.

1.10 Relief

The relief factor has played an important role in directly controlling the role of nature of occupation of people. So it is essential that at least a brief sketch should be given about the major feature of this region, In general and for a better understanding the whole region can be divided into two broad groups they are:-

1. A northern Mountain belt (i.e. the state of Turkey and Iran)
2. A Southern Zone (i.e. largely of plains and dissected plateau)
In Turkey two major non-continuous but broken mountain belts are recognized, the Pontus mountain is a chain of highland paralleling the black sea coast, their altitudinal direction are easterly in nature and up to an height of more than 3500m size. The Tarus mountain of the southern coast of Turkey is the most formidable range which is less dissected by river system then their northern range these uplands always stood as a barrier to human movement, between these two mountain ranges the Great Central or Anatolian plateaux lies, these plateau have an average height of 500m and relatively isolated from the coastal region. The Pontus and Tarus ranges from a complex upland massif near mt Ararat 5165 mt, the crest elevation sometimes exceeds 3000m. Toward eastward the Pontus and Tarus mt chains divided again in north and south.

1. **North**- In the north along the southern shore of Caspian sea are Elburz mt chain, mount Damavand have a height of 5610 mt (highest peak) uplands are narrow in a north to south direction

2. **South**- Southward from the Ararat mt on the eastern bank of Tigris-Euphrates lowland and the Persian gulf all along is the zagros mts they have a maximum height of 4548 m in zard kuh these parallel ranges with their upland valley have allowed the movement of the people

3. **East**- the Eastern Iran or the border of Afghanistan have complex mountain system called eastern Iranian Highland it has a maximum height of 2500m, this is much lower than Elburg and Zagros

4. **East** :- The Red sea hills are the major upland area and Nile Delta forms the major lands in Egypt

5. **West**: In this category the topography is quite simple with a narrow lowland along the coast and rising inland to upland plateau along the southern margin of Libya and Egypt, here the interior plateau height of more than 1000m is rarely seen while large sand forms are the important landscape in this zone

In the North West Libya a small upland zone is called Gebel-el-Akhdar, it has some 1000 m in height, it plays a significant role in human dwelling. The East of the Red Sea is the highest land in this region is seen in the South-western Corner of the Arabian Peninsula, the Yemen region attains an altitude of more than 3700m and the
highlands cover whole of western part of Arabian belt and its level decline to the North and East. The central Arabia has a typical relief feature, relief are a series of westward facing scarpment in C like form around the west coast highland mass.

![Physical Map of Middle East](image)

Map 1.2 – Middle East Physical Map

At the center surrounded by these highland is the central plateau of Iran. This central plateau has never or less similar feature of Anatolian Plateau and has an average height of 500m, it is subdivided broadly into two basins and the characteristic of these basins are having inland drainage. These two groups are:

1. The Dasht-e-kavir
2. The Dasht-i-lut.

The Dasht-e-kavir forms a huge salt desert in the north, while the Dast-i-lut forms the southern basin, the southern region of plain and dissected plateau can be divided into two groups, East and West, while the dividing line either may be Red Sea and Suez Canal.
Levant: - A region, stretching from the Mediterranean Sea and interior arid plateau of Syria, Jordan, Iraq and Arabia. In the upland areas are seen proximity to the coast and there is altitudinal decline towards the interior. The maximum height it reaches at Mount Harmon 3000m between Lebanon and Syria. The shape of the relief of the region is prough like. This is because the north south fault zone of the Dead Sea lowland which has dissected the upland belt. The region sometimes descended to 300 m below sea level. The largest lowland of the region stretches from Northern Iraq to the coast of the Indian Ocean in Oman. In the north it runs parallel to the rivers i.e. Tigris and Euphrates. The lowland belts continued as a thin zone allowing the shore of the gulf and later on the broadened into an extensive plain in southern Arabia. In this zone the largest sand sea in the world, Rabal-Khali is situated. The dunes are sometimes at the height of more than 200m. The easternmost tip of Arabia a belt of Land popularly known as Green Mountain called Gebel Al Akhdar. This mountain sometimes reaches the height of more than 3000m. While Tigris and Euphrates are the major river system in the north while the Nile is the only major river in the south of Middle East.

1.11 Geo-political Significances

Middle East in the 20th century, occupied a major significance due to various reasons, Its concepts and territorial limits have been a matter of discussion, But till today no universally accepted territorial delimitation have been approved at the national or international levels. The region centers on the junction of Africa-in the south west, Asia in south east and Europe in north, where the landmass is deeply penetrated by the sea. Maritime trade has long been important and control of ports and constrictions in the seaways has alternately supported cities and disrupted commerce.

The four great isthmuses which lie between the arms of the ocean and the control of Caspian Sea have been crossed by major routes for millennia and their control has been of great geopolitical concern in the 19th century, during ship sailing days, when the sea passage from Britain to India via the Cape of Good Hope took between 5-8 months approximately. One ran from Alexandria through Cairo to Suez and then by ship down the Red Sea, but it was superseded in 1869 by the Suez canal, so vital to
British imperial Strategy, Particularly in two world wars. Ease of movement between the Gulf, and the eastern Mediterranean or The Caspian Sea, made this area one of the great concerns to both Britain and Russia in the 19th century, as well as to the allies and Germany during the first and second world war.

The Middle East flourished with trade economically and politically as long as the ancient land routes were used. Their geopolitical value was re-emphasized during the second world war, when sea routes were hazardous and allied forces had to be supplied arms and ammunitions and food by land. Pipelines across the great isthmuses are already of major importance in the movement of oil from the gulf region and northern Iraq. Tanker traffic in the Gulf the Red Sea. The Indian Ocean and eastern Sea makes the peripheral seas some of the most important highways in the world. Cairo and Beirut have emerged as major civil airports.

As the world’s major source of oil, the Middle East retained its significance. Middle East controls the economy of at least the developed nations of the world. The fluctuation of oil prices and political turmoil in Middle East is also experienced by the world to a large extent. Middle East has occupied a strategic position with respect to the west and the oriental world. It is a transistional zone or acts as an interface between highly developed world(Europe) and less developed nations of Asia, South East Asia.

Now, the region has acquired a new strategic position with new alignment of ‘north’ and ‘south’ with the development of different organisations like SAARC and NAM. This latter role is increasing in significance with the Middle East more and more a consciously intermediate zone, with superb social services, a highly important market for some of the most sophisticated products of the industrial ‘northern’ world and a respected mediator in world financial affairs. The Middle East has rapidly developed a new role.

By nature of its location at a junction of three connects (Asia, Africa, Europe). Middle East has a number of advantages as well as disadvantages in respect of socio-economic situations. Advantages in terms of movement of races and diffusion of culture which has brought a good number of innovations in this region. The region is

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Often called as the cul-de-sack because of the diffusion of culture of both east and west to the region giving rise to a delicate blend of culture. Middle east has served as the corridor of movement of races especially from Central Asia and Europe, resulting a racial heterogeneity and complexity.

1.12 Organisation of the Thesis

The thesis consist of five chapter, the first chapter gives an introduction overview of the study in which the statement of the problems were identified, A small Literature review which gives an insight to the research, aims and objectives of the research, hypothesis, data sources and methodology used to prove the hypothesis and fulfill the aims and objective is being discussed.

The second chapter talk about the regional conflicts of Middle East region, their diverse nature and impact were assessed. Israel- Palestine (1948, 56, 67, 73, 82 etc) conflict, Israel –Arabs conflicts, Palestinian Intifada, Iran-Iran War, Iraq (1980-88)-Kuwait War, Gulf War (1991, 2003) Border conflicts Iraq Civil War 2003 onwards, The Libyan Civil War (2011), Syria civil war (2011 onwards) in the Middle East region are discussed in detailed.

The third chapter, Oil, Conflict and Development in the Middle East region discussed and analyzed the Oil, Development, and Conflict scenario in the region by assessing various data collected from various international published sources mainly from United Nation publication. The data was organized in a panel form and was regressed in STATA 12 software to know the relationship between the Oil and Conflict in the region over time.

The Chapter four; Conflict Resolutions, deals with the different measures of peace undertaken by different partners at various span of time to resolve the conflict. Prominent peace plan between the Israel and Palestine and between the Israel and Arabs since World War II has been discussed in detail, prominent amongst them were UN Two state partition Plan, Rabat Conference, Madrid Peace plan, Cairo Agreement, Hebron Agreement, Oslo I and Oslo II, Wye and Wye II, Road Map, Israel- Egypt Agreement (Camp David), Israel- Jordan Agreement, Israel- Syria
Agreement, Israel-Lebanon agreement etc are discussed in detail. Its also highlight the reason for the failure in bringing permanent truce in the region since last 65 years.

The Chapter five and the last chapter, Conclusion, conclude the thesis work, where challenges of the region are discussed, ground reality and understanding are elaborated. It also helps us in better understanding the past, measure and recommendation needed for future for effective growth and development of the region and in bringing permanent peace and stability within the region.