

Iran's Role in the Arab Spring of Libya

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The Arab Spring in Oman

A very good article from the center-left Huffington Post about the Arab Spring of Oman in 2011. See “How the Arab Spring Skirted Oman”, December 2011.

According to Huffington Post the Arab Spring in Oman was probably a warning send to Oman from the United Arab Emirates, in order for Oman to be careful about its friendship with Iran. I guess that the Saudis must have played a role too. I have said many times that Iran and Oman have agreed to construct the Iran-Oman-India natural gas pipeline, in order for India to obtain access to cheap natural gas while avoiding her rival Pakistan.

Map Iran-Oman-India Pipeline



Iran will also be able to send natural gas to Oman through the Iran-Oman pipeline, in order for this natural gas to be liquefied at Oman's underutilized LNG facilities, before being exported to third countries in LNG form.

The cooperation between Oman and Iran brings Iran on the Arabian Peninsula, which is Saudi Arabia's neighborhood. And that happens at a time the Saudis and the United Arab Emirates are already at war with the Iranians in Yemen, with the Iranians supporting the Shiite Houthi rebels.

The agreement between Iran and Oman also hurts Qatar, because Qatar exports huge quantities of natural gas (LNG) to India. Qatar and Iran are discussing the possibility of jointly exploiting the South Pars/North Fields gas field, which lies between the two countries in the Persian Gulf, and which is the largest gas field in the world, in order to jointly export gas to Turkey, India. This solution is more advantageous for Qatar than for Iran, because Iran has the geographical advantage.

The South Pars/North Fields is the main reason the relations between Qatar and Iran are better than the relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Qatar's main ally is Turkey, and Turkey hopes that Qatar and Iran will stop killing each other and will cooperate, in order to send gas from the South Pars / North Fields to Turkey and Europe. For that to happen of course Turkey and Iran must first stop killing each other in Syria too. See "Pan-Arabism VS Pan-Islamism".

<https://iakal.wordpress.com/2016/05/21/pan-arabism-vs-pan-islamism/>

Qatar, Turkey and Iran found themselves on the same side during some incidents of the Arab Spring (Tunisia, Libya, Egypt), even though they are killing each other in Syria, with Iran supporting Bashar al Assad, and Qatar and Turkey asking for his removal.

Iran was the aggressor in the Arab Spring of Egypt, Tunisia and Bahrain, and Iran was the defender in the Arab Spring of Syria and Oman. Saudi Arabia was the aggressor in the Arab Spring of Syria and Oman, and Saudi Arabia was the defender in the Arab Spring of Tunisia, Egypt and Bahrain.

In Libya things were very complicated, and I discuss Libya in the next chapter.

The Arab Spring in Libya

Things were very complicated in the Libyan Arab Spring. Qaddafi, the Libyan socialist dictator, was a traditional enemy of the Arabs of the Persian Gulf, and even though an Arab he was a traditional Iranian ally i.e. like the Syrians. However in the last decade there were many problems in the Libyan-Iranian relations. The problems between Qaddafi and Iran made it very hard to understand whether it was Iran or Saudi Arabia who was more eager to support the Islamist rebels who were fighting Qaddafi.

At the following video you can see a confrontation between Qaddafi and the previous Saudi King, King Abdullah, during an Arab League meeting. See “Qaddafi VS King Abdullah”.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LoR9sxPVpic>

Qaddafi accuses the Saudis for inviting the Americans to defend themselves when Iraq (Saddam Hussein) invaded Kuwait, instead of finding another way to deal with the problem. Qaddafi also says that the Saudis are capable to ally with the devil in order to save themselves. The Saudi King calls Qaddafi a liar, and tells him that his grave is in front of him. That was in 2003, and in 2009 the two men exchanged insults again during an Arab League summit. See the Telegraph “Muammar Gaddafi accuses Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah of lying at Arab summit”, March 2009

Qaddafi had supported quite a few assassination attempts against the Saudi Kings, and the Saudis have done the same against Qaddafi.

On the other hand Qaddafi was a traditional Iranian ally. Since the rise of the Iranian Islamists to power in 1979, and the overthrow of the pro-American Iranian monarch, Qaddafi and the Iranian Islamists were jointly fighting the Saudis. The Saudis produced large quantities of oil, keeping oil prices low. Moreover the Saudi oilfields are easy fields, and oil can be produced at very low costs in Saudi Arabia. Qaddafi was counting on oil exports to pay the civil servants who supported his dictatorship in Libya, and the Saudi oil policies hurt him. For the geopolitics of the alliance between Qaddafi and Iran see “Libya and Syria : The 2 Arab Friends of Iran”.

<https://iakal.wordpress.com/2016/02/02/libya-syria-the-2-arab-allies-of-iran/>

On the other hand in the last decade there were many great problems in the Libyan-Iranian relations, and probably these problems became more important from the common hatred for the Saudi King.

This essay is mainly about the problems between Iran and Libya, and Iran’s role in the Libyan Arab Spring. I initially thought, but I was wrong, that the Iranians did not play a role in the toppling of Qaddafi, and they only hailed his assassination to strengthen their position in the post-Qaddafi Libya. See for example Daily Telegraph “Iran welcomes Muammar Gaddafi's death”, October 2011.

One of the problems between Qaddafi and Iran was that in 2007 Qaddafi and Sarkozy agreed that France would construct in Libya a plant for the

production of nuclear energy. See for example Spiegel “Sarkozy Meets Gadhafi: France to Build Nuclear Reactor in Libya”, July 2007.

As you know the French are strong allies of the Arabs of the Persian Gulf, and the French have very problematic relations with the Turks and the Iranians. I guess that after the agreement between Qaddafi and Sarkozy, Qaddafi must have promised that he would stop attacking the French in North Africa, and probably cooperate with the French against Islamists. The problem is that some of the Islamists attacking the French in North Africa have very good relations with Iran, Sudan and Turkey.

Remember that the French need the uranium of Niger, Mali and Chad, for their production of nuclear energy. The French cover most of their energy needs with electricity produced from nuclear energy. The Iranians, together with their Chinese allies, want the uranium of North Africa too, and Qaddafi also wanted it, at least until the agreement with the French in 2007 was made. I guess things changed when Qaddafi made the agreement with the French in 2007, because the French would use a part of the African uranium for the production of nuclear energy in Libya.

Moreover, Qaddafi had very problematic relations with the strongest ally of Iran in Africa i.e. Sudan. Qaddafi had supported the Christians and the non-Arab separatists of Sudan, against the Arab Islamists of North Sudan. The oil of Sudan is located in South Sudan, while the Arab population is mainly located in North Sudan. See for example BBC “Darfur rebel leader Khalil Ibrahim flees Libya”, September 2011.

Map Libya and Sudan



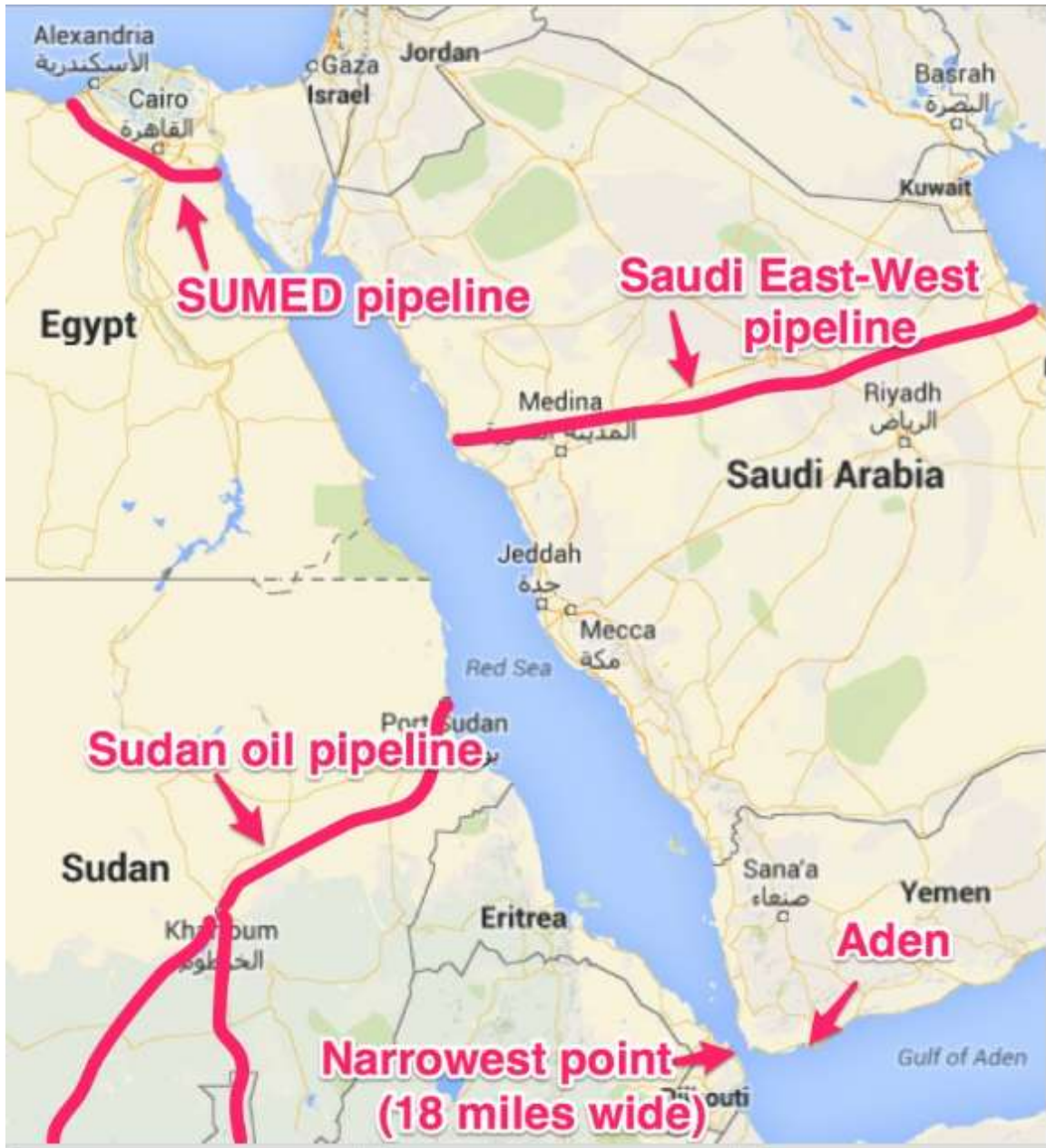
<http://yalibnan.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/libya-sudan-map-e1410156072643.jpg>

The separatists of Sudan managed to gain their independence in 2011, and Sudan was separated to Sudan and South Sudan, with the Arab population controlling the northern part, while the oil of the country came under the control of the non-Arab population of South Sudan. That was a great problem for China too, because China is the dominant player in the oil industry of Sudan and South Sudan.

The Arabs of Sudan lost their main source of revenue, and this probably played a role in their alliance with Saudi Arabia in 2015. As long as the Arabs of Sudan were exporting their oil from Port Sudan in the Red Sea, there was a lot of tension between them and Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia exports oil from the red see too, through the East-West oil pipeline that ends

at Yanbu Port. Saudi Arabia has very “easy” oil fields, and can produce oil with very low production costs i.e. around 10 dollars per barrel. The other oil exporting countries do not like that, because the huge Saudi production pushes oil prices downwards. On the other hand the non-oil exporting Muslim countries always want a share of the Saudi oil profits in order not to support the Saudi socialists and Al Qaeda against the Saudi King.

Map Oil Pipelines of Red Sea



<http://www.businessinsider.com/war-in-yemen-could-threaten-one-of-the-worlds-most-important-oil-choke-points-2015-3>

Therefore we could say that Qaddafi played a role in Iran losing its main ally in Africa i.e. Sudan. Once the Arabs of Sudan stopped exporting oil, it became easier to improve relations with the Saudis, and that's what happened in 2015, when the Saudis gave large economic donations to Sudan.

The Saudi East-West pipeline makes the Saudi exports to Europe and Africa cheaper, due to lower transportation costs, and it also gives Saudi Arabia an alternative when exporting oil to Asia. That's very important in case Iran closes for Saudi Arabia the Straits of Hormuz, as Iran many times in the past has threatened to do.

Map



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/5a/Hormuz_map.png

Things will become much worse for Saudi Arabia if Iran takes control of Yemen, because Iran will be able to also threaten Saudi Arabia at the Straits of Bab el Mandeb at the Gulf of Aden. For the time being the Saudis can feel secure at the Suez Canal, because they are allies with Egypt.

Another problem between Qaddafi and Iran was that Qaddafi was in very bad terms with the Lebanese Shiite Hezbollah, which is mainly funded by Iran. Hezbollah had a strong presence in Sudan, and together with Sudan she supported the Islamists of Libya. Qaddafi was supporting leftist terrorists in Lebanon against the Islamists of Hezbollah. For the role of Hezbollah in the Libyan Arab Spring see “Hizbullah’s part in Gaddafi’s downfall”, October 2011.

The special forces of Sudan, Hezbollah and Qatar were among the first ones who set foot in Libya to support the Libyan rebels. In the meantime the communist and nazi propaganda says that the Arab Spring was simply a plot of the CIA, without even mentioning all this struggle in the corrupt Islamic countries.

Another problem could have been that when Qaddafi abandoned his nuclear program in 2003, he gave his equipment to United States and England, essentially betraying Pakistan, which was selling nuclear technology and nuclear equipment in the black market. See “The Black Market for Nuclear Weapons”.

<https://iakal.wordpress.com/2016/02/10/the-black-market-for-nuclear-weapons/>

Pakistan is the only Muslim country which possesses nuclear weapons. I guess that Pakistan and North Korea are also selling nuclear technology and nuclear equipment in the black market to Iran too. Therefore betraying Pakistan could have been another thorn in the Qaddafi-Iranian relations. I

must say that Russia is the country which has helped Iran to construct factories for the production of nuclear energy in Iran. But Russia would not be willing to help Iran obtain nuclear weapons, because Iran is one of the richest countries in the world in terms of oil and gas reserves. Therefore one day Russia might face the Iranian Islamists as enemies. Many times in the previous centuries Iran and Russia faced each other. Russia might even have to face an alliance of Iranian and Turkish Islamists, because Turkey does not have oil and gas, and there is a lot of room for cooperation between the Iranians and the Turks.

Contrary to Iran, Pakistan does not have oil and gas, and it wants the oil and gas of Iran, and I do not think that Pakistan would hesitate to sell nuclear technology to Iran in exchange for oil and gas. Obviously at the same time Pakistan would have to assure its traditional ally Saudi Arabia that it will sell her nuclear weapons if the Iranians ever threaten Saudi Arabia. I have to say that it is more likely to assume that the Iranians get their nuclear purchases in the black market from North Korea, which is a Chinese ally and does not have diplomatic relations with the United States. The Iranians also tried to boost their nuclear technology from Argentina. See “Iran Taking Over Latin America”.

<https://iakal.wordpress.com/2015/12/26/iran-overtaking-latin-america/>

Another problem between Qaddafi and Iran was that after the Al Qaeda attack at the Twin Towers in 2001, Qaddafi started cooperating with the American and English secret services against the Islamists who were attacking all three of them. See “The Cooperation Between George Bush and the Libyan Dictator Against Al Qaeda”.

<https://iakal.wordpress.com/2016/02/12/the-cooperation-between-george-bush-and-the-libyan-dictator-against-al-qaeda/>

I have said many times that Al Qaeda is a Saudi terrorist organization, but because she is against the Saudi King and the Americans, in many cases Al Qaeda has been supported by Iran, Saddam Hussein, Sudan, and other enemies of United States and the Saudi King.

After the improvement in the US-Iranian relations the willingness of Iran to support Al Qaeda will be significantly reduced. On the other side the United States has improved its relations with India and has hurt its relations with Pakistan, a strong Chinese ally, and Pakistan has a lot of influence in some groups of the Taliban and Al Qaeda. Therefore Pakistan can support terrorist attacks against the United States if their relations further deteriorate in the future. The Americans are already accusing the Pakistanis of supporting terrorist attacks against them. See “Pakistan – Osama bin Laden”.

<https://iakal.wordpress.com/2016/05/08/pakistan-osama-bin-laden/>

All the above were great problems between Qaddafi and I was wrong to believe that the Iranians hailed Qaddafi's death only to be nice to the new Libyan status-quo. Iran played a great role in Qaddafi's overthrow, even if it did so through its allies i.e. Sudan and Hezbollah. The only concern Iran had about the overturn of Qaddafi was to prevent actors supported by France and Saudi Arabia to take control of the post Qaddafi Libya, due to the dominant presence of the French air force, and the support France could provide to the rebels.

In the same way the Iranians and the Turks feared French influence in post-Qaddafi Libya, the French were fearing a post-Qaddafi Libya which would be controlled by the Turks or the Iranians. The main reason Nicola Sarkozy made the mistake to support the rebels was that the Iranians or the Turks would become the dominant force in the post Qaddafi Libya. If the Turks and the Iranians were to become the dominant force in the post Qaddafi Libya they could create a hell for France in North Africa.

Nicola Sarkozy had already lost in Tunisia and Egypt, where he supported the socialist dictators who were allies of France and Saudi Arabia i.e. Ben Ali (Tunisia) and Mubarak (Egypt). Unfortunately for Nicola Sarkozy and France, Ben Ali and Mubarak were toppled by the Islamists, and they had to flee to Saudi Arabia to save their lives from the Islamists supported by Turkey, Iran, Sudan, Qatar and Hezbollah.

The Islamists and the Communists had launched a propaganda war against Sarkozy, and he had to officially apologize for France's stance in Tunisia. See for example the Guardian "Sarkozy admits France made mistakes over Tunisia", January 2011.

In the past I thought that the reason the French supported the rebels was because they wanted to gain influence in Libya at the expense of the Italians. It is true that Italy is the European country with the closest economic relations with Libya, and the same is true for France in Algeria, and there is definitely some kind of competition between the South European countries in North Africa. But the main reason Sarkozy decide to help the rebels in

Libya was his previous defeats in Tunisia and Egypt, where he supported the socialist dictators who were traditional allies of France.

Unfortunately the Islamist and Communist propaganda is everywhere, and it is so heavily funded in Europe and the United States, and no matter how cautious you are it will get you at some point. And if you are a silly silly this propaganda will convince you that everything that goes wrong in the world is because of greedy Europe and because of greedy United States.

But I also have to say that Nicola Sarkozy made a great mistake by not supporting Qaddafi against the Islamists. He should have supported him, and then try to defend himself against the propaganda war that would be launched against him by the Islamists in the Muslim World, and by the Communists in Europe and the United States. If Sarkozy had supported Qaddafi, the Islamist and Communist propaganda would attack him by saying that he supports an oppressor to get oil contracts in exchange.

Now the Communists and the Islamists are happy that Qaddafi is gone, but they pretend to be sad for his death, while it was the people who pay them that killed him. But they say that the greedy Europe and the greedy United States are responsible for his death, without mentioning anything about the rotten Islamic countries. But you did not see the Communists protesting in the streets of Europe and United States, asking Europe and United States to support Qaddafi, did you? No you didn't. You only saw them after his death taking money from the Islamists and accusing Europe and the United States for Qaddafi's death.

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