

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INTERNATIONAL RESOURCE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

THE ARAB GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL (AGCC) IS NOT JUST AN ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY, BUT IT IS AN ORGANIZATION FOR COOPERATION IN ALL FIELDS

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This thesis examines the main purpose for establishing the AGCC, and proves that it was not created just as a defensive alliance as it is generally perceived in the West. The AGCC was formed for cooperation and in all fields among its Member States. To demonstrate this fact, this thesis discusses the historical events that led to the establishment of this organization and analyzes the cooperation of the member states in area of politics, security, economy, as well as the development of human resources.

The analysis indicates that the formation of the Shura Council (Consultative National Councils) was the first step in the right direction in building suitable political institutions. They allow the citizens of the AGCC to participate in the decision making process. Also, the thesis examines the external and the internal threats to the region and the AGCC relations with the West. It finds that the AGCC States must enhance the existing (Gulf) Island Shield Force and maintain its alliance with the West.

The Study examines the economies of the AGCC States and shows that the AGCC States are still largely oil-based economies. It suggests additional and aggressive economic diversification programs which are needed and essential to base the economies on sustainable resources. The AGCC State must maximize and use oil returns to diversify their economies away from oil. Additionally, the thesis discusses the human resources development and emphasizes the investment in human capital which should be the objective and the priority of the AGCC States. Also, the thesis suggests that the educational system of the AGCC States needs radical reforms to meet the demands of modern economy. Finally, the thesis provides general recommendations to strengthen and move the AGCC forward in the future.

THE PEACE PROCESSES OF COLOMBIA AND EL SALVADOR: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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Colombia and El Salvador, two Latin American countries, have developed similar counterinsurgency processes and started similar processes of peace negotiations, between the insurgent armies and the forces of order. One peace process was concluded in 1992, when El Salvador ended the war through a political solution (Peace Accords). Salvadoran insurgent force agreed to demobilize its Army and to become a legal political party, while the government accepted to make changes

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in the social and political structure. Colombia, after forty years of guerrilla warfare and after some failed peace talks during the last decade, is still trying to set conditions to gain peace through negotiations.

The thesis, while contrasting both general contexts, emphasizes their differences to explain the success of the peace process in El Salvador and the failure in Colombia. After comparing the political actors involved-the military and the guerrillas-, after studying the intensity of the conflict, and after analyzing the outcomes of the different peace processes, the conclusion was that the Salvadoran model of negotiation cannot be applied entirely to the Colombian case. Similarly, no government should try to copy the Salvadoran recipe as the remedy for its social and political problems. Any simplistic interpretation should be avoided, because it could lead to some fallacies that could also generate dangerous interpretations by the key actors in the process.

MARITIME POWER IN COLOMBIA, ANALYSIS AND PROPOSAL OF STRATEGY

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This study examines Colombia's maritime vision. Although Colombia has a maritime window on the world it has historically underutilized and under protected its sea resources. This study argues that the Colombian Government does not have an effective and clear vision as a maritime nation. Chapter I presents the research questions and a brief background of Colombia. In Chapter II, a model of the current maritime management of Colombia is developed. In Chapter III, this model is compared with similar management models used in other Latin American countries. Chapter IV is an Organizational Analysis of Colombia's maritime related agencies. Chapter V develops and suggests a strategy to better manage maritime activities in Colombia. Finally, the study's conclusions and recommendations are presented. The study concludes that Colombia as a state has a low maritime consciousness and that there is no common maritime vision to support government policies. The study recommends that an advisory and coordination entity be set up to help create this vision and provide for long-term management of Colombia's maritime resources.

IMPACT OF ZIMBABWE - SOUTH AFRICA TRADE RELATIONS: A BILATERAL, REGIONAL, OR MULTILATERAL APPROACH?

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The pursuit of a seemingly unfruitful bilateral trade arrangement with South Africa, and continued participation in overlapping, but non-functional regional free trade areas, has left Zimbabwe in foreign trade dilemma, specially in the light of the deteriorating terms of trade with South Africa, her main trading partner and competitor for both mutual and regional trade.

This thesis examines the various regional trade possibilities involving Zimbabwe and South Africa using the free trade area and customs union models of international trade. Whereas a functional bilateral trade agreement or a regional customs union culminating in a common market might improve Zimbabwe's regional competitiveness in the short run, due to South Africa's economic dominance and protectionist trade policies, Zimbabwe's potential to benefit from trade with non-participants would be severely curtailed. However, a broad free trade area, which allows flexibility to pursue national trade policies, seems less harmful. The analysis concludes that only a broad free trade area superseding all current eastern and southern African regional trade arrangements, would increase Zimbabwe's economic welfare. It would be in the interests of all regional countries to finalize a single broad free trade area rather than maintain the status quo.

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