

# The Impact of the Geopolitical Position of the Strait of Hormuz on Iran's Political Economy Challenges in the Persian Gulf

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## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

This paragraph effectively sets the global context, but it lacks a transitional sentence that directly links the geopolitical role of the strait to Iran's political economy. Including such a statement would strengthen the paragraph's alignment with the article's main research question.

The relevance of Cobden's free trade theory is underdeveloped. Please clarify how 19th-century British liberalism informs Iran's 21st-century FTZ policy within an Islamic legal-economic framework.

While Buzan's theory is cited, its application to the Iranian context is vague. The authors should clarify which level of Buzan's "three-tier security framework" (individual, national, international) the paper primarily engages with.

This is a compelling argument that deserves elaboration. What specific policies or institutional arrangements demonstrate this duality?

The authors mention "Iran's favorable conditions—such as its human capital, climate, abundant mineral resources..." but these claims should be supported by citations or data (e.g., World Bank or UNDP reports).

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

### 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The literature review presents relevant regional studies but lacks a critical comparative analysis. It would benefit from synthesizing similarities or contradictions across the cited articles, rather than merely describing their conclusions.

This phrase is too defensive. Rephrasing it to emphasize the “complementary relevance” of these studies would project greater scholarly confidence.

The inclusion of this definition is useful, but the paragraph would benefit from connecting Ezzati’s conceptualization more explicitly to the study’s core variables: Iran’s economic challenges and the Strait’s strategic role.

This sentence is strong but lacks citation. Please support this claim with empirical data or scholarly consensus to avoid appearing speculative.

The discussion of the Kafala system is well-argued but should include Iran’s equivalent labor laws or constraints for contrast, enhancing the comparative analysis.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## 2. Revised

Editor’s decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.