



# "Foreign Policy of the 50 Stars: Force, Economy, and Diplomacy in Practice of American Foreign Strategy."

*An in- depth scientific review*

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Date of Submission: 12-10-2024

Date of Acceptance: 26-10-2024

## I. Introduction

The volume, 'Foreign Policy of The 50 Stars' written by Ellias Aghili Dehnavi reflects on U.S foreign policy comprehensively and critically. Dehnavi does not avoid stone throwing, he sheds a new light on the importance of force, economy, and diplomacy in practice of American strategy. The present evaluation deals with the merits and demerits of the book in terms of its foreign policy relevance and the author's core arguments in the context of his work.<sup>1</sup>

**Key words: U.S Foreign Policy, Foreign Policy analysis, U.S hegemony, Northern America Politics**

### Critical Analysis

#### Force and Foreign Policy<sup>2</sup>

Dehnavi challenges the prevailing belief that military force has diminished in importance in modern U.S. foreign policy<sup>3</sup>. While acknowledging the increased role of economic and diplomatic tools, he contends that military power remains indispensable. His argument is well-constructed, and he convincingly illustrates that even in a world dominated by economic interdependence and

international institutions, force continues to play a crucial role in maintaining global order. However, his analysis feels somewhat limited by a lack of attention to the growing importance of cyber warfare and other forms of non-traditional military force, which are increasingly relevant in today's world.

### Instruments of Power

In the second part of the book, Dehnavi shifts focus to the different instruments of state power, particularly economic wealth, political skill, and military force. His discussion on the fungibility of these instruments is insightful, particularly his emphasis on the ability of wealth to translate into various forms of influence. However, his treatment of military power as a versatile yet secondary tool feels somewhat limited. While the author argues for the importance of military force, he misses the opportunity to delve deeper into the interrelationship between economic influence and military capabilities in the modern geopolitical landscape.

### Force and the State<sup>4</sup>

Dehnavi's exploration of the role of force in maintaining order within the state, as well as in the

<sup>1</sup> Dehnavi, E. A. (2024a). The Trump Doctrine: Redefining U.S. Foreign Policy through Immigration, Security, and Diplomacy. *Journal of Humanities and Education Development*, 6(5), 26–28. <https://doi.org/10.22161/jhed.6.5.5>

<sup>2</sup> Dehnavi, E. A., & Daheshiar, H. (2020b). Changes and indicators of trump's new immigration policy plan. *ResearchGate*. [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/362014916\\_Changes\\_and\\_indicators\\_of\\_trump's\\_new\\_immigration\\_policy\\_plan](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/362014916_Changes_and_indicators_of_trump's_new_immigration_policy_plan)

<sup>3</sup> MEXICAN IMMIGRANTS CHALLENGES FOR AMERICAN IDENTITY. (2020). *Journal of Critical Reviews*, 7(06). <https://doi.org/10.31838/jcr.07.06.164>

<sup>4</sup> Dehnavi, E. A., & Tabatabaei, S. M. (2021). Principles and positions of US foreign policy against terrorism. *ResearchGate*.

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/356423964\\_Principles\\_and\\_positions\\_of\\_US\\_foreign\\_policy\\_against\\_terrorism?\\_sg%5B0%5D=AdOFEC9XN1vmmIBRsZ4gyq8rMbJ3U5\\_Y9q9M\\_E1W4U0xiUgtqmwixPGjFkTmKKc\\_DE5RqhOuVrLzROITu\\_ajuVCBqP3ca--Y3hS9\\_rIR.-oqxSkcNiSWqEI5UO-IT3Rd7cy9j30YMbOIk\\_fSFSzedWL0SxGUqQiAPZUx6HgJQhmOC8ckmp3zIUoKkvdx32Q&\\_tp=eyJb250ZXh0Ijp7ImZpcnN0UGFnZSI6ImxvZ2luIiwicGFnZSI6InByb2ZpbGUiLCJwb3NpdGlvbI6InBhZ2VD250ZW50In19](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/356423964_Principles_and_positions_of_US_foreign_policy_against_terrorism?_sg%5B0%5D=AdOFEC9XN1vmmIBRsZ4gyq8rMbJ3U5_Y9q9M_E1W4U0xiUgtqmwixPGjFkTmKKc_DE5RqhOuVrLzROITu_ajuVCBqP3ca--Y3hS9_rIR.-oqxSkcNiSWqEI5UO-IT3Rd7cy9j30YMbOIk_fSFSzedWL0SxGUqQiAPZUx6HgJQhmOC8ckmp3zIUoKkvdx32Q&_tp=eyJb250ZXh0Ijp7ImZpcnN0UGFnZSI6ImxvZ2luIiwicGFnZSI6InByb2ZpbGUiLCJwb3NpdGlvbI6InBhZ2VD250ZW50In19)



international sphere, is compelling. He successfully draws parallels between the domestic use of force by states and the necessity of military power in international relations, especially in the absence of a global government. Yet, this section lacks depth in addressing the evolving nature of modern conflicts, such as cyber warfare and asymmetric threats, which could have enriched his analysis of the state's monopoly on violence.

### Domino Effects and Linkage Politics

The contributors' notion of 'spill-over effects' and 'linkage politics', both of which involve the idea whereby actions in one sector such as military defense, overflows into others such as economic cooperation can be quite supportive of foreign policy concepts. In the analysis of the formation of the International Energy Agency (IEA), the author manages to show the connection between military and non-military spheres. This part is among the strong parts of the book, although it lacks more recent examples of how linkage politics manifests itself today in the U.S. in general and its foreign policy making in particular<sup>5</sup>.

This book provides an analytical and critical review of the foreign policy of the United States, especially in terms of excessive use of military force and the theater of operations. It helps to a great extent in letting the readers clear their perception of the ways in which the U.S. acts and interacts with other countries, incorporating the use of force as well as other means of power and diplomacy in the pursuit of its goals. Of note is the literary scientific approach to the document, which is presented below, and illustrates the major aspects within it<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> Firoozabadi, S. J. D., Dehnavi, E. A., & Rahiminezhad, M. A. (2023b). Modeling the Factors Affecting the Nuclear Negotiations of Iran in 5+1 with the Fuzzy Approach: Structural. . . . *ResearchGate*.

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/368645640\\_Modeling\\_the\\_Factors\\_Affecting\\_the\\_Nuclear\\_Negotiations\\_of\\_Iran\\_in\\_51\\_with\\_the\\_Fuzzy\\_Approach\\_Structural\\_Equations](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/368645640_Modeling_the_Factors_Affecting_the_Nuclear_Negotiations_of_Iran_in_51_with_the_Fuzzy_Approach_Structural_Equations)

<sup>6</sup> Fiedler, R., & Dehnavi, E. A. (2024b). Navigating Engagement with Iran: Exploring US Strategies and Options: A Futuristic Scenario and Review. *International Journal of English Literature and Social Sciences*, 9(2), 109–113. <https://doi.org/10.22161/ijels.92.18>

### 1. Role of Military Power, Security and force in Foreign Policy

The document emphasizes the centrality of military power in U.S. foreign policy despite evolving global conditions. While some theories suggest that economic factors, international institutions, and democratic spread are reducing the importance of military force, Dehnavi challenges this, asserting that military power remains crucial. He critiques the belief that the dissolution of the Soviet Union negated the need for forward defense postures like U.S. military bases in Europe and Japan.

Key points:

- **Fungibility of Force:** Military power is portrayed as "fungible," meaning it can be applied to a variety of political, economic, and diplomatic challenges. Its presence influences global interactions even in peacetime.
- **Military as a Political Instrument:** Force is not just for war but also a tool for peaceful intimidation. Dehnavi argues that military power shapes the outcomes of diplomatic negotiations because of the implicit threat of force.

### 2. Military Power and Global Stability<sup>7</sup>

This study looks at the link between the presence of military forces and the political stability of the periods, e.g., above all, the one characterized by anarchic international relations. As highlighted by Dehnavi, the military complex of the United States, especially since the end of the Second World War, constructed a world of peace where economic activity prospered.

*Other instances would include the following:*

- **Geo-economics of the Post-Cold War:** The Soviet threat was absent due to the U.S. military shield to Western Europe and Japan, so these areas made growth. Trade and economic cooperation were undergirded by Military deterrent, which guarantees domestic politics in those areas.

- **Influence on International Organizations:** The U.S. maintains its military superiority so its power extends not only to the military but also to international organizations, such as the UN and its military wing, though the muscle does not guarantee outcomes (for instance, the election of a Secretary-General).

<sup>7</sup> Fiedler, R., & Dehnavi, E. A. (2024c). Unraveling the Enigmas: Deciphering the Causes of Discord in the Middle East: A review. *Journal of Humanities and Education Development*, 6(1), 51–56. <https://doi.org/10.22161/jhed.6.1.7>



### 3. Power Assets and Their Fungibility

Dehnavi assesses individual means of power such as wealth, political skill, military force etc., and the extent to which these can be used to influence multiple spheres. He places military power at the lower end compared to wealth and political skills with regards to flexibility or adaptability in relation to other types to be highly fungible. He contests claims of changed perceptions arguing that military power is no longer of much use in modern day politics as always overemphasized.

- **Wealth as the Most Versatile Asset:** Economic wealth enables the generation of military power and influences many other areas, including diplomacy and global prestige.
- **Political Skill:** Dehnavi notes that leaders adept at persuasion and influence can navigate different policy domains effectively, including military and non-military arenas.

### 4. The Permissive Realm of International Politics

The document delves into the anarchic nature of international relations, where no central authority exists to enforce rules. Dehnavi contrasts this with domestic governance, where force is monopolized by the state and used sparingly. In international politics, however, states must rely on military strength to preserve order and achieve their interests.

- **Implicit Threat of Force:** The author discusses the use of military power in both its physical and non-physical forms. Military power is often most effective in peacetime, exerting a "gravitational pull" on political decisions without needing to be explicitly used.
- **Bargaining Power:** Dehnavi highlights how military power contributes to state bargaining power in non-military arenas. The military build-up during the Cold War, for instance, facilitated economic and political cooperation among U.S. allies<sup>8</sup>.

### 5. Critique of Diminished Utility of Military Power

A substantial part of the text critiques scholars like David Baldwin, who argue for the diminished utility of military power in the modern context. Dehnavi believes that these arguments overlook the strategic importance of force in both direct and indirect ways.

- **Fungibility Revisited:** The text argues that just because military power may not resolve every issue, such as economic disputes or political

leadership elections, this does not diminish its overall fungibility. It plays a critical role in ensuring state security, which in turn supports other state functions.

### 6. Linkage Politics and Military Influence in Non-Military Arenas

The book also examines how military power can be linked with other political and economic issues to strengthen a state's bargaining position. Dehnavi provides historical examples of how the U.S. used its military presence to foster energy cooperation among allies, highlighting the broader impact of military strength on international agreements.

- **Energy Politics:** The creation of the International Energy Agency (IEA) is used as an example of how the U.S. linked military security with cooperation on energy issues during the Cold War. The U.S. military presence reassured allies and enabled them to work together on energy security issues.

## II. Conclusion

In the book *Foreign Policy of The 50 Stars*, Ellias Aghili Dehnavi provides a thorough study of U.S. relations with other countries, breaking modern perspectives which claim little use of military force and a new emphasis on the role of economy and institutions responsible for such decision makings (Dehnavi et al., 2024). The document stresses the versatility of force and its utility in upholding the equilibrium of the global order even when political order depends more on economic order. Theory is supported with historical facts within this work by the author which is quite different from the modern perspectives and argues the relevance of military power within the foreign affairs of the United States<sup>9,10</sup>.

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<sup>10</sup> Dehnavi, E. A., & Fiedler, R. (2024). Adventures of Two Captains' Trilogy and U.S Exceptionalism in their Foreign Policy: Manifestation of Think Tanks in a literary work. *International Journal of English Literature and Social Sciences*, 9(3), 277–281. <https://doi.org/10.22161/ijels.93.35>



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