

## Israeli Agricultural Technology and Its Foreign Policy

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Under the British mandate, Zionist leaders in Europe as well as in Palestine acknowledged the strategic importance of scientific and technical basis of an expected Jewish state in Palestine. They tried to mobilize influential Jewish scientists in Europe to establish academic bases such as the Hebrew University, Technion and Weisman Institute while socialist ideas inspired Jewish colonialists in Palestine to develop agricultural communes such as Kibbutzim invoking emerging resistance by the local Palestinians over the control of agrarian lands.

Since the establishment of Israel in 1948, Israel tried to overcome various local and international forces in the intensified conflicts with Palestinians by its effort to get military empowerment. In addition, Israel mobilized its superiority in science and technology in expanding its influence. Particularly, agricultural technologies and knowhows acquired in facing shortage of water in dry climate circumstances such as drip irrigation system turned constraints. Expansion of Israeli agricultural technologies have been combined with its diplomatic policies and economic expansion.

The article intends to analyze complex and indirect interactions between the agricultural technologies and diplomatic requirements of Israel in Asia and the Middle East mainly in the last two decades when applications of high-techs to agriculture developed to new stages. India in South Asia and Vietnam in South East Asia are two targets on which Israel put a special emphasis in expanding political and economic interactions. After the Abraham accords in 2020, new concepts of regional cooperation emerged among Israel and Arab countries with newly established formal diplomatic relations with Israel such as Negev Forum. Another regional cooperation I2U2 which included India and UAE is a new concept which connects South Asia with the Middle East. In both cases, Israel plays an important role of hub or as a provider of agricultural technologies besides the US initiative. After the new crisis in Gaza in 2023, Israeli soft powers in agricultural technologies combined with hard military power are issues to be analyzed in the wider political framework in the intensified Israel-Palestinian conflicts.

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# The Houthis Attacks in the Red Sea During the Gaza War of 2023: The Regional-Humanitarian-Security Complex and the Case of Hodaydah Port

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The ongoing crisis in the Red Sea underscores the geopolitical prominence of Yemen, thereby enhancing the Houthis' ability to undermine a vital maritime navigation corridor stretching from the Indian Ocean through the Bab al-Mandeb Strait to the Red Sea.

This study contends that the recent escalation by the Houthis illustrates an increasing security interdependence between the regional security complexes of the Red Sea, the Levant, and Gulf nations, especially Saudi Arabia, which is profoundly intertwined within these dynamics.

The protracted conflict in Yemen, characterized by considerable Saudi intervention, has intensified state fragility, which has, in turn, enabled the Houthis to accumulate resources necessary for conducting assaults in the Red Sea. Such hostile actions have incited retaliatory measures from the United States, the United Kingdom, and Israel against Yemeni territories and infrastructure, further aggravating the humanitarian and human security crises prevailing in Yemen.

This complex interplay of regional security dynamics, internal state fragility, and cross-border conflict produces security, economic, and humanitarian consequences, including substantial financial losses for Gulf nations and significant setbacks in Yemen's human development.

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## Degrowth from the Fringes: Practices in Brazil

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In Brazil, amidst the transition to civilian government and democratization, many practices of people at the bottom seeking social justice and environmental protection arose. Although their practices are not called so, they are exactly the movements and projects that Latouche's degrowth theory and Löwy's ecosocialist theory refer to. The movement is richer in scope and content than the examples taken up by these theories. And the popular movements have resulted in many public policies and institutions.

In contrast to green capitalism and the SDGs, degrowth theory and eco-socialism theory argue that the root cause of environmental deterioration lies in capitalism. Degrowth theory advocates embedding economic activities in local communities based on the principles of reciprocity and coexistence, and ecosocialism advocates a shift to collective ownership of the means of production and an environmentally planned economy based on popular consensus.

In a situation where catastrophe has become a real issue, a post-growth society is an urgent issue. In order to solve this problem, and in other words, for humanity to survive, we have no choice but to fundamentally change the way society, economy, and politics have existed up until now. Degrowth theory and eco-socialism theory provide materials and guidelines for this. The people's practices and movements in Brazil, and the resulting institutions, can serve as a beacon for a post-growth society. It seems that global warming has passed a critical point of no return. Still, each of us needs to follow the example of the hummingbird and throw a drop of water into the fire that burns the forest.

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# The Future of Democratic Politics in Bangladesh Repeated Violent Political Mobilizations and Newly Emerging Nationalism

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On August 5, 2024, breaking news spreaded out over the world that Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina, who had ruled the country for about fifteen years, had suddenly resigned and escaped from her official residence by helicopter.

This study aims at considering what the key issues are for the newly established interim government, led by Dr. Muhammad Yunus and focusing on violent political mobilizations peculiar to the country and disputes over Bangladeshi national identity as clues for consideration. The research method is to review events which took place from students protests against the special quota for freedom fighters in civil services to the collapse of the Hasina government and then to examine the political history in Bangladesh from the independence to the present to explore reasons why the country's politics has ended up in this brutal state.

The author contends that when considering Bangladesh's political history, there are four crucial factors to be thought of on the future political developments of the country. The first point is whether the government can stop partisan violence in the next national general election by promoting reconciliation between two big political parties, Awami League and BNP. The second one is how the government cope with conflicts over national identity that has continued since the independence. Furthermore, we also have to take into account how much influence the military have in the country's politics and how Bangladesh's complex international relations will change.

Among these issues, it is necessary to pay particular attention to the point of whether the interim government will respect the coexistence between Bengali national identity which has community orientation, and Bangladeshi national identity which has pan-Islamism and anti-India temperament. That is because the future political trends in Bangladesh will depend on whether nonviolent political activities will be realized under such coexistence or not.

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