



## Political Sciences, International Relations and Regional Studies

**Ali Nazifpour**

**Rank :** Commendable in the Young Section

**Degree:** MA

**Research Title:** Exceptionalism and Iranian Foreign Policy

**Kind of Research Work:** Thesis



### About Researcher

Ali Nazifpour was born in 1989 in Tehran .He first pursued his research interests in the field of English language and literature ,in which he received his BA degree from Allameh Tabatabai University in 2011 and later his MA degree from Shahid Beheshti University in .2013 His MA thesis in Shahid Beheshti University was” A Comparison between’ Alice in Wonderland ‘Novel and its Video Game Adaptations “and a study of the concept of ”Adaptation “when a narrative migrates from one medium to the other .But later he changed his field of studies and moved to the Political Sciences family .He received his second MA degree from the University of Tehran in International Relations in .2020 His MA thesis was about Iranian exceptionalism and its effects on Iran’s foreign policy discourses and behaviors ,under the supervision of Professor Homeira Moshirzadeh.Nazifpour’s main areas of expertise and interests include discourse theory in foreign policy analysis and US domestic politics, especially with a focus on US elections .He has been active as a researcher and journalist in this field ,working for Iran-based think tanks such as Iran-Eurica and Jarian Institue ,and he has also written numerous articles for the Iranian press ,including Sazandegi Newspaper ,Shargh Daily ,Cheshm-Andaz-eh Iran magazine .He has also been teaching English as a foreign language for more than a decade and used to work as a translator and interpreter at the International Academic Cooperation Office of Shahid Beheshti University.

### Abstract

”Exceptionalism and Iranian Foreign Policy “deals with the effects of exceptionalism on Iranian foreign policy discourses and behaviors and is written in the theoretical framework and employing the methodology of discourse analysis .Specifically ,the thesis aims to discover the significance of exceptionalism as a signifier in Iranian foreign policy .Culture ,religion ,and domestic political discourse can all give rise to exceptionalism .Iranian foreign policy is shaped by its cultural contexts and these contexts can lead to exceptionalism .The Islamic Revolution Discourse is a flexible one ,and this can lead to competing interpretations and a struggle to become dominant and known as the” correct “interpretation .There are two major factions within the foreign policy establishment representing ”reconciliation discourse ,“which considers development to be the most important signifier ,and” resistance discourse ,“which emphasizes resistance and maximalist independence .The disagreement in foreign policy between” reconciliation discourse and” resistance discourse “is not a tactical difference but this is a deep disagreement over the definition of foreign policy identity .The thesis concludes that the disagreement over exceptionalism is the most important disagreement at the core of differing views regarding the identity of Iran’s foreign policy .The research further argues that exceptionalism is the root of the disagreements over Iran’s relations with the US ,as resistance advocates strongly oppose mending ties with the US because such a move would be understood as a threat to Iran’s exceptionalism ,while the reconciliation movement considers rapprochement with the US to be a precondition to Iran’s development .Secondly ,exceptionalism is the signifier that legitimizes Iran’s regional policies ,and the Middle East is the geographical context in which Iranian and American exceptionalism clash against each other.

