

CEO of SpecialEurasia Silvia Boltuc:

Raisi forge new paths in int'l relations

As my area of expertise is geopolitics, I will focus on highlighting the major achievements of Ebrahim Raisi's presidency specifically in this field.

Although the President does not solely shape the country's foreign policy, the Raisi administration had distinct characteristics. Under President Raisi, indeed, Iran's foreign policy pursued two pivots, 'regionalism' and 'look to East'.

The first outcome of this strategy was Tehran's shift toward new alliances and the restoration of ties with some neighbouring countries.

Iran and Saudi Arabia re-established relations after years of tension. Notably, on May 25th, also King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain expressed the country's willingness to establish normal diplomatic, trade, and cultural relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Although this occurred after the helicopter crash, I believe this achievement can be attributed to the Raisi presidency. It is also important to acknowledge that Foreign Minister Amir-Abdollahian played a key role in Iran's diplomatic efforts to reshape its regional network of alliances.

The reintegration of Syria into the Arab League was another notable event, especially given Iran's strong alliance with the Syrian government. Syria had been a significant point of friction between Tehran and Riyadh, so Damascus' return to the Arab League signalled a clear willingness among these major players to deescalate tensions and build new relations for regional stability.

Talking about the Arab League, I should mention the renewed relations with Egypt, which could favour Iran's recent policy toward Africa. Despite initial optimism during Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood leadership, differences emerged over Iran's support for Bashar Al-Assad. The phone call on December 23rd, 2023, between President Raisi and the Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, to extend congratulations on his recent re-election, was welcomed as a new chapter of the two country's relations.

As for Africa, President Ebrahim Raisi embarked on a three-country trip to Africa in mid-July 2023, marking the first time an Iranian president has undertaken such a visit in over 11 years.

As demonstrate by Turkey being the only NATO coun-



Generally, Western media fail to represent every layer of Iranian society, often interviewing people in a biased and instrumental manner. I believe all perspectives should be relayed honestly and without judgment.

**Special Issue
on Passing of
President Seyyed
Ebrahim Raisi and
his companions**