



Iran's late president Ebrahim Raisi (front-2nd L) and foreign minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian (L) walk out of the United Nations Headquarters in New York, the United States, after the president's speech at the 77th meeting of the UN General Assembly on September 21, 2022.

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

3. Economic focus in foreign policy

The economy has been the most overlooked aspect of our country's foreign policy following the Islamic Revolution. At times, it was fully overlooked, and at other times, it was operating in reverse, meaning that our foreign policy prioritized facilitating the import of goods, even non-essential ones. On other occasions, Iran's foreign economy revolved exclusively around a select few countries, particularly the West.

While former Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in his two terms took successful steps towards diversifying foreign policy in the economic realm, the unnecessary troublemaking fueled by the then-government hindered the continuity of this policy.

In the government of Raisi, the economy emerged as one of the central pillars of foreign policy. The appointment of Mehdi Safari as the economic deputy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who was even suggested as a potential candidate for running the then-reviving Commerce Ministry, underscores this diligence and focus. To provide a clear example, during Raisi's tenure, Iran's relations and contracts with Africa quadrupled, and the president traveled to countries that our previous presidents had not visited in two decades.

4. Leveraging domestic capacities

Under the government of Raisi, foreign and domestic politics were intertwined and mutually reinforcing. On the one hand, the negative competition between institutions influencing the formulation and implementation of foreign policy, which was witnessed in some previous governments, dissipated. This gave way to prudent coordination between institutions. During this period, we saw the greatest harmony between ministries and political, economic, security, cultural, health, and construction organizations pertain-

