

Moreover, within this relatively brief period, Raisi's government tried to regain the trust of nations like Armenia, Turkey, and Pakistan across various sectors, including security, energy, and economics. The high-profile attendance of foreign delegations, particularly from neighboring countries, at the ceremony paying tribute to the late president and his accompanying delegation serves as a testament to the Islamic Republic's enhanced standing and the positive role that it plays in the region.

**How did the government seek to implement the neighborhood policy to successfully overcome misunderstandings?**

The government followed a strategic approach rooted in interaction and dialogue, aiming for mutual benefits while ensuring mutual respect and security. The late foreign minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian adeptly enacted this policy, prioritizing the expansion of economic relations. Of course, Iran's government and Ministry of Foreign Affairs remained steadfast in upholding Islamic and revolutionary values throughout the de-escalation and interaction processes with neighboring countries.

**While president Raisi underscored not seeking to tie economic issues to specific foreign policy matters, it appeared that economic collaboration became an essential aspect of our approach to foreign policy. Were the government and foreign ministry effective in leveraging foreign policy for economic cooperation?**

From the outset, foreign minister Amir-Abdollahian stressed the importance of solidifying and broadening economic relations with other nations, particularly neighbors. President Raisi's statement about not tying the economy to foreign policy was intended to communicate that the government would not restrict meeting the country's

economic needs to a singular case or bow to Western demands and pressures.

Addressing economic needs was a top priority for the government and Ministry of Foreign Affairs under Raisi, as evidenced by increased Iranian exports and meeting domestic demands amidst Western sanctions over the past three years. Therefore, president Raisi's viewpoint does not imply a disconnect between the economy and foreign policy. Rather, it emphasizes the importance of not allowing the economy to be held hostage by Western expectations and indulgences.

**The presence of Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry and Bahrain's foreign minister at the ceremony honoring the late president and his companions was noteworthy. How might these attendances impact the restoration and promotion of diplomatic relations with these two countries?**

During the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, a significant meeting occurred between Iran's foreign minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and his Egyptian counterpart, Sameh Shoukri. The meeting resulted in a mutual agreement to

expedite the process of improving political relations between the two nations. Furthermore, the ministers engaged in discussions regarding Egypt's stance on Israel's actions in Gaza and their involvement in providing aid to Palestinians.

While the interim government's remaining term may witness ongoing efforts to bolster Iran-Egypt relations, it is possible that any substantial advancements may fall under the purview of the succeeding Iranian government. Ali Bagheri Kani, the acting minister of Foreign Affairs, has indicated that the previous government's emphasis on regional relations will continue to be a top priority.

The presence of the Bahraini delegation, led by their foreign minister, was also of considerable importance, especially since no specific and preliminary measures have officially been taken to address the differences between Iran and Bahrain in a serious manner. Their participation in the tribute ceremony demonstrates respect for Iran's leadership and acknowledges the nation's regional and international standing. This gesture of goodwill from Bahrain sets the stage for constructive dialogue and potentially paves the way for resolving the differences between the two countries.



Iran's late president Ebrahim Raisi (front-R) talks with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at an Organization of Islamic Cooperation summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on November 11, 2023.



**Martyr President**