The Impact of the Israeli and Emirati 'Partnership of Convenience' on UAE society: 2020-2022

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<u>Abstract</u>

The Abraham Accords Declaration signed in the year 2020 marks the beginning of the United Arab Emirates-Israel partnership. The Israel-United Arab Emirates Agreement within the Abraham Accords Declaration and the agreements and provisions discussed in the Agreement have an impact on the society of the United Arab Emirates. The study uses the methodology of grounded theory to determine the impact on the macro- level of UAE society. The research will be set in the qualitative analysis of the content of the UAE news media outlets: Khaleej Times and Gulf News over the span of 18months since the signing of the agreement. The content of News media outlets constructs social reality, therefore the thesis will utilise the guiding question of Charmaz(2006) "How does (the News-media article's) content construct images of reality?" (Charmaz, 2006, p.40) Contextualisation and cross-checking will be essential for the development of theories on the impact.

Key words

Abraham Accords, UAE-Israel Agreement, Impact, Grounded Theory, News Media

Prohlášení

Prohlašuji, že jsem bakalářskou práci vypracovala samostatně. Všechny použité prameny a

literatura byly řádně citovány. Práce nebyla využita k získání jiného nebo stejného titulu.

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Eliška Zajíčková

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1. Theoretical framework

The separate UAE-Israel agreement and its subsequent agreements under the Abraham Accords form the theoretical background to what is expected from the UAE-Israel partnership. The treaty was called "TREATY OF PEACE, DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND FULL NORMALIZATION." (U.S. Department of State, 2020, p. 1). It was signed in Washington, D.C., on the 15th of September, 2020, by H.E.Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime minister of Israel, H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Arab Emirates, and H.E. Donald J. Trump, the President of the United States of America as a witness. (U.S. Department of State, 2020, p.4). The treaty includes twelve agreements between the UAE and Israel, followed by their definitions. The twelve agreements are: "1. Establishment of Peace, Diplomatic Relations and Normalization, 2. General Principles, 3. Establishment of Embassies, 4. Peace and Stability, 5. Cooperation and Agreements in Other Spheres, 6. Mutual Understanding and Co-existence, 7. Strategic Agenda for the Middle East, 8. Other Rights and Obligations, 9. Respect for Obligations, 10. Ratification and Entry into Force, 11. Settlement of Disputes, 12. Registration." (U.S. Department of State, 2020, p. 2-4) The treaty concludes with a three-page Annex. The annex states the expected provisions following the bilateral agreement between the UAE and the State of Israel. (U.S. Department of State, 2020, Annex). The agreements and provisions agreed upon in the treaty are the expectations of the UAE and Israel from the new relationship.

The connection between news media and international relations is relevant in the digital age. Media as a defining tool of "in-group allies against out-group identity enemies "based on representing a series of contrasts and oppositions" (Coban, 2016, p.46) "Media

help to construct the reality of international politics" (Coban, 2016, p.47). The two main primary sources of this thesis are also written in English. The articles from Khaleej Times and Gulf News databases are written in English to cater to local and international audiences. The tradition of media sociology is the "recogni(tion) of growth and influence of media(the press, specifically) as important to the transform(ation) or modern(isation) of society" (Matthews, 2017). Julian Matthews, in The Sociology of Mass Media, identified three themes for study within the subdiscipline of media sociology: "1. Media institutions, professions and practices; 2. Content, representations, and social power in media; and 3. Media influences, audience and technology" (Matthews, 2017, p.1). This thesis will concentrate on the second theme, the theme of media content. This theme is relevant as Matthews points out that "the sociological study of media products also offers insights into the wider connections among the media, culture, and society; in short, research in this tradition has explored the relationship between media content and the social structure of society." (Matthews, 2017,p. 6). The latent meaning of media content to audiences is described through Durkheim's symbolic interactionism in Matthews' words "to understand how media content provides shared meaning and, in turn, supports societal cohesion" (Matthews, 2017, p.7) The application of Matthews' interpretation of Durkheim in this thesis would be that media content can be a factor in the sense of social cohesion amongst those living in the boundaries of a state; specifically, the UAE media content also forms the concept of the state of the UAE in local Emirati society and international society.

The Abraham Accords are significant for the region of the Middle East as they opened up a dialogue between countries that have not cooperated in the past due to conflict in the region. Therefore, the topic is essential as there are already visible changes in the social institutions of the United Arab Emirates in the year and a half since the signing of the

Israel-UAE agreement. The topic will continue to become more discussed in the social sciences and beyond as time progresses.

It is a recent topic as only a year, and a half has passed. The scholarly sources written on the Abraham Accords have focused on the regional impact, the legal understanding, conflict, and the normalisation process between Israel and the UAE in the context of international relations. Some summaries of the impact of the Abraham Accords on the UAE and Israel have been published by government agencies, non-profit organisations, and news media. This thesis aims to fill the gap by concentrating on the UAE, specifically post-Abraham accords and their separate bilateral agreement with Israel. The purpose of this thesis is to form theories, through grounded theory, about the Abraham Accords' impact on the society of the UAE, i.e., what has changed and what has formed almost two years since the signing. The thesis will be more recent as other organisations have provided summaries on the topic only to mark the first year since the signing of the agreement.

The thesis will utilise news media content analysis. The media content analyses that have been published so far on the topic of the Abraham Accords explicitly focusing on the impact of the UAE-Israel agreement have either: analysed tweets on Twitter like, for example, in the context of Arabs from 18 countries evaluating the normalisation process with Israel (The UAE-Israel Normalization: Political and Social Implications, 2020); focused on visual sociology in how International media depicted the Abraham Accords through photographs (Salama, 2021); or uncovered Twitter attitudes of Gulf State leaders and Influencers towards normalisation with the state of Israel (Hitman & Zwilling, 2021). This thesis will utilise the content published by UAE news media outlets to analyse the impact of the Abraham Accords on the UAE.

Research questions

- What aspects of the UAE society are impacted and discussed in the UAE media after the signing of the Abraham accords in the context of the UAE-Israel relationship?
- How do the UAE news media portray the relationship between the United Arab Emirates and Israel following the Abraham Accords Declaration?

2.1 Methodology

The thesis will be set in the field of inquiry of Sociology. Therefore, the thesis will follow the methodology developed by the social sciences. The research paradigm of the thesis will be interpretive. The sources used will be interpreted to form an understanding of the impact of the Abraham Accords in the context of the UAE-Israel relationship on the UAE society. The research method will be of unobtrusive nature with the use of qualitative content analysis.

The primary sources are online news media databases of the Khaleej Times and Gulf News, both products of the UAE. Khaleej Times, the United Arab Emirates' first English daily newspaper, is published under Galadari Printing and Publishing Co. L.L.C.with a digital news platform www.khaleejtimes.com (About Us - Khaleej Times Online News Paper in UAE, 2022) and Gulf news published by GN Media Al Nisr Publishing LLC 2022 has a website gulfnews.com (About us: Gulf News, 2022). The United Arab Emirates ranks 131th out of 180 in the 2021 World Press Freedom Index. The Reporters Without Borders' reasoning for such a low score is that "the authorities can censor local or foreign publications if they criticise domestic policies, the economy, the ruling families, religion or the UAE's relations with its allies" (RSF, 2021). The relationship between government and press in countries of the Gulf is complicated. The United Arab Emirates follows the loyalist press model. Publication laws in Gulf countries prohibit certain critiques. The UAE has Internet media regulations to limit and censure media content. (Bumetea, 2013,p.3) Bumetea (2013)

has said that loyalist political systems are traditional monarchies with limited to no opposition. News media are in private hands, however, media remain loyal to the regime (Bumetea, 2013, p.24.) Political authority and press in the loyalist model praise achievements, while negative news (borders, foreign military presence) are prevented (Bumetea, 2013, p.25)

The Khaleej Times and Gulf News will be compared as local UAE media content producers. The news media content of the Jerusalem Post in Israel will be used to add an international and Israeli context to the impact of the UAE-Israel Treaty under the Abraham Accords. In 2021, the Jerusalem Post announced a partnership with The Khaleej Times of the UAE and hosted a joint business conference in Dubai. The Jerusalem Post defines its stance as "centrist and pluralistic" (The Jerusalem Post - About Us, 2022). The Jerusalem Post is democratic, while the UAE news media outlets are more susceptible to the autocratic regime. Jerusalem Post falls under the libertarian theory of the press media. The media is "no longer under the control or the influence of the government, and the press serves to inform, uncover the truth, solve political and social problems, and entertain" (Bumetea, 2013,p.21).

The content of UAE news media articles will be compared to the content of news media articles of Jerusalem Post on the same topics to form theories on the aspects of reality that were impacted on the macro-level of UAE society following the formalisation of the UAE-Israel relationship under the Abraham Accords. The fact that the thesis will only analyse news-media articles written in English might impact the content of the articles. There might be more minor criticism of the Abraham accords and their impact on the UAE to please the international audience by presenting the UAE in a more favourable and united light.

The content of online news media databases will be filtered through the search word 'Israel' in the databases of the UAE Khaleej Times and Gulf News and 'UAE' in the database of the Jerusalem Post. The content in the online news media databases was selected within the time frame beginning two months(July 2020) before the signing of the Abraham accords on the 15th of September 2020 and ending in May 2022. The articles in the UAE newspapers Khaleej Times and Gulf News were filtered through the search word 'Israel.' Relevant articles were selected. The total results returned for Khaleej Times were 1868 articles. The researcher analysed 271 articles. The full results returned for Gulf news were 26397; however, the results could not be filtered by dates. The researcher had to click through individual page numbers to find the first article from July 2020 to the last article in May 2022. Therefore, the results returned for the time period would be significantly lower. The researcher ended up analysing 174 articles from Gulf News. The third newspaper database used was Jerusalem Post. The articles were filtered for 'UAE' to uncover what the Israeli daily wrote about before and after the signing of the Abraham Accords. Total results returned for Jerusalem Post accounted for 2,152 articles. The researcher analysed 266 articles from Jerusalem Post.

The thesis uses the methodology of grounded theory to uncover relevant conditions and "how the actors respond to changing conditions and to the consequences of their actions" (Corbin & Strauss, 1990, p.5) in order to uncover theories that define a phenomenon and its impact on society. Grounded theory "is the belief that knowledge may be increased by generating new theories rather than analysing data within existing ones" (Heath & Cowley, 2004, p.142). The primary sources used in the thesis are Khaleej Times, Gulf News, and Jerusalem Post, which are online newspaper databases. This follows the procedures defined by Juliet Corbin and Anselm Strauss in Grounded Theory Research: Procedures, Canons, and

Evaluative Criteria. These are: "The interrelated processes of Data collection and analysis, (Corbin & Strauss, 1990, p.6), Concepts as the basic units of analysis- events as indicators of phenomena (Corbin & Strauss, 1990, p.7), The importance of developing categories and relating them to each other (Corbin & Strauss, 1990, p.7), Sampling events (Corbin & Strauss, 1990, p.8)- "aim is to build a theoretical explanation by specifying phenomena in terms of conditions that give rise to them, how they are expressed through action/interaction, the consequences that result from them, and variations of these qualifiers" (Corbin & Strauss, 1990, p.9), Comparative analysis to uncover similarities and differences between events (Corbin & Strauss, 1990, p.9), Finding patterns (Corbin & Strauss, 1990, p.10), Process and change as essential for analysis-actions taken by actors shift and respond to conditions over a time as a process that needs to be analysed (Corbin & Strauss, 1990, p.10) Production and revision of hypotheses on relationships among categories (Corbin & Strauss, 1990,p.11), and the importance of broader Structural conditions ("economic, cultural values, political trends, social movements") to define linkages between conditions, actions and consequences (Corbin & Strauss, 1990, p.12)

The news media articles were further analysed for content with the use of digital humanities qualitative content analysis Atlas.ti, Web addition. The Atlas.ti platform was used for coding, linking, and visualising following the methodology of grounded theory (What is atlas.ti) Charmaz (2006) in Constructing Grounded Theory recognised the need to analyse extant texts, "texts in that the researcher does not affect their construction" (Charmaz, 2006, p.37) In order to examine the impact of the Abraham Accords on the UAE society, the main guiding question to approach this through is through Charmaz (2006) question out of many: "How does the (News-media article's) content construct images of reality?" (Charmaz, 2006, p.40) Analysis is then heavily dependent on contextualisation of the text within the time,

actors, and issues of the particular time period and region (Charmaz, 2006, p.39) Coding is essential in grounded theory as it allows for the creation of categories and subcategories. Corbin & Strauss in Grounded Theory Research: Procedures, Canons, and Evaluative Criteria define the importance of categories and their properties as "the basis of sampling on theoretical grounds" (Corbin & Strauss, 1990, p.12) Patrik Svensson in Big Digital Humanities: Imagining a Meeting Place for the Humanities and the Digital proves the relevance of the digital to the humanities The digital is relevant to the humanities as "it is an integral part of life in larger parts of the world, an increasing amount of material is digital, and digital media offer expressive potential" (Svensson Et al., 2016, p.9).

2.2 Coding of newspaper articles

The researcher first copy-pasted URLs of relevant articles into an excel document. The researcher found that the filters 'UAE' and 'Israel' were not enough in some cases, as articles covering different countries were also included in the list of the supposedly filtered articles. The researcher then read through the articles and copy-pasted relevant quotations from the articles into a document. These quotations were then processed in the Atlas.ti Web programme. The researcher began coding while reading through one of the newspaper databases from the time frame July 2020 till the end of 2020. The same procedure was repeated for each newspaper and each year. The codes created from this time frame were then used to analyse the databases of other newspapers. The researcher analysed nine documents in Atlas.ti. Three documents for each newspaper and each year. The researcher created 45 codes. The codes were grouped into themes. The themes form the sections of this thesis.

These are Sociological background, Events preceding the Abraham Accords; The Abraham Accords, Commerce; Tourism; Technology, Water, Food, and Energy Security;

Communications & Logistics; Medicine & Biotechnology; and Education. These themes answer the first research question of this thesis:

What aspects of the UAE society are impacted and discussed in the UAE media after the signing of the Abraham accords in the context of the UAE-Israel relationship?

3.1 Sociological background

The Abraham Accords Declaration states the importance of "establishing diplomatic relations between Israel and its neighbours in the region under the principles of the Abraham Accords…based on shared interests and a shared commitment to a better future." (U.S. Department of State, 2020.)

The United Arab Emirates has a federal system of government. (United Arab Emirates - Local government, 2022) Its origins can be traced back to the arrival of Islam and three countries: Portugal, the Netherland, and the United Kingdom controlling the Gulf region before the UAE claimed its independence. The country is known today as the UAE was called the Trucial States under the influence of the British empire in the 19th century. The Trucial States comprised the seven emirates of present-day the United Arab Emirates(UAE). These are the capital city Abu Dhabi, Dubai, the biggest city in the UAE, Ajman, Fujairah, Ras al-Khaimah, Umm al-Quwain, and Sharjah. The British withdrew from the region towards the end of the 20th century due to economic issues within the United Kingdom. The United Arab Emirates became a formal union on the 2nd of December 1971 (History of the UAE, 2022). The current president of the UAE is His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan who was chosen by the seven Supreme Council members and rulers of Emirates He took over when his brother H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan died in May 2022. (Associated Press in Dubai, 2022) H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan is the third President of the UAE and commander-in-chief of the UAE Armed Forces. The year 2021 marks the UAE's 50th anniversary, The Golden Jubilee. The

current Vice-President and ruler of Dubai, H. H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum launched a plan for the next 50 years called UAE Centennial Plan 2071. The four pillars of the plan are: future-focused government, excellent education, a diversified knowledge economy, and a happy and cohesive society (u.ae, 2022a, 2022b) The UAE ranked 33rd on the Global Innovation Index (GII 2021 United Arab Emirates, 2021)

The State of Israel was consolidated on the 25th of January 1949. (History: The State of Israel, 2022.) The State of Israel is a democratic republic headed by a parliament, with the head of government being the prime minister. (Israel - Government, 2022) The former prime minister was Benjamin Netanyahu. The current president is Isaac Herzog. The country experienced an influx of Diaspora Jews after the second world war. (History: The State of Israel, 2022.) The capital city is Tel Aviv. The second major city is Jerusalem. Jerusalem, dubbed 'the Holy City', is home predominantly to inhabitants of the three Abrahamic religions. Israel has a tumultuous past and present as a multicultural, multifaith, and multi-ethnic nation-state. Existential threats posed by its Middle Eastern neighbours and Israel's retaliation tactics form the present reality of living in the country. Peace and security guaranteed by signed treaties with other states are essential. Israel ranked 15th on the Global Innovation Index (GII 2021 Israel, 2021) It is the most innovative country in the region of the Middle East. Cooperation may yield more innovation, which benefits Israel and the United Arab Emirates.

3.2 Events preceding the Abraham Accords

The Abraham Accords are significant as they have renounced the rejection of the Jewish state of Israel by an Arab country. The rejection of Israel was the ideology of Sudan's capital of Khartoum, where the Arab League met after the Six-Day War of June 1967. The result of the

meeting were the three noes of Khartoum: no to recognition of Israel, no peace, and no negotiations with Israel by Arab states (Lazaroff, 2020a). Of the Gulf states, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait were members of the Arab League, while the UAE joined later in 1971 (Rabi and Mueller, 2017) The 1980s were a time of negotiations with Israel as the Fahd Plan of Saudi Arabia, and later Fez Plan of 1981 in Morocco had wanted for Israel to return to the pre-1967 borders and establish the state of Palestine with the capital city being East Jerusalem. This divided the Arab world into moderates willing to negotiate with Israel, and the rejectionists of Israel.(Rabi and Mueller, 2017) A year later, in 1981, the Gulf Cooperation Council(GCC) was established in the capital city of Saudi Arabia, Riyadh. The members of the GCC, are Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Oman. The GCC could trade with countries like the US, which traded with Israel only after the Oslo Accords in 1993. (Rabi and Mueller, 2017) Direct trade with Israel remained prohibited through a boycott (Rabi and Mueller, 2017) The Arab Peace Initiative of 2002 in Saudi Arabia was a conditional deal. The condition being Israel accepting the two-state solution and drawing back its borders to where they were before the Six-Day War. If Israel would meet the conditions, there would be a normalisation of relations between Arab states numbering 57 and Israel, reversing Khartoum's three noes. (Lazaroff, 2020a) Since the Arab Peace Initiative of 2002, other Middle Eastern countries have signed separate lengthy treaties with Israel over boundaries like Egypt(March 1979) and Jordan(October 1994) (Keinon, 2020) The Jerusalem Post had defined the UAE-Israel agreement within The Abraham Accords of 2020 as having more general statements about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict "continuing their efforts to achieve a just, comprehensive, realistic and enduring solution" "working together to realise a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that meets the legitimate needs and aspirations of both peoples and to advance comprehensive Middle East peace, stability and prosperity."(Keinon, 2020)

3.3 The Abraham Accords

The formalisation of the relationship between Israel and the United Arab Emirates was achieved through the Abraham Accords Declaration signed on the 15th of September 2020, followed by a UAE-Israel agreement under the Abraham Accords Declaration. (U.S. Department of State, 2020.) The Abraham Accords declaration was signed by Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain. By the end of the year 2020, the Agreement was also signed by Morocco and Sudan. The separate UAE-Israel agreement and its subsequent agreements under the Abraham Accords form the theoretical background to what is expected from the UAE-Israel partnership. The treaty was called "TREATY OF PEACE, DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND FULL NORMALIZATION." (U.S. Department of State, 2020, p. 1) It was signed in Washington, D.C., on the 15th of September, 2020, by H.E.Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime minister of Israel, H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Arab Emirates, and H.E. Donald J. Trump, the President of the United States of America as a witness. (U.S. Department of State, 2020, p.4) The UAE-Israel agreement includes a statement that signals to the reader what preceded the agreement and why the US was the mediator: "Recalling the reception held on January 28, 2020, at which President Trump presented his Vision for Peace, and committing to continuing their efforts to achieve a just, comprehensive, realistic and enduring solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;" (U.S. Department of State, 2020, p.1) Trump's Vision for Peace in Peace to Prosperity provided framework for the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for the borders, city of Jerusalem, the Gaza strip, trade with the U.S., and mutual recognition of the State of Israel and the State of Palestine. (trumpwhitehouse, 2020)

The UAE had warned Israel of jeopardising normalisation efforts as Israel continued with annexation before the official statements of normalisation, unlike Egypt and Jordan, who also signed a treaty with Israel much earlier. Yousef al-Otaiba, UAE ambassador to the US, had published an article in Hebrew before the Abraham Accords on the 13th of June 2020 in the Yediot Aharonot, an Israeli daily newspaper. The target audience was the Israeli public, and the aim was for the public to realise the negative implications of Israel's annexation on its relations with Arab countries. What followed was the signing of an agreement between an Israeli and Emirati company on COVID technology (Hassanein and Citrinowicz, 2020)

3.4 Tolerance

One of the points in the UAE-Israel agreement is tolerance: "Recognizing that the Arab and Jewish peoples are descendants of a common ancestor, Abraham, and inspired, in that spirit, to foster in the Middle East a reality in which Muslims, Jews, Christians and peoples of all faiths, denominations, beliefs, and nationalities live in, and are committed to, a spirit of coexistence, mutual understanding and mutual respect" (U.S. Department of State, 2020, p.1)

The legacy of Abraham explains the reason for agreements to be called the Abraham Accords. God promised Abraham many things. Abraham received two sons, Ishmael with an Egyptian slave surrogate and Isaac, the "promised offspring" with his infertile wife Sarah. God commands Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac; however, it was only God testing Abraham, therefore Isaac survives. Abraham is seen as the founding father of Judaism. Christianity believes in Abraham's descent as Abraham is seen as the father of all faith. Islam speaks of Abraham as one of the prophets in chronological order of prophets, with Muhammad coming later as the prophet who restored the religion of Abraham that is according to the Qur'an, Islam. (Levenson, 2012) Levenson(2012), in Inheriting Abraham:

The Legacy of the Patriarch in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, described the use of Abraham as a symbol of commonality among the monotheistic Abrahamic religions. "Jews, Christians, and Muslims have more in common than most of their adherents recognise. Their commonality is a tendency to reflect on the figure of Abraham as he appears in their respective collections of authoritative literature. (Levenson, 2012, p. 9) In an interview with the Jerusalem Post, the chief rabbi of South Africa summarised the significance of the symbol of Abraham in the Abraham Accords. "The two big ideas of Abraham's life – belief in one God and the imperative of treating all people with compassion and kindness – can bring peace to the world, which makes naming this historic peace accord between Israel and the UAE after Abraham so significant. One creator of all human beings means we all share a common humanity." (Goldstein, 2020)

The Jewish-Muslim connection to bridge Israel and UAE relations was the gifting of a Jerusalem-made Torah scroll in memoriam of the founding father of the UAE, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan to his son H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed(MBZ) Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi in 2018. (Divon, 2020) Sheikh MBZ is now the third president of the UAE, succeeding his brother Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan who died May 13, 2022. The year 2019 was the Year of Tolerance, and the UAE, as the first Arab country, invited Pope Francis. The UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Anwar Gargash, "There are many barriers that we broke. Nobody ever thought a Catholic Pope would visit the Arabian Peninsula. At that time, it was thought it would be risky but we took the risk,"(Sankar, 2020a). 2019 Year of Tolerance " to establish its status as a global capital for tolerance and a nurturing environment for the diverse cultural backgrounds living and working side by side peacefully in the country."(Year of tolerance, 2019). Tolerance is fostered in an environment in the UAE that "rejects extremism and promotes cultural

tolerance." (Year of Tolerance, 2019). During the historically first visit of the UAE, a Document on Human Fraternity for Word peace and living together was signed by His Holiness Pope Francis and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Mosque Ahmad Al-Tayyeb on February 4, 2019. This day became later International Day of Human Fraternity. The document asked for the spread of the culture of tolerance, peace, justice, and human fraternity as anchors of salvation. Following the signing of the document on Human Fraternity, there is an Abrahamic Family House consisting of a church, mosque, synagogue, and educational centre being built in the capital city of Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates (Abrahamic family house, 2021.) The church will point East, the mosque towards the Kaaba in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, and the Torah scrolls in the synagogue towards Jerusalem, Israel. (Jerusalem Post staff, 2020a)

The establishment of diplomatic missions via embassies and consulates of respective countries is a part of the UAE-Israel agreement. Mohamed Mahmoud Al Khaja was the first UAE Ambassador to Israel, with the embassy being in Tel Aviv (WAM, 2021a.) Amir Hayek was the first Israeli Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, with an Israel Embassy in Abu Dhabi and the General Consulate in Dubai (Jerusalem Post staff, 2021a, Sankar, 2020b) The first Israeli president to visit the UAE was Isaac Herzog which happened later in 2022. "We have the privilege of making history by making the first visit of an Israeli president to the United Arab Emirates. This important visit comes as the Israeli and Emirati nations are busy laying the foundations of a new shared future," Herzog said in a statement. (Web Desk, 2022)Condolences and congratulations are a sign of good diplomatic relations. UAE sent condolences to President of Israel Isaac Herzog following the death of his mother (Nasrallah, 2022a), and over the Meron disaster (Nasrallah, 2021a). Israel congratulated UAE on its 50th

National day (Gulf News Report, 2021a) and sent condolences to the UAE as their President H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan passed away in May 2022.(Lazaroff, 2022)

4.1 Antagonists

"The first and most urgent priority is to de-escalate tensions and begin a regional dialogue on peace and security. We want normal neighbours. Effective and verifiable non-proliferation and non-interference pacts are the goal" said UAE's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan (Wam, 2020a) Khaleej Times presented the point of view of Israel through an interview with Mark Regev, Senior Advisor to Benjamin Netanyahu, "We cannot be imprisoned by the rejectionism of the past. We want a Middle East where there is partnership. We want a Middle East where there is cooperation among all parties." (Sankar, 2020c)

The Gulf states were not geographically close to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and have not engaged in war with Israel; therefore, UAE-Israel relations are not founded on conflict. (Rabi and Mueller, 2017) Yousef al Otaiba, UAE Ambassador to the US, defined the UAE's strategy towards the UAE-Israel relationship through a motivational approach. The UAE "helped to create incentives – carrots rather than sticks – and focused attention on the collective benefits for all parties." "These are the carrots – the incentives, the upsides – for Israel. Greater security. Direct links. Expanded markets. Growing acceptance. This is what normal could be" he wrote. (Harkov, 2020a) Ghobash, a senior Emirati official, had expected a reaction from the Arab world and presented the UAE as having a clean conscience with the treaty. He said the "Most important thing is we(UAE) do not operate on ideological grounds. We are pragmatic and we are driven by pragmatism." (Wam, 2020b) The Jerusalem Post defined the public of UAE "as no longer willing to condition the economic, commercial,

cultural and technological progress in the region to satisfy the dignity of the current Palestinian leadership in the West Bank and Gaza." (Lande, 2020)

The UAE's position towards the Israeli-Palestinian question is forwarding the two-state agenda onto Israel. The UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Anwar Mohammed Gargash, said that the UAE is "committed to a two-state solution, to the Palestinian aspirations for a viable independent state(Shariff, 2020). Gargash also referenced the Arab Peace Initiative as "the Arab Peace Initiative, [it] is really about a two-state solution." The UAE envisioned "Peace for normalization" (Lazaroff, 2020b). The chairman of the General Authority of Islamic Affairs and Endowments, Dr. Mohammed Matar Salem Al Kaab had said: "The UAE has translated words into action by announcing the peace accord with Israel in exchange for suspending the annexation of swathes of the Palestinian territories and implementing the two-state solution according to relevant international laws and the Arab Peace Initiative, as well as permitting Muslims to pray at Al Aqsa Mosque." (Wam, 2020c)

The UAE's decision on normalisation with Israel is a sovereign decision. UAE's Foreign affairs minister Dr. Anwar Mohammed Gargash, said "It must be stressed that the UAE's decision on normal relations with Israel is a sovereign one, and within the recognised sovereignty of the nation state over its decisions, and it is not directed against any party, and it is not linked at all to the polarisations that the region is witnessing" (Salama,2020a). There is an annual provocation Israeli-flag-waving procession of Israeli nationalist settlers celebrating the ownership of Jerusalem after the Six-Day War in 1967 through the Temple Mount Area where the Al Aqsa Mosque lies. The UAE annually condemns the event. In 2020, before the signing of the Accords, such marches resulted in an 11-day war of Israel

versus the terrorist group Hamas and Islamic Jihad of the Gaza strip(AP, 2022b). Jews refer to the area as Temple Mount. Al Agsa Mosque is the third holiest mosque, while it stands on Temple Mount, the place where the two Jewish temples once stood. (Reuters, 2022a) Although the area falls under the state of Israel, the Waqf Islamic religious trust is the custodian in charge of maintaining the status quo as the Israeli authorities define the area as a security issue. Hence, Israel has not allowed Jewish worship on the site (Dromi, 2020) The Abraham Accords call for the area to be neutral, allowing Jews to pray alongside Muslims, however, this goes against Waqf. (Altabef, 2020) Upon hearing of the Abraham Accords, The Grand Mufti of Jerusalem issued a fatwa banning Muslims from the UAE from praying at Al Agsa. Many religious leaders condemned this fatwa as non-sensical, and in the words of Dr. Abbas Shuman, a member of Al-Azhar's Committee of Senior Scholars in Egypt for Emirates News Agency(WAM), even un-Islamic "To the best of my knowledge, our Islamic history has not witnessed any fatwa by the righteous forefathers and their descendants banning any Muslim from praying in any mosque around the world," (Swan, 2020a) 2500 Jews visited Temple Mount in Jerusalem before their nationalist parade and clashed with Palestinians who threw rocks and fireworks at them from the Al Agsa Mosque (AP, 2022a) The police clashed with Palestinians and 170 people were wounded during the Jewish Passover and Ramadan month (AFP, 2022). The UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MoFAIC) urged for greater security and protection of worshippers "halt any practices that violate the sanctity of Al Agsa Mosque" (Nasrallah, 2022b)

The main antagonist to the UAE and Israel striking a deal at Abraham Accords is Iran. Iran, following the 1979 Islamic Revolution and war with Iraq in 1980, turned to fundamentalist Islam and the Shia branch of Islam. Those were the beginnings of the raptured relationships it has with Gulf states due to Shiia uprisings. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani

called the Abraham Accords between the UAE and Israel a "huge mistake" The Iranian Foreign Ministry "considers Abu Dhabi's shameful move to normalise relations with the fake, illegitimate and anti-humane Zionist regime as a dangerous measure." (Edmunds, 2020a) The Gulf Cooperation Council, which UAE is a part of, had condemned Iran's threats. (Salama, 2020b) The GCC was established following Iran's beginnings with fundamental Islam. Iran supports the Houthi rebels in Yemen, who have the slogan "death to Israel, curse the Jews." (Frantzman, 2020a) Iran was blamed by Israel for a drone attack on Israel's commercial ship near UAE's Fujairah port in the Gulf of Oman, killing two people (AP, 2021; Dona Cherian, 2021). The UAE is on the side of Sudan in the war in Yemen against the Houthis who Iran supports. Houthi rebel leader Mohammed Ali al-Houthi commented on the UAE "building synagogues for Jews...to improve their image." before the Abraham Accords were signed. (Frantzman, 2020a) The Houthis were also behind the deadly drone and ballistic missile attacks on three tanker trucks in Abu Dhabi in January of this year(2022). Israel had offered their security support to the UAE (Reuters, 2022b)

Security can either be achieved through deterrence or diplomacy. The Gulf Cooperation Council had learned to cooperate in safeguarding their own states and not to be reliant on the US. The US had failed to retaliate after Iran had attacked oil tankers of Saudi Arabia and the UAE in 2019. (Bianco,2020, p.20) The possibility of a US renewal of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action nuclear deal with Iran is a threat to the security of Gulf states and Israel (Stein, 2021,p.2). The UAE pursues a non-interventionist foreign policy to preserve alliances and trade. The UAE maintains a neutral relationship with Iran due to three reasons that ensure UAE's financial stability (International Crisis group, 2021) Reason number 1 is that the UAE is Iran's main trade partner and Iranian traders form are a significant minority within the population of the UAE. Reason number 2 is tension over three

islands, Abu Musa, Greater and Lesser Tunb between UAE and Iran through which "20% of the global oil supply passes daily" (International Crisis group, 2021,p.19) Reason number 3, Iran represents political Islam of the Muslim Brotherhood and the Shia Islamist groups which UAE sees as a potential threat to its authority (International Crisis group, 2021)

The Israel-Iran relationship deteriorated after the 1979 Iranian revolution. The formation of the Islamic Republic meant that anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism would make it impossible for the two countries to cooperate. (Furlan, 2022, p.3) Iran sees Israel as an occupier and oppressor of Muslim Palestine, and as a direct influence on US foreign policy towards the Middle East (Furlan, 2022, p.3) Terrorist organisations like Hezbollah, Hamas, Islamic Jihad and other Shia Islamist groups pose a direct threat to Israel as they have fired missiles, fought proxy wars against Israel and conflict continues to present day (Furlan, 2022, p. 6) The Abraham Accords represent an alliance against Iran's quest for territorial expansion and a betrayal of Islam due to the cooperation of Gulf states with Israel. (Furlan, 2022, p.10)

Turkey had also resented the Abraham Accords. The Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had planned to withdraw the diplomatic mission from the UAE after hearing of the Abraham Accords due to his belief in Israel disrespecting Palestinian rights. The UAE's Foreign Minister Dr. Gargash called it a "double standard" as "They(Turkey) receive over half-a-million Israeli tourists, have \$2 billion worth of bilateral trade and an existing embassy (in Israel)" (A Staff Reporter, 2020a)

The Abraham Accords "also aims to signal to Iran (and Turkey) that Gulf states can establish a new regional deterrence axis" (Bianco, 2020, p.8) The Abraham Accords lead to more cooperation in the maintenance of safety. Israel has supplies of hi-tech weapons

systems, and US military technology to help secure the Arab countries within the Accords (Syed, 2021, p. 28) The Accords have undermined attempts at Islamic or Arab unity, especially in the context of Palestine (Syed, 2021, p. 33) Israel also joined the International Security Alliance (ISA) joining UAE, Morocco, and Bahrain. (Jean, 2020a) A new regional deterrence axis was seen when Israel hosted the Negev summit. Israel invited four foreign ministers of Arab countries. Israel's Foreign Minister Yair Lapid on deterrence talks at the Negev Summit. "The shared capabilities we are building intimidate and deter our common enemies, first and foremost Iran and its proxies." The Negev summit is to be on annual rotation among the member countries. The result of the Negev summit were six working groups: food and water, and energy security and counterterrorism, health, tourism, and education (Harkov, 2022b)

Critics of the Abraham Accords have voiced that the Accords not only represent normalisation between Israel and Arab countries, but "it also normalized and legitimised Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands, isolating the Palestinians" (Syed, 2021, p. 31) Some Arab governments that are signatories of the Abraham Accords are further concerned with the Jewish settlements in West and East Jerusalem (Stein, 2021, p. 3)

4.2 Palestine

Palestinians are bitter and feel betrayed as their enemy Israel signed a deal with the Arab country of UAE (Sales/JTA, 2020) In September 2020, following the signing of the agreement, the chief negotiator Saeb Erekat of the Palestine Liberation Organization expressed that the normalisation agreement is "the beginning of establishing an Arab Zionist movement...Not an Arab Zionist movement, a declaration - I said that this is a public birth for the Arab Zionists. There is no Arab Zionism; there are Arab Zionists." (Edmunds, 2020b)

The Palestinians had also formed a group, The Unified National Leadership of Popular Resistance. This group mourned September 18th and urged people to protest by raising Palestinian flags in the Gaza Strip and West Bank and Palestinians, Arabs, and Muslims to demonstrate in front of the US, the UAE, and Bahrain embassies (Toameh, 2020a). Many Palestinian and Arab social media users had called the agreement "new nakba," or catastrophe and the UAE and its leaders a "United Zionist Emirate" (Toameh, 2020b) The president of the Palestinian Authority Mahmoud Abbas called on Arab nations to revive the commitment to the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative at the Arab League meeting lead by Palestine. (Toameh, 2020c) The goal of the meeting was held to condemn the UAE-Israel Treaty. However, the Arab League turned out to be against this. The Jerusalem Post commented on the Arab league's decision: "It is not the UAE and Bahrain, and whichever Arab states might follow them, are out of step with the Palestinians; it is the Palestinian leadership that has failed to keep pace with the new reality in the Middle East. It is they who are increasingly out of step with their Arab brothers, as the decision of the Arab League demonstrates" (Neville Teller, 2020)

A writer from a pro-Israel Jewish peace organisation wrote "we lament the impact of Israel's unresolved conflict with the Palestinians." They cannot celebrate the signing of the Accords. Israel had demolished 500 illegal Palestinian homes in Area C in East Jerusalem and West Bank as they have not issued permits to Palestinians before the signing of the Abraham Accords. These actions have displaced 5,000 Palestinians in the scope of 5 years. (Susskind, 2020) Plans for 4000 new homes in the West Bank in October 2020 served as a litmus test to the Arab-Israeli Normalisation and had not been met with much opposition, reported Jerusalem Post. Gulf News reported that the "de facto Israeli annexation of the Occupied Palestinian Territories has already taken place... Israel has, in reality, already

annexed the West Bank — not just 30% of it but, in fact, the whole area. For example, international law deems that all of Israel's Jewish colonies, constructed anywhere on Palestinian land occupied during the 1967 war, are illegal." (Baroud, 2020)

Although the UAE and Israel have a treaty, this does not mean that the UAE will side with Israel. Seven pro-Palestine and anti-Israel drafts at the UN General Assembly's Fourth Committee were signed by United Arab Emirates, Sudan, and Bahrain.(Lazaroff, 2020c)The killing of the Al Jazeera reporter Shireen Abu Akleh in May 2022 was reported by Gulf news as the doing of the Israel army. Israel Foreign Minister Yair Lapid had called for a "joint pathological investigation into the sad death of journalist Shireen Abu Aqleh" and Prime Minister Naftali Bennet believed that it was the doing of Palestinian gunmen.(Reuters, 2022c)The UAE Journalists Association condemned it and sent their condolences. The association said the Israeli army killed the journalist. (Khitam Al Amir, 2022)

5.1 Commerce

Direct commerce between UAE and Israel began in 2020. Direct commerce was not possible before due to a boycott on trade the Federal Law No. 15 of 1972 "imposed on the freedom of trade in the United Arab Emirates the restrictions that guarantee the provisions of the boycott by prohibiting dealing with bodies and persons residing in Israel or who belong to it by their nationality or working for it or for its interest, and prohibiting dealing in Israeli goods or products, commodities, and other movable values," (Salama, 2020c)His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, issued a Federal Decree - Law No. 04 of 2020 to abolish the boycott and penalties that were adjoined to it (WAM, 2020a)Commerce legal systems and regulatory frameworks for commerce between the two

countries are essential for success. The UAE law firm Ahmad Bin Hezeem & Associates LLP (BSA) and Israel law firm Gross, Kleinhendler, Hodak, Halevy, Greenberg, Shenhav & Co. (GKH) cooperated on the legal framework (Levine, 2020a)

Both the UAE and Israel see economic diplomacy through commercial ties as a significant aspect of their relationship. Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri, The Minister of Economy, had said, "Business leaders will play a major role in advancing this vision of the future. While these new trade and capital flows will immediately benefit Israel, UAE, and the US, they also stand to have a significant spill-over effect on the entire Middle East region and broader global economy," (Samihah, 2020) OurCrowd's CEO Jon Medved defined the Abraham accords as a "Sand Curtain" that has fallen between Israel and the Gulf in terms of business (Al-Binali, 2021) Jerusalem Post defined Israel as a "Start-Up Nation", while the UAE good has a suitable environment for commerce and governmental support (Alketbi, 2021) Doron Cohen, Executive Chairman of Dun & Bradstreet Israel for Gulf news stated "For Israeli companies, the fact that the UAE ranks as 16th in the world in the Ease of Doing Business index (Israel ranks 35th) and the efficient company set-up process in the various free zones make it attractive both for the local market and as a gateway to the wider region" (Overdahl, 2020)

Marketing and PR firms are networking experts. UAE White Water Public Relations and Israeli ReBlonde allow investors, entrepreneurs, and companies to build networks in the other country's market. (Gulf News Report, 2020a)International public relations agency Steinreich Communications Group also has many clients from UAE and Israel, respectively(Sengupta, 2020)

The first Israeli business delegation of 130 companies to the UAE was a collaboration between Israel's Foreign Ministry, the Israel Export Institute, the Economy and Industry Ministry, and Israel Bank Hapoalim. Jerusalem Post editor-in-chief Yaakov Katz hosted the first virtual UAE-Israel Business Summit, and Khaleej Times editor-in-chief Vinay Kamat in cooperation with UAE-Israel Business Council (Rosenbaum, 2021a) Aqdar(United Arab Emirates' Khalifa Empowerment Program) World Summit in Dubai cooperated with Israeli Emirates Leadership Program (ILEP) in the development of management and leadership culture with a workshop organised by experts from Israel (Frantzman, 2021a)The foreign ministers of Israel, the United States, the United Arab Emirates and India had agreed to establish a forum for economic cooperation in 2021 (Harkov, 2021)The Abrahamic Business Circle was established for networking and economic diplomacy (Chowdhury, 2021)There was also Future Horizons Mission forum in March, 2022 in Dubai. The forum was organised by the UAE Embassy in Israel, Dubai International Chamber, and the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange for high-level trade (Sadaqat, 2022)

Emirates NBD Bank and Israel Banks Hapoalim and Bank Leumi signed an MoU, and UAE's First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB)and Bank Leumi signed an MoU (Augustine, 2020). Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) international financial hub signed an agreement with Bank Hapoalim.(Gulf News Report, 2020b)Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank (ADIB) then signed an agreement with Hapoalim and Bank Leumi (Rizvi, 2020)Export credit agencies of UAE Etihad Credit Insurance (ECI)and the UAE Federal export credit company later signed a deal with The Israel Foreign Trade Risks Insurance Corporation (ASHR'A) (Gulf News Report, 2020c)Dubai International Arbitration Centre (DIAC) signed an MoU with the Israeli Institute of Commercial Arbitration (IIC) (Reporter, 2021)

The Dubai Airport Free Zone Authority(DAFZA) and the Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce(FICC) signed an MoU in 2020(Reuters, 2020b). Mohammed Al Zarooni of DAFZA "enjoys a strategic location that makes it a gateway to Asian markets, as it will redirect trade movement smoothly, faster and more efficiently to those markets" (Gulf News Report, 2020d). The UAE's free trade zone Abu Dhabi Global Market(ADGM) and Dubai Multi Commodities Centre (DMCC) receive many transactions from Israel (Benny, 2020, It's advantage) The DMCC has opened an office branch in Tel Aviv after a successful diamond trade collaboration between the two countries in September 2020 (Report, 2020) Another agreement of 2020 was between Abu Dhabi Ports(AD Ports) and the Manufacturers Association of Israel (MAI) (WAM, 2020b). Trade on the Dubai Gold & Commodities Exchange(DGCX) bourse with membership and use of the platforms was allowed by Israel Securities Authority (ISA) in 2021 (Gulf News Report, 2021b) The Israeli crowdfunding capital venture platform OurCrowd had signed an MoU with the UAE-based Phoenix Group for cooperation in business and technology (Keyser, 2020a) UAE company Mazrui International and Israel company Bazan signed an MoU and became a joint venture company to import polymers which Israel lacks (Jerusalem Post staff, 2020b)

UAE, Israel, and the US established a \$3 billion joint development fund, the Abraham Fund, following the signing of the Abraham Accords (Shay, 2020)The countries are to invest capital into development projects in the Middle East and North Africa (Harkov, 2020b) A year later, Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO) with its first office abroad in Israel created a \$10 billion investment fund for Israel.(Agencies, 2020) The fund works in co-investments into manufacturing, healthcare, energy, water, space, and agri-tech. (WAM, 2021b) The EXPO 2020 held in Dubai was an excellent opportunity for more commercial relationships. Elazar Cohen, Israel's Expo Commissioner, said, "Israel got the invitation for

Expo 2020 Dubai 18 months prior to the signing of the Abraham Accords. We are thankful for that," (Sankar, 2020d). The EXPO 2020 allowed for Israel to present itself to potential investors, potential tourists, or potential students. "For the first time, visitors across the Middle East will be exposed to Israel's culture and heritage, our innovation contributions to global human issues as well as our coexistence society." (Angel Tesorero, 2021) His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the current president of the UAE, received the current president of Israel, Isaac Herzog, at the UAE Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, who was also the first Israeli president to be welcomed into the UAE (Amir, 2022)

DMCC's Dubai Diamond Exchange signed an agreement with Israel Diamond Exchange, and both erected headquarters in Dubai and Tel Aviv (Gulf News Report, 2020e)Israel benefits from this connection as it allows for more trade with the Arab World and India. Reuters reported, "We see Dubai as a golden gate," said Israel Diamond Exchange President Yoram Dvash (Reuters, 2020c). Direct trade was not possible before the lifting of the boycott. Trade had to pass through a third party, either in Europe, or Asia (Siegal, 2020a). Dubai traded \$21.2 billion in diamonds in 2019, while Israel stood at \$12 billion; they are both centres of the Middle East's diamond trade (Reuters, 2020c)

5.2 Fintech

Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM) financial centre and Bank Hapoalim signed an MoU to develop financial technology(FinTech)(Gulf News Report, 2020f). Fintech allows for speedy application for loans, evaluation, and determination of financial strategies that an entrepreneur might adopt (Bob, 2021)

Other Fintech specialists like FinTech Hive, a fintech hub, and FinTech-Aviv signed an agreement (NYT, 2020)The Abu Dhabi Global Market Financial Services Regulatory

Authority (ADGM FSRA) and the Israel Securities Authority (ISA) entered into a fintech cooperation agreement (Wam, 2020d)The UAE's ADGM regulators had stressed the need for balance. "We need to strike a balance between not overly burdening them with regulations, and also trying to promote innovation." (Benny, 2020a)

The most significant and most extensive commercial deal between the UAE and Israel was signed in Dubai on the 31st of May 2022. The deal was signed by the UAE's Minister of Economy Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri and Minister of Economy and Industry of Israel Major General (Retd) Orna Barbivay. (John, 2022) The UAE-Israel Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (UAE-Israel CEPA) is a Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The agreement is Israel's first FTA with an Arab country (Harkov, 2022a) Tariffs on trade will be eliminated or lowered on more than 96 per cent of products formerly under tariffs. It aims to attract more and new investment, create a better export environment and offer more opportunities across sectors of FinTech, digital trade, water, energy, healthcare, and education. (John, 2022)The CEPA aligns with the UAE's Projects of the 50 initiative in 2021 to economically recover from COVID-19. The 'Projects of the 50' is defined on The United Arab Emirates' Government portal as "a series of developmental and economic projects that aim to accelerate the UAE's development and transform it into a comprehensive hub in all sectors and establish its status as an ideal destination for talents and investors...covers several key sectors such as: economy, entrepreneurship, advanced skills, digital economy, space and advanced technologies." (u.ae, 2022) According to Khaleej Times, The UAE-Israel CEPA is estimated to raise "bilateral trade to more than \$10 billion within five years ---more than seven times an increase compared to \$1.4 billion worth of trade in 2021" (John, 2022)

6. Tourism

The first commercial flight between the UAE and Israel was with El Al Airlines, a delegation headed by US President Donald Trump's advisor Jared Kushner and the head of the Israeli National Security Council (Serkal, 2020b) The original deal was 28 commercial flights and 10 cargo flights per week (Reuters, 2020d) El Al had also signed a reciprocal loyalty agreement for frequent flyers with Abu Dhabi Etihad Airways (Gulf News Report, 2021c) The UAE and Israel also signed a mutual visa-free travel MoU with the maximum of 90 days. The UAE was the first Arab country Israeli nationals could enter without visas (AFP, 2020a) The first passenger flight was Etihad Airways (AFP, 2020b)Israir joined in December, 2020.(Gulf News Report, 2020g) In the beginnings of the air travel exchange between the two countries, 200 Israeli tourists were stranded in Dubai due to visa issues that were later resolved (Shouk, 2020) Shaham was the first Israeli diplomat in the UAE as head of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). He welcomed the direct flights as before a trip to Dubai was a 20 hours minimum flight with layovers in Europe (Divon, 2020b)Dubai presents Israel with direct connections to Asia. Arkia, Israel's second-largest airline joined the others (John, 2020) In January 2021 there was a deal signed between Etihad Aviation Training (EAT) and Israel's Israir Airlines (WAM, 2021c). Wizz Air's new Emirati subsidiary also offers direct flights (Stub, 2021b). The first vacation package agreement between UAE and Israel was organised in Rixos hotels(Reuters, 2020e).

COVID did not entirely stop Israeli tourists from coming into the UAE. In April 2021 Israel was a part of the green list of countries that the UAE did not require quarantine from when entering Abu Dhabi, however, the UAE required visa. (Benny, 2021a) The UAE and Israel established a green corridor for fully vaccinated tourists during COVID 19 in

November 2021 (Benny, 2021b)Starting from March 1st, the requirement was a negative PCR test before departure and upon arrival for vaccinated and unvaccinated and Israeli tourists are exempt from the visa requirement as the UAE and Israel signed a reciprocal free entry without visa (Gulf News Report, 2022b)Security warnings for Israelis following Iran labelling Israel as the assassin of nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh did not stop them from flocking into the UAE(Swan, 2020b)The UAE is considered safe as there are no police officers armed with riffles at every corner.(Frantzman, 2020b)Several Israelis decided to smuggle drugs into the country, security warnings have not stopped tourism or the leak of sensitive information off of a UAE website that Israeli tourists were booking vacations did not stop tourism(Siegal, 2021)

The first virtual UAE-Israel tourism forum was hosted by officials from Israel's Ministry of Tourism. The diplomatic relations between the UAE and Israel are strengthened via tourism. Israel's Ministry of Tourism had said, "Tourism is key to building a lasting peace between countries, and Israel looks forward to welcoming travelers from the UAE" (Tesorero, 2020). Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Company (ADNEC), and Expo Tel Aviv signed an MoU for collaboration in providing services to the business tourism sector (Jerusalem Post staff, 2021b). Another MoU was signed between the UAE Minister of State of Entrepreneurship and SMEs and Chairman of the Emirates Tourism Council Dr. Ahmed Belhoul Al Falasi, and Israeli Minister of Tourism Yoel Razvozov. The MoU will boost the tourism sector of both countries, and facilitate the exchange of information about tourism, travel, and planned tourism (Wam, 2022a). The UAE also expects Israelis to become immigrants to the country as renting an apartment in Dubai is cheaper than in Israel's capital city Tel Aviv. (Siegal, 2021)

Efforts to drive culture tourism helps the UAE-Israel relationship. The Heritage

Center for Middle East and North Africa Jewry in Jerusalem and Israel and the UAE

Crossroads of Civilizations Museum in Dubai had signed an MoU "aimed to highlight the
positive historical relationship between Jews and Arabs and achieve better understanding
between the cultures of the other as well as to "strengthen and highlight to [the]contribution
of both peoples to humanity." Museums have a duty to preserve culture for the generations
that follow (Frantzman, 2020d). "All cultures are important, and museums must be a place to
remember both the good and the bad we've witnessed through history." said founder of the
Crossroads of Civilization Museum in Dubai and founder of the Abrahamic Business Circle
H.E. Ahmed Obaid Al Mansoor (Al Mansoori, 2020)

The National Library of Israel and the National Archives(NA) of the United Arab Emirates have signed an MoU "the two organizations to work together in support of mutual and separate goals and for the benefit of the international cultural and documentary heritage sector," History and Culture need to be recorded, hence, the National Library of Israel had seen the role of the library archives as "central institutions of national memory for their respective countries" (Jerusalem Post staff, 2021d) Abu Dhabi Film Commission, Israel Film Fund (IFF) and the Jerusalem Sam Spiegel Film & Television cooperation in training, workshops, education, International Film Lab and a regional film festival that will be held annually. The film festival would show Israeli, Emirati, and coproductions (Gulf News Report, 2020h)

7. Jewish community

Gifting the Torah Scrolls to UAE and private Jewish community meetings in a villa in Dubai for prayer were the beginnings of the Jewish community in the UAE before the Abraham

Accords (Divon, 2020a). Many organisations were established to fit the needs of the Jewish community in the UAE. Intra-UAE, the Jewish community established the Jewish Agency for Israel in charge of Jewish communal life, Jewish education, and summer camps (Levine, 2020b) International organisations like the World Zionist Organization(WZO) sent its first permanent emissaries to an Arab country to the UAE (Siegal, 2020b) Jewish communities have lived in other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. Hence, the Jewish communities of GCC countries of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE formed the Association of Gulf Jewish Communities (AGJC) in the year 2021. The AGJC is a rabbinical court for the communities within the GCC (Nonoo, 2021)Two of the AGJC's court rabbis have said that the establishment of the court allows for the integration of Jews into the societies of Gulf states (Sharon, 2021) The synagogue as part of the Abrahamic Family House in Abu Dhabi will mean that the 200 families of UAE's Jewish community, numbering in 2020, will have an official place to conduct their activities in as they formerly met in a Bur Dubai villa since 2015 (Hanif, 2020) The importance of visibility of the Jewish community lies in the general feeling of the Jewish community of UAE and the Jewish and Israeli tourists visiting the UAE. A sukkah was built in front of the Burj Khalifa for Sukkot (Jerusalem Post staff, 2020c)A large Hannukkah menora and candle-lighting ceremony below the Burj Khalifa (Frantzman, 2020c) during which 50,000 tourists were present in the UAE at the time of Hanukkah celebration days were a nice gesture to show the acceptance of the Jewish community and Jewish tourists by the UAE (Hacohen, 2020)

As early as 2020 Jerusalem Post reported that hotels in Abu Dhabi have been instructed to offer kosher options for Jewish guests (Sharon, 2020) Air travel also caters to Jewish tourists as Emirates' catering started to cook kosher through a dedicated production facility (Jerusalem Post staff, 2020d) The first kosher restaurant Elli's Kitchen with kashrut

certification from rabbinical authorities opened in 2020 (Edmunds, 2020c) Dubai Ports
World's Jebel Ali Free Zone (Jafza) signed an MoU with the UAE-based STAR-K kosher
certification to educate and help the zone get certified as kosher (Jerusalem Post staff, 2021c)

Hebrew education and Jewish education are both pillars on which the Jewish community thrives in the UAE. The Virtual Ulpan program to teach Hebrew to Arabic speakers in the Gulf was launched in 2020 (Reich, 2020) The first Hebrew language institute, the Educational Hebrew Institute (EHI), to teach Hebrew lessons, Israeli culture, and cuisine to Emiratis, businessmen and people living in the Emirates, opened in 2021 with branches in Abu Dhabi and Dubai. (Sebugwaawo, 2020) The first Jewish nursery school called Mini Miracles in the UAE, Dubai, opened in 2020 (Sircar, 2020). Educating the UAE and the general public of the UAE about the Holocaust is key for the Jewish community to be understood by the UAE. In 2021, Israel hosted the virtual Holocaust Memorial in Arabic as many participants from the UAE, Israel, Morocco, and Bahrain. Bahrain had signed a separate MoU on educating about anti-semitism (Schrader, 2021.) The UAE had also been a part of the March of the Living memorial ceremony in May 2022 at Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in Poland. The Founder of the first Holocaust Memorial Gallery, the Crossroads of Civilisations Museum in Dubai in the Arab sphere H.E. Ahmed Obaid Al Mansoor had, said in a speech at the memorial: "As the Children of Abraham, brought together by the Abraham Accords – we say, Never means Never. Never means Never." (Gokulan, 2021) The Israel Pavilion also observed the International Holocaust Remembrance Day at Expo 2020 (Tesorero, 2022)

8. Muslim tourists

Fleur Hassan-Nahoum, the Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem and Co-Founder of the UAE-Israel Business Council, had said that the Abraham Accords meant a new era of tourism to Israel. "I believe we are looking at the beginning of the era of Muslim pilgrims. Almost every religious Emirati I have met is excited to come to Jerusalem, now an easy flight away. They are excited to visit Al Aqsa and the Dome of the Rock, on Haram Al Sharif." The Muslim tourist will feel welcome as 40 per cent of Jerusalem's population is Arab, and there will be little to no language barrier for the tourists. The director of religious tourism at Israel's Tourism Ministry, Noga Sher-Greco, had mapped points of interest of an average Muslim tourist. He categorised the Muslim tourists into three categories: 1. "There's spiritual tourism – each person visits the places sacred to him," 2. "With regard to the country's importance vis-a-vis Islam, a large segment of the Quran details "the stories of the prophets, be they prophets from, let's say, the Old Testament, or from the New Testament. It's a sacred land." 3. "visiting Muslims will definitely make a pilgrimage to al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron, where Jews and Muslims believe Abraham, their shared patriarch, is buried" (Sonnenfeld, 2021)

- 9. Technology, Water, Food, and Energy Security
- 9.1 Technology

The UAE's Mohamed Bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI) and Israel's Weizmann Institute of Science signed an MoU with the intention to "advance the development and use of artificial intelligence as a tool for progress." (Siegal, 2020c)Israeli Science and Technology Minister Izhar Shay and Industry and Advanced Technology Minister Sultan al-Jaber discussed fields in which the UAE and Israel could collaborate. These are artificial intelligence, civil space industry and agriculture (Siegal, 2020d). Abu Dhabi Group 42, an AI and cloud information technology company, established an office in Israel as first UAE company in Israel (Wam, 2020f)The company specialises in healthcare

and COVID-19 diagnostic solutions, advanced AI research, agritech, and water supply solutions. (Gulf News Report, 2020i)G42 had also created a joint venture with Rafael Advanced Defense Systems of Israel. The joint venture is based on AI and big data technology (Reuters, 2021a) Start-Up Nation Central created an innovation community for UAE-Israel technology companies. This is called the 'UAE-IL Tech Zone' (Gulf News Report, 2020j). The CEO of Start-Up Nation Central views the AI capabilities of the UAE and Israel as complementary "The UAE is incredibly strong in infrastructure, operating environment and in government strategy." Israel is stronger in the private sector where research and development, as well as commercialization, are leading the effort. If we combine them and look at the International ratings, it is easily seen that Israel and UAE can be the fourth global AI ecosystem." (Benny, 2020b) Start-ups are hiring talent from other continents like Europe and aim to relocate them to the Middle East. This is the case of Rapyd, an Israeli technology firm that hired coders from Eastern Europe to work for them in Dubai. Improved standards of living and little to no income tax are drivers for migration (Bloomberg, 2021)

Israeli state-owned defence technology company Rafael Advanced Defense Systems participated in November's 2021 Dubai Air Show. The company specialises in satellite intelligence, communications, and aerial defence systems (Jerusalem Post staff, 2021e). Other collaboration in defence systems are in the sphere of development and the use of Israeli drones by the UAE. The UAE EDGE signed a deal to develop Counter-Unmanned Aircraft System (C-UAS) with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) (Benny, 2021e) Israeli drone company Perceptoare are used in the UAE to monitor solar panel farms, oil fields, and other locations. The drones monitor those areas for real-time malfunctions and security purposes

(Jerusalem Post staff, 2021f)Dubai Police also used drones from the Israeli firm Airobotics to hover over Dubai and the World Expo 2020 in October 2021. (Stub, 2021a)

Collaboration in space exploration is also an interesting aspect of the relationship between the UAE and Israel. The UAE Space Agency had signed an MoU for space exploration, research, and knowledge exchange (Gulf News Report, 2021d). UAE's Minister of State for Advanced Technology Sarah Al Amiri and Israel's Minister of Science, Technology and Space Orit Farkash signed an agreement at Expo 2020 during Expo 2020's Space. The moon mission 'Beresheet 2' and the use of the 'Venus' satellite of Israel & France are projects for collaboration. (Jerusalem Post staff, 2021g)Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) opened an office in the UAE to support the joint collaboration and ease communication between governments, companies, and relevant academia(Wam, 2021a). The UAE, and Israeli agencies and ministries had invited students to submit joint research proposals using environmental data on vegetation collected through the Venus satellite. The Venus satellite stands for Vegetation and Environment Monitoring New Micro Satellite (Gulf News Report, 2022b)Cooperating in investment in technological sectors is therefore worthwhile.

9.2 Water

The establishment of the Middle East Desalination Research Centre (MEDRC)in Oman was the first time Gulf countries cooperated with Israel on water security (Guzansky, 2015) Israel has been very successful in water security-related projects. The UAE Al-Shirawi group recognised this. Jerusalem post interviewed the deputy manager of Al-Shirawi about future prospects with Israel. Jerusalem Post reported, "(they) are looking forward to the environmental sphere and exploring Israel's success in water filtration technology. Both the UAE and Israel face the problem of water scarcity and filtration, and while the technology is

emerging in Dubai and other parts of the UAE business and industry can benefit from the Israeli mastery of this technology."(Saltzman, 2021)

The UAE Ministry of State for Food and Water Security and Israel's Ministry of Agriculture cooperate in projects concerning water and food security(Amir, 2020b). In 2020, four MoUs were signed between the UAE, represented by Al Dahra Holding, Israeli firm Netafim specialised in irrigation solutions, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Israel. The first was signed with Netafim to erect office in the UAE, the second with Israeli producer of grapes Grapa Varieties, and the third MoU Volcani Centre for studies on the effects of salinity on agriculture. The fourth MoU was with Al Dahra and WaterGen, for water from air technology solutions (WAM, 2020c). Al Dahra and WaterGen have a production and distribution site for drinking water and water for irrigation. (Wam, 2020e)In January 2021, The UAE Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure and Mekorot, Israel's National Water Company discussed co-cooperation (WAM, 2021d.) "Mekorot manages all types of water in an integrated method through a single system and treats a variety of areas of the water economy simultaneously. Very few companies in the world can handle these different types of water under one roof. There is demand worldwide for this unique combination, including among the Gulf states, which must meet the growing water needs of the population on the one hand and the depletion of water resources on the other" (Rosenbaum, 2021b). Two working groups were established by the signateurs of the Abraham Accords, The United States, the United Arab Emirates, and Israel. The first group is focused on religious tolerance and the second on water and energy security (Reuters, 2021b)

9.3 Food

UAE's food security is a concern. Therefore, Emirates Food Industries (EFI) and Israel's Tnuva are cooperating. EFI specialises in food security and agriculture, while Tnuva

specialises in the dairy industry. (Gulf News Report, 2021e) Israel has exported fruit and vegetables to the UAE since 2020 (Jerusalem Post staff, 2020e). The first-ever food and vegetable exports in the UAE were at Fresh Market in Ras Al Kh.or There are many benefits of the Israel-UAE import and export of food and vegetables. The chairman of Carmel Agrexco Shlomi Fogel, "The export of fresh agricultural products from Israel to the UAE market has a significant advantage because of the geographical closeness and the speed with which the products can be transported directly to markets in the UAE and beyond. Within few hours of picking, the fresh produce can reach points of sale. It's a fact that Israeli agriculture is highly advanced, and we are confident that everyone will enjoy our produce," (A Staff Reporter, 2020b). Innovative Vertical Fields of Israel signed an agreement with Emirates Smart Solutions & Technologies (ESST) to put vertical farms into the UAE (Jerusalem Post staff, 2021h)

9.4 Energy

The Israeli Europe-Asia Pipeline Company (EAPC) and UAE MED-RED were to sign an agreement permitting the transfer of UAE's crude oil through Israel to Israel's Red Sea port of Eilat and then onwards to Europe in 2021. Israel's Environmental Protection Ministry criticised the agreement for its environmental effects on Israel's seas (Jerusalem Post staff, 2021i). The deal involves Israel's state-owned Europe Asia Pipeline Co. (EAPC) and UAE-based MED-RED Land Bridge. Dr. Yonatan Freeman, an international relations expert at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, It remains to be seen whether or not it will be a permanent freeze" (Margit, 2021)The UAE Mubadala wealth fund in a "gas-biased portfolio strategy in line with its energy transition goals" paid \$1 billion for a 22 per cent stake in the Israel Tamar gas field (Gulf News Report, 2021f)

The UAE's CMETS Engineering Solutions and Israeli company SolconIGEL signed an agreement during the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (Aadipec). CMETS will takeover will be stocking, selling and servicing SolconIGELs soft starters stock, servicing, and selling services in Abu Dhabi. "A soft starter is an equipment that starts a motor slowly with reduced power to prevent mechanical shocks and save energy by using an efficient power source. It is used in the oil and gas sector." (Kumar, 2021)

9.5 Wildlife conservation

The UAE International Fund for Houbara Conservation (IFHC) and Israel Nature & Heritage Foundation (INHF) signed an MoU with five-years to collaborate on the conservation of a rare bird species, the Houbara bustard, in Israel (Tesorero, 2020b). The Population distribution, survival, breeding rates, and genetic makeup are all aspects that are studied under the conservation project. (Staff Report, 2021a)

10. Communications & Logistics

The inauguration of a phone link between the UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Israeli counterpart Gabi Ashkenazi was the first step in communication between the two countries (Sherbini, 2020) Media companies are also an outlet for relations UAE's Abu Dhabi Media and i24News signed an MoU (Serkal, 2020a) The CEO of 'i24NEWS' for Gulf News talked about MoU "We have a huge opportunity now" — following the 'Abraham Accords Peace Agreement' between the UAE and Israel in 2020 to normalise ties — to do away with any bias." He added: "So, I'm inviting all the networks, all the partners here in UAE to join i24News in this amazing mission to promote the reality of a new Middle East, to educate the new generation, and to kill prejudices." (Masudi, 2021)The two leading English-language

Khaleej Times and The Jerusalem Post launched the virtual UAE-ISRAEL Business Summit, in association with UAE-Israel Business Council. At the summit, government officials, experts, and business leaders met to discuss sectors like hospitality, defence, security, trade and technology, and healthcare (Jerusalem Post staff, 2021j)

Logistical solutions for sending parcels and freight have also been necessary for commerce and communication between the UAE and Israel. The first parcels from the UAE to Israel were sent through the Emirates Post Group 2021 (Staff Report, 2021b). The first ship from the UAE arrived at Israel's Haifa with electronic equipment, iron, cleaning, and firefighting (Staff Report, 2020a). The first cargo from Israel at DP World's flagship Jebel Ali Port contained pressure-sensitive self-adhesive tapes.(A Staff Reporter, 2020c). Partnerships are essential in Logistics. Israel was chosen by Dubai's World Logistics Passport (WLP) program to increase trade between markets through the support of logistical departments by decreasing barriers to trade and opening up new trade routes (Jerusalem Post staff, 2021k) The UAE'S Smart Solution Logistics and Israel's Allalouf Logistics look for opportunities in logistics and operate as freight forwarders (Gulf News Report, 2021g) The UAE Minister of Energy and Infrastructure Suhail bin Mohammed Al Mazrouei and Israeli Minister of Transport and Road Safety Merav Michaeli signed a MoU in 2022, focusing on maritime transport (Gulf News Report, 2022c) Air transport within hours, sea transport within 16 days and the possibility of road transport in 3 days between the UAE and Israel are key for the development of a bilateral trade corridor (Wam, 2021b)Road travel is further supported by Israelis having the option to exchange their Israel driving license to the local UAE license and vice versa as of March 2022 (Abbas, 2022)

11. Medicine

11.1 Biotechnology

Biotechnology and research in healthcare are one of the top priorities of the UAE. Even before the signing of the Abraham Accords, the first ventures between the UAE and Israel were the UAE APEX National Investment with Israeli's TeraGroup for studies on COVID-19 (WAM, 2020d). The UAE Group 42 AI and cloud computing technology signed an MoU with Rafael Advanced Defense Systems(Rafael) and Israel Aerospace Industries(IAI) for research and development in solutions against COVID-19 and vaccine trials (Jerusalem Post staff, 2020f) G42 also signed a MoU with Israel's NanoScent for COVID-19 detection tests from exhaled air (Reuters, 2020f)The Abu Dhabi Stem Cells Centre (ADSSC) signed an MoU with Israel's Pluristem Therapeutics Inc for research and development in regenerative medicine, also to combat COVID-19 (Nasrallah, 2020a)

Biotechnological healthcare solutions saw also cooperation among biotechnological firms of Israel and the UAE. Sure Universal Ltd. of Israel in partnership with HBK

Department of Projects (HBK DOP), launched Internet of Things (IoT) healthcare solutions to the UAE (Jerusalem Post staff, 2020g) Emirates Health Services Establishment (EHSE) and the Israeli Ministry of Health signed an agreement aimed at improving healthcare. The UAE SJM Group and Israeli INMED partnered up to create an e-health platform to cater to remote patients in the UAE. This allows for 24/7 medical monitoring of the patients by doctors, hospitals and medical insurance companies (Jerusalem Post staff, 2020h.) In March 2022, Israel's rapid haematology (blood) testing solutions signed a distribution agreement with the UAE's United MakgroupTechnologies L.L.C.to distribute HemoScreen which allows for blood results to be analysed and detect cancer in 5 minutes(JERUSALEM POST STAFF, 2022)

11.2 Medicine

The first medical representatives of Israel were plastic surgeons for a medical conference on reconstructive and plastic surgery. (Jerusalem Post staff, 2021m) Israeli Shuja'an Association visited Dubai for World Diabetes Month. The Association increases awareness, introduces initiatives, and provides support, and early diagnosis technology. The UAE is ranked 10th in the world in the prevalence of diabetes. (Staff Report, 2020b)

Israeli Sheba Medical Center and Al Tadawi Medical Center are cooperating in diabetes treatment with Sheba endocrinologists flying into the UAE and providing remote monitoring systems like the Datos Health management application (Hoffman, 2021)Sheba Medical Centre is the first Israeli hospital in the UAE (Staff Report, 2020c)Sheba had also signed a partnership with the UAE Medcare Women & Children Hospital to improve the quality of healthcare services and provide training (Tesorero, 2021)The two hospitals hosted a webinar in 2022 on Polycystic Ovary Syndrome impacting up to 15% of the female population in the Middle East.(Gulf News Report, 2022d)

Israel-based Hadassah Medical Center and UAE Sheikh Khalifa Hospital held an online international medical conference on the topic of heart disease in children and trends in intensive care (Siegal, 2020e)The Hadassah-University Medical Center was thinking of opening a hub to relocate professional medical staff and management to the UAE.(Hoffman, 2020)Some Israeli clinics have opened in the UAE. A clinic specialised in reversing cognitive decline and body performance called Aviv Clinics opened in Dubai (Staff Report, 2021c)

Abu Dhabi's Department of Health (DoH) signed an MoU with Israel's Clalit Health Services in biotechnological solutions, AI, education, international referrals of patients by doctors from abroad, clinical trials and research and development (Nasrallah, 2021b)Clalit Health Services also signed an agreement with the United Arab Emirates Health Ministry and an Emirati health insurance company Daman (Tercatin, 2021) Khaleej Times reported that it is not only expertise that is exchanged but also organ exchange that is happening between the UAE and Israel. First such exchange occurred between an Israeli woman donating her kidney to an Emirati patient and vice versa Emirati patient donated a kidney to a patient in Israel. (Jerusalem Post staff, 2021n)

11.3 Medical tourism

The agreement between the Israeli Sheba Medical Centre and the UAE Apex meant that the hospitals expect medical tourists. Sheba Medical Centre's director for Gulf news had said "[The treatment of complicated medical cases from the UAE] will have a new solution that is closer than Europe, and cheaper than the United States. It's welcoming [for patients], as so many medical staff speak Arabic. It can be almost home away from home," (Zaman, 2020)COVID 19 had sped up cooperation in healthcare between the two countries, as talked about at the virtual UAE-Israel Business Leaders Summit "We're going to focus on healthcare - and on tourism - and maybe these sectors are going to produce the fastest deal, and faster agreements than any other sectors," (Masudi, 2020)Tourist patients that require dialysis are able to travel to Dubai and receive treatment there under Holiday Dialysis, linking tourism with treatments at UAE's Zulekha Hospital Dubai in collaboration with Israel's marketing firm Health Plus under Hadassah Hospital Standard health checks, Telemedicine, oncology, neurology and neurosurgery are also provided for Israel's medical tourists to Dubai (Web Report, 2021)

12.1 Education

As the doors to Israel opened for the UAE, many Arabic-speaking business people in the UAE began learning Hebrew at the first virtual Ulpan program (Reich, 2020). The first Hebrew language institute, the Educational Hebrew Institute (EHI), opened in the UAE. The institute teaches Hebrew classes on Israeli culture and cuisine to Emiratis, people in business, and the general public in Abu Dhabi and Dubai (Sebugwaawo, 2020). The first Jewish secular preschool was the first school in the UAE built for the Jewish community. Student exchange between the UAE and Israel is also attractive as 15% of students at Israeli universities are Arab. Schools in Israel cater to the religious and cultural needs of Muslims and Arabs. (Feldman, 2020)

The first MoU signed between Israeli and UAE universities was between the UAE's Mohamed Bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI) and Israel's Weizmann Institute of Science "The memorandum covers a range of opportunities for collaboration between the two institutions, including student and postdoctoral-fellow exchange programs, conferences and seminars, various forms of exchange between researchers, sharing of computing resource and the establishment of a joint virtual institute for artificial intelligence" (Siegal, 2020g)The cooperation is n AI R&D for AI to become a helpful tool (Reporter, 2020)UAE TRENDS research institute signed a MoU with Israel's Tel Aviv University (TAU) TAU was represented by Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies(MDC) The cooperation between universities is to use the scientific approach in Middle Eastern geopolitics, policies and economics (Ben-Nun, 2020) TRENDSresearch institute also forged a partnership with Israel's University of Haifa following UoH's Ezri Center of Maritime Policy and Strategy symposium "Gulf states - from the periphery to the

center," and TRENDS attendance (Jerusalem Post staff, 2021) Psychologists at UoH and United Arab Emirates University engaged in 'peace psychology'. The universities studied young adults and their character strengths and ways to improve and develop 21st-century skills in employment. The United Arab Emirates University "anticipated they will find that young people share many of the same concerns: a desire to make their parents happy; worries about the future and living a comfortable, safe life; finding work; and wanting to be liked" (Swan, 2020c)UoH signed an MoU with Zayed University to develop capacity building skills, educational projects, and joint research programmes (Wam, 2021c)The Emirates Academy of Hospitality Management (EAHM) signed an MoU with Israel's Academic College on the Sea of Galilee for joint projects (KT Network, 2021a)The UAE's and Israel's Education Ministry agreed to begin student exchange programs (Levine, 2021)The first Emirati student admitted to an Israeli university Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya. Mansoor Mohamed Bin Shamekh Al Marzooqi for a BA in Government policy studies, public policy, foreign policy and diplomacy (Saseendran, 2021)

12.2 Tolerance

Education in the UAE and Israel following the Abraham Accords must promote tolerance. Tolerance taught in schools must, therefore, become action against the ideologies of antisemitism and Islamophobia. Former UN chief Ban Ki-moon urged the countries to devise curriculums that teach about the Abraham Accords and their significance for the countries (Sankar, 2020e). President of the World Jewish Congress Ronald S Lauder had said, "We will fight prejudice through education, and we must also learn about the history of our peoples - in some cases, even the painful parts -- where deep wounds were inflicted. It won't always be easy, but we should never be afraid of honest dialogue .(KT Network, 2021)

In 2016, The UAE, under His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, introduced moral education as a part of the curriculum. Moral education classes discuss morality, culture, civic studies and community studies. Khaleej Times reported that "The 'three nos' of the 1967 Khartoum Conference and today's potential regional shift towards the 'three yeses' underscores the contrast in these two educational systems. The move from yes to recognition, and then, yes to peace is where the true importance of education lies" (Ostrovsky, 2020). Moral education is a separate class from religious education in the UAE. This was the first time such separation came into being in the region of the Middle East. The Institute for Monitoring Peace and Cultural Tolerance in School Education (IMPACT-se) followed the UNESCO standards on peace and tolerance to analyse curriculums and schoolbooks. IMPACT-se CEO Marcus Sheff had said, "The fact that this Moral Education curriculum is independent of religious education makes it unique to the Arab world, It is a highly visible result of Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan's stated aim to take back control of the education ministry from the Islamists who originally wrote the country's textbooks. The material we have reviewed so far is a roadmap for young Emiratis towards moderation, respect for the 'Other', peace-making and tolerance." The results of the IMPACT-se report are: "At its heart, the ME course aims to teach children to participate in life in a responsible, productive, and engaged manner. It is less about instructing students on how to behave and more about enabling them to determine the right course of action on their own. Eventually, the overall aim of this holistically-inspired course is to link all children in the UAE, regardless of nationality, to the common thread of humanity and share with them universal values and morals." The study has found a social studies textbook that recognises Judaism as a part of the Middle East "reviewing the full Emirati curriculum, We have come

across a social studies textbook that recognises Judaism's place as belonging to the Arab World" (Edmunds, 2020d)

The Abraham Accords were first mentioned in a textbook for Moral education from primary school to high school in the UAE already in 2020, two weeks after the announced agreement.

Jerusalem post had said that the book "commends the Abraham Accords and teaches the importance of peace initiatives in real-world" (Keyser, 2020b)

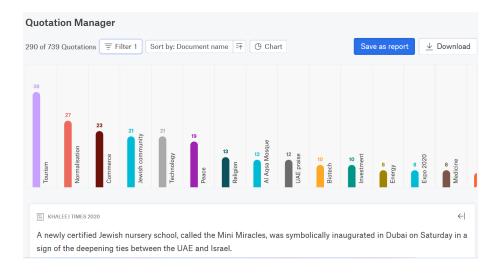
13.1 Comparative analysis

Comparative analysis of the three news media outlets, Khaleej times, GulfNewss and Jerusalem Post and their portrayal of events before, during and after the signing of the Abraham Accords. The top ten codes created in Atlas.ti are used to compare between Khaleej Times & Gulf news, Khaleej times and Jerusalem Post, and Gulf News and Jerusalem Post. The comparative analysis answers Research question number 2:

• How do the UAE news media portray the relationship between the United Arab Emirates and Israel following the Abraham Accords Declaration?

13.2 Khaleej Times

The top ten codes in the Khaleej times were:1. Tourism; 2. Normalisation; 3. Commerce; 4. Jewish community(in the United Arab Emirates); 5.Technology; 6. Peace; 7. Religion; 8. Al Aqsa Mosque; 9. UAE praise(of Israel); and 10. Biotechnology.



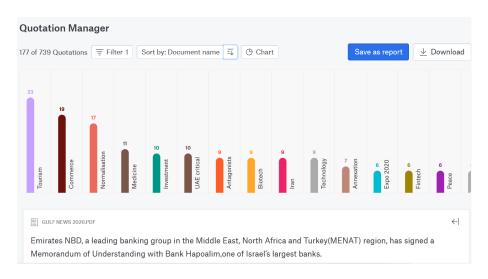
By Eliska Zajickova, Atlas.ti web edition

13.3 Gulf News

The top ten codes in Gulf news were: 1.Tourism; 2. Commerce; 3. Normalisation; 4.

Medicine; 5. Investment; 6. UAE critical(of Israel); 7. Antagonists(to the Abraham Accords;

8. Biotechnology; 9. Iran; and 10. Technology.



By Eliska Zajickova, Atlas.ti web edition

13.4 Jerusalem Post

The top ten codes in Jerusalem post were: 1. Commerce; 2. Tourism; 3. Normalisation; 4. Jewish community; 5. Antagonists; 6. Medicine; 7. Peace; 8. Technology; 9. Education; and 10. Biotechnology



By Eliska Zajickova, Atlas.ti web edition

	Newspaper		
Most frequent	Khaleej Times	Gulf news	Jerusalem Post
1	Tourism	Tourism	Commerce
2	Normalisation	Commerce	Tourism
3	Commerce	Normalisation	Normalisation
4	Jewish	Medicine	Jewish

	community		community
5	Technology	Investment	Antagonists
6	Peace	UAE critical	Medicine
7	Religion	Antagonists	Peace
8	Al Aqsa Mosque	Biotechnology	Technology
9	UAE praise	Iran	Education
10	Biotechnology	Technology	Biotechnology

By Eliska Zajickova

13.5 Khaleej Times & Gulf News

Both Khaleej Times and Gulf News wrote the most articles on tourism between the two countries. Khaleej Times had the code Jewish community (in the UAE) in the top ten, while the Gulf did not. Khaleej Times wrote more value-oriented articles as the codes Peace, Religion, Al Aqsa Mosque, UAE praise (of Israel) suggest. The Gulf news wrote more events-based articles rather than reporting on the Jewish community living in the UAE. This can be seen by the fact that the Jewish community code did not make it to the top ten codes of the Gulf news articles. The Gulf News published more critical articles on the UAE-Israel relationship. This can be seen with the codes UAE critical(of Israel), Antagonists, and Iran. Based on these results, the Gulf news is more conservative than Khaleej Times. The Khaleej Times wrote more optimistic articles about the UAE-Israel relationship. The most critical articles in Khaleej Times were articles with the code Al Aqsa Mosque. The code Al Aqsa Mosque is representative of the UAE condemning the violent events at Al Aqsa Mosque in Israel.

13.6 Khaleej Times & Jerusalem Post

The portrayal of the UAE-Israel relationship in news media can be analysed by comparing Khaleej Times, a UAE newspaper, with Jerusalem Post, an Israeli newspaper. Khaleej Times reported the most on Tourism, while Jerusalem Post reported the most on Commerce. Both of the newspapers have articles on the Jewish community in the UAE in the 4th place. The UAE and Israel are therefore both accepting of the Jewish community in the UAE, otherwise, there would not be that many articles with the code. The Jerusalem Post wrote more critical pieces as the presence of the code Antagonists(to the Abraham Accord) in the top ten list suggests. Khaleej Times has created a balance between praising Israel with the code UAE praise of Israel in the top ten, followed by the UAE condemning the events at Al Aqsa with the code Al Aqsa Mosque.

13.7 Conclusion

• How do the UAE news media portray the relationship between the United Arab Emirates and Israel following the Abraham Accords Declaration?

The UAE-Israel relationship is a 'Partnership of Convenience': Tourism is the first priority, Commerce is the second priority, and political attitudes represented by the code Normalisation and other codes come later. The CEPA agreement signed on the last day of the time frame set for this study, 31st of May 2022, further enhances that the relationship between the UAE and Israel is highly pragmatic.

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