

## **ABSTRACT**

The Mediterranean Sea binds the future of two worlds: Europe and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). France has long been involved in the region as a foreign power promoting security and stability. French foreign policy follows two guidelines: national independence and multilateralism. The objective is to remain an autonomous actor and secure French interests. To study its foreign policy, the cases of Libya, Lebanon, and Iran since 2011 were selected. In a world where power has fragmented, greater competition between multiple nations has accentuated insecurity. Adding to that socio-economic grievances that sparked the Arab Spring, the MENA region became a geopolitical battleground. The French responded to the growing restrictive and dangerous environment by further emphasising the need for security. Structural factors, such as its position within the system, create opportunities for formulating foreign policy; however, domestic issues, such as its weakened economy, also impedes the freedom with which it can pursue its objectives. Multilateralism has varying purposes; its variable nature can benefit immediate national interests but also hinder French efforts for greater influence, cooperation, and integration.