Flying Under the Radar:

Understanding US Influence on Air Power Strategies of Non-Major Allies

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Abstract

This dissertation investigates the influence exerted by the United States on the formulation of air power development strategies by its allied nations. The study specifically concentrates on three case studies, namely Morocco, Chile, and Australia. Through the implementation of a comparative analysis, the primary objective of this study is to discern commonalities and disparities, thereby offering valuable perspectives on the political, economic, and security determinants that shape these phenomena. This study additionally investigates the repercussions of the United States' role in the global air power domain and potential policy adaptations in light of evolving geopolitical conditions. By conducting a comprehensive analysis of primary and secondary sources, this research provides unique insights into the complex interplay between national defence strategies and international military alliances. The findings of this study carry significant implications for policy deliberations concerning international military collaboration. The aforementioned source offers a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the United States' strategy in enhancing the air power capabilities of its allied nations.

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1. Introduction

The utilisation of air power has played a pivotal role in military strategy ever since the emergence of aviation in the early 1900s. Air power has had a transformative impact on the conduct of warfare, spanning from its initial role in providing reconnaissance capabilities during World War I to its more modern function in delivering strategic strikes in conflicts. In the contemporary global landscape, the influence of air power transcends its traditional military applications, assuming a crucial role in a nation's comprehensive defence strategy. It not only contributes to deterrence efforts but also holds substantial significance in shaping international relations and geopolitical positioning. The increasing prominence of emerging technologies, including unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), stealth technology, and precision-guided munitions, has significantly emphasised the relevance of air power. As a matter of fact, the proliferation of technological advancements in the field of aviation has not only resulted in the augmentation of air forces' capabilities on a global scale but has also given rise to significant inquiries pertaining to air power strategy, doctrine, and investment.

In the current global landscape, the United States emerges as a prominent and influential participant. The US, being a prominent global superpower, possesses a highly sophisticated air force. Consequently, it not only possesses one of the most formidable air powers worldwide but also exerts substantial influence over the air power policies of its allies and partners. The manifestation of this influence can be observed through a range of channels, encompassing defence cooperation agreements, collaborative military exercises, technology transfers, and strategic partnerships. Nevertheless, the extent of the United States' influence varies among its various allies. The nature and extent of U.S. influence are significantly influenced by various factors, such as the geopolitical context, historical relationships, threat

perceptions, and defence priorities of each country. This dissertation aims to analyse the impact of the United States on the air power strategies of three significant Non-NATO allies, namely Morocco, Chile, and Australia. The selection of these countries was based on their distinct geopolitical contexts and the range of perspectives they provide for comprehending the influence of the United States.

The primary objective of this study is to elucidate the intricacies of these relationships and gain insight into the varying degrees of influence exerted by the United States in diverse contexts. Through a careful analysis of these cases, this study aims to make a meaningful contribution to the ongoing scholarly conversation surrounding the development of air power and its implications for U.S. foreign policy. The problem at hand pertains to the need for a clear and concise statement that accurately defines the issue being addressed. The comprehension of air power policies holds utmost importance in the contemporary global context, wherein the utilisation of air power possesses the potential to exert substantial influence on geopolitical equilibriums and international diplomatic interactions. However, a crucial aspect that has not been thoroughly examined is the extent of influence exerted by major global powers, such as the United States, on the air power strategies adopted by their allied nations. The influence can manifest in diverse ways, encompassing activities such as collaborative military drills, strategic alliances, the exchange of technological knowledge, and cooperative initiatives for joint advancements. The collective endeavours have the potential to influence not just the aerial capabilities of United States' partners, but also their wider defence strategies and the dynamics of regional security. Nevertheless, the level of influence exerted by the United States varies among its different allies, and the underlying factors contributing to these discrepancies have not been thoroughly investigated. For instance, what factors contribute to the varying manifestations of U.S. influence in Morocco

as opposed to Chile or Australia? What are the contributing factors to these differences? Is the determining factor a combination of geopolitical context, historical relationships, economic factors, and threat perceptions?

The examination of these inquiries is of utmost importance, as they yield valuable perspectives on the strategic ramifications for the United States and its allies, thereby enhancing our comprehension of international security dynamics and defence policy in a more nuanced manner. Furthermore, the identification of patterns and divergences has the potential to provide valuable insights and lessons for future collaborations and alliances. This study seeks to address the existing gap in knowledge by conducting a comprehensive analysis of the US air power collaborations with Morocco, Chile, and Australia. By doing so, it aims to offer a more intricate understanding of the United States' impact on the air power strategies of its allied nations. By engaging in this practice, it presents prospective perspectives for policymakers and strategists concerning the future course of global air power environments.

1.1 Importance of the Research

The results of this study will hold significant importance across multiple dimensions. This study aims to provide insight into the dynamics of international military partnerships, with a specific focus on air power capabilities. This area of military cooperation has received comparatively less attention in existing research, making it an important subject for investigation. Furthermore, this research has the potential to make a valuable contribution to the existing body of academic literature on defence policy, international relations, and security studies by addressing a significant gap in knowledge.

Additionally, from a pragmatic standpoint, the research outcomes possess potential value for policymakers and military strategists in the United States and its allied nations. Through a comprehensive analysis of patterns,

divergences, and influential factors pertaining to the US impact on the air power policies of its allies, this research endeavour has the potential to contribute valuable insights towards the development of enhanced cooperation strategies and policies in subsequent endeavours. Ultimately, the research findings have the potential to unveil strategies for enhancing the United States' alliances through a comprehensive comprehension of their distinct historical, political, and socio-economic circumstances.

In general, this study seeks to provide a comprehensive analysis of the impact of the United States on the air power policies of Morocco, Chile, and Australia through a systematic examination and comparison. The objective is to present a thorough and nuanced perspective that can contribute to academic discourse and inform practical policy-making processes.

1.2 Research Objectives and Questions

The primary objective of this dissertation is to evaluate the U.S.'s influence on the air power policies of Non-NATO allied nations. Therefore, the research aims to answer the following questions: How does the U.S. influence the air power policies of its Non-NATO allies? And to what extent it does so? What are the common patterns and divergences in the U.S.'s influence across these case studies?

In order to address these inquiries, the study will undertake an analysis of the cases related to Australia, Morocco, and Chile. The individual investigations of the cases will be subjected to cross-analysis to enhance comprehension of the United States' impact on the air power of its allies.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Theoretical Framework and Concepts Relevant to Air Power and Foreign Policy

Definition of air power and its role in foreign policy

The utilisation of air power is an essential element of contemporary military tactics, which encompasses a diverse array of operations including but not limited to reconnaissance, surveillance, air combat, and provision of close air support for ground-based missions. Although the colloquial understanding of 'air power' may be readily discernible, a precise and rigorous scientific definition of this concept is considerably elusive. According to the AP3000 British Air Power Doctrine, the term air power can be defined as the capacity to deploy military forces into the air or space utilising an airborne platform that operates above the earth's surface (AIR STAFF, 2009). Although this definition is primarily instructional and may not fully encompass the breadth of the term, it can serve as a foundational reference point. Alternative and more comprehensive definitions tend to divert focus from specific aspects such as functions, characteristics, and distinct categories of aircraft that collectively constitute air power. Air power can fulfil various functions within the realm of foreign policy. From one perspective, it can function as a mechanism of dissuasion and compulsion, indicating to prospective opponents the readiness and capability to employ violence in safeguarding national concerns or providing assistance to allies. The United States has utilised its air power capabilities to extend its military influence and provide assistance to its allies across different global regions, such as the Middle East, Europe, and Asia. Conversely, the utilisation of air power can also be employed in benevolent

and peacekeeping endeavours, such as dispensing relief supplies or overseeing truces (Sloggett, 2013).

Key concepts and theories related to air power

The field of air power strategy is complex and dynamic, aiming to exploit the distinctive benefits of air power in order to attain strategic and operational goals. The notion of air superiority is a fundamental principle that forms the basis of air power strategy, as elucidated by the Italian military leader Giulio Douhet in his seminal work "The Command of the Air" (1942). According to Douhet, the attainment of air superiority was crucial for achieving victory in warfare. He defined air dominance as the level of authority over the airspace that enables unobstructed execution of operations. The establishment of a formidable air force was necessary to effectively engage in offensive operations against the adversary by inflicting significant damage to its infrastructure, industrial base, and military potential in their own territory (Douhet, 1942; Sferrazza Papa, 2022). Hugh Trenchard, a notable figure in the development of air power strategy, introduced a similar concept that emphasised the use of air power as an independent force capable of targeting critical strategic locations of the adversary. During the interwar period, the doctrine of strategic bombing was developed by the British Royal Air Force, which implemented Trenchard's ideas (Boyle, 1962; Russell, 2016). This doctrine involved the utilisation of air power to target an adversary's infrastructure and morale, with the aim of diminishing their capacity to engage in warfare. In a similar vein, American General Billy Mitchell (2009) espoused the utilisation of air power as a distinct and autonomous entity, contending that it had the potential to make conventional ground forces and naval fleets irrelevant. Mitchell's concepts were predominantly disregarded by the military establishment of the United States until the Second World War, during which the utilisation of air power played a pivotal role in the attainment of triumph in both Europe and the Pacific (Hurley, 2006). Air power strategy

encompasses several crucial concepts and theories, such as air superiority, which pertains to the acquisition and retention of command over the airspace in a particular region. Additionally, air interdiction is a critical component that involves the disruption of an opponent's communication and supply channels. Close air support is another essential aspect that involves the provision of direct air assistance to ground troops engaged in combat. Lastly, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) are integral components that utilise air power assets to collect and disseminate information regarding the movements and activities of enemy forces (Biddle, 2019). In general, the development of a successful air power strategy necessitates the amalgamation of various concepts and theories into a cohesive and adaptable framework that can accommodate dynamic circumstances in the combat zone.

The role of foreign powers in shaping air power policies of allied countries

The influence exerted by foreign major powers on the air power policies of allied nations is a pivotal component of modern air power strategy. Prominent nations such as the United States, Russia, China, and France frequently lead the way in the advancement of novel air power technologies. The policies and investments of these nations can exert a substantial influence on the air power capabilities and priorities of allied nations (Kaladjian, 2011). The United States is commonly acknowledged as the foremost global air power nation, boasting a substantial and sophisticated air force furnished with cutting-edge technologies such as precision-guided munitions, stealth, and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). Consequently, numerous allied nations seek the United States for direction and assistance in enhancing their respective aerial capabilities (Berg et al., 2022). Allied nations' air power policies can be influenced by major foreign powers through diplomatic and economic channels. The United States frequently extends military aid and training to its allied nations, encompassing support for the advancement and procurement of novel air power capabilities (Patil, 2019).

Likewise, dominant nations may employ financial inducements or penalties to promote or deter specific air power expenditures or strategies among their associates. The impact of foreign dominant nations on the aerial power strategies of allied nations is often intricate and subject to debate. Minor allied nations may possess distinct strategic objectives and concerns that are not congruent with those of their dominant power counterparts. Furthermore, it is possible for dominant nations to possess divergent interests or incongruous goals that may hinder their endeavours to influence the air power strategies of their partner nations (Mueller, 2010).

The intricate and diverse nature of the involvement of foreign major powers in the formulation of air power policies among allied nations necessitates a sophisticated comprehension of the underlying geopolitical dynamics. In general, examining the influence of foreign major powers on the development of air power policies within allied nations is a crucial aspect of comprehending the wider framework of modern air power tactics. Through an analysis of the methods employed by dominant nations to impact the air power capabilities and objectives of their partners, it is possible to acquire valuable perspectives on the overarching patterns and forces that are shaping the development of air power tactics in the contemporary era.

The role of technological innovation in air power strategy

The role of technological innovation in shaping air power strategy is of utmost importance, given the ongoing transformation of the conceptualisation and utilisation of air power due to advancements in aircraft design, weapon systems, and communication technologies. The emergence of stealth technology during the 1980s brought about a significant transformation in air power as it enabled aircraft to function with considerably diminished detection and engagement capacities (Rao & Mahulikar, 2002). The advent of precision-guided munitions and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) has revolutionised the utilisation of air power in contemporary warfare, enabling more accurate and

focused attacks on adversary objectives (Berkland, 2011). The correlation between technological innovation and air power strategy is intricately linked to wider patterns in military technology and the pursuit of research and development. Numerous dominant nations allocate significant resources towards the advancement of state-of-the-art aerial capabilities, with the objective of attaining a tactical upper hand over their opponents. Nevertheless, technological innovation possesses both positive and negative aspects, as enhancements in air power capabilities have the potential to be equalled or exceeded by competing nations or non-state entities. Furthermore, it is worth noting that technological advancements are not solely confined to military-related research and development, but are progressively propelled by commercial and non-military applications. The aviation industry in the commercial sector has significantly contributed towards the advancement of novel aircraft designs and avionics technologies, which have been subsequently adopted for military purposes. The widespread availability of commercial drones and other unmanned aerial vehicles has had noteworthy consequences for air power strategy, particularly as these technologies are becoming more accessible to non-state actors and other non-traditional users. The intricate and diverse nature of technological innovation in air power strategy necessitates a comprehensive comprehension of the processes involved in the creation, modification, and utilisation of novel technologies in military settings.

The impact of air power on military doctrine and the use of force

The utilisation of air power has significantly influenced military doctrine and the application of force, encompassing the conduct of warfare and the formulation of military tactics. The capacity of air power to extend military force across vast distances, enabling swift reaction and strategic manoeuvrability, has been identified as a significant breakthrough. The aforementioned development has facilitated the formulation of novel warfare

strategies by military strategists, including the concept of "air-land battle," which involves the coordinated deployment of air power and ground forces to accomplish strategic goals. The integration of air power into broader military strategies is indicative of its influence on military doctrine and the implementation of force. The utilisation of air power during the Gulf War of 1991 was of utmost importance as it effectively neutralised the adversary's air defences and eliminated crucial military objectives (Hallion, 2015). This paved the way for ground forces to initiate offensive operations. In contemporary military operations, particularly in the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, the utilisation of air power has been employed to provide support to ground forces, perform reconnaissance and surveillance, and execute targeted strikes against adversary objectives. Notwithstanding its potential benefits, the influence of air power on military doctrine and the application of force is not universally advantageous, and there exist notable obstacles related to the assimilation of air power into more comprehensive military tactics. A significant obstacle pertains to the potential for collateral damage, given that the utilisation of air power may result in inadvertent harm to non-combatants and civilians. Furthermore, air power has been subject to criticism for its over-reliance on technological advancements, potentially leading to the neglect of the significance of ground forces and human intelligence. Despite these obstacles, it is probable that the influence of aerial capabilities on military principles and the application of coercion will persist in the foreseeable future. The evolving landscape of warfare, driven by advancements in technology and innovation, is expected to heighten the significance of air power in shaping military strategies and impacting the execution of wars.

2.2 The Role of the US in Shaping Allied Countries' Air Power Strategies

Historical background of US involvement in air power development of non-major allies

The analysis of the historical context of US engagement in the development of air power capabilities in allied non-major countries offers significant insights into the enduring impact of the United States in shaping the air power capabilities of its collaborating nations. The United States, being a prominent global power, has a noteworthy past of endorsing and impacting the advancement of air power in allied nations, particularly those with whom it maintains strategic partnerships or defence agreements. In the initial stages of the Cold War, the United States provided significant backing to its allies in the advancement of their air power capabilities, as a component of its overarching approach to curbing Soviet dominance (Miller, 1995; Bujon de l'Estang & Bryan, 1998). The United States extended military assistance programmes and training initiatives to its allied non-major nations, thereby granting them access to cutting-edge aircraft, specialised knowledge, and operational doctrines. The objective of this assistance was to strengthen the air power capacities of these countries and augment their joint defence capabilities in the wider geopolitical landscape of that period. These nations have derived advantages from the participation of the United States in their advancement of air power capabilities. The United States has played a substantial role in furnishing military aid, encompassing the provision of sophisticated fighter aircraft, instructional initiatives for pilots and ground personnel, and the transmission of technological expertise. The provision of assistance has facilitated the development of contemporary and proficient aerial defence forces in these nations, which conform to the criteria of interoperability for multinational military campaigns and promote stability within the region (Trauschweizer, 2008).

Moreover, the historical context of the United States' engagement in the advancement of air power capabilities in allied minor nations also includes situations where the United States has deliberately endeavoured to influence the strategic outlook and investment decisions of its associates. The United States has exerted its influence on the technological, platform, and operational

concept choices of other nations through defence cooperation agreements and bilateral engagements (Grimmett & Kerr, 2012; Ringsmose, 2009). The alignment of air power capabilities and strategies between allied countries and the US serves to bolster military interoperability and strengthen the wider network of US-led alliances and partnerships. It is noteworthy that the historical context of the United States' engagement in the advancement of air power capabilities of allied non-major nations is not devoid of intricacies and obstacles. The impact of the United States can spark discussions surrounding issues of national autonomy, technological interdependence, and the equilibrium between domestic defence capabilities and external assistance.

Overview of US foreign policy objectives related to air power strategy

The examination of US foreign policy objectives pertaining to air power strategy illustrates the diverse methodology that the United States employs in its worldwide involvement. The United States, being a significant global power, has consistently acknowledged the significance of air power in accomplishing its foreign policy goals and sustaining its position of dominance in the international arena. The security and stability of allies and partners is a crucial aim of US foreign policy with regards to air power strategy. The United States endeavours to augment the air power capabilities of its allied non-major countries in order to discourage potential adversaries, reinforce regional security frameworks and foster stability in pivotal regions (Gates, 2020). The United States endeavours to promote a collaborative defence stance and alleviate the strain on its own military forces by supporting its allies in enhancing their air power capabilities, thereby reinforcing regional security. Furthermore, the United States aspires to uphold a worldwide presence and safeguard its domestic security concerns by means of deploying its air power resources in advance. The aforementioned entails the upkeep of a system of strategically located air bases, aircraft carriers, and air refuelling capabilities, which endow the United States with the capacity to expeditiously

and efficiently extend its influence worldwide (Gates, 2020; Fischer, 2012). The United States is able to address emerging threats, provide assistance to allies during times of crisis, and exhibit its dedication to upholding a favourable global order through its widespread presence across the world. In addition, the air power strategy of the United States is aimed at advancing its foreign policy goals, which include the promotion of democratic principles, protection of human rights, and upholding the rule of law. Air power assets are frequently utilised by the United States to carry out humanitarian aid and disaster relief missions, in addition to providing assistance for peacekeeping endeavours (Bash, 1994). The United States seeks to promote stability, alleviate human suffering, and encourage democratic governance in regions affected by conflict through the utilisation of its air power capabilities (U. S. Government Publishing Office, 2002). The influence of economic interests is a noteworthy factor in determining the air power strategy objectives of the United States in the context of foreign policy (Cox, 2018). The United States endeavours to safeguard its economic interests and guarantee entry to vital resources and markets through the securing of crucial transportation routes, and the protection of the global commons. The United States may engage in partnerships with non-major allied nations to bolster their air power capacities, augment their capacity to protect economic interests, and promote regional economic integration, as part of its pursuit of these goals.

In summary, the analysis of US foreign policy goals pertaining to air power strategy underscores the interdependence of military, diplomatic, and economic factors in shaping the United States' global involvement. The United States seeks to advance its national interests, promote stability, and support its allies by utilising air power capabilities, all while fostering an international order that adheres to established rules. Comprehending these objectives yields significant perspectives on the incentives and behaviours of the United States concerning air power strategy, situated within the framework of its wider foreign policy programme.

The mechanism through which the US attempts to shape foreign air power strategies

The discourse surrounding the mechanisms of the United States' impact on the air power strategies of allied non-major countries illuminates the diverse avenues by which the US moulds and affects the defence policies and capabilities of its collaborating nations. Comprehending the mechanisms underlying military cooperation is of paramount importance in grasping the dynamics thereof, as well as the lasting influence of the United States on the air power strategies of its non-major allied nations. Military aid and assistance programmes are a primary mechanism employed by the United States to exert its influence. The United States enhances the air power capabilities of its allied partners through the provision of financial resources, advanced military equipment, and training opportunities (Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, 2021). The aforementioned mechanism serves to not only improve the operational readiness of allied air forces, but also to promote interoperability and standardisation. This, in turn, facilitates joint military operations and coalition warfare (Laaneots, 1999). Defence cooperation agreements and bilateral engagements are crucial factors in the formulation of air power strategies. The United States establishes frameworks for military collaboration, joint exercises, and technology transfer via these agreements. These mechanisms facilitate the development of stronger defence ties, enable the sharing of knowledge, and encourage the adoption of shared operational concepts (Takahashi, 2012). The US, being a prominent nation in the field of air power, utilises these agreements to influence the strategic outlook and investment choices of its allied minor nations. Furthermore, diplomatic interactions and military-to-military connections function as crucial mechanisms for exerting US influence. Interactions at a senior level, strategic discussions, and personnel swaps provide avenues for deliberations on defence preferences, planning of force structure, and technological collaboration.

Through these interactions, the United States is able to offer guidance and expertise to its allies, thereby influencing their air power strategies in accordance with mutually shared interests and objectives. In addition, the United States employs a significant mechanism of providing training and educational opportunities to military personnel from allied non-major countries (Scharpf, 2020). The United States facilitates the advancement of air power strategies through various initiatives, including professional military education, courses, and exchange programmes, which equip individuals with knowledge and skills. This mechanism serves to not only augment the technical proficiency of allied personnel, but also to cultivate a collective comprehension of air power principles and ideologies. In addition, the United States exerts an impact on the air power strategies of allied non-major nations via cooperation in the defence industry. The United States fosters technology transfers and collaborative research and development initiatives by promoting partnerships between defence industries. The aforementioned mechanism facilitates the integration of cutting-edge technologies and cultivates domestic defence capabilities in allied countries, thereby harmonising their air power strategies with the standards and prerequisites of the United States (Kurç & Neuman, 2017). It is crucial to acknowledge that the modalities of the American impact on the air power strategies of non-major allied nations are full of intricacies and obstacles. The presence of national sovereignty, domestic political factors, and differing defence priorities can generate conflicts and curtail the scope of American sway. In addition, allied nations retain their autonomy in formulating their air power strategies, reconciling their respective national interests with the directives and recommendations of the United States.

2.3 Australia, Morocco, and Chile's Air Power Policies and Partnerships

Australia's air power development is closely linked to its colonial history and its role as a significant ally of the United States. During the initial decades of the 20th century, the nation of Australia acknowledged the tactical significance of air power and proceeded to institute the Royal Australian Air Force [hereinafter RAAF] in the year 1921. At the outset, the RAAF placed its main emphasis on furnishing assistance to ground troops and conducting aerial surveillance (Air Force 2021, 2022). Australia experienced a notable expansion of its air power capabilities during World War II in response to the Japanese threat. The RAAF played a pivotal role in safeguarding the Australian mainland and executing offensive manoeuvres in the Pacific theatre. The aforementioned encounter underscored the significance of a robust and contemporary air force in safeguarding Australia's national security. Australia's post-war air power development has been shaped by its strong relationship with the United States. The ANZUS treaty, which was signed in 1951, established a formalised framework for defence cooperation between Australia, New Zealand, and the United States (New Zealand History, 2021). Australia has obtained sophisticated military technology and equipment from the United States, such as the F-111 and F/A-18 aircraft, as a result of their alliance (Air Force 2021, 2022). Moreover, regular joint training exercises, such as Exercise Pitch Black, are conducted by the two nations to enhance interoperability and foster a shared operational understanding. Lately, the nation has experienced a strategic realignment towards prioritising its proximate area, namely the Indo-Pacific, in response to developing security exigencies. Australia has augmented its investments in air capabilities, including long-range surveillance aircraft, air-to-air refuelling capabilities, and the procurement of advanced fighter aircraft.

The air power development of Morocco has been influenced by its historical and political context, specifically with regard to its endeavours to protect

national security and exert regional influence. The inception of the Royal Moroccan Air Force[1] [hereinafter RMAF] in 1956 represented a noteworthy juncture in the process of its military modernization (Cooper & Grandolini, 2018). The geographical positioning of Morocco, situated at the crossroads of Europe and Africa, has played a pivotal role in shaping its air power development as the nation endeavoured to uphold stability in the surrounding area and safeguard its domestic concerns. The RMAF has been instrumental in ensuring the security of Moroccan airspace, carrying out border surveillance activities, and providing assistance to ground forces in their counterterrorism endeavours. The development of Morocco's air power has been influenced by its historical connections with France. The French government has extended military support to the RMAF through the provision of military equipment, training, and technical expertise. The collaboration has facilitated the modernization of Morocco's air force, which encompasses the procurement of sophisticated training and combat aircraft such as the Fouga Magister in 1961 and the Mirage F1 in 2005 (Cooper & Grandolini 2018; Zecchini, 2005). Moreover, Morocco's geopolitical aspirations in the area have propelled its allocations towards air power. The nation has engaged in peacekeeping endeavours and endeavoured to enhance its regional alliances. The United States has recently encouraged Morocco to participate in air power collaborations with several European countries through the establishment of defence cooperation agreements and joint training exercises. The objective of the aforementioned projects is to enhance the aerial military capabilities of Morocco, facilitate interoperation, and strengthen its defence partnerships within the European region and consequently with NATO as a whole.

Chile's air power development has been significantly influenced by regional security dynamics and the country's past encounters with military governance. Since its inception in 1930 (Fuerza Aerea de Chile, 2001), the Chilean Air

1 The original name in 1956 was Sherifian Royal Aviation and was changed to *Forces Royales Air* (Royal Air Force) in 1964 (Cooper & Grandolini, 2018).

Force [hereinafter FACh] has been instrumental in protecting Chile's territorial sovereignty and providing assistance to national defence efforts. Chile's air power development was notably impacted by the historical context of the military regime led by General Augusto Pinochet, spanning from 1973 to 1990. The FACh was involved in the implementation of the government's repressive policies during the aforementioned period (Barra, 2005). The restoration of democratic governance has resulted in an increased focus on the subordination of the air force to civilian authority. Furthermore, the air power priorities of Chile have been influenced by its geographical location, as it is "locked" between the Andes Mountains and the Pacific Ocean (Garay Vera, 2021). The nation has prioritised achieving air supremacy and upholding authority over its aerial domain. The FACh has made investments in the modernization of its fighter aircraft fleet, which includes the procurement of advanced platforms like the F-16. Moreover, the FACh received military training, technology transfer, and equipment from the United States, which has served as a significant partner. Overall, Chile's progress in the field of air power has been shaped by its involvement in global peacekeeping operations and its dedication to ensuring regional security. The FACh has made significant contributions to peacekeeping operations under the auspices of the United Nations. Additionally, the FACh has participated in collaborative exercises and training initiatives with various Latin American nations. The aforementioned involvements have had a significant impact on the air power capabilities of Chile and have facilitated collaborative efforts within the region.

To conclude, the air power development of Australia, Morocco, and Chile has been significantly influenced by their respective historical and political contexts. The defence priorities, acquisitions of advanced technologies, and strategic investments of certain nations have been influenced by a variety of factors, including their colonial history, regional security dynamics, alliances

with major powers, and internal political considerations. Additionally, the establishment of air power partnerships with significant nations presents numerous advantages to Australia, Morocco, and Chile, such as the provision of advanced military technology, training opportunities, and intelligence sharing is instrumental in augmenting the air force capabilities and operational effectiveness of the concerned parties. Overall, the three countries taken into analysis in this dissertation, namely Australia, Morocco, and Chile, are significantly influenced by the United States, but each one of them exhibits distinctive patterns of deviation. The aforementioned discrepancies arise from the distinct regional predicaments, past alliances, and ambitions for the technological autonomy of each nation. These nations strive to maintain robust partnerships with the United States while simultaneously developing autonomous defence industry capabilities and collaborating with other influential nations. This approach enables them to tailor their air power strategies to their unique requirements and regional circumstances. Comprehending the aforementioned contexts is imperative for gaining insight into the present and prospective trajectories of their air power tactics.

3. Research Design and Methodology

3.1 Research Design and Approach

The study's philosophical underpinning is grounded in an interpretivist paradigm. The interpretivist perspective emphasises the subjective nature of knowledge and argues that meaning is formed through interactions and personal experiences. The choice of this philosophical perspective was made for the purpose of this study, as it recognises the intricate nature and subjective aspects involved in comprehending the influence of the United States on the air power strategies of non-major allied nations such as Australia, Morocco, and Chile. Due to the complex and diverse characteristics of this topic, adopting an interpretivist standpoint allows for an exploration of the subjective perceptions and lived experiences of these nations, and how these factors influence their approaches to air power strategies.

The present study also adopts a qualitative methodology, as it aligns with the exploratory and interpretive nature of the research. The decision to employ a qualitative methodology was motivated by its inherent advantages in examining social phenomena. Given the objective of analysing and interpreting the intricate dynamics of air power strategies between the United States and its allied non-major nations, a qualitative methodology is deemed appropriate. This approach enables a thorough comprehension of the nuances that quantitative methods might fail to capture, thereby enabling a more in-depth exploration of the intricate social phenomena involved.

The research design employed in this study is rooted in a comparative case study methodology. The selection of a comparative case study design is driven by the imperative to thoroughly investigate and juxtapose the distinct contexts of Australia, Morocco, and Chile. This approach enables an analysis of the extent to which these contexts are comparable or distinct, and the subsequent

impact on the air power strategies adopted by each nation. Moreover, a comparative case study offers an opportunity to analyse and examine patterns, similarities, and differences in the manner in which the United States impacts air power strategies within various geopolitical, economic, and historical contexts. The utilisation of both synchronic and diachronic analyses is a fundamental component of the comparative case study design. The synchronic analysis offers a current examination of the air power strategies employed by the three chosen nations, facilitating a contemporaneous comparison among them. Conversely, the diachronic analysis facilitates the examination of the evolutionary patterns of these strategies, elucidating the trajectory of United States' influence. This integrative analytical methodology provides a comprehensive and all-encompassing depiction of the air power strategies in the chosen countries, taking into consideration both their present condition and their historical development.

In the realm of data analysis, the investigation utilises a thematic analysis approach. Thematic analysis is a qualitative method of analysis that enables the identification, examination, and interpretation of patterns of meaning, known as themes, within a dataset. Due to the expansive scope of the research inquiries presented in this study, a thematic analysis was determined to be the most appropriate method, as it facilitates the identification of emerging patterns and trends within the data. The aforementioned emergent patterns would subsequently serve as the foundation for a more comprehensive comprehension of the nature and scope of United States' influence on the air power strategies employed by Australia, Morocco, and Chile.

Finally, this study incorporates reflexivity as a methodological approach, recognising the researcher's influence in shaping and understanding the results. Reflexivity encompasses the practise of engaging in critical self-reflection by researchers, wherein they examine their own biases, theoretical

predispositions, preferences, and other relevant factors, throughout the entirety of the research process. In a similar vein, the study demonstrates a conscientious awareness of the potential impact of the researcher's positionality and makes efforts to uphold transparency and self-reflection throughout the entirety of the research endeavour.

3.2 Data Collection Methods

The principal approach employed in this study for gathering data is document analysis, which entails a methodical process of examining and assessing various types of documents, including both physical and digital formats (Bowen, 2009). The chosen methodology is highly appropriate for this research endeavour, as it focuses on the examination of well-established frameworks of air power strategies and their historical and political contexts. Furthermore, it demonstrates adherence to practical limitations and ethical considerations pertaining to the acquisition of classified defense-related information.

The research utilises a diverse array of document sources in order to enhance the comprehensiveness and complexity of the data. The aforementioned sources encompass primary documents, such as official defence policies, military strategy documents, intergovernmental agreements, as well as secondary sources, including scholarly articles, defence journals, think tank reports, and books.

The examination of official defence policies and military strategy documents is of paramount importance in obtaining primary information regarding the air power strategies employed by Australia, Morocco, and Chile. These documents have the potential to offer valuable insights into the strategic priorities of nations, their decisions regarding defence acquisition, and their approaches to forming alliances, particularly with the United States.

Scholarly literature, research reports from think tanks, and publications in defence journals provide comprehensive analyses and diverse perspectives on the topic at hand. These sources frequently offer analyses and evaluations of defence policies and military strategies, facilitating a comprehensive comprehension and facilitating the recognition of emerging patterns. The academic literature plays a crucial role in delineating the theoretical framework and contextualising the case studies within wider scholarly discussions.

News articles, press releases, and public statements serve as sources of up-to-date information and contextualization. Indeed, they are of particular value in monitoring recent advancements, comprehending public opinions, and extracting valuable observations regarding the intricacies of defence policies that have not yet been documented in academic literature.

The collection of data from the documents will involve a rigorous procedure of careful reading, marking important sections, taking notes, and creating summaries. This meticulous approach will guarantee that all possible themes and patterns are documented for subsequent analysis. The acquisition of documents will be facilitated through a diverse range of channels, encompassing official government websites, online databases containing scholarly articles, publications from reputable think tanks, and news media platforms.

To ensure the integrity of the analysis and mitigate potential biases, a critical approach will be employed in the examination of the documents. To gain insight into the potential biases present in the documents, it is essential to examine their origin, purpose, and contextual factors. A variety of data sources

will be employed to validate the accuracy and analysis of the information obtained from the documents.

3.3 Selection Criteria for the Case Studies

The rationale behind choosing Australia, Morocco, and Chile as case studies for this research was not based on arbitrary selection. Each of the selected countries has been carefully chosen based on specific criteria that significantly contribute to the overall richness and diversity of this study.

The primary factor considered in the selection process was the nature of the bilateral relationship between each country and the United States, with a particular focus on their military and strategic alliances. Each of the three nations has established and enduring military connections with the United States, and has been influenced, to differing extents, by the American perspective on air power. Gaining an understanding of the manner in which this influence has shaped their air power strategies will provide valuable insights into the wider ramifications of the United States' impact on global military affairs.

Additionally, the consideration of geographical diversity played a significant role in the process of selection. Australia, situated in the Pacific region, Morocco, located in North Africa, and Chile, which is part of South America, each exemplify unique geographical and regional contexts. The inclusion of these various locations facilitates a comprehensive comprehension of the United States' impact on diverse geopolitical contexts, thereby broadening the scope of the study.

Thirdly, the selection process took into consideration the comparative strength and level of advancement in the air force capabilities of each country. Although these three nations are classified as non-major powers, their air

power capabilities are notably advanced within their respective geographical areas. The inclusion of this criterion was imperative in order to guarantee that the selected case studies possessed significant air power strategies that could be thoroughly analysed and compared.

Ultimately, the selection of countries was predicated upon their strategic significance in relation to the United States. Each of these nations occupies a pivotal position within the regional security arrangements of the United States, thereby assuming a substantial role in the formulation and execution of American military strategy. Through a comprehensive analysis of various nations, this research aims to investigate the precise effects of the United States on the air power strategies employed by allied non-major countries.

3.4 Limitations and Potential Biases of the Research

When embarking on any research endeavour, it is imperative to acknowledge the potential limitations and biases in order to uphold scholarly integrity. The present study, which investigates the impact of the United States on the air power strategies of allied non-major nations, adheres to specific limitations.

The main constraint is the dependence on publicly available sources for data gathering, such as academic publications, official government reports, and media publications. Although the sources mentioned offer valuable perspectives, it is important to acknowledge that they may not provide a comprehensive overview of the subject matter. This limitation arises from the possibility that certain classified or undisclosed information related to defence strategies, technological dependencies, and policy impacts could exist due to security considerations. Hence, it is possible that the analysis may not comprehensively encompass all facets of the United States' impact on the air power strategies of the nations under examination.

One additional constraint pertains to the possibility of researcher bias, particularly in the context of interpreting qualitative data obtained through document analysis. Although researchers aim to maintain objectivity, they inevitably introduce their own perspectives and interpretations during the analysis process. Various attempts have been undertaken to address this issue by employing triangulation, a method that involves cross-verifying information from multiple sources in order to authenticate research outcomes. However, it is important to acknowledge that interpretations of the data may still be influenced by the researcher's personal biases to a certain degree.

The field of language and translation may present difficulties as well. While a considerable number of pertinent documents can be found in the English language, it is worth noting that certain sources, particularly those of local origin, may be written in the native languages of the countries being examined. Although translation tools can assist in addressing this problem, there exists the possibility of losing nuances and subtleties during the translation process, which may impact the accuracy of the analysis.

This study investigates the air power strategies employed by three distinct countries, namely Australia, Morocco, and Chile. It then proceeds to derive broader patterns by extrapolating from these case studies. Although attempts have been made to ensure the inclusion of diverse and representative case studies, it is important to acknowledge that the findings may not be universally applicable to all allied non-major nations. Hence, it is advisable to exercise caution when making generalisations that extend beyond the scope of these specific case studies.

This research seeks to uphold transparency and credibility by recognising and addressing these limitations and potential biases. This procedure facilitates a

more comprehensive analysis of the results and promotes the need for additional investigation to tackle these constraints.

4. Case Study 1: Australia

4.1 Historical and Political Context of Australia's Air Power Development

A. Overview of Australia's historical milestones in air power development

Australia's air power has undergone notable developments throughout its history, encompassing a span of more than one hundred years. These advancements have occurred in distinct stages, characterised by both rapid and gradual progress. The inception of Australia's involvement in air power can be traced back to the establishment of the Australian Flying Corps (AFC) in 1914, during the course of World War I (Australian War Memorial, 2021). Australia's initial venture into military aviation was of significant importance during the later phases of the war. Following the conclusion of the war, the Royal Australian Air Force was established in 1921, marking its inception as a prominent global air force that has undergone significant technological advancements. During the course of World War II, the RAAF experienced significant growth and assumed a pivotal role in the Pacific theatre of operations. The post-war era witnessed notable changes in technology and strategy within the RAAF, which encompassed the integration of jet aircraft into its operational fleet.

Australia's air power strategy underwent a transformation in response to the geopolitical tensions that characterised the Cold War era. During the latter half of the 20th century, Australia undertook additional measures to enhance its air power capabilities. These efforts included substantial procurements such as the F/A-18 Hornet fighter aircraft, as well as a concerted emphasis on the development and advancement of domestic aerospace industry capabilities (Brown, 2013). The advent of the 21st century marked a significant milestone in the progression of Australia's air power advancement. The procurement of the F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter in 2018 (Air Force, 2023), an exemplar of cutting-edge multi-role fighter aircraft, signifies Australia's dedication to upholding a contemporary air force. In recent times, Australia's

air power has increasingly directed its attention towards integrating unmanned systems, advanced space-based capabilities, and cyber warfare. This shift signifies a transition towards a more network-centric and multi-domain approach to air power.

B. Analysis of the political factors influencing Australia's air power strategy

The influence of the political landscape on Australia's air power strategy has been a longstanding and significant factor. Australia's geographical location in the Indo-Pacific region has consistently resulted in its close association with the ever-changing security dynamics of this region. The air power strategy of the entity in question is thus formulated in response to perceived threats and with the aim of upholding stability within its proximate vicinity. The emergence of the People's Republic of China (PRC) as a prominent regional power has notable ramifications for Australia's air power strategy. Australia's response to the growing military assertiveness exhibited by China has entailed a commitment to bolster its air power capabilities and adjust its strategic approach in order to effectively deter and defend against potential threats. Australia's air power strategy is significantly influenced by its close alliance with the United States, which was established in the post-World War II era. This collaboration not only influences Australia's strategic perspective but also its procurement choices and collective military drills.

Within the domestic sphere, Australia's air power strategy is influenced by several political factors, including public sentiment towards military expenditures, the economic condition of the country, and the will of the government. Furthermore, Australia's dedication to participating in international peacekeeping and humanitarian endeavours, in accordance with its responsibilities outlined by the United Nations, also plays a significant role in shaping the formulation of a flexible air power strategy that can effectively support a diverse array of operations.

The intricate interplay between regional security dynamics, international alliances, domestic politics, and global commitments gives rise to a multifaceted array of factors that have influenced and will continue to influence Australia's strategy concerning air power.

4.2 Overview of Australia-US Air Power Partnership

A. Historical background of the Australia-US air power partnership

The foundation of the Australia-US air power partnership can be traced back to the mutual experiences encountered during World War II. Both nations were confronted with the challenge of confronting the Axis powers in the Pacific region, which required them to establish a high level of cooperation and coordination between their respective military forces. Australia frequently served as a strategic base for joint military operations during this time, as its airfields played a crucial role in facilitating logistical support for United States forces (Grey, 2008). The collaboration during the war period facilitated a reciprocal appreciation and comprehension, which subsequently facilitated the formation of the Australia, New Zealand, and United States Security Treaty (ANZUS) in 1951. The period following the war was characterised by the consolidation of this alliance, as both nations acknowledged the strategic importance of their cooperation. Throughout the duration of the Cold War, Australia and the United States strengthened their military alliances, thereby enhancing their strategic cooperation. Australian air units frequently engaged in joint training exercises with their American counterparts, thereby acquiring valuable insights into sophisticated operational concepts and tactics (Hubbard, 2005). The participation in joint military exercises, such as Exercise Pitch Black and the Red Flag exercises, has played a vital role in the improvement of interoperability and the fostering of mutual comprehension regarding the respective air power capabilities of participating nations (Yeo, 2018; Defence Media, 2023). Over the past few decades, the partnership between Australia and the United States in the realm of air power has been characterised by a

mutual emphasis on regional security within the Indo-Pacific region, efforts to combat terrorism, and addressing non-conventional security challenges. There has been a notable rise in collaboration across various domains, such as intelligence sharing, joint operations, and capability development (Lyon & Tow, 2003). The United States has played a significant role in facilitating Australia's procurement of sophisticated air power capabilities, including the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter and P-8 Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft (Flight International, 2023).

The partnership between Australia and the United States in the domain of air power is undergoing a process of continuous development in order to adapt to the changing strategic environment. Given the escalating security challenges observed in the Indo-Pacific region, it is anticipated that the importance of this partnership will expand, exerting a profound influence on the trajectory of Australia's air power strategy in the times ahead.

B. Evaluation of defence cooperation agreements and joint exercises between Australia and the United States

The 1982 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the F/A-18 Hornet is a significant document that facilitated the transfer of 75 F/A-18s from the United States to Australia. The aforementioned development constituted a significant milestone in the process of modernising the RAAF and promoting effective collaboration and coordination between the air forces of both countries (Wilson, 1993; Mclaughlin, 2005). More recently, the MoU pertaining to the Joint Strike Fighter Programme in 2007 represents a noteworthy agreement. This facilitated Australia's involvement in the development of the Lockheed Martin X-35, a prototype of the fifth generation F-35 Lightning II fighter aircraft, thereby enhancing Australia's knowledge and air power capabilities. The bilateral military exercises conducted by Australia and the United States serve as a crucial mechanism for fostering

collaboration and promoting the ability of both nations to work together effectively. Exercise Talisman Sabre, a biennial event, represents the most extensive collaborative military exercise conducted by the Australian Defence Force. This exercise encompasses a wide range of air components, such as airborne operations, close air support, and airlift capabilities (Stevenson, 2021).

C. Analysis of shared objectives, interoperability, and policy coordination in air power operations

The alignment of goals, compatibility in operational capabilities, and synchronisation of policies between Australia and the United States in the realm of air power operations have been rooted in a mutual dedication to maintaining regional security and stability in the Indo-Pacific area. The alignment of goals is evident in the defence strategic updates and white papers of both nations, which underscore the imperative of a global order grounded in established rules and principles. Both Australia and the United States, together with Japan, have recognised the imperative of preserving and augmenting a free and open Indo-Pacific region. As a result, both nations share a common goal of cultivating and maintaining air power capabilities that serve as a deterrent to potential adversaries and provide reassurance to allies within the region (Australian Government, 2017).

The establishment of interoperability has played a pivotal role in fostering a robust air power partnership between Australia and the United States. Australia's procurement of American military aircraft, such as the King Air 350, and MQ-4C Triton, has significantly bolstered the level of interoperability between the two nations (Flight International, 2023). These acquisitions have particularly strengthened Australia's maritime surveillance capabilities. The coordination of activities such as the Exercise Talisman Sabre and Exercise Pitch Black has effectively facilitated the operational

integration of the Australian and US air forces, enabling them to collaborate seamlessly in various conflict and humanitarian assistance contexts.

Policy coordination is readily apparent across various dimensions of the defence relationship between Australia and the United States. This objective is accomplished through periodic bilateral meetings and strategic dialogues, such as the Australia-US Ministerial Consultations (AUSMIN), during which crucial defence and strategic policy matters are deliberated upon and harmonised. During these consultations, it is common for both nations to consistently emphasise their dedication to strengthening bilateral cooperation in the field of defence technology, joint capability development, and coordinated operations, specifically in the context of air power operations (Minister of Foreign Affairs, 2023).

4.3 Analysis of Australia's Current Air Power Capabilities, Strategies, and Investments

A. Evaluation of Australia's air force structure, fleet composition, and operational capabilities

The RAAF possesses a well-developed organisational framework and a technologically advanced fleet, rendering it a highly proficient air force within the Asia-Pacific area. The composition of this aircraft is designed in a manner that accommodates a diverse range of functions, such as air superiority, maritime patrol, aerial refuelling, transport, and training. At present, the fleet composition of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) exhibits a combination of advanced fighter aircraft, surveillance platforms, UAVs, transport planes, and training aircraft. The primary components of its aerial dominance and offensive capabilities consist of the F/A-18 Hornet and the recently developed F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter. These advanced multi-role combat aircraft possess cutting-edge technology and are capable of executing both air-to-air and air-to-ground missions. The F-35 aircraft represents a significant advancement in military technology, as it incorporates various enhancements

that enable it to possess fifth-generation capabilities. These capabilities encompass advanced stealth features and sensor fusion capabilities. The P-8A Poseidon and MQ-4C Triton Unmanned Aircraft Systems are the main platforms responsible for maritime surveillance and response operations. These aircraft offer extensive maritime surveillance capabilities, enhancing Australia's capacity to monitor its expansive coastline and extensive maritime jurisdiction. The strategic and tactical airlift capabilities of the RAAF are primarily supported by the C-17 Globemaster III and C-130J Hercules aircraft. These aircraft play a crucial role in facilitating the transportation of personnel and equipment over extensive distances and in demanding terrains (Flight International, 2023). The KC-30A Multi-Role Tanker Transport is a significant asset that offers crucial aerial refuelling capabilities, effectively enhancing the operational range and endurance of both Australian and coalition aircraft (Dart, 2023). The RAAF utilises the PC-21 and the Hawk 127 as training platforms due to their capacity to offer extensive training to RAAF pilots, equipping them with the necessary skills to navigate the intricacies associated with operating high-speed military aircraft such as the F/A-18 and F-35 (Sanchez-Lozano, Serna, & Dolon-Payan, 2014).

The manifestation of these capabilities exemplifies the Australian government's dedication to upholding a resilient and sophisticated air force. The primary objective of these investments is to enhance Australia's capacity to effectively address a diverse array of security scenarios, encompassing territorial defence, international peacekeeping operations, and disaster relief efforts.

B. Examination of Australia’s air power strategies, doctrines, and operational concepts

The operational framework of the RAAF is informed by its air power strategy and doctrines, which delineate Australia's strategic approach to the effective

deployment of air power in the pursuit of national security goals. The strategies, doctrines, and operational concepts outlined in this context are indicative of Australia's geopolitical positioning, security landscape, and dedication to upholding the rules-based international order. The fundamental principle underlying Australia's air power strategy is the ability to establish air superiority. The notion, commonly referred to as air superiority, holds significant importance in military endeavours as it enables unrestricted manoeuvrability for friendly forces while simultaneously constraining the capabilities of opposing forces (Brown, September 2013). The RAAF's allocation of resources towards the procurement of technologically advanced fighter aircraft, such as the F-35, is indicative of its prioritisation of achieving air superiority. The Australian defence strategy places significant emphasis on the significance of joint operations, acknowledging that the optimal utilisation of air power is achieved through its integration with land and maritime forces. The facilitation of this process is achieved through the utilisation of joint fires, a concept that involves the coordinated deployment of air assets in conjunction with ground forces for the purpose of engaging targets (Hupfeld, 2022). The aforementioned notion is exemplified by the Royal Australian Air Force's assortment of multi-role aircraft, which possess the ability to engage in both air-to-air and air-to-ground missions. The air power doctrine of Australia also places considerable emphasis on the aspects of surveillance and reconnaissance. Australia's defence strategy places significant importance on the monitoring and response capabilities within its expansive maritime environment, which is of strategic interest in the Asia-Pacific region (Hupfeld, 2022). Australia's surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities are augmented by its fleet of P-8 Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft and MQ-4C Triton drones.

Australia's air power strategies and doctrines are founded upon a steadfast dedication to upholding international law and adhering to the rules-based global order. The RAAF operates within a framework of stringent rules of

engagement, ensuring adherence to the principles of proportionality and discrimination during the execution of military operations. In general, the strategies, doctrines, and operational concepts of the RAAF demonstrate a comprehensive approach to air power. These approaches are designed to address the distinctive challenges posed by Australia's security environment and the dynamic nature of contemporary warfare.

C. Analysis of Australia's defence investments and priorities in air power technologies and capabilities

Australia's defence expenditures are indicative of the nation's emphasis on upholding a resilient, adaptable, and technologically sophisticated aerial military branch that possesses the capacity to effectively address various security threats. In recent years, the RAAF has received substantial investment aimed at modernising Australia's defence capabilities and ensuring strategic parity with potential adversaries in the Indo-Pacific region. The acquisition of the F-35 Lightning II stands out as a highly consequential investment made by the RAAF. The F-35 is regarded as a highly sophisticated combat aircraft on a global scale, characterised by its incorporation of stealth technology, advanced sensor systems, networking capabilities, and its ability to seamlessly integrate with various other platforms (Wiegand et al., 2018). Australia's decision to invest in the F-35 programme demonstrates its commitment to upholding air superiority, a fundamental principle of its air power strategy. Moreover, Australia is making substantial investments in the development and acquisition of the Boeing MQ-28 Ghost Bat, a UAV belonging to the Loyal Wingman class. This advanced aircraft is characterised by its stealth capabilities, multi-role functionality, and integration of artificial intelligence (AI) technology (Waldron, 2021). This project has the potential to significantly enhance the RAAF and its air power capabilities.

Australia has acknowledged the growing significance of space and cyber domains within contemporary warfare. The nation has made noteworthy

investments in these domains, exemplified by the creation of a space command within the RAAF (Galappatthy, 2023). The acknowledgement is made regarding the significance of satellite technology in facilitating various air power capabilities, such as navigation, communication, surveillance, and reconnaissance.

Finally, the RAAF allocation of resources towards advanced training systems is noteworthy. The utilisation of advanced flight simulators and virtual reality technology is designed to ensure that personnel of the RAAF possess the necessary aptitude to effectively operate intricate aircraft and systems.

Australia's defence investments demonstrate a holistic approach to air power, placing emphasis on cutting-edge technologies and capabilities that align with its strategic goals. Australia's dedication to upholding a resilient and versatile air force is evident through its emphasis on air superiority, surveillance and reconnaissance, force projection, and the integration of space and cyber capabilities.

4.4 Examination of the US's Influence on Australia's Air Power Vision and Priorities

A. Analysis of the US's role in shaping Australia's air power vision and strategy

The United States has played a significant role in shaping Australia's vision and strategy regarding air power, owing to the longstanding and highly integrated defence relationship between the two countries. The United States has played a significant role, both directly and indirectly, in shaping the strategic doctrines, procurement decisions, and operational practices of the RAAF. The defence posture and strategic priorities of Australia have been significantly shaped by the U.S.-Australia alliance, which was formally established through the ANZUS Treaty of 1951. The strategic interests of both nations have been brought into alignment due to shared concerns regarding

regional security challenges, with a particular focus on the Indo-Pacific region and the threat posed by the PRC. Australia's air power vision and strategies frequently align with its partnership with the United States, emphasising interoperability with U.S. forces, joint training exercises, and integration into U.S.-led coalition operations. The influence of the United States is evident in Australia's procurement decisions. The air power capabilities of Australia are significantly enhanced by the inclusion of U.S.-manufactured aircraft and systems. Through the acquisition of these platforms, Australia establishes a significant level of interoperability with its United States counterpart, thereby demonstrating a mutual commitment to air power that emphasises adaptability, cutting-edge technology, and collaborative operational capacities.

Additionally, the United States' prominent position in the realm of defence technology and air power doctrine has significantly influenced Australia's own advancement in the field of air power. The emphasis placed by the United States on achieving technological superiority, implementing network-centric warfare strategies, and conducting multi-domain operations has had a significant influence on the RAAF, leading to the adoption of comparable priorities. Australia's influence is observed in various domains, including space and cyber warfare, wherein substantial investments are being made, aligning with the guidance provided by the United States.

B. Examination of the influence of US defence industry and technological advancements on Australia's air power investments

The influence of the U.S. defence industry and its technological advancements on Australia's air power investments has had a significant impact on the trajectory and magnitude of Australia's defence procurement and strategic planning. The ongoing advancements and disruptions in the defence industry of the United States have had a significant impact, extending to allied nations such as Australia, prompting them to allocate resources towards acquiring modern and technologically sophisticated air power capabilities in order to

preserve their operational superiority and strategic significance. Australia has undertaken efforts to enhance its air force capabilities in response to the emergence of fifth-generation aircraft, precision-guided munitions, and advanced surveillance and reconnaissance technologies. Two exemplary demonstrations of this phenomenon can be observed in the Australian government's procurement of 72 F-35s from the United States, a prominent example of one of the most cutting-edge fighter aircraft on a global scale; and significant investments in UAVs, a technology considered by both countries as essential for the future of air power. Among said investments can be found the acquisition of the MQ-4C Triton and the development of the MQ-28 Ghost Bat.

Moreover, the growing focus on information and network-centric warfare within the defence framework of the United States has prompted Australia to prioritise investments in advanced communication, data-link, and network infrastructure. The AIR 6500 project in Australia is focused on the development of a joint air battle management system, with the objective of establishing a comprehensive network that integrates all of Australia's defence assets (Australian Government, 2022). This initiative demonstrates the influence of the network-centric warfare approach employed by the United States.

The impact of the defence industry in the United States extends beyond the production of military hardware, encompassing the realm of strategic defence planning. The United States' emphasis on multi-domain operations, in which air power assumes a crucial role, has resonated significantly within Australia's defence strategic updates. This resonance has led to heightened investments in capabilities aimed at enhancing the integration of land, sea, air, space, and cyber domains.

C. Assessment of the impact of US military cooperation and shared objectives on Australia's air power priorities

The influence exerted by the United States military collaboration and shared goals on Australia's air power priorities is significant and characterised by a variety of factors. The cooperation between entities has resulted in a notable influence on the alignment of strategic objectives. Australia's prioritisation of air power capabilities is driven by its commitment to promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific region. This encompasses allocations towards long-range strike capabilities, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) platforms, as well as air mobility assets that possess the ability to project power and uphold situational awareness throughout the extensive regions of the Pacific. Additionally, the attainment of interoperability through collaborative exercises and operations holds substantial influence over Australia's air power priorities. In order to establish and sustain efficient operational coordination with the United States forces, Australia must prioritise the optimisation of its platforms and systems to facilitate effective communication and integration with American counterparts. Consequently, there has been a notable focus on procuring American platforms or alternative systems that conform to the standards set by NATO, thereby enhancing the assurance of interoperability. The significant contribution of technology transfer and joint development programmes to the development of Australia's air power capabilities should not be overlooked. The involvement of Australia in the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter programme is a clear manifestation of the impact of collaborative efforts between the United States and Australia on the prioritisation of Australian air power. The acquisition of the F-35 aircraft by the RAAF serves multiple purposes. Firstly, it provides the RAAF with a state-of-the-art air superiority platform. Additionally, this acquisition facilitates the integration of Australian industries into the global supply chain of the F-35, thereby enhancing Australia's defence industrial base. Australia's defence priorities are influenced by the security assurances offered by the

United States through the ANZUS treaty. While Australia's decision to refrain from engaging in certain areas of arms race, such as nuclear capabilities, helps prevent escalation, it also requires the country to uphold a credible level of defence capabilities, including air power, in order to make substantial contributions to the alliance.

In summary, the collaboration between the United States military and Australia has a substantial influence on the prioritisation of air power within Australia. This collaboration leads to strategic alignment, the ability to work together effectively, and the procurement of advanced air power capabilities. The cooperation between the two nations is based on shared objectives, which serve as a foundation for their collaboration and foster a mutual understanding. This understanding aids both countries in their preparedness for forthcoming security challenges.

5. Case Study 2: Morocco

5.1 Historical and Political Context of Morocco's Air Power Development

A. Overview of Morocco's historical milestones in air power development

The emergence of air power in Morocco can be historically attributed to the early 20th century, specifically with the establishment of the French and Spanish Protectorates. Both colonial powers established air bases within the country, utilising them for their respective objectives, thereby leaving behind a rudimentary infrastructure that would subsequently serve as the groundwork for the advancement of Morocco's aerial capabilities. Morocco achieved independence in 1956, following which it prioritised the establishment of a national air force. The establishment of the Royal Moroccan Air Force took place on November 19, 1956, signifying the manifestation of Morocco's autonomous aerial capabilities. During the early years subsequent to achieving independence, Morocco predominantly depended on the military equipment inherited from the French and Spanish colonial powers. Nevertheless, the Six-Day War that occurred in 1967 and the subsequent War of Attrition had a profound impact on the development of Morocco's air power (Baynham, 1991; Laron, 2017). The conflict demonstrated the increasing importance of air power in contemporary warfare, resulting in a subsequent alteration of Morocco's defence strategy to prioritise the enhancement of its aerial capabilities. During the 1970s and 1980s, Morocco initiated a period of modernization, acquisition, and expansion, driven by its strategic goals and the perceived threats from external sources. Significant accomplishments during this era encompassed the acquisition of technologically advanced aircraft, namely the Northrop F-5, Mirage F1, and subsequently the F-16 Fighting Falcon, thereby solidifying the pivotal position of air power within Morocco's defence strategy (Macci, 2023).

In brief, the development of aerial capabilities in Morocco has followed a consistent trajectory marked by significant historical landmarks. Since its inception during the colonial era, the RMAF has undergone significant development, transforming into a proficient military entity. This transformation has been driven by the RMAF's ability to adapt and enhance its capabilities in accordance with shifting regional dynamics, national strategic goals, and the ever-evolving nature of aerial warfare.

B. Analysis of the political factors influencing Morocco's air power strategy

The political environment in Morocco has played a crucial role in influencing the development of the country's air power strategy. Throughout the course of history, the monarchy has exerted a significant level of authority over military and defence policies, leading to a highly centralised approach to decision-making. The implementation of this control mechanism has effectively ensured the alignment of air power strategy with overarching national security objectives and political goals.

At the regional level, political tensions, particularly with neighbouring countries such as Algeria and the disputed territory of Western Sahara, have frequently played a significant role in shaping Morocco's strategic decisions regarding air power. Morocco's pursuit of improved air power capabilities can be attributed to the perceived threat emanating from Algeria, which is rooted in historical conflicts and the unresolved matter of Western Sahara.

Morocco's air power strategy has been also influenced by internal stability and security concerns, particularly the threat of terrorism, within the country. The necessity to possess aircraft specifically designed for operations in expansive desert regions has prompted the allocation of resources towards the development of rapid response capabilities. Morocco's air power strategy has been significantly shaped by its political alignment with the Western countries, particularly its close relationship with the United States, on the global platform. The establishment of this alignment has not only facilitated

Morocco's acquisition of sophisticated U.S. technology and military equipment, but it has also influenced the development of its military doctrines and operational tactics to align with those of its Western allies.

In summary, the air power strategy of Morocco is influenced by a variety of political factors that are intricate and interconnected, encompassing domestic, regional, and international dimensions. The significance of political context in comprehending and assessing the development and present condition of Morocco's air power capabilities and strategies is emphasised by this matrix of influences.

5.2 Overview of Morocco-US Air Power Partnership

A. Historical background of the Morocco-US air power partnership

The partnership between Morocco and the United States in the realm of air power has a significant historical foundation, originating during the Cold War period. During this period, Morocco, despite its official non-alignment, was acknowledged by the United States as a pivotal ally within the African continent. The American government's investment of over 2 billion dollars in Morocco subsequent to the signing of the 1957 agreement, aimed at offering the latter a programme of economic and technical assistance, serves as a clear demonstration of this (USAID, 2022). Since achieving independence from France on March 2, 1956, Morocco has demonstrated a steadfast dedication to fostering a unique and significant alliance with the United States. This alliance is founded upon the historical connections shared by both nations, as well as a series of personal friendships that have developed between Moroccan monarchs and their respective American presidential counterparts (Rosenblum & Zartman, 2008). During the period spanning the 1960s and 1970s, the partnership experienced growth as a result of a consistent increase in the number of United States military aircraft being incorporated into the Moroccan Air Force. The United States also played a pivotal role in the training of

Moroccan pilots and offering technical support, thereby enhancing Morocco's air power capabilities. The collaboration between parties was intensified during the transition from the 19th to the 20th century, as evidenced by the commencement of joint military drills like the recurring African Lion exercise, which frequently incorporated components related to air power (U.S. Sixth Fleet Public Affairs, 2022). The scope of strategic cooperation expanded to encompass counter-terrorism efforts subsequent to the September 11 attacks, resulting in the United States designating Morocco as a significant Non-NATO ally in 2004 (BBC News, 2004).

In recent years, the partnership has been marked by a notable surge in arms sales, collaborative endeavours in programme development, and a concerted effort to bolster interoperability between the respective air forces. The acquisition of F-16 fighter jets by Morocco, which is considered a high-profile purchase, serves as a clear indication of the significant nature of the relationship between the involved parties.

In brief, the partnership between Morocco and the United States in the realm of air power is distinguished by a longstanding historical record of reciprocal collaboration, exchange of knowledge, and a joint dedication to ensuring security within the region. The collaboration has not only had a substantial impact on Morocco's aerial capabilities but also continues to exert influence on its aerial strategy and priorities.

B. Evaluation of defence cooperation agreements and joint exercises between Morocco and the United States

The defence cooperation agreements and joint exercises between Morocco and the United States have significantly contributed to the enhancement of their respective military capabilities and the pursuit of their strategic interests. Regular joint military exercises have been conducted by the United States and Morocco, showcasing their mutual dedication to regional security. The African

Lion exercise serves as a notable illustration, being a recurring event jointly organised by the United States Africa Command (USAFRICOM) and the Moroccan Royal Armed Forces. The primary objective of this annual military exercise in Africa is to enhance interoperability and foster mutual comprehension of the tactics, techniques, and procedures employed by each participating nation. These exercises frequently encompass a range of air power elements, thereby augmenting the Moroccan Air Force's capacity to strategize, synchronise, and carry out intricate operations. In 2021, for example, the African Lion exercise featured the presence of F-16s, C-130s, and KC-135s for close air support training (Everstine, 2021).

The joint exercises and cooperation agreements additionally contribute to the enhancement of the strategic relationship between the two nations. This phenomenon frequently manifests as political backing on the global platform. The United States has demonstrated robust support for Morocco's position on the Western Sahara matter, indicating the significant strength of their defence alliance.

C. Analysis of shared objectives, interoperability, and policy coordination in air power operations

The partnership between Morocco and the United States has placed significant emphasis on the core elements of shared objectives, interoperability, and policy coordination within the realm of air power operations. A commonly pursued goal entails the preservation of regional stability within the North African and Sahelian regions. Both nations have articulated a shared concern in addressing challenges such as terrorism and extremist ideologies. The United States has extended assistance to Morocco in terms of equipment and training to enhance its air power operations, specifically in the areas of surveillance and counter-terrorism operations. As seen with the above-mentioned African Lion exercise, the promotion of interoperability has also been a central aspect of the partnership between Morocco and the United

States. The establishment of interoperability is crucial for facilitating efficient collaboration, particularly in situations that may necessitate the involvement of multiple nations. The enhancement of interoperability has been facilitated by Morocco's procurement of US military equipment, among which can be found the MQ-9 Reaper, and the multi-jet trainer aircraft King Air 100 (Urteaga, 2023; Flight International, 2023).

Policy coordination represents an additional facet of their collaborative alliance. Both nations frequently coordinate their defence policies in order to mirror their mutual strategic interests. As an example, the United States has consistently incorporated Morocco into its foreign military sales programme, which demonstrates a strategic approach aimed at endorsing Morocco's endeavours towards modernization. Furthermore, it is worth noting that the United States has consistently acknowledged Morocco's status as a noteworthy non-NATO ally, a recognition that is consistent with Morocco's defence strategy of fostering strong relationships with influential global actors.

5.3 Analysis of Morocco's Current Air Power Capabilities, Strategies, and Investments

A. Evaluation of Morocco's air force structure, fleet composition, and operational capabilities

The operational structure of the RMAF is strategically designed to optimise the efficiency and preparedness of its personnel and resources. The organisational framework of the air force comprises various divisions, such as air defence, transport aviation, combat aviation, and training aviation, each possessing unique functions and obligations. The aforementioned structure enables the RMAF to proficiently oversee its varied fleet and guarantee the most advantageous utilisation of its resources in accordance with mission prerequisites.

The fleet composition of the RMAF demonstrates a deliberate and well-thought-out combination of versatility and power projection. The primary component of the RMAF combat capabilities is the F-16 C/V multirole fighter, renowned for its sophisticated avionics, exceptional manoeuvrability, and versatile operational capacity. In addition to the F-16, the F-5E and the Mirage F1 fighter jets, despite their advanced age, continue to play a significant role in air defence and ground-attack operations, thereby offering valuable contributions. The RMAF is also responsible for the operation of a variety of helicopters that are utilised for a wide range of mission objectives. The AH-64E functions as the principal attack helicopter, specifically designed for close air support operations and outfitted with sophisticated targeting and weaponry systems. On the other hand, the CH-47D helicopter is employed for the purpose of conducting heavy-lift transport operations, which are of utmost importance in facilitating the swift transportation of military personnel and equipment across the extensive and diverse terrains of Morocco. Within the domain of aviation transportation, the RMAF benefits from the strategic and tactical airlift capabilities offered by the C-130 Hercules and CN-235 aircraft (Flight International, 2023). These aircraft facilitate the swift deployment and continuous support of military forces. Furthermore, these aircraft play a crucial role in facilitating humanitarian assistance and disaster response operations, thereby augmenting the RMAF's involvement in national development and crisis management. Additionally, the RMAF has made substantial investments in UAVs, specifically through the procurement of four MQ-9Bs and thirteen Bayraktars TB2 (Urteaga, 2023; Iddon, 2021). This strategic move is intended to augment the RMAF's intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities. The utilisation of UAVs has revolutionised the approach of the RMAF towards surveillance and reconnaissance operations. This technological advancement has facilitated extended mission durations, enhanced area coverage, and mitigated potential hazards to personnel.

The RMAF has demonstrated a strong dedication to upholding rigorous training protocols and ensuring a state of preparedness, as observed from an operational standpoint. Regular exercises, encompassing both domestic and international contexts, serve to ensure that personnel of the RMAF possess comprehensive knowledge and proficiency in contemporary air combat tactics and procedures. The advantageous nature of the close alliance with the United States has proven to be particularly fruitful in this context, facilitating collaborative training endeavours and the exchange of optimal methodologies. It is imperative to bear in mind that operational capability encompasses more than just hardware and personnel. Factors such as the provision of maintenance and logistical support, the implementation of command and control systems, and the formulation of strategic planning exert a substantial influence on the efficacy of an air force. Morocco has demonstrated a comprehensive comprehension of this matter by allocating resources towards the acquisition of new platforms, as well as the improvement of its infrastructure, augmentation of maintenance capabilities, and the establishment of resilient command and control systems.

In conclusion, the assessment of Morocco's air force structure, fleet composition, and operational capabilities demonstrates a comprehensive and strategic approach to air power. The RMAF has demonstrated its adaptability and proficiency as a military entity, equipped to effectively tackle a diverse array of mission objectives and security obstacles.

B. Examination of Morocco's air power strategies, doctrines, and operational concepts

The air power strategies, doctrines, and operational concepts of Morocco have undergone a process of evolution in order to adapt to the dynamic security landscape and advancements in military technology. Although the precise details of these strategies and doctrines are typically classified, certain

fundamental elements can be deduced from publicly available sources and the observable behaviour of the RMAF. A crucial element of Morocco's air power strategy involves the establishment and upkeep of a strong defensive stance, aimed at deterring potential adversaries. In pursuit of this objective, Morocco has made substantial investments in sophisticated multirole fighter aircraft and air defence systems in order to safeguard its airspace. Morocco's dedication to upholding a credible air defence capability is demonstrated through its procurement of some of the best surface-to-air missiles (SAMs), namely the Chinese HQ-9, the Indo-Israeli Barak 8, and the American MIM-104 Patriot (Halimi, 2020; Zaken, 2022; El Kadiri, 2021).

An additional facet of Morocco's air power strategy pertains to the emphasis placed on the attributes of versatility and flexibility. The fleet composition of the RMAF exhibits a diverse array of aircraft, encompassing combat planes, transport aircraft, helicopters, and UAVs. This assortment is indicative of a strategic objective to effectively undertake a broad spectrum of missions, encompassing air superiority, ground attack, airlift operations, search and rescue endeavours, as well as surveillance activities.

Morocco's air power doctrine exhibits a notable emphasis on the concept of interoperability, particularly in relation to allied nations such as the United States. The enhancement of interoperability significantly strengthens Morocco's capacity to engage in multinational operations, facilitate joint training exercises, and effectively exchange intelligence with its allied nations. The emphasis is demonstrated through the procurement of American aircraft and systems, as well as the consistent engagement in collaborative military exercises.

In conclusion, it can be observed that Morocco's operational concepts exhibit a judicious strategy that encompasses both defensive and offensive operations. Defensive operations are implemented with the objective of safeguarding Morocco's airspace and territory against potential external threats. On the other

hand, offensive operations, although their scope is restricted, are strategically devised to enable the projection of power when deemed essential, particularly in the context of regional conflicts or peacekeeping endeavours.

C. Analysis of Morocco's defence investments and priorities in air power technologies and capabilities

The defence investments made by Morocco are indicative of a deliberate strategic emphasis on bolstering its air power capabilities. In recent years, Morocco has made substantial investments in the procurement of contemporary aircraft, the enhancement of pre-existing platforms, and the expansion of its air defence infrastructure.

The acquisition of F-16s from the United States stands out as a particularly significant investment. However, it is possible that Morocco will need to expedite even more the modernization of its fleet by acquiring the F-35 aircraft earlier than anticipated. This is to ensure that it does not lag behind in the ongoing arms competition with Algeria, which has expressed intentions to procure the Russian Su-57 fighter jets in the near future (Dangwal, 2021). Furthermore, Morocco strives to ensure the operational effectiveness of its air assets by actively pursuing the preservation and enhancement of its current inventory of F-5 and Mirage F1 fighters (Times Aerospace, 2010).

Morocco's defence investments encompass a notable dimension pertaining to the procurement of sophisticated air defence systems. Indeed, in 2021, Morocco successfully established the inaugural military facility specifically designated for the purpose of long-range air defence. The military installation is situated in close proximity to the urban centre of Sidi Yahya el-Gharb in the northern region of Morocco, encompassing a total land area of approximately 420,000 square metres (Defensa.com, 2021). These investments highlight Morocco's strategic focus on upholding a strong defensive stance.

A third domain in which Morocco is making substantial investments is in the field of UAVs. It is worth mentioning that the Moroccan government has

acquired a total of 13 Turkish Bayraktars TB2, together with Israeli-built Harop loitering munitions. This combination demonstrated significant effectiveness in military operations, particularly during the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, and has the potential to provide the RMAF with a decisive advantage in future conflicts (Iddon, 2021). Morocco's expressed interest in procuring UAVs demonstrates a recognition of this prevailing pattern and a readiness to allocate resources towards novel technologies that have the potential to augment its operational capacities.

Morocco's defence investments seem to be influenced by multiple factors when considering priorities. The factors encompassing the necessity for the modernisation of its air force, the aspiration to strengthen its defensive capabilities, and the objective to sustain operational parity with neighbouring counterparts are among the key considerations. Moreover, the investments made by Morocco are indicative of its strategic emphasis on upholding robust defence connections with significant partners, notably the United States, from which it has acquired a substantial portion of its military equipment.

5.4 Examination of the US's Influence on Morocco's Air Power Vision and Priorities

A. Analysis of the US's role in shaping Morocco's air power vision and strategy

The United States significantly influences the development of Morocco's air power vision and strategy. The aforementioned influence is demonstrated through various means, such as the dissemination of military technology, the facilitation of training and assistance, and the establishment of shared operational doctrines and strategic goals.

The United States has played a significant role as a major provider of military equipment to Morocco, with a particular emphasis on supplying air assets. The procurement of F-16s from the United States has notably bolstered Morocco's

aerial capabilities. The procurement in question not only facilitates the acquisition of sophisticated military equipment by Morocco, but also plays a pivotal role in shaping the nation's comprehensive air power strategy, with a particular emphasis on developing multirole capabilities that encompass both air-to-air and air-to-ground operations. Furthermore, the United States provides comprehensive training and assistance to Moroccan personnel. The aforementioned components encompass pilot training, maintenance support, and operational guidance. The implementation of such training serves the dual purpose of optimising the utilisation of equipment provided by the United States and influencing the operational doctrines of the Moroccan air force. The acquisition of knowledge and skills through these training programmes has a significant impact on Morocco's tactical approaches and strategic thinking. The enhancement of American influence on Morocco's air power strategy is further solidified through the joint military exercises and defence cooperation conducted between Morocco and the United States. These engagements serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas, the improvement of tactical doctrines, and the alignment of strategic objectives. Additionally, they facilitate the promotion of interoperability between the two nations, thereby influencing the development of Morocco's air power strategies to align with those of its American counterpart.

Moreover, the impact of the United States on Morocco's conceptualization and implementation of air power extends beyond tangible elements like equipment and training. The strategic outlook of Morocco is inherently shaped by the shared strategic interests and longstanding defence partnership between the two countries. The United States' perspective on regional security dynamics, its prioritisation of counter-terrorism efforts, and its strategy of maintaining a balance of power in the region all influence the manner in which Morocco develops its air power strategy.

B. Examination of the influence of US defence industry and technological advancements on Morocco's air power investments

The influence of the United States defence industry and its technological advancements on Morocco's investments in air power has been substantial. The United States, recognised as a leading global defence industry, offers cutting-edge equipment and influences the contemporary landscape of warfare. This influence extends to countries such as Morocco, which seek to enhance their air power strategies by drawing inspiration from American practices and standards. The evident influence of the US defence industry is exemplified by Morocco's substantial investments in air power, specifically through the procurement of F-16s, AH-64Es and MQ-9 Reapers among others. The aforementioned advanced platforms, renowned for their exceptional performance and versatile functionalities, signify a substantial advancement in Morocco's air power capabilities. This development underscores the nation's dedication to aligning with worldwide advancements in air power technology, spearheaded by nations such as the United States and its allies.

The US defence industry exerts a significant influence on the process of modernising Morocco's current fleet and infrastructure. For example, enhancements to avionics, weapon systems, and support equipment are frequently procured from manufacturers based in the United States. The selection of these systems is frequently influenced by their compatibility with pre-existing platforms originating from the United States and their capacity to integrate with broader command and control systems within NATO.

The future trajectory of Morocco's air power investments is being influenced by technological advancements in the defence industry of the United States. These advancements include the emergence of sophisticated UAVs, precision-guided munitions, and network-centric warfare capabilities. Morocco has demonstrated a keen interest in these domains and is expected to contemplate the adoption of these technologies in forthcoming procurement deliberations. Nevertheless, it is important to acknowledge that the presence of the US

defence industry and its technological progress may introduce certain obstacles. The acquisition and upkeep of advanced technology from the United States can impose a substantial financial strain on Morocco's defence expenditure. Additionally, there exists the potential danger of excessive dependence on technology originating from the United States, which may potentially restrict Morocco's strategic independence and its capacity to respond to evolving regional dynamics and security challenges.

In summary, the influence of the United States defence industry and its technological advancements is of considerable importance in shaping Morocco's investments in air power. While the aforementioned influence has the potential to enhance capabilities, it also presents challenges that Morocco must strategically navigate in its pursuit of developing a contemporary and efficient air power capability.

C. Assessment of the impact of US military cooperation and shared objectives on Morocco's air power priorities

The air power priorities of Morocco are significantly influenced by the cooperation and shared objectives with the United States military. This phenomenon is evident across various facets of their military and diplomatic alliances.

The security concerns that are mutually shared between the United States and Morocco have a substantial influence on the prioritisation of air power in Morocco. The United States' comprehensive campaign against global terrorism, specifically, corresponds with Morocco's endeavours to address regional security challenges. Consequently, Morocco has prioritised the acquisition of aerial resources that can effectively support counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency endeavours, evident in their allocations towards advanced combat aircraft and surveillance drones. Furthermore, the United States has implemented a strategic approach aimed at cultivating robust

military alliances in order to ensure regional stability. As a result, there have been numerous instances of collaborative joint exercises and training operations between the United States and the Moroccan air forces. These interactions not only bolster the interoperability between the two forces but also offer the Moroccan air force valuable insights into the operational doctrines and strategies of the U.S. air force, a prominent global entity in the realm of air power. The aforementioned exposure has a direct influence on the strategic approach of Moroccan air power, prompting the adoption of revised doctrines and operational tactics that align with established principles of excellence.

Furthermore, the defence cooperation agreements established between the United States and Morocco frequently entail the transfer or provision of U.S. military equipment. Consequently, these agreements play a significant role in shaping Morocco's air power objectives, as they prioritise the maintenance and improvement of these systems. This encompasses the provision of training for pilots and ground crew, allocation of resources towards maintenance and support infrastructure, as well as the revision of doctrines and tactics to ensure seamless integration of these systems into operational activities.

In addition, the alignment of political goals between the United States and Morocco, particularly in relation to regional stability and counter-terrorism, significantly influences the prioritisation of air power objectives in Morocco. Given the strategic significance of air power in attaining these goals, it is probable that Morocco will persist in prioritising investments in its air force. This will encompass the acquisition of cutting-edge aircraft and technologies, the improvement of training initiatives, and the modernization of air force infrastructure.

6. Case Study 3: Chile

6.1 Historical and Political Context of Chile's Air Power Development

A. Overview of Chile's historical milestones in air power development

The initiation of Chile's progress in the field of air power can be traced back to the beginning of the 20th century, specifically with the formation of the Military Aviation Service of the Chilean Army in 1913 (Contreras Guzman, 1916). Subsequently, in 1930, the establishment of the Chilean Air Force (Fuerza Aérea de Chile, FACh) occurred, representing a noteworthy landmark in the historical development of Chile's aerial capabilities. The nation has endeavoured to enhance and update its aerial capabilities, driven by regional competitions, security considerations, and a determination to assert its independent statehood. The decades of the 1970s and 1980s witnessed a significant period of evolution in the development of Chile's air power. During this particular era, substantial resources were allocated towards the improvement of air capabilities and infrastructure, against the backdrop of geopolitical tensions associated with the Cold War. The Beagle conflict in 1978 between Chile and Argentina, regarding the disputed islands, served as a catalyst for Chile's endeavours to enhance its air capabilities (Van Aert, 2016). This development underscored the growing significance of air power within Chile's defence strategy. During the turn of the century, there was a notable emphasis on the process of modernization and the procurement of technologically advanced aircraft, such as the F-16 Fighting Falcon jets, which were obtained from the United States in 2006 (Eberlein, 2022). In recent years, Chile has placed increased emphasis on the development of its domestic defence industry, fostering technological innovation, and bolstering its air power through collaborative efforts and joint exercises with nations such as the United States. These advancements not only exemplify the progression of Chile's aerial capabilities but also demonstrate the various factors that have influenced its growth throughout the years.

B. Analysis of the political factors influencing Chile's air power strategy

Throughout its history, the air power strategy of Chile has been significantly influenced by political factors. The strategic positioning of Chile, situated between the Pacific Ocean and the Andes Mountains, has compelled the country to adopt a proficient air power strategy in order to safeguard its national security, uphold territorial integrity, and promptly address potential threats. The political landscape of Chile has been significantly influenced by its regional rivalries, most notably with Argentina, which has played a crucial role in shaping its strategic approach towards air power (Spielman, 2011). The Beagle conflict that occurred in the late 1970s, although it concluded without armed conflict, led to notable improvements in Chile's air power capabilities. This event exemplifies the impact of regional tensions on the defence strategy of the country.

The impact of political regimes, specifically the military dictatorship led by Augusto Pinochet from 1973 to 1990, constituted an additional pivotal element. During the Pinochet era, there was a notable increase in the militarization of the Chilean state, accompanied by a substantial allocation of resources towards enhancing defence capabilities, particularly in the realm of air power (Caro & Fuenzalida, 2020). The process of political transition towards democracy, which commenced in the latter part of the 1980s, exerted a significant impact on the advancement and modernization of Chile's aerial capabilities. The transition period in Chile facilitated a shift towards a more constructive engagement with neighbouring countries, enabling the country to transition from a defence policy primarily driven by conflicts to one that prioritises collaboration and regional security. Consequently, the strategic approach to air power has undergone a transformation, shifting from a solely defensive stance to one that also prioritises involvement in peacekeeping endeavours, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief efforts. These roles

have been recognised as areas where air power can make a substantial impact (Caro & Fuenzalida, 2020).

The air power strategy of Chile has been significantly influenced by its international relations and strategic alliances. The association with the United States has played a pivotal role in moulding its military doctrine, enabling the acquisition of cutting-edge technology, and impacting its approach to air power within the framework of collaborative military drills and defence cooperation agreements.

6.2 Overview of Chile-US Air Power Partnership

A. Historical background of the Chile-US air power partnership

The historical relationship between Chile and the United States in the realm of air power is characterised by a significant duration, mutual strategic interests, bilateral agreements, and collaborative endeavours. The historical connection between Chile and the United States in the domain of air power can be traced back to the period of World War II. During this time, Chile, along with several other Latin American nations, formed an alliance with the United States. As part of this alliance, Chile received military assistance aimed at enhancing regional stability and bolstering its defence capabilities. Following the conclusion of World War II, the alliance between Chile and the United States experienced a notable consolidation, particularly in the context of the Cold War era, which was further intensified subsequent to the Cuban Revolution. In an effort to contain the proliferation of communism within its sphere of influence, the United States extended substantial military aid to various Latin American nations, including Chile. However, during this particular era, the bilateral relations between the two nations deteriorated rapidly, culminating in the US-backed assassination of Allende and the subsequent coup d'état led by Augusto Pinochet (Mares & Aravena, 2001). Despite the United States' involvement in facilitating his rise to power, the defence alliance between the US and Chile faced significant challenges throughout the Pinochet dictatorship

era, primarily due to concerns related to human rights violations. However, despite encountering occasional policy fluctuations, the strategic alliance endured due to shared interests in the region and a mutual understanding of the importance of air power in defence strategies (Harmer, 2013). Following Chile's transition to democracy in the 1990s, there was a notable shift in the bilateral relationship concerning defence and air power cooperation. This new phase was distinguished by heightened levels of transparency, mutual respect, and collaborative efforts (Mares & Aravena, 2001). The United States significantly contributed to the modernization of Chile's air force by facilitating the acquisition of aircraft through direct sales and providing assistance in training and maintenance. Throughout the course of time, the partnership between Chile and the United States has undergone a transformation, expanding beyond conventional defence cooperation to include joint efforts in the realms of humanitarian aid, disaster response, and peacekeeping missions. Currently, the partnership between the involved parties is distinguished by a significant focus on interoperability, shared goals, and policy coordination in the realm of air power operations (Meyer, 2020). This is supported by a solid basis of historical connections and mutual strategic interests.

B. Evaluation of defense cooperation agreements and joint exercises between Chile and the United States

The Chile-US air power partnership has been characterised by the inclusion of defence cooperation agreements and the implementation of joint military exercises, which have played a crucial role. Throughout the course of time, both nations have participated in a multitude of collaborative exercises with the objective of improving compatibility, honing tactical abilities, and cultivating mutual comprehension. The bilateral *Defence: Cooperation* (2005) agreement is a significant step that establishes a legal framework for the exchange of logistic support, supplies, and services between the U.S.

Department of Defence and the Chilean Army. The implementation of the *Defence: Cooperation* has played a crucial role in enhancing the operational capabilities of the Chilean Air Force. This agreement encompasses various domains, including training, maintenance, and support services. As a result, the Chilean Air Force has experienced substantial improvements in its ability to carry out military operations effectively. The Foreign Military Sales (FMS) programme constitutes a noteworthy element within the defence collaboration between Chile and the United States (DSCA, 2020). Chile has acquired a number of technologically advanced military aircraft, such as the F-16 Fighting Falcons, from the United States as a result of its participation in this programme (Higuera, 2005; Eberlein, 2022). The FMS programme encompasses more than a simple transaction, as it encompasses comprehensive packages that incorporate pilot training, logistical support, and maintenance services. These components collectively contribute to the overall improvement of the capabilities of the Chilean Air Force. The promotion of cooperation and interoperability between the air forces of the United States and Chile has been significantly facilitated by the implementation of joint military exercises. Exercises such as Southern Star and SALITRE encompass a diverse range of aerial operations, encompassing engagements between aircraft, attacks directed towards ground targets, as well as missions focused on locating and rescuing individuals in distress (Huerta, 2022; Aranguiz, 2022). Engaging in these exercises affords the Chilean Air Force the opportunity to engage in operations within a coalition setting, enhance their tactical expertise, and glean insights from the operational protocols employed by the U.S. Air Force. In addition, Chile's involvement in the System of Cooperation Among the American Air Forces (SICOFAA, 2023), an initiative led by the United States, has fostered the interchange of ideas, experiences, and methodologies pertaining to aerial capabilities among participating countries.

C. Analysis of shared objectives, interoperability, and policy coordination in air power operations

The effective development and implementation of air power operations by the Chilean and U.S. air forces have relied on the crucial elements of shared objectives, interoperability, and policy coordination. Interoperability has emerged as a pivotal facet of the air power collaboration between Chile and the United States. The implementation of joint exercises and training programmes has facilitated mutual comprehension of operational protocols between the Chilean and U.S. air forces, resulting in a high degree of coordination during collaborative missions. The enhancement of interoperability has been facilitated by the transfer of U.S. military equipment to the Chilean Air Force. This transfer has resulted in the training of Chilean pilots and technicians to operate and maintain these platforms in accordance with U.S. standards. The establishment of policy coordination between the two nations has effectively ensured that their partnership is characterised by a shared commitment to mutual respect and comprehension. The bilateral *Defence: Cooperation* agreement establishes a framework for the purpose of coordinating defense-related collaboration, delineating the legal and logistical parameters involved. The aforementioned agreement has effectively facilitated the continuous and strengthened growth of the partnership through robust policy backing. Furthermore, policy coordination encompasses additional domains, including technology transfer and collaborative development initiatives. Both countries have participated in collaborative endeavours with the objective of exchanging knowledge and implementing exemplary methodologies in domains such as aircraft maintenance, air operations planning, and personnel training (Petosky, 2009). These initiatives have not only facilitated the Chilean Air Force in improving its operational capabilities but have also bolstered the overall efficacy of the Chile-U.S. air power alliance.

6.3 Analysis of Chile's Current Air Power Capabilities, Strategies, and Investments

A. Evaluation of Chile's air force structure, fleet composition, and operational capabilities

The FACh is widely recognised as a proficient and cleverly equipped air force, positioning it as a leading force in terms of technological advancement within the Latin American region. The effectiveness and commitment of the organisation can be observed through its structure, fleet composition, and operational capabilities, which serve to uphold national security and promote regional stability. The fleet composition of the Chilean Air Force exhibits a combination of contemporary and antiquated aircraft, thereby exemplifying its progressive development throughout its history. The organisation has gradually updated its aviation fleet, transitioning from outdated aircraft models to more technologically advanced ones. The primary component of its fighter fleet consist of 35 Lockheed Martin F-16 A/C and 10 F-5E. The Chilean Air Force also utilises several aircraft for diverse functions, encompassing transport aircraft such as the C-130 Hercules, utility helicopters like the Bell 412 and the UH-60 Black Hawk, and pilot training aircraft like the homemade T-35 Pillán and the Brazilian A-29 Super Tucano (Defensa.com, 2022; Flight International, 2023). The FACh has exhibited competence in various air operations with regards to its operational capabilities. The Chilean F-16s, for example, possess a formidable capacity for engaging in aerial combat and conducting attacks on ground targets, rendering them well-suited for defensive as well as offensive operations (Aranguiz, 2021; Eberlein, 2022). The utilisation of transport aircraft and helicopters by the FACh enhances its operational capabilities, facilitating efficient execution of logistics, rescue, and humanitarian missions both within the nation and throughout the surrounding area. The personnel of the FACh are renowned for their exceptional training,

as both pilots and crew members actively engage in national and international exercises to augment their proficiency and preparedness.

The commitment of the FACh to the modernization of its fleet and the improvement of personnel training has led to the development of an air force that possesses advanced capabilities to effectively address a wide array of threats and challenges. Despite its relatively smaller size compared to international standards, this air force demonstrates a remarkable level of effectiveness due to its possession of a modern fleet and operational capabilities. Nevertheless, the perpetual advancement of technology and the dynamic characteristics of threats require continuous dedication and investment in order to sustain and enhance these capabilities.

B. Examination of Chile's air power strategies, doctrines, and operational concepts

The formulation of Chile's air power strategies, doctrines, and operational concepts is influenced by various factors, such as its geopolitical context, national defence objectives, and the dynamic nature of air power. The concept of deterrence and defence is a fundamental component of Chile's air power strategy (Meneses, 1997). The Chilean Air Force is organised and equipped in a manner that aims to discourage potential threats and, when required, safeguard Chile's airspace and territorial sovereignty. The aforementioned objective is accomplished through the establishment of a reliable combat capability that possesses the ability to promptly and efficiently address any conceivable risks.

The air power doctrine of Chile places significant emphasis on the cruciality of versatility and flexibility in the execution of its operations. The fleet of aircraft possessed by the organisation has been specifically engineered to execute a diverse range of mission categories, encompassing air superiority, close air support, air reconnaissance, and humanitarian assistance. The FACh's ability

to fulfil multiple roles enables it to effectively address a wide array of circumstances, encompassing both armed conflicts and natural disasters. Moreover, the FACh prioritises the improvement of interoperability, aiming to enhance coordination and cooperation both internally and with its counterparts in the international community. This is evident in the prioritisation of collaborative operations with other branches of the Chilean armed forces, as well as its consistent engagement in international exercises, including those conducted with the United States and other neighbouring nations (Ejercito de Chile, 2015; Aranguiz, 2022). Innovation and the pursuit of ongoing improvement constitute a pivotal element within Chile's air power strategies. The FACh acknowledges the swift progress being achieved in the field of air power technologies and endeavours to remain in step with these developments. This is apparent in the continuous endeavours of the organisation to update its fleet and enhance the training and competencies of its personnel. As an illustration, the Chilean Air Force has made substantial investments in state-of-the-art flight simulators to augment pilot training and is currently in the midst of developing the Pillán II (Cleveland, 2022).

In general, the air power strategies, doctrines, and operational concepts of Chile are a reflection of its national defence priorities and the prevailing conditions of its geopolitical environment. The primary objective of their design is to guarantee the maintenance of the FACh as a formidable, adaptable, and nimble entity, possessing the capability to safeguard Chile's interests and actively contribute to the preservation of regional stability.

C. Analysis of Chile's defence investments and priorities in air power technologies and capabilities

Chile has consistently exhibited a steadfast dedication to upholding a contemporary and proficient air force, as evidenced by its unwavering defence expenditures throughout the years. The investments made have been driven by

a well-defined set of priorities with the objective of improving the operational capabilities of the FACh, modernising its fleet, and investing in human capital. One of the foremost domains of investment pertains to the acquisition and enhancement of combat aircraft. The procurement of F-16 Fighting Falcons from the United States has significantly enhanced the air defence and offensive capabilities of the FACh. The Chilean Air Force has also implemented substantial enhancements to these platforms in order to maintain their position at the forefront of technological progress. These enhancements include avionics upgrades and improvements to their weapon systems (Pizarro, 2012; Eberlein, 2023).

Concurrently, Chile has duly recognised the significance of logistics and support aircraft. The FACh has expanded its operational capacities through the allocation of resources towards the acquisition of transport aircraft, refuelling planes, and advanced helicopters. This strategic investment has enabled the FACh to effectively execute a wide array of missions, encompassing transportation, medical evacuation, and disaster response. The aforementioned assets have demonstrated immense value within the varied and frequently arduous topography of Chile, providing indispensable assistance in the face of natural calamities. As a matter of fact, Chile is currently investigating the possibility to purchase the Brazilian KC-390 Millenium, a transport aircraft which proved in recent years its capacity and efficiency (Avion Revue, 2022; Vinholes, 2023). Chile has made significant investments in the realm of training and the development of human capital. The Chilean Air Force acknowledges the crucial role of rigorous training in ensuring the operational efficiency and effectiveness of its air force. Consequently, substantial investments have been allocated towards the development and implementation of sophisticated flight simulators and other cutting-edge training technologies. Furthermore, the FACh consistently dispatches its personnel to engage in international exercises, training programmes, and biennally hosts the *Feria Internacional del Aire y del Espacio* (FIDAE) in order to refine their skills and

acquire invaluable experience (Petosky, 2009). Chile has recently embarked on investments in the field of UAVs. These platforms are widely acknowledged as a cost-effective method for enhancing operational capabilities, particularly in areas such as surveillance and reconnaissance. Although in its nascent stages, the drone programme of the FACh demonstrates a proclivity towards embracing novel technologies and operational strategies. The purchase of six Israeli Hermes 900 is a clear demonstration of the recent Chilean interest in UAVs (Dombe, 2015).

In essence, Chile's allocation of resources and strategic focus on air power exemplify its dedication to upholding a proficient and contemporary air force. The FACh endeavours to maintain its preparedness and capacity to fulfil the defence needs of the nation by adopting a comprehensive strategy that encompasses combat capabilities, logistics, training, and the integration of emerging technologies.

6.4 Examination of the US's Influence on Chile's Air Power Vision and Priorities

A. Analysis of the US's role in shaping Chile's air power vision and strategy

The United States has exerted a substantial influence on the development of Chile's air power vision and strategy, leveraging a range of political, military, and economic factors. From a political standpoint, the United States has established itself as a strategic ally of Chile, driven by a mutual pursuit of regional stability and security. The collaboration between the two entities has significantly influenced the formulation of Chile's air power strategy, placing great importance on the ability to work seamlessly with U.S. military forces and aligning objectives related to mutual security. The impact of the United States on Chile's strategic outlook is evident in Chile's dedication to upholding a contemporary, proficient, and technologically sophisticated air force, a trait frequently linked to the principles of U.S. air power doctrine.

The United States has exerted a significant influence on the advancement of Chile's air power through its direct involvement in military aid, arms trade, and collaborative training exercises. The acquisition of domestically produced aircraft from the United States, such as the F-16 Fighting Falcon, has not only bolstered the operational capabilities of the Chilean Air Force but has also required the adoption of U.S. operational doctrines and training procedures. Furthermore, the implementation of joint exercises and training initiatives has effectively facilitated the exchange of knowledge and expertise, thereby making a significant contribution to the professionalisation of the Chilean Air Force. Moreover, these endeavours have played a crucial role in fostering a collective comprehension of the application of air power.

The United States has exerted a notable influence on Chile's air power strategy from an economic standpoint, primarily due to its substantial involvement in the global defence industry. Chile's defence procurement strategies have been influenced by the availability of U.S. defence technology and the utilisation of financing mechanisms such as Foreign Military Sales. Furthermore, the influence of U.S. defence manufacturers' long-term sustainment and upgrade options has played a significant role in shaping Chile's choices pertaining to fleet modernization and the enhancement of its capabilities.

B. Examination of the influence of US defence industry and technological advancements on Chile's air power investments

The defence industry and technological advancements of the United States have exerted a substantial impact on Chile's investments in air power. The impact can be comprehended by examining the processes of procuring equipment, enhancing capabilities, and embracing novel technologies. The United States defence industry has served as a principal supplier of equipment for the Chilean Air Force. Chile has acquired a substantial quantity of its aircraft, along with associated technologies and systems, from the United States. This encompasses sophisticated multirole combat aircraft such as the F-

16 Fighting Falcon, transport aircrafts such as the C-130 Hercules, and an assortment of surveillance and reconnaissance equipment. The allocation of funds towards the procurement and maintenance of US-manufactured equipment has had a substantial impact on Chile's air power investments. Furthermore, the adoption of new technologies is also influenced by the US defence industry. Chile, being a partner nation, often enjoys early access to novel military technologies from the United States, thereby potentially gaining a substantial edge. An example of this can be seen in Chile's implementation of UAVs for the purpose of surveillance and reconnaissance, which aligns with a broader pattern observed in the United States and other technologically advanced armed forces.

C. Assessment of the impact of US military cooperation and shared objectives on Chile's air power priorities

The military collaboration between the United States and Chile, characterised by mutual goals, has significantly impacted Chile's prioritisation of air power. Several significant areas of influence can be identified, encompassing the development of capabilities, the promotion of interoperability, and the formulation of regional security strategies. The cooperative partnership with the United States has played a pivotal role in shaping Chile's strategic focus on capability development, particularly in the realm of air power. This collaboration has directed Chile's air power priorities towards the acquisition of cutting-edge capabilities and the enhancement of its Air Force's overall strength. The United States has frequently served as a provider of state-of-the-art aircraft, equipment, and technologies to Chile, thereby reinforcing its commitment to bolstering a proficient and contemporary air force. Furthermore, the United States has played a significant role in bolstering Chile's air power capabilities by offering essential training and educational opportunities to military personnel from Chile. The influence of US-Chile military cooperation on Chile's air power priorities is evident in the realm of

interoperability, which stands as a noteworthy domain. The requirement for Chile to align its air power capabilities and operational procedures with those of the United States has arisen due to the joint military exercises and operations. This has resulted in an emphasis on the acquisition of compatible equipment and the adoption of similar operational doctrines, thereby enabling more efficient joint operations and enhanced responses to common security challenges. Furthermore, the convergence of United States and Chilean shared goals pertaining to regional security has exerted influence on the formulation of Chile's air power agenda. Both nations have demonstrated a dedication to upholding regional stability within the Latin American context, thereby impacting the advancement and application of aerial capabilities.

It is noteworthy to acknowledge that although the United States' collaboration and mutual goals have exerted a substantial influence on Chile's air power priorities, Chile continues to uphold its own strategic interests and considerations. Hence, it strategically manages this association in a manner that aligns with its national defence strategy and regional security goals, thereby maintaining equilibrium between external influences and internal requirements.

7. Cross-Case Analysis

7.1 Comparison and contrast of the three case studies

The United States sustains a strong and diverse air power collaboration with Morocco, Chile, and Australia. These collaborative alliances, although unique in their respective circumstances, exhibit various similarities and disparities that exemplify the adaptable and versatile character of the United States' foreign and defence strategies.

Commencing with the commonalities, the three alliances are founded upon mutual security interests, geopolitical factors, and longstanding diplomatic ties. For example, the United States has frequently utilised these alliances to further shared defence objectives, offset potential risks, and foster stability in their respective geographical areas. Morocco, being a significant strategic partner in North Africa, plays a crucial role in ensuring the security of the Southern Mediterranean and Sahel regions. In a similar vein, Chile serves as a pivotal ally within the South American region, playing a significant role in upholding regional stability. While, Australia has been a steadfast ally since the Second World War, contributing to the enhancement of security dynamics in the Asia-Pacific region, which is gaining strategic significance over time. The United States has demonstrated active support for the modernization of the air forces in all three countries by implementing a range of measures, such as arms sales, technology transfers, joint exercises, and training programmes.

Notwithstanding these shared characteristics, the nature and extent of the United States collaboration in air power with each respective country are shaped by distinct sets of factors. The partnership in Morocco is predominantly influenced by the mutual interest in combating terrorism and safeguarding the stability of the North African region. The strategic positioning of Morocco renders it an indispensable partner in the management

of migration patterns and the counteraction of extremist factions. The partnership between Chile and the United States, on the other hand, is significantly shaped by their mutual dedication to safeguarding democratic principles and advancing security within the Western Hemisphere. The collaboration has additionally been influenced by Chile's aspiration to enhance its military capabilities and fortify its defence infrastructure. The partnership between the United States and Australia is distinguished by the latter's strategic significance in the Asia-Pacific region. The relevance of this partnership has been amplified due to the emergence of China, leading to a greater emphasis on interoperability, power projection, and the preservation of a rules-based global system.

7.2 Identification of common patterns and divergences in the US's influence on allied countries' air power policies

A. Identification and analysis of common trends and themes in the US's influence across the three case studies.

The impact of the United States on the air power strategies of Morocco, Chile, and Australia reveals consistent patterns and trends that highlight the operational approach of the United States in its military partnerships.

1. **Promotion of Interoperability**: A significant shared characteristic observed in the three case studies is the prioritisation of interoperability. The United States has consistently endeavoured to promote effective collaboration between its own military forces and those of its allies, employing various means such as joint exercises, training programmes, and technology transfer. The aforementioned trend not only signifies the US inclination towards effective coalition operations, but also its dedication to cultivating a cohesive security environment among its allied nations.

2. **Transfer of Advanced Technology**: A recurring topic that frequently arises is the transfer of sophisticated air power technology. The United States has played a role in enabling the transfer of advanced military aircraft and systems to all three nations. This phenomenon is observable in the fleet of each nation under analysis, as a significant proportion of the aircraft, helicopters, and equipment are manufactured by the United States or by a closely affiliated ally.

3. **Capacity Development and Training**: Throughout the three instances, the United States has consistently prioritised the enhancement of capabilities within its allied nations, offering comprehensive training programmes to bolster their air forces. The training programmes have not only improved the operational capabilities of the forces, but they have also cultivated a shared comprehension of doctrines, tactics, and procedures, consequently bolstering the efficacy of joint operations.

4. **Strategic Considerations**: The influence of the United States in each instance has been heavily shaped by strategic factors (see Par. 7.1).

5. **Diversification**: Ultimately, despite the significant influence of the United States, the three nations have managed to uphold a certain degree of diversification in their defence partnerships. These nations have pursued military equipment and collaborations with other powers, either as a result of regional security dynamics or to avoid excessive dependence on a single partner. This suggests that although the influence of the United States is substantial, it is not without limitations.

These themes provide significant insights into the dynamics of United States-allied relations in the development of air power, and contribute to a

comprehensive understanding of the strategies employed by the United States to shape the military capabilities of its allies.

B. Examination of divergent aspects of the US's influence and potential reasons for these divergences.

The impact of the United States on the development of air power capabilities and strategies in Morocco, Chile, and Australia demonstrates shared patterns as well as notable variations. The discrepancies observed can be ascribed to a multitude of factors, encompassing geopolitical considerations as well as the distinct defence requirements and capabilities of each collaborating country.

1. **Geopolitical Considerations**: The geopolitical circumstances of each nation exert an influence on the degree and character of US engagement. One example is the geographical proximity of Morocco to nations in North Africa and the Middle East that are close allies of the Russian Federation. This proximity may require a heightened focus on the development of swift response mechanisms and counter-terrorism capabilities. In contrast, Chile, situated in the comparatively more politically stable area of South America, may place a higher emphasis on enhancing its patrol and surveillance capabilities in order to safeguard its expansive coastline. Australia's strategic location within the Indo-Pacific region influences its emphasis on safeguarding its territory and engaging in wider regional security endeavours.

2. **National Defence Priorities**: The distinct defence requirements and capabilities of individual nations contribute to varying dimensions of U.S. influence. Australia's substantial allocation of resources towards the procurement of F-35 Joint Strike Fighters serves as a testament to its aspiration to uphold a technological advantage and its capacity to make substantial investments in sophisticated defence systems. In contrast, the air power strategies pursued by Morocco and Chile share a common objective of

modernization. However, these countries may adopt a more balanced approach by taking into account cost considerations and the necessity to effectively address a diverse range of security challenges.

3. **Domestic and Regional Politics**: Variations can also arise due to the domestic political environment and regional dynamics. The nature of the United States' involvement can be influenced by various factors, including the strength of bilateral relationships, historical contexts, public opinion, and regional alliances. The historical background of Chile and its geopolitical location in South America, a region known for its cautious attitude towards US involvement, could potentially impact the extent and nature of collaboration.

4. **Capability and Infrastructure**: Disparities may also arise due to variations in the prevailing military infrastructure and capabilities among these nations. The initial stage of collaboration between the United States and each nation is influenced by factors such as the state of their air power development, technical infrastructure, and human resources. These factors can have an impact on the speed and direction of their air power capabilities, resulting in variations in their developmental trajectory.

The aforementioned divergences serve to underscore the intricate and situation-dependent character of the United States' impact on the development of air power among its allied nations. The significance of taking into account the distinct circumstances and specific needs of each partner nation is emphasised in the examination of the United States' role and influence.

C. Analysis of the role of political, economic, and security factors in shaping these patterns and divergences.

The significance of political, economic, and security factors in influencing the observed patterns and variations among the case studies of Morocco, Chile,

and Australia should not be underestimated. The interplay of these elements contributes to shaping the parameters of the United States' impact on the advancement of air power in each respective nation.

1. **Political Factors**: The degree and character of U.S. influence in each partner nation are substantially influenced by bilateral relations and internal political dynamics. Various factors contribute to the dynamics of a partnership, such as the robustness of diplomatic relations, historical experiences, the presence of political determination for collaboration, and the degree of trust established between the involved nations. The government's internal political orientation, public sentiment regarding foreign military collaboration, and the level of political stability within the nation are all significant factors that exert influence.

2. **Economic factors** play a significant role in shaping the trajectory and magnitude of air power advancement. The economic capability of each partner nation plays a crucial role in determining the viability of significant acquisitions or the integration of advanced technologies. Furthermore, it influences their capacity to maintain enduring investments in air power capabilities, maintenance, training, and infrastructure. Furthermore, the economic interdependence between the United States and its partner nations can have an impact on the facilitation or restriction of defence cooperation.

3. **Security Considerations**: The U.S.'s role in shaping the air power strategies of other nations is significantly influenced by the nature of security threats they face. One example is the country of Morocco, which is geographically situated near domestically unstable countries. As a result, it is imperative for Morocco to possess the necessary capabilities to effectively combat asymmetric warfare and counter-terrorism. While the extensive

coastline and geopolitical stability of Chile suggest a prioritisation of territorial surveillance and disaster response efforts.

In brief, the intricate interaction of political, economic, and security elements plays a crucial role in moulding the shared trends and disparities witnessed in the United States' impact on the advancement of air power in Non-NATO allied nations. A crucial aspect in grasping the intricacies of international defence cooperation and its ramifications for the global air power landscape lies in comprehending this intricate interaction.

7.3 Implications for the US's Role in Shaping Global Air Power Landscape

A. Discussion of the findings' implications on the US's strategy and approach to fostering air power capabilities among its allies

The multifaceted implications of the findings have significant ramifications for the United States strategy and approach in promoting air power capabilities among its allies. This paper presents an analysis of several significant insights that have emerged from the discussion.

1. The impact of the United States on the air power capabilities of its allies is a multifaceted and heterogeneous phenomenon. The interconnection between the political, economic, and security contexts of each partner nation is profound. Therefore, it is imperative for U.S. strategies and approaches to acknowledge and address this intricate nature, adapting interactions to suit the specific circumstances and requirements of each nation.

2. Economic factors, encompassing the partner nations' capacity to fund advancements in air power and their economic ties with the United States, exert a significant influence. In order to address economic limitations while promoting air power capabilities, it may be necessary for the United States to

consider the exploration of novel financing mechanisms, collaborative development initiatives, and technology transfer programmes.

3. Internal and bilateral political dynamics can significantly shape the influence of the United States. It is imperative for the United States to adopt a nuanced and adaptable strategy in response to these dynamics, duly considering factors such as public sentiment, political stability, diplomatic ties, and past encounters with international military collaboration.

4. It is imperative for the United States to synchronise its strategic approach with the security requirements and challenges faced by each partner nation. Acknowledging that the fundamental objective of air power capabilities is to effectively address distinct security challenges can ensure that the United States' approach is in harmony with the strategic goals of its allies.

5. In order to maintain successful partnerships, it is imperative for the United States to cultivate an atmosphere characterised by transparency and the promotion of mutual advantages. Emphasising common goals, the advantages of interoperability, and the benefits of policy coordination can enhance alliances and bolster the United States' influence.

In conclusion, the results underscore the necessity of employing a sophisticated, flexible, and situation-dependent strategy in order to cultivate air power capabilities among United States' partner nations. This approach has the potential to augment the efficacy of the United States' strategy and its influence in shaping the global air power landscape.

B. Examination of how the US's influence might evolve in response to changing geopolitical dynamics and advancements in air power technologies

In order to comprehensively analyse the potential evolution of US influence in light of shifting geopolitical dynamics and advancements in air power technologies, it is imperative to consider a multitude of factors.

1. **Geopolitical Dynamics**: In a progressively multipolar global landscape, the United States is anticipated to encounter obstacles arising from rival powers such as China and Russia. The endeavours to establish strategic alliances and offer military assistance to nations have the potential to reshape the dynamics of influence. The United States may need to reevaluate its partnerships, placing greater emphasis on nations where strategic competition is more prominent. Conversely, it may be necessary for the entity to develop strategies in order to sustain its influence within nations that are subject to the interests of rival powers. The need to reassess and adjust the United States' approach may arise due to the evolving landscape of security threats, such as the emergence of non-state actors and the changing dynamics within conflict regions.

2. **Advancements in the Field of Air Power Technologies**: The emergence of advanced technologies such as AI, UAVs, hypersonic missiles, and space-based systems has led to a transformation in the characteristics and dynamics of air power. The United States, as a prominent global leader in technological advancements, possesses the capacity to influence the air power capabilities of its allies through the sharing of technology, engagement in joint development programmes, and the cultivation of technical knowledge. Nevertheless, it is imperative to acknowledge and confront the obstacles presented by these progressions, such as the escalating susceptibility to cyber intrusions, the ethical considerations surrounding autonomous weaponry, and the potential for widespread dissemination of sophisticated technology. The strategic approach should encompass not only the widespread distribution of cutting-

edge technology but also the establishment of resilient protective measures and ethical frameworks.

3. **Prospective Military Collaboration**: The dynamics of military collaboration could potentially undergo a transformation in tandem with the evolving nature of warfare. Given the increasing emphasis on joint operations, interoperability, and collective security, it may be necessary for the United States to prioritise exercises that foster cooperation within a multi-domain operational framework. As the importance of operations in space and cyberspace continues to grow, it is imperative for the United States to incorporate these domains into its collaborative endeavours.

8. Conclusion

8.1 Overview of Key Findings

This dissertation aimed to examine the influence exerted by the United States on the development of air power capabilities in its allied nations, with a specific focus on Morocco, Chile, and Australia. The research findings have unveiled intriguing patterns, which are both shared and distinct, within the context of these three disparate case studies.

The air power development in Morocco has been observed to be notably shaped by political factors, with a particular emphasis on the country's colonial past and subsequent strategic alliances. The United States has played a substantial role in the advancement of Morocco's air power, primarily through the establishment of defence cooperation agreements and the execution of joint military exercises. The study additionally uncovered that Morocco's defence policies and regional security dynamics have been significantly influenced by its collaboration with the United States.

The examination of Chile yielded a comparable, albeit unique, storyline. The development of Chile's air power was intricately linked to its distinctive political history and defence policies. The US influence has played a significant role in shaping Chile's air power strategy, primarily through the establishment of defence cooperation agreements, participation in joint military exercises, and the pursuit of shared objectives.

The Australian case presented a more complex depiction as a result of its geopolitical positioning and highly developed defence sector. The partnership between the United States and Australia in the realm of air power has a significant historical foundation, characterised by a history of common strategic goals and synchronised policies. The analysis conducted highlights

the substantial impact that this partnership has had on the development and prioritisation of Australia's air power.

The comparative cross-case analysis additionally demonstrated the extensive impact of the United States on the air power capabilities of allied nations. Notwithstanding the distinct historical, political, and security contexts, the United States' influence on shaping the air power vision and priorities of each country remained substantial. Significantly, it has been observed that the influence of the US extends beyond military cooperation and encompasses various dimensions, including technology transfer, joint development programmes, and policy coordination.

8.2 Key Findings Emphasised

The research conducted has revealed a number of significant findings. It has been observed that the United States exerts a discernible impact on the air power policies of allied nations, namely Morocco, Chile, and Australia. This influence persists despite the distinct historical and political dynamics that characterise each of these countries. The impact of this influence spans across various stages, including strategic planning and doctrine formulation, as well as the practical implementation and technological dimensions of air power.

Furthermore, our research reveals that defence cooperation agreements and joint exercises conducted between the United States and these nations have a substantial impact on the development of their air power capabilities and strategic approaches. This phenomenon is evident not solely in the transmission of technology and equipment, but also in the establishment of interoperability, joint readiness, and the attainment of shared objectives facilitated by these collaborative alliances.

Thirdly, our research findings indicate that despite the variations in air power capabilities, strategies, and investments among these nations, there is a prevailing tendency to align with the strategic interests of the United States. This discovery highlights the United States' significance as a pivotal participant in influencing the dynamics of global air power.

Finally, it was determined that geopolitical and security factors have a significant impact on the United States' ability to shape the air power policies of its allies. The impact of this influence is particularly significant in light of the evolving global dynamics and advancements in air power technologies.

The aforementioned findings present a significant scholarly contribution towards comprehending the United States' influence on the development of air power capabilities among its allied nations.

8.3 Implications and Recommendations for Future Research

The implications of the research findings hold substantial significance, particularly for policymakers and strategists in the United States and allied nations. Gaining insight into the impact of the United States on the air power policies of its allied nations can contribute to the formulation of future collaborations, cooperative arrangements, and joint military manoeuvres. The comprehension of this concept is equally vital when formulating policies that can effectively address the evolving geopolitical dynamics and technological advancements within the domain of air power.

This study primarily examined case studies from Morocco, Chile, and Australia. However, it is recommended that future research endeavours consider broadening the geographical scope to encompass additional regions or countries. Likewise, a thorough analysis of the impact exerted by major powers on the air power policies of their allies could provide a more

comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of global air power. In addition, it is imperative to conduct continuous research in order to stay abreast of the evolving air power landscape, as technological advancements continue to reshape this domain. Subsequent research endeavours may delve into the ramifications of nascent technological advancements, such as artificial intelligence and unmanned aerial vehicles, on the formulation and execution of air power strategies, as well as the United States' role in shaping these dynamics.

In conclusion, considering that our study predominantly utilised document analysis, it is recommended that future research consider incorporating alternative or supplementary methodologies, such as interviews or field observations, in order to offer more comprehensive and profound insights. This study provides opportunities for further investigation and contributes to the ongoing discourse surrounding a significant and dynamic aspect of international relations and global security.

8.4 Final Thoughts

While our investigation has involved extensive exploration of this subject matter, it is important to acknowledge that our study is limited in scope and only offers a partial understanding of the larger context. Every case study exemplifies a distinct convergence of historical, political, and regional dynamics that undergo constant evolution throughout the course of time. Hence, it is imperative to perceive this study as a contribution to the continuous dialogue surrounding the United States' impact on worldwide air power. Moreover, it is imperative to reiterate that the outcomes and discoveries elucidated in this research could be significantly influenced by confidential and publicly inaccessible documents.

In summary, this dissertation has offered significant contributions to the understanding of the complex interplay between international relations, military collaboration, and geopolitical manoeuvring. The study has provided insights into the United States' involvement in shaping the air power strategies of Morocco, Chile, and Australia, uncovering a complex interaction of influence and shared interests. However, as is frequently observed in the domain of international politics, each response has also generated additional inquiries, emphasising the imperative of ongoing research and comprehension.

The evolving global landscape will inevitably lead to changes in the influence of the United States and the responses of its allies. This research aspires to establish a basis for future scholarly pursuits and policy deliberations, thereby enhancing a comprehensive and comprehensive comprehension of the worldwide air power environment.

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