



Evaluating the Potential of Cultural Diplomacy as "A Weapon of Enduring Peace in the Gulf Region"

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ABSTRACT

Diplomacy, as a tool to further the state's interests, has endless possibilities; it has a reason in all facets of the state because it works without the fear of failure. Diplomacy has a role in every domain of the state: external relations, governance, commerce and trade, economic development, lawfare, culture, and sports. Diplomacy can make things happen, because it may start from an impossible objective, but remains operative until it has made it possible or at least probable. Cultural diplomacy may effectively promote a country's soft image if deployed intelligently and passionately. Because, it is one of the oldest methods of diplomacy, where every citizen is a diplomat when he/she interacts with people of other cultures. Since ancient times, traders, travelers, students, and nomads, were inherently the ambassadors of the state. Cultural diplomacy has a wide canvas and hence is an effective communicator. From cuisines to dresses, language to rituals, tourism to trade, and music to dramas. Through effective cultural diplomacy, one can enter into the hearts and minds of the people beyond borders. It has a popular appeal among the people within and without. The colonial masters during the period of colonialism effectively promoted their culture, sometimes under the banner of cultural diplomacy, and at times through the use of force. In contemporary times, each of the Gulf states is effectively exploiting its cultural strengths to attract tourism, investment, and residents. While KSA is thriving on its ideological culture, Qatar is prevalent as a regional hub of sports. UAE is successfully interpolating modernity, and Oman is making the best use of its topographical advantage to promote its culture. This paper aims to highlight the significance of cultural diplomacy as a soft power and evaluate its potential as a weapon of enduring peace and stability in the Gulf sub-region of otherwise conflict-ridden Middle East. To maintain originality and objectivity, inductive reasoning with qualitative analysis is deployed in this research. Additionally, a new strategic appraisal tool 1 SIMPLE has been developed especially for this paper.

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1. Introduction

The topic is challenging for the reason that both culture and diplomacy are considered part of the soft power, whereas a weapon denotes the attributes of the hard power. However, this author intends to suggest that the strengths of cultural diplomacy may be employed so vigorously that they act as a deterring weapon against the perpetrators of unrest and instability for enduring peace and stability in the Gulf region. Therefore, each terminology used in the title will first be explained as an independent enabler and subsequently its synergetic employment as the driver for the enduring peace and stability in the Gulf region. The central argument is that the commonalities in culture in the Gulf region can best be utilized to diplomatically resolve the evolving security issues instead of letting the dispute

become a bone of contention and calling for the deployment of hybrid warfare elements among the brotherly nations. The blockade of Qatar in 2017 by the KSA-led quartet was an unfortunate situation that could have been avoided through cultural diplomacy alone. The cultural commonalities among the Gulf nations have a very strong appeal for the people of each of the member of the GCC and draws its strength from shared ideology, values, and age-old traditions. The norms of a Muslim society, and perhaps most importantly the historical linkages add value to these existing commonalities among the people of the Gulf states. It is for this reason that the people-to-people relationship among the GCC nations is extremely cordial and gives strength to this author's assertions that cultural diplomacy can act as a binding force and may be deployed as a weapon for peace and stability within the region and beyond.

1.1. Significance of the Study

The Gulf as a subregion of the Middle East remains vulnerable to politico-military instability both by other states and Non-State Actors (NSA) in multiple domains: from sectarian conflicts to extremism, and terrorism to hybrid warfare within the region and by extra-regional players. Therefore, the hydrocarbon-rich Gulf states need to put in place the mechanisms that can ensure peace and stability in the region. While the deterrence regime though the projection of hard power may not be efficacious for the relatively smaller states of the region, particularly Kuwait, Bahrain, and Qatar, therefore, a synergetic employment of soft power may be more appropriate and more assuring deterrent for peace, stability and security of the Gulf region.

2. Research Methodology

Given a challenging subject, a combination of constructivism, culture, diplomacy, and security theories will be deployed through inductive reasoning and qualitative analysis. Moreover, an analysis based on the securitization of cultures with the potential to act as a weapon of peace will be carried out in historical context as well as contemporary times. Also, to highlight the significance of cultural diplomacy as a beacon of hope to minimize the probability of war, a new model of analysis: 2 SIMPLE (Society and Security, Ideology and Information, Money, and Military, People and Perception, Legal and Leadership, and Economy and Energy) has been developed by this author. The 2 SIMPLE model has been developed especially for this paper because it addresses nearly all the elements that need to be analyzed to prove the efficacy of cultural diplomacy as an effective weapon for peace and stability in the region and beyond. For instance, to determine the effectiveness of culture, societal behavior must be analyzed through the lens of security. Likewise, ideology plays an important role in shaping society and the revolution in information has given the entire debate a new dimension that needs to be analyzed. Since the idea is to use cultural diplomacy as a weapon of peace, therefore, money available for the military and its potential employment as a deterrent must be evaluated. The people and perception are another important avenue that needs to be dealt with in little detail to determine how are the people viewed by others within the region and beyond. The laws of each country and the leadership will play a significant role in dealing with other nations, and likewise how the economy which is dependent on hydrocarbons may be deployed to convince the adversary to resolve the disputes peacefully instead of using kinetic means. While 2 SIMPLE provides adequate avenues to analyze the efficacy of cultural diplomacy as a weapon of peace within the region and beyond, it may have certain limitations. For instance, it may not provide a complete picture of its application by the respective state in a specific situation. Therefore, it is necessary that the model is used to build awareness and lay emphasis on its potential as a weapon of peace and stability in the region and beyond.

3. Literature Review

The available literature mainly deals with the cultural linkages of the regional states with common religions and values since ancient times. While culture has not been referred to as a weapon of enduring peace in the available literature, therefore, it is expected that the phrase will catch the attention of academics as well as practitioners, and generate a discussion to fill the gap in the literature. However, the available literature on cultural diplomacy proved efficacious in determining the significance and utility of the phrase in the domain of wars and conflict at the strategic level.

4. Theoretical Precepts

The theoretical precepts related to culture and diplomacy are based on inductive reasoning to deploy it as a weapon of peace through the lens of enormous commonalities in culture among the Gulf states. Unlike realism and liberalism, constructivism laid more emphasis on the people and ideas in their interactions with international relations. It was argued that "state behavior is shaped by elite beliefs, identities, and social norms.... State and national interests are the result of the social identities of these actors (Walt, 1980). Constructivists argue that "Anarchy is what states make of it (Wendt, 1992). That is, anarchy is a condition of the system of states because states in some sense 'choose' to make it so. Anarchy is not an inherent fact of state-to-state relations. The constructivists are of the view that the anarchic nature of the system of states can be changed. Constructivists opine that states may have their identity and interests, but they must also share the ideas, beliefs, and cultural beings of the people they are representing (Ruggie, 1998). This author is also of the view that avenues of peace and security must be explored by other available means like culture and diplomacy, instead of wars and conflicts.

One of the main avenues of non-kinetic strength within the Gulf states could be its common culture, and the most captivating definitions of culture by early writers of the 19th Century states that "The complex whole that includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, customs, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society (Edward Burnett Tylor, 1871). However, culture has been defined differently also, "All that in human society socially rather than biologically transmitted (Sourabh Yadav quoted Scott, 2014). Another definition of culture suggests that "a society's shared and socially transmitted ideas, values and perceptions, which are used to make sense of experience and generate behavior and are reflected in that behavior (12/3/2019 Chapter 8, 2023). On the other hand, "Diplomacy is the art, the science, and how nations, groups, or individuals conduct their affairs, in ways to safeguard their interests and promote their political, economic, cultural or scientific relations, while maintaining peaceful relationships (What is Diplomacy?). The key functions of diplomacy remain the protection and promotion of the national interests of the state. While all citizens and residents are the representatives of the state, formally its diplomatic corps is entrusted to perform this function mainly through negotiations at bilateral and multilateral forums.

4.1. Elements of Culture

Everything that has anything to do with people of shared values, religious beliefs, history, norms, symbols, cuisine, dresses, and language, forms the basic elements of culture. Whereas, artifacts, rituals, work ethics, perceptions, perspectives, art, and literature, could form part of sub-cultures as well. Likewise, the form of government, social organization, traditions, economic system, attitudes, heroes, stories, behaviors, education, aesthetics, architecture, folklore, morals, customs, laws, and cultural pride, may also differ a little but will be reflective of a larger picture of the society. These elements may serve as a binding force between different communities living particularly in a tribal society. Culture is the most ancient norm of society and has been instrumental in shaping societies, since the time immemorial. Cultural norms existed well before the contemporary religions stormed the societies, and people started to adapt to Abrahamic religions. Culture, often referred to as the soft power of the state, has the strongest appeal to the people within, and people without.

4.2. Elements of Diplomacy

Ten principles of operational diplomacy as proposed by American diplomacy include "National Interest, Credibility, Clarity, Comprehensiveness, Understanding, Perceptiveness, Circumspection, Confidence-building, Decisiveness, and Perseverance (Paul Kreutzer, 2014). However, to make it more assertive, eight attributes of a diplomat were also added. That included "A remover of obstacles, An achiever of objectives, An effective cross-cultural communicator, A reliable representative, A proactive learner, An illuminating analyst, A principled decision-maker, A positive team-builder (Ibid). Hans Morgenthau, sometimes referred to as the Father of Modern Diplomacy, emphasized establishing peace in the world. He defined diplomacy as "the way of conducting good negotiations with the nation-state with peace. The purpose of diplomacy is to execute the foreign policy of the sending state in the host country and to foster order and peace in an anarchic world. And functions of diplomacy are communication, negotiation, intelligence gathering, image management, and policy implementation (Morgenthau, 1948). Diplomacy has been a hallmark of the tribal society that

existed in ancient times in this region. There existed several security issues for the trade convoys that would go through the deserts of the Arabian Peninsula to the Levant region, and hence these issues were always resolved through bold diplomacy. The intelligent display of culture not only helps in communicating positively with other cultures but also enables others to understand the values and norms of one's culture. The societies have vanished in history that did not protect and promote their culture to other societies and cultures.

4.3. Cultural Diplomacy

The two concepts: culture and diplomacy are intricately linked with each other because culture can act as the enabler and diplomacy can drive the process of peace and stability, particularly in the Gulf region. According to the Institute of Cultural Diplomacy, "Cultural Diplomacy may best be described as a course of actions, which are based on and utilize the exchange of ideas, values, traditions and other aspects of culture or identity, whether to strengthen relationships, enhance socio-cultural cooperation, promote national interests and beyond; Cultural diplomacy can be practiced by either the public sector, private sector or civil society (diplomacy). Cultural diplomacy is an essential element of a country's soft power that is vital in the protection and promotion of one's national interests. Cultural diplomacy is an inherent element in developing the understanding of other cultures, without which societies do not get a welcoming entrance among the comity of nations. Moreover, with the revolution in information technology, particularly social media, the avenues to deploy cultural diplomacy have become manifolds. However, it is acting as a double-edged sword: effective as well destructive. Cultural diplomacy aims to protect and promote societal norms, and practices, within and without. The major components of cultural diplomacy range from ideology to rituals, dresses to cuisine, and language to other communication means. While children's education may be started practically at schools, their training and grooming of their culture start at home at a very early age. The Middle East is a blessed region with all shades of cultural components. It is home to all Abrahamic religions and holds the monopoly on sacred religious sites of the three most popular religions: Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. The spread of Abrahamic religions was only possible through cultural diplomacy where the newly converted traders would impress the people of different religions through their conduct in the business dealings. The storytelling and the poetry had been an avenue that would attract people from other regions to Arab culture. Within the Middle East, the Gulf sub-region is perhaps the most blessed region as it is home to the world's second most popular religion, Islam. The largest Gulf state, Saudi Arabia hosts millions of Muslims all over the world for the pilgrimage around the years who visit the two most sacred Islamic Masjids in Mecca and Madinah.

In contemporary times, nearly all the countries of the regions that are rich in history, use cultural diplomacy to attract people across the globe for tourism, particularly religious and historical tourism. Of late, the countries have concentrated on organizing mega sports events to project their cultures as soft power. Qatar has done it successfully through FIFA-2022, which has been declared the best Football World Cup in the game's history. Qatar made full use of the event and displayed its culture of peace, hospitality, and the religious teachings of Islam. Similarly, KSA undertakes cultural diplomacy and exhibits its culture to invite Muslims across the globe to visit the Holy sites, which are developed and maintained with state-of-the-art facilities, yet reflecting the historical sanctity. Several historical museums have come up near the Holy Mosques to display the history and culture since ancient times.

4.4. The Gulf Sub-region of the Middle East

Within the Middle East, the Gulf sub-region stands out as a unique package of six states under the banner of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The Gulf sub-region is comprised of six independent and sovereign states covering an area of 2.57 million square km, and a population of nearly sixty million. However, the geographic distribution of the land is interestingly very different. Saudi Arabia alone covers an area of 2.15 million square km, which is a little over 80 percent of the entire landmass of the Arabian Peninsula. The next largest state is Oman which covers an area of 310,000 square km, while UAE is comprised of some 84,000 square km. This leaves only 30,778 square km which is shared by three tiny states of Kuwait (18,000 square km), Qatar (12,000 square km), and Bahrain (778 square km) (Member States of GCC: Gulf Cooperation Council). Likewise, the population distribution also heavily favors Saudi Arabia with 36.41 million which is a little over 60 percent of the

entire GCC population. UAE is placed second in terms of population with 9.44 million, primarily due to its overwhelming expatriate population. Oman's population rests at 4.58 million, whereas Kuwait is at 4.27 million, Qatar is at 2.70 million, and Bahrain only has a population of 1.47 million (Ibid).

4.5. Commonalities of Cultural Heritage among the Gulf States

There is no other region or even a sub-region where so many cultural commonalities exist. The majority of the primary and secondary elements of the culture and sub-culture defined above exist in all six Gulf states. Perhaps the most common and binding element of culture among the Gulf nations is the language. Arabic is the official language of all the six states, and it is spoken and understood by all the citizens of these states. Interestingly the demographic makeup of all the Gulf states is comprised of citizens and foreign workers commonly referred to as temporary residents, because they may never get the citizenship of the host countries even if they have lived there for decades. Therefore, the language and the religion of the citizens in all the Gulf states is nearly ninety-nine percent, however, this may differ with the inclusion of the temporary residents in the total population figures. The next element of culture that binds the people of the Gulf states is the common religion. Again, if the religion figures are evaluated based on citizenry then Islam would stand at more than ninety percent in the majority of the states. However, if the religion of the residents is also considered then the figure would range between sixty-five percent in Qatar to ninety-five percent in Oman in favor of Islam. The practice of Islamic values norms, practices, rituals, traditions, dresses, cuisine, and most importantly the historical linkages add value to the commonalities among the people of the Gulf states. Moreover, the governance system of the Gulf states is also similar in nature even if the character is a little different. Whether it is referred to as the monarchy or the Emiri, Presidentship, or the Sultanate, in essence, it is comprised of the family rule. Interestingly, the citizens are comfortable rather heavily favor this kind of governance, and the temporary residents do not have much choice.

Among other elements of cultures that are common and bring people of the Gulf states closer is religious tourism. People from all over the world travel to Saudi Arabia to perform pilgrimage each year, and since the citizens and residents are widely facilitated for these visits, it helps in people-to-people contact between them and strengthens the brotherly bonds between them. All of these aspects of cultural linkages greatly help in promoting and protecting the interests of the Gulf states by giving leverage to cultural diplomacy within and beyond the Gulf region.

4.6. Analyzing Cultural Diplomacy: 2 SIMPLE

To determine the efficacy of cultural diplomacy as a beacon for enduring peace, a new model has been developed for this research, which will help at different levels of analysis in the following domains: Society and Security, Ideology and Information, Money and Military, People and Perception, Legal and Leadership, and Economy and Energy. An effort has been made to analyze the potential of cultural diplomacy briefly on this newly developed strategic appraisal model.

4.7. Society and Security

The Gulf sub-region is comprised of a tribal Arab society that draws its uniqueness from its cultural commonalities. While society remains conservative at large, it has successfully transformed to be acceptable as more absorbent and tolerant. Nearly all the six states of GCC have now developed state-of-the-art infrastructure, across the sub-region, which has greatly helped in trade and travel within and outside the region. The traditional Arab society was extremely security conscious and remains so due to its uncertain regional security environment. Nearly all the six GCC states have developed a robust security architecture in concert with the major world powers by spending huge sums of money available due to hydrocarbon exports. The defense of critical infrastructure is extremely crucial for all the oil and gas exporting nations for economic reasons more than existential compulsions. Most states in GCC rely upon the support of US-led allies for arms, equipment, and training of their armed forces.

Moreover, regime security is also one of the factors that compels the GCC states to look toward the US-led West. Since most states have similar kinds of governance systems where the elections are not held and the family dynasties rule the country, regime security

becomes all the more important. The same was witnessed in Kuwait during the Iraq invasion in August 1991. The ruling elite fled the country no sooner than the invasion started and returned to rule again as soon as US-led allies pushed the Iraqi forces out of Kuwait's territory. This particular was well understood by all the states and therefore other states pay due respect to the ruling families given traditional culture. However, only one violation was observed in the last many decades when Qatar accused KSA and UAE of their role in overthrowing the Qatari Emir during the period of blockade during 2017-2020. Qatar's Defence Minister Attiyah categorically stated in his post-blockade interview that "They tried to provoke the tribes. They used mosques against us. Then they tried to get some puppets to bring in and replace our leaders (Lally Weymouth, 2023). However, the relationship has assumed earlier sentiments once the blockade was finally lifted in December 2020, however, Qatar has placed some preventive mechanisms in place by signing a bilateral military framework agreement with Turkiye, to protect its territorial integrity and sovereignty (Zafer Fatih Beyaz, 2023). Interestingly, the ruling families of the GCC countries remain very popular among their citizens even after prolonged rule, primarily due to their contributions to the progress and development of the individual states.

4.8. Ideology and Information

The common religious ideology alone may not be able to bind modern states into a coherent force but plays a significant role in bringing the people together even if the ruling elite does not consider it to be a binding force. The same could be seen in peoples' reaction to Israeli brutalities against the women and children of Gaza in response to the October 7, 2023 Hamas actions. The religious ideologies, if employed in unison, can be an extremely useful diplomatic tool in putting pressure on the US and Israel to desist from the genocide of the Palestinian people, particularly the mass murders of the noncombatants including women and children. Since the GCC countries are technology-friendly as far as its use is concerned, the society has absorbed the developments in the domains of information technology. However, in the domain of freedom of speech and expression, either on social media, print, and electronic media or even in educational institutions, a lot more reforms may be needed. Most of the GCC states that are following a long-term development plan based on the renewed vision, have kept technology as a priority in their plans. The use as well development of technology parks and their employment in all walks of life are the cornerstones of Saudi Arabia and Qatar Vision Documents. UAE has been doing so for a long time now and Oman has also embarked upon the deployment of technological tools in its education, museums, and tourism sectors.

4.9. Money and Military

The Gulf sub-region is comprised of six independent and sovereign states with widely different geographical and population sizes. Saudi Arabia dominates to Arabian Peninsula in terms of area, population, and military strength. However, other relatively smaller states may carry a different worldview on defense and security, perhaps due to economic interests. For instance, UAE and Bahrain have recognized Israel but Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, and Kuwait have not yet established bilateral relations with Israel. The military budget of the GCC countries is fairly high to meet the demand for the security of the respective states. Nearly all states operate Western equipment and have state-of-the-art arms and equipment in their inventories. The training of the military personnel is also conducted by foreign experts from all over the world. The GCC countries have not faced an extra-regional threat to their existence since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1991, or an imminent threat of land invasion from Saudi Arab on Qatar in the morning of June 5, 2017, once the KSA-led quartet (KSA, UAE, Bahrain, and Egypt) imposed a blockade of the much smaller peninsular state. However, Saudi Arabia and UAE have been under rocket and missile attacks during the Yemen War between 2014-2023. All the Gulf states regularly undertake military exercises with the regional and extra-regional militaries to improve interoperability and training on modern military hardware. Moreover, the Gulf states heavily rely on military cooperation and alliances for the perpetual security threats due to the uncertain security environment and the strategic interests of the global stakeholders in the region.

4.10. People and Perception

The indigenous population of GCC countries is overwhelmed by the influx of much-needed foreign skilled and unskilled workers required for the infrastructure development of nearly all the states. "In 2020, Qatar had the highest share of non-national employees among

the Gulf Cooperation Council countries with a share of 95 percent. While Saudi Arabia had the highest share of national employees with a share of 24 percent (Amna Puri-Mirza, 2022). The highest-ever Qatar figure reflects the desire of the country to complete the required infrastructure to host the mega event of FIFA-2020 and that too during the period of blockade. Despite hosting the majority of foreign workers, the indigenous people have full control over them and get the job done for the money they pay. The occasional reports of the mistreatment of foreign workers keep appearing in the media but the work environment has considerably improved over time along with the wages. Perhaps this is one reason that people do not want to leave their respective countries and willingly make a worthwhile contribution to the development of the GCC states. This diverse gathering from all over the world contributes to the strengths of cultural diplomacy among the GCC states. For instance, Saudi Arabia is the largest source of foreign remittance to Bangladesh, with UAE, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, and Kuwait as the major contributors. Likewise, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Egypt, and other countries receive invaluable remittances from the GCC states. This gives significant political, and cultural leverage to Gulf states on a reciprocal basis, over the recipient states. These foreign nationals act as cultural ambassadors and build the perception of the state where they earn their living. They quickly learn their language and culture to fully absorb Arab society. During the blockade of Qatar between 2017-2020, the foreign workers did not leave the country for fear of their life and property and continued to make significant contributions to the preparations for FIFA-2020. There is no denying that Arab society is largely perceived as conservative and fundamentalist by the Western world, however, things have changed over time. Trade and travel have greatly helped people understand Arab culture. The promotion of sports, trade fares, air shows, and expos that are regularly organized by the GCC countries has helped improve their perception. The aviation sector has played a key role in the process. Some of the world's best airlines and airports are located in the GCC. The airports of Doha, Dubai, and Riyadh are perhaps the best in the world. Likewise, Qatar Airways, Emirates, and Etihad are giving tough competition to the older airlines. All these developments in the past three decades have greatly improved the perception of GCC countries as progressive and wanted states.

4.11. Legal and Leadership

The legal system of the GCC takes inspiration from Islamic laws and serves as a deterrent to the millions of foreign workers from committing even a petty crime. Nearly all the GCC states are rated very high on the safety and security indices primarily due to the implementation of civil laws. However, at times, GCC states come under heavy criticism concerning human rights, women's rights, and labor rights organizations, but the same is addressed sooner than later if and when a valid observation is made. The leadership in all the GCC states is popular and perhaps this was one reason that the Arab Spring of early 2010 did not have any significant impact in the sub-region. Moreover, the relatively young leadership of Saudi Arabia and Qatar is leading the sub-region to modernity, yet conserving the traditional cultural heritage, which is to be employed as a diplomatic tool for enduring peace in the region and beyond.

4.12. Economy and Energy

The economy of the majority of Gulf states is heavily reliant on the income of hydrocarbons. However, of late, there has been a greater effort on the part of Saudi Arabia and UAE to diversify their economic resources and concentrate on attracting foreign investments in tourism, infrastructure development, information technology, aviation, and services. Kuwait is also following closely to reduce its reliance on oil. Qatar, one of the largest exporters of liquefied natural gas (LNG) is fast moving to invest in ports and shipping, aviation, sports, education, media, telecommunication, agriculture, and hospitality sectors. Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 has opened the doors for foreign investments in diverse sectors: health, education, environment, infrastructure development, and religious and historical tourism. The pillars of Qatar's Vision 2030 rest on modernizing the state while preserving its values and heritage, fulfilling the aspirations of the people now and in the future, maintaining the quality of foreign workers, growing the economy with investments in the social sector to directly benefit the people, and ensure mitigation of climate change (Qatar National Vision 2030). The UAE does not have large reserves of hydrocarbons; therefore, it has already diversified its economy by going into global trades, services, media, education, health, tourism, sports, aviation, ports and shipping, organization of expos, airshows, etc. A brief overview of cultural commonalities is placed in 'Appendix A.'

5. Conclusion

Cultural diplomacy has a very wide canvas and hence acts as an effective communicator. From cuisines to dresses, language to rituals, tourism to trade, music to dramas; within effective cultural diplomacy, one can enter into the hearts and minds of the people. It has very popular appeal among the people within and without. This author thinks that if the respective leadership of Gulf sub-region states adopts an approach of productive engagement making optimum use of cultural diplomacy, they would be able to employ it as a weapon for enduring peace and stability in the region and beyond. All these leaders are fairly progressive and making their states more affable for the outside world through prudent policies in the domain of technology, trade, and tourism, the probability of maintaining and sustaining enduring peace and stability will improve manifolds. Perhaps, it is necessary that the proposal of deploying cultural diplomacy as a potential weapon for peace and stability in the Gulf region is debated and more research is conducted on similar subjects to avoid the next conflict and war in the region.

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Appendix 'A'

2 SIMPLE Model by this Author

Category	Saudi Arabia (KSA)	United Arab Emirates (UAE)	Oman	Kuwait	Qatar	Bahrain
Society	Islamic	Islamic	Islamic	Islamic	Islamic	Islamic
Security	High	High	High	High	High	High
Ideology	Islam	Islam	Islam	Islam	Islam	Islam
Information	Limited	Liberal	Liberal	Limited	Liberal	Limited
Money	Rich	Medium	Medium	Rich	Rich	Medium
People	Conservative	Liberal	Liberal	Conservative	Liberal	Conservative
Perception	Negative	Positive	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative
Military	Strong	Strong	Medium	Small	Small	Very Small
Legal	Islamic	Islamic	Islamic	Islamic	Islamic	Islamic
Leadership	Kingdom	President	Sultanate	Kingdom	Emir	Emir
Economy	Oil	Diverse	Diverse	Oil	Gas	Diverse
Energy	Rich	Medium	Medium	Rich	Rich	Medium