

**PEACE DIPLOMACY IN OMAN FOREIGN
POLICY DURING THE REIGN OF SULTAN
QABOOS BIN SAID (1970-2020)**

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QABOOS BIN SAID (1970-2020)**

by

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Albu Said	Omani ruling tribe (1744–day)
Dar Al-Ahd	Zone of peace and peaceful treaties
Dar al-Harb	A zone of wars and conflict
Dar al-Islam	Muslim countries and their possession
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
Ibadi	The Ibadi sect is one of the oldest Islamic schools of thought and is known for its moderate approach and focus on tolerance and dialogue
Land of Hijaz	The Hijaz region extends along the Red Sea coast in the western part of the Arabian Peninsula.
Peace	Stability and prosperity
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Ya'ariba	Omani ruler Kabila (1624-1744)

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**DIPLOMASI KEAMANAN DALAM DASAR LUAR OMAN KETIKA
PEMERINTAHAN SULTAN QABOOS BIN SAID (1970-2020)**

ABSTRAK

Kajian ini membincangkan Diplomasi Keamanan dalam dasar luar Kesultanan Oman semasa pemerintahan Sultan Qaboos 1970-2020. Allahyarham Sultan Qaboos terkenal dengan peranan globalnya dalam mempromosikan kedamaian, seperti yang disokong oleh pengiktirafan daripada organisasi antarabangsa dan serantau, serta pusat penyelidikan dan akademik. Sepanjang pemerintahannya, Sultan Qaboos sentiasa menyokong nilai-nilai keamanan dan keharmonian, manakala banyak negara Arab lain terlibat dalam konflik dan peperangan, di mana Oman tidak pernah terlibat dalam mana-mana konflik ketenteraan sejak merdeka pada tahun 1970. Oman mempunyai lokasi strategik semasa konflik serantau, yang membolehkannya mengekalkan keamanan dan kestabilan. Soalannya: Adakah Oman mempunyai model khusus untuk Diplomasi Keamanan yang mencerminkan pendiriannya dalam mempromosikan nilai-nilai kemanusiaan dan kebudayaan, sehingga ia dianggap sebagai penjaga keamanan serantau dan antarabangsa? Kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji Diplomasi Keamanan dalam dasar luar Oman semasa pemerintahan Sultan Qaboos melalui tiga objektif utama: Untuk mengkaji Diplomasi Keamanan dalam dasar luar Oman. Menganalisis pelaksanaan Diplomasi Keamanan berdasarkan ini. Menyediakan rangka kerja menyeluruh untuk Diplomasi Keamanan dalam dasar luar Oman. Kajian ini menggunakan pendekatan deskriptif sejarah, di mana data primer dikumpul melalui temu bual, manakala data sekunder diperolehi melalui kajian dokumen. Data tersebut dianalisis menggunakan kaedah analisis kandungan. Keputusan kajian menunjukkan

bahawa Kesultanan Oman, di bawah kepemimpinan Sultan Qaboos, memainkan peranan penting dalam mempromosikan keamanan di peringkat serantau dan antarabangsa. Kajian ini juga menyoroti pengaruh identiti sejarah, geografi, dan Islam Oman sebagai faktor utama dalam kejayaan diplomasi mereka. Hasil kajian mengesahkan kejayaan diplomasi damai Oman dalam mencapai keamanan dan keselamatan di peringkat tempatan, serantau, dan antarabangsa melalui pemampu dan asas yang dipegang teguh oleh kepemimpinan Oman, yang telah menjadi pendekatan tetap dalam dasar luar negara Oman. Selanjutnya, kajian ini menyoroti peranan penting Sultan Qaboos dalam membentuk dasar luar Oman dan menegaskan bahawa dasar ini akan berterusan dalam arah yang sama walaupun selepas berakhirnya pemerintahannya. Keputusan kajian ini memberikan panduan penting kepada negara-negara Arab tentang cara mengukuhkan hubungan antarabangsa untuk mencapai keamanan yang lebih baik.

**PEACE DIPLOMACY IN OMAN FOREIGN POLICY DURING THE REIGN
OF SULTAN QABOOS BIN SAID (1970-2020)**

ABSTRACT

This thesis deals with peace diplomacy in the foreign policy of the Sultanate of Oman during the reign of Sultan Qaboos from 1970 to 2020. The late Sultan Qaboos is known for his global personality in promoting peace, which is confirmed by testimonies from international and regional organizations, as well as research and academic centers. Throughout his reign, Sultan Qaboos upheld the values of peace and harmony, while many Arab countries were suffering from conflicts and wars, as Oman has not participated in any military conflict since its independence in 1970. Oman is strategically located in the middle of Regional conflicts, which made it able to maintain peace and stability. The following question arises in the study: Does Oman have a specific model of peace diplomacy that reflects its position in promoting human and cultural values, so that it is considered a guardian of regional and international peace? This thesis aims to examine peace diplomacy in Omani foreign policy during the reign of Sultan Qaboos through three main objectives: First, to investigate peace diplomacy in Omani foreign policy. Secondly, an analysis of the practice of peace diplomacy in that policy. Third, provide a comprehensive framework for peace diplomacy in Omani foreign policy. The thesis relied on a historical descriptive approach, where primary data was collected through interviews, while secondary data were used through the study of documents. After analyzing the data, the results of the thesis showed that the Sultanate of Oman, under the leadership of Sultan Qaboos, played a prominent role in promoting peace at the regional and international levels. The thesis also emphasized the influence of Oman's Islamic history, geography and identity as key factors in the

success of its diplomacy. The study results confirmed the success of Omani peaceful diplomacy in achieving peace and security at the local, regional, and international levels through the enablers and foundations embraced by the Omani leadership, which have become a permanent approach in Oman's foreign policy. The thesis also highlights Sultan Qaboos' pivotal role in shaping Oman's foreign policy, and asserts that this policy will continue in the same manner even after his reign ends. Provides results This thesis provides important guidance for Arab countries on how to strengthen international relations to achieve a better peace.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This thesis aims to discuss and analyze the dimensions of peace diplomacy in Omani foreign policy during the reign of Sultan Qaboos 1970-2020. The thesis seeks to explore the values of peace derived from the spirit of Islam and the heritage of Omani society, and their impact on Omani foreign policy over fifty years during the modern Omani renaissance led by Sultan Qaboos. During this period, observers of Omani foreign policy can witness Oman's significant presence on various regional and global issues. They can also learn about the active roles played by Omani diplomacy in achieving peace in various regions, and evaluating the reactions of the international community to Omani peace efforts, whether at the state level or international organizations. Through these efforts, it becomes clear that there is a role that requires further research and investigation to understand its nature and essence (Institute of Economics and Peace, 2020).

This chapter of the thesis provides a general introduction and broad background, and also addresses the research problem, research questions, operational definitions, scope and limitations, and the importance and contribution of this thesis. This chapter also includes the organization of the thesis at the end of this chapter.

1.2 Study background

The Islamic position on peace is a broad and complex subject that is intertwined with many concepts related to religion, politics and ethics. It is necessary

to understand that peace in Islam is not just the absence of war. Instead, it embodies a state of peaceful coexistence, justice and compassion among people, and Islamic law encourages the pursuit of peace and justice within society. However, Islam is not seen as a religion that seeks peace at the expense of justice. Instead, war is considered legitimate only for self-defense. Fighting in Islam is not an act of aggression but a means of defending religion, land and honor against aggressors.

Peace plays a crucial role in human life, as it is an essential factor that ensures happiness and stability both personally and societally. The following are several points that highlight the importance of peace in human life, as peace contributes to calming the mind, providing calm and comfort, enabling individuals to live without fear or anxiety. This inner peace promotes mental health and reduces stress and stress.

Omani history evokes great efforts made by the people of Oman through the various imams and sultans who ruled Oman throughout Islamic history. Oman has played crucial and well-known roles in the pursuit of peace, security and prosperity since it embraced the doctrine of Islam in groups, as if waiting for the divine light to shine on it from the land of Hijaz, where the call of the Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him originated.

The message of Islam calls on the people of Oman to strive for peace within themselves and with others. They carried the banner of peace through land convoys – and naval vessels, fostering continued goodwill and benevolence to other nations. This meeting was a sophisticated and active exchange of civilizations.

Oman's vision for peace in the region is shaped by several determinants, including its historical and geographic factors. These factors have influenced Oman's foreign policy from ancient times to the present day. Scholars have described this

approach as the ability of the Omani people to engage in cultural exchange with different peoples, regions and kingdoms, using effective methods that are respectful and appreciated. In addition, Oman has historically been committed to protecting the region in different periods, recognizing its integral role in the security and stability of the region, particularly in the northwestern part of the Indian Ocean and its maritime branches. Modern Omani diplomacy draws on Oman's extensive political history and mature political school of thought rooted in Ibadi thought. Moreover, Oman recognizes the importance of its geopolitical position.

1.2.1 Peace diplomacy

Peace and security issues are strategic options that international organizations seek to promote and build in international relations. It serves as a means of achieving coexistence and understanding among the peoples of the world. But due to current interests and shortcomings in vision, conflicts escalate and differences deepen between many states, leading to armed clashes that extinguish people's hopes and lead to the death or injury of millions of innocent citizens, including the elderly, women and children, as well as the destruction of cities and the displacement of millions of people from their homes to live as refugees or internally displaced persons (gore, 2010).

In modern times, the world has witnessed an arms race that has resulted in two world wars and hundreds of armed conflicts that have severely affected different regions, especially in Asia, Europe and Africa. This was followed by a protracted Cold War that produced proxy wars between the West Pole (USA) and the East Pole (Soviet Union). This has led to increased international efforts to alleviate the complex global political situation and achieve greater peace. For example, peacekeeping missions in Africa alone cost \$7 billion in 2007-2008 (gore, 2010), a significant amount spent on

peacekeeping. Imagine if this amount were allocated to development programs instead. Undoubtedly, it would have had a more humanitarian and noble impact, rather than wasting resources on wars and conflicts. Although there are those who ignite conflicts for political, economic, social or cultural reasons, there are also those who advocate for peace and tolerance. As the Italian historian Milley put it: "Fortunately, our world produces not only those who beat the drums of war and make sacrifices for it, but also those who think about peace and establish a philosophy of peace. They not only invent the concept of peace, but also apply it" (choparyan, 1997).

Human beings were looking for peace, seeing it as a source of security and stability and a means of building and prospering. Peace is the ultimate for individuals, communities, countries and organizations. Therefore, they are of paramount importance and vitality in today's world. Wars have inflicted countless tragedies on the peoples of the earth throughout history, with conflicts, wars, turmoil and threats almost never stopping, except for short periods of peace estimated at less than 1% (Al-Anani, 2012). This was confirmed by the Sultanate of Oman in its speech to the United Nations General Assembly at its 27th session in 1972, saying: "It is truly unfortunate to find that 7.2% of total world income is spent on armaments and complex means of mass destruction" (al-Mahri, 2019). He further suggested that these resources could be better spent as aid to developing countries, as this is the only way to ensure peace, security and harmony among the countries and peoples of this planet (al-Mahri, 2019). Therefore, the choice of peace, whether between individuals and themselves, their families or society as a whole, is a unique and worthy choice that deserves attention.

1.2.2 Principles of Peace Diplomacy in the Sultanate of Oman

Oman is an Arab Muslim country geographically located in West Asia. In geopolitical classification, it is located within the Middle East region with an area of 309,500 square kilometers, and a population of about 5 million people (national Center for Statistics and Information, 2020). The ancient civilization of Oman, known as the Magan Civilization, appeared in Oman since the third millennium BC (western, 2006). Throughout its history, Oman has remained a sovereign state with continuous cultural interactions with various countries and peoples. Play People Oman has taken an active role in trade with the coasts of the Indian Ocean, in both Asia and Africa, and has contributed significantly to the spread of Islam, a religion of peace and mercy (al-Hadi, 2021). They also concluded many international conventions and treaties early, during the emergence of nation-states in the 17th century.

The principles of peace in the Sultanate of Oman are based on a set of foundations rooted in the fixed values that have been rooted in the history of Oman since the early days of the Prophet's mission and the beginning of the Islamic era. The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) once said:

"If the people of Oman had come, they would not have insulted you or beaten you" (Narrated by Muslim, Hadith no. 1411).

Moreover, Abu Muslim al-Bahlani, an Omani scholar and poet, conveys in his famous poem:

"Wake Up, Children of the Qur'an" (al-Bahlani, 2013:87).

That God has blessed a land where justice flourishes, and knowledge and justice flourish together in harmony (Al-Bahlani, 2013).

Similarly, Sultan Qaboos conveys in the same vein:

"It is imperative at all times for us to benefit from our pure religion, rich heritage and authentic Omani values to enlighten our path and strengthen our resolve to fulfill our duties towards our country, our nation and humanity as a whole" (ministry of Information, 2010).

1.2.3 Foreign policy of the Sultanate of Oman during the period 1970-2020

The Sultanate of Oman stands out as one of the prominent countries that have adopted peace diplomacy in its international political relations. Despite being located in a turbulent Middle East characterized by conflict and war, it firmly believes in peace and dialogue as guiding principles in its international relations and approach to addressing complex issues in the Middle East. Oman belongs to a group of relatively stable regimes within the wider Gulf region, characterized by instability (common 2011). Since Sultan Qaboos bin Said assumed the leadership of the Sultanate of Oman – In the mid-seventies, Omani foreign policy developed along a deliberate civilizational path, supported by the deep cultural heritage of a nation that once flourished as one of the most important civilizations in the ancient Near East. In one of his speeches on Oman's political role on the world stage, Sultan Qaboos said: "We are constantly committed to playing our full role on the international stage in accordance with our well-established, positive and clear policy.

This policy is firmly based on a belief in the principles of peaceful coexistence among all peoples, the promotion of good relations with neighboring countries, non-interference in the internal affairs of others, and mutual respect for national sovereignty" (ministry of Information, 2010). Since its inception, Oman's foreign policy has been shaped by a set of features stemming from historical facts, geographic factors, national identity, economic potential and security considerations. In general, it

adopts a peaceful, moderate, balanced and neutral stance (al-Daja, 2007). Oman's policy of progressive progress is designed on the basis of fundamental principles and priorities, with dialogue, good neighborliness and moderation as to achieve peace and prosperity (abbas, 2020). The principles of neutrality and non-alignment are adopted by countries that maintain their independence from power blocs and alliances. As a result, Oman's foreign policy has gained recognition as an independent and proactive state, with its roles in promoting peace, security and stability widely recognized and respected by all parties involved. As such, Oman's endeavours to achieve peace, security and stability have proven successful.

What he has contributed to the Sultanate of Oman, the Arab Gulf States, the Arab and Islamic nations and global, regional and international organizations is a fundamental addition to international diplomacy. Contribute intellectual and cognitive building blocks to diplomacy. He managed to overcome many border issues with neighboring countries and provided basic solutions to border problems, regional issues and more for many countries.

1.2.4 Sultan Qaboos bin Sayyid 1970-2020

Sultan Qaboos bin Said bin Taimur Al Busaidi was born in the city of Salalah in the Sultanate of Oman in 1940. He hails from a ruling family in Oman since 1744. He completed his primary education in Salalah and then continued his studies in the UK. He ascended the throne of the Sultanate of Oman on July 23, 1970, laying the foundation for modern Oman.

Through his great efforts in development and modernization, Oman has risen to become an advanced Gulf country in terms of sustainable development. What stands out most, however, is the diplomatic efforts he made in Omani foreign policy during

his fifty-year rule. During the reign of Sultan Qaboos bin Said, who was distinguished by development and cooperation with Arab, Islamic and world countries for peace, harmony and friendship, he was able to gain local, regional and international trust, and gain the respect and admiration of all.

After a lifetime full of peaceful initiatives and humanitarian aid dedicated to serving humanity, Sultan Qaboos leaves with warm memories and sincere gratitude for his distinguished service and spirit imbued with human fraternity. His legacy is rooted in the principle of treating others as you would like to be treated, a fundamental principle endorsed by Sultan Qaboos and deeply rooted in the Omani society he led, derived from noble values derived from Islamic law and Arab heritage.

After the death of Sultan Qaboos, the country was ruled by his cousin Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, who possessed a wide range of political, economic and cultural expertise. Upon taking power, he spoke of the continuity of his policies, in line with those of his predecessor, Sultan Qaboos bin Said, as the foundations of Omani politics are clear. It is based on brotherhood, friendship, love, peace, mutual cooperation, mutual respect and the pursuit of sustainable development.

1.3 Problem statement

Peace diplomacy in Oman's foreign policy during the reign of Sultan Qaboos 1970-2020 is a topic of particular importance in the turbulent regional context in the Middle East. Ongoing conflicts and popular revolutions, such as the "arab spring" since 2010, have led to a high level of instability in Arab countries, affecting international peace and security (hebrew, 2019). These circumstances require an in-depth study of Oman's peace strategies, which have managed to maintain its internal and external stability, making it a role model in promoting the values of peace.

Historically, the 20th century has seen many major conflicts, such as the two world wars, that have caused huge human tragedies (Herodo Center for Digital Expression, 2017). These conflicts have worsened in the Middle East, with negative repercussions for millions of people, as some countries have turned into battlefields, resulting in the loss of lives and the displacement of many populations. In this context, Oman stands out as a peace-seeking country, having not participated in any military conflict since its independence, which calls into question the reasons behind its success.

When the United Nations saw the need for peace among nations, it took action to address that need. In the preamble to its Charter:

"We, the peoples of the United Nations, are determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to reaffirm our faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the individual, to live together in peace and good neighbourliness, and to join forces to maintain international peace and security" (herodo Center for Digital Expression, 2017).

Realistically, the Arab region, which is part of the Middle East, is experiencing a critical phase of non- Stability due to popular revolts against the ruling regimes, known as the "arab spring", since 2010, and its events are still ongoing (al-Abri, 2019).

Oman is a country with a long civilized history, where its people have embraced Islam since the beginning of the da'wa and adhered to the values of peace and tolerance (salmi, 2017). These values have shaped Oman's political and diplomatic identity, as the Sultanate under Sultan Qaboos has demonstrated a strong commitment to the principles of neutrality and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. This commitment was exemplified by its effective diplomacy based on

dialogue and understanding, making it a reliable mediator on regional and international issues.

Despite Oman's diplomatic achievements, there remains a gap in knowledge about Oman's foreign policy efforts under Sultan Qaboos to promote peace. These efforts have often been conducted quietly and without attracting attention, requiring deeper studies to understand the strategies used and how they affect the promotion of peace and security in the region. One of the key strategies was to advocate peaceful solutions to disputes, as Sultan Qaboos opposed the security approach taken by some Arab countries. Instead, he called for reconciliation with the peoples concerned (al-Arabiya, 2020).

The efforts made by Sultan Qaboos, both locally and regionally, highlight Oman's role as standard-bearer of peace in the region. These efforts require further research and analysis to understand how Oman's foreign policy can enhance security and stability, and how it can serve as a model for other countries. By reviewing these aspects, this thesis aims to highlight the importance of Omani diplomacy as a means to achieve peace, and to provide a model that can benefit Arab and Islamic countries and the world at large.

Sultan Qaboos provided radical solutions to Arab countries during the events of the Arab Spring. Instead of the security approach and iron fist adopted by most Arab regimes against the revolting peoples demanding freedom and justice, he called for a peaceful solution to these revolutions and containing them, and reconciliation with the people on the basis of the principle that Islamic values promote social justice and grant rights to citizens. On the day of Sultan Qaboos' death, newspapers, magazines and

other media discussed the significant contributions he made to humanity. al-Arabiya reported in its news report:

"Omani diplomacy has been highly trusted and appreciated. Muscat has been a destination for many regional and global leaders to consult and exchange views with Sultan Qaboos. It has hosted many declared and undeclared efforts to bring positions closer and overcome differences between parties concerned with various regional, Arab and international issues" (al-Arabiya, 2020).

In discussing the successes of Sultan Qaboos' policies, saying:

"The policy pursued by Sultan Qaboos has recorded many successes, and Oman is an active member of international and regional organizations, especially the League of Arab States and the Gulf Cooperation Council." (al-Arabiya, 2020).

The Islamic religion has brought the eternal divine teachings that call for peace among people in all circumstances. Peace is the goal and goal of Islam on earth. Allah calls to the abode of peace as it says in Surah Yunus:

"And Allah calls to the abode of peace." (yunus : 23).

The term "peace" is derived from one of God's attributes and names, which is "peace." The term "peace" refers to freedom from all defects and defects, the embodiment of complete perfection in its essence, qualities and actions. Our Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) also urged to spread peace among people, saying:

" Spread peace" (narrated by muslim. hadith number: 2544).

He also encouraged the initiation of the interaction with the greeting of peace, the word "peace" and its derivatives are mentioned 144 times in the Qur'an, while the word "war" and its derivatives are mentioned only 6 times. Hence, Islamic civilization and Islamic thought give priority to the concepts of peace and security, and show great care and sincere interest in building Islamic civilization, achieving peace among its individuals and societies, and extending peace to other civilizations, nations and peoples.

The modern era has witnessed major global conflicts that have claimed millions of lives, such as the First and Second World Wars, the Cold War, proxy wars, as well as regional and internal conflicts. In the Middle East, and in areas close to Oman such as the Persian Gulf, Iran, Yemen and Arab states, including the Arab-Israeli conflict, these have all been violent conflicts. On the other hand, there have been regional and international efforts to promote peace and security and to resolve issues by peaceful means. Sultan Qaboos' efforts, whether at the local, regional or international level, in addressing these issues are a clear indication of his important and commendable roles for humanity. These efforts must be highlighted and illustrated as a model for peace and to allow nations and peoples to live in prosperity, harmony and tranquility. This would enable Arab and Islamic countries, in particular, and the world at large, to benefit from these practical and living experiences. This is the approach adopted by the Sultanate of Oman since the reign of Sultan Qaboos bin Said in 1970, and has continued to the present under the leadership of Sultan Haitham bin Tariq.

1.4 Research objectives

This thesis aims to achieve a broader goal, which is to understand the impact of peace deeply rooted in Omani society on Omani foreign policy during the reign of Sultan Qaboos. Moreover, the thesis seeks to transcend this understanding by predicting the future of Omani politics. He stresses that the foundations of Omani peace diplomacy are authentic and unchanged, and remain unchanged despite shifts in leadership or government. The thesis uses a clear methodology It aims to reveal the solid foundations of Oman's peace policy and assess the continuity of Oman's foreign policy towards regional and international issues after the reign of Sultan Qaboos. In general, this thesis aims to analyze the role of peace diplomacy in formulating and implementing the foreign policy of the Sultanate of Oman during the reign of Sultan Qaboos bin Said, and to highlight the foundations and principles on which the Sultanate relied in building its international relations, and how this policy contributes to enhancing regional stability and resolving international conflicts, while exploring the repercussions of this diplomatic approach on the Sultanate's position on the international arena.

1. To identify the pillars of peace diplomacy in Oman foreign policy n the era of Sultan Qaboos
2. To analyse the most important practices and mechanisms adopted by Oman in activating peace diplomacy during the reign of Sultan Qaboos
3. To conclude the continuity and development of peace diplomacy in Omani foreign policy after the reign of Sultan Qaboos

Research questions

- i) What is the nature of Oman's foreign policy adopted during the reign of Sultan Qaboos?
- ii) What are the basic foundations of peace diplomacy in Omani foreign policy during the reign of Sultan Qaboos?
- iii) How has Sultan Qaboos's personality influenced peace diplomacy in Oman's foreign policy?
- iv) What are the justifications that prompted Oman to practice peace diplomacy during the reign of Sultan Qaboos?
- v) What are the practices and models that indicate the success of Oman's foreign policy in achieving peace during the reign of Sultan Qaboos?
- vi) How effective was peace diplomacy in Oman's foreign policy during the reign of Sultan Qaboos?
- vii) What form did peace diplomacy take in Oman's foreign policy after the reign of Sultan Qaboos?

The table below presents the study questions along with their corresponding objectives to be addressed appropriately.

Table 1.1 Research Objectives and Questions

Research Objectives	Research Questions
1- To identify the pillars of peace diplomacy in Oman foreign policy the era of Sultan Qaboos	<ol style="list-style-type: none">i) What is the nature of Oman's foreign policy adopted during the reign of Sultan Qaboos?ii) What are the foundations of peace diplomacy in Oman's foreign policy during the reign of Sultan Qaboos?iii) How has Sultan Qaboos's personality influenced peace diplomacy in Omani foreign policy?

Table 1.1 (Continued)

Search	Research Questions
2- To analyse the most important practices and mechanisms adopted by Oman in activating peace diplomacy during the reign of Sultan Qaboos	iv) What are the justifications that prompted Oman to adopt peace diplomacy during the reign of Sultan Qaboos? v) What are the practices and models that indicate the success of Oman's foreign policy in achieving peace during the reign of Sultan Qaboos?
3- To conclude the continuity and development of peace diplomacy in Omani foreign policy after the reign of Sultan Qaboos.	vi) What was the effectiveness of peace diplomacy in Oman's foreign policy during the reign of Sultan Qaboos? vii) What form does peace diplomacy take in Oman's foreign policy after the reign of Sultan Qaboos?

1.5 Operation definition

It is crucial to define the terms used so that the researcher in this thesis can navigate the research journey, understand the details of the thesis, and provide a general basis for explaining and interpreting the research. Important terms include peace diplomacy and foreign policy.

1.5.1 Peace diplomacy

The definitions of the concept of peace diplomacy have varied, attributed to its significance in both academic and political contexts. In this study, we will present the most important definitions of this concept, as follows: Diplomacy is defined as:

"A characteristic that relates to the political representation of a country and the conduct of its foreign affairs with other foreign countries. It is the art of managing peaceful political relations between nations" (dictionary of meanings, 2022).

It has also been defined as:

"The art of managing relations between nations, the daily work of building bridges between them, finding common interests, and developing an atmosphere of peace and friendship between them" (shalabi, 2014: 135).

Diplomacy is an approach in international relations aimed at achieving peace and stability among States and peoples through dialogue, negotiation and building mutual understanding, rather than resorting to military force or violence. This type of diplomacy relies on peaceful means to resolve disputes or prevent the escalation of tensions, as diplomacy is a vital tool for achieving coexistence between countries and resolving differences peacefully. Its success depends on international cooperation, respect for the sovereignty of states, and a common will to build a safer and more stable world.. Therefore, the procedural definition of Omani diplomacy refers to the operational instruments of Oman's foreign policy with other countries.

Peace is derived from the root of the word "peace" which means safety, peace and the opposite of war. It is said to be:

"A state of harmony and stability that pervades society, from its simplest formations, such as the family, to its largest formations, such as the international community, enabling development and prosperity for all" (hardo digital expression support center, 2017:123).

It has also been defined as:

"The dominance of an atmosphere of calm, tranquility and peace, rather than fear, anxiety and turmoil" (amin, 2010:59).

Peace in general refers to A state of stability and tranquility experienced by individuals and societies, peace is a comprehensive concept that expresses a state of stability and balance in which human relations are free from violence, whether at the personal, social or international levels. Peace requires more than the absence of conflict, it includes justice, understanding, and harmony between individuals and communities.

The concept of peace falls within the scope of Islamic and humanitarian values. The concept of peace has evolved from a focus on rejecting wars and conflicts to reaching the core of peacebuilding by preserving the means of decent human living and promoting mental well-being and relationship with the environment (hardo Center for digital expression support, 2017). Peace is a dynamic process that involves removing the factors of conflict and building an environment that supports justice, understanding, and development. The success of achieving peace depends on the integration of individual, collective and international efforts, with a focus on addressing the root causes of conflicts and building cohesive and sustainable societies.

The thesis adopts the term "peace diplomacy" as the basic concept on which this thesis is based and as an essential element in its title. This term consists of two words: the first is "diplomacy", which is a branch of modern political science, and the second is "peace", a word sought by politicians and people alike at all levels and fields, peace diplomacy is a strategy that aims to use diplomatic tools to promote peace and prevent or resolve conflicts in a peaceful manner. This diplomacy is based on dialogue, negotiation, and mediation rather than force or coercion, and reflects a commitment to avoid armed conflict and build relations based on cooperation and understanding. It relies on dialogue and negotiation as alternatives to violence, and seeks long-term solutions to conflicts. Its success requires political will, international cooperation, and

a culture of tolerance and respect. In a world facing increasing challenges, peace diplomacy remains an indispensable option for building a secure and sustainable future. Therefore, the working definition of this thesis is that Omani diplomacy is the executive tools of Oman's foreign policy with other countries.

1.5.2 Foreign policy

Foreign policy is an integral part of the study of international relations. The term "politics" is derived from the root "SAS", which refers to the management of the internal and external affairs of the Ummah in accordance with Islamic law. Analysis of the concept of foreign policy is a complex and multidimensional subject, encompassing a set of goals, practices and strategies adopted by the state in its relations with other states and international organizations. Foreign policy is an essential tool for achieving the national interests of the state, whether political, economic, security or cultural.

Foreign policy is a set of strategies adopted by the state in its interactions with other states and international organizations, aimed at achieving its national interests. Foreign policy involves directing and coordinating a country's foreign relations across various spheres, such as political, economic, military, and cultural relations. These policies are developed based on assessments of both international and domestic situations and are influenced by geopolitical factors, economic interests and national security, as well as the cultural and ideological values of the state. In the field of theories of foreign policy analysis, several theories attempt to explain the behavior of states in foreign policy.

Realism focuses on the importance of power and national interests, as states seek to enhance their capabilities to achieve security and influence. Liberalism emphasizes the importance of international cooperation and international organizations as a means to achieve stability and peace. Constructiveness refers to the fact that foreign policy is influenced by the cultural and social identities of states and the perceptions exchanged between nations (Proper, 1988). There are multiple definitions of foreign policy, and one of the most important definitions that are in line with the focus of this thesis is

"The plan that defines the foreign relations of a state with other states"
(zaki, 1975: 96).

Another definition goes beyond relations between states to a larger international sphere, stating that foreign policy is

"The regulation of the activities of the state, its citizens and its subordinate institutions in relation to other states and international organizations" (kayyali et al, 1983: 122).

The third definition explicitly refers to the principle of peace, stating that foreign policy is

"The sphere of state actions towards other states, a program designed to achieve the best possible state status through peaceful means"
(macridis, 1958: 87).

Faraj defines it as:

"The activity carried out by the state in the international arena through specific institutions aimed at achieving specific" (al-saleem, 1988: 48).

Some define foreign policy as:

"A dynamic and continuous process aimed at achieving national interests by employing various tools, including political, economic, military, cultural and others" (saad, 2021: 154).

The dictionary defines them as:

"Decisions that determine the external goals of the state and the actions taken to implement those decisions" (dictionary of meanings, 2022: 21).

In short, foreign policy is a way for a state to strengthen its international influence, protect its security, and expand cooperation for stability and prosperity. The procedural definition of foreign policy used in this thesis refers to the actions and activities carried out by a state in its foreign relations with other states and international organizations, based on a clear program and objective to achieve its own interests and the public interest through peaceful means.

1.6 Limitations of the study

This study has been framed within the temporal and spatial boundaries, and within those limits, the details of the study are distributed as follows:

1.6.1 Time limits

The time period for this thesis is defined as 50 years, starting in 1970, when Sultan Qaboos bin Said assumed the reins of power. This marked a major transition between two distinct periods, as Oman before the seventies of the twentieth century was significantly different from Oman thereafter. Before the reign of Sultan Qaboos, Oman's relations with only three countries were limited (ministry of information,

2002). Moreover, global interest in the Arabian Gulf region became evident only during the seventies of the twentieth century, Amid the height of the East-West conflict during the Cold War (pope, 2015). The thesis concludes in 2020, the date of Sultan Qaboos bin Said's death and Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said's accession to power.

1.6.2 Spatial boundaries

The thesis is limited to the Sultanate of Oman located in West Asia and being one of the countries of the Middle East. Geographically, it has a long coastline along the Arabian Sea, which serves as a maritime trade route, and borders the entrance to the Persian Gulf, which is considered the heart of the world's oil wealth.

1.7 Importance of the study

The importance of this study lies in its treatment of a contemporary issue in the international arena, namely the promotion of the values of peace in international relations and the understanding of the peaceful role played by the Sultanate of Oman. In addition, this thesis contributes to enriching the Omani scientific library and the global academic community with new insights on peace diplomacy. Scientific studies that delve into the subject of peace and its role in the politics of nations, and it is widely recognized how important the study of peace diplomacy is from an academic and scientific perspective to assess its achievement and contribution to Spreading world peace and security. The thesis is of particular interest to researchers, as by reading about the topic and interviewing Omani diplomats, they gain extensive knowledge of the complexities and details surrounding the topic.

1.8 Study contribution

Humanitarian Significance: Emphasizes the importance of the values of peace in promoting security, prosperity, stability and social, economic and scientific development for peoples and nations. It highlights the causal relationship between peace and progress.

Importance at the level of the Sultanate of Oman: As everyone knows, the Omani Ministry of Foreign Affairs is making efforts to promote peace regionally and globally. This study comes to support and promote this project through in-depth research.

Importance to researchers: This thesis is also expected to benefit researchers and students of international relations by providing them with methodology, findings, and recommendations. This thesis contributes to enriching the Omani and international academic library with new insights into peace diplomacy, as there are few scientific studies dealing with the subject of peace and its role in state policies, especially from the perspective on which it is based.

Importance at the researcher level: The thesis carries special importance for the researcher. By reading the topic and interviewing Omani diplomats, the researcher gained a wealth of deep knowledge about the intricacies and details of the topic.

1.9 Thesis organization

This thesis is divided into six chapters. The first chapter serves as an introductory chapter that discusses the study, its terminology, and the research questions extracted. It also highlights the contribution of the thesis to enriching the

research and scientific fields related to the foreign policies of countries, as well as international relations.

The second chapter focuses on previous studies that dealt with topics related to the current thesis, and comparing them with the current thesis. It also reviews the foundations that laid peace in Oman's foreign policy and examines the practical application of that Omani vision regionally and internationally. It sheds light on the political bodies and institutions in the Sultanate of Oman and discusses at length Oman's openness since 1970 to fostering broad friendships with the countries of the world on the basis of peace, which has become a solid foundation for Omani politicians. In addition, this chapter explores successful examples of Oman's foreign policy achievements in promoting peace in international relations. It also tracks the continuity of the Omani approach that calls for a culture of peace in relations between countries, while foreseeing the promising and evolving future of Omani policy, which has won the respect and appreciation of international organizations and brotherly and friendly countries.

The third chapter discusses the methodology and procedures of the study, which include the descriptive historical method and the analytical method. The descriptive approach is primarily concerned with the humanities and international relations, which can be considered a common tool for research in political science and diplomatic studies. The historical curriculum serves as a laboratory for the natural sciences and humanities, including political science, particularly in relation to international relations and diplomacy. Data collection methods are based on interviews with a sample of Omani policymakers who have played pivotal roles in the planning and implementation of Omani foreign policy, both domestically and internationally.

Chapter IV will present and analyze the results of research derived from the analysis and interpretation of public data. It provides a detailed and comprehensive description of the results of the personal interview, explaining how the first objective was achieved: analyzing the pillars of peace diplomacy in Omani foreign policy during the reign of Sultan Qaboos, and the fifth chapter discusses the results of the second and third objectives: Investigating the most important practices and mechanisms adopted by Oman in activating peace diplomacy During the reign of Sultan Qaboos, assess the continuity and development of peace diplomacy in Omani foreign policy after the reign of Sultan Qaboos.

Finally, the sixth chapter concludes the study by summarizing the research findings, recommendations and important proposals that emerged from the study.