

Abstract:

On 17th March 2011, the UN Security Council approved the resolution number 1973 urging the Gaddafi regime to stop the use of military force against the anti-establishment rebels and authorizing the international community to establish a no-fly zone and to adopt all the necessary measures to protect the population. Consequently, an international coalition, formed by the US, the UK and France, began air military operations in Libya supporting the rebels. Such military intervention caused the capitulation of the regime and consistent economic damages to the country's infrastructures. Despite the regime change and the hope of establishing a new political order, the country faced a time of deep political, military and economic crisis. Therefore, the political situation deteriorated after the elections of 2014 when the exponents of the House of Representatives and the General National Congress started to fight each other in order to expand their political and military influence. The void of power left by the decline of the former regime, coupled with the dissolution of the Libyan Army, caused instability in the country and favoured the rise of extremist terrorist groups. In particular, the Islamic State found the perfect habitat to establish an operative branch in the country aiming at the control of the oilfields and some coastline towns since 2014. The consistent presence of the Islamic State in a country particularly close to the European borders represented an element of concern for some states of the European Union. The goal of this paper consists of assessing to what extent the NATO military intervention in Libya is directly linked with the Islamic State expansion in the country. Thus, this research paper tried to assess the degree of influence and interdependency between the two historical events: the intervention and the expansion of the Islamic State in Libya. Mixing the approach of the academic literature on third-party interventions, techniques of strategic intelligence analysis and additional researches on the social and geographical domain in Libya, a model was developed to assess the degree of influence between the two events.