

Abstract

Year and half after president Obama in Cairo announced a new beginning of relations between USA and the Middle East, the region was seized by turmoil which posed challenge for American foreign policy. The Obama administration decided to react on a country-by-country basis. In Egypt, they demanded transition to democracy and declared responsibility of the Egyptian government. On the contrary, in Bahrain they only called for dialog and demanded stability instead of democratization. The reason is that Bahrain is vital ally of the US in the Middle East and instability in the country would threaten US interests. Preservation of the current regime in Bahrain is also vital for Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Both of these allies urged the US to curtail its criticism of Bahrain. The US had to take attitudes of its allies into consideration, especially because their mutual bilateral relation recently deteriorated. Furthermore, there is also an unclear role of Iran in the whole Bahrain's turmoil and Iran could utilize possible changes in Bahrain. The US influence on Bahrain is on top of that limited by local political situation, which empowers conservative and more antiamerican faction of royal family.