

# Abstract

This bachelor thesis focuses on the conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran from the Iranian agencies' point of view, in the years 2015 and 2016. In this period, three of the most important incidents that impacted diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran took place. These were Hajj 2015, the execution of Shi'a cleric Nimr al-Nimr in 2016, and an attack on the Saudi embassy and consulate in Iran in 2016. The aim of this thesis is to evaluate how Iran portrays Saudi Arabia in the media, with the aim of establishing its own geopolitical superiority in the Persian Gulf. This will be achieved through analysing 27 selected journalistic texts, as well as examining their intensity and frequency.

Selected articles will be drawn from websites of Iranian news agencies, such as IRNA, Isna, and Mehr. These are the most important news agencies in Iran. IRNA is the official news agency and is funded by the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance. Isna was established by students in order to highlight university affairs. Mehr is an official news agency managed by IIDO (Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization).

The thesis has two main parts: a theoretical section and a practical section. The theoretical section describes the history of Iran and Saudi Arabia's diplomatic relationship, and it explains the concept of 'war journalism', coined by Johan Galtung. This is an important concept for this analysis. The practical part of this thesis will examine a sample of articles using Critical Discourse Analysis and 'war journalism'.

Keywords: Saudi Arabia, Iran, conflict, News Agencies, Critical Discourse Analysis, War Journalism