

Review of: "How to Think and Frame Third Worldism with Illustrations from Iran-South Africa Diplomatic Relations, 2006-2019"

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The author approaches Iran – South Africa relations from the concept of Third Worldism reconstructed within four dimension (geopolitical, psychological, sociological, and the New International Economic Order (NIEO)). While the article is promising due to the formulation of Third Worldism and Iran – South Africa relations in a specific period, there are some points which need to be addressed.

Firstly, the author uses Ubuntu diplomacy as one of the key words in the abstract, however, it is only used thrice in the entire article and the definition of Ubuntu diplomacy is not provided to the reader. Therefore, this word should be either be reconsidered in the key words section or explained how it is relevant in the article to define Iran – South Africa relations.

The historical background of the relations between Iran and Africa contains contradicting information. Did the relationship between Iran and Africa start in 525 BC or in 9th century? The author could provide a brief, systematic historical background on Iran-African relations, especially up until the timeframe specified in the paper (2006-2019). The author provides some reasoning for the timeframe selected, however, it is difficult to understand the significance of this particular time without sufficient context to the nature of Iran-South African or general Iran-African relations.

Lastly, NIEO constitutes a major part of the paper but there is no data shown how NIEO impacts the relations between South Africa and Iran. The author also touches upon cultural diplomacy and soft power, however the relationship between these two concepts and how they relate to the rest of the arguments is unclear.

Overall, to strengthen the paper, the author needs to expand and/or clarify the arguments. The referenced literature also needs to be reevaluated, e.g. there are only two sources provided discussing the Iran – Africa relations. Concluding remarks are absent (or it could be assumed that the last paragraph serves this purpose), in which case the revised version should provide a stronger conclusion.