

ROLES OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS ON PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST: EXAMPLE OF THE ABRAHAM ACCORDS


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Abstract

Since time immemorial, the Middle East has periodically suffered numerous and various conflicts. Throughout the ages, these conflicts and their reasons have been analysed from different perspectives and varied resolutions have been offered. However, so far, efforts have had limited success and many conflicts remain. Moreover, the region has also been suffering from environmental problems and environment-related conflicts for a long time. Nevertheless, as such problems and conflicts are exacerbating, general awareness over the protection of environment and desire for environmental justice and peace is also increasing. The Abraham Accords, signed between the State of Israel and 4 Arab nations, are the most recent and solid reflections of this awareness and desire, as the Accords created a new chance for parties to normalize their relations, and allowed parties to protect fragile environment of the region by predicting cooperation on vital topics namely environment, and water. Moreover, the Accords set an example to normalize other strained relations and long-standing environment-related conflicts in the region.

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Eventually, by initiating such legal and political co-operation processes, regional actors can take many social and environmental advantages while ensuring a degree of prosperity and security at the same time in the region which desperately needs it.

Keywords: *Abraham Accords; Middle East; Environmental Cooperation; Law*

ORTADOĞU'DA ÇEVRENİN KORUNMASINDA ULUSLARARASI ANTLAŞMALARIN ROLÜ: İBRAHİM ANTLAŞMALARININ ÖNEMİ

Öz

Ortadoğu çok eski zamanlardan beri dönemselsel olarak çok sayıda ve çeşitli çatışmalara maruz kalmıştır. Çağlar boyunca bu çatışmalar ve sebepleri farklı açılardan incelenmiş ve çeşitli çözümler önerilmiştir. Ancak, simdiye kadar sarf edilen çabalar sınırlı bir başarı elde etmiştir ki bugün dahi Büyük Ortadoğu'nun farklı köşelerinde pek çok çatışma halen devam etmektedir. Ayrıca bölge, uzun süredir çevre sorunları ve çevre kaynaklı politik çatışmalarla da boğuşmaktadır. Bu tür spesifik sorunlar ve çatışmalar her geçen gün daha da şiddetlenirken, çevrenin korunması konusundaki genel bilinç ve çevre adaleti ile çevre barışı gibi kavramlar da her geçen gün daha fazla önem kazanmaktadır. İsrail Devleti ile 4 Arap ülkesi arasında imzalanan İbrahim Antlaşmaları, bu farkındalığın ve arzusunun en güncel ve somut yansımalarıdır. Antlaşmalar, taraflara ilişkilerini normalleştirmeleri için yeni bir fırsat yaratmış ve çevre ve su gibi hayati konularda iş birliği öngörerek tarafların zaten kırılğan olan ekolojik yapıyı korumalarına da olanak sağlamaktadır. Ayrıca, Antlaşmalar bölgede uzun süredir devam eden çevre kaynaklı diğer çatışmaların normalleştirilmesi için de somut bir örnek teşkil etmektedir. Sonuç olarak, bölgesel aktörler bu tür hukuki ve siyasi iş birliği süreçlerini başlatarak, birçok sosyal ve çevresel avantaj elde ederken, aynı zamanda buna çok ihtiyaç duyan bölgede bir dereceye kadar refah ve güvenlik de sağlayabilme imkanına kavuşmuşlardır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: *İbrahim Antlaşmaları, Ortadoğu, Çevresel İş birliği, Hukuk*

1. INTRODUCTION

The relationship between humanity and environment is one of the topics that many different disciplines focused on, including sociology, psychology, anthropology, and contemporarily law/international law and international relations. However, the fields of international relations and law can be thought as newly comers to the area, as for centuries, philosophers, lawyers and politicians ignored the environment and consider it within only natural sciences' contexts.

Nevertheless, this attitude started to be changed after the advent of the industrial revolution in 19th century and gained a massive momentum in the second half of the 20th century, due to occurrence of great natural disasters, rise of ecological crises such as global warming, emergence of long-term environmental problems, and experiencing vehement accidents with terrible outcomes. So as, all countries in the world including the ones in the Middle East, faced with such crises, and recognized the necessity of protecting environment, reducing carbon emissions and finding new alternatives for a sustainable future along with a strong awareness and desire (Belaïd et al., 2021). Therefore, scholars, lawmakers, and policymakers, started to draw caution to some certain topics as "environment", and "ecology". Besides with the strengthening of the idea of globalisation, such topics became the focal points of global political, economic, social, and legal agendas.

Some notable reflections of this rising agenda awareness and correlation of international relations, law and the environmentalist ideas in legal and political spheres are; birth of environmentalist/green political parties in Europe, strengthening international relations theories such as the Green Theory in academic and philosophical spheres and signing of legal instruments such as the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Climate Accords, and the Barcelona Convention.

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However, such multilateral agreements and legal instruments are not only reflections in this framework. Bilateral but more efficient, cross border legal instruments have also an immense importance and volume in the sake of protecting the environment. The Abraham Accords, spectacular and landmark legal documents in Middle Eastern relations that signed in 2020 between the State of Israel (“Israel”) and 4 Arab states, namely, the Kingdom of Bahrain (“Bahrain”), the Kingdom of Morocco (“Morocco”), the Republic of Sudan (“Sudan”) and the United Arab Emirates (“UAE” or “Emirates”) with the observance and witnessing of the United States of America (“USA” or “US”), are also concretizing the correlation amongst law, politics and environment. Even though, these Accords have been prepared and designed to normalize political relations between signatory countries rather than just to protect environment; their specific clauses that predict and commit cooperation on vital topics such as water distribution, environment, energy, agriculture, food security, maritime arrangements, peaceful usage of outer-space and legal cooperation, make these Accords outstandingly important and worth-to-analyse, in environmental and legal perspectives.

Additionally, the ideas of honouring commitments, keeping promises made and remaining loyal to undertakings which can be also expressed under the very well-known legal principle as *Pacta Sunt Servanda* which details will be explained on next chapters, solidifies such significance and value of the Accords. Such ideas, and values regarding committing and keeping promises, are inseparable parts of international legal, political, and economic orders (Shaw, 2017). Correspondingly, the Abraham Accords, legal documents that carry such values and norms, have been chosen as the main research elements in this paper. In this paper, sequentially; i) general political and ecological aspects of the Middle East will be explained, ii) legal and political characteristics of the Abraham Accords will be put forward, iii) and finally Abraham Accords’ role on

the protection of the environment will be evaluated by highlighting environment-focused cooperation processes between signatory countries, and political collaboration initiatives among parties that would be highly useful to prevent conflicts which might influence the environment, and resolution of other environment-related conflicts in the Greater Middle East.

2. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND RISING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Middle East is a vast region that starts from Morocco in the far west to the Gulf of Oman in the far east, and lye from Federal Republic of Somalia in the far south to the Republic of Turkey in the north, including dozens of countries in a great geographical area (Ari, 2012). The region has been considered one of the most important areas of the world since ancient times, in terms of being home to countless civilisations, locating at the heart of commercial routes, waterways and being the birthplace of three monotheistic/Abrahamic religions. Therefore, the region has exclusively important in theo-political, economic, and political terms, and many empires, states have tried to dominate the region throughout history (Yılmaz, 2016).

However, in recent years, the agenda of the whole region is under a momentous change since some certain topics as environment, water and climate change and their affiliations with international politics gained much more importance compared to past. Even though, religious, political and ethnic disputes in the region are still and, in the lead, the Middle East is likely to experience grave environmental and environment-related socio-political problems in a very near future (Waha, 2017). Genuinely, due to natural characteristics of the region and effects of climate change in global context, the environment of the Middle East is under negative change, and many problems such as water scarcity and pollution, land degradation, desertification, air

pollution, improper waste management, disruptions in marine ecosystems and biodiversity losses are being experienced (Selim, 2020). When focused on details, as summarized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (2021), purported by Schaar (2020) from the Century Foundation and stressed by Professor Al-Delaimy (2020) from the University of California San Diego in one of his recent landmark books in the literature, Health of People, Health of Planet and Our Responsibility;

- at present day, more than eight million hectares of arable land throughout the region were contaminated and they are about to be totally lost within next few years,

- average per capita share of clean water is lower than two hundred cubic meters in many countries,

- the Gulf states are witnessing record-degree temperatures above fifty degrees Celsius,

- saltwater intrusions are threatening populated river deltas in various parts of the region,

- agricultural and livestock productivity and feasibility have been declining in the whole region,

- key fish species are being extinct in the Mediterranean Sea and the Gulf of Oman,

- the region is under impact of heavy and frequent dust storms,

- heat extremes have become progressively common in last few decades,

- the Middle East is projected to be the first region in the world to run out of water, and the region has been also recognized as the most water-stressed place of the planet,

- scorching summers are likely to be seen more frequently than ever and they will render many areas in the region mostly or fully uninhabitable,

- climate shocks will create an added challenge in urban contexts across the region.

These problems are just few of countless environment-related matters in the region, reveal the vehemence of the environmental conditions in the region. Moreover, frighteningly they are likely to get worse day by day and affect the lives of millions of people more deeply.

Furthermore, these environmental problems are predicted to be turn into political crises and conflicts in an extremely near future. Consistently, water wars, climate migrations, new pandemics, are likely to be appeared and to serve as an adaptive mechanism in the face of conflict and climate change. Truly, in addition to chronic political, economic, sectarian and social problems, the environmental and environment-related politic conflicts already have remarkable portion in Middle Eastern relations for last few decades, and they seem to occupy the region's agenda even more and more (Abumoghli and Goncalves, 2020). In this respect (Jaub and Azzam, 2002; Kisser, 2000; Kelley et al., 2015);

- Turkish-Iraqi-Syrian water disputes over the Tigris and Euphrates River basins that have been lasting for almost five decades,

- Sudanese Civil War between 1983 and 2005,

- Israeli-Syrian dispute over the Litani River and Golan Heights that continues since 1960s,

- Israeli-Palestinian water sharing and water quality issues that escalated in 1990s,

- Egyptian-Ethiopian-Sudanese dispute over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (“GERD”) over the Nile Basin that turned a diplomatic crisis in last few years,

- Kyrgyz-Tajik conflict that turned a hot clash in 2021 over the Golovnoi Water Intake Facility that splits Ak-Suu River into two,

and many other environment-related conflicts are solid reflections of aforementioned “new” problems. While some of these problems are frozen and waiting for a final solution, some of them increase their severity from time to time and occupy the international agenda.

Another problem is that the steps taken to solve these environment-related problems have not yielded satisfactory results, so far. However, it is possible both to prevent these crises and to save the ecological conditions of the region, which is already extremely sensitive. In this respect, the most important but potentially unlocked tool is the science of law.

In this context, the Abraham Accords, is likely to have significant benefits in this context and will contribute to the solution of environmental problems both directly and indirectly by preventing well-known conflicts that may cause nature and human life and accelerating cooperation processes in environmental issues.

3. EXPLORING THE ABRAHAM ACCORDS

3.1. Brief History of the Abraham Accords

The Arab-Israeli conflict is one of the most important problems in the Middle East (Demircan, 2020). The problems that started between Arab and Jewish societies after the initiation of following the intense Jewish migration movements from Europe to the region from the end of 19th century, gained much different dimension with the creation of Israel, following the end of World War II (Beinin and Hajjar, 2014).

The conflict that was escalated with newly established State of Israel's victory over 5 Arab states continued with conventional wars, low-tensioned clashes and diplomatic, political, and economic crises in which Israelis were generally victorious.

However, as Arab nations understood that such a continuous state of war brings many problems, they decided to recognize the Israel diplomatically and seek to lay a firm foundation for sustainable peace. In this wise, peace and normalisation processes started with the Camp David Accords signed between the Arab Republic of Egypt ("Egypt") and Israel in 1978, continued with Wadi Araba Treaty signed between Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan ("Jordan") and Israel in 1994, and reached the peak point with the Abraham Accords signed in 2020 between Israel and Bahrain, Morocco, Sudan, and the UAE (Tenenbaum, 2019; The National Library of King Hussein, 2022).

On 15 September 2020, three Middle Eastern countries, Israel, Bahrain, and the UAE firstly signed a General Declaration and then bilateral accords named as Abraham Accords dedicated to Abrahamic religions. In the General Declaration that was signed by then US President Trump, then Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Emirati Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Bahraini Minister of Foreign

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 Affairs Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, signatory countries recognized the importance of maintaining and strengthening peace in the Middle East based on mutual understanding; purported that the best way to address all types of challenges that the whole world is facing with is through cooperation; committed to support science, art, medicine, and commerce to inspire humankind, and bring nations closer together; and finally, promised to pursue a vision of peace, security, and prosperity in the Middle East (Şahin and Güzel, 2021; US Department of State, 2021). Within the same day, both the UAE and Bahrain also signed their individual accords with Israel. In following process, two more Arab nations, Sudan, and Morocco, also wisely decided to normalize their relations with the Tel Aviv government and signed their own Abraham Accords, respectively on 6 January 2021 and 22 December 2020 (The Times of Israel, 2021; Associated Press, 2020)

3.2. Contents of Abraham Accords and Clauses Related to Environment

Despite that all the legal instruments that were signed amongst 5 countries are samely named as “Abraham Accords”, they are in the same direction in terms of their contexts and legal characteristics; they are not identical. When the contents of the Accords are examined, it is understood that they offer very similar paragraphs goes to same and goal of normalizing relations and transforming both the Middle East and rest of the world into more liveable places for Jewish and Arab people and all other nations. So as, in summary;

In Israeli-Bahraini perspective

Parties, basically, agreed to open a new era of friendship and cooperation in pursuit of the Middle East that is stable, secure, and prosperous for the interests of all related states and people.

In Israeli-Emirati perspective

Signatory countries desired to realize a vision of a Middle East which is stable, prosperous, serene, and peaceful, and determined to ensure a lasting and sustainable peace, and security, even though they did not enter into a direct conflict, so far. In the Accord, parties reaffirmed to normalize political and legal engagement, to foster mutual understanding, respect, co-existence, and a culture of peace, and to consider joint aid and development programs through convenient cooperation platforms. Parties also found on the same ground to conclude further and detailed agreements on coordinative and cooperative senses.

In Israeli-Moroccan perspective

Both actors recognized the historic and unlocked opportunities to bring the people of the region closer together and promote peace in the whole region. In this sense, parties put forward their intention to reopen liaison offices in both Rabat and Tel Aviv, to promote dynamic and innovative bilateral economic cooperation, and to pursue a comprehensive collaboration process on innovation, water, agriculture, energy, food security and all other fields as may be agreed.

In Israeli-Sudanese perspective

Tel Aviv and Khartoum governments promised to encourage efforts to promote interfaith and intercultural dialogue to advance a culture of peace among the three Abrahamic religions and all humanity by believing the best way to address challenges is through cooperation and development of friendly relations among states.

Briefly, all these accords are highly similar and parallel that contains clauses and paragraphs in same direction and highlights very similar notions and key terms. However, when the annexes of Israeli-Emirati Accords are examined, it is understood that parties tried to draw more and more importance to some spheres for cooperation by inserting specific paragraphs. In the context of this paper, the paragraphs and clauses which specifically related to environment, agriculture and food security, water, and energy, need to be carefully read, studied, and understood, to absorb intentions, methods and goals of Israeli and Emirati governments. Correspondingly;

- Regarding “Environment”, the Parties acknowledged the significance of protecting, preserving and improving the environment, environmental innovation for the sustainable development of the Middle East and beyond the region. The two countries also agreed to endeavour to collaborate to foster environmental protection tactics and strategies on marine habitat protection biodiversity conservation, global warming and climate change mitigation and adaptation, and even on the possible establishment of a joint center for developing pioneering solutions to climate challenges in arid and semi-arid environments.

- In related to “Agriculture and Food Security”, Tel Aviv and Abu Dhabi governments recognized the massive value and significance of sustainable agricultural development by emphasizing its essential role in answering food security concerns, as well as in the preservation of the environment. The countries decided to collaborate to enhance existing technologies, to actively facilitate new cooperation processes, and to share, utilize, develop know-how, expertise and innovative methods in the field of arid agriculture, advanced irrigation, mariculture techniques in shallow sea water, sustainable healthful fish feed production and seed enrichment in hot and humid climates.

- In regard with “Water”, two nations recognized the critical importance of maintainable water usage and cooperation for their common benefit to address water-related matters such as water treatment and management, water security, desalination, and detoxification.

- In respect of “Energy”, both states paid attention of the deliberate importance of the energy sector and specifically their need to encourage renewable energy, cooperation in the natural gas field, regional grids, alternative energy, and energy security. Israeli and Emirati governments also decided to advance and develop mutual collaboration in energy projects, share their practices and discuss strategies in energy forums that will help to promote and unlock the energy potential of the Middle East, synchronising where suitable with the International Renewable Energy Agency, headquartered in Abu Dhabi, the UAE.

These four paragraphs in the Annex of Israeli-Emirati Accord clearly and strongly proves the importance and care that attached by parties to notions of “environment” and “nature”. Besides, they also pose as convenient examples for both other signatories of Abraham Accords, and all other nations throughout the Middle East, and give all related actors in the region a very basic, useful, and perfect roadmap to be followed for fighting against global warming and other environmental problems.

This roadmap, on the other hand, constitutes the backbone of this study with the hypothesis that Abraham Accords presents a solid chance to fix the ecological problems in the Middle East in certain extent, and eliminate some negative effects of climatologic changes. Legal characteristics of the Accords that will be described on the next sub-heading, also stresses legal obligations for signatory nations by the virtue of international public law’ written rules and customs, also strengthens this chance and potential.

3.3. Legal Characteristics of the Accords

In the context of international law branch, the most important instruments in creating law and/or creating a source for law are international agreements. International agreements, which are much more reliable, formal, and modern sources than other ones, are called by a number of different names such as conventions, pacts, protocols, accords, and contracts. All these terms are conclusion of written legal instrument in which the states that are parties legally bind them to act in a certain way or establish a special relationship among themselves. In these written agreements, a series of conditions bind the parties in the conduct of their relations laid down, and a certain affair between two sovereign states is realized in a legal frame.

The basic principle of the law of treaties, is undoubtedly the provision that treaties are binding on the parties to them and must be applied in good faith (O'Connor, 1992). This rule is called *Pacta Sunt Servanda* and is probably the oldest principle of international law that was invented during the Ancient Roman Empire. This rule is also affirmed in Article 26 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, 1969, and locates at the basis of almost every international treaty, agreement, etc., since there is no justification for states to enter into such obligations with one another in the absence of a mutual minimum belief that states will honour their treaty obligations in good faith.

In this respect, agreement concluded between states can have different names, regardless of their subject. An agreement can be called a Convention, a Treaty, an Accord, etc.; however, ultimately, it is the content of the agreement, not its name, which makes it a legally binding treaty (US Department of Health and Human Service, 2018). Under the light of all these arguments, it is needed to make the legal characterisation of the Abraham Accords, and political and legal

discussions should be done after exploring their core characteristics. In this wise; as appropriately commented by Professor E. Canal Forgues from the Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi and Dr N. Janardhan from the Emirates Diplomatic Academy (Forgues, and Janardhan, 2021);

- The Abraham Accords, in their variety of designations for every single country, give the impression to correspond to the Israeli and Arab drafters' purposes,

- However, they did not enter with formality, as they cannot be regarded as forming part of a legal system supporting coexistence and collaboration,

- No compensation was predicted in the Accords if one party fails to deliver its obligations by the virtue of their paragraphs,

- The Accords falls very satisfactorily into place as part of the practice and intention of signatory countries to create political covenants on values and principles of massive and long-lasting significance, and they intended to divulge a very powerful and robust anticipation that Israel and Arab nations will abide,

- But, despite every single positive thing they lack any strict legal content.

With respect to Professor Forgues' and Dr Janardhan's comments, it can be construed that the Abraham Accords are, vastly, carrying characteristics of memorandums of understanding or protocols as they have informal appearance, reflect intentions and commitments of signatory countries, have an, symbolical character, have not been registered with the United Nations ("UN") pursuant to Article 102 of the Charter yet even though all the Accords contain some similar wording that remembrances treaties such as "parties",

“parties agreed”, “shall”, and “undertake”. However, amongst all the Accords, the Israeli-Emirati one has a particular and interesting position as this one comprises paragraphs named as “Ratification and Entry into Force”, “Settlement Disputes”, and “Registration”; but as this was not registered in the UN’s Treaty Collection, it is also not possible to classify it as a treaty.

In summary, categorizing the Abraham Accords and their umbrella document as sui generis documents that mostly carry features of memorandums of understanding or protocols that reflect common commitments, intentions, purposes in a not binding but encouraging or incentive nature, rises as a highly suitable act in a legal perspective.

3.4. Current Conditions and Achievements of the Accords

Since the Abraham Accords were signed, significant gains were seen in the diplomatic relations of 5 countries. Although, it is not yet possible to mention about a complete and final peace in the Middle East, some certain diplomatic, legal, and economic acquisitions have proven the potential of the Abraham Accords and demonstrated their capacity to reach further points in the path of peace and co-existence in the region.

Correspondingly, as parallely stressed by US Secretary of State Anthony J Blinken, Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs Yair Lapid, Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs Nasser Bourita, Bahraini Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullatif Al Zayani, Emirati Presidential Advisor Amwar Gargash, since the day that Accords were signed ; first ever ambassadors between Israel and Bahrain have been appointed, direct flights amongst Israel and Arab countries have been started, the UAE has pursued significant investments in strategic sectors in Israel, including energy, medicine, technology, healthcare, private firms across countries are working together on everything from stem cell therapies to

desalinisation, dozens of new bilateral agreements related of various subjects and issues have been signed.

But most importantly, as predominantly remarked by Emirati Presidential Advisor Gargash, psychological barriers amongst countries have been started to be broken for many.

Beside those, Morocco and Sudan have also obtained significant individual paybacks thanks to the legal documents. After the signing of the Abraham Accords, the US government, recognized Rabat's full legal sovereignty over Western Sahara, one of the most controversial places in the greater Middle East region (Dahir, 2021). Additionally, only before a few weeks of the signing of the Accords, Sudan has been removed from US' blacklist for the state sponsors of terrorism (Financial Times, 2022).

In short, although the Abraham Accords are not binding legal documents, all these developments in the last 18 months are quite promising. At the stage reached so far, these 5 countries have taken vital steps to ensure a sustainable peace and cooperation in the region, to establish a certain order in bilateral relations. For these steps to become permanent, what has been done so far must be continued in the future with dedication.

In addition to the political, and economic initiatives which will primarily affect the peace in the region and indirectly the protection of the environment, five countries also have direct, concrete and positive steps taken on issues related to the environment. These environment-focused steps concern not only these 5 countries, but the entire region, and set an example for other countries. The effects of these steps, the details of which will be given in the next sections of this study, on environmental problems in the region reveal the potential of the Abraham Accords more clearly. Because, although politics and economy-

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oriented peace talks in the region were held in various scopes in previous years, the start of such an intense environment and nature-oriented diplomacy traffic coincides with the period after the conclusion of these legal documents.

4. The Accords' Role on the Protection of the Environment in the Middle East

The Middle East is a vast region. However, as mentioned on previous chapters of this paper, characteristically, the region has a very hot and dry climate with an arid or semi-arid environment, many locations have extremely hot summers and mild winters, precipitation is vastly low. Beside these well-known natural characteristics, the region has been also dealing with new kinds of problems such as significantly rising temperatures or running out clean water sources, which would turn lives of the people into a complete nightmare. By considering these, it is understood that vulnerabilities to climate change and global warming in the Middle East are and will be various, and cascading.

Yet, despite this entire negative picture, there are some promising developments in the region as well such as creation of the Abraham Accords that envisages; environment-focused bilateral cooperation processes, and steps taken to create regional peace and to prevent environmentally destructive, damaging wars.

4.1. Environmental Cooperation between Signatory Countries

Environment-oriented bilateral cooperation agreements processes that started after the Abraham Accords are most notable examples of the Accords' successes on protecting environment. Particularly, as most of the Arab states have undiversified oil-based economies, the whole region is grappling with water scarcity problem, and the issue of desertification emerges as ultimate problems for, almost, every single country in the region for decades, most of

the environmental dialogue processes started until now between Israel and Arab countries have been shaped on such certain topics as water security, renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, exploration of new sources of income after the extinction of oil and so on. In this sense;

I. On March 2021, Mekorot, the Israeli government-owned water company and most-authorized agency responsible for the country's water management, signed an agreement with the EWA, Bahraini electricity and water authority to provide technical consultation in certain issues as desalination, water, advanced irrigation techniques, technologic upgrades and advanced water control (Fisher and Rochvarger, 2021). As Bahrain is a deserted island country with no rivers, streams, and lakes; underground water sources and desalination processes are the only chances that Manama government can use to answer its people demand on water.

However, water wastes, technical incompetence on water processing and the climate change are already beclouding Bahrain's efforts and make it more difficult to reach clean water. Herewith, Israeli assistance will likely help Bahrain to conduct more efficient projects, to reverse detrimental effects of climate change on the watery, and collaboration processes on similar topics, that renowned Israeli financial institution, Bank Hapoalim has already committed to provide financial consultation services to Bahrain in future water projects (Bank Hapoalim, 2020).

The former Israeli Minister of National Infrastructure, Energy & Water Resources, Yuval Steinitz' statement on this topic also is of considerable importance at the point of the Abraham Accords' potential on protecting environment: "The four countries that have signed peace agreements in the framework of the Abraham Accords suffer ... from a water shortage, so

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innovative solutions from Mekorot and Israeli high-tech companies in the area
of water can serve as a strong basis for cooperation”.

II. Since December 2020, Israeli and Moroccan governments have been conducting cooperation processes on water technologies. Firstly, two countries signed various bilateral protocols on involving water management (Eljechtimi, 2020).

Moreover, the Tel Aviv government will export advanced irrigation systems and agricultural technologies to prevent water waste, and solar development equipment to popularize renewable energy sources (Israeli Minister of Regional Cooperation, 2022). There are also supportive steps and account on the Moroccan side as President of the General Council of Moroccan Factories, Chakib Alj remarked that following the signing of the Abraham Accords, the bilateral partnership between Tel Aviv and Rabat has caused to extraordinary progresses in sectors of joint interest, such as agriculture, and water, With this commercial ratio on agriculture, it is believed that thanks to the prevention of water waste and the widespread use of smart irrigation techniques, environment will be protected and the relations between the two countries will be stronger.

Furthermore, scientific cooperation between countries is also on. In last September, top higher education institutions of both countries, Ben-Gurion University in Israel and Mohammed VI Polytechnic University and International University of Rabat in Morocco, signed a protocol to work together on research projects in the areas of agriculture, water, energy and ecological restoration (Leichman, 2021). Supportively, it is declared that collaboration topics between parties will include land ownership, water sources, agriculture of arid and semi-

arid lands, land restoration and other matters in relation with sustainability from various perspectives as technology, biology and health.

Israeli formerly government-owned chemistry company ICL Group Ltd and Moroccan state-owned mining company OCP Group will also support this academic-scientific cooperation process.

III. The UAE has been the country that has cooperated most with Israel on clean energy, water, and environmental issues in the last eighteen months since the signing of the Accords. Primarily, on November 2021, Israeli Minister of National Infrastructures, Energy and Water Resources Karine Elharrar, Emirati Minister of Climate Change and Environment and Jordanian Minister of Water and Irrigation Mohammed al Najjar signed a water agreement, under the brokerage and witnessing of US Climate Envoy John Kerry and Emirati Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed al Nahyan (The Times of Israel, 2021).

With this agreement, a major solar power plant will be constructed by an Emirati company in Jordan to provide electricity to Israel and in return, Tel Aviv will sell 50 million cubic meters of clean water a year to Jordan that will be produced in a desalination plant, that create a solution where everyone benefits for both countries in both environmental, commercial, and political contexts.

While the agreement constitutes a great opportunity for all parties to fight against the climate change, it also strengthens Israeli and Jordanian relations that highly cooled for decades. Even though, in 1994, Tel Aviv and Amman governments signed Wadi Araba Treaty which was very similar to current Abraham Accords, and they created a so-called “peace environment” after long-standing battles, bilateral relations between them could not progress on an ideal level.

As Vohra (2021) remarked this new agreement characterizes a huge step forward in the path of common peace that the Accords opened. While the brutal effects of climate change and global warming are making their effects felt more and more each day, the "all or nothing" logic that has existed for many years for the countries of the region is now replaced by the logics of "peace for energy", "peace for water", and "water for energy". Given some bitter facts as Jordan is almost run out of water, its population increases day by day, it's second most water-scarce country in the world, and water dams have been mostly dried up, the country has no choice but to cooperate with its former enemy. For the time being, as Israel desalts more water than it requires via its advanced technologies, but it needs environment-friendly-way-produced electricity and Jordan has ample sun, option of collaboration turns necessary for all parties. The UAE, on the other hand, will maximize its soft power as a mediator and accelerate its knowledge on building such facilities which requires great expertise.

IV. On 6 March 2022, Israel and the UAE entered another process of collaboration regarding and environment. Israeli state-owned Israel Electric Corp. and the UAE-based Energrouop signed an initial contract to develop blue and green hydrogen fuel cells which are considered as renewable energy sources (Reuters, 2022). In accordance with this cooperation, both companies will activate new projects to hydrogen gas cells that do not release greenhouses gases and decrease carbon footprints. Thus, both countries will acquire a cleaner energy source, improve technologies that produces such sources, protect environment, and eventually prepare themselves post-petroleum era which is especially vital step for the Abu Dhabi government (Zaken, 2022).

V. Apart from all these developments, as Leichman (2021) listed;

Emirati government-owned renewable energy corporation the Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company, and Herzliya-based EDF Renewables Israel decided to discover renewable energy prospects.

Israeli-based global energy company Watergen and Emirati-based food security an agriculture company Baynunah agreed to work together to improve drinking water quality in both countries, develop water supplies for agricultural irrigation, and enhance wastewater management and water treatment mechanisms.

In summer 2021, a consortium amongst Israeli, Emirati and British energy companies met on a common ground to produce high-tech automotive goods by using green hydrogen gas.

Israel-based University of Haifa and Emirates-based Zayed University signed an academic collaboration agreement for conducting joint research on environmental matters as nautical sciences, natural resource management processes, and environmental education on higher level.

Consequently, it is clear fact that the Abraham Accords provided the necessary momentum especially in the fields of environment. The point is, via the Abraham Accords, all related parties now able to collaborate to resolve the Middle East's one of the most difficult, water scarcity problem. Additionally, as number of countries that are classified as water poor are increasing, danger of accessing clean water for drinking and sanitation is growing, climate change's harsh effects are being felt more tangibly day by day, such cooperation processes on corporal and academic degrees that empowered by governmental channels become even increasingly important.

The Abraham Accords, in this respect, deserve a special focus in legal, political, and environmental perspectives as these documents succeeded to bring nominal enemies together for a common target, a common purpose.

While protecting environment, minimizing detrimental effects of climate change via effective and sustainable methods, and finally having a sustainable ambience of peace are the common goals of every single country in the region, law-oriented solutions such as the Abraham Accords, now seem to have more potential and capacity on the eyes of lawmakers, policymakers and scholars all over the world, in order to cope with environmentalist issues.

As the whole Middle East has been shattered for many times because of countless wars, which they may bring more detrimental results for the nature, in case of the transformation from diplomatic crises to conventional hot conflicts, the law and the diplomacy rise as remedies to fight against climate change both in direct and indirect platforms.

For all these reasons, the Abraham Accords turns some kind of legal documents that must be considered as example for other countries in the region that may experience new diplomatic crises or hot conflicts; as the Accords have already proved their potential in protecting the environment, preserving the atmosphere of peace and bringing countries closer together by ignoring ages-old disputes but understanding that the climate change is massive and real threat for everybody in the World.

4.2. The Abraham Accords' Potential to Be an Example for Rest of the Middle East: The GERD

As mentioned on previous chapters of this study, the Abraham Accords paved a great way for formerly unthinkable Arab-Israeli cooperation processes in many

different fields. Despite of all shortcomings, 4 Arab nations and Israel managed to meet on common point in many areas to guarantee their security, economic development, political stability, energy needs and environmental concerns for the future. While all countries succeeded to normalize their bilateral relations by legally, politically, economically engage, they also flourished military collaboration by empowering defence-focused initiatives (Robinson and Feely, 2022). Besides, all parties also achieved to assure their environmental needs and concerns in certain degree via expedient government-based, academia-based, or commerce-based joint steps.

This is to express, it becomes a must to accept the achievements of the Abraham Accords in establishing regional security, accelerating common economic development, helping to create an atmosphere of dialogue and minimizing environmental risks. However, another great success of the Accords is, it's undeniable potential to be an example for the rest of the Middle East for both ensuring regional security; protecting the environment and resolving environment-related, disputes in a legal and legitimate framework that no one can dare to violate as ancient legal principles, universal customs and image on international arena prevail. While this is the case, a very recent and environmental problem in the Greater Middle East emerge as suitable examples where the law can help protect the environment, just like in the Abraham Accords: Egyptian-Ethiopian-Sudanese dispute over the construction of the GERD on the Blue Nile River.

At the beginning of the political issues of environmental origin that occupy the greater Middle East and North Africa's agenda most is the GERD which is being built by Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia ("Ethiopia") on the Blue Nile River and effects of this dam on the waters of the river.

The GERD has been under construction since 2011 by the state-owned Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation, and it will be the largest facility in the Africa continent when it is completed. The project is being seen as a landmark opportunity by Ethiopia as it is supposed to revive the country's economy, to provide electricity as 6000 megawatts, to meet the country's rapidly growing population's needs for water which Ethiopia is already amongst the most crowded countries in the world, to enable irrigation of new agricultural lands in the country, and to create approximately 12.000 new jobs (Water Technology, 2023).

These prospective benefits of the GERD cause the people of the nation and the government to show great interest and evaluation of the project. Moreover, such a great capacity to generate electricity power will also enable the Addis Ababa government to sell/export this power to other countries and generate great revenue in every year (Al Jazeera English, 2020a). But unlike Addis Ababa government, the GERD doesn't look all that astonishing in Cairo and Khartoum. In fact, Egypt and Sudan evaluate the construction process and the dam's itself as disasters for themselves.

In Egyptian perspective

The Nile River has been at the heart of the Egyptian nation for ages, since it has been the only source for inland transportation, irrigation, sanitation, and drinking. Besides, when the highly problematic environmental characteristics of the country are considered, the value of the river for the Egypt is being understood more frankly. Therefore, any probable interruption to the natural flow of the Blue Nile River constitutes a great source of concern and stress for Egypt. The country's fears do not seem irrational at all, as the GERD will cut Egypt's clean water supply by %14 and destroy %18 of its farmland within 10

years in the best scenario that as put forward by the Al Jazeera. Bitterly, if Ethiopia fills the GERD in a period less than 10 year, Egypt' clean water sources and agrarian lands will be lost more and quicker. In all scenarios, the country will be deserted within time, it's agricultural industry will be severely damaged, the water reservoir of the country's largest dam, Aswan Dam, will be decreased, and its population over 100 million will find themselves in a grave and deep-water scarcity. All these scenarios mean nothing but a catastrophe. The Cairo government evaluates the whole project as an "existential threat" to existence of the Egyptian state and nation.

For all these reasons, relations between Egypt and Ethiopia have become quite tense in recent years. Since 2011, the year the construction started, both Morsi and el-Sisi, Egyptian former and current Presidents, made many moves to stop the project, and they openly expressed their opposition to the project. So much so that in a meeting led by former President Mohamed Morsi, which was broadcast live in 2013, it was even recommended that the Addis Ababa government should be distracted from realizing the project by interfering in Ethiopia's internal affairs. Since then, in many media outlets of both Ethiopian and international origin, there were reports that Egypt has taken a hostile attitude towards Ethiopia, carried out cyber-attacks to undermine economic activities, provoked some ethnic groups in the country for a probable insurgence, and sent armed militias to the neighbouring country State of Eritrea to stop the construction of the GERD, and that has been trying to influence another project-affected country, Sudan, to deploy troops on the Ethiopian border as a means of intimidation (DW News, 2020; Tessema, 2021)

In addition to all these acts and moves, mutual statements from both Egyptian and Ethiopian sides also increase the tension between parties. So as, Ethiopian Prime Minister Ahmed's statement as "...no force could stop Ethiopia from

building a dam ... If there is a need to go to war, we could get millions readied. If some could fire a missile, others could use bombs. But that's not in the best interest of all of us...." increases the tensions on bilateral affairs while Egyptian President el-Sisi also put forwards aggressive remarks indifferent times such as "...no one can compromise Egypt's water. It is a matter of life and death..." (Al Jazeera, 2019)

Former US President Trump's statements on the subject as "...It's a very dangerous situation, because Egypt is not going to be able to live that way and they will end up blowing up the dam..." also reveals how serious the issue is, how likely it is to break out of a new war in the Middle East, and proves and proves the vehemence of the situation (Al Jazeera English, 2020b).

In Sudanese perspective

The position of Sudan in this matter, on the other hand, is highly erratic. When the project was firstly launched, Sudanese government and nation welcomed it as the GERD would control seasonal floods that devastate farms and other agricultural landscapes in the country and provide cheap and abundant electricity for unpowered regions (de Waal, 2021). However, approach of Sudan had been drastically changed and moved from appraising to being concerned as Ethiopia started to fill the GERD rapidly than expected, the Addis Ababa government failed to provide a clear and solid commitment about water sharing and flow of the Nile, and Egypt started to accelerate dialogue with the Khartoum government, especially after the Sudanese Army increased its influence over the political life after series of coup d'états.

Currently, even though the Khartoum government is not totally against the project, it still carries some concerns and calls for an urge solution to unresolved and continuing problems. Until now, Sudanese Minister of Irrigation

and Water Resources Yasir Abbas constantly stressed that Ethiopia should officially commit to provide water in adequate amounts via a binding legal agreement rather than verbal promises or basic guidelines; otherwise the project would pose a great danger for the environment and the livelihoods of the Sudanese people (Al Jazeera English, 2020c).

At present day, Sudan's position against the GERD is not harsh as Egypt's. Nevertheless, due to Cairo's intense calls and motivations, in 2021, Khartoum mobilized troops to border for intimidation and started to carry out joint aerial military trainings with Egypt.

The future of this tripartite conflict is uncertain. In fact, the past of disputes over the Nile is already full of with uncertainties. Albeit there are already some initiatives over the control of the Nile such as 1999 Nile Basin Agreement amongst all Nile basin countries , all of them have been in vain due to legal and geographical technicalities. However, these problems, which have not been answered within the last 12 years, now bring painful consequences.

It is believed that an urgent, fair and rational resolution must be explored and practiced, immediately. In this wise, when the fact that construction process of the GERD is ongoing in rapid, and tensions amongst these countries is getting higher and higher, are considered, it is understood that a comprehensive and binding legal instrument should be signed immediately to radically solve this problem. Furthermore, it is also believed that, as Egyptian, Sudanese and Ethiopian nations have deeper and concreter ties than Israel and 4 Arab nations, a masterly designed and shaped legal document would bring more positive, useful and beneficial outcomes than the Abraham Accords; would mostly and rapidly solve this dispute; prevent a probable new war in the Middle East; and protect the environment, watery sources and agrarian lands of the region which are already distressed and fragile.

Moreover, the Abraham Accords also stands as examples for other Middle Eastern nations that experienced environment-focused and water-focused crises and disputes in recent years such as Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey, Syrian Arab Republic and Republic of Iraq. By designing similar legal instruments and cross border agreements, these countries may also create win-win solutions for themselves over the share and usage of natural sources.

5. CONCLUDING REMARKS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The planet earth is old, tired and exhausted. Moreover, terms such as global warming and climate change, their negative and ongoing effects, overpopulation, unconscious resource usage, pollution of water sources, and many other human-induced problems worsen the situation of the world. Even the coronavirus pandemic that outbreaked in 2019, upset all known economic, social, medical and political balances and caused the death of more than 6 million people, alone is enough to reveal how the planet is suffering. While this is the case, it also emerges bold, decisive and immediate actions needed to be taken. But this is not only the task of scientists or engineers, but also of all humanity, and every possible tool should be used. At this point, an unusual, unfamiliar but potent and unlocked branch of science comes into play for protecting the environment, which is law.

The Abraham Accords, correspondingly, rises as one of the most efficient and surprisal reflection of the law on protection of the environment since the Accords are originally designed to heal political relations of their signatories, but not the nature. However, even though the Accords are not completely legally binding and they have sui generis legal features; their provisions and clauses that predicts cooperation, coordination and collaboration on

environmental issues brought highly useful, and productive outcomes that explained on previous parts of this paper. All these outcomes that have limited but remarkable effects caused another great success however, which is showing that law, and cross border agreement can be used as a tool to mobilize countries to take bold and immediate actions by the virtue of an ancient legal principle, *Pacta Sunt Servanda*. Considering the processes described in this paper, it is understood that countries that act with maximum determination and goodwill in line with this principle have achieved both political, economic, and environmental successes thanks to cross border agreements. Indeed, via the law and the principle of *Pacta Sunt Servanda*, signatory countries could mobilize their universities, companies and other internal/external actors and encourage them to take the necessary steps. Moreover, these Accords also indirectly benefit the protection of the environment, as they served to establish peace and prevent wars that cause numerous harms to the environment.

In this sense, another characteristic of the Accords which they are products of direct negotiations amongst signatory countries, also increases their chance to succeed their objectives. As Israel and 4 Arab nations decided to prepare, sign and obey these rules and their contents without intervention of another international body or actor except the USA, they found the chance to put forward their political, economic, legal and ecological demands, concerns and expectations clearly.

In short, for the world, which is in a very stressful situation, whose resources are rapidly depleted, whose population is increasing rapidly, and whose nature is getting more polluted every day, law and cross border agreements are seen as tools that are worth trying and have high potentials.

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Yazarların, bu makalenin araştırılması, yazarlığı ve yayınlanmasına ilişkin herhangi bir potansiyel çıkar çatışması bulunmamaktadır.

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GENİŞLETİLMİŞ ÖZET

Ne zaman oluştuğu tam olarak bilinmeyen dünyamız yaşlı, yorgun ve bitkin bir durumdadır. Dahası son yıllarda adı sıklıkla duyulan küresel ısınma ve iklim değişikliği gibi kavramlar, bunların olumsuz ve süregelen etkileri, dünya genelindeki aşırı nüfus patlaması, bilinçsiz kaynak kullanımı, su kaynaklarının kirlenmesi ve yine insan kaynaklı birçok çevresel / ekolojik sorun dünyanın durumunu her geçen gün daha da kötüleştirmektedir. 2019 yılında patlak veren, bilinen tüm ekonomik, sosyal, tıbbi ve siyasi dengeleri alt üst eden ve 6 milyondan fazla insanın ölümüne neden olan koronavirüs pandemisi bile tek başına gezegenin durumunu kötüleştirmeye yetmiştir. Durum böyleyken cesur, rasyonel ve gerçekçi önlemler alınması gerektiği de artık su götürmez bir gerçek olarak ortaya çıkmaktadır. Ancak bu sadece bilim adamlarının, ekologların ya da mühendislerin değil, esasında tüm insanlığın görevidir ve bu uğurda var olan her bir araç, her bir enstrümanın kullanılması gerekmektedir. İşte bu noktada çevrenin korunması için klasik sayısal ya da fenni bilimlerden ziyade sosyal bilimler kapsamında bulunan alışılmışın dışında, farklı ama güçlü ve potansiyeli yüksek bir bilim dalı olan hukuk ve onun paralelinde uluslararası ilişkiler, politika, diplomasi, ekonomi gibi diğer sosyal bilimler ön plana çıkmaktadır.

İsrail Devleti ile 4 Arap ülkesi (Birleşik Arap Emirlikleri, Fas Krallığı, Bahreyn Krallığı ve Sudan Cumhuriyeti) arasında akdedilen İbrahim Antlaşmaları, bu minvalde, çevrenin korunmasına ilişkin hukuki çabaların en etkili ve şaşırtıcı yansımalarından biri olarak yükselmektedir, çünkü her bir devletin İsrail Devleti ile akdettiği Antlaşmalar esasında doğayı korumak ya da çevresel sorunları önlemek için değil, akit devletlerin aralarındaki siyasi ilişkilerini iyileştirmek için tasarlanmıştır. Ancak, Antlaşmalar çevresel konularda iş birliğini, koordinasyonu ve yardımlaşmayı öngören hüküm ve maddeleri de içermekte olup, zamanla tüm taraflar için oldukça yararlı ve verimli sonuçları beraberinde getirmiştir. Sınırlı ama dikkate değer etkileri olan tüm bu sonuçlar, hukukun ve uluslararası antlaşmaların -kadim bir hukuk ilkesi olan Ahde Vefa uyarınca egemen devletlerin cesur ve kararlı adımlar atma konusunda harekete geçirmek için bir araç olarak kullanılabileceğini göstermek suretiyle- doğa ve çevrenin korunmasında uygun birer araç olarak kullanılabileceğini gözler önüne sermiştir. Bu çalışmada ortaya konan tüm hususlar dikkate alındığında, mezkûr ilke doğrultusunda azami kararlılık ve iyi niyetle hareket eden ülkelerin uluslararası antlaşmalar sayesinde hem siyasi hem ekonomik hem de çevresel başarılar elde edebileceğini ortaya koymuştur. Nitekim akit devletler, hukuk ve Ahde Vefa ilkesi aracılığıyla üniversitelerini, şirketlerini, resmî kurumlarını ve diğer iç / dış, resmi ya da özel aktörlerini harekete geçirebilmiş ve gerekli adımları atmaları için teşvik edebilmiştir. Ayrıca bu Antlaşmalar, barışın tesis edilmesine ve

çevreye sayısız zarar veren savaşların önlenmesine hizmet ettiği için de çevrenin korunmasına sadece doğrudan değil dolaylı olarak da fayda sağlamaktadır.

Bu bağlamda, akit devletler arasında -Amerika Birleşik Devletleri'nin gözetiminde- yürütülen doğrudan müzakerelerin ürünü olan Antlaşmaların bir diğer özelliği de ülkelerin hedeflerine ulaşma yolundaki başarı şanslarını artırmasıdır. İsrail ve 4 Arap ülkesi, bu kuralları ve içeriğini hazırlamaya, imzalamaya ve uymaya karar verirken, hukuki, politik, ekonomik ve dahi çevresel / ekolojik taleplerini, endişelerini ve beklentilerini net bir şekilde ortaya koyma şansı bulmuşlardır.

Kısacası süregelen savaşlar, çatışmalar ve krizler nedeniyle ziyadesiyle stresli ve çalkantılı bir durumda olan, kaynakları hızla tükenen, nüfusu hızla artan ve doğası her geçen gün daha da kirlenen dünya için hukuk ve uluslararası antlaşmalar çevrenin korunması ve birtakım sorunların önüne geçilebilmesi için denenmeye değer araçlar olarak görülmekte ve sahip oldukları yüksek potansiyel fark edilmektedir.

Bu antlaşmalar, Büyük Ortadoğu Coğrafyasındaki diğer çevresel etmenli ihtilafların da sona erdirilebilmesi ve ilişkilerin normalleştirilmesi (Tacikistan Cumhuriyeti ve Kırgız Cumhuriyeti) için emsal teşkil etmesi gerekçesiyle de büyük bir değer arz etmektedir.

Tüm bu gerekçelerle, işbu makalenin konusu olarak mezkûr İbrahim Antlaşmaları tercih edilmiştir. Bu antlaşmaların arz ettiği sadece hukuki, politik, ekonomik ya da çevresel değil aynı zamanda psikolojik değer ve potansiyel de bu tercihe olumlu etkide bulunmuştur. İşbu makalede; öncelikle, giriş kısmında ve ikinci bölümünde Büyük Ortadoğu'nun mevcut politik koşulları hakkında bilgi verilmiş, devamında ise bölgede yıllardır süregelen ve son yıllarda hem sayısı hem de şiddeti gittikçe artan çevresel sorunlar ve çevre kaynaklı siyasi meseleler hakkında açıklamalar yapılmıştır.

Çalışmanın üçüncü bölümünde İbrahim Antlaşmaları hakkında detaylı bilgi verilmiştir. Bu bölümde Antlaşmaların nasıl hazırlandığı, ortaya çıkış süreçleri, bu süreçte cereyan eden olaylar, Arap ülkelerinin kadim düşman bildikleri İsrail ile neden böylesi bir barış sürecine girdikleri, bu antlaşmaların muhteviyatları, çevre ile ilgili hangi hükümleri içerdikleri, bu antlaşmaların hukuki nitelikleri (bağlayıcı olup olmadıkları, hangi uluslararası hukuk enstrümanı olarak değerlendirilmesi gerektiği vd.) gibi konularda hukuki, tarihsel ve teknik anlamda açıklamalar yapılmıştır.

Makalenin dördüncü kısmında ise doğrudan doğruya İbrahim Antlaşmaları ve çevre ile ilgili spesifik konularda spesifik açıklamalarda bulunulmuş, 4 ülke

perspektifinden antlaşmaların nasıl çevresel etkileri beraberinde getirdiği izah edilmiş ve üniversiteler, kamu kurumları, düşünce kuruluşları, su arıtma ve benzeri konularda faaliyet gösteren şirketler, ve sair iç ve dış paydaşların son 3 yılda gerçekleştirdikleri faaliyetler de dikkate alınarak -ve bunlarla ilgili detaylı örnekler sunularak- İbrahim Antlaşmalarının ortaya çıkardığı başarılı sonuçlar ve etkiler anlatılmıştır. Çalışmanın beşinci ve son bölümünde genel bir özet sunulduktan sonra nihai yorumlar ve beklentiler ileri sürülmüş, antlaşmaların kısa, orta ve uzun vadedeki etkileri ile ilgili genel beklentiler ortaya konmuştur.

Bu çalışmanın hazırlanması sürecinde hem Türk hem de yabancı akademisyen ve uzmanların görüşlerinden istifade edilmiş, yine saygın ve güvenilir basın kuruluşlarının İbrahim Antlaşmaları ve akit devletler ile ilgili hazırladıkları yazılardan faydalanılmış ve son olarak bir takım ulusal ve uluslararası kamu kuruluşlarının yazılı ve görsel materyalleri kullanılarak ileri sürülen hipotezler savunulmaya çalışılmıştır.