

## UAE-Japanese Relations 1973-1990 Historical Study

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### *Abstract*

This study examines the historical relations between the Emirates and Japan (1973-1990). Which was based on economic interests (oil) to a large extent. The historical links indicate the existence of Japanese relations with the coastal emirates, which seem to have been Japan's gateway to the Persian Gulf. It seems clear that the great competition that Japan witnessed with the British government, which controlled the political and economic decisions of the emirates of the coast.

This study shows the nature of relations between the UAE and Japan. Those relations that were proceeding according to two factors: First: Oil and the need to obtain it from the Emirates, which was the largest source of oil for Japan. Secondly: taking a position of neutrality in political issues and not angering the United States of America, which has deep relations with Japan, but the year 1973 and the accompanying cutting off of oil supplies to countries supporting Israel, America and Japan was one of the countries covered by the oil embargo. Therefore, the Japanese government hastened to issue a decision rejecting the Israeli aggression against the Arabs. And the necessity of resolving differences through peaceful means and referring to Security Council Resolution No. 242, which stipulates the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied Arab lands after the June 1967 war. This is a position that is calculated for Japan, but from the context of the relations between the two parties, we find that this position is to ensure the continuation of the flow of oil and the preservation of economic interests between them. both parties.

Keywords: political relations, UAE, Japan, Japanese-Emirati policy.

### **Introduction**

The United Arab Emirates gained great importance after gaining independence from Britain on December 2, 1971, due to the rapid renaissance and modernization it achieved in its political, economic and

cultural activities. It is caused by the extraction of oil, according to researchers and those interested in the Arabian Gulf region. And the fact that Japan is one of the developed countries, which began its renaissance after the Second World War (1939-1945). relying on its human resources. Which is looking for oil that drives progress in Japan. Japanese oil companies found this advantage in the Emirates, which they exploited in obtaining oil concessions in Abu Dhabi. And then developing its political relationship with the UAE, which in turn was able to use oil as a determinant of Japanese foreign policy in the UAE and the Arab region in general.

The importance of this research stems from the fact that the world has begun to care a lot about trade and finding markets that guarantee the sale of its goods. The Arab Gulf region and the UAE in particular is one of these markets that Japan looks at with the eyes of competition with the United States of America. In addition to Japan's need for Emirati oil, which is mainly involved in the development of Japan's industry. Therefore, Japanese foreign policy paid attention to establishing economic and political relations with the United Arab Emirates. From this point of view, light has been shed on the Emirati-Japanese relations 1973-1990, a historical study.

Among the factors that prompted the researcher to delve deeper into its events is the lack of an Arab or Gulf academic study on the subject of the research. While the study of the history of Japanese relations with major countries and surrounding countries was dealt with.

The problem that the research discusses is: What is the main determinant that plays the decisive role in shaping Japanese foreign policy towards the United Arab Emirates? What are the tools used by the Japanese political decision makers in this regard? Are the goals driving the directions of this policy towards the UAE purely economic goals, or have they gone beyond that to become a kind of multi-dimensional relations economically, politically and culturally? The researcher tries to answer these questions in the body of the research.

In light of this, the research was divided into an introduction, three sections, and a conclusion: The first section dealt with the economic relations between the UAE and Japan. The second topic was devoted to studying the political relations between the two countries. The third topic focused on the role of cultural relations in deepening the bonds of the relationship between the two countries.

The researcher encountered some difficulties, and thank Allah they were avoided, which was represented by the scarcity of Arab and Gulf writings in this regard. And the lack of Iraqi libraries to the sources related to the origin of the research. Therefore, the information published on the international information network (the Internet) was used. In addition to some official publications issued by the United Arab Emirates, which the

researcher obtained through the brothers in the National Archives in Abu Dhabi. But my attachment to the interest in the history of the Emirates and the overwhelming desire to shed light on the renaissance witnessed by the country and the need to adopt it and apply it in the Arab countries, was the biggest incentive for me to double the effort. Although I am aware that some aspects of the research need further elaboration. And the subject deserves further study and in-depth. However, I feel relieved that I have done what I have in order to complete this research.

The first topic: economic relations between the two countries 1973-1990

The first historical links between the UAE and Japan date back to the thirties of the twentieth century. This was after Japan entered the international competition in the Arabian Gulf region. So competition began with the artificial pearl trade in the Gulf region and India, one of the largest pearl markets in Asia. Then it tried to compete in obtaining oil concessions when it was discovered in the Arabian Gulf. This competition in the Arabian Gulf region and Japan's supremacy in the trade of cotton textiles, ready-made clothes, ceramic utensils, shoes, bicycles and children's toys constituted one of the most important causes of conflict between Britain and Japan in the Arabian Gulf region and Asia.

In an attempt to stop the invasion of Japanese goods, Western countries took various measures. Britain exerted pressure on the Arab Gulf emirates to prevent dealing with artificial pearls. The British Political Resident prepared a draft of a royal regulation to be issued and signed by the Queen of Britain and circulated to all the emirates of the Gulf. The draft stipulated the following:

- (1) It is prohibited to import, transport, sell, possess and manufacture cultured or light-colored pearls in Bahrain.
- (2) Any person found guilty of contravening subsection (1) shall be liable to imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or to a fine which may amount to 2,000 rupees or to both.
- (3) Any person who attempts to commit or abet the commission of any offense under Paragraph (2) shall be punished as if he had committed the offense.
- (4) It is forbidden to sell polished or pierced pearls in Bahrain. And any person who commits the sale or purchase of these pearls knowing that he is such, or incites the sale or purchase, will be liable to the penalty described in Paragraph (2). This regulation is called the 1930 Trade in Cultured Pearls Regulations.

After the end of World War II (1939-1945) and the change in the international balance of power in this war in favor of the United States

of America. And its emergence on the world stage as a superpower to compete with Britain in the Arabian Gulf region. In addition, Japan was looking for a foothold in light of the struggle to obtain the gains of the war.

The Arabian Gulf region was one of the most important of these arenas in which major countries began to show their fangs towards the region and their interests. As far as Japan is concerned, it tended to develop its interests in the Arab region, through reliance on Arab oil, given that Japan is the largest importer of oil in the world.

In 1966, the Mitsubishi Sekiyo Company sent a special mission to Abu Dhabi with the intention of entering the arena of competition over oil concessions with the rest of the other international oil companies. And she was able to obtain a concession to explore for oil in an area of 15.6 thousand square kilometers for the benefit of her own company, Toyota Sekiyo, and started her work directly.

This agreement showed that Japan is ready to extract oil from its sources and export it by its own companies.

In order to deepen the Japanese monopolies in the field of oil exploration and investment in the Emirates, the Japanese monopolies sought to achieve the interests of the local authorities in this regard through constructive cooperation with them. He added to the agreements and concessions signed the commitment of the governments of the oil-producing countries to harness the agreements in order to own the concessions close to the shores of Abu Dhabi for a period of 45 years for the benefit of Japanese companies. Among them are (Maruzine Seikyu), (Daikyu Seikyu) and (Nippon Mining), which established in 1968 the well-known oil company (Abu Dhabi Seikyu). The shares of this company were distributed equally among the three owners. It took into account the issue of the state owning 50% of its shares after the discovery of oil. (Abu Dhabi Sequoia) obtained the concession that was relinquished by (Abu Dhabi Marine Areas) known as (ADMA).

In 1968, the Group of Seven companies (Mitsubishi) in Abu Dhabi obtained a concession to explore for oil in an area of 2,510 square miles for a period of 35 years. Excluding the American company (Getty Oil), the American Independent Company and the Italian company (AGIP). Japanese companies pledged in the first eight years to allocate 24 million dollars for exploration and exploration and to pay guarantees amounting to 75 thousand dollars for each year preceding the oil discovery process. And in the event that the oil that will be extracted begins to be exported, it will be raised to 100 thousand dollars. And the government of Abu Dhabi was given the right to be represented on the board of directors of the company by a special representative within six months from the date of finding oil, and to own 50% of the shares. The

agreement also included the commitment of the Japanese side to build an oil refinery when production reaches ten million tons per year, and a complex for petrochemical industries when production reaches 15 million tons per year.

In 1969, the Abu Dhabi Sequoia Company found high-quality oil containing very small amounts of impurities in the Maburaz area. In 1973, it produced thirty thousand barrels per day, which rose to 100 thousand barrels per day later.

This is a major step in the path of relations between the UAE and Japan, which consolidates the principle of cooperation and friendship between the two countries. This development was praised by the President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, saying: "Increasing cooperation between the two peoples and governments of Japan and the UAE will undoubtedly serve their common interests. It should indeed be a big step on the way towards closer relations between our two countries." On our part, we affirm our keen keenness on everything that would achieve more prosperity and serve the interest of our two peoples, as well as our keen keenness on everything that would increase the strength of these common interests... and that the United Arab Emirates is carrying out its duty to the fullest. In the field of strengthening the relations between our two countries and our peoples together, and at the same time we expect Japan to do the same so that we can together strengthen the relations between us in various economic fields, especially oil."

These economic relations were subjected to shocks that caused them to lose many of their interests. On October 8, 1973, the UAE, along with the Arab countries, took a decision to drastically reduce oil production and to partially boycott the capitalist countries. Japan was affected by these measures, as a result of which it was forced to take several steps in which it moved away from the policy of the United States of America towards the issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

As a result of the repercussions of the October War in 1973 and its effects on Japanese interests in the Emirates and the Arab region. Japan's real interest in the Arab-Israeli conflict began. As Japan determined its position on the conflict according to the statement of November 22, 1973, in which Japan declared its opposition to the seizure of land by force. It called for Israel's withdrawal from the Arab lands it occupied in 1967, in addition to supporting the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. The role of the UAE was to remove Japan from the oil embargo list. This was after the Japanese government took measures that had the effect of lifting the ban on it.

This oil crisis led to a relative change in Japan's economic policy. Japan tended to follow a policy based on diversifying energy sources and reducing dependence on Arab oil. During the year 1979, an advisory

committee of the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) submitted a special report to the Japanese government on Japan's intention to develop alternative sources of dependence on oil and natural gas. That report set a timeline that made 1990 the acceptable time range for Japanese industries. In order to reduce its dependence on oil by up to 50% of its use.

On November 28, 1979, the Japanese government agreed on a program for energy alternatives that allowed increasing dependence on some of the main sources of energy in Japan, such as coal from 12.9% to 17.7%, natural gas from 4% to 10.2%, and alternatives to nuclear energy from 3.6% to 10.9%, which helped reduce the dependence of Japanese industries on oil to the lowest possible extent.

Despite all these measures taken by Japan in order to reduce dependence on UAE and Arab oil in general. It is still dependent on UAE oil and natural gas. The UAE is the largest exporter of crude oil to Japan. It represents about 25% of oil imports to Japan from the UAE. Japan also relies on liquefied natural gas from the Emirates by about 80%, which is purchased by the Tokyo Electric Power Company.

In light of this economic cooperation between the UAE and Japan and given the importance of UAE oil for Japan. As well as the importance of Japanese products for the UAE. A joint committee was established in 1980 to develop and organize cooperation relations. It includes energy, trade, agriculture, transportation and fishing. In addition to studying ways to enhance joint cooperation in the scientific, cultural and sports fields. Niyoro Takeshita, former Prime Minister of Japan (1987-1989), indicated that Japan feels the importance of its growing relations with the United Arab Emirates. Which since 1980 has become Japan's fourth largest commercial financier. On the other hand, since 1981, Japan has become the largest trading partner of the United Arab Emirates. From this it is clear that economic relations are constantly growing and developing due to the rise in oil prices. The volume of Japan's trade with the UAE has increased. The year 1981 recorded the development of Japanese exports to the United Arab Emirates, with a value of 6456 million dollars.

Despite the development in economic relations between the UAE and Japan, Japan's strategy remains closely linked to the first energy source in the world. Statistics indicate that Japan relies on the UAE to secure more than (965) thousand barrels of oil per day. The following is Table No. (1) showing the size and development of Japan's dependence on UAE oil.

**Table No. (1) The size and evolution of Japan's dependence on UAE oil (1973-1989)**

	1973	1976	1979	1981	1984	1985	1986	1988	1989
UAE	27,980	30,526	38,55	31,373	33,719	42,212	42,615	37,814	42,770

It is clear from the above table, Japan's dependence on UAE oil. This is through the increase in the year 1985. Japan imported about 21% of those exports. This shows that Japanese trade has clearly depended on the oil of the United Arab Emirates.

Given the importance of oil for Japan, especially after the success of its economic companies in exporting Japanese goods to the UAE. Considering that the UAE is an oil exporting country. Japanese companies rushed to the region in an attempt to obtain concessions for oil exploration and investment. And it succeeded in achieving its goals. The credit for its success is attributed to the equipment and technologies it possesses, the quality of which exceeds that of the Western oil companies.

The other reason is that Japan does not have a colonial history and does not wish to control the region politically or to fight the Arabs nationally or religiously. In addition, Japan takes a position of neutrality with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict. It is not associated with Israel, as some Western powers, such as the United States of America, do.

The second topic: political relations between the Emirates and Japan 1973-1990

The mechanisms of rapprochement between the UAE and Japan are mainly due to economic relations, and Japan's dependence on UAE oil for energy led to the emergence of political relations between the two countries.

As Japan has always sought to establish balanced economic and political relations with the United Arab Emirates. Therefore, it was the first country to recognize the independence of the United Arab Emirates on the second of December 1971. Diplomatic activity began with the opening of the UAE embassy in Tokyo in 1973. While the Japanese embassy was opened in Abu Dhabi in April 1974.

Japan relied in its foreign policy after World War II (1939-1945) on two main axes: First: to follow the policy of the United States of America and avoid angering it. Especially with regard to Israel and its issues in the Arab region. Even the decisions taken by Japan are formalities without any influence on Japan's foreign policy. The evidence for this is that Japan adopted Resolution No. (242 ( in the UN Security Council in 1967

against Israel, but it failed to interpret the resolution except in the oil embargo crisis in 1973, which we will detail later. From this we infer that Japan's foreign policy relied primarily on the policy of the United States of America and is subordinate to the American decision in accordance with what was included in the US-Japanese agreement.

As for the second determining factor for Japanese foreign policy, it is: oil and the need to maintain its flow to Japan. Because Japan is the largest importer of oil in the world. Therefore, the Japanese policy proceeded to appease the countries that have oil interests, including the United Arab Emirates, which was the main source of oil for Japan.

While the foreign policy of the United Arab Emirates towards the issues of the Arab world adopted a policy of joint coordination, dialogue and cooperation that serves the interests of the countries of the region. Resolve all differences by peaceful means that serve the security and stability of the Arab Gulf states. And as the interim constitution defined the relationship of the United Arab Emirates with the Arab world, as follows: "The Union's foreign policy aims to support Arab and Islamic causes and interests, and to strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation with all countries and peoples on the basis of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. And international best morals". As the interim constitution affirmed: "The union is part of the great Arab homeland with which it is bound by the bonds of religion, language, history and a common destiny".

In its foreign policy, the UAE focused on adopting the idea of unity at the Gulf level first, and the Arabs second. And work for the Emirates to be a natural extension of the Arab nation. That is why the Palestinian issue was the focus of attention of officials in the United Arab Emirates, which was characterized by an important strategic location in the heart of the Arabian Gulf.

Sheikh Zayed expressed his country's foreign policy aimed at preserving the security of the Arab Gulf. And to prevent all forms of external interference and protection. He called for joint cooperation among the people of the Gulf to maintain security and stability in the region and stated the following: "The whole world must clearly know that security and peace in the region can only be through consultation and joint cooperation between its people alone."

In the same context, the United Arab Emirates took a strong and bold step when it decided on October 8, 1973, to cut off oil from all Western countries that support the Zionist entity. Sheikh Zayed described this decision, saying: "I issued this decision and I was not waiting for all this support. I was not looking forward to it for a single moment. I issued the decision to cut off oil from the United States of America because of my belief that I fully fulfill my duty towards my family and my people... and that the decision to cut represents A declaration of our march with the



military and political battle to the end of the road.. Oil is one of the weapons of the battle, and it is not more precious than Arab blood. We are trying to invest it for the benefit of the battle.. Everything is possible, and we will use every weapon in the battle".

In this way, the Emirates have made good use of the issue of the oil embargo and Japan's direct need for Arab oil to change Japan's political position on the issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict and turn it from the roots in favor of the Arab countries.

The diplomatic course of Japanese foreign policy changed after the oil crisis in 1973. It had long relied on the United States of America to provide oil for its economic companies. Japan was affected by the measures to cut off Arab oil from countries supporting the (Arab-Israeli) conflict. Thus, Japan was forced to take many steps away from the policy of the United States of America. It tended to strengthen its relations with the Gulf states and the United Arab Emirates in particular. This was after Japan realized that the US pledges to ensure the flow of oil to it were insufficient. Japanese diplomacy has re-arranged its priorities in the region. It declared its support for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. It also called for the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories after 1967, in accordance with Security Council Resolution 242. The Japanese statement issued on November 22, 1973 included four basic principles as a condition for resolving the issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict, namely:

- 1- The illegality of occupying lands or controlling them by force.
- 2- The withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied Arab lands during the June 1967 war.
- 3- Respecting the freedoms of the countries of the region and the security of the lands and borders of all countries in the region and the need to guarantee them.
- 4- Recognition of the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people in accordance with the laws and principles of the United Nations.

This is how we see an increase in Japanese interest in the Arab Gulf countries and the UAE in particular. Especially after the radical change in Japanese politics after 1973. To become one of the countries that support Arab issues, according to the decisions issued by the Japanese government. To confirm the Japanese position in support of the Emirates and the Arabs in general, a Japanese delegation headed by Deputy Prime Minister (Takeo Miki 1974-1976) visited the United Arab Emirates at the end of November 1973 to consolidate the bonds of friendship and discuss political matters of interest to both countries. And at the same time to confirm the Japanese position in support of the Arab cause (the issue of Palestine). The delegation was received by Deputy

Prime Minister of the UAE, His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum. And he delivered a welcome speech in which he said: "We in the United Arab Emirates clearly know Japan's position on the Middle East issue and on the issue of peace. Japan is a peace-loving people that strives to achieve this goal. We are ready to reach an understanding with you in order to strengthen and strengthen relations between the two countries. the two countries".

UAE-Japanese relations developed greatly during that period through frequent diplomatic visits between the two countries to strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation. During which Japanese officials affirmed their declared position on the Palestinian issue. They praised the giant experience that was built on the land of the Emirates, especially in the field of construction, construction and industry. In January 1978, Mr. Sona and Sonoda, the Japanese Foreign Minister, visited the United Arab Emirates. He held talks with officials in the Emirates on political and economic relations. He met Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, who expressed his satisfaction with the development of economic and trade relations between the two countries. And the agreement of their political position on the need to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

The economic and political relations between the United Arab Emirates and Japan were characterized by development. It culminated in the official visit paid by Mr. (Takeo Fukuda 1976-1978), the Prime Minister of Japan, accompanied by his wife, to the United Arab Emirates for the period from September 10-11, 1978. He was accompanied on this visit by the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Sona and Sonoda) and a number of senior Japanese officials. They were received by His Highness Sheikh Maktoum bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and a number of senior officials in the United Arab Emirates. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan met with Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda. They held frank talks with him and exchanged views on the international situation in the Arab Gulf region and issues of common interest between the UAE and Japan. The two leaders agreed that achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East is essential to world peace. Sheikh Zayed reviewed the situation in the Middle East and the UAE's firm position in support of the Palestinian cause and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. The Japanese Prime Minister reiterated his country's previous position in standing by just Arab causes and achieving peace in the Middle East.

Among the official visits, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan answered the official invitation to visit Japan from May 13-19, 1990. This visit is one of the most prominent features of the friendship and cooperation between the United Arab Emirates and Japan. The Japanese government has gone beyond the usual traditional reception ceremonies for heads of

state. The Crown Prince of Japan was at the head of Sheikh Zayed's reception, contrary to what is customary in receiving state leaders. His Highness Prince Taruhito, Crown Prince of Japan, attended Sheikh Zayed's reception and expressed his pleasure and happiness with this visit. Sheikh Zayed confirmed that he had been looking forward to visiting Japan for a long time. And that there are great and strong relations and common interests between the United Arab Emirates and Japan and their friendly peoples. On this occasion, Sheikh Zayed presented, saying: "Distance did not prevent the consolidation of relations and bonds of friendship between our two countries and peoples....Japan is the first trading partner of our country, from which we import most of our requirements, and to which we export a large part of our oil products and derivatives.... This relationship has evolved to include cooperation between us in other areas that have strengthened friendship and good relations between our peoples.... We share your opinion on the need to establish cooperative relations based on solid foundations of understanding and mutual respect to serve the interests of our peoples".

The third topic: cultural relations between the two countries

The cultural field is one of the important areas to support the bonds of relations between the UAE and Japan. Because deepening the cultural ties between the two sides is one of the main pillars upon which the process of activating joint relations is based. So that it becomes a kind of strategic relationship that does not depend on oil and interests alone. Rather, it goes beyond that to interaction and common interest towards all issues, concerns, hopes and aspirations that concern the Emirati citizen and the Japanese citizen alike.

In light of this, it was necessary for the Emirati and Japanese parties to search for deepening joint cooperation in the cultural fields. Efforts have been made and steps taken in this regard. The problem raises the answer to two main questions on the subject:

The first question: What is the role of education and scholarships in strengthening cultural relations between the UAE and Japan?

The second question: What does culture and arts represent in the development of joint cultural cooperation between the two countries?

First: Education and student exchange between the UAE and Japan

There is no doubt that student exchange between countries is an essential tributary of the tributaries of strengthening cultural relations, and an indication at the same time of the development taking place in joint cooperation in the field of culture.

Cooperation in the educational field has received tangible interest in the two countries within the framework of student scholarships, which are regulated by agreements between the Ministry of Higher Education and

Scientific Research in the UAE and the Japanese Ministry of Education. This program began in 1990. The first delegation of Emirati students traveled within this program in 1991, numbering two students. There are also three Japanese students studying at the UAE University in Al Ain. The scholarship does not specify specific fields of study. Rather, it is left to the students to specify their desires from a wide range of options, including (international relations, geography, literature, child education, nuclear medicine, the environment, and others). Given the success of this project, the Japanese government plans to increase the number of grants in an effort to strengthen ties between the two countries.

Despite this progress in the field of student exchange between the UAE and Japan, it is a development that remains below the required level. For example, if we take the volume of student exchange between the UAE and Japan as one of the indicators of the extent of interest in developing joint cultural relations, we will notice that out of about 85 Egyptian students studying in Japan, the volume of UAE students represents only 2% of the volume of student exchange .

#### Second: The role of culture and arts in Emirati-Japanese relations

Officials in the UAE and Japan were keen to enhance cultural and artistic cooperation between the peoples of the two countries. In 1976, an exhibition of masterpieces of Japanese art was held in Dubai. His Highness Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Vice-President of the UAE at the time, praised this cooperation, saying: "We are pleased, as we welcome the Masterpieces of Japanese Art exhibition in Dubai, to acknowledge the close ties that bind our two countries and the attention we give to developing these ties in various fields. The exhibits indicated the What characterizes the cultural heritage of the Japanese people of nobility and creativity, and we consider the exhibition a way to develop and increase the friendly relations between our two countries".

Youth delegations from the United Arab Emirates also participated in cultural festivals held in Japan. In addition, the Japanese section was established at the Center for Studies and Documentation in Abu Dhabi and is supervised by a Japanese researcher specializing in Gulf affairs. There is also a proposal to establish a Japanese language teaching center in the UAE. All of this falls within the framework of strengthening relations between the two countries.

Despite the recent interest in cultural cooperation frameworks between the UAE and Japan, the cultural relations between the two countries are still faltering due to the absence of scientific and serious work mechanisms governing the relationship between the two sides. Likewise, the Emiratis and the Japanese, although they frequently made enthusiastic speeches in joint seminars and conferences, on the need to deepen cultural ties between them, but the practical return of those speeches is still weak. That is because the number of Arab intellectuals

interested in Japan in all Arab countries and the Emirates in particular is still very limited.

### **Conclusion**

Our research included this titled “Emirati-Japanese Relations 1973-1990 Historical Study” to delve deeper into all aspects related to the subject. Starting with the presentation of the economic relations and the first links through which Japan entered the United Arab Emirates through artificial pearls and the textile trade, and then obtaining the oil exploration concession in Abu Dhabi in 1968. The economic aspect (oil) emerged as the most important feature of this policy, since Japan It is one of the most important countries that depend on oil for energy purposes and the technological industry.

The Japanese interest in the affairs of the United Arab Emirates appeared after 1973, due to the American guarantee to provide Japan's oil needs from the Emirates and the Gulf in general. However, after the oil shock in October 1973, which caused severe damage to the Japanese economy. Japanese decision-makers began to take a direct interest in the UAE.

In fact, the Japanese policy towards the Emirates has changed from what it was before 1973. This is due to the energy crisis and the oil embargo on Japan, which was dependent on Emirati and Arab oil in general. In light of this, and in order for Japan to get rid of this embargo, it took a clear position in support of the Arab cause on November 22, 1973. This was due to the application of the Arab oil embargo policy on it. The Japanese position on Arab issues as a whole was characterized by generality, caution, and not angering the United States of America. This confirms that Japanese foreign policy is subordinate to US policy in general.

The Japanese policy of oil was taken as a determinant of Japanese foreign policy towards the UAE. It used its stance on Arab issues as a tool to deepen political relations with the UAE. We find it taking a position against Israel in 1973 and calling for withdrawal from the lands it occupied after 1967, a position that is calculated for Japan. But from the context of the relations between the two parties, we find that this position is to ensure the continuation of the flow of oil and the preservation of economic interests between the two parties.

With regard to the cultural relations between the two countries, the research indicated that although there are mutual relations between the two countries, they do not rise to the required level.

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