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Analytical Review Article

**STRAIT OF HORMUZ CRISIS AND GLOBAL ENERGY
SECURITY**

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Abstract

The Strait of Hormuz crisis represents one of the most critical threats to global energy security due to its strategic position as a primary **النفط** transit chokepoint. This review analyzes the geopolitical tensions, legal frameworks, and economic vulnerabilities associated with disruptions in the Strait. The findings indicate that even partial disruptions can trigger significant oil price volatility, geopolitical instability, and global economic shocks. The review concludes that diversified energy strategies and strengthened maritime governance are essential to mitigate future risks.

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Introduction

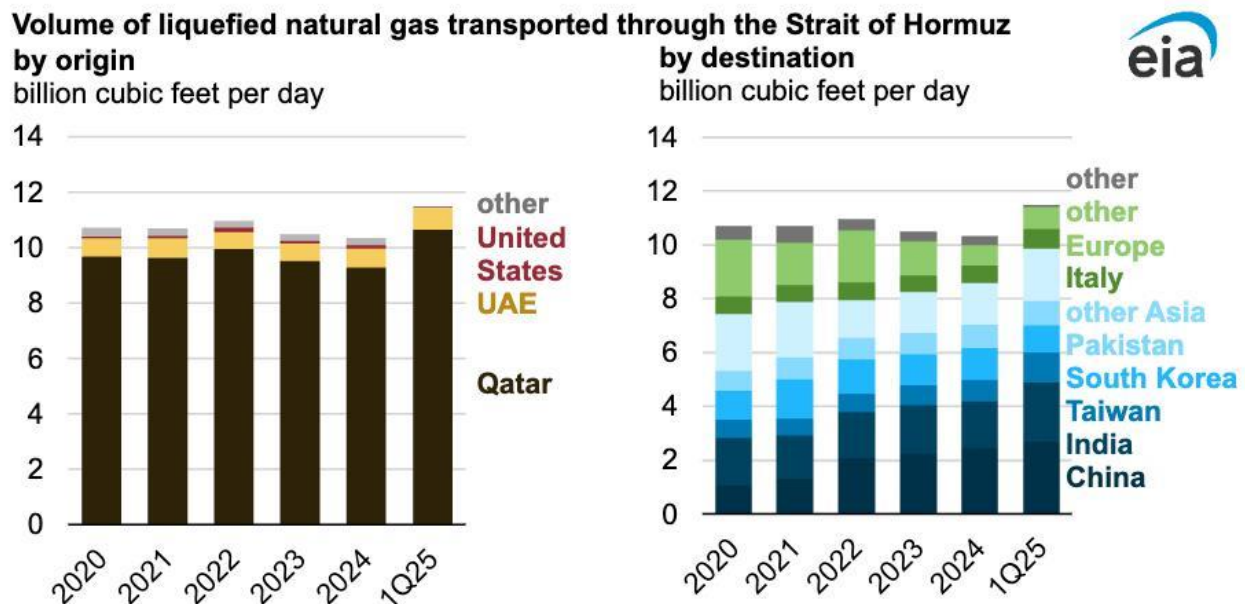
The Strait of Hormuz is one of the most vital maritime chokepoints in the global energy system, facilitating nearly one-fifth of the world's oil trade. Located between Iran and Oman, the Strait serves as a gateway for oil exports from Gulf states to international markets. Its geopolitical sensitivity has made it a focal point of recurring tensions, particularly involving the United States and regional actors. This review examines the causes, implications, and policy responses associated with the Strait of Hormuz crisis, emphasizing its central role in global energy security.

Methodology

This review employs a qualitative and integrative approach, synthesizing data from energy reports, maritime security analyses, and geopolitical studies. Sources include publications from international organizations, think tanks, and peer-reviewed journals. Inclusion criteria focused on literature addressing energy flows, naval security, and geopolitical risk, while exclusion criteria filtered speculative or non-evidence-based sources. Comparative thematic analysis was applied to identify patterns and critical insights.

Main Body / Thematic Analysis

Strategic Importance of the Strait



The Strait of Hormuz is indispensable for global energy flows, with millions of barrels of oil and significant volumes of liquefied natural gas passing through it daily. Its narrow width and limited navigational channels make it highly vulnerable to disruption. The dependence of major economies—including Asia, Europe, and North America—on energy transported through this route underscores its global significance. Any instability in the region directly translates into supply uncertainty and price volatility.

Causes and Drivers of the Crisis

The Strait of Hormuz crisis is driven by geopolitical rivalries, particularly tensions between Iran and Western powers. Sanctions, military posturing, and nuclear-related disputes have intensified risks of confrontation. Additionally, asymmetric warfare tactics—including tanker seizures, drone attacks, and cyber threats—have increased uncertainty. Regional conflicts and proxy dynamics further exacerbate instability, making the Strait a persistent flashpoint.

Legal and Maritime Security Dimensions



The legal framework governing the Strait is primarily based on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which guarantees transit passage for international navigation. However, disputes arise regarding enforcement, sovereignty, and security measures. Iran has occasionally challenged these provisions, while the United States and allied forces emphasize freedom of navigation. The militarization of the Strait raises concerns about escalation and the erosion of international maritime norms.

Global Economic and Energy Impacts

Disruptions in the Strait have immediate and far-reaching economic consequences. Oil price spikes, increased shipping costs, and insurance premiums contribute to inflationary pressures worldwide. Energy-importing countries are particularly vulnerable, facing supply shortages and economic instability. The crisis also affects global financial markets, trade flows, and industrial production, demonstrating the interconnected nature of energy security and economic stability.



Comparative Insight Table

Dimension	Key Observations
Strategic Role	Critical global oil and LNG chokepoint
Security Risks	Naval conflict, asymmetric warfare
Legal Framework	UNCLOS transit passage vs. sovereignty disputes
Economic Impact	Oil price volatility, inflation, recession risks
Global Dependency	High reliance by Asia, Europe, and global markets

Future Prospects

Future research should focus on alternative energy routes, renewable energy transitions, and technological innovations in maritime security. The role of artificial intelligence in monitoring shipping lanes and preventing conflicts is an emerging area of interest. Additionally, the long-term impact of shifting global energy demand patterns on the relevance of the Strait warrants further investigation.

Recommendations

Policy responses should prioritize diplomatic engagement to reduce regional tensions and ensure safe navigation. Diversification of energy sources and routes—including pipelines and renewable energy—can reduce dependency on the Strait. Strengthening international maritime cooperation

and surveillance mechanisms is essential to enhance security. Furthermore, global institutions should reinforce legal frameworks to ensure compliance with international maritime law.

Conclusion

The Strait of Hormuz crisis underscores the fragility of global energy security in the face of geopolitical tensions and strategic vulnerabilities. As a critical chokepoint for oil and gas transit, any disruption in the Strait has immediate and profound consequences for global markets, political stability, and economic growth. The interplay between legal disputes, military escalation, and energy dependency highlights the complexity of managing such crises within existing international frameworks. Ultimately, ensuring long-term stability requires a combination of diplomatic solutions, diversification of energy systems, and strengthened international cooperation to safeguard one of the world's most vital maritime corridors.

Review Typology and Reporting

Review designs were classified into standard categories (scoping, umbrella, rapid, qualitative, and mixed-methods), with reporting aligned to established guidelines (PRISMA-ScR, PRIOR, PRISMA-RR, ENTREQ, and PRISMA/MMAT) to ensure methodological rigor and transparency.

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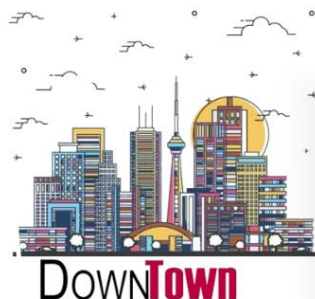
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