

The Eleventh Government and the Structure of the International System from the Perspective of Discourse Analysis

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The authors claim the Eleventh Government sought “to reconstruct a different image” of Iran internationally. This is a strong assertion—please include specific speeches or foreign policy events that illustrate this reconstructed image.

The research question and hypothesis are well-stated, but no operational definitions of “semantic shift” or “discourse of moderation” are offered. Please provide clearer conceptual distinctions supported by the theoretical framework.

The quotation from Zarif (2017) is informative, but its placement could be enhanced by integrating it within analytical commentary rather than standing alone. This would improve coherence between data and argument.

The quote “We believe the world has entered a post-Western phase...” should be complemented with analysis of how Iran repositions itself within this shift—does it seek leadership? Alignment with the East?

The conclusion reiterates earlier points but would benefit from more critical reflection. How might the moderation discourse evolve under external pressure, such as sanctions or regional conflict?

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The definitions presented are descriptive but lack engagement with key IR theorists such as Waltz, Keohane, or Wendt. Consider integrating these perspectives to strengthen theoretical depth.

The Cold War section should address the Non-Aligned Movement or Iran's role in that era, to provide continuity with Iran's current foreign policy stance.

The claim "the international system entered a transitional phase with no clear dominant structure" would benefit from engagement with critiques of unipolarity, such as from scholars who argue for persistent U.S. hegemony.

The authors state, "Iran has sought to challenge this order..."—please elaborate on the strategies used (e.g., regional alliances, discourse at the UN) to make the theoretical point more concrete.

The authors cite the Iran-China Strategic Agreement. Please analyze its provisions in more detail, rather than treating it as confirmation of multipolar discourse.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.