THE IMPACT OF DETERMINANTS ON DECISION-MAKING FROM POLITICAL ACADEMICS' PERSPECTIVE"

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MASTER THESIS
INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

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FOREWORD

ABSTRACT

The main objective of this research is to determine the impact of determinants on decision-making from a political academics perspective. This quantitative study relied on the questionnaire distribution method from previous studies to obtain information. The research sample consists of academics in Yemeni universities (Sana'a University- Aden University- Taiz University- Ibb University- Hadhramout University). The study used appropriate statistical methods for the research, as the number of distributed questionnaires was (130) questionnaires. The study included (101) valid questionnaire questions to verify the validity of the information to conduct the necessary statistical analysis and statistical analysis using structural equation modelling (Smart-PLS). The research revealed more than one result, the most important of which are the four elements (economic factors, interest groups, international relations and public opinion) that positively relate to political decision-making. This study contributes to the field by providing empirical evidence on the relative impact of these factors, highlighting the complexity of Yemen's political decision-making process. The implications of this research are two-fold. Theoretically, this research enriches academic discourse by integrating diverse perspectives on political decision-making processes. In practical terms, this research provides policymakers and political analysts with insights into the dynamics that must be considered when formulating regional strategies and policies. Future research should expand the study to include other universities in Yemen and longitudinal data to track changes over time, providing a more dynamic understanding of the political decision-making landscape.

Keywords: Determinants; Decision-Making Political; Economic Factors; International Relation Interest Group; Public Opinion; Education Sector In Yemen

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ÖZ

Bu araştırmanın temel amacı, belirleyicilerin karar alma Siyasal Akademisyenler Perspektifinden Belirleyicilerin Karar Alma Sürecine Etkisi. Bu nicel çalışma, bilgi elde etmek için önceki çalışmalardan anket dağıtım yöntemine güvendi. Araştırma örneklemi Yemen üniversitelerindeki akademisyenlerden oluşmaktadır (Sana'a Üniversitesi- Aden Üniversitesi- Taiz Üniversitesi- Ibb Üniversitesi- Hadramout Üniversitesi). Çalışmada, dağıtılan anket sayısı (130) olduğu için araştırma için uygun istatistiksel yöntemler kullanılmıştır. Çalışma, gerekli istatistiksel analizi ve yapısal eşitlik modellemesi (Smart-PLS) kullanarak istatistiksel analizi yürütmek için bilgilerin geçerliliğini doğrulamak amacıyla (101) geçerli anket sorusu içeriyordu. Araştırma, en önemlisi siyasi karar alma ile olumlu ilişkili olan dört unsur (ekonomik faktörler, çıkar grupları, uluslararası ilişkiler ve kamuoyu) olmak üzere birden fazla sonuç ortaya koydu. Bu çalışma, bu faktörlerin göreceli etkisine ilişkin ampirik kanıt sağlayarak, Yemen'in siyasi karar alma sürecinin karmaşıklığını vurgulayarak alana katkıda bulunmaktadır. Bu araştırmanın çıkarımları iki yönlüdür. Teorik olarak, bu araştırma siyasi karar alma süreçlerine ilişkin çeşitli bakış açılarını entegre ederek akademik söylemi zenginleştirir. Pratik açıdan, bu araştırma politika yapıcılara ve siyasi analistlere bölgesel stratejiler ve politikalar formüle edilirken dikkate alınması gereken dinamikler hakkında içgörüler sağlar. Gelecekteki araştırmalar, çalışmayı Yemen'deki diğer üniversiteleri ve zaman içindeki değişiklikleri izlemek için uzunlamasına verileri içerecek şekilde genişleterek siyasi karar alma ortamına ilişkin daha dinamik bir anlayış sağlamalıdır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Belirleyiciler, Karar Alma Siyasi; Ekonomik Faktörler; Uluslararası İlişkiler; Çıkar Grubu; Kamuoyu; Yemen Eğitim Sektörü

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ABBREVIATIONS

NGOS   **:** Non-Governmental Organizations.

OPEC   **:** Organization Petroleum Exporting Countries.

USA   **:** United States America.

UAE   **:** United Arab Emirates.

UA   **:** United States.

EU   **:** European Union.

GCC   **:** Gulf Cooperation Council.

SPSS   **:** Statistical Package Social Sciences.

PO   **:** Public Opinion.

IG   **:** Interest Groups.

EF   **:** Economic Factor.

IR   **:** International Relationship.

DMP   **:** Decision Making   Process.

IMF   **:** International Monetary Fund.

UN   **:** The United Nations.

SMEs   **:** Small And Medium-Sized Enterprises – SMEs.

Mncs   **:** Multinational corporation.

GDP   **:**Gross Domestic Product.

FDI   **:**Foreign direct investment.

SUBJECT OF THE RESEARCH

The Impact of Determinants on Decision-Making from Political Academic's Perspective.

PURPOSE AND IMPORTANCE OF THE RESEARCH

This research aims to determine the impact of determinants on the decision-making process from the point of view of political academics. The political decision-making process in the Middle East, particularly in countries where the real democratic process occurs, is vague. In contrast to developed countries where transparency is high in the political decision-making process, in countries in the Middle East such as Yemen, the decision process could be influenced by the instant influence of many factors such as interest group pressure, economic situation, international relationship, and public opinion. Therefore, it is important to have a structured framework to understand this process (political decision-making) within the context of Middle Eastern countries. This study is concerned with Yemen because of its short political history, which is short but has many revolutionary political decisions. Accordingly, this study went to political studies professionals, who, besides teaching and knowing political knowledge, have been involved in one way or another in the political decision process as consultants, editors or creators of the decisions.

METHOD OF THE RESEARCH

This research used a cross-sectional quantitative style. This study is academicians based in Yemen. These individuals were selected due to their expertise in political science, economics, international relations, and related fields. The academicians' professional backgrounds provide them with a unique vantage point from which to assess the political decision-making process. They are well-versed in both theoretical frameworks and practical considerations, making their perspectives particularly informative for this research.

To ensure a diverse and representative sample, the study includes academicians from various universities and research institutions across Yemen. Participants range

from faculty members at Yemeni universities, encompassing various experiences and perspectives. This diversity is crucial for capturing a comprehensive understanding of the political decision-making process in Yemen. To collect the necessary data for statistical analysis, a program called Smart-PLS was used to analyse the data collected.

HYPOTHESIS OF THE RESEARCH / RESEARCH PROBLEM

The main problem of this thesis is to investigate whether the political decision-making process in the Middle East, especially in Yemen, is influenced by traditional economic and public opinion factors or whether it constitutes a unique process. Given the region's complex geopolitical and socio-cultural dynamics, understanding these processes is of paramount importance due to their global political and security implications. The study aims to analyze the factors influencing political decisions and highlight the unique challenges and global impact of these decisions.

POPULATION AND SAMPLE (IF AVAILABLE)

The study sample is a group of political academics in some Yemeni universities. The total number of them is (130) affiliated in Sanaa, Aden, Ibb, Taiz, and Hadhramaut. The number of responses is (100). Therefore, it can be said the sample is representative according to Sekaran's (2000) sampling study.

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS / DIFFICULTIES

The scope of the research is confined to the political academics affiliated with Yemeni universities in 2024. The are Sanaa, Aden, Ibb, Taiz, and Hadhramaut. This research targeted political academics in Yemeni universities because these universities are regarded as the largest universities in Yemen. This research is confined to the effect of the independent variables (public opinion, economic factors, interest groups, international relations) and the dependent variable (political decision-making).

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Introduction

Even under optimal conditions, studying politics is burdened with an intricate array of intertwined explanations and factors. This complexity intensifies in the present times, marked by the highest levels of polarisation in many years (Boxell *et al.,* 2020) and the daily emergence of stressful and traumatic news from national and international events. To address the contemporary political climate, it's crucial for scientific inquiry to confront societal challenges and illuminate their likely origins (Lu, 2023). This work and this chapter, in particular, introduce the investigation of several factors that influence the political decision-making process. This chapter's background, problem statement, research objective, and scope are subsections.

1.2. Background of the Study

Grasping the elements that influence risk and ambiguity preferences among individuals throughout their lifespans is now a significant area of interdisciplinary research. Experts in this field acknowledge the profound effects that personal decisions can have on interpersonal, financial, health, and legal results (Lu, 2023). Considerable advancements have been achieved in pinpointing individual variances that account for risk preferences (Grubb *et al.,* 2016). As a region of profound historical significance and contemporary geopolitical complexity, Yemen has been the focus of extensive academic research and analysis. Central to this body of work is examining political decision-making processes within the region. This review delves into the existing literature, highlighting key insights and overarching themes while underscoring the need for ongoing research.

The political decision-making process is considered one of the most complex political issues faced by decision-makers at various organisational levels (Dietrich, 2010; Weber *et al.,* 2022). This complexity arises from the interplay of numerous elements and factors influenced by the internal, regional, and international political environment (joint-research-centre, 2019). Factors include political circumstances, internal and external political moods, the nature of the decision, the political system's characteristics and weight, both natural and arbitrary, as well as the demographic and

religious ethnic composition and the mechanisms involved in making those decisions (Alaradi & Almatrouk, 2021). This extends to the form of the political system in the state, the institutions, and the individuals who have the right to make decisions. Additionally, it involves the nature of the decision itself, its temporal and geographic scope, and the diversity of ideas and opinions presented in the decision-making process.

Moreover, political decisions, by their very nature, are subject to both internal and external pressures. They are closely linked to the cultural and social structure of society and various centres of power, such as official state institutions, legislative and regulatory bodies, political groups, pressure groups, public opinion, and civil society organizations, among others. Additionally, they are intertwined with the political framework within the state, decision-making mechanisms, and various determinants, including the constitution and existing laws, the nature of the system itself, and the values and traditions specific to the society.

All of this, in addition to other factors, bestows significant importance on the subject of political decision-making due to its direct or indirect impacts on a nation's public policy, foreign relations, and the overall aspects of political, social, and economic life. Therefore, it is crucial to understand the nature of political decision-making, the mechanisms for its adoption, the internal and external influencing factors, and the institutions involved in the decision-making process, whether directly or indirectly. Finally, the stages of decision-making, the implementation methods, how to measure and evaluate public reactions to it, and its alignment with the fundamental needs of society and the state (Alaradi & Almatrouk, 2021). Additionally, we will explore the activation mechanisms of political decisions, both internally and externally, and the influence of the surrounding environment on decision-making. This includes political institutions, civil society, media, research, and study institutions.

The studies have listed many determinants that influence the decision-making process. For instance, public opinion, shaped by a rich tapestry of cultural, religious, and sociopolitical factors, plays a pivotal role in influencing political decisions in Yemen. Research indicates that the voice of the people, often expressed through various forms of activism and protest, has been a catalyst for change (Meichenbaum, 2017; Weber *et al.,* 2022). For instance, the Arab Spring movements in the early 2010s

underscored the transformative potential of public sentiment. Furthermore, studies have examined the role of state-controlled media in shaping public discourse and the extent to which governments manipulate narratives to maintain their grip on power. It is evident that the complex interplay of public opinion and political decisions is a fertile area for further research.

Other determinants specified by studies are economic factors and governance. Economic factors profoundly influence the political landscape of the countries. The global significance of the region's energy resources has made the management of energy policy and economic diversification central to political decision-making. Scholars have scrutinized the intricate relationship between oil revenues and political stability, highlighting both the potential for resource curse and the imperative for economic reform. Middle East countries' economic transitions and diversification efforts have also been of paramount interest, particularly as oil-dependent economies seek to reduce their vulnerability to commodity price fluctuations. Questions of economic policy, resource allocation, and social welfare are integral to the region's governance. Kwabi *et al.* (2023) reported that there is a strong relationship between the decision-making process and its impact on the economy and is equally influenced by decisions made. Politically, it was emphasised that political uncertainty is significant in corporate investment decisions (Kwabi *et al.,* 2023). The work of Kwabi *et al.* (2023) investigated the consequences of political decisions and the existence of uncertainty, particularly when there is ambiguity in the political decision-making process. Their findings reveal that political uncertainty leads to a decrease in international equity investments in the country, and this reduction is particularly noticeable during the election year.

The third possible determinant is Interest Groups. Interest groups, both within and outside governments, wield significant influence on the political decision-making process. This includes tribes, advocacy groups, and lobbyists who shape policy agendas and advocate for specific issues. Researchers have investigated the strategies and mechanisms by which these actors exert pressure on political decision-makers. Furthermore, studies have delved into the role of diaspora communities in influencing the foreign policy decisions of Middle East nations. The complexities of interest group dynamics, their impact on political choices, and the extent to which these groups align or conflict with state agendas are subjects ripe for deeper exploration. The fourth

determinant is International Relations and Regional Dynamics. The Middle East countries' intricate international relations and regional dynamics have far-reaching consequences for political decisions. The alliances, conflicts, and global events that impact the region's foreign policy and security choices are a recurring focus of scholarly inquiry. For example, the impact of the United States' involvement in the Middle East, particularly in relation to the Arab-Israeli conflict, has been widely studied.

Additionally, regional dynamics, such as the role of Iran, the Arab Gulf states, and the evolving nature of alliances in response to contemporary challenges, have been of utmost importance. Research in this realm seeks to unravel the complexities of these relationships and their effects on political decision-making.

1.3. Problem Statement

The core question driving this research is whether the political decision-making process is influenced by classic dimensions (e.g. economy, public opinion, etc.) or constitutes a distinct type of decision-making that doesn't align with traditional economic and neuroeconomic behaviour models. Politics is frequently compared to religion due to its association with deep-rooted and unquestionable values (Lu, 2023). Consequently, it's tempting to view the factors that influence political decision-making in the Middle East, particularly the Arabic World and Yemen, as the case.

In formation ranges from solid to poor in quality and neutral to highly biased, a long-term problem facing the study of decision-making in public policy (Jones & Baumgartner, 2005). According to prior research, politicians who hold the belief that voters prioritize long-term considerations are notably more inclined to opt for enduring policy measures that may entail short-term burdens compared to their counterparts who perceive voters as focused on short-term outcomes. Sheffer, Loewen, and Lucas (2024) state that the choices politicians make are strongly conditioned by the current and future cost structure of the problems they face. However, responsiveness to such information is mostly found among politicians with a short-term theoretical outlook.

The intricate interplay of political, economic, and social dynamics has profoundly influenced the evolution of public administration in Yemen. Over its

history, Yemen has experienced a varied governance landscape, ranging from Ottoman and Imamat rule to British colonial authority and other forms of governance, punctuated by periods of volatility (Bonnefoy, 2018). Understanding the political backdrop is essential in comprehending public administration, which is the mechanism through which governmental policies and objectives are shaped. Meanwhile, our understanding of political decision-making may have limitations. An emphasis on the clash of values in politics, as proposed by Farnham (2021), could offer valuable insights. In addition, the complex relationship between conflict and public administration challenges is clear in Yemen. The permanent conflict in Yemen has left an unforgettable mark on the life of the country's administrative systems. Restricting and impeding the provision of basic public services and establishing effective governance structures is a conflict characterized by its multiple facets. These dimensions have weakened local institutions and imposed significant burdens on implementing these necessary reforms and studying the complexities and reforms of public administration in conflict-affected areas (Abbad, 2024).

In the area of political decision-making, there is one useful distinction concerning the government budget: it is in exchange for providing a helping hand to the poor (Oxley, 2020). Politicians, who are the majority, also try to create problems on the ground, such as whether it will rain next week and poor governance in countries (Kay & King, 2020). Conservative critics assert that government programs aimed at helping the poor have rational qualities such as reflexivity and adaptive decision-making (Royce, 2022). According to a recent United Nations report, the war in Yemen has become the worst humanitarian crisis in the world. It has become the focus of conversation about foreign and domestic policy (Williams & Graham, 2020). Yemen's brutal, nearly four-year civil war pits the central government, President Abd Rabbuh Mansour Hadi and a Shiite Islamic movement called the Houthis. The United Nations (UN) has described the humanitarian crisis in Yemen as the worst humanitarian crisis in the world. Tens of thousands of people have died in the ongoing war. The Houthis do not care about anything (Hathaway, 2019).

Politics and discrimination lie between three groups, which are those with a high population density and the decline in natural resource wealth (poor in resources, such as Syria or Yemen, where the economy is weak and the countries with wars are poor) (Cammett, 2018).

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The conflict in Yemen, often referred to as the worst man-made humanitarian disaster of our time, has caused an unprecedented crisis that has left millions of people suffering from famine, disease and violence. The conflict was exacerbated by the involvement of multiple international stakeholders, each with their own competing geopolitical interests, eventually leading to a full-scale civil war. These foreign powers have provided support to various factions within the conflict, often resulting in the escalation of violence and suffering for the civilian population. In addition, ongoing competition for influence and control in the region has hampered efforts to reach a diplomatic solution to the war. The situation is further complicated by the involvement of non-state actors, such as terrorist groups, who have exploited the chaos to gain a foothold in the country. Overall, the competing interests and actions of international stakeholders have contributed significantly to the prolongation and intensification of the war in Yemen. They recognised the importance of internal dynamics in civil conflict (Bano, 2023).

The Middle East region has long been a focal point of global political attention due to its complex geopolitical dynamics and diverse socio-cultural landscape. Understanding the intricate nature of political decision-making processes within Middle East countries is paramount as it has far-reaching implications not only for the region but also for global politics and security. The challenge at hand is to comprehensively analyse and model the factors that influence the political decision-making process within the Middle East context, recognising the unique complexities and variables that define this region.

The Middle East is characterised by a multitude of intricate political, economic, and social challenges. Political decisions made within the Middle East countries have global consequences, given the region's role in the production and distribution of energy resources, its strategic geopolitical location, and its historical significance. Issues such as conflict resolution, security, economic development, and diplomacy hold significant weight, and the decisions surrounding them have wide-ranging impacts.

1.4. Objectives of Study

1. To identify and assess the impact of public opinion on political decision-making.

2. To identify and assess the impact of economic factors on political decision-making.

3. To identify and assess the impact of international relations on political decision-making.

4. To identify and assess the impact of ınterest groups on political decision-making.

1.5. Questions of Study

1. Is there any relationship between public opinion and political decision-making?

2. Is there any relationship between economic factors and political decision-making?

3. Is there any relationship between international relations and political decision-making?

4. Is there any relationship between interest groups and political decision-making?

1.6. The Significance of the Study

The significance of this study lies in its potential to provide a deeper understanding of the complex political landscape in Yemen. By modelling the cause-effect relationships between independent variables (public opinion, economic factors, interest groups, international relations) and the dependent variable (political decision-making), this research can offer insights into the drivers of political decisions within the Yemen-accordingly some arab countries that have similar features of Yemen. This knowledge can inform policymakers, academics, and analysts, contributing to more informed decision-making processes and fostering a more stable and secure prediction of future political decisions.

1.7. Scope of the Study

This research focuses on dissecting the intricate web of factors influencing political decision-making in the Arab World. Spanning across historical, cultural, socio-economic, and international dimensions, the study aims to delve into how these diverse elements coalesce to shape governance and policy in Arab nations. The research will particularly emphasise the interplay between the historical legacies of colonialism and authoritarianism, the impact of tribal and cultural dynamics, the role of religious institutions in governance, and the influence of global and regional powers on domestic politics.

The methodology encompasses a blend of qualitative analyses, including historical reviews, case studies of specific Arab nations, and comparative political analysis. The objective is to unravel the complexities of decision-making processes in the Arab World, examining how traditional practices interface with contemporary political dynamics. This study seeks to provide a nuanced understanding of the Arab political landscape, offering insights crucial for policymakers, academics, and stakeholders interested in this region's political evolution and current governance challenges.

1.8. Definitions of Key Terms

Additionally, it is shaped by the political structure and culture of the society in which it occurs, whether it be in democratic, authoritarian, or other forms of governance.

1.8.1. Public Opinion

According to Lippmann (1922), Public Opinion can be defined as the collective preferences and attitudes of a population towards political, social, and economic issues. It represents the aggregate views a significant portion of the community holds on any particular topic at a given time. Public opinion is crucial in democratic societies as it influences policy decisions, shapes political discourse, and can even affect the outcomes of elections. It is measured and analysed through various means, including surveys, polls, and focus groups.

1.8.2. Economic Factor

According to Kovner and Knickman (2011), economic factors refer to the various economic considerations and constraints that influence and shape governmental policies and decisions. These factors include economic conditions such as inflation, unemployment rates, economic growth, budget deficits, and resource allocation. Economic factors also encompass broader elements like the state of the national and global economy, trade relations, fiscal policies, and market dynamics. Governments often make policy decisions in response to these economic conditions, aiming to achieve objectives like economic stability, growth, and equitable distribution of resources.

1.8.3. International Relations

In the context of political decision-making, international relations refers to the study of interactions between countries, encompassing the ways in which nations engage with each other through diplomacy, conflict, trade, negotiations, alliances, and international organizations (Morgenthau, 1984). It includes the analysis of foreign policies, the impact of international events on domestic politics, and the role of international institutions in shaping global politics. International relations are a crucial factor in political decision-making, as it influences how governments formulate and implement policies, particularly those related to defence, trade, foreign aid, and global cooperation.

1.8.4. Interest Groups

These are organised collections of individuals or organisations that seek to influence political decision-making and public policy to favour their specific interests or causes. These groups operate by lobbying government officials, advocating for certain policies, mobilising public opinion, and sometimes engaging in electioneering. Interest groups play a critical role in democratic societies as they represent various interests, from business and labour to environmental concerns and civil rights,

ensuring diverse viewpoints are considered in the political process. This is according to the work of Berry and Wilcox (1984).

1.9. Organisation of the Thesis

Chapter 1 introduces the concept of the research, the problem statement, the objective, the scope, the significance of the research and the definition of terms. Chapter 2 is the literature review and includes an introduction to the political decision-making process and related terms and factors. After that, many sub-sections explain the relationships between the factors and the political decision-making process. Chapter 3 introduces the research methodology applied in this study. Chapter 4 provides the details of the results. Finally, Chapter 5 introduces the discussion, contribution and conclusion.

2.   LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Introduction

Humans frequently make daily decisions involving choices between outcomes that are uncertain. These range from trivial decisions like what to eat or wear to more serious health or financial choices with potentially significant impacts, where the consequences are seldom predictable with complete certainty. Politicians have traditionally differentiated between two types of uncertain outcomes: those where the probability of an outcome is known (risky) and those where it's unknown (ambiguous) (Lu, 2023). For instance, a risky outcome could involve selecting a poker chip from a bag with 30 blue and 70 red chips, where the chances of each outcome are clearly defined. Conversely, an ambiguous outcome might be choosing from the same bag when the ratio of blue to red chips is unknown, making it impossible to calculate the odds of selecting a specific chip. Research shows that people's tolerance for risk and ambiguity, termed risk and ambiguity preferences, varies significantly. Interestingly, these preferences are only weak (Tymula *et al.,* 2013) or not correlated at all (FeldmanHall *et al.,* 2016).

2.2. Political Decision-Making

The process of political decision-making is considered one of the most important topics in political science studies (Lau & Redlawsk, 2001). In the latter half of the twentieth century, whether in domestic policy-making and its associated sub-discipline, public policy studies, or in the realm of foreign policy decision-making for states, various schools of thought have emerged in the analysis of the political decision-making process in both the domestic and international levels (Lau & Redlawsk, 2001)). Furthermore, there have been pioneers in each of these schools. The perspective that the authorities of modern states are threefold: the legislative authority responsible for enacting and issuing laws in the name of the people, the executive authority that executes the laws passed by the parliament, and the judicial authority responsible for adjudicating disputes in accordance with the laws issued by the parliament, within an integrated system that encompasses the distribution of roles among these three authorities.

Considering that this topic is significant in analysing both foreign and domestic policy, its selection as an analytical framework for understanding, explaining, and interpreting the foreign policy of a particular state has become extremely important. This is to reveal how decisions are made and implemented in that state.

In general, researchers and experts in the field of political science have not reached a clear and specific definition for the concept of political decision-making. This is due to the diversity of concepts and approaches that can be employed to analyse this concept. Additionally, it is influenced by the nature of political systems and governance mechanisms worldwide, as well as the complex interplay of various factors and influencers that vary from one system to another, from one country to another, and are influenced by the unique characteristics of societies, their cultural nature, and diverse ethnic compositions. Despite the numerous theories and definitions that have addressed the concept of political decision-making, there is no single, agreed-upon, specific definition for this term among researchers and specialists in political science. Although there is some consensus that the decision-making process is the way in which its elements and stages are moved through, disputes persist in the steps of making and analyzing this decision and the mechanisms of its adoption. It is worth noting that political decision-making differs significantly from other decisions made in a state due to its distinctive nature. It encompasses all the procedures, perceptions, and plans that determine the state's public policy, both domestically and internationally. From this perspective, the significance of political decision-making becomes evident, not only in the efforts made to reach it but also in its direct and indirect effects on the state as a geographic region, on individuals as citizens in this state, and on the state's relationship with its regional and international surroundings.

Several definitions were found related to the term political decision-making. For instance, Kernell *et al.* (2013) defined it as the process through which governmental leaders, policymakers, and political actors choose among competing alternatives to achieve specific goals, respond to challenges, and address public issues. It involves a series of steps, including agenda-setting, policy formulation, policy adoption, policy implementation, and policy evaluation." Meanwhile, Bearfield *et al.* (2015) defined it as a "systematic process by which governments and political actors make choices among different c ourses of action, to pursue and achieve their policy objectives. This process involves assessing options, gathering information, negotiating,

and ultimately settling on a particular policy or course of action." The third definition is by Binder *et al.* (2008)**,** which states that "Political decision-making is the methodical evaluation of alternatives and the selection of a particular option to address societal problems or advance government interests. It is characterised by various actors, including elected officials, bureaucrats, and interest groups, who engage in deliberation and negotiation to arrive at decisions." Roskin *et al.* (2016) have the following definition: "Political decision-making is the collective process through which individuals and institutions in a political system reach choices on public policies, resource allocation, and actions. This process reflects the interaction of various factors, including public opinion, institutional rules, and the preferences and strategies of key political actors." Finally, Allison and Zelikow (1999) contributed by this definition, which is adopted in this work "Political decision-making is the outcome of the interplay of a variety of influences, including the goals and values of decision-makers, the demands of constituents, the constraints of political institutions, and the availability of information". It often involves trade-offs and compromises as actors seek to advance their interests in a complex political environment.

As previously mentioned, the challenge of establishing a universally agreed-upon definition for the term 'political decision-making' has been acknowledged. Nevertheless, most political scholars have developed a common framework and established key components as they endeavoured to delineate this concept. In a broader context, a decision entails selecting from a range of options provided to address an issue, tackle a crisis, or oversee a specific task. Consequently, in everyday life, individuals routinely make numerous decisions, some arising from meticulous examination and analysis, while others are spontaneous and influenced by their emotional state and immediate environment. In the realm of political decision-making, such determinations only materialize following an extensive and meticulous research process involving a comprehensive examination of the issue from all angles, the presentation of various alternatives, and the identification of priorities and interests at both domestic and international levels. Furthermore, careful consideration is given to the ensuing reactions and consequences, be they at the local, regional, or global scale.

2.3. Elements of Political Decision-Making

The process of political decision-making is mostly a collective, resulting from interactions among various levels related to the decision-making process, whether they are individuals or institutions. The participants in the decision-making process vary from one political system to another (Font *et al.,* 2015). The efforts primarily focus on gathering information about the issue or problem at hand, analysing it thoroughly, discussing it extensively, evaluating it objectively, and then connecting all these elements accurately. The final decision is not made randomly but after an extensive study of alternatives, available possibilities, and a precise assessment of their future impact on both the internal and external levels, as well as the societal acceptability. There are significant challenges for decision-makers in identifying all the variables and factors related to the decision, depending on the nature of the issue for which the decision is to be made. Another challenge lies in accurately predicting the consequences of decision-making, given the many future variables and diverse interactions related to the decision-making environment.

2.4. Types of Political Decisions

Before delving into the details related to the process of political decision-making, it is important to note that there are numerous political decisions made on a daily basis, either individually or collectively. These decisions vary in terms of being routine or emergent, temporary or continuous, as well as their impact on both the internal and external environment (Font *et al.,* 2015). Accordingly, political decisions have been categorised into the following types (Al-garman, 2018; Alaradi & Almatrouk, 2021). (a) General Decision: This type of decision is designed to facilitate the process of making future decisions. It reflects the perspective of political authorities and represents their stance on state governance. (b) Implementing Decision: These decisions are issued by the executive authority within the state. They are related to local contexts and are typically executive decisions to implement legislation or laws passed by the legislative or judicial bodies. (c) Administrative Decision: This type of decision pertains to procedural matters. It is usually made by mid-level administrative officials and often has limited effects on the working environment in which the decision was made. (d) Crisis Decision: Crisis decisions result from sudden, urgent

events. This type of decision is a special case due to the urgency of decision-making and the limited available choices. It is typically associated with situations like wars or direct threats to a nation's security or in cases of disasters. These decisions are usually made by a limited number of individuals. (e) Strategic Decision: This is a politically significant decision in a nation's policies. It is characterised by initiative and is part of the country's overall strategy. Such decisions often require the involvement of experts and consultants in their study and formulation. (f) Tactical Decision: This decision comes second after the strategic decision. In general, the tactical decision aims to implement decisions related to a country's overall policy. (g) Executive Decision: This decision is made daily and is related to the general behaviour of the state in its actions and responses. It is associated with the country's overall public policy and reflects its various opinions and directions.

These types of political decisions are diverse and cater to different situations and contexts within a state's political landscape. Each type serves a specific purpose and contributes to shaping a nation's political trajectory.

2.5. Political Decision-Making

Political decision-making involves social interactions during the decision process, a theme extensively explored in the literature on innovation decision-making (Kolbe *et al.,* 2020). In this realm, decisions are created by a procedure where decision-makers, with changeable objectives, form coalitions to achieve their goals, with the favourites of the most persuasive prevailing (Elbanna & Child, 2007). Various studies have identified the negative impacts of political behaviour on organisational and decision outcomes (Elbanna *et al.,* 2015). However, political behaviour in the context of innovation has been less examined. Meanwhile, some scholars anticipated the negative consequences of power concentration on innovation (Thompson, 1965). Kester *et al.* (2011) proposed that political behaviour might positively influence breakthrough product ideas if managers prioritise the firm's interests. These insights call for a nuanced view of political decision-making, differing from earlier literature.

Signs of political decision-making first arise from Elbanna and Child (2007) definition, highlighting the formation of alliances among individuals. Additionally, Nutt (1993) noted that negotiation among individuals also constitutes political

behaviour. Further, several authors have identified decision-making favouring the goals of the most influential as indicative of political decision-making (Elbanna & Child, 2007; Kester *et al.,* 2011; Thompson, 1965). Another sign is the effort to persuade colleagues to support decisions (Francioni *et al.,* 2015). Lastly, the literature mentions manipulating information flows to sway decisions as an indicator (Bourgeois & Eisenhardt, 1988).

Regarding the context of this study (political decision-making process in Yemen and similar Arab countries). Many Arab countries have a history of colonial rule followed by monarchies or authoritarian regimes. This historical context has led to a centralization of power, often in the hands of a few elite families or military leaders. Decision-making in such systems tends to be top-down, with limited public participation (Owen, 2004). Further, In countries like Saudi Arabia and Yemen, tribal affiliations and clan loyalties play a significant role in political decisions. Tribal leaders often have considerable influence over local governance and can sway national policies (Al-Sharekh & Freer, 2021). The political decision process in the Arab World could be characterised by different phases/stages. For instance, many Arab nations have authoritarian regimes where decision-making is centralised. In such systems, political decisions are often made by a single leader or a small group of elites, with little transparency or accountability (Bellin, 2004). In contrast, countries like Tunisia have been moving towards more democratic governance structures. Political decision-making involves multiple stakeholders, including elected representatives, political parties, and civil society organisations (Gana, 2013). Another aspect of the political decision-making process is Islamic law. In several Arab countries, Islamic law (Sharia) plays a crucial role in governance and legal frameworks. Religious institutions and leaders, therefore, hold significant sway in the political decision-making process, influencing policies on social and moral issues (Esposito, 1998). Besides that, economic conditions influence the political decision-making process in the Arab World. For instance, economic conditions like unemployment, poverty, and resource distribution significantly influence political decisions. Economic reforms and policies in the Arab world often respond to socioeconomic pressures and demands for better living conditions (Richards & Waterbury, 2008). On the other hand, in oil-rich countries, the distribution of oil revenues impacts political decision-making. These rentier states often use oil wealth to maintain political stability and support social

welfare programs, affecting how decisions are made and implemented (Ross, 2001). Finally, external influences from global powers, such as the USA, Russia, and China, as well as regional dynamics within the Middle East, play a significant role in shaping the political decisions of Arab countries. These influences come through economic ties, military alliances, and diplomatic relations (Hinnebusch, 2015).

The political decision-making process in the Arab World is a complex interplay of historical legacies, cultural dynamics, religious influences, economic conditions, and international relations. Understanding this process requires an appreciation of the unique context of each Arab country, as well as the broader regional and global forces at play.

2.6.   Categories of Political Decision

The political decision can be divided, depending on the geographic location that influences it, into two types:

2.6.1. Domestic Political Decision

This includes decisions made by the state within its national borders, exercising its sovereign rights, and aiming to serve the interests of its citizens. It is made without external interference or pressure. Its impact is generally direct at the domestic level, and it is taken by various levels within the state, ranging from high-level administration to middle management, which includes ministry representatives and senior officials, according to the functional system (Font *et al.,* 2015).

2.6.2. Foreign Political Decision

These decisions concern international politics, a state's relations with its regional and global environment, and international commitments. Therefore, foreign political decisions are naturally influenced by external factors and take into account international laws and obligations. Since foreign political decisions are related to international politics and the relationships between states, they have great significance beyond the local geographic location. They become the focus of the world's attention.

Consequently, the level at which foreign political decisions are made is primarily associated with the head of the state and the top leadership.

Foreign political decisions made by countries are subject to various external influences, sometimes referred to as "globalisation," which some argue affects a country's sovereignty and legitimacy (Al-garman, 2018; Alaradi & Almatrouk, 2021). This penetration of external influences into the four main aspects of state sovereignty, which are monopoly, authority, legislation, and geographical borders, may result in a reduced role of governments in enacting legislation within the country and the submission of their powers to various external influences.

2.7. The Factors Influencing Political Decision-Making

Political decisions, like other decisions, are subject to the influence of their surrounding environment, whether at the internal or external levels. Decision-makers must take this into consideration, study this environment in-depth, and strike the necessary balance between all these factors, their consequences, and their impact on the future.

2.7.1. Public Opinion

The population of any country is considered one of its most significant assets, especially when there is homogeneity and harmony among them. Regardless of the numerical aspect, particularly when they are properly harnessed, it is not a requirement for countries with large populations to be strong on the external front. In some countries with large populations consisting of different, incompatible ethnic groups, the population can become a weakness rather than a strength. It can be defined as the attitudes and opinions of individuals on a particular issue. It is often not constant and changes according to various informational, social, and political influences.

It is important to mention Floyd Allport's definition of public opinion (Alaradi & Almatrouk, 2021), where he defined it as 'the expression of a significant number of individuals on a particular issue, either spontaneously or in response to a call directed at them, either in favour of or in opposition to a particular issue or person or a broadly

important proposal, so that the number is sufficiently adequate to exert an effect on a specific action, either directly or indirectly.

In the case of political decision-making, democratic governing systems cannot ignore or bypass public opinion, as their legitimacy is derived from the people who hold the power (Ryan, 2018). Public opinion is identified through surveys, interviews, various media outlets, and especially modern means of communication, which some consider the true expression of public opinion. Naturally, the formation of public opinion is influenced by several important factors such as family, education, places of worship, various media outlets, and individual's religious, cultural, and social backgrounds.

In general, political decision-makers in democratic systems cannot make decisions independently of the influence of public opinion. To have a decision accepted, successful, and legitimate, the decision must align with the interests and desires of the people. The further a decision is based on the interests and desires of the public, the more it is perceived as authoritarian, which can lead individuals to distance themselves from it. The impact of public opinion on decision-makers depends on the existence of communication channels between the public and the political decision-makers. Therefore, the role of public opinion varies according to the political system in the country. The following subsections illustrate the main channels that could disseminate public opinions to the level where politicians cannot ignore them.

2.7.2. Economic Factor

Economic situation: The economic condition of countries plays a significant role in influencing the political decision-making process and the behaviour of decision-makers. Strong economic conditions directly impact a nation's overall situation, whether from a military, security, or political perspective. This allows decision-makers more flexibility in international politics, enabling them to make decisions independently of external pressures. Some researchers argue that the success of political decisions in advanced countries is tied to their political elites being the product of interactions among various economic forces within advanced democratic systems. This helps keep policymakers accountable in the face of economic changes. In contrast, in some developing and poorer countries, political decision-making tends

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to be dominated by political elites with minimal involvement from economic decision-making institutions.

2.7.3. Economic Diversification and Governance

Economic diversification efforts in the Middle East, aimed at reducing dependency on oil, have led to significant political reforms. For example, the United Arab Emirates' investment in technology and tourism as part of its diversification strategy has not only transformed its economy but also influenced its governance structures and foreign policy priorities (Davidson, 2008). Yemen, mainly before the war, relied heavily on Oil outcomes, besides international aid and money sent by Yemenis overseas, which provided a very narrow room to enrich the economy.

2.7.4. Economic Challenges and Political Unrest

Economic challenges, such as unemployment, inflation, and poverty, have been catalysts for political unrest in Yemen and other Arab countries. The Arab Spring, a series of anti-government protests across the region, was fuelled by economic dissatisfaction among the youth, highlighting how economic grievances can lead to significant political upheaval (Masoud, 2011). High unemployment rates, especially among youth and graduates, have been a key factor in political agitation. In countries like Tunisia and Egypt, the frustration of educated yet jobless young adults was a driving force behind the Arab Spring movements. This demographic, disillusioned by the lack of economic opportunities, became increasingly vocal and politically active, demanding change (Assaad & Krafft, 2013). Rising income inequality in countries like Lebanon and Iraq has fuelled social discontent. The perception of unequal wealth distribution, coupled with allegations of corruption and elite capture of resources, has led to widespread protests demanding economic reforms and political accountability (Verme, 2020).

In countries like Iran and Egypt, attempts to reform subsidies on basic goods have led to public outcry and protests. When these subsidies are reduced or removed, often a significant portion of the government budget, they have immediate impacts on

the cost of living, leading to unrest among the population who view these subsidies as essential economic support (Alehi-Isfahani, 2017).

Economic sanctions, such as those imposed on Iran, profoundly impact the domestic economy, leading to political repercussions. Sanctions can exacerbate economic hardships for the general population, leading to public dissatisfaction with the government and increasing domestic political pressure for change or policy shifts (Maloney, 2015). Additionally, food security is a significant concern in the Middle East, with nations like Yemen facing severe food shortages. Fluctuations in global food prices can have a direct impact on political stability in the region. For example, the 2007-2008 global food price crisis significantly contributed to the unrest that eventually led to the Arab Spring, as increased food prices strained the budgets of many families in the region (Bellemare, 2015). Economic crises can weaken the authority of existing governments, making them susceptible to challenges and changes. The Lebanese financial crisis, which led to a significant devaluation of the Lebanese pound and a rise in inflation, has not only caused economic hardship but also led to questioning of the political status quo and demands for political reform (Haddad, 2020).

Economic challenges in Yemen, ranging from unemployment and income inequality to subsidy reforms and food security, directly influence political unrest and the stability of governments. These challenges underscore the interconnectedness of economic conditions and political dynamics, highlighting the need for comprehensive economic policies to ensure political stability in the region.

2.8. Interest Groups

Effective and influential political parties are considered the link between the public and the ruling authority in democratic systems. Strong and influential political parties play a significant role in preventing the establishment of autocratic, one-party systems. Additionally, they have an active role in political planning processes and contribute to pushing the government to make sound and balanced political decisions in favour of the nation and its citizens.

On the other hand, some drawbacks can be observed in the diversity and multiplicity of political parties within the same country. Each party strives to attract the largest number of supporters and backers, attempting to dominate public opinion. In some cases, this can lead to internal divisions within the country. Some parties may focus solely on expressing their own opinions and ideas and narrow party interests, prioritising these over the interests of the state and society as a whole. This may serve personal or narrow group agendas and not represent all population segments.

In political systems that allow for party activities, the influence of these parties on political decision-making varies. In the case of a single dominant party, as is the case in many Third World countries, decisions are first made at the party level and then adopted by the state. This is similar in cases where a single party holds power in a country. However, in cases of coalitions between two or more parties, decision-making is based on a consensus process that accommodates the specific demands of each party. Conversely, in the presence of opposition or less influential parties, their participation in decision-making can be very weak.

Besides political parties, pressure groups are gatherings of individuals with common interests with permanent or temporary political, economic, or professional relationships, which impose a particular social behaviour on them. There are several models of pressure groups that vary in their forms and objectives. These groups may include political pressure groups with shared political interests, labour unions, religious institutions, or military organisations. The nature of these groups differs from political parties as they do not aim to gain power but rather exert pressure to achieve their specific goals. Pressure groups influence decision-makers through various means, such as strikes, demonstrations, or other methods to press the government into making decisions that align with the interests of society or a specific group.

Pressure groups use several methods to achieve their goals and interests, depending on the nature, size, capabilities, and objectives of the group. These methods range from dialogue and debate to conducting practical studies and even include unlawful methods such as bribery or violence. Some of the key methods include (a) Establishing communication with political institutions and encouraging their members to issue decisions that serve the group's interests. (b) Supporting political parties and individuals who endorse their demands during election campaigns. (c) Persuading

government officials through legal or illegal means, such as bribes and gifts. (d) Occasionally, some pressure groups may address public opinion to gain its sympathy on issues that require decisions. (f) Some may resort to violent means such as strikes or organising demonstrations.

The interest groups in the Middle East and Yemen, in particular, can be classified as follows:

2.8.1. Challenges Faced by Interest Groups & Impact

Interest groups in the Middle East, including Yemen, face several challenges, including government restrictions, limited political freedom, and sometimes, internal conflicts. In many countries, governments closely monitor and sometimes suppress these groups, especially if they perceive them as threats to their power or stability. Additionally, the lack of a democratic tradition in many countries limits the space for interest group activity.

Despite these challenges, interest groups in the Middle East have had notable successes in influencing policy and governance. For example, business groups have played a significant role in economic liberalisation and policy reforms in several Gulf countries. Religious groups have been influential in shaping policies related to personal status laws, education, and moral governance across the region.

Interest groups in the Middle East, despite facing numerous challenges, are key actors in the region's political decision-making process. Their influence varies across countries and sectors but is particularly notable in business and economic policies, religious and moral governance, labour rights, and civil society activism. Understanding the role and impact of these groups is essential for comprehending the complexities of the Political Decision-Making Process.

2.8.2. International Relations

International relations are a collection of various formations consisting of influential and powerful countries and weak or non-influential countries. Strong countries can exert influence in decision-making over smaller or weaker states, often

through processes of coercion and inducement, especially in states that lack the military or economic capabilities to confront the challenging international situation. This contrasts countries with economic and military capabilities, giving them a significant degree of independence and freedom in their decision-making processes and enabling them to impose their decisions on other nations. One of the great examples of the influence of international relations in decision-making was presented during COVID-19 when the World Health Organisation and other international organisations considerably influenced the political decision-making process in many countries (Abbood *et al.,* 2023).

The following sub-sections illustrate the main components of international relations.

2.9. Previous Studies

2.9.1. Public opinion and political decision-making

Bano (2024) the purpose of their study was to show how conflicting ideas ultimately led to the rise of the Houthis, an armed political group. According to the results of their study, the primary importance of external threats while recognising the importance of the internal dynamics of civil conflicts. Should not be appointed to understand the complex web of strategic goals and interests. Abuzaid (2024) their study aims to dissect the qualitative influence of media content, specifically from the BBC and CNN, in shaping public opinion and understanding of conflict. In addition, their study intends to look at the content offered by both channels, with a particular focus on the motifs they cover, the perspectives they offer, and the underlying fabrics they use. The methodology of their study used quantitative analysis as its approach, which is a framework for doing statistical and mathematical data analysis in social studies and scientific research. This method uses quantitative measurements and numbers to forecast behaviours and phenomena, as well as to analyse linkages. Techniques for qualitative analysis: It's a methodological framework utilised in social studies and scientific research to comprehend and examine social processes and human behaviour in great detail. From the viewpoint of research participants, this method seeks to comprehend personal and societal meanings, conceptions, and experiences. Consistent with their conclusions, the qualitative study demonstrates different

strategies used by CNN and the BBC while producing news about the Bab al-Mandab War. The BBC prioritises concise reporting, providing a general summary of the situation focusing on the humanitarian aspects and geopolitical denials of charges. In light of this paradox, CNN offers a more comprehensive appraisal of the battle, taking into account its intricacies, political allegiances, military tactics, and local counter-accusations. Kołczyńska, Bürkner, Kennedy, and Vehtari (2024, April) their study argues that integrating public opinion data from many sources opens new opportunities for longitudinal and cross-national research but also presents particular difficulties regarding the comparison of survey data from sources. The methodology for their study was a Bayesian statistical model with numerous components. (1) An ordinal response model with specific thresholds for identification, and (2) A flexible prediction term using hierarchical lines. To model confidence changes over time, they consider individual variables (age, gender, education), project bias, and unstudied prior distribution to avoid overfitting and promote convergence.

Their findings show that their proposed approach uses stratification based on administrative demographic data to improve the quality of estimates and correct for differences in sample representativeness and Bayesian explanatory item response theory models to deal with differences in measuring trends. In their study, Morda, Zeman, and Klement (2024) assess the degree to which participants' perceptions are influenced by the way in which messages are formulated about the detrimental consequences of large government debt. Their findings demonstrate that the message's credibility is not increased by presenting it as coming from the Czech Financial Council. Fiscal councils ought to use their understanding of agenda-setting theory to bring fiscal issues to the media's attention rather than concentrating on persuading the public of their position on fiscal matters. Dogan-Akkas (2021) purpose of the research was to close this gap by making the case that Emirati policy surrounding Yemen has changed from being one of "consensus" to "passing the buck" as a result of putting the national interest first. This paper's primary goal is to examine the UAE's reasons for adopting a strategy of shifting the blame on Saudi Arabia and Qatar. According to this perspective, a proper analysis of the factors influencing policy change in the UAE must start with a look at the interaction between internal and external factors.

The study's methodology aimed to integrate systemic and individual factors assessments to investigate two key motives for why accountability was passed to the

bandwagon. The UAE's tactics are inherently structurally complex. Such a policy shift is motivated by two factors: Prioritizing economic advantages over military goals and solidifying domestic control. According to their findings, the United Arab Emirates has been implementing multidimensional foreign policy measures since the Arab Spring began, shifting from its role as a state accompanying the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to one that delegated responsibilities to others. Indicators of policy reform are highlighted, incorporating domestic and foreign dimensions through a two-level approach. As a small oil-dependent Gulf nation, the UAE has grown in importance in regional affairs, playing an expanding economic and political role. Its foreign policy in Yemen exemplifies the country's image makeover. Stimson (2018) study aims to develop a model of government responsiveness to opinion and opinion responsiveness to government. It focuses on politics from the 1990s onwards. The classic story of representation, grounded in democratic theory and enshrined in the (U.S.) Constitution, uses elections to impose public opinion on government. Since the election of Ronald Reagan in 1980, public opinion in America has shifted significantly toward liberalism, as measured by the Mood Index. In the long run, a counter-movement of public opinion increases the chance of regular changes in government. The result of their study was that by alternating between left and right regimes over time, public opinion periodically moderates – an average that voters cannot achieve in a single election. This pattern of correcting public opinion errors continues throughout the period of analysis. Egan and Mullin (2017), the study's goals were to find stability in public opinion that masks partisan and ideological polarisation fostered by elite communications while also identifying distinct determinants of opinion, such as individuals' trust in science, risk management, and personal experience.

The study concludes if the majority opinion is to motivate elected officials to take the costly solutions required to address this problem at the national level comprehensively, they identify several ways in which less fundamental but still substantive positions important for political action can be strengthened. Mishler and Sheehan (1996) investigated the influence of public opinion on individual Supreme Court members between 1953 and 1992. According to their results, the majority of justices during this time period exhibit little or no evidence of public opinion influences, but a significant minority demonstrate considerable effects. As predicted by

social psychology theories, public opinion has the greatest impact on moderate justices, who are likely to occupy important swing positions on the Court.

The influences of public opinion, in addition to considerable agenda effects, offer crucial improvements to the classic attitudinal model of judicial decision-making. For example, Giles, Blackstone, and Vining (2008) investigated the two causal pathways proposed to relate public opinion directly to the behaviour of justices, as well as the implications of the type and degree of these linkages for current disputes over Supreme Court tenure. Their results find little evidence that justices respond strategically to public opinion. Still, it does provide some support for the notion that justices' preferences fluctuate in response to the same social dynamics that form the public's attitudes. Their findings give early evidence that, even in the absence of membership changes, public opinion may provide a mechanism for the Court's preferences to coincide with those of the public. Meanwhile, Mildenberger and Leiserowitz's (2017) study re-evaluates the hypothesized relationship between economic and environmental preferences by employing the first individual-level opinion panel on climate attitudes in the United States (N = 1,043). This panel includes both objective and self-reported economic data.

The findings of this study hold significant implications for comprehending the dynamics of political conflict over environmental policy on a global scale.

2.9.2. Economic Factors and Political Decisions-Making

Salisbury (2017) their study aims to provide policymakers and political leaders with the context and tools needed to reevaluate their approach to Yemen. In addition, they set out an agenda of incentives designed to encourage key players in the conflict to cooperate to achieve peace. This paper offers a comprehensive analysis of Yemen's 'chaos state,' supplemented by an interactive component. The study recommends developing an accession process policy to end the conflict and establish a lasting political and economic settlement post-war. Al-nasi, Ismail, and Yunus (2024) the objective of their study was to enhance the understanding of the evolving environment for development and economic stability within the construction industry, emphasising the importance of formulating plans and policies for national construction and economic planning initiatives. The construction industry in Yemen is plagued by

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persistent challenges that result in project failures across administrative, economic, and social domains, often due to inadequate planning. These failures are primarily attributed to coordination, communication, and technology utilisation deficiencies.

The methodology of their study employed a quantitative questionnaire approach, consistent with the descriptive nature of the research. This strategy facilitated the creation of a conceptual framework designed to identify the critical elements that theoretically influence the success of the construction industry in Yemen. Their study aimed to conceptualise the factors contributing to project success to promote more resilient and successful construction projects. Bano (2024) the goal of their study was to determine how different ideologies contributed to the formation of an armed political faction, the Houthis, over time. Moreover, competition for regional influence, and thus different foreign powers' support for different parties, hamper diplomatic efforts to resolve the conflict, contributing to its continuation. Ali, Ali, Khan, Adnan, and Azhar (2023) their study aims to provide an overview of the role of external factors involved in the Yemen crisis. Their methodology used secondary data sources to describe and analyse the research, and the analysis is done according to the qualitative content analysis method. Their findings were a comprehensive view of the humanitarian crisis in Yemen, focusing on its origins in political marginalisation, foreign interventions, and the repercussions of the Arab Spring. It highlights key events such as the Houthi uprising, the role of international alliances led by Saudi Arabia, and the regional ramifications related to Iran. The devastating impact of the conflict on the population of Yemen, including large-scale displacement and humanitarian needs, underscores the urgent global attention required to address this ongoing crisis. Almaliki (2023) study aims to examine the theoretical and practical foundations of political instability, oil rents, and foreign direct investment in the post-war reconstruction of Yemen in terms of economic growth. Their methodology was the Granger causality test to investigate potential causal relationships between variables related to the Yemeni crisis. This statistical method evaluates whether past values of one variable can predict current values of another variable, helping to identify potential causal links in complex systems such as social and political conflicts and humanitarian crises.

Their findings were unidirectional relationships between foreign direct investment (FDI), foreign investments, oil rents, and economic growth in the context

of Yemen. Specifically, the study indicates that these factors affect economic growth in one direction, suggesting that changes in foreign direct investment, foreign investments, or oil revenues have an impact on economic growth in Yemen, but not necessarily the opposite. This finding can help policymakers understand the dynamics and potential leverage points of economic development strategies in crisis-affected areas such as Yemen. Al-nasi, Ismail, and Yunus (2024, June), their study aims to identify these challenges, propose recovery guidelines, and envision the province as a model for the country. Additionally, the research seeks to investigate the challenges encountered by public sector employees responsible for executing daily tasks and delivering services.

The methodology employed a case study approach centred on Hadhramaut Governorate, utilising qualitative methods, notably semi-structured individual interviews with thirteen participants representing various administrative levels within government offices. Their findings underscore the institutional and administrative challenges. Institutional challenges arise from organisational structures and external interactions, while management directly affects decision-making and operational processes. Their study acknowledges issues such as the absence of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, as well as deficiencies in accountability principles and policy and financial challenges. Addressing these challenges in Hadhramaut requires a comprehensive and context-specific reform strategy. Miller and Curry (July 2024) stated that the study's objectives were to explore the impact of social and economic inequality on political actors and, consequently, on policy outcomes. Previous research has primarily focused on elected officials in legislative contexts. This study addresses a gap by assessing the effects of a judge's wealth disparity on decision-making.

Their methodology involved obtaining data on the wealth of federal appellate judges and examining its impact on cases involving economic issues. They estimated logit models that control for other factors and included fixed effects for the constituency, specific problem area, and year of decision. The models accounted for the main effects of wealth and its potential interaction with judicial ideology in influencing decision-making. The results of their study indicated that there was no direct relationship between a judge's wealth and their decisions in economic cases. However, wealth interacts with ideology to significantly influence the decision-making

process. Specifically, greater wealth amplifies the ideological leanings of more conservative judges.

Udo, Ochuba, Akinrinola, and Ololade's (2024) study aimed to conduct a comparative analysis of theoretical approaches to data analysis and decision-making in the financial sectors of Africa and the United States. Their findings highlighted the need to promote an environment conducive to effective financial decision-making practices and robust data analytics in both Africa and the United States. To achieve this, the study made the following recommendations: Implement policies that enhance data collection, sharing, and privacy, ensuring that financial analysts have access to comprehensive, high-quality datasets to guide their analyses.

Encourage the adoption of advanced analytical tools and techniques through innovation incentives, investment in technological infrastructure, and support for emerging companies in the financial technology sector. Establish clear and flexible regulatory frameworks capable of adapting to technological advancements and changing market dynamics, ensuring that new theoretical approaches can be implemented effectively and responsibly. Invest in financial education and literacy programs that incorporate theoretical insights to help individuals make informed financial decisions.

Encourage collaboration between financial institutions, regulatory bodies, and academic researchers to exchange ideas, best practices, and innovations in both theoretical and practical finance applications. Zakhidov (2024) underscore the importance of economic indicators in guiding the strategic decision-making processes for companies, investors, and governments. The study employed a mixed methods approach, integrating both qualitative and quantitative techniques. Quantitative data were collected from various reputable sources, including government agencies, financial databases, and international organisations. Key economic indicators such as GDP growth rates, unemployment rates, consumer spending, inflation figures, and stock market indices were gathered for analysis. Their results indicate that analysing economic indicators is fundamental for understanding market trends and forecasting future performance, offering invaluable insights across various industries and sectors. Indicators such as GDP growth and inflation rates are essential tools for comprehending the dynamics of economic activity and informing strategic decision-

making processes. This comprehensive examination explores the importance, methodologies, implications, and challenges involved in utilising economic indicators to decipher market trends and predict future performance.

Odunaiya, Nwankwo, Okoye, and Scholastica (2024) aimed to integrate behavioural economics into consumer protection policies, focusing on the impact of psychological factors on consumer behaviour and their implications for market efficiency and consumer welfare. Their methodology was founded on a comprehensive search strategy, employing meticulously defined inclusion and exclusion criteria to ensure the relevance and quality of the literature reviewed. The findings of their study concluded that behavioural economics possesses transformative potential for consumer protection, emphasising the need for ongoing exploration and innovation in policy development to safeguard consumer interests amid a dynamically evolving market environment.

Ausat (2023) study aims to examine the influence of social media on shaping public opinion and its implications for economic decision-making. The methodology employed in their study was qualitative, encompassing a literature review and analysis of social media content. The focus was on identifying opinion patterns and assessing their influence. Reliability and validity were ensured through triangulation and participant validation of findings sourced from secondary data. The findings of their study indicated that social media plays a significant role in shaping public opinion and influencing economic decision-making. Social media platforms facilitate interactions among individuals and groups, enabling information sharing and participation in discussions that contribute to the formation of collective viewpoints on diverse issues.

2.9.3. Interest Groups and Political Decision-Making

Dür and Mateo (2024) engage decision-makers through direct communication or participation in government committees, contrasting this approach with external pressure strategies that rely on public influence to shape policies. They argued that when a policy becomes politicised, exerting external pressure in favour of a contested policy becomes costly due to public opposition. This led them to hypothesise that politicisation would encourage policy supporters to exert greater pressure domestically while opponents would intensify their efforts through external pressure tactics. The

methodology employed in their study utilised both survey data and Twitter data, thereby integrating a subjective measure (self-reported) with an objective measure (directly observed) of interest group strategy. The alignment of results from these two data sources enhances their credibility. Alternatively, they could have examined news coverage of interest groups across various topics. However, media salience has the drawback of reflecting both groups actively seeking coverage and media outlets seeking interest groups for coverage. The findings of their study indicate that research on interest group strategies reveals that variations in lobbying methods among different types of interest groups are influenced not only by their resources and influence levels but also by the nature of the policy being considered and the degree of public controversy surrounding it. Testing their hypothesis through the use of both survey and Twitter data also suggests a systematic approach to advancing the literature, which has traditionally utilised these data sources separately rather than integrating them within a single study.

Balles, Matter, Uand Stutzer (2024) examine whether U.S. House representatives prioritise special interest groups over voters during periods characterised by low media interest in politics. The methodology of their study involved analysing 666 roll calls spanning from 2005 to 2018. Their analysis demonstrated that representatives tend to vote against the preferred position of their constituents to a greater extent when they receive more special interest money from groups advocating the opposing position. The findings of their study indicated that the influence of special interest money on representatives' voting behaviour is significantly amplified during periods of low political attention, often caused by distractions from newsworthy external events like natural disasters. This effect predominantly stems from short-term opportunistic behaviour rather than strategic scheduling of contentious votes during periods of heightened news coverage.

Gilens and Page (2014) examine the four theoretical traditions in the study of American politics—namely, theories of electoral majority democracy, economic elite control, and two types of interest group pluralism (majoritarian pluralism and biased pluralism) to predict how varying degrees of influence exerted by different actors affect public policy. These actors include ordinary citizens, economic elites, and organised interest groups, whether mass-based or business-oriented. The methodology of their study involved multivariate analysis. Meanwhile, extensive empirical research

has investigated the political influence of various actors, it has only recently become feasible to test these contradictory theoretical predictions within a single statistical model. Their study reports on this effort, utilising a unique dataset that includes measurements of key variables across 1,779 political issues. The results of their study provide substantial support for theories of economic elite dominance and biased pluralism while offering little support for theories of electoral majoritarian democracy or majoritarian pluralism.

Lau and Redlawsk (2001) investigated the often-untested assumption that cognitive "heuristics" enhance the decision-making abilities of ordinary voters. The methodology employed was innovative, as it traced the dynamic process of directly observing voters' use of these five heuristics during a simulated presidential election campaign. The findings of their study provided strategies for increasing input from underrepresented groups in the political process.

Tindale and Winget (2019) demonstrate that decision-making is inherently social and involves multiple group members. The literature on group decision-making is conceptualised along two dimensions: the extent of interaction or information exchange among group members and the method by which the final decision is made. Group decisions can range from being made by simply pooling members' preferences or judgments without any interaction to involving extensive interaction and information exchange, with the final decision reached by group consensus. Intermediate strategies include prediction markets, Delphi groups, and judge-adviser systems. The findings of their study indicated that each dimension differently affects decision quality and the decision-making process, contingent upon the specific decision task and context. Research exploring these dimensions has also elucidated aspects of group decision-making that contribute to higher-quality decisions.

Anziaa Moe (2016) developed a theoretical framework outlining the expected behaviour of strategic politicians. The methodology of their study involved a comprehensive policy development analysis focusing on the adoption of collective bargaining laws in the public sector across states during the 1960s, 1970s, and early 1980s. Their study focused on the emergence of a new school of comparative pressure. However, this development occurs gradually over time.

Furlong (1997) study aimed to explore a model detailing the impact of interest groups on agency rule-making processes. The methodology employed in their study involved utilising survey data to investigate the interactions between interest groups and regulatory bodies, exploring their participation in rulemaking processes, and assessing their perceptions of the effectiveness of their involvement. The comprehensive models and various theoretical adaptations generally support hypotheses regarding the influence of interest groups on rule-making. However, significant discrepancies were identified concerning prevailing theories in the political science literature. The outcome of their study underscores the need for further research into the significant relationship between interest groups and regulatory bodies.

2.9.4. International Relations and Political Decision-Making

Culton (2010) stated that the objective of their study was to prioritise the local dimension alongside the international dimension in their analysis. This approach necessitates examining significant events or crises through the dual perspectives of both the affected country or countries and the global context. The methodology employed in their foundational study encompassed the fundamentals of infrared radiation, serving as the initial framework. Chaos, order, and power were identified as intrinsic characteristics of the international system. Definitions and assumptions regarding these external forces were developed through a comprehensive review of significant and relevant literature in International Relations (IR), drawing from diverse academic perspectives within the discipline. These three overarching aspects of IR not only shape state behaviour but also influence subnational actors within states. External variables and international pressures are particularly influential during periods of high-profile humanitarian crises or security challenges.

Consequently, their analysis of Yemen's relationship with the international community offers profound insights into the implications of chaos, order, and power dynamics. Yemen is not merely viewed as a domestic issue for Yemenis to resolve; it has become a global concern entangled with issues of terrorism and economic dependency on an international scale. The findings of their study represent a step towards advancing the field by bridging the gap between academia and policymaking, integrating these two interdependent realms. Dogan-Akkas (2021) aimed to address

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this gap by asserting that the UAE's policy shift towards Yemen, from a strategy of "consensus" to one of "passing the buck," reflects a prioritisation of national interests. The main objective of their study was to examine the motives behind the UAE's adoption of a strategy that involves delegating responsibilities towards Qatar and Saudi Arabia. The findings of their study suggest that foreign policy-making operates on interconnected levels. However, the study raises a complex and difficult question: do the actors discussed possess significant power in Yemen?

Meanwhile, a definitive answer remains elusive. The study analyses the UAE's Yemen policy through a lens of realism, focusing on expansionary and extended deterrence strategies aligned with coalition forces. These efforts aim to protect local communities and foster regional stability. By adopting a strategy of passing responsibility, the United Arab Emirates seeks to strengthen its hegemonic position and prioritise national interests in stabilising Yemen and, to some extent, the Horn of Africa, diverging from traditional bandwagon strategies.

Juneau (2024) study pursued two main objectives. The first objective, of a nomothetic nature, involved developing a theory of hyperbalance, a significant phenomenon previously overlooked in homeostasis literature. The second objective was experimental, aiming to provide insights into the Saudi decision to initiate military operations in Yemen. The findings of their study underscored the need for enhancement in defining and understanding the independent, intervening, and dependent variables, as well as refining the causal mechanisms that connect them more precisely. Watol (2024) study aimed to undertake a comprehensive analysis of the internationalised civil war in Yemen post-2011, exploring its impacts on national, regional, and global social, economic, and political spheres of influence. The methodology employed in their study utilised a qualitative research approach. The findings of their study highlighted that the international civil war in Yemen since 2011 posed significant risks to international shipping passing through the Red Sea, a critical route for oil shipments and global commercial movements.

Additionally, the conflict in Yemen has exacerbated what is now considered the world's largest humanitarian crisis, prompting responses from the European Union and other international actors. Ahmed (2020) study aimed to elucidate the theoretical significance of foreign policy in international relations and to examine how such

policies facilitate the maintenance of diplomatic relations between countries at the international level. The results of their study indicated that the decision-making process in foreign policy is multifaceted and involves various actors. It has consistently played a crucial role in a state's international affairs. Consequently, without a well-formulated foreign policy, a state risks losing its position and respect in global affairs. Pollack (2001) stated that the objective of their study was to examine the recent debate among realists, liberals, rational choice institutionalists, and constructivists concerning the nature of the integration process and the European Union as an international organisation. The findings of their study revealed that realism, liberalism, and institutionalism demonstrated tendencies to converge around a unified rational model. In contrast, constructivism emerged as the primary competing approach, though it remains less developed in the context of European integration studies.

Varela (2024) stated that the objective of their study was to investigate how artificial intelligence is redefining traditional models of diplomacy, highlighting both significant opportunities and challenges. The methodology of their study involved a detailed analysis to investigate and discuss the impacts of artificial intelligence on diplomacy. The results of their study proposed frameworks for the international governance of AI, emphasising the critical importance of transnational cooperation in addressing emerging dilemmas. Han, Lukoianove, Zhao, and Liu (2024) proposed a conceptual framework of the broader international context, identify the emerging research frontier in International Relations (IR) within International Business (IB) research, and provide a critically synthesised review of studies utilising IR scholarship to explain the behaviour of multinational corporations (MNCs). The methodology of their study involved bibliometric analysis and content analysis to assess the current state of knowledge in the intersection of International Relations and International Business (IB) research, examining predominant approaches to understanding how international relations factors influence multinational corporations' location choices, entry strategies, legitimacy, and post-entry performance. The results of their study highlight several limitations that suggest avenues for future research. Firstly, their focus on empirical articles aimed to ensure sample consistency and facilitate comparative analyses in bibliometric and content analyses. However, this approach led to a relatively small sample size due to the limited availability of empirical studies in

this nascent research area, prompting a need for future research to validate findings with a larger sample as more empirical studies emerge.

Secondly, their review predominantly addressed large multinational corporations (MNCs) involved in international trade, overlooking small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) such as exporters and local suppliers in global value chains. Given that investment factors may impact SMEs differently than MNCs, future research could systematically review how international relations factors influence these SMEs, offering valuable insights into their behaviour within global markets. These limitations underscore opportunities for future studies to broaden the scope and depth of understanding in the field of international relations within International Business research, particularly in relation to different types of businesses and their global strategies. Trantidis (2024) adopted a public choice perspective in analysing the Russian war on Ukraine. Their study challenges the capitalist peace theory's broad assertion that dense economic ties would inherently discourage states from resorting to war, particularly in light of the historically close economic relations between Russia and Ukraine. The study's findings centred on advancing a public choice perspective within the study of international relations, focusing on the preferences and strategies of leadership and local elite actors within the aggressor state while highlighting the power asymmetry that defines their relationship.

Sefa-Nyarko (2024) their study aimed to explore rationales that may justify governmental prioritisation of non-green energy sources and a gradual approach towards achieving net-zero emissions by 2070. The methodology employed in their study involved conducting thematic analysis on data sourced from interviews, news items, living standards surveys, and policy documents. The findings of their study indicate that Ghana's completion of the net-zero energy framework establishes a policy foundation for planning toward net-zero emissions. Meanwhile, the 2070 target may not convey urgency, and it creates a regulatory framework enabling international development partners to engage meaningfully and contribute to the country's energy transition efforts.

2.10. Hypotheses

2.10.1. The Relationship Between Economic Factors and Political Decisions-Making

As mentioned by Al-nasi *et al.* (2024), the strategy facilitated the creation of a conceptual framework designed to identify the critical elements that theoretically influence the success of the construction industry in Yemen. According to Almaliki (2023), the study indicates that these factors affect economic growth in one direction, which indicates that changes in foreign direct investment, foreign investments, or oil revenues have an impact on economic growth in Yemen. As mentioned by Al-nasi *et al.* (2024), wealth interacts with ideology to greatly influence decision-making. Specifically, greater wealth amplifies the ideological leanings of more conservative judges. Udo *et al.* (2024) found that the promote an environment conducive to effective financial decision-making practices and robust data analytics in both Africa and the United States. According to Ausat (2023), social media plays a significant role in shaping public opinion and influencing economic decision-making. Social media platforms facilitate interactions among individuals and groups, enabling information sharing and participation in discussions that contribute to the formation of collective viewpoints on diverse issues.

Meanwhile, Méndez-Picazo, Galindo-Martín, and Castaño-Martínez (2021) found that economic factors, expenditure on total fixed capital training and employment have a greater impact on social entrepreneurship, while R&D and unemployment show a greater impact on general entrepreneurship. Income distribution shows a similar effect in both cases. According to Uzar (2020), institutional quality positively affects renewable energy consumption in the long run. Furthermore, CO_2 emission is a positive and important determinant of renewable energy consumption. However, economic growth negatively affects renewable energy. In this context, institutional quality is a key strategic choice in promoting the use of renewable energy and solving environmental problems. Thus, the hypothesis will be the following.

H1: There is a positive relationship between economic factors and political decision-making.

2.10.2. The Relationship Between Interest Groups and Political Decision-Making

As mentioned by Balles *et al.* (2024), the influence of special interest money on representatives' voting behaviour is significantly amplified during periods of low political attention, often caused by distractions from newsworthy external events like natural disasters. This effect predominantly stems from short-term opportunistic behaviour rather than strategic scheduling of contentious votes during periods of heightened news coverage. As mentioned by Gilens and Page (2014), they provide significant support for theories of economic elite dominance and biased pluralism while offering little support for theories of electoral majoritarian democracy or majoritarian pluralism. Tindale and Winget (2019) found that dimension differentially affects decision quality and the decision-making process, depending on the specific decision task and context. Research exploring these dimensions has also demonstrated which aspects of group decision-making contribute to higher-quality decisions. According to Furlong (1997), the comprehensive models and various theoretical adaptations generally support hypotheses regarding the influence of interest groups on rule-making. Eady, Rasmussen (2024) found wider implications for understanding how large-scale crises affect inequalities in representation. As mentioned by Dür and Mateo (2024), the empirical evidence largely supports our argument. By making and testing this argument, we contribute to the literature on the politicisation of trade policy and interest group strategies. Thus, the hypothesis will be the following.

H2: There is a positive relationship between interest groups and political decision-making.

2.10.3. The Relationship Between International Relations and Political Decisions Making

According to Watol (2024), the international civil war in Yemen since 2011 posed significant risks to international shipping passing through the Red Sea, a critical route for oil shipments and global commercial movements. As mentioned, Ahmed (2020) indicated that the decision-making process in foreign policy is multifaceted and

involves various actors. It has consistently played a crucial role in a state's international affairs.

Varela (2024) proposed frameworks for the international governance of AI and emphasised the critical importance of transnational cooperation in addressing emerging dilemmas. As mentioned by An & Wang (2024), the significantly improved bilateral political relations between China's political influence in international affairs. According to Myrick (2024), these negative reputational consequences of polarization are driven by perceptions of preference-based, ideological polarization rather than identity-based, affective polarisation. Meanwhile, Novotna (2024) ponders over the efficacy of sanctions policies, suggesting that the integration of emotional awareness into policy-making can foster a more holistic approach to international politics. As mentioned by Bessner & Logevall (2024), they believe that incorporating the insights of a reinvigorated domestic history of American foreign relations with those produced by international and transnational historians will enable the writing of scholarly works that encompass a diversity of spatial geographies and provide a fuller account of the making, implementation, effects, and limits of U.S. foreign policy. Thus, the hypothesis will be the following.

H3: There is a positive relationship between international relations and political decision-making.

2.10.4. The Relationship Between Public Opinion and Political Decision-Making

According to Stimson (2018), public opinion in America has shifted significantly toward liberalism, as measured by the Mood Index. In the long run, a counter-movement of public opinion increases the chance of regular changes in government. As mentioned by Egan and Mullin (2017). The majority opinion is to motivate elected officials to take the costly solutions required to address this problem at the national level comprehensively, and they identify several ways in which less fundamental but still substantive positions important for political action can be strengthened. Mishler and Sheehan (1996) found that public opinion has the greatest impact on moderate justices, who are likely to occupy important swing positions on the

Court. The influences of public opinion, in addition to considerable agenda effects, offer crucial improvements to the classic attitudinal model of judicial decision-making. As mentioned by Giles *et al.* (2008) give early evidence that, even in the absence of membership changes, public opinion may provide a mechanism for the Court's preferences to coincide with those of the public. Mildenberger and Leiserowitz (2017) found significant implications for comprehending the dynamics of political conflict over environmental policy on a global scale. According to Stimson Ausat (2023), the decision-making process in society, governments, and public opinion are important socially, politically and economically and have a more important role in shaping and directing public opinion.

Sari (2023) has a significant positive impact on the quality of decision-making in public administration. Tomz, Weeks, and Yarhi-Milo (2020) found that the highest levels incorporate public opinion into foreign policy decisions. Experience public opinion exercises a great influence, but not excessively so. According to Sevenans (2021), found that public opinion information actually has the potential to influence politicians. Thus, the hypothesis will be the following.

H4: There is a positive relationship between public opinion and political decision-making.

2.11. The Proposed Model

The model has a dependent Variable, which is the Political Decision-Making Process. The independent Variables are as follows:

1. Public Opinion: The general sentiment and preferences of the public can influence political decisions. For example, public support or opposition to a policy can sway political decisions.
2. Economic Factor: Economic conditions, such as inflation, unemployment, and economic growth, can affect political decisions, especially those related to economic policies, taxation, and government spending.
3. Interest Groups: Various interest groups and lobbyists can exert pressure and influence political decisions by advocating for specific policies and using their resources to support or oppose particular decisions.

4. International Relations: The geopolitical landscape, relationships with other countries, and global events can impact a country's political decisions. For instance, international alliances, conflicts, and trade agreements can influence foreign policy decisions.

In this model, each independent variable has a causal relationship with the dependent variable, the political decision-making process. The specific relationships can vary in terms of strength and direction (positive or negative) depending on the context and the particular political issue in question. The model is visualised in Figure (1).

Independent variable   Dependent variable
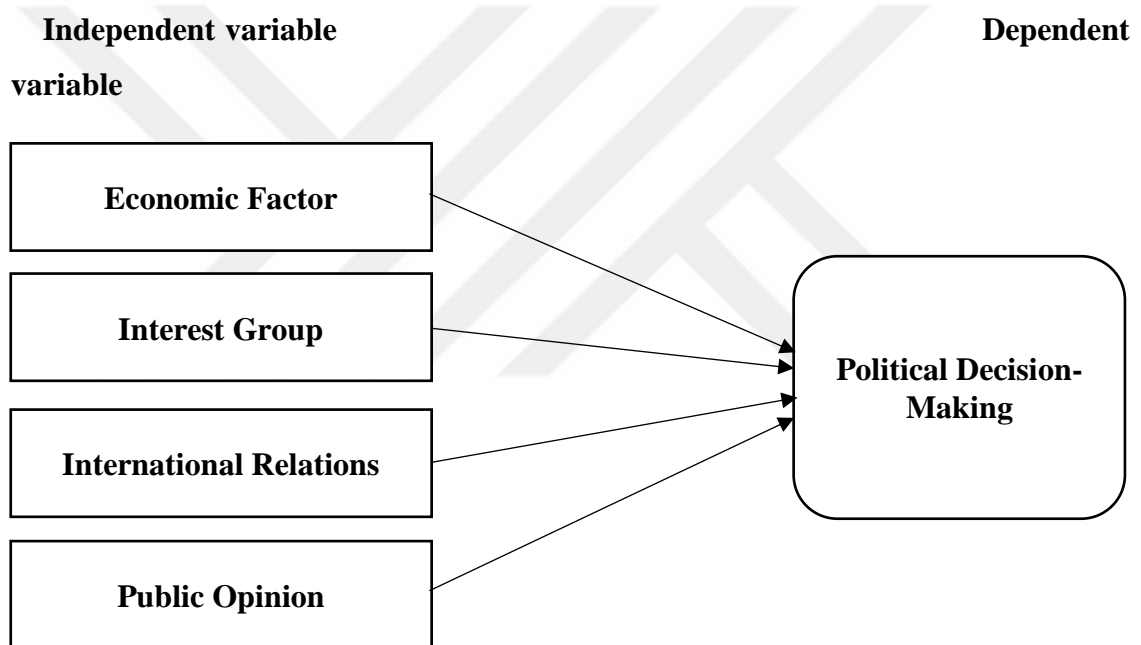
Figure 1: The proposed model

The scope of this study is to examine the political decision-making process in Yemen with a focus on a range of variables that influence these decisions. These variables include public opinion, economic factors, the role of interest groups, and the dynamics of international relations. The research aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the factors shaping the decision-making landscape in Yemen.

It's important to note that real-world political decision-making is highly complex, and there are often many more factors at play. Additionally, the nature of the

relationships can be dynamic and context-dependent. This model is a simplified representation and can serve as a starting point for further analysis and research.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1. Introduction

This chapter introduces the research methodology for my study on "Political Decision-Making: Academician Perspectives." The purpose of this chapter is to provide a detailed and comprehensive framework that outlines the approach taken to explore and understand the perspectives of academicians regarding political decision-making processes.

The chapter begins by describing the research design, which includes the philosophical framework underpinning the study and the rationale for choosing a qualitative approach. It then provides an in-depth look at the research setting and context, offering background information on the environment and participants involved in the study. Following this, the chapter details the sampling strategy, explaining how the population was defined, and the sample was selected. The sampling method and justification for the chosen sample size are also discussed. Next, the data collection methods, focus groups, observations, and document analysis are presented. Each method is described in terms of its relevance to the research questions and objectives, along with the instruments used for data collection.

3.2. Research Design

The chapter then outlines the data collection procedures, including the steps taken to gather data and the ethical considerations addressed to ensure the integrity of the study. If a pilot study was conducted, its role and findings are also mentioned. Data analysis methods are then explained, detailing the quantitative analysis processes and any software tools used to facilitate the analysis. (These activities include the type of researcher involvement, the study's environment, its duration, and the unit of analysis (e.g., exploratory, descriptive, hypothesis-testing, or case study) (Sekaran & Bougie, 2016). To ensure the rigour and trustworthiness of the study, the chapter discusses strategies such as credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability. These measures are essential to maintain the validity and reliability of the research findings. The limitations of the chosen methodology are acknowledged, with an explanation of how these limitations will be addressed or mitigated.

Finally, the chapter concludes with a summary that recaps the key points discussed and highlights how the methodology aligns with the research aims, setting the stage for the subsequent chapters. This structured approach ensures a thorough and methodical examination of academicians' perspectives on the political decision-making process. In this study, a quantitative approach as an experimental scientific approach was utilised.

3.3. Population and Sample Size

In this important part, the estimated population size of the research is addressed, focusing on the sample frame so that a clear and accurate detailed explanation can be provided to reach a deep understanding of the research topic.

3.3.1. Population Size

The population for this study consists of academicians who are experts in political studies within the public universities of Yemen. Given the ongoing conflict and logistical challenges, the sample is drawn from universities in Sana'a, Taiz, Aden, Hadramout, and Ibb. These universities were chosen because they are more accessible online, allowing for effective communication and data collection despite the war conditions. The total number of academicians specialising in political studies across these universities is to be around 130 This population includes faculty members with varying levels of experience and expertise, providing a rich pool of potential participants for the study.

Table 1: The number of names of political academics in yemeni universities.

No.	University	No. of Yemeni Political Academics
1	Sanaa University	50
2	Aden University	30
3	Taez University	20
4	Abb University	15
5	Hadhramaut University	15
6	**Total**	130

3.3.2. Sample Size

The sample size is very important because it can affect the degree of variance in covariance matrices, as pointed out by Loehlen (2012). In this regard, obtaining a sufficiently large sample and conducting data collection efforts with the best quality will lead to more accurate, valid and generalisable results (Bartlett & Kotturlik, 2001). Since this research is applied in Yemeni universities, and its affiliated colleges were selected with a sample size of (101) respondents, it is quite suitable for this field. The following table shows the number of universities in Yemen, the size of the participants from each university, the research community and the size of the research sample.

Table 2: Sample size of the research.

No.	University	No. of Yemeni Political Academics	Sample Size
1	Sanaa University	50	30
2	Aden University	30	24
3	Taez University	20	23
4	Abb University	15	13
5	Hadhramaut University	15	11

| 6 | Total | 130 | 101 |

3.4. Sampling Elements

The sample elements used in this study are purposive sampling (Chawla *et al.,* 2002; Lohr, 2021; Sasada *et al.,* 2020; Shalabh, 2005). This approach was chosen because it allows for the deliberate selection of individuals who possess specific knowledge and experience relevant to the research questions (Asiamah *et al.,* 2017; Elreedy & Atiya, 2019; Moser, 2018). In addition to purposive sampling, a sequential sampling technique will be used to identify additional participants (Lohr, 2021; Shalabh, 2005). Initially, key academics known for their expertise and willingness to participate will be contacted. These contacts will then be asked to recommend other qualified colleagues who may be interested in contributing to the study. This combination of purposive sampling and discrete sampling ensures that a diverse and inclusive group of participants is included.

3.5. Sampling Technique

The sampling elements in this study are academicians based in Yemen. These individuals were selected due to their expertise in political science, economics, international relations, and related fields. The academicians' professional backgrounds provide them with a unique vantage point from which to assess the political decision-making process. They are well-versed in both theoretical frameworks and practical considerations, making their perspectives particularly informative for this research.

To ensure a diverse and representative sample, the study includes academicians from various universities and research institutions across Yemen. Participants range from faculty members at Yemeni universities, encompassing various experiences and perspectives. This diversity is crucial for capturing a comprehensive understanding of the political decision-making process in Yemen**.**

3.6. Data Collection Method

The instrument was developed to quantify the perceptions of academicians regarding the influence of various factors, such as public opinion, economic conditions, interest groups, and international relations on political decision-making (Babbie, 2004; Batini *et al.,* 2009; Groves, 1987; Hodge & Austin, 2004; Kelley *et al.,* 2003; Lloyd & Ries, 2007). The questions were measured by the Likert scale to assess the strength of each factor's perceived influence, along with demographic questions to capture the profile of respondents (Babbie, 2004; Batini *et al.,* 2009; Groves, 1987; Hodge & Austin, 2004; Kelley *et al.,* 2003; Lloyd & Ries, 2007). The survey was distributed electronically via email to all academicians in the participating universities in Yemen. Reminders were sent bi-weekly to maximise the response rate. The survey questions are represented in Table 2. The survey has five sections, and every section is in the range of 4-7 questions borrowed from references (Appendix A) and assessed using a Likert scale of five points.

3.6.1. Data Collection Procedures

A compiled list of potential participants (academicians in political studies) from universities in Sana'a, Aden, Taiz, Ibb, and Hadramout. Initial contact emails were sent to potential participants explaining the study's purpose objectives and inviting them to participate in the semi-structured survey were sent. An online survey tool (Google Forms) was used to create and distribute the survey. Afterwards, the survey link was sent to the participants via email, including instructions and an informed consent form. A follow-up took place with reminder emails to participants who had not responded to the survey to encourage completion. The author monitored the survey responses to ensure an adequate response rate and address any issues participants might encounter.

3.7. Measurement of Instruments

Generally, research is a routine process of collecting data with the aim of addressing specific issues. In an experimental study, hypotheses are tested by operationalising and measuring study variables (Cooper & Schindler, 2003). The research variables for this research are the independent variables: 1. Public opinion 2.

Economic factor 3. Interest groups 4. International relations and the dependent variable were the political decision-making process. This study used a clear and reliable scale collected from previous studies in the available literature to generate measurement items. Also, all variables were tested using a five-point Likert scale; the measures of research variables will be discussed in more detail in the next section.

Table 3: (Likert scale**) five-point.**

	Point
Strongly Agree	1
Agree	2
Neutral	3
Disagree Agree	4
Strongly Disagree	5

Nicholls, (2010). Likert Scales.

3.7.1. Economic Factor

Economic Factors are any elements that influence the economy's performance, such as employment rates, inflation, interest rates, and gross domestic product (GDP). These factors affect consumer behaviour, business operations, and government policies, shaping overall economic conditions. Economic factors are critical in determining market trends, investment decisions, and policy-making, as they provide insights into a country's financial health and stability, influencing both short-term and long-term economic outcomes (Qiu, Chen, & Shi, 2020).

Sannikova and Jankova (2019) investigate how economic factors influence students' choices regarding study programs and job preferences. The study uses a survey methodology, targeting students from various Bachelor programs in Latvia, to gather data on their decision-making processes. The respondents were asked to rate different factors affecting their choices on a Likert scale, precisely a 5-point scale ranging from "not important" to "very important." Table (4) shows the measurement of the Economic Factor.

Table 4: Measurement of economic factors.

Independent Variables	Measurement Items
Economic Factors (EF)	1. Economic conditions significantly influence my political decision-making process. 2. I consider economic indicators such as inflation and unemployment when making political decisions. 3. Changes in global economic trends impact the political strategies I support or recommend. 4. I prioritise economic stability when evaluating political options and policies. 5. Economic crises or downturns are key factors in shaping my political decisions.

3.7.2. Interest group

According to Berry and Wilcox (2018), an interest group is an organised group of individuals or organisations seeking to influence public policy and decision-making to align with their interests or goals. These groups operate through lobbying, advocacy, and public campaigns, aiming to shape legislation and government actions in favour of their agendas. Interest groups represent various issues, including business, environmental, social, and political concerns, playing a significant role in the democratic process by amplifying their members' voices.

Ollogu (2020) explains how Policymaking Processes - Seen Through Citizens' Lenses - the Case of North Macedonia explores public opinion on the role and impact of interest groups in social welfare policymaking. The study aimed to gauge citizens' perceptions of these groups' influence on policy processes. Methodologically, the research involved a combination of desk research, a literature review, and an empirical survey conducted between October 2019 and March 2020. The survey targeted 50 random citizens in the Skopje region using a simple random sampling technique to represent the broader population accurately. The survey utilized a questionnaire designed with multiple-choice questions to measure citizens' perceptions. Although the article does not specify whether the scale was a 5-point or 7-point Likert scale, it mentions that respondents could select from predefined options. The findings revealed that a significant portion of the population has limited involvement with interest groups, with only 2% of respondents being current association members. Table (5) shows the measurement of interest groups.

Table 5: Measurement of ınterest groups.

Independent Variables	Measurement Items
Interest groups (IG)	1. Interest groups significantly influence my political decision-making process. 2. I take into account the positions of interest groups when formulating political recommendations. 3. Interest group lobbying activities affect the political strategies I support. 4. The influence of interest groups often shapes my perspective on policy development.

3.7.3. International Relations

International relations is the study and practice of political, economic, and social interactions between countries and global actors. It explores diplomacy, conflict, trade, and cooperation, focusing on how nations engage with each other to pursue their interests. International relations also examine the roles of international organisations, non-state actors, and global governance in shaping the global political landscape (Gilpin, 2016). Herrmann, Isernia, and Segatti (2009) explain how to understand public opinion on the relationship between national identity and international relations, particularly in the context of conflict and cooperation. The methodology employed in the research involved two national surveys conducted in Italy and the United States. These surveys were designed to measure three dimensions of national identity: national attachment, culturalism, and chauvinism. The study utilized a 4-point Likert scale rather than the more common 5-point or 7-point scales to capture the intensity of respondents' opinions. This scale ranged from "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree," allowing for a detailed understanding of participants' attitudes towards various national identity and international relations statements. Table (6) shows the measurement of international relations.

Table 6: Measurement of ınternational relations.

Independent Variables	Measurement Items
International Relations (IG)	1. International relations play a critical role in shaping my political decision-making. 2. I consider the state of global diplomacy when evaluating political strategies and policies. 3. Changes in international alliances influence the political decisions I make or support.

3.7.4. Public Opinion

Public opinion refers to the general public's collective attitudes, beliefs, and views on various issues, policies, or events. Multiple factors shape it, including media, cultural influences, personal experiences, and political leadership (Speier, 1950). According to Silva *et al.* (2018), they began by conceptualising populism as a set of attitudes held by individuals toward politics and society. The study utilised various techniques to refine and test the scale, focusing on capturing populist attitudes across different cultural contexts. The methodology involved collecting data from several countries using student and online samples. The researchers employed exploratory factor analysis (EFA) to identify the underlying dimensions of populism and then tested the cross-national validity of the scale through confirmatory factor analysis (CFA). They aimed to ensure the scale worked consistently across different cultural contexts, making it a reliable tool for cross-national comparisons. The scale used in the study was primarily a 7-point Likert scale, where respondents indicated their level of agreement with various statements. The study ultimately produced a shorter questionnaire with six or nine items demonstrating high cross-cultural validity and effectively capturing a broad range of populist attitudes. Table (7) shows the measurement of public opinion.

Table 7: Measurement of public opinion.

Independent Variables	Measurement Items
Public opinion (PO)	1. Public opinion strongly influences my approach to political decision-making. 2. I consider shifts in public sentiment when formulating political strategies. 3. Public opinion is a key determinant in my political analysis and recommendations. 4. I adjust my political decisions to align with prevailing public attitudes.

3.7.5. Political Decision-Making

The process by which political actors, such as government officials or leaders, analyse, evaluate, and choose alternatives to address societal issues (Stone, 2022). This process involves balancing competing interests, weighing the consequences of different actions, and considering public opinion, legal constraints, and ethical implications to formulate policies or make decisions that affect a nation or community. A structured approach in political decision-making where choices are made through systematic analysis, often involving the identification of objectives, gathering relevant information, and evaluating alternatives based on logic and reason. This method aims to maximize benefits while minimising risks, although more information, time pressures, and political considerations can be needed to constrain it (Evans, 2014).

Redlawsk (2002), Testing the Effects of Motivated Reasoning on Political Decision Making," examines how individuals process political information and the biases that affect decision-making. The research utilized a dynamic information board experiment to understand how motivated reasoning influences how people evaluate political candidates. The methodology involved presenting participants with a simulated presidential primary election, where they interacted with information about various candidates over time. Redlawsk randomly assigned the participants to either an online processing group, where they formed immediate evaluations of candidates, or a memory-based group, motivated by accuracy and required to justify their choices later. Redlawsk queried the subjects using a standard 7-point scale. Table (8) shows the measurement of political decision-making.

Table 8: Measurement of political decision-making.

Independent Variables	Measurement items
Political Decision-Making (PDM)	1. External geopolitical factors significantly influence my decision-making in political contexts.
	2. Economic conditions play a major role in shaping my political decisions.
	3. Public opinion is a critical factor in the decisions I make regarding political issues.
	4. International relations significantly impact the way I approach political decision-making.
	5. I frequently adjust my political decisions based on external technological advancements.
	6. Changes in the global political landscape influence my decision-making process.
	7. External cultural factors are an important consideration when making political decisions.

3.8. Techniques of Data Analysis

The data analysis for this research utilised SmartPLS 2, specifically for structural equation modelling (SEM). Partial Least Squares (PLS) is a widely used method for data processing, particularly valued for addressing issues where data is multivariate, not normally distributed, or where multicollinearity exists among exogenous variables. According to Ghozali and Latan (2015), PLS involves five key stages:

1. Model Conceptualisation: The first phase involves reviewing the literature to design and define the scope of the constructs. This stage also includes calculations to establish the model structure.

2. Model Algorithm Analysis: In this phase, the algorithm is used to determine the paths and identify the required sample size. PLS does not necessitate a large sample size, typically ranging from 30 to 100, depending on the study.

3. Bootstrapping: This phase involves resampling to test the accuracy of the model. Bootstrapping selects multiple samples to assess the likelihood of the model's predictions failing over time. SmartPLS offers three forms of resampling: maintaining the sign, separating individual signs, and changing the construct level.

4. Path Diagram Estimation: In this phase, reticular action modelling is used to represent the theoretical structures with rectangular or elliptical shapes, while single-headed arrows indicate the relationships or effects between constructs.

5. Measurement Model Assessment: The final phase evaluates the model using composite reliability (CR) and tests for discriminant and convergent validity. The R^2 test is also used to determine the goodness-of-fit of the latent constructs and structural model. Each of these stages ensures the model's robustness and the precision of its predictions, making PLS-SEM a powerful tool for data analysis in research.

3.9. Summary

In this chapter, the population size and sampling method are explained and detailed. All case study participants were asked to complete a survey in this chapter. All calculations were made using raw data that was gathered from the study subjects themselves. The research conclusions were drawn through Smart-PLS 2 analysis after the data collection process. The data obtained are then examined in the next chapter and presented to aid in understanding and analysis, such as graphs, tables, and charts.

4. RESULTS AND FINDING

4.1. Introduction

This chapter analyses the data collected from participants. This chapter starts with a demographic analysis of data, followed by descriptive analysis and cause effect relationship analysis using the bootstrap method, regarding the qualitative analysis, content analysis and word frequency used to analyse participants' words.

4.2. Response Rate

The data collection period was about two months, starting from the distribution process and obtaining results by the respondents in January when all 130 questionnaires were distributed, as presented in Table 9. This study obtained 101 correct answers in only one stage. Fifteen of the questionnaires had incomplete answers; therefore, they were excluded.

Table 9: Questionnaires distributed.

Description	Number	Percentage (%)
Targeted sample	130	(101)
Questionnaires distributed imJanuary 2024	130	(100)
Questionnaires received by March 2024	115	(0.88)
Unusable	15	(0.11)
Usable responses	101	(0.77)
Total	130	(1.76)

4.3. Demographic Profile

According to Table (10), the demographic profile of the sample shows that 92% of the participants were male, while 8% were female, with a total sample size of 101. Regarding age distribution, 10% were aged 18-25, 22% were 26-35, 26% were 36-45, 32% were 46-55, and 11% were 56 or older. The total number of participants remains at 101.

Table 10: Demographic profiles.

Profiles Demographics	Frequency	Per cent %
Gender		
Male	93	0.92
Female	8	0.08
Total	**101**	**100**
Age		
From 18-25 years old	10	0.10
From 26-35 years old	22	0.22
From 36-45 years old	26	0.26
From 46-55 years old	32	0.32
From 56 or more	11	0.11
Total	**101**	**100**

4.4. Descriptive Statistics of Variables

Table 11: Descriptive statistics of variables.

	Mean	Observed Min	Observed max	Standard deviation	Excess kurtosis	Skewness
DMPQ1	3.475	1.000	5.000	1.446	-1.039	-0.538
DMPQ2	2.762	1.000	5.000	1.204	-0.678	0.367
DMPQ3	2.980	1.000	5.000	1.134	-0.832	0.163
DMPQ4	1.931	1.000	5.000	1.292	0.312	1.250
DMPQ5	3.277	1.000	5.000	1.477	-1.378	-0.229
DMPQ6	3.653	1.000	5.000	1.338	-0.672	-0.725
DMPQ7	3.673	1.000	5.000	1.336	-0.742	-0.670
EFQ1	3.495	1.000	5.000	1.347	-0.996	-0.471
EFQ2	3.228	1.000	5.000	1.296	-1.025	-0.158
EFQ3	3.000	1.000	5.000	1.169	-0.717	0.076
EFQ4	3.752	1.000	5.000	1.403	-0.497	-0.902
EFQ5	3.594	1.000	5.000	1.329	-0.744	-0.655
IGQ1	3.396	1.000	5.000	1.394	-0.950	-0.495
IGQ2	3.208	1.000	5.000	1.352	-1.111	-0.191
IGQ3	2.832	1.000	5.000	1.109	-0.496	0.208
IGQ4	2.871	1.000	5.000	1.050	-0.623	0.106
IRQ1	3.762	1.000	5.000	1.484	-0.702	-0.893
IRQ2	3.475	1.000	5.000	1.404	-0.990	-0.547
IRQ3	3.069	1.000	5.000	1.307	-0.997	-0.184
POQ1	3.436	1.000	5.000	1.389	-1.048	-0.461
POQ2	2.802	1.000	5.000	1.428	-1.235	0.232
POQ3	3.416	1.000	5.000	1.315	-0.832	-0.491
POQ4	3.406	1.000	5.000	1.490	-1.164	-0.489

The table presents descriptive statistics for various variables that measure different aspects of decision-making, political influences, and perceptions of outcomes using a 5-point Likert scale. The DMPQ variables (Political Decision-Making Questions) reflect responses related to political decision-making. For instance, DMPQ1, with a mean of 3.475 and a slight negative skew, suggests that respondents leaned toward positive responses. In contrast, DMPQ4, with a much lower mean of 1.931 and a positive skew, indicates that respondents mainly selected lower values, showing dissatisfaction or disagreement with that aspect of decision-making. Similarly, DMPQ6 and DMPQ7, with means around 3.65 and negative skewness, indicate that higher values were more frequently chosen, implying favourable responses.

The EFQ variables (Economic Factor Questions) assess economic influences on decision-making. Most of these variables have means between 3.0 and 3.75, indicating neutral to positive perceptions. EFQ4, with a mean of 3.752 and a negative skew, shows respondents viewed this Economic Factor favourably. In contrast, EFQ3, with a mean of 3.000, reflects a perfectly neutral distribution of responses. The IGQ variables (Interest Group Questions) explore perceptions of the Interest Group. The means for these variables range from 2.83 to 3.40, mainly suggesting neutral responses, with slight skewness indicating balanced responses. IGQ1, for example, has a mean of 3.396, reflecting a slight tendency toward positive perceptions.

The IRQ variables (International Relations Questions) measure views on International Relations. IRQ1, with a mean of 3.762, shows positive perceptions, with responses skewed toward higher values, while IRQ3, with a mean of 3.069, suggests more neutral responses. Finally, the POQ variables (Public opinion questions) assess how respondents perceive public opinion when making decisions. POQ1 and POQ3 have means above 3.40, indicating generally favourable views, while POQ2, with a mean of 2.802, reflects more neutral or slightly negative perceptions. Overall, the data reveals varied but primarily neutral responses to positive responses across the areas assessed areas. Skewness and kurtosis provide further insights into the shape and distribution of responses, with some variables showing skewness toward higher or lower values depending on the question.

4.5. Reliability Analysis

Table 12: Reliability analysis.

	Cronbach's alpha	Composite reliability (rho_a)	Composite reliability (rho_c)	Average variance extracted (AVE)
DMPQ	0.720	0.852	0.777	0.442
EFQ	0.862	0.891	0.899	0.642
IGQ	0.756	0.783	0.837	0.563
IRQ	0.702	0.812	0.827	0.620
POQ	0.764	0.830	0.848	0.595

The Table presents the reliability analysis for several constructs, including DMPQ, EFQ, IGQ, IRQ, and POQ, using Cronbach's alpha, composite reliability, and average variance extracted (AVE). Cronbach's alpha values reflect internal consistency, with higher values indicating more reliable scales. EFQ shows high

reliability with a Cronbach's alpha of 0.862, while DMPQ has the lowest alpha value at 0.720, indicating moderate reliability. Composite reliability further confirms internal consistency, with all constructs exceeding the commonly accepted threshold of 0.7. EFQ, with a composite reliability of 0.899, demonstrates strong internal consistency, while DMPQ, with a composite reliability of 0.777, shows acceptable reliability.

The Average Variance Extracted (AVE) measures the amount of variance captured by the construct relative to the variance due to measurement error, with a value of 0.5 or higher considered satisfactory. Most constructs meet this criterion, such as EFQ with an AVE of 0.642 and IRQ with 0.620, indicating that these constructs capture sufficient variance from the data. However, DMPQ has a lower AVE of 0.442, suggesting that less than half of the variance is captured. This could indicate that the items within this construct do not adequately reflect the underlying concept. The reliability analysis shows that while most constructs demonstrate strong internal consistency and reliability, DMPQ could benefit from further refinement to improve its validity.

4.6. Discriminant Validity

Table 13: Discriminant validity.

	DMPQ	EFQ	IGQ	IRQ
DMPQ				
EFQ	0.866			
IGQ	0.842	0.835		
IRQ	0.870	0.913	0.714	
POQ	0.816	0.843	0.653	0.757

The table presents the discriminant validity analysis, which assesses the extent to which constructs are distinct by comparing correlations. Discriminant validity is confirmed when a construct shares more variance with its indicators than others, meaning lower correlations indicate better discriminant validity. In this table, the diagonal elements are not shown, but the off-diagonal values represent the correlations between constructs like DMPQ, EFQ, IGQ, IRQ, and POQ. DMPQ and EFQ correlate with 0.866, indicating a high but acceptable level of relatedness, though nearing the threshold where discriminant validity could be questioned. The correlation between

DMPQ and IGQ (0.842) and between DMPQ and IRQ (0.870) is also high, suggesting that these constructs are relatively similar but still distinguishable. The highest correlation observed is between EFQ and IRQ, with a value of 0.913, which could signal a potential issue with discriminant validity since the two constructs appear to be strongly related. This close relationship implies that EFQ and IRQ might not measure distinct concepts. Similarly, IGQ and EFQ correlate 0.835, and IGQ and IRQ show a correlation of 0.714, indicating moderate associations. Meanwhile, most correlations fall within acceptable limits, the high correlations between some constructs, particularly between EFQ and IRQ, suggest the need for further investigation into whether these constructs are genuinely distinct. Researchers may need to refine the measurement items or consider combining constructs if they measure overlapping concepts.

4.7. R-Square

Table 14: Variance explanation.

R-square	R-square adjusted
0.725	0.713

The table shows the R-square and adjusted R-square values. An R-square of 0.725 means that the independent variables in the model explain 72.5% of the variance in the dependent variable. The adjusted R-square, which accounts for the number of predictors, is slightly lower at 0.713, indicating 71.3% variance explained, adjusting for model complexity. This suggests the model fits the data well while balancing the number of predictors used.

4.8. Hypothesis Testing

Table 15: Hypotheses testing.

0.05	Original sample (O)	Sample mean (M)	Standard deviation (S.D)	T statistics (|O/STDEV|)	P values	Results
EFQ -> DMPQ	0.215	0.211	0.118	1.818	0.069	Rejected
IGQ -> DMPQ	0.200	0.198	0.082	2.442	0.015	Accepted
IRQ -> DMPQ	0.311	0.319	0.091	3.409	0.001	Accepted
POQ -> DMPQ	0.250	0.254	0.082	3.058	0.002	Accepted

Table 14 presents the results of hypotheses testing for the relationships between the Economic Factor (EFQ), Interest group (IGQ), International Relations (IRQ), and public opinion (POQ) with Political Decision-Making (DMPQ). Each path is evaluated based on the original sample (O), sample mean (M), standard deviation (S.D.), T statistics, and P values to determine the significance of the relationships. From EFQ to DMPQ, the original sample coefficient is 0.215, indicating a positive relationship. However, the T statistic of 1.818 and the P value of 0.069 suggest that this relationship is not statistically significant at the conventional 0.05 level. The relationship between IGQ and DMPQ has an original sample coefficient of 0.200. A T statistic of 2.442 and a P value of 0.015 are statistically significant, indicating that the interest group positively impacts the decision-making process. The most substantial effect is observed in the relationship between IRQ and DMPQ, with a coefficient of 0.311, a high T statistic of 3.409, and a P value of 0.001, confirming a statistically significant and positive relationship between international relations and political decision-making. Finally, POQ to DMPQ also shows a significant positive relationship, with a coefficient of 0.250, a T statistic of 3.058, and a P value of 0.002, indicating that public opinion significantly influences the decision-making political. Overall, the results show significant positive relationships for IGQ, IRQ, and POQ with DMPQ, while EFQ shows a marginally non-significant effect.
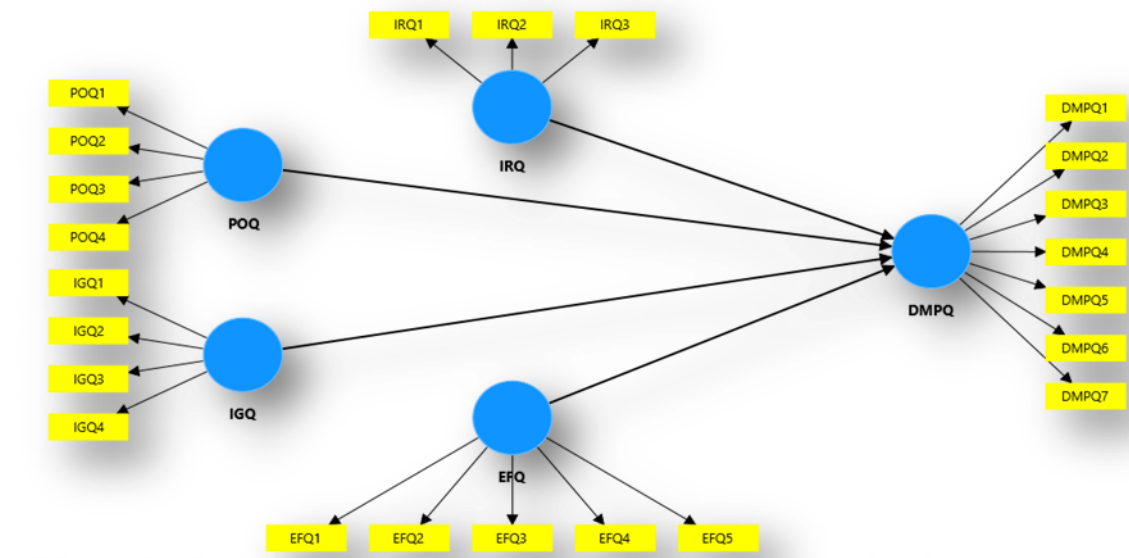
Figure 2: Measurement models of variables.

4.9. Chapter Summary

The study's hypotheses are investigated in this chapter. Smart-PLS 2 is used to conduct frequency tables, descriptive analyses, reliability and validity tests, and more analyses. This chapter displays the proposed method for analysing the performance of relevant indicators and the effect of public opinion, economic factors, interest groups, and international relations political decision-making. All of the hypotheses (H4) were validated, and the finding confirmed the existence of a positive impact between the elements of intellectual public opinion, economic factors, interest groups, and international relations political decision-making.

5. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1. Introduction

To achieve the research goals, the obtained data are discussed in this chapter in light of the study questions that were posed in the first chapter. Based on the research results and discoveries in the literature, the findings are discussed in relation to the theories that explain them. The chapter also lists restrictions and ideas for additional study.

5.2. Recapitulation of the Research

The primary aim of this research is to determine the influence of determinants on decision-making at (Sanaa University, Aden University, Taiz University, Abb University and Hadhramaut University) through the classification of the four sub-goals, which are first, the influence of public opinion on political decision-making; second, the influence of economic factors on political decision-making; third, the influence of interest groups on political decision-making; and fourth, the influence of international relations on political decision-making. In addition, the study model and the study hypotheses in the second chapter were introduced, which included the theoretical framework of the research, as the researcher divided it into an independent variable and a dependent variable. The independent variable was split into dimensions: Public opinion, Economic Factors, Interest groups, and International Relations. In the third chapter, the research methodology was mentioned, where the researcher presented the definition of the research population, the research sample, the study tool, and how to develop the study tool. The fourth chapter also focused on testing the study's hypotheses and arriving at the results after analysing and commenting on them. Finally, the fifth chapter discussed the research hypotheses, conclusions, and recommendations.

5.3. Discussion

5.3.1. Impact of Public Opinion on Political Decision-Making

The results indicate that hypotheses testing for the relationships between the Economic Factor (EFQ), Interest group (IGQ), International Relations (IRQ), and public opinion (POQ) with Political Decision-Making (DMPQ). Public Opinion POQ to Political Decision-Making DMPQ also shows a significant positive relationship, with a coefficient of 0.250, a T statistic of 3.058, and a P value of 0.002, indicating that public opinion significantly influences decision-making. Overall, the results show significant positive relationships for IGQ, IRQ, and POQ with DMPQ, while EFQ shows a marginally non-significant effect. The result of the study indicated that (H1) is accepted. This finding agrees with the results of previous studies. According to Stimson (2018), public opinion in America has shifted significantly toward liberalism, as measured by the Mood Index. In the long run, a counter-movement of public opinion increases the chance of regular changes in government. As mentioned by Egan and Mullin (2017). The majority opinion is to motivate elected officials to take the costly solutions required to address this problem at the national level comprehensively; they identify several ways in which less fundamental but still substantive positions important for political action can be strengthened. Mishler and Sheehan (1996) found that public opinion has the most significant impact on moderate justices, who are likely to occupy important swing positions on the Court. The influences of public opinion and considerable agenda effects offer crucial improvements to the classic attitudinal model of judicial decision-making. As mentioned by Giles *et al.* (2008), they give early evidence that, even in the absence of membership changes, public opinion may provide a mechanism for the Court's preferences to coincide with those of the public.

5.3.2. Impact of Economic Factors on Political Decision-Making

Economic factor EFQ to Political Decision-Making DMPQ results show that the original sample coefficient is 0.215, indicating a positive relationship. However, the T statistic of 1.818 and the P value of 0.069 suggest that this relationship is not statistically significant at the conventional 0.05 level. The result of the study indicated that (H2) is accepted. This finding agrees with the results of previous studies. Al-nisi *et*

al. (2024) mentioned that the strategy facilitated the creation of a conceptual framework designed to identify the critical elements that theoretically influence the success of the construction industry in Yemen. According to Almaliki (2023), the study indicates that these factors affect economic growth in one direction, which suggests that changes in foreign direct investment, foreign investments, or oil revenues impact economic development in Yemen. As mentioned by Al-nisi *et al.* (2024), wealth interacts with ideology to greatly influence significantly decision-making. Al-nisi *et al.* (2024), Specifically, more incredible wealth amplifies the ideological leanings of more conservative judges. Udo *et al.* (2024) found that they promote an environment conducive to effective financial decision-making practices and robust data analytics in Africa and the United States.

5.3.3. Impact of Interest Groups on Political Decision-Making

The relationship between Interest Groups IGQ and Political Decision-Making DMPQ has an original sample coefficient of 0.200. A T statistic of 2.442 and a P value of 0.015 are statistically significant, indicating that the interest group positively impacts the decision-making process. The result of the study showed that (H3) is accepted. This finding agrees with the results of previous studies. Balles *et al.* (2024) mentioned that the influence of special interest money on representatives' voting behaviour is significantly amplified during periods of low political attention, often caused by distractions from newsworthy external events like natural disasters. (2024) mentioned that this effect predominantly stems from short-term opportunistic behaviour rather than strategic scheduling of contentious votes during periods of heightened news coverage. As Gilens and Page (2014) mention, it Provides significant support for theories of economic elite dominance and biased pluralism while offering little support for theories of electoral majoritarian democracy or majoritarian pluralism. Tindale and Winget (2019) found that dimension differentially affects decision quality and the decision-making process, depending on the specific decision task and context. Research exploring these dimensions has also demonstrated which aspects of group decision-making contribute to higher quality decisions. Decision-making contributes to higher quality. Furlong (1997) discussed the comprehensive

models and various theoretical adaptations to generally support hypotheses regarding the influence of interest groups on rule-making.

5.3.4. Impact of International Relations on Political Decision-Making

Finally, the most substantial effect is observed in the relationship between International Relations IRQ and Political Decision-Making DMPQ, with a coefficient of 0.311, a high T statistic of 3.409, and a P value of 0.001, confirming a statistically significant and positive relationship between International Relations and political decision-making. The result of the study indicated that (H4) is accepted. This finding agrees with the results of previous studies. According to Watol (2024), the international civil war in Yemen since 2011 posed significant risks to international shipping passing through the Red Sea, a critical route for oil shipments and global commercial movements. As mentioned, Ahmed (2020) indicated that the decision-making process in foreign policy is multifaceted and involves various actors. It has consistently played a crucial role in a state's international affairs.

5.4. Implications of the Research

Following the primary goal of the investigation, this study has several significant implications derived from the findings. The ramifications of the current research are specifically presented in the next two subsections, either from a theoretical or practical standpoint. The discussion specifics are listed below.

5.4.1. Theoretical Contribution

This study contributes to the theoretical understanding of political decision-making by highlighting the significant role determinants play from the perspective of political academics. Traditionally, studies have emphasised internal dynamics such as cognitive biases and organisational structures in shaping decisions (Simon, 1955; Janis, 1972). The study shifts this focus outward, integrating external influences like international pressures, economic conditions, and public opinion into the analytical framework. By incorporating principles from neoclassical realism (Rose, 1998) and

public choice theory (Buchanan & Tullock, 1962), the study offers a nuanced perspective that challenges the conventional rational actor model (Allison, 1971). This approach acknowledges that political decision-makers operate within an environment constrained and shaped by determinants, which can lead to outcomes diverging from purely rational calculations.

Furthermore, the study expands upon the concept of bounded rationality (Simon, 1955) by demonstrating how external constraints limit the information-processing capabilities of political actors. The findings suggest that these external pressures restrict available options and influence policy issue prioritisation, ultimately affecting decision outcomes. From the researcher's perspective, this research contributes to the literature review by deepening the understanding of the impact of determinants on the educational sector at Sanaa University, Aden University, Taiz University, Abb University, and Hadhramaut University in Yemen.

5.4.2. Practical Implications

The treatment of the four main variables of the Sanaa University, Aden University, Taiz University, Abb University, and Hadhramaut University in Yemen, namely the elements of determinants (public opinion, economic factors, interest groups, international relations) in one study model contributes to the practice from different aspects.

First, for policymakers, the findings highlight the necessity of developing flexible policy frameworks that account for these external influences. Instead of relying solely on internal institutional dynamics, policymakers should integrate real-time data on external conditions, such as international relations and public sentiment, to enhance the effectiveness of decision-making processes. This approach can improve responsiveness to unexpected challenges and opportunities, such as economic crises or international conflicts.

Second, political consultants can benefit from the insights provided by this research by tailoring their advice and strategies to account for the broader external context. Recognising how determinants shape the priorities and constraints of political

actors allows consultants to offer more grounded recommendations, aligning with both the short-term realities and long-term strategic goals of decision-makers.

Lastly, academic institutions and political science programs can use these findings to adjust curricula to better prepare future leaders for navigating complex decision-making environments. Emphasising the role of determinants in decision-making models can equip students with the analytical tools needed to succeed in an increasingly interconnected and unpredictable political landscape. This research underscores the need for a comprehensive, context-aware approach to political decision-making.

5.5. Limitations and Recommendations for Future Research

Meanwhile, this study contributes valuable insights into the impact of determinants on decision-making from a political academic's perspective. It also has several limitations that warrant consideration. First, the research relies heavily on the subjective perspectives of political academics, which may introduce bias or variance in interpreting determinants. Although these perspectives provide depth, they may not fully represent the broader political decision-making processes in real-world settings. Future research could integrate more objective data sources, such as case studies or empirical analyses of political decisions, to validate and expand upon these findings. Second, the study focuses primarily on a small set of determinants, such as geopolitical and economic conditions. However, external influences are diverse and multifaceted, including technological changes, environmental factors, and cultural shifts. Future research should adopt a more comprehensive approach by investigating a wider range of determinants and their interactions to offer a more holistic understanding of political decision-making. Third, the study is geographically limited and may not account for differences across political systems, cultures, or regions. Expanding this research across different political contexts could reveal variations in how determinants influence decision-making in democratic versus authoritarian systems or developed versus developing countries. Finally, the cross-sectional nature of the research limits its ability to capture the dynamic nature of decision-making processes. Longitudinal studies that track decision-making over time could provide deeper insights into how determinants influence decisions in both the short and long-term. Future research

should focus on these areas to deepen the theoretical and practical understanding of political decision-making.

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, this study sheds light on the significant influence of determinants on political decision-making from the perspective of political academics. By examining the role of determinants such as public opinion, economic factors, interest groups, and international relations, the study challenges traditional models that often focus on internal factors like institutional processes and individual cognition. The findings reveal that determinants are not merely peripheral influences but central to shaping the priorities and strategies of political actors. This study underscores the need for political decision-makers to adopt a more flexible and adaptive approach, recognizing that decisions are rarely made in a vacuum. Determinants often impose constraints or provide opportunities that significantly alter the range of feasible policy choices. Political academics, through their insights, highlight how determinants can limit rational decision-making and necessitate quick, sometimes reactive, responses to unforeseen events. Furthermore, the study contributes to the theoretical understanding of decision-making processes by integrating perspectives from neoclassical realism and public choice theory, illustrating the complex interplay between determinants and political decisions. The implications for policymakers, consultants, and academic institutions are profound, emphasising the importance of continuously monitoring and responding to external conditions in a rapidly changing global environment. However, the research also highlights several areas for further investigation, particularly in expanding the range of determinants studied and applying these insights across different political systems. Overall, this study enhances our understanding of political decision-making by placing external influences at the forefront of analysis, offering valuable insights for both theoretical and practical application.

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APPENDIX A

MEASUREMENT OF VARIABLES

1.Measurement of Political Decision-Making

Independent Variables	Measurement items
Political Decision-Making (PDM)	1. External geopolitical factors significantly influence my decision-making in political contexts. 2. Economic conditions play a major role in shaping my political decisions. 3. Public opinion is a critical factor in the decisions I make regarding political issues. 4. International relations significantly impact the way I approach political decision-making. 5. I frequently adjust my political decisions based on external technological advancements. 6. Changes in the global political landscape influence my decision-making process. 7. External cultural factors are an important consideration when making political decisions.

2.Measurement of Public opinion

Independent Variables	Measurement Items
Public opinion (PO)	1. Public opinion strongly influences my approach to political decision-making. 2. I consider shifts in public sentiment when formulating political strategies. 3. Public opinion is a key determinant in my political analysis and recommendations. 4. I adjust my political decisions to align with prevailing public attitudes.

3. Measurement of Economic Factors

Independent Variables	Measurement Items
Economic Factors (EF)	1. Economic conditions significantly influence my political decision-making process. 2. I consider economic indicators such as inflation and unemployment when making political decisions. 3. Changes in global economic trends impact the political strategies I support or recommend 4. I prioritize economic stability when evaluating political options and policies. 5. Economic crises or downturns are key factors in shaping my political decisions.

4. Measurement of Interest groups

Independent Variables	Measurement Items
Interest groups (IG)	1. Interest groups significantly influence my political decision-making process. 2. I take into account the positions of interest groups when formulating political recommendations. 3. Interest group lobbying activities affect the political strategies I support. 4. The influence of interest groups often shapes my perspective on policy development.

5. Measurement of International Relations

Independent Variables	Measurement Items
International Relations (IG)	1. International relations play a critical role in shaping my political decision-making. 2. I consider the state of global diplomacy when evaluating political strategies and policies. 3. Changes in international alliances influence the political decisions I make or support.

APPENDIX B START- PLS OUT PUT

Descriptive Statistics of Variables

	Mean	Observed Min	Observed max	Standard deviation	Excess kurtosis	Skewness

DMPQ 1	3.475	1.000	5.000	1.446	-1.039	-0.538
DMPQ 2	2.762	1.000	5.000	1.204	-0.678	0.367
DMPQ 3	2.980	1.000	5.000	1.134	-0.832	0.163
DMPQ 4	1.931	1.000	5.000	1.292	0.312	1.250
DMPQ 5	3.277	1.000	5.000	1.477	-1.378	-0.229
DMPQ 6	3.653	1.000	5.000	1.338	-0.672	-0.725
DMPQ 7	3.673	1.000	5.000	1.336	-0.742	-0.670
EFQ1	3.495	1.000	5.000	1.347	-0.996	-0.471
EFQ2	3.228	1.000	5.000	1.296	-1.025	-0.158
EFQ3	3.000	1.000	5.000	1.169	-0.717	0.076
EFQ4	3.752	1.000	5.000	1.403	-0.497	-0.902
EFQ5	3.594	1.000	5.000	1.329	-0.744	-0.655
IGQ1	3.396	1.000	5.000	1.394	-0.950	-0.495
IGQ2	3.208	1.000	5.000	1.352	-1.111	-0.191
IGQ3	2.832	1.000	5.000	1.109	-0.496	0.208
IGQ4	2.871	1.000	5.000	1.050	-0.623	0.106
IRQ1	3.762	1.000	5.000	1.484	-0.702	-0.893
IRQ2	3.475	1.000	5.000	1.404	-0.990	-0.547
IRQ3	3.069	1.000	5.000	1.307	-0.997	-0.184
POQ1	3.436	1.000	5.000	1.389	-1.048	-0.461
POQ2	2.802	1.000	5.000	1.428	-1.235	0.232
POQ3	3.416	1.000	5.000	1.315	-0.832	-0.491
POQ4	3.406	1.000	5.000	1.490	-1.164	-0.489

Reliability Analysis

Reliability Analysis

	Cronbach's alpha	Composite reliability (rho_a)	Composite reliability (rho_c)	Average variance extracted (AVE)
DMPQ	0.720	0.852	0.777	0.442
EFQ	0.862	0.891	0.899	0.642
IGQ	0.756	0.783	0.837	0.563
IRQ	0.702	0.812	0.827	0.620
POQ	0.764	0.830	0.848	0.595

Discriminant Validity

	DMPQ	EFQ	IGQ	IRQ
DMPQ				
EFQ	0.866			
IGQ	0.842	0.835		
IRQ	0.870	0.913	0.714	
POQ	0.816	0.843	0.653	0.757

Variance Explanation

	R-square	R-square adjusted
	0.725	0.713

Hypotheses Testing

	Original sample (O)	Sample mean (M)	Standard deviation (S.D)	T statistics ($\lvert O/STDEV \rvert$)	P values	Results
EFQ -> DMPQ	0.215	0.211	0.118	1.818	0.069	
IGQ -> DMPQ	0.200	0.198	0.082	2.442	0.015	
IRQ -> DMPQ	0.311	0.319	0.091	3.409	0.001	
POQ -> DMPQ	0.250	0.254	0.082	3.058	0.002	

CURRICULUM VITAE

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