

Geopolitics of the Libyan Crisis: A Study on the Drivers of Diplomatic-Military Involvement of External Powers



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Abstract:

Since the fall of the Gaddafi regime in 2011, Libya has been experiencing severe security fragility, resulting from complex historical and socio-political factors. The intense competition over Libya following the spread of popular uprisings across various Arab countries was one of the key reasons leading to its internal paralysis. This has left Libya with almost no security immunity, making it vulnerable to external breaches of its national sovereignty. The Libyan crisis has gained its uniqueness compared to other crises due to the multiplicity of its parties and the extensive external breaches of its internal sovereignty, whether political, economic, or territorial.

To study the reasons for the intervention of these powers and their continued support for one internal party against another, as well as to identify the motivators that led them to engage on the ground to protect their interests, the study relied on key concepts and perceptions provided by geopolitics as a scientific material within the field of international relations. This approach aims to realistically explain the policies of external powers in Libya and to help dismantle the idealized image that various parties promote to legitimize their legally unjustified intervention in Libyan affairs.

Keywords: Geopolitics; Crisis; The Libyan Crisis; Engagement; External Powers.

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Introduction:

The collision between the geopolitical goals of states often creates severe crises that can lead to wars, the effects of which are evident in the structure of states through geographical and ethnographic divisions, as well as on the international system in terms of the distribution of power within it and the nature of the roles played by active powers. In this context, the Middle East and North Africa region—known as the MENA region—represents one of the areas where the geopolitical ambitions of various powers collide, as they seek to play advanced roles within the international system. This has led to a chronic state of chaos in the region, where its countries are experiencing complex internal wars and divisions characterized mainly by struggles for power, competition for resources, and control over geography. The wave of popular uprisings that swept through the Arab region after 2011 has paved the way for the direct and overt return of foreign intervention on their territories. Libya has not been immune to external interference in its internal affairs; the chaos that followed the fall of the Gaddafi regime, which lasted over 40 years, has pushed the state back into an era of tribal thinking. Political and tribal divisions play a significant role in influencing the internal stability of the state and in the external competition through which various powers seek to invest in the existing chaos to achieve often-contradictory geopolitical objectives, prolonging the state of turmoil.

Problematic: Based on the above and examining the subject, the following problematic question is posed: How does geopolitics explain, relying on the levels and analytical keys it provides, the diplomatic and military engagement of external powers in the Libyan crisis?

Sub-questions: Several sub-questions arise from the presented problematic question to study the topic, which can be formulated as follows:

1. What analytical foundations does geopolitics provide for studying local and international political crises in general and the Libyan crisis in particular?
2. What is meant by the geopolitics of the Libyan crisis?
3. How have Libya's geopolitical capabilities stimulated the interventionist policies of external powers, and what is the extent of their impact on their diplomatic-military roles in the crisis?

Hypothesis: For answering the posed problematic question and the related sub-questions, the following main hypothesis is suggested: The concepts, key perceptions, and analytical foundations provided by geopolitics allow for a deep understanding of the Libyan crisis by focusing on the utilitarian aspect that motivates external powers to intervene in the crisis. The greater the natural material capabilities of the state and its strategic geographical and economic

advantages, the more likely it is that external powers will intervene in its internal affairs, especially during times of crisis.

Methodology of the Study: To study the topic and verify the validity of the proposed hypothesis, the study has relied on a coherent set of approaches and scientific methods that suit its particularities in terms of scope and complexity. For this purpose, the following were utilized:

- **Historical Method:** The historical method allows for understanding the circumstances and environment that governed the emergence or development of the phenomenon being studied. It helps reconstruct social and political processes in a theoretical framework that connects the past with the present.

- **Realist Approach in International Relations:** Delving into topics related to geopolitics and national and regional security necessitates a return to the key concepts provided by theories under the banner of the realist school in international relations. This is particularly relevant as realism equips the researcher with a wide range of theoretical laws regarding the controls and sources of states' external behavior when dealing with situations that threaten their primary objective and interest, which is survival. It also clearly illustrates the nature of the interventionist actions of various powers involved in conflicts, focusing on the policies that states adopt to protect their vital interests and enhance their own power elements.

- **Geopolitical Analysis Approach:** Geopolitical analysis works to identify the key factors required for the political growth of a state, measure its ability to influence large areas of land, and determine the causes of wars and conflicts. It also assesses the impact of diverse political ideas and principles on the course of life and societies, as well as their role in driving the political decision-making process and various international balances. Geopolitical analysis aims to understand the elements and influences through which a state operates, whether to manage declared or hidden conflicts or to invest in their outcomes by prolonging or limiting them, while focusing on the motivators that drive its policies and the direction in which it moves to form alliances in order to achieve its strategic interests.

1. Geopolitics and Crises: Limits of the Relationship and Possibilities for Interpretation:

Crises are an inherent feature of the development of various human systems—be they political, social, or economic. Because of this, they have formed and continue to be one of the main focuses in various branches of knowledge, aiming to identify the causes of their emergence and how they affect the survival of systems across different patterns. This element of the study seeks to determine the possible interrelationship between geopolitics and the emergence of crises, interpreting how the former can provide, through its central concepts, key

perceptions, and analytical foundations, an explanation for power interactions and their relationship with crises, whether local or international (El Obeidi 2019, 15).

The term geopolitics, in its general sense, refers to the study of the relationships between politics and geographical territory. Its primary aim is to transform geographical information into a scientific resource for state leaders and policymakers. Most definitions provided in this regard can be divided into two categories. The first considers it a field of study, such as the definition given by **Nicholas Spykman**, who described it as the study of the planning of security policies that cannot independently address the characteristics of the regional areas where tensions and crises arise. Other definitions consider it a field of planning and political practice, such as that provided by the **Encyclopaedia Britannica**, which defined geopolitics as the use of geography by governments that practice influence policy (El Obeidi 2019, 96). Similarly, the French geographer **Yves Lacoste** defined geopolitics as all that pertains to the relationships of competition for power or influence over specific geographical areas and the populations that inhabit them. These relationships range from peaceful competition to violent conflict among various political powers, not only between states but also within a single state among political forces or armed groups. The goal of this competition is to exert control or dominance over territories, which can vary in size (Lacoste 2010, 21).

As a comprehensive definition encompassing both perspectives, geopolitics can be defined as the science that studies the relationships between politics and geographical territory, aiming specifically to transform geographical information into a scientific resource for state leaders and policymakers. From this, we can infer that geopolitics connects politics and geography, attempting to reconcile various power dynamics available to serve the interests of the state in increasing its influence. This is achieved through the preparation of reports and plans that enable the optimal exploitation of spatial data (Fifield & Percy 2020, 9).

The term "crisis" in Arabic refers to severity and drought, and in its various usages, it can imply holding back from something or gripping something tightly with the mouth. In a more technical sense, the term has been defined in numerous ways, including the definition provided by the Oxford and Heritage dictionaries, which describe a crisis as a turning point in a disease, in the development of life, or in historical progress. This turning point is characterized by difficulty, danger, anxiety about the future, and the necessity of making a decision regarding it. The term has also been defined through the meanings it conveys, as follows (Al-Zubaidi 2010, 15):

- * A serious and critical situation.
- * Unstable conditions in political, economic, or global affairs that are on the verge of a decisive change.
- * A sudden change in a chronic illness, either for better or worse.

Politically, a crisis refers to the situation or stance faced by a decision-maker within a political and administrative entity, where events unfold rapidly, causes and effects intertwine, and the decision-maker may lose control over them or their future directions. In other words, it represents a critical and pivotal moment concerning the fate of the political entity and its ability to survive and maintain its primary functions. If the scope of the crisis expands to become international, it refers to a situation arising from an intense and prolonged conflict between two or more states, which may involve the use of military force by the parties. This situation often leads to significant outcomes that affect the international system and the sub-systems that comprise it (Al-Zubaidi 2010, 16).

If we return to the connection between the two terms, we find that they converge on two main points. The first point is the investment of powers during times of crisis to achieve their geopolitical goals, which are often linked to acquiring territory and the resources it offers to enhance their status and prestige in the international system. As certain states fail to manage the outcomes of the crises they face, other states tend to exploit this situation. The second point where the two terms intersect relates to crises that arise from the collision of geopolitical wills in competitive spaces, where hegemony and zero-sum rules of the game cannot be ignored (Nayouf 2020).

a. Foundations of Geopolitical Analysis for International and Local Crises:

Geopolitical analysis primarily relies on geographical and economic information and systematically on maps. This analysis is linked to the geographical condition of the region, its physical characteristics, resources, activities, and patterns of existence and life within the geographical space intended for analysis.

Geopolitical analysis as a precise cognitive discipline began to gain interest gradually in the academic arena since the late 19th century and the early 20th century. It is based on important foundations, which are as follows:

- * Choosing the state as the primary reference for study and the framework for geopolitical analysis, considering it the basic structure and modern form of human gatherings and a source of power; thus, the state is the heart of geopolitical analysis.
- * Geopolitical analysis is based on describing the geographical situation and its realities as they appear and their connection to various political forces.
- * Establishing and mapping the spatial framework that contains the various interacting and conflicting political forces (Al Mazrouei 2020).

In general, the geopolitical analysis of internal or external crises is based on the following points:

* **Analysis of the Essence of the Event:** This involves examining the existing problem, whether within a specific state or across a broader region, and understanding its internal causes (geographical, demographic, economic, cultural). It is essential to connect this with the policies of the state related to the problem in the regional and international context, as linking the event to its geographical framework and implications is a necessity of geopolitical analysis.

* **Analysis of the Event Factor:** This refers to the role of powers or factors that may exacerbate the event, intervening regionally or internationally through various means and techniques, either escalating the situation or seeking solutions (external interventions). Without this understanding, one cannot grasp the geopolitical realities of events, including the complexities of regional, international, or even local issues.

* **Analysis of the Event Environment or External Players:** This involves analyzing the existing problem within its geopolitical geographical context, both regional and global. It is crucial not to overlook or disregard the role of this environment and its players in shaping the necessary steps to be taken in any emerging situation or in response to any geopolitical complexities that may arise, and the impact of this on local, regional, and international security, as well as on the nature of power balances and alignments (Khorshid 2013, 26).

Thus, it becomes clear that the geopolitical analysis of various crises relies on a triad based on the ontological dimension of the crisis and the various parties and actors related to it, and the nature of each one's impact on the crisis and the behavior of the other parties. The genealogical dimension by exploring the essence of the phenomenon, the reasons for its emergence, and the factors and stages of its development. As well as the utilitarian aspects that may stimulate the policies of different powers to engage in competitive-conflictual political interactions or not.

2. Geopolitics of the Libyan Crisis:

Libya gained its independence with the declaration of the Libyan constitution in 1951 under the name of the United Kingdom of Libya, with a federal system that included three states: Tripoli, Cyrenaica, and Fezzan, until 1963, when the constitution was amended, abolishing the federal system and declaring Libya a unified state under the name of the Kingdom of Libya, led by King Idris al-Senussi. His rule ended with the military coup of September 1, 1969, led by Muammar Gaddafi. During Gaddafi's rule, the country experienced exceptional social, political, and economic changes, which are among the main reasons for the complex situation the country found itself in after the February 2011 revolution.

a. The Socio-political Contexts of the Libyan Crisis: "Analysis of the Essence of the Event":

The global distribution of power prior to World War I had a significant impact on shaping the current borders of Libya. The borders between present-day Libya, Tunisia, Egypt, and Chad were drawn by British and French diplomats, who divided the territories among European powers. Later, with the intensification of regional and international competition over Libya between the Italians and Ottomans, the Libyan people rallied around the Senussi movement, which in turn allied with the British to achieve independence in 1951, led by the Senussi movement. During this period, Libya oriented itself westward, becoming home to American and British military bases, most notably the Wheelus Air Base near Tripoli. However, on September 1, 1969, a military coup led by a group of officers, headed by Muammar Gaddafi, overthrew the king. Gaddafi then became the head of the Libyan Revolutionary Council, abolishing the constitution and dissolving the parliament (Lacoste2010, 430).

Socially, the Libyan society is composed of a large number of tribes. Statistics indicate that 90% of the Libyan population identify with their tribal affiliations, with approximately 140 tribes spread across the entire Libyan territory and even extending beyond Libya's borders. These tribes have connections with several African countries, including Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Chad, and Niger. Arab tribes constitute 97% of the population, while Amazigh tribes make up only 3%. Some of the most prominent tribes include the Al-Ashraf, Qadhadhfa, Zenata, Warfalla, Magarha, and Tarhuna tribes (Obaid 2012, 32).

In general, most of these tribes share the same characteristics that form the Libyan tribal identity, which is distinguished by a set of features as follows:

- * **Bedouinism** is the primary trait of the Libyan personality, as it is based on a mental, cultural, value-based, and ethical system that greatly influences individual behaviors. This trait is governed by customs, traditions, and local practices, with a strong reverence for tribal elders as the guardians of symbolic capital.
- * The Libyan personality is **exclusive and pragmatic**, striving for material and symbolic dominance and wealth as prerequisites for prestige and influence.
- * The Libyan personality is **rentier**, lacking a commitment to modern institutional frameworks and positive laws (Amouri & Qabali 2020, 288).

As for the political participation of Libyan society during and after Gaddafi's rule, the Libyan experience was marked by a certain uniqueness compared to various Arab countries that gained independence from colonialism after World War II. The crisis of citizenship cast a shadow over the integration of the Libyan people into the political process, as Libya, as a state with tribal plurality, failed to bring about a transformation towards a citizenship-based society dominated by identities that achieved social and political integration within a legal framework. This failure resulted in a sense of political alienation among various segments of the Libyan population, especially in light of the absence of genuine

representative institutions that ensure fair distribution of resources and roles within and outside the political system (Kehal 2018, 243).

Politically and institutionally, Libya remained without a constitution or parliament throughout Gaddafi's rule. During this period, the country experienced exceptional social, political, and economic changes. In 1972, Gaddafi prohibited the establishment of political parties and announced the death penalty for anyone who opposed this decree. In 1979, he led what he termed a popular revolution aimed at dissolving the state and its institutions, later issuing his Green Book, which governed and organized social, political, and economic activities. In 1977, he declared the establishment of the people's authority and the Libyan Jamahiriya. Beginning in 2003, he launched a political project called "Tomorrow's Lybia", guided and sponsored by his son, Saif al-Islam (Ben Rahou 2048, 88-89).

These various circumstances led to a form of public discontent, which translated into a popular revolution, known as the "February Revolution," that ousted Gaddafi's regime. This revolution plunged Libya into a new and intractable crisis due to the complexity of its internal conditions, its dynamics, the multiplicity of its parties, the accompanying international context, and the conflicting geopolitical interests of various international powers involved.

b. Parties and Paths of the Libyan Crisis "Analysis of the Event Factor":

The elections for the National Congress held in 2012 were the first free elections in Libya's history. However, the lack of a recognized leadership capable of enforcing the will of the Libyan people during the popular uprising against Gaddafi led to a move toward a counter-revolutionary phase. During this time, various forces emerged, each attempting to impose its own legitimacy and political and military logic. Politically, after the popular uprising, Libya became hostage to a number of different institutions. In the west, specifically in the capital, Tripoli, the Government of National Accord emerged, which is the government stemming from the Skhirat Agreement (Achcar 2016, 172).

There is also the National Salvation Government, which is affiliated with what is called the General National Congress and also controls part of the capital, Tripoli. In eastern Libya, there is what is known as the interim government, based in the city of Tobruk, which is also associated with the House of Representatives. These institutions do not realistically align in terms of political orientations or the nature of the alliances they form against each other, leading to Libya becoming an active arena for the proxy war strategies employed by major powers to maintain their geostrategic interests in conflict areas (balkhirat 2018, 49).

Militarily, Libya has been dominated by a diverse array of military organizations, some of which are affiliated with the aforementioned political institutions, while others operate independently. Key groups include Libya Dawn forces, which are loyal to the National Salvation Government; the Presidential

Guard, affiliated with the Government of National Accord; and the National Guard associated with the General National Congress and the National Salvation Government. Other significant groups include the Libyan National Army, the Qa'qa and El-Sa'ka Forces, the Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries, and the Shura Council of Mujahideen in Derna. These organizations create a heterogeneous military mosaic, united by elements of power, random armament, dominance, and control over territory, rather than a genuine effort to achieve national stability (balkhirat 2018, 58-59).

In addition to the internal parties, many regional and international powers intervened in Libya, starting from March 19, 2011, the date the UN Resolution 1973 was implemented. This resolution allowed France, Italy, the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Spain, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates to participate in the NATO campaign aimed at enforcing a no-fly zone against Gaddafi's regime.

In this context, the military campaign led by NATO forces was merely a precursor to a series of external interventions in Libyan internal affairs. The intervention was not limited to operational and field levels; many regional and international powers also attempted to lead efforts for a political settlement of the crisis. Key initiatives included international conferences organized around the Libyan crisis, such as the Berlin Conference and the Paris Conference, as well as the political consultations led by Russia between the Government of National Accord and the Libyan National Army commander, **Khalifa Haftar**. Additionally, regional efforts spearheaded by countries in the region, particularly Algeria, sought to redirect the crisis by consistently emphasizing non-interference in Libyan internal affairs, coordinating between various Libyan forces, and calling for dialogue and joint action (Zardoumi 2013, 135).

3. Motivations for the Diplomatic-Military Involvement of External Powers in the Libyan Crisis: " Analysis of the Event Environment ":

External powers do not intervene or deploy their forces on the ground unless the results of their assessments are positive, tipping the balance toward gains rather than losses. However, the assessment process is often driven by various motivators that differ based on the broader objectives of a state's foreign policy. This dynamic influences the policies of different powers regarding the Libyan crisis, which we will address through the points outlined below.

a. Geoeconomic Motivators:

From a geoeconomic perspective, Libya is an important reservoir of energy resources, particularly oil and gas. The energy discoveries in 1959 significantly changed the economic and political situation of the newly independent state, which soon became an active and important member of OPEC in 1962.

Realistically, statistics indicate that Libya's oil reserves were estimated at about 48.2 billion barrels in 2019, making it the largest in Africa and accounting for 2.8% of the world's confirmed reserves. Libya also possesses the fourth-largest natural gas reserves in Africa, accounting for 0.7% of global gas reserves, not including the reserves of Mozambique and Tanzania, whose discoveries have not yet been developed (OSMFE R8, 51).

Map No. 01: Location of Libya and its most important sites.



<https://2u.pw/19PGEHo9>

The oil facilities in the oil crescent region consist mainly of tanks and ports through which oil and gas shipments are exported abroad, in addition to several conversion and refining facilities. The fields of Sarir, Al-Nafoura, Masala, Al-Bayda, and Majid, located between 300 and 500 km south of Benghazi, are the main suppliers to the oil crescent facilities, which account for nearly half of Libya's production (Arab Center for Research Policy Studies 2023).

In addition to the importance of its resources, Libya is considered a key player in the global energy map from a geoeconomic perspective, as its strategic location in North Africa and south of the Mediterranean Sea qualifies it to be one of the important energy corridors to the European continent (Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries 2002, 105).

In this context, the Greenstream pipeline, which was launched in 2004, is one of the most important projects supplying Italy with Libyan gas. It operates as part of a larger project related to the development of gas fields in western Libya,

which includes pipelines for transporting gas and condensates from the offshore Bahr al-Salam field and the Wafa gas complex to the Mellitah gas complex for processing before export to Italy. The capacity of the Greenstream pipeline is estimated at about 11 billion cubic meters per year (Arab Center for Research Policy Studies 2019, 3).

Recent developments in the Eastern Mediterranean and new gas discoveries, estimated by the U.S. Geological Survey in 2010 to be 107 billion barrels of crude oil and 122 trillion cubic meters of gas, have prompted Turkey's role in the Libyan crisis. In November 2019, Turkey signed a memorandum of understanding with the Government of National Accord in Tripoli regarding the delineation of maritime borders with Libya. Furthermore, starting in October 2022, Turkey worked to expand its partnership in the Libyan oil sector by signing a new memorandum of understanding aimed at increasing its involvement in gas and oil exploration off the Libyan coasts (Musa 2022).

b. Geostrategic Motivators:

External powers would not have clung to Libya since the February Revolution of 2011 if it were not for the geostrategic importance of this country in the national interest calculations of various geographically, politically, economically, and militarily related states. The reality indicates that direct military involvement is merely one aspect of regional and global competition over the region, where Libya serves as a pivotal center (Brockmeiner & Others 2016, 117).

For external powers, their geostrategic objectives are divided into two main axes. The first is related to expanding the military participation of NATO countries outside the European continent by activating UN Security Council resolutions 1970 and 1973 concerning the no-fly zone, as well as emphasizing the necessity of implementing the principle of the responsibility to protect, which allows for the establishment of new roles for NATO countries outside the geographical space defined in the treaty that established it (Meliti 2018, 8).

In this context, both France and Italy were the most interested and involved European countries in Libyan affairs. France adopted a dual position and kept its relations open with the key players in the political equation in Libya. In addition to publicly supporting the Government of National Accord, it also backed the Libyan National Army. The evidence being the revelation of the killing of three French soldiers in Libya on July 20, 2016, as the Government of National Accord denied receiving any French military support. Previously, France had sought to establish a presence near the eastern Libyan border through intelligence and operational coordination with Egypt under the pretext of combating terrorist groups. In 2016, the joint "Sirli" operation between the two countries was revealed, aimed at providing aerial intelligence support to secure 1,200 kilometers of the shared border between Libya and Egypt (Fadhel & Balat 2020, 778).

As for Russia, the international power that has gradually restored its position in international interactions after the collapse of the Soviet Union, it has placed significant importance on developments in Libya in addition to Syria. It aligned itself with the Libyan National Army led by Khalifa Haftar as part of its strategy to establish new footholds for the Russian navy in warm waters. Russia also supported its ally militarily by supplying it with weapons, as reported by the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM), which monitored Russian arms supplies, including MiG-29 and Sukhoi SU-24 aircraft, as well as interceptor aircraft of the SU-35 model. In this context, investment in conflict areas by providing various parties with advanced weaponry is an essential element in the strategies of major powers controlling the global arms market, like Russia (Badr 2022, 190).

Conclusion:

From what has been mentioned above, it is clear that the overall picture shaped and still being shaped by the external powers involved diplomatically and militarily in the Libyan crisis is merely a microcosm of the complex interactions between different powers at the international system level. These interactions are strategically driven by national interest considerations, while their political orientations are shaped by security and geopolitical factors that ensure their survival and ability to impose their management in an international environment characterized primarily by chaos.

European powers are governed by several geopolitical considerations regarding the Libyan crisis, the most important of which is the energy variable that has become an obstacle to the sustainability of the Western capitalist economic model. This model has been entrenched by European powers since the dawn of the First Industrial Revolution, allowing them to maintain an important position within international interactions, especially concerning the Global South. Additionally, the geographical variable is significant, as the region is considered a traditional sphere of European influence that these powers seek to preserve amid the growing competition on strategic operational theaters during periods of instability and the widespread uncertainty primarily associated with the transitional phase of the current international system.

Regarding Russia, the great power often driven by geopolitical considerations in its foreign policy, it has engaged in the Libyan crisis alongside the Libyan National Army. Through this involvement, Russia aimed to build on the gains it achieved from its military intervention in the Syrian crisis. These countries represent geostrategic pivot points for Russia, enabling it to overcome its challenges in accessing warm waters and positioning itself in the near neighborhood of Europe, especially if it can establish military bases similar to those in Syria. Additionally, Russia's interest in Libya aligns with its active strategy towards Africa, stemming primarily from the decline of European influence on the

continent and the ongoing transitional phase of the international system, which necessitates selective expansion in arenas that offer future advantages that serve the state's position in the international balance of power.

Turkey, from a geopolitical perspective, seeks to achieve a series of interconnected objectives through its involvement in the Libyan crisis that enhance its position within regional arrangements, especially following the emergence of gas as a significant factor in the Eastern Mediterranean. The signing of the maritime border agreement with Libya enables Turkey, first, to increase its opportunities for exploration and investment in the energy sector and to secure its participation in future energy projects, such as pipelines transporting gas to Europe. Furthermore, Turkey's engagement in the Libyan crisis has allowed it to gain strategic advantages over its traditional rival in the Mediterranean, Greece, following the signing of the Turkish-Libyan maritime border agreement.

As for America's involvement in the Libyan crisis, it was not as clear-cut as the positions of the aforementioned countries. The U.S. participation in Libya was linked to the military operation led by NATO, in which a group of European and Arab countries participated to enforce the no-fly zone against Gaddafi's regime.

Diplomatically, despite the numerous efforts led by neighboring countries like Algeria and the official conferences held to bring the conflicting parties in the Libyan crisis to the negotiation table, the prioritization of the geopolitical interests of the external powers involved in the crisis often affected the outcomes. This has further complicated the situation and blocked potential communication channels that could be utilized to balance the contradictory demands presented and insisted upon by each party.

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