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**IRANIAN APPROACHES TO INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS**

**ABSTRACT.** Foreign sanctions against Iran have a long history. After Islamic Revolution, especially after Hostage Crisis in Tehran, western great powers enforced tough sanctions against Iran. In the last four decades, there have been multiple reasons for western countries to force sanction against Iran, including human rights, middle east peace process and WMD. Parallel to these process, there have been various approaches to sanctions among Iranian political practitioners and academic scholars. The article aims to investigate the Iranian approaches to international sanctions. Applying content analysis, the article hypothesized that there have been four different positions on sanction among Iranian elite, including realism, anti-imperialism, liberal internationalism and liberal nationalism. These various approaches can be categorized into two wide groups; one that views sanctions as an opportunity to boost Iran’s economic power, pursue political and economic detachment from imperialism and put pressure upon government to acquiesce in political appeasement. The second group views any kind of sanctions as a threat for Iranian power projection in the world. The article shows that international pressure like sanction can be regarded as a driving force to reformulate socio-political sphere in sanctioned countries, disturbing conventional political factions. So, it is necessary for sanctioned states to be ready for political developments caused by foreign sanctions.

**KEYWORDS: Iran, International sanctions, liberal nationalism, liberal internationalism, anti-imperialism**