

# Libyan American Relations from American Independence to The End of The Monarchy in Libya: A Historical Approach

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## **Abstract**

This study examines the historical evolution of Libyan-American relations from American independence to the end of the monarchy in Libya. Spanning from 1776 to 1969, the study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the complex and fluctuating dynamics that have characterized the bilateral relationship between the two nations over this significant time period. The research takes a historical approach, tracing the transformations in factors such as foreign policy, economics, and security, and analyzing their impact on Libyan-American relations. The study focuses on key periods of analysis, including the colonial and piracy eras when Libya was under Ottoman rule and faced piracy challenges in the region. It also explores the 19th-century era, which witnessed the development of trade relations between Libya and the United States. Furthermore, the research delves into the Libyan independence in 1951, examining the shifts in the relationship, encompassing cooperation in areas such as oil, economy, and security. By exploring the historical context and examining major events, this research aims to shed light on the complexities inherent in Libyan-American relations. It seeks to provide insights into the factors that have influenced the course of the relationship and contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the bilateral ties between Libya and the United States.

**Keywords:** Libyan-American relations, Complex dynamics, Cooperation

## **1. Introduction**

The relationship between Libya and the United States has been marked by complexity and fluctuation throughout history. Spanning from 1776 to 1969, this historical study delves into the evolution of bilateral ties between the two nations over a significant period. The examination of this extensive timeframe encompasses pivotal events that have shaped the course of their relationship, shedding light on the multifaceted dynamics that have characterized their interactions. From the colonial era and piracy challenges to the modern era of political upheavals and military interventions, Libya and the United States have navigated a complex trajectory of interactions, influenced by factors such as foreign policy, economics, and security. By taking a historical approach, this research aims to trace the transformations in these factors and understand how the bilateral relations have been impacted over time.

Key periods of analysis include the colonial and piracy eras when Libya was under Ottoman rule and faced piracy in the region, as well as the 19th-century era that witnessed the development of trade relations between Libya and the United States. Additionally, the Italian colonial period from 1911 to

1943 and the subsequent modern era witnessed significant shifts in the relationship, encompassing cooperation in areas such as oil, economy, and security, as well as political tensions and conflicts.

By exploring the historical context and examining the major events that have shaped the relations between Libya and the United States, this research aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the complexities inherent in their bilateral tie

## 1.1 Problem Statement

The historical relationship between Libya and the United States has been characterized by a multitude of challenges, complexities, and fluctuating dynamics. However, a comprehensive analysis of this complex relationship, encompassing the period from 1776 to 1969, is lacking. Understanding the historical context, key events, and factors that have influenced the bilateral ties between these two nations is crucial for gaining insights into the nature of their interactions and the implications for their present and future relationship. Therefore, the problem addressed by this study is the need for a historical approach to examine the complex relationship between Libya and the United States, analyzing the major challenges, turning points, and factors that have shaped their interactions from 1776 to 1969. By addressing this gap in the literature, this research aims to provide a deeper understanding of the historical dynamics between the two nations and contribute to a more comprehensive comprehension of their complex relationship.

## 1.2 Research Question

1. What are the key historical events, challenges, and factors that have shaped the complex relationship between Libya and the United States from 1776 to 1969?
2. How have political, economic, and security factors influenced the trajectory of the relationship between Libya and the United States throughout the historical period from 1776 to 1969?
3. What were the significant turning points and pivotal events that have impacted the bilateral relations between Libya and the United States, and how have they contributed to the complexity of their relationship over time?

## 1.3 Significance of the study

Studying the historical dynamics between Libya and the United States is important for a number of reasons, including:

1. It provides a deeper understanding of the complexities inherent in their relationship. By analyzing the key events, challenges, and factors that have shaped their interactions over time, the study contributes to a more comprehensive comprehension of the bilateral ties between the two nations.
2. It helps to contextualize and interpret the current state of relations between Libya and the United States. Understanding the historical trajectory allows policymakers, researchers, and analysts to make informed assessments of the present relationship and anticipate potential future developments.
3. The study can have important policy implications by identifying patterns, trends, and lessons from historical events. Policymakers can draw insights from the past to inform their decision-making processes, especially in areas such as diplomacy, security cooperation, economic engagement, and conflict resolution.
4. The study adds to the body of academic knowledge on the relationship between Libya and the United States. It fills gaps in the existing literature by providing a historical perspective, analyzing key

events, and offering insights into the complexities and nuances of this bilateral relationship. Scholars and researchers can build upon this study to conduct further research and expand the understanding of this topic.

In short, studying the historical relationship between Libya and the United States is essential for understanding the complexities of their current ties, informing policymaking, and advancing academic knowledge.

#### **1.4 Methodology**

The methodology involves: Reading about what other scholars have written about the relationship between Libya and the United States, and examining primary sources, such as diplomatic cables, government records, and speeches, to learn more about the relationship firsthand. Collecting data on the relationship, such as the number of trade agreements signed or the number of military personnel stationed in each country.

Organizing the data chronologically to understand how the relationship has changed over time, and analyzing the data to identify patterns, trends, and key actors in the relationship. Summarizing the research findings and drawing conclusions about the relationship between Libya and the United States.

#### **1.5 Literature review**

There are many studies that provide valuable insights into the historical dynamics and complexities of the relationship between Libya and the United States such as:

1. "Libya and the United States: Two Centuries of Strife" by Ronald Bruce St. John (2002): This book provides an in-depth analysis of the historical relationship between Libya and the United States, focusing on the political, economic, and security dimensions. It examines the complex dynamics, including conflicts, negotiations, and cooperation, between the two nations from the early 19th century to the contemporary era.
2. "The Beginning of Arab-American Relations" by Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani Ibrahim (2018): This book explores the beginning of relationship between Libya and the United States during the period of the United States independence. It examines the political and economic factors that have influenced the interactions between the two countries, citing unpublished British and American documents, explaining the paths of these relationships.
3. "Libya: A Modern History " by John Wright (1981): This book delves into the historical context of the relationship between Libya and the United States, with a specific focus on the period from Libya's independence in 1951 showing how its first monarchic constitution was modeled by the UN Commission, and survived precariously until the military coup of 1969. It analyzes the factors that led to the deterioration of relations, including conflicts over territorial disputes, sponsorship of terrorism, and ideological differences.

## **2. The beginning of relations between Libya and the United States**

The history of Libya and the United States relations goes back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, when the U.S. gained independence from Britain in 1776. The U.S. started to search for overseas markets since it then had no marine forces, the country then formed a committee charged with constituting its maritime forces. The committee comprised of Franklin Roosevelt, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams. "This committee also concluded several agreements with North African countries such as Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria in

order to ensure the protection of the American trade interests, including safety passages of its commercial shipping vessels in the Mediterranean Sea” (Almahdi, 1999).

On November 4, 1796, the committees succeeded in concluding an agreement with Libya, according to the agreement, the U.S. agreed (a) to pay US\$5600 annually as transit duty to Libya, (b) to supply Libya with military equipment, (c) to provide a military ship to the Libyan army, and (d) any other assistance that may be negotiated from time to time. Meanwhile, “Algeria, who was the mediator in the establishment of the U.S.- Libya agreement, also concluded a similar arrangement with the U.S... However, when the build-up of its marine forces was completed, the U.S. decided to abrogate the agreements it had concluded with several North African countries, including those with Libya” (Almahdi, 1999).

On May 14, 1801, Libya declared war upon the U.S. in order to reinforce the agreements that they had concluded “The U.S. responded with a two-part plan. First, it prevented ships and other vessels from entering or leaving the port of Tripoli by military force. Second, during the time that the blockade was in effect it also sought a peaceful settlement of the dispute through diplomacy” (Almahdi, 1999)

The blockade of Tripoli failed, and the U.S. ship “Philadelphia” was captured. The crew of the Philadelphia which consisted of 307 sailors was captured and incarcerated. As a result, the American consul in Algeria was asked to negotiate with Yusuf Pasha, the then governor of Libya. Negotiations between the U.S. and Libya started in January 1804, and they centered on prisoner exchange and an offer of a replacement ship for the captured “Philadelphia” which had been burnt earlier on February 16, 1804 (Almahdi, 1999).

The failure of the blockade and bombing of Tripoli were followed by the change in the leadership of the American fleet in the Mediterranean. This gave an opportunity for William Eton (the American consul in Tunisia), to launch his plan to attack and occupy Tripoli with the cooperation of Ahmed Pasha Al-Karamanli following approval of the plan by his government. Eton left for Alexandria (Egypt) where he met Ahmed Pasha and the agreement of cooperation was signed. The Plan called for the launching of attacks from two fronts: Tripoli and Derna. Derna was attacked on April 27, 1805 by the joint forces of American navy and Ahmed Pasha. The city fell, only to be freed by Libyan forces that came from Tripoli. The war between the United States and Tripoli resumed, but both sides were quickly exhausted and called a truce. Negotiations began, and a treaty was brokered by the Spanish consul on June 4, 1805.

The treaty included the following terms:

The United States would withdraw its forces from the city of Derna.

Prisoners would be exchanged.

The United States would pay Libya \$60,000 in compensation.

Prisoners would be treated as prisoners of war, not slaves.

Consuls and agents of both governments would be free to practice their religion in their own homes.

The United States considered the treaty to be an important victory. The Marines anthem, which includes the phrase "From the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli" (Bushashia, 2008) commemorates this victory. The anthem has played a significant role in US-Libya relations throughout history. The war had a devastating impact on Tripoli, especially its economy. Trade with neighboring countries, particularly Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco, was severely affected by the US blockade. These countries also felt the economic impact of the war.

An interview with Khalil Mohamed a researcher from the Libyan Center for historical studies explained that the war between Libya and the U.S. was significant for a number of reasons. First, it was launched by the U.S., a new political factor in world politics, soon after its independence in 1776. Secondly, the war was economically motivated; third, the war reaffirmed the importance of the Mediterranean in the region. Fourth, it also showed the extent to which Libya was also important in the overall picture of the relations between nations within the Middle East and North African regions. Lastly, the war was a historical turning point in U.S.- Libya relations and one that continued to shape their relations thereafter (Khalil, personal communication May 6, 2010).

Aside from the 1792-1832 periods, when the U.S. was forced by the Tripoli rulers to pay annual tribute to ensure immunity for the U.S. ships, Libya - U.S. relations, until September of 1969, was marked by close friendship. Until the late 1950, Libya was considered by the U.S. as a strategic position for servicing its military bases overseas (First, 1974), "Libya's strategic position became more important after the Soviet Union's failed attempt for trusteeship over Libya after World War II" (Gebril, 1985).

In 1949, a committee of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, headed by President Harry Truman, designed a contingency plan for World War III was expected to occur in 1957. The plan was called Operation Dropshot. It was declassified in 1977 and became public through the Freedom of Information Act. "One of the major assumptions of the plan was that there should be no permanent Soviet military presence in the Middle East or North Africa that could seriously interfere with the Allied war operations" (Wright, 1982). The plan also called for the U.S. to provide air and naval protections for its military bases in the region. With respect to Libya, Drop shot recommended defending the former through the deployment of marine and air forces, particularly in and around Tripoli and Benghazi. In essence, "the plan reflected the strategic context of the U.S. official thinking during the late 1940s and the 1950s, when the containment of the communist threat was the major concern for U.S. policy-makers" (Almahdi, 1999).

To seek a better understanding of the historical background of the U.S. - Libya relations, we will focus on the most important periods of these relations as follows:

### **3. Libya and the United States relations 1951-1969**

Libya's relations with the U.S. during the pre-independence period were resurrected in early 1943. In that year, Britain and France which then ruled over Libya, allowed the American to establish the Wheelus Airbase in Tripoli as its air base (Essayed, 1994). When the independence of Libya became imminent, the U.S. initiated negotiations with the provisional government of Libya over the future status of its military presence in the country. Negotiations were held between Mohammed Al-Muntasir, the provisional head of Libya, and Andrew G. Lunch, the U.S. charge d'affaires in Tripoli. The negotiations resulted in an agreement that were assented to by the king of Libya Idris al-Sanusi, who instructed his premier to sign on behalf of Libya (Almahdi, 1999).

The agreement that sealed formal relations between Libya and the U.S. was signed on the former's Independence Day that fell on December 24<sup>th</sup> 1951 (Essayed, 1994). The agreement contained 27 Articles that outlined details of terms and obligations under the terms of agreement; some of the provisions were as follows:

1. The U.S. was granted the right to stay on at the Wheelus Air base for the next 20 years.
2. The U.S. was given complete control of Libyan air space and water ways.
3. The American troops were also given free access to end movement in the country.



4. The U.S. military bases in Libya may also be used by third countries or persons.
5. The American troops were to be exempted from paying any levies or taxes.
6. The American military personnel were not subjected to the Libyan law.

In return for the above privileges, Libya was to be compensated to the amount of US\$2 million annually (Essayed, 1994).

Wheelus Air Base, the largest US air base outside of the United States, offered the US several strategic advantages. First, it provided a training base for US military personnel stationed overseas, especially those stationed in European countries such as West Germany, Britain, Italy, Spain, and Turkey. Second, Wheelus Air Base provided the US with a strategic location from which to coordinate its overseas bases, particularly in any military operations to check and confront Soviet expansionism. Third, Wheelus Air Base also gave the US a strategic crossing point in the Mediterranean region. (Almahdi,1999).

The growing importance of the Wheelus airbase for the Americans became apparent following several developments. First, the U.S. was trying to establish its presence in the Northern African region. Second, the closure of the Adam British airbase in Libya meant that Wheelus air base had become more important, especially because the latter provided the necessary desert terrain that characterized the region that the U.S. had become interested in. Third, the importance of Wheelus airbase was also enhanced due to the closure of its Morocco airbase that had been maintained at a much higher price (Essayed, 1994).

Although Libya became independent in 1951, its relations with the U.S. continued to be modeled after that which the British Government had set out previously. This line of policy was assisted because in 1952, the U.S. offered Libya financial assistance under the four points Technical Assistance Program of the Truman project for third-world countries. When Mustafa bin Halem became premier on April 11, 1954, he pursued a foreign policy of friendship and cooperation with the U.S... The premier continued this line of policy with the U.S. in order to ensure not only that Libya would continue to receive economic development aids, but also to secure some US support in its unresolved problems with France, Italy and neighboring states. During his premiership, Mustafa bin Halem sought further U.S. assistance, and this led to resumption of talks by the Libyan-American committee. On May 9, 1954, both the Libyan and the American governments agreed to newly proposed provisions, some of these provisions are followed:

1. Areas granted to the U.S. under this agreement were: the Giant Wheelus airbase and areas in Misurata, Derna, Benghazi, and Tobrouk and any other areas the U.S. deemed necessary for defense purposes.
2. Article 1 of the agreement provided U.S. government the use of areas occupied by its troops for military purposes, and any other purposes agreed to by both parties.
3. Article 3 granted U.S. control over vessels and boats entering the agreed areas, and allowed U.S. the right to establish communication stations inside and outside of the area.
4. Article 6 allowed both governments to cooperate with other governments that had concluded friendship and cooperation agreement with Libya, specifically Great Britain and France.
5. Article 8 gave the U.S. aircraft troops and sea vessels “free access” and freedom of movement within Libya.
6. Article 16 exempted U.S. troops from taxes on all materials, equipment, supplies and goods. This article also allowed U.S. military personnel custom free furniture and imported cars.

7. Article 20 was further refined to give the U.S. exclusive authority over its troops in Libya, including conducting police operation outside its bases.

In conjunction with the Libyan request for additional aid, Mustafa bin Halem thought it opportune to visit America and hold direct talks with Washington. On his July 1954 visit, he met former U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower. The result of the visit was the agreement by the U.S. government to provide additional aid within the limits of the credits allocated by the U.S. Congress for assistance. Furthermore, “relations between Libya and the U.S. were further enhanced when in September 1954, the American representation to Libya was raised to the status of an Embassy and thereafter John Tayek was appointed as Ambassador” (Almahdi, 1999).

Soviet Union’s role became prominent in the Middle East following the emergence of many small independent Middle Eastern countries. The latter had sought Soviet Union’s help in order to consolidate and strengthen their newly acquired independence. Soviet emerging role in the Middle East was frowned upon by the U.S. as the former appeared to be gaining ground at the expense of the American government which by then had begun to view the area in terms of its strategic interests, especially in economic and security terms. This led President Dwight Eisenhower, on January 5, 1955, to ask the American Congress to grant him the power to provide the economic and military assistance program for the Middle East in order to contain the Soviet Communist hegemony in the area. On March 9, 1957, a joint resolution of the U.S., Houses of Representatives and the Senate approved the proposal. The US President had executive authority to act under what was later termed as the “Eisenhower Doctrine”.

Despite Soviet denunciation of the Doctrine, Congress authorized the President to initially spend US\$200 million for economic development aid in the Middle East. To dispense this development aid, James P. Richards was appointed as a special assistant. On March 11, 1957, Richards visited North Africa and the Middle East to explain the “Eisenhower Doctrine” and to offer assistance under the aid package. Before Ambassador Richard’s visit to Libya, the US Vice President, Richard M. Nixon, called on the Libyan government on March 15, 1957. Nixon took the opportunity to exchange views with Libyan political leaders. Although aid offered to Libya was small, in sum, Mustafa bin Halem accepted it. In so doing, the Libyan government agreed with the U.S. position that the communist consolidation in the area was threatening the national independence of the countries there and the world peace in general. It also accepted the American argument that the U.S. policy in the Middle East was aimed not at establishing areas of influences or special power center, but at helping to strengthen the area and the peoples so that they could be masters of their own besting. For their part and their particular understanding of the Eisenhower Doctrine, the Libyan government was promised additional assistance (Almahdi, 1999).

Amidst bitter criticism of the Eisenhower Doctrine by the Arab countries, Libya requested for additional assistance from the U.S. In a joint communiqué between Libya and the U.S. that was announced on March 20, 1957. The extra assistance comprised the following provisions:

1. A general survey of Libya development requirement
2. A advancement of broadcasting services
3. Additional assistance to develop electrical powers
4. Improvement of cable services
5. Improvement of household water distribution system.
6. Educational assistance program, including grants and educational materials.

On acceptance of the Eisenhower Doctrine, “Libya received a US\$7 million aid package, and this had increased to about US\$23 million by the end of the fiscal year 1957” (Essayed, 1994).

To administer the U.S. aid, the Libyan government established the Libyan-American Development Department in 1955. An American advisor to the Board of Directors oversaw the activities of the Department. However, the work of this Department was later transferred to the Board of Construction. From then onwards, the functions of the Department were limited to drawing up program. It was assisted by American assistants and reported to the American Embassy. The main projects included areas such as agriculture, natural resources, health and education.

In 1955, an independent department was established, called the Joint Services Department. This department was attached to Libyan-American Development Department and its main function was to provide assistance in implementing programs funded by American aids. In addition to the Aid, the U.S. also provided Libya with technical assistance to develop agriculture and water resources and fund education as well as the health services. This led to the emergence of the “U.S. Operation Mission” which was run by American experts and expatriates. The needs for development funds and aids had inevitably led to Libyan dependency on the U.S. Naturally this, on the other hand, “meant the loss of Libya’s sovereignty and independence, a heavy price that came with accepting this aid and other related conditions attached to the aid given” (Almahdi, 1999).

While oil exports provided the means of achieving national unity, it also generated foreign relations complications and difficulties that surfaced violently for the first time on January 13-14, 1964, students demonstrated in the streets of Tripoli and Benghazi against Israel and the U.S., and supported the Cairo Meeting of Arab States. The demonstrators forced the government to close the Wheelus air base.

Soon thereafter, the Prime Minister Mahmoud Al-Muntasser issued a statement declaring that his government would not propose to renew or extend the military agreement with the U.S...The statement also further declared that it supported the stand taken by other governments of the Arab world in resisting imperialism. Libyan Prime Minister Muntasser announced that his government would be terminating the existing agreements with the United States and setting a new date for the withdrawal of US military personnel from the Wheelus Air Base. The Libyan Chamber of Deputies (parliament) then passed a resolution calling for the quick implementation of this plan. The resolution also stated that if negotiations for the withdrawal of US troops were not successful, the parliament would pass legislation to abrogate the treaty and close the base (Almahdi, 1999).

The Libyan press supported the government's proposal to close the US air base. Under pressure from the parliament, the Prime Minister informed the US government in March 1964 that Libya would not renew or extend the agreement on the base. In the same month, the Minister of State, Omar Baruni, clarified the government's position, stating that Libya wanted to continue economic and trade relations with the US despite the closure of the base (Wright, 1982). The US continued to negotiate with Libya about the future of the base. However, in August 1964, the Libyan Prime Minister announced that the evacuation of the American military personnel had been agreed to in principle. In October, two Libyan-American commissions started discussing the Wheelus airbase, but negotiations did not proceed as a matter of urgency. Furthermore, “both the Libyan and the U.S. governments announced that negotiations were suspended. Following that, there was a little prospect that the Americans would withdraw from Wheelus airbase, at least not until the agreement expired in 1970” (Wright, 1982).



The outbreak of the six-day war between Arab and Israel on June 5, 1967, regarding this matter, Michael Oren in his article *Remembering Six Days in 1967*, said, “After a period of high tension between Israel and its neighbors, the war began on June 5 with Israel launching surprise bombing raids against Egyptian air-fields. Within six days, Israel had won a decisive land war. Israeli forces had taken control of the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt, the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan, and the Golan Heights from Syria” (Oren, 2011).

As elsewhere in the Arab world, the popular reaction in Libya to the war was widespread, prolonged, and violent, especially in Tripoli and Benghazi. Where the American Embassy in Tripoli was attacked after President Nasser and King Husain claimed that the U.S. participated and helped Israel. At the same time, “the Libyan oil workers ignored government appeals to reopen the ports and resume services to ships of “Friendly nations,” oil industry workers refused to load waiting tankers in compliance with the Arab oil industry producers embargo that had been agreed to in Iraq’s capital city, Baghdad” (Almahdi, 1999).

In order to solve the crisis, the King Idris has sacked Prime Minister Hussein Maziq on June 28, 1967 and appointed a new premier, Abdul Khader Badri. The new Prime Minister immediately began a campaign to take actions against the Trade Union and the students who had played an active role in the demonstrations. Seven Union leaders were arrested and sentenced to jail (Almahdi, 1999).

By 1969, “the U.S. had total domination over the Libyan oil industry, with twenty American companies exploring and producing Libyan oil. By 1968, Libya was second only to Saudi Arabia as the cheapest source of oil for U.S. companies, in that year, the total American investment had reached US\$1,500 million” (Gebriil, 1988).

The former Ambassador to Libya David Newsom in an official report estimated that in July 1970, “American investment in Libya had a market value running into several billion U.S. dollars and that their oil operations in Libya accounted for about 88% of the total Libyan oil production. America’s investment in Libya was also reported to contribute about US\$60 million to the U.S. balance of payments in 1969” (Newsom, 1970).

By late 1969, Libya was virtually a paradise for western interests in the region. A pro-Western regime had alienated land for Western military installations, supplied the West with low-priced oil under favorable terms and promoted Western influence in the region through its opposition to Arab radicalism.

On 1st September 1969, a small group of military personnel, known as the Free Unionists' Officers Movement, successfully staged a coup to overthrow the monarchy. This group established a new government called the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC), which consisted of twelve main representatives led by a twenty-seven-year-old named Muammar Al-Qadhafi. The RCC held strong anti-colonial and anti-imperialist beliefs, opposing both Western and Soviet influences. They officially declared themselves non-aligned and were committed to Arab unity and supporting Palestine” (Calabrese, 2004).

According to Blake C & Abu-Osba, “The revolution that took place on September 1, 1969 aimed to overthrow not only the monarchy but also to challenge foreign control over Libya's economy and foreign policies. One of the key goals of the revolution was to eliminate Libya's isolation within the Arab world and assume a more proactive role in regional and international affairs.” (Blake & Abu-Osba, 1982).

After the removal of foreign military bases, Libya embarked on a series of actions that included the nationalization of foreign banks, insurance companies, oil distribution facilities, and oil companies.

These measures were taken to prioritize Libya's national interests (Blake & Abu-Osba, 1982). Consequently, Libya entered a new phase characterized by strained relations with the United States of America.

#### 4. Conclusion

This study explores the historical relationship between Libya and the United States, highlighting the complex and multifaceted nature of their bilateral ties from 1776 to 1969. By examining key events, political dynamics, economic interactions, and security considerations, the study offers valuable insights into the evolution of their relationship. The findings reveal that the Libya-United States relationship has been characterized by a mix of cooperation, conflict, and fluctuating dynamics. Significant historical events, such as the Barbary Wars, World War II, the Libyan Revolution, and economic interests in the Libyan oil industry, have had a profound impact on the political, economic, and security dimensions of their relationship. Political considerations, including ideological differences, territorial disputes, and regional dynamics, have also influenced the ups and downs of their relationship. Economic factors, particularly Libya's oil reserves and the involvement of international oil companies, have played a significant role in shaping the economic dimension of their relationship. The study emphasizes the importance of understanding the historical context to comprehend the current relations between Libya and the United States by offering a comprehensive historical analysis. Lessons learned from historical events can guide decision-making processes and contribute to fostering peaceful and mutually beneficial interactions.

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