

Assessment of geopolitical dilemmas in West Asia region and its effects on the countries of South West Asia

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Abstract:

Geopolitical Zone South West Asia spite of the unique geopolitical opportunities, such as access to waterways and the strategic Strait and having huge reserves of oil and gas, the numerous geopolitical issues and problems such as dry belt wrapping on the planet, Water crisis, natural disasters, destruction of natural resources and environmental problems, problems of population, territorial and border disputes, ethnic and cultural diversity, land-based and single-product economy, social and economic inequalities, the low level of political participation, etc. Suffers. Although no bottlenecks and geopolitical problems alone as a determining factor in the underdevelopment of the South West Asia region considered, but also the role of these factors can not be denied. Existing geopolitical dilemmas of bad results in South West Asia, and intensifying a crisis within and between countries in the region is South West Asia, which prevented better and greater convergence and unity between them elderly, And another, more dependence of these countries to the West that heavy debt of some countries in the region and military-economic relations with Western countries, including the dependencies of these

countries is strong. However, with proper management and planning, we can overcome many of these difficulties and geopolitical problems, And in order to resolve the crisis and make the necessary convergence between the countries of the region.

Key words: geopolitical dilemmas, geopolitical South West Asia region, Security, Convergence, Divergence

1. INTRODUCTION

Although the geographical conditions as the sole determining factor in the economic, political, social and cultural development of countries not raised, but as one of the barriers or facilitators in the development. With regard to the geographical conditions and potential in South-West Asia, the unique geographical location and rich resources such as oil and gas to, which could provide the integration and development of countries in the region, but there are some bottlenecks and geographical difficulties (Although manageable and planning) led to tensions brought about and this country as a dependent countries, especially out is dependent on the West. However, in relation to geographical problems of the South West Asia, has written numerous books and scientific papers in each of the particular perspective, This issue has been addressed; however, in this study, South West Asia regional geopolitical problems examined, And has shown how the conditions geographical environment caused inside and tension in relations crisis, With each other and eventually led to the divergence of countries in the region in the present age.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study descriptive analysis to examine the geographical and geopolitical problems of South West Asia region and its effects on the region and the development of information on the

results of the study, library resources and documents have been used.

3. RESEARCH FINDINGS

3.1 Geopolitical importance of the South West Asia region

Southwest Asia region with unique geographical features and opportunities as well as having rich resources, is of great geopolitical importance. The area, at the junction of three continents: Asia, Africa and Europe, the birthplace of human civilization and the origin of the first monotheistic religions is one. Some countries in the region due to its special geographical location and rich resources of oil and gas of very high geopolitical sensitivities. There strategically important Straits of Hormuz like, Dardanelles, Tiran, the Bosphorus and further shows an area of Bab el-Mandeb.

3.2 General characteristics of geography South West Asia (power and environmental)

South West Asia region in terms of rugged topography, land disruptive, it seems, the combination of height and dry lands and deserts, fertile plains, plateaus, the Arabian peninsula, islands and more. Due to its geographical location in terms of climate, land marks and geographical diversification effects, The different weather patterns and has to dry mountainous desert patterns included. In addition to access to water resources in terms of water resources and large areas of open water world, an important water sources such as rivers, the Indus, the Tigris, Euphrates, Aras and so on, but nevertheless, Water scarcity is one of the main challenges for South West Asia most countries is crucial. There are many differences between countries in the region in terms of population. Turkey and Iran, Qatar and Bahrain's most populous and the most sparsely populated countries in the region are considered. The

region in terms of natural resources, land rich in fossil remains and rich resources of metallic and non metallic mining and its importance has increased.

3.3 Bottlenecks and geopolitical problems in South West Asia

Despite the convenient and favorable geographical conditions in some parts of the region, most countries in the geographical numerous suffer from bottlenecks and problems, Examines these issues and geographical problems described below:

3.3.1 Placed on the dry belt of the Earth

Except for some western areas, and partly the northern part of South West Asian countries, much of it is influenced by the conditions and dry climates. In most areas, the level of less than 250 mm rainfall per year, and most areas will find it is derived. Such as dry desert, Loot Desert, desert Rub 'al Khali and Badyhalsham it contains are the greatest area. For example, the average rainfall of about 240 mm is in Iran (Beaumont et al., 1990: 10). In addition to the lack of atmospheric fallout and irregularities rainfall in many areas of South West Asia, potential evaporation rate in these areas is very high, the evaporation rate in these areas is 15 to 20 times the amount of annual rainfall, And even in some areas, such as the Lut Desert in Iran, the ratio is 100 times the annual rainfall (Kardavani, 1990: 6). So that the potential evaporation Lut Desert in Iran to five meters per year (Mahmoudi et al., 1996: 46).

3.3.2 Water crisis

The water should be a natural and finite commodity, the value considered very high. Due to the limited fresh water in the world, the source, the focus for the future will be tensions. On the other hand, fresh water resources in the country are having issues such as depletion, salinization and contamination due to

industrial activities (Hafeznia, 2006: 100). The geographical constraints in South West Asia, the water crisis is on those issues so that in most countries in the region, a very limited amount of permanent surface water and groundwater are faced with restrictions on use mostly salt. In addition to the many social and countries such as Syria, Iraq and Jordan, which relies heavily on water resources originate from beyond our borders, are related. Any loss of water caused agricultural losses, water rationing in cities and reduce power generation, restriction, And problems in the industry in these countries is, some of the countries in the region lacked permanent and seasonal rivers, like most Gulf states.

3.3.3 Natural hazards

Although natural hazards such as earthquakes, volcanoes, floods and droughts is not unique to South West Asia countries and these natural disasters occur in most parts of the planet, but because of the effects of these natural hazards impose on the economy are important. Drought as a natural hazard in most of these countries have seen many self-starvation that followed the leads (Shayan and others, 2006: 134). Flood as a natural disaster caused the destruction of farmland and displaced people, particularly in Pakistan, Iran and Turkey, is a recent example is the flood in Pakistan that resulted in the displacement of 12 million people. Other natural hazards such as earthquakes in countries such as Turkey, Iran, Azerbaijan, Pakistan and Afghanistan is seen.

3.3.4 Destruction of natural resources and environmental problems

Lack of proper planning and ineffective management of natural resources, the destruction of natural resources as well as excessive utilization and uneven development of cities in many countries in this region considered. Slow death of Lake Urmia

and pollution of the Caspian Sea, examples of inefficient management and environmental problems in the region.



Figure 1: Satellite images of Lake Urmia in the probe and the water has receded (<http://eol.jsc.nasa.gov>)

In most countries of the South West Asia region, desertification and loss of agricultural land and fertile land is a dominant factor resulting from inappropriate human intervention in these areas. Dust that people living in these areas in recent years living on or near narrowed, And cause all kinds of diseases is open from results desertification in those countries. Hence, part of the budget is spent on desertification. Air pollution in large cities and densely populated area of Tehran and Istanbul from other problems such as environmental issues in the region is South West Asia.

3.3.5. Dry location

Essentially countries are considered as part of the global macro system in relation to other countries or geographical regions interact. If the system is closed, allowing reduced energy trade and it provides the way down, High level of energy exchange and mutually open systems with high strength and ability to live on. In the eyes of Saul Cohen, in any amount that was smaller and less energy systems receive increased system entropy, And consequently reduces the system's ability

endangered, threatened it. According to this view, closed states of high entropy and can be one focus of the chaotic world, unless it be in the path of development and communication processes (Hafeznia, 2007: 104-103). Access to the sea is one of the geopolitics of the region. Although many countries in the region has a maritime border and port and shipping facilities are, however, about 3 landlocked country and do not have access to the high seas, and the country also has 19 kilometers off the coast, is almost landlocked country.

3.3.6. Problems of population

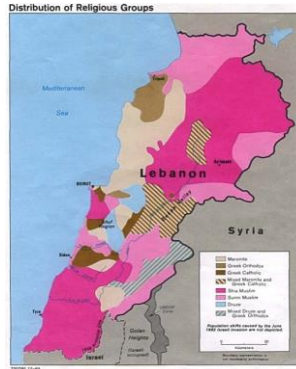
In general, population growth in the South West Asia region enjoyed a high rate of growth of population explosion and many countries in the region suffer. The high birth rate leads to high levels of people under 15 years in the country, which in view of the lack of suitable infrastructure for job creation, migration to other countries has provided them. High population growth and rapid population doubling, Most of these countries are faced with economic and social problems. Some countries in the region due to the migration of foreign nationals from these countries are facing a combined population disproportionately. The high wealth and income in the Persian Gulf, The majority of these countries (except Saudi Arabia and Oman) so that foreigners account for 75% of the population and 65% of the population are foreign Kuwait (Ezzati, 2011: 194). Massive migration from rural areas and less developed areas to developed urban areas and in addition to the demographic decline and depopulation of parts of the country, It has led to ever-increasing growth of urban population and consequently one of the problems of this country has become, so that the majority of cities in the region with a variety of environmental pollution, social criminality, the problem of providing housing, economic and cultural poverty, high illiteracy rates, problems transport and grappling facilities and services.

3.3.7. Border disputes and territorial

The geopolitical problems of the South West Asia, is having territorial disputes and border. Given that most countries in the region borders, imposed borders and these borders, regardless of ethnic and cultural landscape of the region and international politics have come into existence (Mir Heaydar, 1374: 146), Tension and conflict take place. More disputes over shared resources, determine the maritime boundary, the claim on the part of the territory of a country and find a river borders. Such as differences over Iraq and Kuwait oil wells Romileh (Draysdl and Blake, 1990: 114-118), the difference between Azerbaijan and Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh region, the difference between Qatar and Bahrain over the Hawar Islands, And the dispute between Iran and Iraq over the Shatt Al-Arab that has led to two military confrontation between the two countries, as well as disputes over the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Which is considered as the most important challenges in the region and the world, examples of dozens of territorial and border disputes in the region are South West Asia.

3.3.8. Ethnic and cultural diversity

Considering the fact that most countries in the region borders drawn without regard to the physical and human features, the more they suffer from racial and ethnic diversity, typical of the country's diverse ethnic or racial group is composed of 11 (Ezzati, 1999: 122). In some countries, the Ethnic diversity also comes religious differences, such as Iran and Iraq. On the other hand, some countries such as Lebanon, has been very religious diversity and conflict with each other.



Maps 1: religious diversity in Lebanon (www.arsam.org.tr)

Ethnic and cultural diversity when considering that the problem is more acute relatives living in the country mainly in the peripheral areas of the country and settled around political boundaries and geopolitical interests beyond our borders. Examples of Kurds in Turkey and the Karabakh problem issues of ethnic and religious tensions in the area. On the other hand, in addition, Ethnic and religious differences within these countries, religious differences among them also, unfortunately, one of the major obstacles in creating unity in the area.

3.3.9. Ground-based economy

More countries in the region have ground-based economy, the economy relies on factors and natural elements. Based economy of these countries is based on agricultural production and export of raw materials. Much of the labor force (except oil-rich Persian Gulf states) is engaged in agriculture and livestock production are used. In some countries, mineral resources constitute the basis of the economy so that more oil-exporting countries in the region, And raw materials to industrial countries are opposed to importing manufactured goods from industrialized countries have become.

3.3.10. Single-product economy

Another feature is the South West Asia economic monoculture. For example, petroleum bulk of the income of the Persian Gulf states and actions (80% to 90% of the budget depends on oil) the single-product economy factor of vulnerability of the country against fluctuations in the global market and global economic development increases and, therefore, increasing poverty and the gap in these countries provides.

3.3.11 Difference in the type of government

The type and form of government also major differences between the countries are deep. Some countries in the region as well as Royal and Presidential Administration and some are king. Both in terms of the type of republic and in terms of differences between the country's king. The multiparty republics like Turkey, And one-party states such as Syria and the government of Pakistan to absolute monarchies such as Saudi Arabia covers. The political participation of people in most countries in the region is not desirable level. In most of them, except in a few, or many political activity is prohibited or limited. Economic, social and political form of government, largely based on relationships and decisions of taste , And with the goals and interests of the majority of conflicts. Payh-elderly decisions largely on the will and interest of leaders and officials and Consultants It is not the interests of the nation in these decisions (Asghari, 2008).

3.3.12. Interference of extra-regional countries.

Other features of the geopolitical South West Asia region, the presence of extra-regional countries in it. The presence of US and NATO forces in Afghanistan to fight the Taliban and al-Qaeda, the presence of US warships in the Persian Gulf and interference in its internal affairs, examples of the presence of extra-regional countries in South-West Asia.

4. ANALYSIS OF THE FINDINGS

Based on the findings, the most important bottlenecks and geopolitical problems in South West Asian countries are placed on the dry belt of the earth, the water crisis, natural disasters, destruction of natural resources and environmental problems, landlocked position, The problems of population, territorial and border disputes, ethnic and cultural diversity, economy, land-based, single-product economy, economic income level differences, differences in the type of government and the involvement of extra-regional countries. We can not, however, bottlenecks and geopolitical issues raised in this study alone-as the decisive factor in underdevelopment South West Asia as countries in the region, but also the role of these factors can not be denied. Underdevelopment in the region and highlight the outstanding role of geopolitical factors as geopolitical factors including fixed and variable, direct impact on domestic and foreign policy has left the region. Bottlenecks and geopolitical problems mentioned negative results in South West Asia, and intensifying a crisis within and between countries in the region is South West Asia, which prevented better and more convergence and unity among them elderly, And another, more dependence of these countries to the West that heavy debts some countries in the region and military-economic relations with Western countries, including the dependencies of these countries is strong. However, with proper management and planning, we can overcome many of these difficulties and geopolitical problems, And in order to resolve the crisis and make the necessary convergence between the countries of the region. The following is a review of each of these effects will be discussed:

4.1 Crises within and between the countries of South West Asia

The main effect of bottlenecks and geopolitical problems in the area of South West Asia, The emergence and intensification of the crisis in the countries of the region which can be seen in two ways:

A. Crisis within the region

Some of crisis within the country caused by geopolitical factors and conditions prevailing in the country, two kinds of economic crises, political crises and security glaring. Some of these countries are grappling with economic and social problems. Water shortages, soil erosion and degradation of natural resources, Reduced land under cultivation and agricultural products, sharp divisions of class, low income, unemployment, malnutrition and hunger, crime, mass migration from rural areas to big cities, are examples of economic and social crises in these countries. On the other hand, in some countries, ethnic and religious conflicts going on; Kurdish rebels armed struggle against the Turkish state, And the conflicts in Afghanistan and Syria are examples of political crises and security within the region.

B. Regional crisis

Geopolitical factors in the region South West Asia crisis had an impact, and the difference access to fresh water resources, to have access to the high seas, territorial and border disputes are common and natural resources. The difference between Syria, Iraq and Turkey over the sharing of water of the Euphrates, the dispute between Iran and Iraq over the Shatt Al-Arab, Qatar and Bahrain dispute over the Hawar islands, oil etc. (Jafari Valdani, 1998: 327).

4.2 The dependence of many countries in Southern West Asia to the West

Another important impact of bottlenecks and geopolitical problems in the South West Asia region, relying more and more countries of this region is the West. Land-based economy, the problems caused by population growth, multiple and consecutive droughts and single-product economy, increasingly dependent on the weakened them and the advanced Western countries. Unfortunately, most of these countries as producers of raw materials, And exporting to Western countries turned against the West in terms of technological and economic balance. Heavy debt of some countries in the region and military-economic relations with Western countries, including the dependencies of these countries is strong. This is one of the major barriers to greater unity and integration of countries in the South West Asia region is considered.

5. CONCLUSION:

According to the arguments in the findings, and analyze them can be concluded that the geopolitical South West Asia region spite of geopolitical situations and unique opportunities, such as access to waterways and the strategic Strait and vast energy resources Oil, And gas fields that could provide growth and development of countries in this region and enhance the authority of the countries at international level, Unfortunately, many of the bottlenecks and geopolitical problems including; placed on the dry belt of the earth, the water crisis, natural disasters, destruction of natural resources and environmental problems, Barry position, demographic problems, border disputes and territorial, ethnic and cultural diversity, economy land-based, single-product economy, economic income level differences, differences in the type of government and the involvement of extra-regional countries suffers. Although no bottlenecks and geopolitical problems alone as a determining

factor in the underdevelopment of the South West Asia region considered, but no doubt these bottlenecks and geopolitical problems directly, Or indirectly influenced the economic and political situation of these countries and the role of these factors can never be denied. Existing geopolitical dilemmas of bad results in South West Asia, one created, And increase tensions within and between countries in the South West Asia region, which prevented convergence and unity is better and more between them, and the other, The dependence of these countries to the West that heavy debt of some countries in the region and a strong military and economic ties with Western countries, including the dependencies is these countries. However, with proper management and planning, we can overcome many of these difficulties and geopolitical problems, And in order to resolve the crisis and make the necessary convergence between the countries of the region.

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