

## **Geopolitical factors affecting national power of the Islamic Republic of Iran (with emphasis on the geoeconomic factors)**

MOHAMMAD REZA TAHERI

M.A student, Political Geography

Islamic Azad University, Central Tehran Branch, Iran

MOHSEN ZAMANI

Ph.D student of Political Geography

Faculty of Geography, University of Tehran, Iran

### **Abstract:**

*When power is seen as a nation and the resultant physical and spiritual abilities is it, then becomes national. The power of various origin. Each of geographers, experts in geopolitics, political science, international relations, etc. to provide a list of factors affecting national power that the major part of them there account. Geopolitical and geoeconomic factors and components is one of the key elements of national power is consistent with expert comment, This article describes a method - analysis tries to identify factors and geopolitical factors affecting national power of the Islamic Republic of Iran has especially emphasized the geoeconomic factors. The results show Iran's privileged location and unparalleled geostrategic, geopolitical and geoeconomic and national power that has great potential in this respect is the most important of these include: Located in the center of world energy ellipse, the position of transit and energy routes, the strategic Strait of Hormuz and dominate the long beaches in the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea, located in the center of Shia Geopolitics, soft power and cultural centrality and situations that increased national powers in terms of geopolitical and geo-economics is.*

**Key words:** geopolitical factors, geoeconomic factors, national power, the Islamic Republic of Iran

## INTRODUCTION

Due to its geopolitical position of Iran centuries ago, an important role in the geopolitical strategy has always been the focus of world powers, The power and grand, something strange is not far-fetched. It should be noted, however, that the history of Iran itself is partly influenced by geopolitical factors neighbors, roads and routes of attack on political, military, economic and ethnic influence consumer and experience history in molding properties the political culture and national characteristics are determined by different names, affect. Looking at the current situation in the South-Western Asia leveling power of Iran sent down no authority in the eyes of neighbors we noticed some advantages, but this advantage potentially be and to actualize it, recognizing component and the opportunity to plan ahead and exploitation is essential. Components countries in different time periods and each time have been changed to fit the social, economic and technology components have changed. During the Cold War, strategic areas was determined based on military targets and military targets was justified as a result of the geopolitical regions and as soon as you feel the slightest change in the geopolitical structure of some areas, it may be more difficult economic objectives in a way that ultimately undeniable force in the areas of construction. The geo-strategic areas should the economic justification / military, and this rotation is remarkably different strategies today are witnessing powers, especially the United States in the twenty-first century be true mastery of new concepts such as age geoeconomical new country's role and perform it, "geoeconomical" he said. During the notion, subject to data and have all their economic and the

role and position of countries and regions in the major strategies large power to define the exact words of international politics, therefore, depends on economic power, Whereby the actor or regional players to the world's economy as energy producer, actor or distributor or facilitating the distribution of complementary or ring system bonded intertwined. The critical situation in the Middle East due to the unique geo-economic and geo-strategic and territories in energy strategy in the twenty-first century, much attention has been, finally, the geopolitical situation in Iran geoeconomical advantages and validate the value of the other countries of the region are lacking.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

Significance of this research at the present time requires that an analytical-descriptive method be employed in line with evaluation in large scale. Data were extracted through library study and using domestic and foreigner resources within political geography, geopolitics, international relations and political sciences. Domestic resources as well as professional views and comments were uses too.

### **Theoretical**

#### **Geopolitics:**

Geopolitics and understanding the justification of policy issues, according to the geographical data (GÖNLÜBOL, 1978: 10). The geopolitical knowledge that humanity inside examines the interaction with the operating location (Dugin,2003). Dr. Mir Heydar definition of geopolitics is presented as follows: Geopolitics way of reading and writing of international politics and thought by those in power and their influence on political decisions at national and regional level(Mir

Heydar,1998:22).Dr. Pirouz Mojtahedzadeh believes geopolitical or policies in the geopolitical environment and geographical or environmental phenomena such as forms, geographic location, land form, scarce resources, communication facilities and transport (land, sea, air and space), the mass media and ... and in political decision making, especially in wide-area and global levels, the study (Mojtahedzadeh,2002:128). Different definitions of the term geopolitics has been done. However, geopolitical study of the interaction of geography, power, politics and practices of combining them with each other (Hafeznia,2006:37). The function of strategy and geopolitical relations and actions of governments and the structure of the global geopolitical system. Hence, solidarity and harmony among the top geopolitics and foreign policy behavior pattern is established, based on geopolitical strategies and operations are designed to give structure and meaning to geopolitical relations.In geopolitical factors, into two general categories of fixed and variable elements are classified. In fact, the same natural phenomena and geographical factors constant, such as geographical location, space, size, topography (water network, boundaries, topography and shape of the country) and variable factors that may have some of their natural origin have raised because of the quantity they are variable factors, such as population, natural resources (food and mineral resources) and political and social institutions(Ezzati, 2007: 75).

### **Power and national power**

Power, one of the basic concepts of political science which scholars tried to separate it from the authority or legitimate authority (authority), on the one hand, and on the other hand, define it. The power to make their own ability for others to surrender to His will, whatever the form (Zarei, 2013: 12). In fact, the potential power of man to do something that is desirable shed. From the perspective of political power is the

factor that enables an actor to influence the behavior of others in their end. Accordingly, players can governments and nations, countries and other groups to carry out specific measures to prevent or put it under the influence. The concept of power at the center of all analyzes that are done in the world of politics that says Hans Joachim Morgenthau all politics is struggle for power (Zarghani, 2012: 1). The power of life and survival and the lack of it is doomed. So the urge for survival, man is forced to seize power (Kamran, 2010: 16). National power is the ability of those countries to impose their will on other countries to achieve their own resources. Kalenz, American strategists believed, national power to set the abilities and potential of a country which defines the ability of political, economic, social, cultural, scientific, technological and military in that country arises (Afshordi and others, 2009: 3). National power as a geopolitical concept of collective attribute of a nation or a country reflects the local characteristics of the resultant capabilities is that nation or country (Hafeznia and others, 2003: 51).

### **Geoeconomical:**

The collapse of the Soviet Union in the late twentieth century, major changes and fundamental knowledge in the areas of scientific and political communities followed. One of the new concepts that after the collapse in international relations and geopolitics, analysis and international strategic issues and competition as the only of the benefit and The study will also include an analytical framework, the geo-economic approach. Edward Luttwakin 1990, entered the paradigm geoeconomical within the broader context of international relations, geopolitical and other related political knowledge of international macroeconomic analysis. This thinking comes news of a new international system in the late nineties, in which components are alternative economic and geo-strategic

military purposes. In his opinion, conflicts and conflicts of the twentieth century the century (twenty-first) other issues of the last century, but in addition to any tension shows itself an economic agent(Kamp,1994:107).Economic area for a long time because of competition between East and West and the balance of deterrent forces, had been forgotten, now in the analysis of human relations and the space around him, namely the analysis of the geopolitical situation, the first is capable of the emergence of new geo-economic terms within which the relationship between human beings as economic actors with evolving space where studied and studied, led to some policy-makers, the concept of economic warfare has treated this way their governments stressed the role of economics in policy analysis(Louvre and Toral,2002:101-102).Of course, the issue raised, which means easy to resolve crises and geopolitical and ideological disputes between states and nations, because the crisis and geopolitical differences of relative stability and continuity and can not be easily resolved (Hafeznia,2006:128). Not evade in this field, especially given realistic material of any kind or opinions about an issue or phenomenon that represent known, the convenience of opinion can not be removed by society and government(Yves Lacoste,1999:97). But it seems only reasonable time to the affairs of the world economy and trade will be able to reduce the importance of military power units compete with purely economic nature. These are powers that the economic policies in the space world system actions and lead, and the outcome of this process is like a fluid phenomenon geoeconomical to cover new space, relationships in the global system and method of justification and analysis the world's most policies of Western powers, has been (Tabatabaei, 2004: 25).Epistemology, some experts believe that the issue under study strategic issues does not mean that anything other than geopolitical or geo economy to geopolitics, but geoeconomical part of the territory of modern geopolitics and

the geopolitical thought in this era. Of course geoeconomical like other geopolitical subsets (geo-strategy, hydrogeopolitics, etc.), one can not separate discussion of the topic mother knew because each of these topics from geopolitics to read your special offers; which is where economics competition motive is power, geo-political reading of the current situation provides economic and geo-economic aspect takes (Mojtahedzadeh,2002:54). The factors influencing geo economy or infrastructure in the country, regional and global political decisions and competition for power and influence of these factors on a regional or global geopolitical structures receiver on the other(Mojtahedzadeh,2002:125).

## **RESEARCH FINDINGS**

### **Founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran's geopolitical and geo-effective in increasing national power:**

Iran, due to specific economic and political value has long been the scene of strangers and world attention and interest. History of colonial powers in this area goes back to the late eighteenth century. Iran's geopolitical value to the extent that any change in government, it has managed to upset the balance of regional and global. In the pre-1917 or the period of British rule almost unchallenged Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz, the competition between the countries and governments of Russia, Germany and France there. After that period, replacing the young and powerful America in the area, trying to maintain their influence and control over the Persian Gulf and the continued foreigners. The geographical and geopolitical position of political economy, it affects, and it has become important foundations and makes it the foundation for progress and development of this country and recognized components and according to their economic development programs applied.

Therefore, an important component of national power and geo-economic and geopolitical foundations of the Islamic Republic of Iran it is based on the following:

**-Dominate the strategic Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman and long beaches:**

Having the Strait of Hormuz and having the opportunity crossings, Iran dominates the world's largest energy bottleneck. It is enough can be said about the importance of the Strait of Hormuz between Iran and the industrialized world for a combination of geography, energy, economic and security with its sensitive location could be an opportunity for economic and military security and a threat to security in all dimensions to Iran and the world. In other words, the Strait of Hormuz is one of the areas economically breathing world and followed by Iran's security that it can dominate with their economic and political management of the situation to good use, and the industrial world, not elusive to accept Iran's position. So this is a fact of political economy Strait Islamic Republic of Iran that could provide growth and progress of Iran to the World Transplant military economy. Moreover, the long coastal areas of southern Iran and the situation in which half of the Persian Gulf would be dominant. Thus, this beach have played an important role in the export and import of goods, as so far 93 percent of exports and 97 percent of imports of the Islamic Republic of Iran through the Persian Gulf coast in particular is done (Karimipour, 2007:132). So the shore of the geopolitical realities of the Iranian economy that Iran may have a unique role in development.

**-Located in the heart of the world's energy Oval:**

The changes in geopolitical approach and the importance of oil and gas resources in global equations, Iran is at the center of the district in the production and transportation of oil and gas

plays a vital role. So that the function acts as the heart of the world, because Iran between the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea is the world's energy storage and unique position in this field in the world on this very basis that Gefrey Kamp central heartland theory-laden Mackinder, the Heartland region as oval energy or energy speaks(Kamp,2004:13-14).Iran's strategic position in the center of the ellipse energy (oil and gas) and the central role of Iran in the region connecting the continents of Asia, Africa and Europe has made the country economically and geographically central and vital regional center for the world's landmass is .The growing demand for energy, Iran as one of the most important energy producers a significant role plays and having 137/6 billion barrels of oil that is 9/10 percent of global proven reserves of oil, can the global economy be effective. In terms of natural gas, Iran has 61/9 6 trillion cubic meters of proven gas reserves in the world and rank first and second in the Middle East is the life of the world is also based on the current production is approximately 200 years. Iran is due to the geo-economic potential of the car due to the special geopolitical position and its abundant energy resources play a decisive role in the economy and global security can play and political economy it can not be considered without these capabilities. More importantly, in the geopolitics of gas in the coming decades, Iran has a key role and will be responsible and gas resources, Iran could have a strategic role in energy security, because on the one hand gas energy security strategy Asian consumers held a favored place has gone the other hand, the world's second largest gas reserves after Russia. Thus, Iran's geopolitical and geo-economic With these and are having huge reserves of oil and gas in the world and long experience in the energy sector and geographical location right in the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea and Central Asian neighbors, the possibility of linking resources its energy from the south, east and northeast Asia is by pipeline to consumers. ran's neighbors

with two major gas consumer (India and China) in the East and Europe in the West, as is the position, even the United States' efforts to prevent the spread of foot-dragging multiple energy exchanges between Iran and the country is in the process of Iran's energy exports to various countries also failed to reduce the intensity of their interest in Iran. This is due to the significance that this area becomes a business, and in the center of the Middle East, Iran is of great importance (Mokhtarihashi& Nosrati,2010:115).So from this point of view, Iran is placed in the global political economy and can not have non-global economic introspective and have conserved their economic and geopolitical and geo-economic situation based on that makes the most important of these factors, the same exposure the heart of the world's energy heartland.

#### **-Positions transit and energy routes:**

Iran's ancient civilization and the crossroads of land and sea positions has been very good position. Iran's geographic location with an open sea connection and placed between sea power and intensity, in other words the position of the geopolitical theories Rimland global strategy for Iran's rise to the position of transit and due to this situation and demand around the world to communicate and connect it to the mutual needs of both material of the bases and fundamental component of Iran's geopolitics. In such a way that Iran's geographical location and geopolitical special for Central Asia is landlocked region, a transit country is desirable and can produce oil and gas from Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan via Turkey in the best way to open sea and even to Europe. So, Iran as the safest, most economical and shortest route to transport energy resources to international water advocacy. Interact with the national security of energy supply, important transit country for this position, is considered of strategic importance and advantage of this opportunity in order to apply its economic boom. On the

one hand the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran could take advantage of international energy market and on the other hand to increase the rent depends on the country and its vital energy arteries or even export and import terminals, while domestic economic efficiency in searching for their strategic position in the global economy and that, in order to supplement their economy by making use of the situation in the region and the world step. In this regard, Iran's engagement with the region and the world and create regional networks to take advantage of Iran in energy. Your solid foundation for political and economic security and prevent or limit Iran's threats against the country. In this context, and using the position of transit Iran can interact with Asian and deep bond between producers and consumers as the economy in the direction of the national security and interests. On this basis, one of the things that Iran could increase its national security factor, according to the transit situation and foreign policy on energy security. Energy diplomacy in support of the country's trade and financial sector to encourage economic situation and the country's development goals include encouraging domestic and foreign investment in the energy sector in the field of energy(Maleki,2007:218).This can be achieved only with an understanding of the position of the Iranian transit bus and creating a bridge between consumers and producers from Iran that the world can be a great contribution to the political economy of geopolitical reality is its increasing national power.

**-Soft power and cultural center:**

Iran's geographical position and with ancient history and culture through the soft power beyond its borders is enduring, because most of the neighboring countries and neighboring Iran along the Persian culture and the culture or are affected by it. Iranian culture system, the product of thousands of years of ancient nations and ethnic groups is the result of collective

interactions that have shaped the cultural identity of each its part, the various layers of positive and negative factors added. Finally, in this major cultural identity and self-absorption are part of it. Iran's cultural identity of all ethnic groups in an inclusive umbrella has its own place (Khalili& Others, 2012:45). This factor has caused Iran's neighbors and could have geopolitical territory of the centrality of culture, followed by economic and political inclusiveness. Soft power is the ability and resources of a country such as culture, ideals, moral values, which indirectly affects the interests and behavior of other countries (Hersich& Others,2009:26).And the three sources of culture, political values and foreign policy emanates some practical guidelines to achieve soft power in Iran, in addition to those mentioned above as follows: grafting ethnic, religious and language with neighboring countries, the news network , high capacity tourist, religious nearly 86 countries in the Middle East geopolitical zone, the high rate of scientific publications and academic elites in Western countries, transnational and cross-language identity (Khalili& others,2012:48).In general, Iran has the highest rate of soft power and cultural influence in the region and the territory's west and southwest Asia.This position can be a determinant role in the economy and economic ties, particularly in the export and import of obtaining consumer markets have, it can be said that one of the political and economic realities of the Islamic Republic of Iran cultural centrality among neighbors and regional soft power is in the hands of the market. By understanding this issue can be economically appropriate to the geopolitical factors in the Middle East and Central Asia moved.

### **-Located in the center of Shia Geopolitics:**

his component has always been a way for Iranian foreign policy of the past. Some believe that even the former regime, despite the lack of belief in ideological tool in the foreign policy of a tool

for increasing Shiite influence in the region has (barzegar, 2009:33). Now that the Islamic Republic of Iran, Umm al-Qura as the main base for Shiite Muslim world and the amount of political Islam in the Middle East, most of these components is necessary in order to draw policy, America attacked Iraq after Shiite role in the Middle East is more specific. Because many of the Shiite population in the Persian Gulf and in the oil fields scattered as far as the Persian Gulf over 32% of the population are Shiite Muslims. This factor adds to the importance of Shia Geopolitics (Ghasabzadeh, 2012:329). And that foreign policy and the subsequent political economy can be viewed as a positive thing. Islamic Republic using it can in neighboring countries from Pakistan to Turkey and the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf on its influence in political and economic fields increase (Akhbari, 2011:104). Of course, it must not be forgotten that the policy of the Islamic Republic of seeking unity and religious pluralism is religiously policy or the unity of the Muslim world and his message of unity Mlsmyn and the formation of the Islamic Ummah against the enemies of Islam and calls on Muslims to unity. So one of the foundations of the political economy of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the ideological nature of its political system, political or Shi'a Islam, as a center of Shiite geopolitics can take steps to fulfill its demands, which in some cases lead to convergence and divergence in the Middle East and neighboring countries and adjacent to.

## **CONCLUSION:**

Iran while the Cold War was raised from a strategic perspective, in the new century, this factor has been consistent and regional geo-economic point of view it has become a prominent position in international. This exceptional situation is irreplaceable and central role in strategy formulation power

systems will be in the current century. Iran in the Persian Gulf, Oman Sea more than 2000 kilometers off the coast in the appropriate operational and a large number of strategic islands in the north of the second largest source of oil and gas and borders. The Iranian elections with its unique characteristics can be geo-strategic and geo economy as a fulcrum, therefore, gratified to be allies in the realms of geoeconomical new Iran plays a vital role, especially in the Persian Gulf region in general and in particular. Because the only country that has special facilities for starring in the Persian Gulf, and on the northern shore of the geopolitical dominance and its leadership must be on hand. The geostrategic and geopolitical situation in Iran very important and could very prominent role of Iran in the world geoeconomical returns. Experts believe that the control of the Strait of Hormuz daily for more than 40 percent of the world's oil is exported to Iran have created a strategic role and can be critical sections of Iran's strategic advantages and superiority of its hundredfold. Aside from the interactions of oil and gas in Turkey, China, India, Japan and many other countries are increasingly expanding, the dependence of the country, has increased in Iran and some other exchange rates on the international political scene will be. It also added that Iran should be able to cast multiple layers Trust, the actor is able to establish economic ties / political and reinforce it in this field. Iran as one of the Middle Eastern oil producers, actors and facilitating the transfer of energy in the field of coatings and it also has another big advantage to dominate the Middle East is abutment geoeconomical territory. If connecting to different geopolitical areas, operating at its disposal to defend the interests of other actors. In other words, the great powers geopolitical map of the region as the first actor to be considered. It should be noted Iran is located at the heart of the region's energy economy is the main focus of the prevailing political climate, and as a new emerging regional power and plays a

leadership role in the Middle East diplomatic balance. So security is established in terms of the orientation of the unit, in line with the atmosphere of the territory of the Middle East. In a chain undeniable, the Middle East, the main axis of the shaft Amin Iran and world security and therefore a central role in the Middle East regional security - is potentially the world. Therefore, placing an emphasis on US Middle East specialists and experts recommend that in its view that the US needs to say, how Iran should be considered a new security system in the Middle East. In addition to the geo-economic position of Iran said that Iran's role in global energy security can be placed between two important energy depot, the Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf extraordinary importance in the global geopolitical, and geographically, as well as strategic communications positions in the field of energy to transport oil and gas, the Persian Gulf and Caspian Sea. Oil or gas transmission line crossing from one country, along with its strategic credibility is increased, which causes the security of the region will also be continuity; the same is through regional cooperation in energy that can be spoke. Accordingly, some believe that the position of Iran in the region of Europe - should not be viewed simply as a country with rich energy resources, but Iran's position must be from the perspective of a unique bridge between East and West, the Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf, Central Asia and seas, to be evaluated. On the principle that experts in the field of strategic issues admitted to shift the strategic heartland of the twentieth century believe that the twenty-first century Iran was the world's energy heartland. All of which increase the national power of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Soft power and cultural center located in the center of Shiite geopolitical factors, that improve Iran's standing in the region and enhance national prestige and power of the Islamic Republic of Iran that the roots are geopolitical and geoeconomic.

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