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The Impact of Social Capital on the Foreign Policy of the Pezeshkian administration in Iran

Hossein Karimifard¹

Social capital, as a key concept in social and political sciences, examines social networks, trust, and norms of cooperation within different societies. The primary objective of this research is to analyze the impact of national and international social capital on shaping an optimal foreign policy for the Pezeshkian administration and to assess its role in enhancing Iran's international standing and strengthening its global position. The research question is as follows: How the capacities of national social capital can be utilized in forming the desirable foreign policy for the Pezeshkian administration? The research hypothesis posits that by leveraging the discourse of Vefagh, increasing public trust, fostering participation and social cohesion, and strengthening governmental institutions, social capital will be reinforced. Consequently, the government's international social capital will contribute to enhancing relations within international institutions and organizations, bolstering Iran's credibility, trust, and international cooperation. This, in turn, will positively influence the country's reputation, prestige, and international standing.

Keywords

Pezeshkian administration, foreign policy, social capital, international social capital.

Introduction

In today's complex and rapidly evolving world, social capital is considered one of the key principles in analyzing foreign policies and international relations. Social capital, which refers to a set of resources, networks, and relationships within a society that enhance

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social cooperation and performance, has become a determining factor in shaping international policies and global interactions. This concept is particularly significant in the context of foreign policy for countries like Iran, which occupies a unique geopolitical and geographical position.

The pezeshkian administration, aiming to foster internal unity and strengthen Iran's international standing, must consider social capital as a strategic tool in foreign policymaking. In this regard, key figures such as Pezeshkian, Araghchi, and other executive elites, including former Foreign Minister Zarif, can play a prominent role in advancing the foreign policy objectives. In essence, social capital contributes to the formation of an effective foreign policy, while a well-structured foreign policy, in turn, reinforces national social capital. National social capital directly influences foreign policy and, by building and strengthening international social capital, facilitates the development of a favorable foreign policy.

Methodology

This study employs an analytical and explanatory causal approach. Data collection is conducted through library research, including the use of academic articles and online sources. In this research, national social capital is considered the independent variable, while international social capital is regarded as the intervening variable influencing foreign policy formation.

Literature Review

Numerous studies have examined the relationship between social capital and foreign policy. For instance, in an article published by Patrick Houghton and John Smith in 2022, the authors investigate how social capital influences the foreign policies of nations, emphasizing that social capital can enhance public diplomacy and improve diplomatic interactions (Houghton & Smith, 2022). This study demonstrates that social capital not only impacts domestic policies but also shapes countries' international approaches.

In another study conducted by Maria Luna and Alex Morris in 2023, the role of international social capital in improving diplomatic

relations and enhancing a nation's global standing is analyzed. Their findings indicate that countries effectively utilizing international social capital are more successful in international agreements and diplomatic negotiations, thereby strengthening their position on the global stage (Luna & Morris, 2023).

Shirkhani and Khalaf-Rezaei (2015) in their article *Investment and Competitiveness in the International System* explore the relationship between social capital and the development of international competitiveness indicators. The study highlights that trust, as a fundamental component of social capital, plays a crucial role in shaping national structures and fostering participation in civic and political processes. The absence of trust leads to economic failure within a country. Furthermore, economic decline both domestically and internationally can result from the breakdown of social networks, insufficient trust, or weak cooperation among these networks.

Discussion

The pezeshkian administration currently faces multiple challenges in foreign policy, including international sanctions, regional tensions, and the nuclear issue. Additionally, it encounters limitations in utilizing social capital and its impact on foreign policy. Domestic constraints, such as economic difficulties and social issues, can affect Iran's ability to build and strengthen social capital. However, there are also significant opportunities. Improving relations with neighboring countries, enhancing regional and international cooperation, and leveraging diplomatic capacities can increase Iran's international social capital and strengthen its position in foreign policy.

As President of Iran, Pezeshkian has emphasized the importance of building trust both domestically and internationally, promoting stability and social cohesion. Trust in governmental institutions and domestic policies fosters public support for foreign and domestic policies, ultimately strengthening Iran's international standing. Furthermore, Araghchi, as Iran's Foreign Minister, has worked to enhance international trust and improve diplomatic relations. Trust, as a key component of social capital, is essential in foreign policy for establishing stable and long-term relationships with other countries.

This trust significantly contributes to the success of international negotiations and agreements.

Trust, as a fundamental indicator of social capital, plays a crucial role in the foreign policy of the pezeschkian administration. Trust at both formal and informal institutional levels, as well as among executive elites, facilitates consensus and coordinated action in foreign policy. From the perspective of the pezeschkian administration's elites, Iran has successfully advanced the discursive objectives of the Islamic Revolution when it has combined field power with negotiations, reinforcing national capabilities and actively participating in critical international arenas.

At the international level, trust in international institutions and neighboring countries can contribute to improved diplomatic relations and international cooperation. The pezeschkian administration seeks to enhance international trust to advance nuclear negotiations and global agreements. In nuclear negotiations, mutual trust among negotiating parties is key to achieving stable and effective agreements.

International social networks, including diplomatic and economic relations with other countries, are key indicators of social capital that influence the foreign policy of the pezeschkian administration. It is crucial for the government to focus on strengthening its diplomatic networks with various nations, as these networks play a vital role in creating trade, economic, and political opportunities for the country.

The pezeschkian administration must actively work to enhance Iran's diplomatic and economic networks at the international level to create new opportunities for the nation. These international social networks encompass relations with various countries and international organizations, contributing to Iran's diplomatic standing. Strengthening these networks can facilitate improved economic and political relations with other nations. Moreover, Pezeschkian, by emphasizing the reinforcement of both domestic and international social networks, aims to enhance the country's social and economic relations, fostering greater engagement on the global stage.

Conclusion

Social capital has a tangible impact on the foreign policy of the pezheshkian administration. This influence is particularly evident in strengthening democratic legitimacy, enhancing diplomatic relations, and garnering international support. An increase in social capital contributes to the government's internal credibility and improves its international interactions.

In the realm of foreign policy, social capital is recognized as a crucial and influential factor in shaping and achieving a country's international objectives. By emphasizing relationships and human networks, social capital fosters trust, credibility, and international cooperation. Effective utilization of both domestic and international social capital can lead to improved diplomatic relations, a stronger global standing, and a reduction in the negative impacts of sanctions and regional tensions.

As a key institution, the pezheshkian administration can play a significant role in policymaking and managing foreign relations by leveraging social capital. The impact of social capital on its foreign policy serves as an effective strategy for strengthening the country's international position and advancing its diplomatic and economic goals.

Iran's Neighborhood Policy Doctrine and Cooperation with Regional Organizations

(Capacities, Challenges, and Strategies in Cooperation with the Islamic Chamber of Commerce)"

*Samaneh movahedi*¹

*Hamid Hakim*²

The neighborhood policy has been one of the key principles of the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy in the 13th and 14th governments and has been formulated with goals such as strengthening relations with neighboring countries, reducing dependence on the oil economy, neutralizing Western sanctions, and utilizing the capacities of regional organizations. This policy, emphasizing active diplomacy, constructive engagement, and reducing tensions, has sought to create new avenues for economic, political, and cultural cooperation with neighbors. One important tool in this direction is leveraging the capacity of regional organizations such as the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, which is a pillar of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. This organization enables broader economic interactions and facilitates regional convergence. Using the SWOT analysis method, this study examines the relationship between Iran's neighborhood policy and cooperation with this organization and shows that the Islamic Republic of Iran can provide the basis for strengthening its regional convergence and interactions by taking advantage of its internal strengths and overcoming existing threats. The conclusion is that the neighborhood policy of the 13th and 14th governments not only helps improve bilateral relations, but also strengthens Iran's position in regional and international equations and enables more effective exploitation of the capacities of regional organizations.

Keywords

13th government, 14th government, neighborhood policy, regional organizations, neutralizing sanctions, convergence and cooperation.

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Extended Abstract

A) Introduction: The neighborhood policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been one of the main pillars of its foreign policy in the thirteenth and fourteenth governments. This policy was developed to strengthen relations with neighboring countries, create new economic opportunities, and reduce dependence on the oil economy. The main focus of this doctrine is to utilize regional capacities, foster constructive interactions, and reduce tensions on the international stage. In this regard, regional organizations such as the Islamic Chamber of Commerce play a significant role in advancing the objectives of the neighborhood policy. As one of the economic institutions affiliated with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, this organization provides a suitable platform for enhancing economic and trade cooperation among **Islamic countries**.

Research Objective

The main objective of this research is to examine the capacities, challenges, and strategies of the Islamic Republic of Iran in cooperation with regional organizations such as the Islamic Chamber of Commerce. The research seeks to answer the fundamental question of how Iran's neighborhood policy can facilitate more effective interactions and strengthen convergence with these regional entities. This objective includes identifying Iran's internal strengths, assessing external threats, and proposing solutions for optimal utilization of existing opportunities.

Research Methodology

This study employs the SWOT analysis method (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) to examine Iran's neighborhood policy and its interaction with the Islamic Chamber of Commerce from four dimensions. The research data has been collected through the analysis of official documents, examination of reports from regional organizations, and review of existing literature in this field. The findings of this analysis contribute to the formulation of strategies aimed at improving cooperation and optimizing the capacities of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce.

Research Findings:

The analysis indicates that Iran possesses diverse capacities for cooperation with the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, including its geopolitical position, strategic transit location, and efficient human resources. Additionally, membership in multiple regional organizations such as ECO and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation has created opportunities for expanding economic and trade relations. However, several challenges persist, including economic sanctions, trade infrastructure issues, and a lack of coordination among domestic institutions. The SWOT analysis demonstrates that by facilitating trade regulations, investing in infrastructure, and enhancing coordination between domestic and international institutions, Iran can effectively overcome these challenges.

Conclusion:

The research findings indicate that the neighborhood policy of the thirteenth and fourteenth governments can significantly strengthen the regional position of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Leveraging the capacities of organizations such as the Islamic Chamber of Commerce not only promotes economic development but also fosters greater convergence among Islamic countries. Establishing sustained communication with these organizations, utilizing new trade opportunities, and countering economic threats are among the key achievements of this policy. These findings highlight that active diplomacy and the strategic utilization of regional capacities can play a pivotal role in achieving the objectives of Iran's neighborhood policy.

A Feasibility study of using Makran Coasts to Implement the Economic Diplomacy Model in the Foreign Policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran

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analytical and documentary research methodologies to collect information and uses the case study methodology to analyze Economic diplomacy has gained significant importance in terms of managing foreign economic relationships in bilateral, regional, and global exchanges. This can act both as a way of fulfilling one's economic interests and as a tool to actualize political, security, and even cultural goals in the foreign policy of countries. Thus, paying attention to this issue has become more vital in the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran due to environmental and historical necessities. This issue has been clearly emphasized in major government documents. The development of Makran Coasts is a key approach to planning Iran's economic advancement, known as the Propeller of National Development. Infrastructure underdevelopment, inconvenient economic indicators, as well as the undesirable and extremely securitized image of the region, despite such advantages as unique potential in terms of connection to the open water, its continuous coastal line, maritime tourist attractions, convenient location in terms of international routes, fertile environment for agriculture and fisheries, sufficient resources to produce and exchange renewable energies, and the fossil fuel value chain are some instances that make the significance of developing Makran Coasts essential. Of course, this requires a specific

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regional development strategy (RDS) derived from the key national documents. Therefore, the main question in this article is whether the Makran region has the potential to implement the economic diplomacy model of the Islamic Republic of Iran. According to the theoretical framework and the findings of the current research, economic diplomacy that has a pattern consistent with major documents and appropriate to the characteristics of the Makran region; It has the possibility to be adopted as a regional development strategy in these coasts. According to the theoretical framework and the findings of the current research, economic diplomacy has a pattern consistent with main documents and appropriate to the characteristics of the Makran region; It has the possibility to be adopted as a regional development strategy in these coasts. In this regard, the matching of Makran's regional development characteristics with the mentioned model is discussed. The study is carried out using descriptive-the topic.

Keywords

Foreign policy, Economic Diplomacy, Makran coasts, Regional Development.

Extended Abstract

Introduction

Recent developments in international relations theory highlight the growing importance of economic factors in the foreign policies of states. A critical theoretical issue has been the interaction between the economy, centered on wealth, and politics, which is based on power. While some scholars, particularly in liberal and neoliberal frameworks, prioritize economic growth and its positive effects on societal welfare, others, particularly within the realist paradigm, consider the economy as a means to enhance national power. Economic diplomacy, which gained prominence after World War II, became especially significant after the Cold War. States and international actors increasingly use non-economic tools to enhance their economic share in the global marketplace, while leveraging economic power to achieve political, cultural, and security objectives. In this context, economic diplomacy plays a crucial role in the development of the Makran coast, intertwining the pursuit of economic goals with political, security, and international considerations. Iran's

strategic geographical position, linking it to open, closed, and semi-closed seas, provides significant geopolitical advantages for the implementation of its economic diplomacy. The Makran coast, with its historical and regional significance, has suffered from developmental neglect over recent decades. However, its unique political geography suggests that regional development here has both economic and international dimensions, making it an ideal candidate for Iran's economic diplomacy model. This model aims to foster regional development by attracting investment, boosting foreign trade, improving transit and tourism, combating sanctions, and strengthening international economic cooperation. The development of the Makran coast is thus a key strategic issue for Iran's foreign policy, especially in light of regional and global economic competition.

Literature Review

Studies on Iran's economic diplomacy indicate that this area has not been widely addressed by national research centers and policy-making institutions. Moreover, the lack of content is even more evident when examining its application to the regional development of the Makran coast. Foreign studies mainly focus on theoretical frameworks, conceptual clarifications, and comparative or empirical research on emerging powers like China, India, and the European Union.

Several Persian articles on Iran's economic diplomacy and its connection to development (regional) have been published. For instance, Sadeghi Shadani et al. (2021) in "A Model for Formulating Economic Diplomacy Policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran based on the Review of the Higher Level Documents" extracted a model of Iran's economic diplomacy based on these documents, but the alignment of this model with regional development strategies for the Makran coast was not considered. Damanpak Jami (2018) (2018) analyzed the achievements and challenges of Iran's economic diplomacy over the last four decades but did not focus on the synergy between economic diplomacy and regional development. Sajjadpour et al. (2018) designed a model for Iran's economic diplomacy, stressing factors like geopolitical and security aspects, but it did not address the model's implementation for regional projects like the

Makran coast. Arghavani & Gholami (2018) analyzed economic diplomacy in Iran's development programs and suggested improvements, though the focus on regional development was absent. Other articles (e.g., Danesh-Nia, 2012; Tabatabaei, 2009) emphasized global perspectives on economic diplomacy but did not address regional development in areas like Makran. In terms of Makran's regional development with international perspectives, studies such as those by Hafeznia et al. (2020) and Daryabari et al. (2017) have addressed the geopolitical importance of the Makran coast. However, they did not focus on activating economic diplomacy or propose practical models for economic development in this region.

Methodology

The approach of this research is descriptive-analytical, and the case study method has been employed for the analysis of the subject. It should be noted that in the data collection process, a library-based method has been applied, which is centered around the review of relevant documents and books related to the research topic. This primarily includes articles, specialized books, statistical resources, and primary internal documents (such as the General Policies of Resistance Economy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the directives of the Supreme Leader) as well as primary external sources. Notably, international documents such as those from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and studies concerning economic diplomacy, neighboring regions, and their relation to the Makran coasts have also been utilized.

Discussion

The development of the Makran coast within the framework of regional development literature requires a development strategy that aligns with the macro policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran and is compatible with the region's capacities. Based on the economic diplomacy model of Iran and the content analysis of key documents such as the Vision 2025, the policies outlined in the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Development Plans, and the Resistance Economy document, this

study proposes a framework for Iran's economic diplomacy, which can serve as a foundation for the development of the Makran coast. This framework includes prioritizing economic diplomacy, regionalism, technology transfer, energy diplomacy, countering foreign economic crises, enhancing Iran's national brand, improving foreign trade, attracting foreign investment, and utilizing geographical advantages. The development of the Makran coast can align with this economic diplomacy model and help strengthen Iran's economic relations with regional and global countries. Strategically located between the East-West and North-South corridors, this region can once again play a pivotal role as a commercial and energy hub. The tourism, cultural, and natural capacities of this region also present opportunities for the growth of the tourism industry and the attraction of foreign investments. Furthermore, development projects in Makran can contribute to enhancing Iran's national brand and improving its international image. Additionally, considering the region's energy potential, the development of the Makran coast can help increase Iran's share in global energy markets and counter sanctions. This project could serve as a tool to redefine Iran's foreign policy on both regional and global levels and strengthen its relations with neighboring countries and international economic institutions.

Conclusion

One of the most important advantages of geopolitical positioning for any country is its access to marine resources and connection through international waters to other nations. Historically, great civilizations have developed in maritime countries, and studies show that naval supremacy and international power are closely linked. Today, nearly three billion people around the world rely on seas, coasts, and islands for their livelihoods. About 90% of global trade occurs via maritime transport, and 70% of the world's population resides in coastal regions and islands. Iran's unique geographical position, connecting to all three types of seas—enclosed (Caspian Sea), semi-enclosed (Persian Gulf), and open (Sea of Oman/Makran)—has enabled its people to engage in marine life and long-distance maritime activities throughout history. However, as

maritime power shifted towards colonial states and due to scientific and industrial weaknesses, Iran's economic reliance on the sea has diminished over time. The government's issuance of policies for maritime development and the focus of Iran's foreign policy on neighboring maritime areas, alongside the rapid movements of regional competitors, clearly indicates the need for Iran's foreign policy to center on economic diplomacy to support maritime development. Economic diplomacy, which governs the management of foreign economic relations with international actors, plays a key role in driving maritime development. Essentially, maritime development is an international matter that requires cooperation and competition on regional and global scales in both bilateral and multilateral contexts. In this regard, the development of the Makran coasts in southeastern Iran, covering Hormozgan and Sistan and Baluchestan provinces, based on regional development principles, requires a strategy aligned with national high-level documents, such as five-year development plans, the 20-Year Vision Document, and the Resistance Economy Directive. This strategy should address economic, political, security, cultural, and social aspects of development. Upon analyzing the capabilities and needs of the Makran coasts, economic diplomacy emerges as a strategic driver for regional development. By focusing on economic diplomacy, the region can enhance foreign relations, attract foreign investment, and diversify trade, thus promoting small and large-scale businesses, supporting national economic growth, and contributing to regional prosperity

The Role of Marine/Ocean Economy in Iran's Economic Diplomacy

Nasrin Esmaili Aajabi¹

The international diplomatic space has undergone unprecedented transformation, and the concept of diplomacy is emerging in various forms in response to the developments in the global environment. One of the newly created diplomatic fields is maritime economic diplomacy, which is a new specialized field under the umbrella of economic diplomacy. It refers to a set of policies and trade actions of countries related to water resources and areas that, in the process of transforming diplomacy into new subtypes and evolving from land to ocean, provide new ways to achieve sustainable economic development. The present study seeks to answer the question of where is the place of the sea-based economy in Iran's economic diplomacy. The present study seeks to answer the question of what is the position of the maritime economy in Iran's economic diplomacy. To answer this question, this study was conducted in a review format and benefited from various domestic and foreign studies. The research findings show that Iran, in terms of its geostrategic and geopolitical location, has favorable geographical conditions for the quantitative and qualitative exploitation of the region's water capacities. In this context, by applying reasonable policies in maritime economic diplomacy, it will be possible to expand the level of trade, maritime and port cooperation with neighbors in the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea. Also, paying special attention to the maritime economy as a fundamental and developmental strategy in the conditions of sanctions and economic pressure on the country will be an important and key tool in achieving long-term goals centered on economic growth and development.

Keywords

Economic Diplomacy, Blue Economy, International Relations, Economic Development.

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Introduction:

Recent global shifts highlight the increasing politicization of economic interactions, where financial and trade dynamics serve strategic goals beyond economics. Economic strength is now a key factor in a nation's influence.

The Persian Gulf, a vital trade route, positions Iran alongside seven GCC countries. While these states hold vast oil and gas reserves, they face challenges like authoritarian governance, youth unemployment, cultural sensitivities, economic dependence on oil, geopolitical tensions, labor nationalization policies, and rapid urbanization, all impacting business internationalization.

Economic diplomacy now extends beyond traditional trade to include corporate and maritime diplomacy. Iran, seeking to reduce its reliance on oil, can benefit from blue economy strategies, yet despite 95% of trade relying on the sea, maritime sectors contribute only 12% to GDP.

With 20% of Iran's drinking water from desalination and 40% of its population in coastal regions, sustainable marine management is crucial. The blue economy spans marine transport, renewable energy, aquaculture, biotechnology, and environmental conservation, offering a path for economic diversification.

This study assesses Iran's blue economy potential in economic diplomacy, analyzing its opportunities, challenges, and strategies for sustainable growth.

Literature Review:

- Sobhanian et al. (2023): Reducing tariffs on aquaculture lowers production, while boosting productivity in aquaculture and maritime transport improves Iran's welfare and trade balance.
- Samii-Nasab (2022): Despite Iran's maritime economic potential, only 10-20% is utilized due to weak policies, lack of investment, and poor strategic planning. Solutions include raising awareness, boosting marine tourism, and creating a dedicated maritime development authority.
- Hosseini et al. (2021): Key drivers of employment growth in Bushehr include urban competitiveness, coastal investment, and marine biotechnology exports.

- Akomolafe et al. (2022): Ondo Province (Nigeria) has great potential for tourism and fishing, but outdated practices and underutilized resources hinder progress.
- Al-Harithi & Hanif (2020): The blue economy significantly contributes to economic growth in SAARC countries by enhancing fisheries, agriculture, and trade.
- Bier et al. (2020): Bangladesh's blue economy faces challenges like floods, pollution, and poor governance, but offers opportunities in tourism and biotechnology.
- Rogerson & Rogerson (2019): Investment is key to expanding coastal and marine tourism in South Africa.
- Tigar & Garnining (2018): Factors for successful marine tourism include landscapes, services, infrastructure, and environmental quality.
- Barry (2017): The blue economy in Bangladesh and South Asia is new but promising, requiring political will, research, and public awareness for sustainability.

Methodology:

This study has been conducted as a review and utilizes various domestic and international studies.

Discussion:

The blue economy refers to the sustainable use of water resources—including oceans, seas, and lakes—to drive economic growth, employment, and GDP. This concept extends beyond fisheries and tourism to include marine transportation, renewable energy, aquaculture, biotechnology, and seabed mining.

Iran's Maritime Strategic Potential

With 5,800 km of coastline, access to the Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, and the Indian Ocean, and a location on major trade corridors, Iran has significant but underutilized maritime potential. Only 5% of its coastal capacity is used, contributing just 10% of GDP, compared to over 50% in countries like China and Vietnam.

Key Challenges

- Uneven population distribution: Coastal provinces (25% of land) hold only 10% of the population.
- Weak infrastructure: Ports, tourism, and maritime industries lack investment.
- Aging transport fleet: Iran ranks 24th globally in shipping capacity but lacks shipbuilding capabilities.
- Limited foreign investment: High costs and inefficiencies reduce competitiveness.

Economic Opportunities

- Energy exports: Iran's ports can expand oil and gas trade to the Caspian and Europe.
- Transit hub potential: Strategic location could generate \$10 billion+ in trade revenue.
- Shipbreaking industry: Iran currently has 0% market share, while Bangladesh earns \$2.8 billion annually.
- Renewable energy: Wind, solar, and wave energy offer long-term sustainability.
- Maritime tourism: Free trade zones like Kish and Chabahar can boost tourism and investment.

Solutions for Sustainable Growth

- Develop ports and logistics infrastructure
- Expand special economic zones to attract investors
- Modernize the shipping fleet and promote shipbuilding
- Enhance fisheries and aquaculture industries
- Improve governance and environmental regulations

By leveraging its strategic location and natural resources, Iran can become a regional leader in the blue economy. However, success requires investment, policy coordination, and sustainable development strategies.

Conclusion:

Economic diplomacy has rapidly evolved into various forms, including corporate and trade diplomacy, with maritime diplomacy emerging as a key parallel to green diplomacy. This approach shifts

regulatory frameworks from land to oceans, emphasizing sustainable marine resource utilization.

A clear and well-defined vision for the blue economy is essential, ensuring alignment among all stakeholders and institutions. Policies should be logical, goal-oriented, and based on national interests, rather than relying on trial-and-error approaches that could waste valuable resources and time. Effective maritime development requires adherence to the **golden triangle of time, regulation, and planning**, where policies are implemented within the right timeframe, legally sound, and structured with clear responsibilities and execution frameworks.

Sustainable development in maritime sectors cannot be achieved through shortcuts or temporary solutions. A lack of strategic planning can result in the loss of natural and human resources, making the current generation accountable to future ones. Additionally, economic stability in coastal regions depends on structured and transparent policies. Private sector investment and industry growth are not driven by directives alone but by well-structured, reliable frameworks that earn their trust.

By strengthening maritime economic diplomacy, nations can ensure responsible resource management, long-term coastal development, and a sustainable foundation for future generations.

Evaluating the Foreign Policy Approach of the Islamic Republic of Iran Towards Global Grand Strategies

Mohammad Khoshheikal Azad¹

As countries find themselves in a world in transition where major powers are charting their grand strategies to shape the future of international politics, Iran's strategic environment is also becoming more unpredictable and uncertain, confronting the country with challenges that traditional institutions and structures are ill-equipped to address and focus on. Therefore, this article, using a descriptive-analytical research method, seeks to uncover the essence of new changes in the transitional global order in order to provide guidance for charting the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in an unpredictable regional and global environment. Therefore, the main question of this article is: In a world in transition, what are the fundamental and long-term drivers that shape Iran's foreign policy?

The hypothesis of this article is that the most important driver of Iran's foreign policy is the grand global strategies of major powers such as the US "Asia-centric" policy and China's "Belt and Road" initiative. The research findings show that the United States, by adopting the grand strategy of pivoting to Asia in 2011 and China, by adopting the grand strategy of the Belt and Road Initiative in 2013, are seeking to create change, consolidate and maintain their role and leadership on the global stage and shape global policies using an interconnected network of economic and military tools; therefore, the foreign policy approach of the Islamic Republic of Iran should be combined, balanced, dynamic and intelligent, and aimed at reviving the Islamic-Iranian civilization and prioritizing convergence between East and West Asia.

Keywords

Grand global strategies, Strategic Environment, Foreign policy approach of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Asia-centric policy, Belt and Road Initiative.

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Introduction

Politicians and thinkers have called the 21st century the Pacific Century of America or the Asian Century and Millennium and the Chinese Era or the post-American transition period; in which the United States as a great power, along with China as an emerging power, are the main players on the international political scene. In analyzing the new strategic environment in the world in transition, we are faced with developments at both the international and domestic levels. At the global level, we are faced with globalism (or globalization), the information revolution, complex interdependence, the distribution of power among non-state actors and power transition, and at the domestic level, we are faced with the relative decline of economic power and superior military power in the United States, and the rise of relative economic and military power in China as a great global power. The important point is that it seems that by 2030, no country will be a hegemonic power and we will also witness the rise of other countries.

In a world in transition, we are witnessing the rise and advancement of East Asia as the most dynamic and history-making region in the world in the 21st century, the economic crisis of the United States (and its global share declining from 70 percent in 1945 to 20 percent in 2030), distributed power, power shifts, and the Thucydides trap, the rise of China as a global power superior to the United States and Europe in 2045, increasing interdependence in the global economy (the United States and China together account for a quarter of the world's population, a third of the world's economy, and a fifth of world trade), and the fluidity of the strategic environment. Meanwhile, in this regard, middle powers are also playing a role in different regions.

Literature Review

Vali Golmohammadi and Hamidreza Karimi (1401) in their article "Iran's Foreign Policy Requirements in the Post-Western World; From Strategic Isolation to Strategic Independence" within the framework of the theory of "strategic autonomy", believe that in the transitional conditions of the international system, whose main characteristic is the redistribution of power, wealth and the rewriting of international rules,

strategic isolation is not a relative advantage but a potential threat against Iran's strategic interests; therefore, diversifying the geopolitical approaches to foreign policy and multilateralism through balancing relations with Asia, building coalitions based on emerging issues, etc. is necessary.

Mohammad Reza Bahrami (1402) has called his proposed strategy "strategic autonomy" along with a balanced approach in the conflicts of other parties." From his perspective, strategic autonomy means non-isolation, independence, lack of inherent hostility towards any country or coalition of countries (with the exception of the Zionist regime), interaction with all poles, having a certain level of deterrence capability, and the need to revive Iranian-Islamic civilization. These two views are similar to the strategy proposed by Indian scholars of adopting a policy of "autonomy" against great powers.

Nematollah Mozaffarpour (1401) in his book "Proportion and Graduality; Foreign Policy Essentials in the Second Step of the Islamic Revolution" considers its comprehensive plan to be a "resistance foreign policy" and the necessity of breaking through the vicious circle of sanctions, inflation, and the securitization of Iran by the West. Also, Saqafi and Ahadi have proposed the "Look East" policy with an emphasis on balance and non-negation of the West, and Dr. Larijani has proposed the "Umm al-Qura" doctrine.

Balzac and Ramadan al-Alban (2019) in the book "Comparative Grand Strategy; A Framework and Several Cases on Iran's Grand Strategy" in the Framework of Neoclassical Realism Theory believe that two cultural and ideological schools, or the Imam's Line and the other emphasizing the international structure or the line of progress, are effective and in opposition to each other. The policy of balance or non-alignment and "Iranian independence" has not changed; but Iranian society has given way to the Islamic Ummah.

By reviewing the above literature, the innovation of this article is to focus on the impact of global grand strategies on the direction of Iran's foreign policy and to provide strategic and policy recommendations about which less literature has been produced.

Methodology & Conceptual Framework

The concept of “Grand Strategy” is a conceptual roadmap and macro-policy that seeks to combine, integrate the “Ends”, “Ways” and “Means” of national power in line with politics, security and national interests and "purposefully change the existing order between two or more intelligent phenomena or external threats". Conventional strategy is more focused on a specific tool, such as military strategy; but grand strategy uses diplomatic, informational, military and economic tools. From another perspective, grand strategy plays a key role not necessarily after war but also in peacetime, and politicians at high levels design it with a broad consensus towards the goals of the government.

Therefore, this article, using a descriptive-analytical research method, seeks to uncover the essence of new changes in the transitional global order in order to provide guidance for charting the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in an unpredictable regional and global environment.

Discussion

The strategic environment has undergone significant changes and developments at the global and regional levels. Globalism is inevitable, and political entities, especially the great powers, are seeking to globalize and exploit this process for their own benefit in the world's political chess arena. In other words, a global village is taking shape, and various theories such as the Dual-Spacization world, for example in the physical and virtual space or the Internet, have been proposed. In this regard, the continuity and interdependence of economic and security, the multi-centralization of the economic order, the emergence of emerging powers, the preparation of the transition of power, the decentralization of the geography of power in the Western world and the Atlantic Ocean, and the entry of the non-Western world into the power orbit of the international system, the formation of new international and regional institutions, the role of religious, cultural, and identity components, the prevalence and consolidation of a significant part of new norms, the multiplicity, plurality, and diversity of actors and influential forces in international equations, and the like,

demonstrate that the international system is multidimensional, fluid, interconnected, and multilayered.

Therefore, power in the new sense is not only hard power, but also includes soft power and even a combination of these two and the formation of smart power. For example, in implementing its grand strategy, the United States has not neglected all the tools of power, which are a combination of hard, soft, smart power and even sharp power, which is an aggressive power aimed at imposing its value ideas. In this regard, the transition from focusing on traditional military power to other emerging dimensions of power, cultural, semantic, normative, and discursive characteristics has become relevant and authentic, which can be referred to as a "semantic turn" in international relations. From this perspective, emerging powers can be divided into two spectrums: emerging economic powers and emerging semantic powers. The Islamic Republic of Iran has a distinctive position and role due to the simultaneous possession of military and economic power and independence, in parallel with semantic and discursive power.

Considering these developments, grand strategy requires leadership, the types of which are divided into transactional, charismatic and transformational leadership. Leadership is not as simply a normal adaptation to new strategic conditions or environments, but the leader must create a fundamental change in the country's grand strategy, to create change by acting and being an example and effectively guiding actors from within and not from behind.

Conclusion

Politicians and thinkers have called the 21st century America's Pacific century, Asia's century and millennium or China's; therefore, this article attempted to discover the essence of new changes, explain and present the foreign policy of the I.R. Iran in the form of a proposed grand strategy by examining the grand strategy of great and medium powers.

The US grand strategy of "Pivot to Asia" was designed in 2011 with a significant geopolitical and geo-economic transformation at both global and domestic levels with the ends of managing the rise of

China. Its ways were leadership and complex balance of power or "cooperation and competition" instead of "containment and confrontation". The political mean was the transfer of personnel to Asia and the military means were pursued by linking allies and partners in the form of "enhanced deterrence" and economic leverage was pursued with the initiative of "Trans-Pacific Partnership" and "Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity". At the same time, bilateral cooperation with China was pursued through the Joint Commission on Trade and Commerce and the Joint Military Committee.

China's grand strategy "Belt and Road" was launched in 2013 with the ends of removing American obstacles and continuing China's economic growth and development and national security. The way was based on the "core country relations" model and based on win-win cooperation and neither conflict nor hegemony, which was declared by "benevolent" leadership. The economic means were the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Development Bank, the BRICS New Development Bank, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement and the "China Arctic" policy, etc., and the military means were the "active defense" strategy of strengthening the army, military competition and regional and international security cooperation and maintaining "strategic deterrence". At the same time, bilateral military cooperation with the United States was pursued with the new model of "core country military relations" and within the framework of defense dialogues.

In the proposed grand strategy of the I.R. Iran as a middle power in the West Asian region, based on a new strategic environment with mutual economic and security interdependence and coherence, decentralization of the geography of power, and the entry of the non-Western world, and the nobility of cultural and normative characteristics that represent two geopolitical and semantic turns, its ends were outlined based on the principles of dignity, wisdom, and expediency and national interests of the country into two categories: National and Transnational (Islamic). The way, considering the geopolitical turn (Asia's rise to power) and the semantic turn of the world in transition (civilizational sphere), was proposed in a combination and based on the theory of "Realistic Idealism" in

addition to creating a balance at the regional level and between regions, with the "neither East nor West" policy, which is somehow reminiscent of the dynamic non-alignment policy, "cooperation and competition". In economic means, increasing the presence of diplomats and commercial attaché in East Asia and increasing national power in strategic and small-medium industries, digital economy, information technology and knowledge-based companies, and at the multilateral level, cooperation through regional organizations were proposed. Proposed military means are "comprehensive deterrence" and a defensive policy rather than an offensive one at the bilateral, regional and global levels in the two regions of West and East Asia, with an emphasis on the "value of the commons" in dialogue forums and the creation of a mechanism for constructive military cooperation and joint exercises, etc.

The Cognitive Perception of the Ninth and Tenth Governments (after Islamic revolution) Regarding Iran's Nuclear Negotiations with the West

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The cognitive framework of politicians and policymakers is one of the most important paradigms for understanding and analyzing the behaviors, actions, and decision-making processes of these individuals. The cognitive system of individuals, which encompasses perception, worldview, beliefs, values, and the prevailing discourses that underpin these beliefs, has profound roles and impacts within this process. The decision-making patterns regarding Iran's nuclear issue, as the most significant foreign policy challenge in the post-revolutionary era, have undeniably been influenced by cognitive psychology, perceptual structures, and the leadership styles of the ruling politicians in this domain. In the present study, we aim to investigate and comprehend the cognitive frameworks of the ninth and tenth administrations of Iran and their impacts on Iran's political approaches and decisions concerning the nuclear dossier and negotiations with the West. Therefore, the primary research question can be framed as: How have the cognitive perceptions of the ninth and tenth governments of Iran influenced their political approaches towards Iran's nuclear negotiations with the West? The authors employ a qualitative methodology with a descriptive and analytical approach in this research. It is worth noting that data collection is conducted through note-taking and reviewing books, articles, and online resources. Due to the exploratory nature of the study, the authors refrain from positing any hypotheses. Ultimately, through the analysis of descriptive data, it can be stated that the cognitive frameworks and

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prevailing discourses underpinning the beliefs of the ninth and tenth administrations, significantly influenced the transformation of Iran's political approach to nuclear negotiations with the West, shifting from détente to increasing confrontation.

Keywords

Nuclear negotiations, Iranian foreign policy, Trumpism, cognitive system.

Extended Abstract

This research delves into the cognitive frameworks of the Iranian governments during the ninth and tenth administrations (2005-2013) regarding the nuclear negotiations between Iran and Western powers. It explores how the unique historical, ideological, and political contexts of these administrations shaped their perceptions and responses to the nuclear discourse. The study employs a qualitative analysis, utilizing primary sources such as official statements, speeches, and policy documents alongside interviews with key political actors from the era. The ninth administration, under President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, is characterized by a hardline stance that framed the nuclear issue as a matter of national pride and sovereignty. This perception was deeply rooted in Iran's historical grievances against Western interference and was further amplified by the rhetoric of resistance that defined Ahmadinejad's foreign policy. The administration's cognitive biases led to a heightened focus on the notion of victimization, consequently influencing negotiating strategies that prioritized defiance over compromise. In contrast, the tenth administration, while also led by Ahmadinejad, showcases a nuanced evolution in cognitive framing towards the latter years of the presidency. As international sanctions intensified and economic pressures mounted, there was a gradual recognition within the leadership of the need for pragmatic engagement. This shift was reflected in their attempts to navigate the complexities of negotiations, albeit in a cautious manner that constantly weighed the risks of perceived capitulation against national integrity. The research highlights the role of domestic political dynamics and public sentiment in shaping these cognitive perceptions. It examines how

resistance narratives and national identity were mobilized during negotiations, affecting both the rhetoric and strategies employed by the Iranian state. It also considers the implications of these cognitive frameworks on the outcomes of the nuclear talks, particularly in terms of trust-building, communication, and policy formulation. Ultimately, this analysis contributes to a deeper understanding of the interplay between cognitive psychology and international relations, illustrating how the perceptions of political leaders can significantly influence diplomatic processes. The findings suggest that comprehending the cognitive biases and frameworks of political actors is essential for predicting and analyzing their behavior in international negotiations, especially in high-stakes contexts such as nuclear diplomacy.

Research Method

1. **Qualitative Approach:** This study will adopt a qualitative research approach to gain an in-depth understanding of the cognitive frameworks at play. This methodology is especially suited for exploring complex social phenomena like political decision-making and interactions in the context of international negotiations.

2. **Document Analysis:** We will conduct a thorough analysis of official documents, including policy papers, negotiation transcripts, and press releases from the Ninth (Ahmadinejad) and Tenth (also Ahmadinejad) governments. This will help to identify the stated goals, strategies, and narratives that characterized their approach to nuclear negotiations.

3. **Interviews:** Semi-structured interviews will be conducted with former government officials, diplomats, and academic experts who were involved in or critically analyzed the nuclear negotiations. This primary data collection will provide personal insights and firsthand accounts that underscore the cognitive frames used by the governments.

4. **Media Analysis:** A content analysis of national and international media coverage during the period of the Ninth and Tenth governments will be performed. This analysis will highlight how media representations intersected with governmental narratives and public perceptions of the nuclear negotiations.

5. Comparative Analysis: The study will compare the cognitive frameworks of the Ninth and Tenth governments, focusing on how each government's ideological underpinnings influenced their negotiation strategies and responses to Western policies.

6. Theoretical Framework: The research will engage with cognitive theory and constructivist approaches in international relations to analyze how perceptions and beliefs shape foreign policy decisions. This theoretical lens will help contextualize the findings within broader scholarly debates regarding state behavior and diplomacy.

By systematically employing these methods, this research seeks to unveil the intricate cognitive dimensions that informed the Iranian government's approach to nuclear negotiations with the West, contributing to a deeper understanding of the intersection between domestic politics and international diplomacy in Iran.

Discussion

The ninth and tenth governments of Iran, which operated under the leadership of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, were founded on an ideology of Islamism and resistance against the global hegemonic order. These governments, emphasizing national independence and self-reliance, adopted a critical stance toward the existing international order. Their perception of nuclear negotiations was also shaped by this worldview. From their perspective, Iran's nuclear program was not only an inalienable right for the development of peaceful technology but also a symbol of resistance against Western pressures and an effort to establish balance within the international system. This perception led the ninth and tenth governments to view nuclear negotiations not as an opportunity for constructive engagement but as a battleground to counter Western pressures and assert the legitimacy of Iran's positions. This approach, epitomized by slogans such as "Nuclear energy is our undeniable right," reflected their endeavor to preserve national sovereignty and resist external sanctions and threats.

One of the primary reasons for Iran's pursuit of its nuclear program was to secure national interests and energy security. The ninth and tenth governments, recognizing Iran's need to develop advanced technologies and diversify its energy sources, viewed the nuclear

program as a strategic necessity. From their perspective, acquiring nuclear technology not only enhanced national power and self-sufficiency but also positioned Iran as a dominant player in the Middle East region. However, their perception of nuclear negotiations with the West was influenced by the belief that the West sought to limit Iran's capabilities and prevent the country from accessing advanced technologies. Consequently, nuclear negotiations were seen as a tool to safeguard Iran's nuclear achievements and avoid further sanctions. This approach led the ninth and tenth governments to adopt more rigid positions in negotiations, seeking stronger guarantees to preserve Iran's nuclear rights.

The cognitive framework of the ninth and tenth governments regarding nuclear negotiations was shaped by multiple factors, including ideology, national interests, international relations, and the influence of domestic actors. This perception led these governments to view nuclear negotiations as a means to resist external pressures and preserve Iran's nuclear achievements. However, this approach was accompanied by significant challenges and limitations, resulting in numerous deadlocks in nuclear negotiations during this period. Ultimately, the experiences of this era had a profound impact on the formulation of Iran's new strategies in international engagements.

Conclusion

This research investigates the cognitive frameworks employed by the Ninth and Tenth governments of Iran in formulating their approaches to nuclear negotiations with Western powers. By analyzing the ideological underpinnings, historical contexts, and strategic perceptions that influenced decision-making processes during this pivotal period, we underscore the complexity of Iran's diplomatic posture. Our findings reveal that both administrations operated within distinct cognitive paradigms: while the Ninth government, under Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, adopted a confrontational stance rooted in anti-imperialist rhetoric and nationalistic fervor, the Tenth government exhibited a nuanced approach, attempting to balance assertiveness with pragmatic engagement. This divergence elucidates the interplay between domestic political considerations and international diplomatic

strategies, highlighting how the ruling elites' perceptions of nuclear capabilities as a source of national identity and power shaped their negotiation tactics. Ultimately, this analysis contributes to a deeper understanding of the intricate dynamics in Iran's foreign policy, reflecting how cognitive frameworks can significantly impact state behavior in the international arena. Our study underscores the need for a comprehensive examination of cognitive factors in political decision-making, particularly in contexts characterized by complex geopolitical rivalries. The implications of this research extend beyond Iran's nuclear diplomacy, offering insights into the broader field of international relations, where understanding the cognitive biases of state actors can illuminate the pathways of conflict and cooperation.

The Role of Energy in Russia's Diplomacy with the European Union (2014–2024)

Hamed Alizadeh¹

Mohammad Torabi²

Energy is a critical resource for human survival with an indispensable role in creating relations between countries. As one of the largest holders of oil, gas, and coal reserves, Russia has used to supply a significant portion of global energy, particularly to the European Union (EU). Therefore, this study examines the relationship between Russia's energy and the EU, as well as Moscow's energy diplomacy toward the EU. The central question of this research is what role has energy played in Russia's diplomacy with the EU from 2014 to 2024? The hypothesis of the article is that Russia has used to take advantage of energy to increase the EU's reliance on this country but this dependence sharply declined after Russia invaded Ukraine. The research findings reveal that before this invasion in 2022, Russia was a key provider of natural gas to the EU, leading to mutual economic interdependence. Therefore, Russia had adopted coercive diplomacy against the European Union, using energy leverage. After the invasion of Ukraine, the EU imposed severe sanctions on Russia, including limiting and reducing oil and gas imports. In response, Russia reconsidered its energy diplomacy by diversifying its export markets, offering discounted prices to non-European buyers, enforcing stricter payment systems for the EU, and seeking to create divisions among EU members and attract satisfaction from countries like Hungary.

Keywords

Economic Interdependence, Russia, European Union (EN), Diplomacy, Energy.

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Extended Abstract

Introduction

In today's world, energy has become a critical strategic resource that plays a pivotal role in regional policy and global strategies. Russia exemplifies this reality because it ranks as the third-largest oil producer and the second-largest natural gas producer worldwide, supplying a significant portion of the world's energy, particularly to the European Union (EU). This dependence has a long history, dating back several decades. Accordingly, this study seeks to examine the role of energy in the relationship between Russia and Europe and answer the question "What is the role of energy in Russia's diplomatic approach towards the European Union from 2014 to 2024?"

Literature Review

The literature relevant to this research includes works, such as Vosoughi et al. (2015), "Mutual Energy Strategy in Russia-EU Relations", Momeni and Tavakoli (2021), "Geopolitics of Energy, Russia-EU Relations (Leaders' Perception of Nord Stream 2)", Simbar and Rezapour (2019), "Geopolitical Power and Russia's Geo-Energy Relations with the European Union in Greater Eurasia", Siddi (2022), "Energy Relations Between Russia and the EU", and Tichý (2019), "Energy Relations Between Russia and the EU: A Discourse Approach".

Methodology

This study utilizes a descriptive-analytical method in addition to statistical data. In other words, a part of the research presents various charts and statistics on Russia's energy exports to Europe over several years.

Discussion

The energy trade between Russia and Europe dates back to the 1960s when the Soviet Union supplied oil and gas to several Eastern European nations. Over time, and from the mid-1970s, Western European countries also became consumers of Soviet oil and gas. Since the 1990s, the European Union has been the main consumer of Russian oil, gas, and coal. The geographical proximity, ease of

transportation of gas, oil, and coal, and the low cost of these energy resources have all played vital roles in the mutual energy dependency between Russia and the European Union in recent decades. Therefore, the EU, particularly Germany, launched the Nord Stream 2 project to enhance energy cooperation with Russia. During this period, Russia has strategically used energy, particularly gas, for political purposes such as the invasion of Georgia and dissatisfaction with Ukraine's elections. Consequently, the EU often had to comply with Russia's demands. Thus, Russia has successfully utilized energy diplomacy to increase Europe's dependence on its oil, gas, and coal. Sudden price increases, gas disruptions in the winter, imposed contractual terms to EU member states, high energy costs, and investments by Russian energy companies in Europe's political, economic, sports, and social sectors all were instrument tools of Russia's energy diplomacy, leading to Europe's much reliance on Russian energy. Therefore, up to early 2022, Russia had been the main gas supplier to the European Union, accounting for 76.4% of its gas imports. Meanwhile, the EU imported 61.9% of Russia's gas, and other European nations purchased 14.5%. Due to the Russia-Ukraine war, the EU imposed sanctions on Moscow, and the breakdown of energy diplomacy between both sides resulted in a sharp reduction in Russia's share of EU gas supplies. Furthermore, Russian gas exports to the EU decreased from 56% in January 2021 to 12% in October 2022. The United States, Norway, and other countries (such as Algeria and Azerbaijan) have gained Russia's place in the European Union energy market.

Conclusions & Suggestions

Before Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, Russia played a key role in providing the European Union's gas. This need led to significant economic dependency between the two sides, with Russia using its energy as leverage for political pressure on the EU. However, after Russia invaded Ukraine, the EU decided to impose severe sanctions against Russia, including reducing its oil and gas purchases. In response to the EU, Russia used its energy diplomacy to diversify its energy export destinations, offer energy discounts to non-European customers, introduce stricter payment conditions for the EU, and attempt to create division among the EU countries and receive support

from nations like Hungary. In this status, Russia's energy diplomacy has sought alternative markets to the EU and has been able to mitigate the impact of EU sanctions through oil exports to India and China. However, Russia has not recovered from the losses from reduced gas exports to the EU. The construction of the Power of Siberia 2 project and the delivery of gas to China, Mongolia, Turkey, and India, is a part of Russia's energy diplomacy in the coming years. Furthermore, Russia has signed new agreements with Turkey and Azerbaijan to transport gas to Europe through these countries. In addition to these measures, reputable Russian companies have managed to sign contracts and memorandums with Iran, Azerbaijan, and Turkmenistan to extract oil and gas, to use their expertise and technology to provide Russia's energy interests.

The international responsibility of states in the use of artificial intelligence in weapons, with emphasis on violations of the laws of war in Gaza

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Artificial intelligence systems, such as quad copters, automatic weapons, and lethal robots, now create various legal complications in the absence of international norms and regulations. What we are witnessing today in Gaza and the West Bank is a clear violation of the laws of war due to the use of deadly weapons equipped with artificial intelligence, which has actually caused the killing of civilians. The use of special technologies in war, such as war software systems that select and act on targets based on sensor processing, is a matter of concern to the international community. Examples of these types of weapons include the Israeli-made Harpy system (automatic warfare systems designed to detect, attack and destroy radar emitters), the American Phalanx system, and several others. Obligations in this direction, identifying and understanding the legal concepts of international law due to the emergence and rapid application of artificial intelligence, and analyzing the existing norms of international law from the perspective of this new phenomenon, are very worrying. In this article, while enumerating the laws and customs governing the law of war, the responsibility of governments for international illegal acts in the use of automatic weapons is discussed, and the question is raised as who is accountable for those actions of governments not prohibited in using AI-powered weapons that cause casualties against civilians and also

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violate the laws of war, and with this description, who is responsible for the Israeli government's unlawful actions in Gaza?

The present study considers the answer to this question to be the creation of a legal framework in the form of a treaty, and the findings of the study show that the rules governing international law indicate that countries should be held responsible for such acts. The present research is a documentary and library study with reference to documents, conventions and other rules of international law.

Keywords

military equipment, artificial intelligence, lethal weapons, automatic, responsibility of governments.

Extended Abstract

Introduction: AI-powered systems are becoming increasingly complex and are often used in important areas such as public transportation, medicine, military needs and even public security. In the meantime, the profound disruptions that AI is causing in many areas cannot be ignored. These disruptive changes raise important ethical, legal, social and technical questions about how to ensure that the deployment of AI is harmless to the public. There is no doubt that as the intelligent system becomes widespread, societies are inevitably faced with the issue of limiting the use and possession of some types of AI systems. These systems such as lethal drones, autonomous weapons and lethal robots are now creating legal complexities in the absence of international norms and regulations.

What we are witnessing in Gaza and the West Bank is due to the use of lethal weapons of expediency to artificial intelligence, which in essence cause killing and others. The use of specific technologies in warfare, such as software systems that select and act on sensor processing, is a matter of concern for the international community. Examples of such weapons include the Israeli-made Harpy system (an autonomous weapon system designed for radar detection, attack, and damage), the American Phalanx system, and others. Studies in this regard, identifying and understanding the international legal rights arising from the rapid emergence and application of artificial

intelligence, and analyzing existing international norms from the perspective of this new phenomenon, are very worrying

Literature Review:

According to Bérénice Boutin(2023) a state can incur responsibility in relation to violations of international law involving military applications of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies. She discusses state responsibility for the wrongful use of AI-enabled military technologies and the question of attribution of conduct, as well as state responsibility prior to deployment, for failure to ensure compliance of AI systems with international law at the stages of development or acquisition. Further, it analyses derived state responsibility, which may arise in relation to the conduct of other states or private actors.

Birgitta Dresp-Langley(2023) writes technological progress has brought about the emergence of machines that have the capacity to take human lives without human control. These represent an unprecedented threat to humankind. He concludes the potential consequences of a deployment of AWS for citizen stakeholders are incommensurable, and it is time to raise awareness in the public domain of the kind of potential threats identified, and to encourage legal policies ensuring that these threats will not materialize.

Despite the great importance of the subject, not much research has been done on this subject. In an article titled “The Use of Military Robots on the Battlefield in Light of the Principles of Humanitarian Law,” Reza Eslami and Narges Ansari addressed the issue of the use of artificial intelligence in war and human rights violations. In the abstract of this article, they stated, “Military robots are one of the newest types of weapons that have slowly gained a significant position in the armies of powerful countries and even some third world countries in recent years. The main challenge facing these robots is the issue of compliance of this technology with the rules of international humanitarian law. With the entry of military robots into this field, due to the degree of autonomy and artificial intelligence of these types of weapons, concerns arise as to whether robots alone (without the presence of humans on the battlefield) can distinguish military targets from civilian ones and, on the other hand, observe the principle of

proportionality in relation to military advantage and the number of casualties in an attack. Also, the responsibility arising from the actions of military robots should be examined. In this article, while examining the aforementioned principles, the degree of compliance of military robots with these principles has been examined.

In terms of the research background of this issue, since the creation of unmanned aircraft and drones, the attention of legal scholars of the international community has been drawn to these technical advances. Fully autonomous weapons or combat robots, which are a much more advanced generation of this type of weapon, have also attracted much attention from thinkers of the international legal system in various fields of this field.

Methodology: The present study uses a descriptive and analytical method to examine the responsibility of the states for the use of weapons equipped with artificial intelligence and the killing of civilians and it is a documentary and library study with reference to documents, conventions and other international laws. In this article, in addition to addressing the laws and rules governing the law of war, the exercise of state responsibility for internationally wrongful acts in the use of automated weapons is discussed, and the question of who is responsible for the state's prohibition in Israel on the use of applications for the people who use them is discussed. The present study answers this question by creating legal rules in the form of a treaty based on the knowledge and findings of the research on the rules of international law that the state should have a role in this regard.

Discussion: In this article, in addition to listing the laws and customs governing the law of war, the application of state responsibility for internationally wrongful acts in the use of autonomous weapons is discussed, and the question of who can be held responsible for the state's prohibition in Israel on the use of applications for the people who use them. The present study provides an answer to this question in the creation of legal rules in the form of a treaty based on the knowledge and findings of research on the rules of international law that the state should have a role in relation to these species. According to B er enice Boutin (2023) When the deployment of AI systems on the battlefield results in violations of international obligations, the responsibility of the state can

be engaged if it is demonstrated that the wrongful conduct in question is attributable to the state. The notion of attribution of conduct is a cornerstone of the law of state responsibility. Essentially, attribution of conduct consists in attaching to the state the actions or omissions of individuals or entities acting on its behalf.

Conclusion: Based on the principle of conventional state responsibility, responsibility for laws can be attributed to the state that has authority over it. In addition, state responsibility helps to better comply with international law. Currently, there is a lack of legal architecture to address autonomous systems. The demand to create and update legal architecture to appropriately control artificial intelligence is growing. Some states may be tempted to use the legal vacuum existing in the international community regarding autonomous weapons systems to circumvent state responsibility for the unlawful use of force. However, if it is possible to attribute state responsibility, the incentive to use the vacuum is reduced.

It is wise to assess where the applicable law for regulating fully autonomous lethal weapons lies. Since the means of warfare available to superpowers such as Israel and the United States in an armed conflict such as the one we are witnessing today in Gaza are not unlimited, any lethal autonomous weapon must comply with international humanitarian law, and in particular with its fundamental principles: the principles of distinction, proportionality, the prohibition of unnecessary suffering (the Gaza Healing Hospital is a prime example), and the rules that flow from these principles. Furthermore, wherever international human rights law instruments do not provide adequate provisions, parties to armed conflict are constrained by the principles of humanity and the dictates of public conscience. In short, international law today has failed to prevent everything it has set itself.