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Analysis of the Relationship between Iran and England from the Geopolitical Point of View

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ABSTRACT

The goal of the current research is to, geopolitically; analyze the mutual relationship between Iran and England. Considering Iran's special situations, some due to the Islamic Revolution and some others due to some certain changes (e.g. Iran & Iraq war), Iran has experienced several ups and downs. Some other changes in relationship resulted from the ideological nature of the Islamic Republic of Iran which has led to specific international frameworks and behavior. Meanwhile, the type of relationship between Iran and powerful countries such as England is of significance. Since England has been an important influencing power on the local issues and foreign relations as well in the region, it has had special relations with Iran throughout its history. The traditional competition of England and Russia and its affluent impacts on most historical incidents in Iran and England's special status before the success of the Iranian Islamic Revolution, all were reasons to the particular relationship between the country and Islamic Republic of Iran since February 11th 1979. This study seeks to reach a geopolitical analysis of Iran and England mutual relations. Establishment of a mutual stable relationship and providing scientific and applicable offers to the country can cause improvement of scientific and technological level of our country and enables it to integrate the international foreign policies.

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INTRODUCTION

Recognition of the governments, countries and continuous identification of their goals, policies and plans as well as their abilities and vulnerabilities is an essential tool for a country's future planning and decision making about other countries or regions worldwide.

500 years ago, the English, having first entered Iran as businessmen, transformed the commercial influence to political and military influence as it went. Finally, they were even able to have Iran close its eyes to part of its territory. In the very first years of the thirteenth solar century they caused the generation of Pahlavi dynasty in Iran and prepared for the fall of Mosaddeq's national government at the time of the Cold War. Anyway, the Britain Kingdom lost its power as the Cold War began, and consequently, tried to keep its benefits in Iran and Middle East under the shadow of the super power capitalist arose from the ashes of the Cold War.

However, Islamic revolution of Iran disturbed all the power equations in the region and the Britain government, as the world second hand power, had to revise its attitude to Iran.

The changes of the governments which were followed by their foreign policy orientations, has had impacts on the foreign relations of the both sides. In terms of the commercial relations after the revolution, the volume of Britain exportation has been more than the Iranian import from that country. Iran's partial economical improvements, particularly in technical and engineering, hygiene, and medicine, and regarding the needs of Iran in different sections for speed up the intensive interest in its improvement after the success of the Islamic Republic of Iran including scientific and technological and the requirement to the political support from other countries, all justify the stable relations with England. The above issues need geopolitical analysis for detailed study.

Since the analysis of governmental/political issues, including relationships between the countries in terms of geopolitics, provides good practical results to the researchers and managers of the country. On the other hand, geopolitics discuss the political world map with a comprehensive vision and the approach of communication between local and regional changes with the international system has provided a vast view and frames it within a strategic perspective and simultaneously, demonstrates the decoration of the actors, elements and

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achievements of a country on the world's chess competition. Therefore, the analysis of the relation between Iran and England as a regional and international power is considerable. The positive geopolitical variables of the two countries can properly prepare for the needs for a mutual stable relation. As mentioned, the current research seeks to study the geopolitical analysis of Iran and England relationships. On this basis, the main research questions include: Which of the geopolitical elements leaves a negative influence on the relationship between Iran and England? What are their roles? How can the role of the geopolitical elements in line of the improvement of the two countries' relation be enhanced?

Research Method:

The research seeks a geopolitical analysis of the mutual relations of Iran and England, so it is an applicable research. The method of the research is qualitative and analysis was performed according to the documentary research and library literature field research. In order to collect the data under the study, there have been several travels to England and continuous studies on the above the partial identification of geopolitical specifics of the country was available. The required data have been collected through the related picture and photos as well as the interviews and negotiations with Iranian and English thinkers and elites. The information tool included different reports from foreign ministry, especially Islamic Republic of Iran in London, the research papers, pictures, videos, maps and observations and experience in many years.

Research Findings:

a. Positive Variables of Geopolitics:

1. The world's Geopolitical Structure:

In terms of this theory, we came to the conclusion that since the international powers entered into the international politic geography, there has been a system of the powers, as the actors in the international system, in any given period of time.

Saul B Cohen has divided the world at the time of the bipolar system from the two geostrategic regions (marine and ground) directed by Soviet Union as the eastern super power and USA as the western super power, with dual and quintuple geopolitics separated regions. Then, he suggested the second international powers including 28 countries such as India, Brazil, Iran, and South Africa as the regional powers with the mentioned characteristics. These countries play their roles in forming the world geopolitical structure, accompanied by the five main international powers (USA, Russia, United Europe, China, and Japan). And at the end, he introduced the south of the Sahara and Middle East geopolitical region as the indistinct and broken regions. (Sharifi, 254, 2005). Given the process of international system and the zest to be multipolar in many countries, Iran and England can establish closer relations. Moreover, Iran is assumed as a Western Block Satellite, so both countries can have better relations in line of performing more roles in geopolitical structure of international system being formed, as it moves towards multiple polarity.

2. Mutual Requirements and Facilities of the two Countries:

A main reason to the past penetration of colonialism by the Europe governments has been the rich oil mines in this country. As the mutual dependence theory states, the realistic traditionalists believe that there is a mutual need between the small and the big powers. The behavioral nationalists believe that there is mutual dependence between the system components. Rose Krans believes in two types of mutual dependence: horizontal and vertical. However, Richard Koir only believes in economical mutual dependence. Cohen and Nay propose the asymmetric mutual dependence theory, based on which the superior power, enjoys higher profits at lower costs, and on the contrary, the second power will have higher costs for lower profits. According to the results from the relationship between Iran and England, it was less dependent of the political relations of the two. For instance, in 1987, when their mutual relation was in intensive weakness, Iran was the first commercial partner of England in Middle East and had transactions of approximately 700 million dollars with England.

3. The items imported by Iran from England:

As the results show, the most amount of importation from England by Iran refers to 2003, when it reached to 476,882 million pounds and the least refers to 2007 when it did not exceed 400 million pounds.

The most important items exported by England in 2007 include power production machineries and equipment, precision and scientific and tools, professional, scientific and precision tools for medicine, medical, iron and steel production. Except 2004, the importation of machineries and equipment of power turbine from England has been more than 60 million pounds recently, having a partially stable level. The general industrial equipment and machineries, which had a considerable reduction last year compared to the prior years, especially 2002, are the second group of England's important exported goods to Iran. The industrial special purpose machineries makeup the third group of important imported group of goods from England in recent years. They are of capital or intermediate type of goods. Importation of office machineries and software related to ADP manufactured by England in recent years has been specially focused in Iran. England's control, scientific, and

special purpose measuring tools have a very steady place in Iranian industry, particularly in oil and petro chemistry and automotive industry and so on. According to the results, the exportation of the mentioned goods to Iran had a reduction in 2006. The reason is not lack of demands from the Iranians; however, this agency has realized from some English companies that their managing boards ended supplying the mentioned equipment to Iran unilaterally, concerned about United Nations sanctions. But there was an increase again in exportation of the above in 2007. Medicine and equipment are also included in commercial transactions of Iran and England. A considerable portion of these goods are associated with governmental purchases (Red Crescent). Purchase of 24/2 million pounds of iron and steel from England in 2006 and 18/7 million pounds in 2007 are of the most controversial issues in Iran importations from England. Purchase of 23.3 million pounds of electronic equipment and machineries in 2006 and 26 million pounds in 2007 made it a big group of imported goods to Iran. The imported chemical industries faced 43% reduction in 2007 compared to 2006, based on the findings. They also show that the metal manufactures in 2007 had a reduction of 21 percentages, compared to 2006.

4. *Iran's Exportation to England:*

According to the published statistics from ministry of commerce, companies and structural reformation in the country's foreign trade in 2007, the amount of Britain's exportation to Iran was 400,301 million pounds and the amount of importation from Iran exceeded 66,421 million pounds in this year. Except in 2003, Iran's exportation of iron and steel to England has had an increasing rate, and that in 2006, it experienced a remarkable improvement, as the results showed. But, this rate had a decreasing rate in 2007. Since 2004, organic chemicals have also joined to the exportation items of Iran to England and with a considerable increase. Fruits and vegetable have been of the traditional group of exported goods from Iran to England, therefore, it had an increasing level in the periods under study, as of the main Iran's exportation goods to England. The rate of the value of textile string exported from Iran to England reduced in recent years. Should the supervisors do not analyze the real reasons to this reduction, there is the possibility of losing more portions of our country in this market. Exportation of non-iron metals to England from Iran reached a considerable level of 4958 million pounds in 2007, however, its quick changes in recent years declare that supplication of this item to English market has not been fundamentalized yet; instead, it is dependent of some other factors than demand from England. These factors may cancel the exportation or intensify it at any time. Exportation of turbine equipment and machineries has had a swing rate, such as other goods. In case of governmental support and appearance in several special exhibitions in this country, the growth of exportation can be increased two times. In the last three years, raw plastic has been also included in the exported goods of Iran to Britain. If the needs of England's market are identified and transferred to the Iranian craftsmen, our country will achieve the most value added in this section. Metal ore and iron scrap, having a high value in 2007, has always been an important item of exportation from Iran to England, except in 2005. In recent years, an exporting group of items to be proud of is monitoring, scientific and special purpose tools, with a positive rate, except in 2007. As the final conclusion, it should be stated that Iran's exportation to England has been of desirable quality and diversity and improves the technical engineering fields, having released from some traditional and simple products such as carpets, nuts, fair, etc. Identification of the consumers' trait and tastes and guiding them to the favorable direction, meeting the common standards of the consumption market, continuous supply with agreed quality and price and at the agreed time and conclusion of contracts, packing, correct marketing, after sale services are of the first foundational steps. At the time the above are performed, Iran's exportation can get to its proper portion in international commerce.

B: Geopolitical Negative Variables:

1. Lacked of Congruity between the two Countries:

Existence or lack of congruity, as a geopolitical positive or negative variable, can prepare for the relations of the countries or stricken them into more attempt. Thus, some factors, namely religion, language, race, and nation of the two sides will be compared to each other.

A. Race and Nation:

Iran and England are completely different in terms of race, therefore, there is no special tension between the nations of the two countries from the race point of view. This operates as a negative element.

B. Same Language:

Most Iranians speak Persian. So, the two countries are totally different in language, there is no common point in this issue. This also operates as a negative element.

C. Same Religion:

The British are Christian, while Iranians are Muslims, so the two are completely different when it comes to religion, and there is nothing notable common in this matter.

2. *The role of geographical distance in the Relations of the two Countries:*

As the geographical distance of two countries increases, their commercial transactions decrease. Almost all studies emphasize this point, although, the statistical indicators demonstrate that as it goes technology develops internationally, the significance of destination in commerce fades gradually. The countries with no commercial relations due to the distance have good potentials for mutual commerce (Sharifi, 2005, 309).

3. The Influence of America on Iran and England relations is the special relation of the latter with the world's hegemonic superpower which is against Islamic Republic of Iran intensively. Britain cares very much about its relations with America in different fields, particularly the defensive- security relations. It had even the least convergence to Europe Union in this regards. The September 11th events and the joint attack of America and Britain have reinforced this. As for Iran's terrorism risks, Britain acquires slight independence from America and does not consider Iran as a serious terrorist, unlike America. But, the discussion of Iran's nuclear issue led to more closeness of Britain's positions to America's and got Britain to be a defender of Anglo –American benefits in the negotiations of the three Europe countries with Iran. Britain's role between Iran and America is that of an intermediate and benefits this role for enhancement of its own relations with America and Iran. In this line, in its foreign policies with Iran, Britain should not be a mere dependent of America, it should be able to define its own benefits and independent goals. What is to America's benefits in terms of Iran is not necessarily respondent to Britain's. As a conclusion, Britain should not let Iran be a second Iraq (Ali Babaie, 1999, 159). Concerning the idea of establishment of democracy in Middle East, Britain's point of view tends to be more European, than American; however, it declares the Anglo-American model in the final analysis of democracy. Britain has the most convergence with Iran in economic aspect, thus, naturally, America's power is many times less in this matter. If Britain's level of convergence to Europe Union in economics is increased, the economical dimension of America-Britain special relationship will get weak, and it will be less influenced by America in terms of economic relations between Britain and Iran. Britain's unity to the European currency unit will be a very significant step in this line.

Conclusion:

The goal of the research is to achieve a geopolitical analysis of the mutual relationships between Iran and England. As the results declared, lack of congruity element, including race and nation, same religion, same language and geographical distance, affects a negative geopolitical role in the relations. Therefore the first hypothesis was admitted. Also, considering the proposed positive geopolitical variables, the findings showed that Iran is a regional power and England is an international power. According to the world's underway structure, geopolitical improvement in future structure will increase. Assuming the needs, facilities and abilities of the two countries in different dimensions, Iran and England, using their capabilities and the requirements of the other country, stabilize the mutual relation, as well as keeping own national benefits. The stabilizing establishment of amulet polar system i the world can increase the geopolitical position and weight of two countries and have influences in development of the mutual relation since the relation of two countries can be permanent. Consequently, geopolitical positive elements influencing on the relation of the two countries, the second hypothesis, was approved. After the analysis and having proved that in case of better recognition of people and government of Iran and England from each other and mutual understanding of local, regional and international situation of each of the countries and considering some similarities between Iran and England's requirements and facilities, and finally, paying attention to identification of facilities and needs of these two and precise and mutual understanding of their positive and negative geopolitical elements, it was approved that the relation between Iran and England will be enhanced and developed. Generally, the results showed that today, these two countries are enjoying the ability to use each other's facilities, and through a correct cognition and cooperation, will prepare for the strengthening the power with the balance of the proportions. The results are compatible to the results of Ton Send in 2007, Mulholland in 2006, Davis et al in 2006, Piri in 1992, Jalali in 1972, Seyfzadeh in 1994.

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