

Iran Energy Diplomacy and the International Political Economy System

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ABSTRACT

Energy diplomacy can be considered as part of the macro-energy policy of Iran in different periods. This will provide the necessary resources to maintain and increase Iran's share in the global economic market. Energy as a geopolitical variable has opened a special place to power relations in the contemporary global system and access to energy resources for all levels of global hierarchy of power has become strategic. Hence, each of the actors in the global system is seeking a meaningful definition of the position of their energy diplomacy in the world. In the meantime, Iran, with its second largest oil and natural gas reserves in the world's second largest strategic energy ocean center, has an important place in global energy developments. This paper tries to study the issue of energy diplomacy as one of the strategic necessities of Iran. The hypothesis of the paper emphasizes that the use of energy diplomacy provides the necessary ground for reducing international constraints on Iran. The methodology of this paper is based on the approach of international political economy (interdependence).

Keywords: Energy diplomacy Geopolitics Multilateralism Iran The world

INTRODUCTION

The growing dependence of countries on energy resources has strengthened the position of energy security in the political and diplomatic arenas and has intensified international competition for access to these resources. This issue has had a great impact on prioritizing the foreign policy goals of countries. Today, countries benefit from energy diplomacy and try to invest their energy in this field as much as possible without using force, interests and security. Whereas Iran has vast energy reserves and extensive oil and gas fields; therefore, it has a special position in the field of energy among different countries of the world. Iran's technical, professional, technological and economic capabilities are such that it can play a decisive role in the global energy economy (Grigas, 2017: 84). With this geopolitical and geo economic position and with huge oil and gas reserves in the world and long experience in the field of energy and suitable geographical location, Iran in the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea and neighboring Asia, if a model of active energy diplomacy is adopted. Especially with regard to potential future markets in developing countries, it has the potential to link its energy sources with a diverse range of Asian,

European and African consumers. Iran's position is in terms of energy transmission routes and its vital role in global energy security. Iran, with its special geographical and geopolitical position for the landlocked region of Central Asia, is a desirable transit country and can best transport Kazakh and Turkmen oil and gas production to the high seas and even to send Europe via Turkey (O'Sullivan, 2017: 94).

In a world where the national security of countries is tied to the same energy, maintaining this special position is of strategic importance for Iran. Having a key role in the world's energy, which guarantees sufficient revenues for the development of the country, will also ensure the national security of the country. The orientation of Iran's energy diplomacy can be to gain more and more share in the same global energy demand along with more and more share in the same energy security over the next two decades. Such a goal will help strengthen Iran's strategic position in terms of production, supply and security of the global energy flow. According to the latest available statistics, about 1,500 billion barrels of crude oil have been identified worldwide so far. In terms of proven crude oil reserves, Venezuela with about 296 billion barrels of crude oil, Saudi Arabia with

about 264 billion barrels and the Islamic Republic of Iran with about 151 billion barrels of proven crude oil, are the first, second and third, respectively. They have proven oil reserves in the world. In terms of crude oil exports, Saudi Arabia ranks first in the world with a daily production of about 8 million barrels, the Islamic Republic of Iran ranks second with about 3.5 million barrels per day and Venezuela exports about 2.8 million barrels per day. They are the third largest oil exporters in the world. In terms of gas reserves, Russia with 46,000 billion cubic meters is the world's first holder of gas reserves, the Islamic Republic of Iran with 33,000 billion cubic meters and Qatar with 25,000 billion cubic meters, respectively, are the second and third holders of proven natural gas reserves in the world. To be. Despite the existence of such economic resources, Iran's energy exports to world markets are very limited. This shows that in the first place, the market expansion strategy has not been considered in Iran's economic policy. Second, international restrictions are a major factor in Iran's marginalization of the energy market, and third, energy diplomacy can pave the way for Iran to overcome economic and international sanctions (Boersma and Goldthau, 2017: 31).

Increasing Iran's economic capabilities can be considered as one of the inevitable necessities of the political, economic and security structure; In other words, if energy diplomacy leads to an increase in Iran's national income, then the passage of multilateral international and regional threats will be inevitable. The realization of such a goal has been considered in the upstream documents of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Macro-policies in the field of energy emphasize the need to adopt appropriate measures and strategies to expand oil and gas exploration. This is achieved in a situation where there is a complete knowledge of the country's economic resources. In this way, energy diplomacy can be an effective step towards full knowledge of resources, increase the capacity of conserved energy production and development of technology in the field of energy resources and industries, especially in the field of oil, gas and electricity. In order to achieve energy diplomacy, one must pay attention to its backgrounds. In this regard, there is an organic relationship between energy diplomacy and lawful organization to attract financial, technical and managerial resources for economic capacity building (Sorda; Banse &

Kemfert: 2010: 6983). Thus, one of the main goals of energy diplomacy can be considered access to advanced technology in the fields of software, hardware and hardware, in general, technology can be considered as one of the ways to increase economic production in the field of energy.

THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS

In the context of political economy approach, it can be acknowledged that the ruling political ideology, the interaction of social force and the goals of political governance and elements of the national economic arena on the one hand and the function and structure of the global political economy on the other, factors affecting diplomacy and politics. Foreign actors in the regional and international arena. Thus, the general principles and approach of political economy in the study of foreign policy and diplomacy of governments in the world political economy system are:

1. The need to recognize the limitations of the behavioral structure of government at the national and international levels and the interests of the government towards its community and towards other domestic non-governmental actors as well as governmental and non-governmental actors in the international arena;
2. The behavior and structure of the government and its diplomatic tools should be identified and explained in terms of various economic, political, cultural and military-security phenomena in global relations;
3. In the domestic arena as well, the direction of diplomacy is mainly and most of all influenced by the realm of economic relations; So that the elements resulting from the balance of economic forces (manufacturing industries, markets, investors, workers, business elements, etc.) and how to distribute the national surplus income play a key role in shaping and directing diplomacy; Therefore, national economy groups are as much the basis and factors influencing the nature of foreign policy and, consequently, the nature and direction of diplomacy as the powerful actors of the global economic system such as banks, capitalists, companies and industries. Large multinational and transnational productions are influential (Gippner, 2017: 651-652).

The functioning of the complex interdependence structure has caused the position, role and even

power of governments as the main shaping element to change in foreign policy as well as diplomacy. The emergence of the global village, the importance of global information and communication systems, the expansion of economic, social, political and cultural exchanges, non-governmental and informal actors such as multinational corporations, transnational social movements, international governmental and non-governmental organizations, and finally, expansion. The system of global political economy has created new global frameworks in which not only the government has faced very wide and serious limitations in the formulation and implementation of foreign policy, but also its undisputed position and power in the formation and conduct of diplomacy. They share with other national and international actors. Thus, during the rule of the structure of the world economy over the relations of all elements of the world political economy, especially national governments, almost none of the decisions of governments, whether social, cultural, legal and political decisions, or economic decisions at the national and international level. And even the field of diplomacy, which was supposed to be fundamentally and exclusively state-owned, is not outside the realm of being influenced by transnational and multinational actors with diverse economic goals and interests (Wiseman, 2018: 229);

Effective diplomacy in the context of complex interdependence pursues, in fact, the mutual interest of the parties in economic, political and even military-security relations, which, of course, will in no way be independent of the disputes over the distribution of the interests of each party; That is, even when governments and non-governmental organizations in the global political economy system benefit greatly from an economic, political, cultural, or military reciprocal relationship, they seek to increase their share of interests from such relationships and exchanges. Reduce your costs. This is done while the foundation of mutual relations between governments or between governments and non-governmental actors in world national systems has never been laid on an equal footing, and the benefits and losses of each party are fundamentally different from the other. The characteristics mentioned about the effects of complex interdependence on the nature and structure of effective diplomacy do not necessarily mean the expansion of mutual cooperation to replace competition; This is

because conflicts between stakeholders over benefits, cuts, costs, or understanding and empathy do not always end, although the methods of such conflicts have certainly changed and how the parties to the relationship have achieved greater benefits and reduced costs. Have also evolved. In other words, the effective diplomacy of each state in the global economic and political system, due to the expansion of complex interdependence, even when many benefits can be expected from cooperation, is mostly competitive (Richmond, 2016: 159).

Therefore, the most important fact that must be considered in the context of understanding political economy from the foundations of effective diplomacy is the need for influence and the widespread and growing role of economics in guiding it. The dominance of the global political economy and the relative fading of strategic issues and the increasing importance of national income, the emergence of powerful developing countries with a wide demand for global wealth, the increasing concentration of activities and relations of industrial, semi-industrial countries. And developing on economic issues, global expansion and monetary and financial relations at the level of the global economy, the growing importance of capital in the world and its role and position in the economic development of countries, the development of regional economic - trade and political relations and other. Such have led to the emergence of the world political economy system, the special place and the important role of economic issues and debates that leave an impact on diplomacy on the world stage, the main concern of governments in the field of economic activities and trade revenues and Trade should be defined and the need to consider the fact that the influence of national power on the international national economy is unquestionable. Therefore, having the necessary skills in formulating and implementing foreign policy and efficient diplomacy is one of the urgent needs of the country (Milton, 2003: 61).

However, perhaps the main challenge as a result of the growing influence of the global political economy on the mechanism of formulation and implementation of foreign policy and effective diplomacy. Which appear inside (national level) or outside (international level). Although such a distinction never seems to disappear completely, the dividing lines between domestic and foreign policy events are certainly becoming less and less noticeable due to the expansion of the

sphere. The activities and issues related to the global political economy system are unquestionable. In the interaction of the global political economy system and the national government, important national, international political, economic, and social issues, issues, and events each affect, as far as possible, foreign policy and the tools of effective diplomacy (Delinda. 2015: 73-74).

Today, the type of human rights policies, the political participation of the people in power, the process of formation and influence of public opinion on the one hand and inflation, profit and interest rates, labor and unemployment or exchange rates on the other, none of them are just issues. And they are not considered domestic political-economic issues, but each of them is affected by global developments and also affects the global position and the efficiency or inefficiency of the country's foreign policy and diplomacy in the international arena. The direction and level of any domestic policy (economic, cultural, social or security) at any given time can be seen as a response to the needs of various transformations and developments at the level of the global political economy system, as can the effects (Gaddy, 2004: 330). Direct or indirect global developments in the context of the results of the performance of governments at the national level; This is especially the case, especially with regard to the level of national legitimacy of the state, the extent of national sovereignty in the political, economic and cultural dimensions, as well as in the economic field of labor, immigration, domestic and foreign investment policies. Strengthening and expanding industrialization is true.

PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE OF ENERGY IN THE WORLD AND IN IRAN

The Future of Energy in the World

Emergence of new energy sources (new energy and natural gas) that can compete with traditional energy sources (liquid hydrocarbons and coal); Technological changes and changes in climate patterns have also changed the mix of energy use. Increasing the competitiveness of new (renewable) energy against oil and coal means increasing the use of this energy source. It is predicted that by 2035. This energy source together with nuclear energy and hydropower alone account for 50% of the share (increase) in energy demand; Also, the dramatic increase of gas liquefaction technologies will improve its availability to different parts of the world, and

the growth of demand for this energy source against oil and coal will be much greater. Ultimately, demand for liquid fossil fuels is on the rise, but this growth will be very slow for reasons such as increased vehicle efficiency and technological changes (such as the rise of electric vehicles). Emerging countries in the global economy, along with a few percent increase in world economic growth (approximately 3.4%) will play a major role in increasing energy demand. Note that the main contribution to the increase in demand for energy outside developed countries plays a role. The global economy is projected to double by 2035 (annual growth will be around 3.4%) to take some 2 billion of the world's population out of the low-income area, but the increase in energy demand is only growth. It will have 30% due to the increase in efficiency and efficiency of energy systems. Most of the increase in world economic growth is related to developing countries. China and India will account for about half of the increase. Three issues can lead to uncertainty in predicting the future direction of the world's energy: first, the high speed of the revolution in the transport sector (electrification of the transport sector); the second issue is alternative routes to lower carbon systems (new energy and natural gas); and third, the risks in the direction of natural gas demand. we need more energy to grow in the global economy, but it is expected that the amount of increase in energy consumption will increase by only 30% as the intensity of energy decreases.

Although fossil fuels still account for the largest share of energy production (about 75% of total global energy consumption, compared to 83% in the last 20 years), the non-fossil energy sector (new energy, Atomic energy and hydropower) cover about half of the increase in energy demand (Abghari, 2007: 251).

Statistics show that natural gas is rapidly becoming the world's second largest energy source by 2035. The annual growth of natural gas consumption will be 1.6%, which is a significant figure compared to the annual increase in oil consumption (0.7%). Note that the highest annual growth is related to new energy with a staggering amount of 10.7.1% by the end of 2035 and the lowest amount is related to coal with an annual amount of 0.2%.

Although the industrial and construction sectors account for the largest share of increasing energy consumption, the use of fossil fuels in these two sectors and at the end of the landscape

is greatly reduced (in the construction sector due to increased efficiency of energy systems increased fuel consumption) Fossil is almost zero). In the non-combustible sector (including the petrochemical sector) the trend of using fossil fuels will be upward. About two thirds of the increase in demand for fossil fuels in this sector is oil and the rest is natural gas as petrochemical feed. The global economy will continue to be electrified, with almost two-thirds of the increase in global energy demand going towards electricity generation, and the share of the global energy sector will increase from 42% in 2015 to 47% in 2035. Receipt. This reflects a shift in consumer tastes in clean energy consumption on the ground (instead of fossil fuels). It is estimated that more than one billion people worldwide currently do not have access to electricity, most of them in Africa, India and developing parts of Asia. Access to energy in these areas is a key driver of global energy trends throughout this landscape. Achieving the goals of the Paris Conference requires reducing the amount of carbon in the Earth's atmosphere by 30%. Of course, three basic parameters; the growth of the global economy, the reduction of the intensity of global energy (increasing the efficiency of energy systems) and the increasing demand for non-fossil fuels have led to an annual increase in carbon from 2.1% in the last 20 years to 0.6% in the next 20 years. Reach 2035. Achieving the goals of the Paris Conference requires a further reduction in global energy intensity and an increase in non-fossil fuel consumption (natural gas, new energy, nuclear energy and hydropower) to 80% (from increasing demand in the coming years) and a reduction in coal consumption. It is a stone (Bahgat, 2006: 311-312).

Demand for liquid fuels (oil, bio fuels and other liquid fuels) will increase by 15 million barrels per day, which will reach 110 million barrels per day in 2035. Most of this increase in demand is related to emerging economies (China alone accounts for 50% of this increase). In contrast, OECD countries continue to reduce their demand (by as much as 8 million barrels per day).

Liquid fuel supply will increase by only 13 million barrels per day, mostly from low-cost oil-producing countries such as the Middle East, Russia and the United States. OPEC countries account for 70% of this increase in supply (9 million barrels per day is added to OPEC share to bring their total share to 48 million barrels per day). The remaining 4 million barrels are offset

by increased production in other countries (4 million for the United States, 2 million for Brazil, 1 million for Russia and half a million for Canada) through a reduction in expensive resources.

The annual growth rate of demand will be 1.3 million barrels per year, compared to the rate of 0.7 million barrels per year for supply, which can be expected to exceed the demand for oil. To this must be added the 0.3 million barrels per year increase in annual production of bio fuels (bio fuels) and LNG, which somewhat reduces the gap between the supply and demand of liquid hydrocarbons. But we can be optimistic about the supply of oil in the whole future of the market.

In the gas market, new things are happening. With the arrival of shale gas (unconventional gas resources) in the United States and China, the balance of the gas market is likely to be upset. US shale gas alone accounts for 60% of global gas production growth and is expected to account for about a quarter of the global gas supply market by 2035; China also enters the global gas supply market by producing from its unconventional gas sources. The country will provide most of the increase in its gas needs through the production of its shale gas, and will supply the rest through Russia's LNG resources and pipeline. The share of the country's imports is about 40%, half of which is through LNG, but in Europe the situation will be the opposite, and it is predicted that Europe's domestic gas production will decrease and the share of imports will increase, and that most of its demand will increase through LNG import (Van Groenendaal, 2016: 116-117).

Sustainable growth in hydropower and nuclear energy is not far off, but in the meantime, European production from nuclear facilities is expected to fall by as much as 30% (due to the deterioration of existing facilities and a lack of incentive to invest in new ones). In China, new developments will take place in the field of nuclear energy, and three-quarters of the total increase in nuclear production will be related to this country (ie growth of 11% per year, in other words, the introduction of a nuclear reactor every three months for twenty years). In the next two decades, the demand for new energy will shift from European to Asian countries. Although the share of new energy in the same force of European countries has doubled (to nearly 40% of total energy), the amount of increase in new energy in China alone will be

equal to the sum of Europe and the United States. The initial cost of the same energy will be significantly reduced through new energy sources and its competitiveness will be increased compared to other energy sources. The initial cost in the solar sector decreases with a slight slope, but in the wind energy sector, this reduction will be very significant, the main reason being the increase in wind turbine efficiency. In China and the United States, the main competitors for new energy will be gas, and in these two countries, wind energy will be more competitive than the solar sector (Ruthven, 2017: 56-57).

The Future of Energy in Iran

Iran is a country rich in natural resources and is a superpower in the field of energy. According to the US Energy Information Administration, Iran has the fourth proven crude oil reserves and the second largest natural gas reserves in the world after Russia. Despite the goals of Iran's five-year development plans to diversify the economy, it cannot be ruled out that the country's economy is still dependent on oil revenues. For more than 50 years, natural gas and oil have overshadowed Iran's entire energy production. Since 1999, natural gas has been a major part of final consumption, while the large share of fossil fuels in the supply and use of energy in Iran, while being the engine of economic-political development of the country, political consequences, it also has many economic and environmental aspects. In Iran, oil and gas account for 98% of all energy. Iran has a very potential in the new energy sector, which is higher than the global average. Appropriate distribution of different renewable energy sources (wind in the north and east, solar in the south and central belt) and high efficiency of this energy sector in Iran, for example, according to Sana, New Energy Organization in Iran, in the solar sector, A large part of Iran has an efficiency of about 4.5-2.5 kWh per square meter per day, which is higher than the global average, for example, Germany, which does not have a good solar efficiency compared to Iran, 41.3 giga watts of energy through solar energy than he does.

For the reasons mentioned above, the future of the gas market will be much more promising than oil. Appropriate policies should be planned in the field of gas sector and how to use this opportunity in the country. Iran is the world's second largest gas producer, but lags behind other countries such as the United States and

possibly China in the future in terms of production. Strengthening the production sector, reducing the amount of gas burners and burning gas resources along with appropriate policies in the gas sector (suitable markets and strengthening the LNG sector for the economy, part to small gas resources or establishing the same energy and commodity resources along with these small gas resources) Can help increase the efficiency of gas resources and reduce energy intensity in Iran). It is expected that the country's officials will take the necessary steps to properly distribute the same energy resources that are available in our country, so that in addition to increasing energy security, they will have more control and control over their energy resources in times of crisis. The use of local and distributed sources of the same energy (such as solar or wind panels) helps governments to control the disaster well in times of crisis, such as war or natural disasters in parts of the country. It does not spread points and is considered as a kind of passive defense (Jentleson, 2007:34-36).

The share of LNG in the future of world energy in Iran was specified in the article. Due to the huge volume of gas resources in the country, it is necessary to increase the LNG sector in Iran in order to gain its share in emerging markets for this product. There is a dramatic increase in production from unconventional gas sources, the possibility of changes in the world gas market (as was the case with the entry of shale oil into the oil market and falling oil prices) and the imbalance of the gas market, which should be forecast in the country. And take the necessary precautions in this regard. According to the 66th Annual Report of the British company British Petroleum (BP), entitled "World Energy Statistics Review 2017"; Iran's proven oil reserves in 2015 and 2016 are the same, equal to 158.4 billion barrels, and Iran has 9.3 percent of the world's proven oil reserves and is still the fourth largest owner of oil reserves in the world. According to the report, Venezuela with reserves of 300 billion and 900 million barrels, equivalent to 17.6% of the world's total oil reserves, is ranked first in the world in this regard, Saudi Arabia with 266 billion and 500 million barrels in second place and Canada with 171.5 billion barrels in They are ranked third in this regard (Lukes, 2005:12).

According to the latest BP estimate, Iran's gas reserves in 2015 and 2016 are estimated at 33.5 trillion cubic meters, and Iran holds 18% of the world's total gas reserves and is still the world's

largest holder of gas reserves. According to the report, Russia is in second place after Iran with reserves of 32.3 trillion cubic meters and Qatar is in third place with 24.3 trillion cubic meters.

According to BP, Iran's oil production along with gas condensate in 2016 reached 4.6 million barrels per day, which shows an increase of 703 thousand barrels per day or 18% of Iran's oil production compared to 2015. According to this report, Iran's oil production in 2016 was equal to five percent of total world oil production, and this year our country was the fourth largest oil producer in the world. In 2015, Iran was the seventh largest oil producer in the world with a daily production of 3.897 million barrels. The United States ranks first in this regard, producing 12.354 million barrels of oil per day. Saudi Arabia with 12.349 million barrels per day and Russia with 11.227 million barrels are ranked second and third, respectively. Russia is also in fourth place (Perthes; Tekyeh and Tanaka, 2016: 198-200).

According to the latest estimate of this British company, Iran's nuclear energy consumption in 2016 is equivalent to the consumption of 1.4 million tons of oil, which shows a 75.3% increase compared to 2015. According to the report, Iran ranks 27th among the 30 countries for which statistics are provided. The United States ranks first in the world in terms of nuclear energy consumption, producing 191.8 million tons of nuclear energy. France and China are ranked second and third in this regard. Russia is also in fourth place (Bayne and Woolcock, 2003: 174-175).

The Role of Iran's Geopolitical Position in Activating Energy Diplomacy

Geopolitical capabilities are considered as another factor that can activate energy diplomacy; In other words, one of the main areas of energy diplomacy is related to the economic and diplomatic mobility of countries that have the necessary capacity to produce energy. Countries with a more effective geopolitical position in the global economy also have the mobility to activate energy diplomacy; because geopolitical position is considered as one of the indicators of comparative advantage in the production and transfer of economic reserves. Iran's geopolitical position in the Persian Gulf can be considered based on the capabilities of regional islands in the Persian Gulf, the depth of the Persian Gulf and Iran's ability to control the traffic channels of oil tankers from the region. Most importantly, Iran

has the instrumental and geographical ability to control the Strait of Hormuz. An area that plays a crucial role in international shipping. Such countries have the necessary regional status and role for geopolitical mobility as well as the pursuit of energy diplomacy (Falvin, 1999, 289). It should be noted that in energy diplomacy, the same tools are used as in military, defense, security and cultural diplomacy. Manifestations of persuasion and coercion can be used in this connection; therefore, countries such as Iran, which have access to regional resources or have the necessary ability to communicate with various economic markets, will be able to play an important and decisive role in relation to energy diplomacy. This means that geopolitical position is one of the tools of economic and strategic mobility. Naturally, international economic companies are ready to cooperate with groups that have the possibility of regional participation and the necessary geopolitical mobility. Iran's geopolitical power can be considered in relation to the possibility of geographical mobility. Countries with such capabilities will be able to improve their position on diplomatic mobility, especially energy diplomacy. Such possibilities can now be considered in relation to the following areas, which are of a geographical and geopolitical nature:

- A. Having kilometers of water border and connection with international waters and the ability to build wharves and export ports;
 - B. Prominent geographical location in the Caspian Sea, Persian Gulf and Oman Sea region;
 - C. Existence of outstanding human resources including university graduates, elites and huge academic capacities;
 - D. Existence of human resources and access to open waters and being located in the energy-rich region of the Middle East;
 - E. Entering the fields of high technology, such as information technology (IT), biotechnology (BT), nanotechnology (NT) and nuclear energy;
- And. Existence of transport network infrastructure and capacities of the same energy including electricity, gas and transmission networks (Wu, 2018: 268-270).

Energy Geopolitics studies the role and effect of energy, its various aspects and dimensions on the politics, power and various relations of nations and governments. Fossil fuels, especially crude oil and natural gas, have a

special place in international relations and have overshadowed international politics in that they play a large role in the world's energy balance; Therefore, given that energy is one of the scarce resources of the earth and the best resources in power games are scarce resources, scarce resources are inevitably of great geopolitical importance. That is, they provide a great opportunity to advance goals in power struggles, because the foundation of industrial development is energy. The largest energy consumption centers in the world are developed regions with high economic growth rates. Hence, industry is inextricably linked to hydrocarbons (oil and gas). This unbroken link between energy and industry is the basis of power in the 21st century; therefore, in power relations in international relations, the dominance of hydrocarbon production centers and their transmission path, especially natural gas, in the future is the responsibility of many of today's political actors; Thus, access to energy resources, including fossil, nuclear, solar, etc.; Also the transfer of energy from places with energy to places and spaces without energy and need, as well as control of production sources and energy transfer routes; Also, technologies and tools of production, processing and transfer and even energy consumption to maintain spatial, spatial or geographical sovereignty, and thus has made energy an important geopolitical issue (Mohammadian and Rezaei, 2016: 136-137).

Iran's Geopolitical Opportunities

The Islamic Republic of Iran has a high potential in the world energy system. This high ability to play a role in the international political economy system is due to the unique geopolitical position that this country enjoys. Iran borders 15 countries in four different geographical directions and due to its location in the important region of the Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf from the distant past as a crossroads of east to west and north to south and the natural route of goods transfer. (Silk Road) has been raised. Iran's current and growing strategic importance stems in part from the shaky future of democracy in Russia, the fragility of the Arab-Israeli peace process, the inherent instability of the Persian Gulf region, and the growing reliance of the world on Persian Gulf oil. . The following are some of these geopolitical opportunities.

1. Being in the strategic energy ellipse: The Islamic Republic of Iran is located in the

center of the strategic ellipse. To the north and south of this region are the producing countries and to the east and west are the energy consuming countries. This situation could turn Iran into an energy hub in the region. The importance of Iran's strategic energy hub becomes clear after a decade or two at most, as conventional European and US oil and gas reserves will be severely reduced. The 21st century is a century of economic rationality, and hard-line and hard-line politicians must accept this economic rationality. This rationality requires that this energy ellipse and energy hub find its role.

2. Overlooking the strategic Strait of Hormuz: The Strait of Hormuz is the only oil highway in the world that is directly threatened by a government in the region. Iran's geographical position is such that it has made it possible to close and prevent the transit of energy through this strait to this country. Through this position, this country has gained influence and power that any other country must pay the price of in case of confrontation and conflict of its policies with this country. One of the most important levers of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the current big game environment is the threat of closing the Strait of Hormuz, in which the analysts have spoken about the possibility or impossibility of this action and have examined the consequences.
3. Strategic transit position: Iran with a suitable geographical position can be both in the Eastern world consumer market (China, India, Pakistan) and in the Western world consumer market (Western Europe and even the Americas), both through the construction of pipelines and It should be present through the production and export of liquefied natural gas by large ships and should benefit from it to the maximum in its national interests and security.
4. Energy reserves: The Islamic Republic of Iran has the fourth largest oil reserves in the world and the second largest natural gas reserves in the world. Iran has about half of the world's proven natural gas reserves. Iran ranks second in the world among the countries with natural gas reserves with 1.046 trillion cubic feet of proven natural gas. Accordingly, the Islamic Republic of Iran ranks first in total oil and gas reserves (Alishahi; Soleimani and Hosseini, 2020: 60-61).

Iran is looking for a partner abroad to exploit its energy resources. Iran has thwarted US efforts through new, active relations. Although the Damato law has affected the development of Iran's oil and gas industry infrastructure, it has not prevented the export of Iranian gas. Iran is looking for partners to export its natural gas to prevent the growth of US influence in the region and to regain its influence in the region. US efforts to isolate Iran have largely diminished with the agreement between Iran and Turkey to build a gas pipeline (Alishahi; Hosseinpour and Soleimani, 2020: 54-56).

Each of these components shows part of the need for Iranian energy diplomacy. In addition to the above-mentioned components, we can refer to the law of the Fifth Development Plan. This law emphasizes the need to use economic resources as one of the main factors of development and justice; In other words, without the use of economic resources, it will not be possible to advance strategic goals such as development in parallel with justice. What is considered as an economic adjustment policy can be considered as a re-reading of the idea of justice and development based on economic revenues related to oil.

Between 1998 and 2004, about \$ 50 billion was invested in Iran's oil industry. Of this amount, about \$ 30 billion was related to the development of gas and oil fields and the improvement of production levels. \$ 18 billion has been invested in the petrochemical industry. For this reason, the amount of Iranian production gradually increased. This is part of Iran's economic policy, especially in the field of energy.

The necessities of energy diplomacy require that Iran be able to emphasize policies to provide the necessary grounds for the implementation of energy diplomacy. In general, Iran's upstream energy policies, especially in relation to energy diplomacy, have the following four characteristics:

- A. Safe, stable and hassle-free access to global markets for the sale of petroleum products and their derivatives;
- B. Easy access and maximum use of cheap international financial resources to implement development projects in the oil, gas and petrochemical sectors and reduce the dependence of the oil industry on development budgets;

- C. Access to advanced technology (software and hardware) especially to increase oil production capacity and increase its recovery factor from oil fields and upgrade national technology;
- D. Achieve reasonable prices for the sale of crude oil and other derivatives (Clawson, 2015: 91-92).

Energy Diplomacy Strategies

Without diplomacy, energy diplomacy will not last long; In other words, the realization of the process focused on energy diplomacy will be possible only if the necessary grounds for multilateralism and international mobility are provided. Thus, pursuing a process focused on energy diplomacy requires the use of a "resource development strategy and expansion of cooperation in the global market". Its indicators can be considered as follows:

- A. Access to global markets;
- B. Attracting foreign capital directly - indirectly, bilaterally - multilaterally;
- C. Protecting the national economy from the challenges of the global economy;
- D. Breaking the oil market out of the monopoly of large multinational corporations that are able to control production, markets and commodity prices;
- E. Diversification of energy transmission routes achieved through multilateral patterns;
- F. And. Management of price control in conditions of instability in the global economy;
- G. Combating terrorist acts that could disrupt energy transmission (Leverett & Bader, 2005-2006, 147).

Each of these components can be considered as part of the goals specified in the strategy of resource development and expansion of cooperation in the global market; therefore, the necessities of strategic behavior of countries that have economic resources and reserves, require them to pursue each of these goals as part of their organizational behavior. In this regard, the need to pursue energy diplomacy is inevitable for all countries such as Iran that have energy reserves. It is important for Iran to pursue this because Iran's economic, security and diplomatic sanctions are gradually being tightened; therefore, it is necessary to use the model of expanding cooperation in the global

market to achieve the development of economic resources and the formation of social justice (Zahirinejad, 2016: 19).

Intra-Structural Multilateralism

Structural multilateralism means the use of intra-structural cooperation of bureaucratic organizations. In general, when it comes to national security strategies or when countries have a single incentive to pursue national goals, it is natural that they need the multilateral cooperation of government and bureaucratic organizations. This can not be considered a symbol of synergy of government institutions to achieve national goals. Energy diplomacy can be considered as one of the main indicators of Iran's executive and bureaucratic structure to achieve national goals; therefore, the necessity of formulating a national strategy requires that manifestations of multilateralism arise between government institutions. This means multilateral cooperation within the structure to achieve national goals. In order to advance energy diplomacy, it is necessary for various domestic institutions to carry out the necessary cooperation to pursue the general goals of the country; Therefore, the advancement of energy diplomacy requires the participation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Oil, the Ministry of Energy and military-security organizations. Each of these organizations has a specific role in strategic pursuit goals. Therefore, the issue of defense diplomacy is important in that it provides the necessary grounds for multilateral cooperation of internal institutions to separate tasks (Sharon, 2009, 198). Energy diplomacy is not formed without regard to intra-structural multilateralism. Thus, any change in Iran's economic, industrial and technological goals will not be possible without the participation of several industrial, economic, security and diplomatic institutions. Each of these organizations requires a specific job description. Energy diplomacy should be considered as an effective tool to achieve a strategic goal. This means that the implementation of projects of a national nature will not be possible without the cooperation of the executive and official institutions of the country. The cooperation of several institutions and internal organizations leads to desirable results when it is possible to divide organizational work based on their comparative advantage and expertise. In this way, energy diplomacy will not be achieved without regard to processes that are structural in nature and multifaceted. In this regard, the role

of the Deputy Minister of Economy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is of particular importance. In the same way that the various deputies of the Ministry of Oil will participate in pursuing such a goal. Each department and organization must pursue specific work in the process of energy diplomacy. An indication of the purposefulness of energy diplomacy can be assessed through how work is divided into different organizations (Besada, 2017:603-604).

Regional and International Multilateralism

In parallel with intra-structural multilateralism, pursuing the issue of energy diplomacy requires partnerships with countries in the region, major powers, multinational corporations, regional markets and global markets. Each of these countries, companies and organizations plays a separate role in relation to energy diplomacy. In general, pursuing energy diplomacy requires the creation of infrastructures that allow the participation and cooperation of several actors. To understand regional and international multilateralism, it is necessary, firstly, to study the necessities of multilateralism, and secondly, to follow the tools and processes of multilateralism. Third, the model of participatory multilateralism should be explained and designed (Yarjani, 2014:22).

Necessities of Regional and International Multilateralism

The energy market has become "commodity" and "global" in recent years. Oil is no longer traded mainly at fixed prices and as a major supplier in the form of special and long-term monopolies, but is traded on free market prices. In such a market, no consumer, regardless of the degree of independence, can separate himself from the shocks of oil prices. Since the oil market is intertwined and has involved banks, funds and other financial institutions with industries, individuals, etc., any change in this market will not be limited to industries and the final consumer. In this way, an organic relationship is created between the energy market, energy prices, international financial institutions and processes related to energy diplomacy. Thus, any change in the oil, gas and petrochemical market will be associated with various political, economic and security variables. In the current context, energy diplomacy has brought energy consumers and producers closer together. This has created the need for interaction and consultation between various groups. Groups that can be considered among the main actors in energy diplomacy. In

the current situation, none of these actors alone can ensure energy security. Therefore, any crisis in the global energy market that challenges the global economy will affect both sides. In other words, a very important aspect in the relationships of actors who are in a state of interdependence is the link between mutual vulnerability and common interests. In fact, it can be said that "common interests" and "mutual vulnerabilities" are two sides of the same coin between producers and energy consumers. This can lead to long-term areas of mutual interest in the process of participatory multilateralism. Given these components, regional and international multilateralism can be considered one of the necessities of energy diplomacy. This can be done for different purposes. In general, in a situation where the global economy is based on regional and international multilateralism, it is not possible to achieve the economic goals of countries like Iran without considering such a necessity (Westphal, 2018: 89).

Tools and Processes of Regional and International Multilateralism

There are a variety of tools for promoting energy multilateralism. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is one such agency. Organizations that can lay the groundwork for the expansion of countries' energy diplomacy. This is important when the growing trend of Western industrial countries' need for energy, especially oil and gas, on the one hand, and the main concentration of these resources in the Persian Gulf region, has been formed. The main axis of multilateralism can be considered as the link between domestic, regional and international economic institutions. Each of these components together can play a constructive role in Iran's energy diplomacy. It is necessary to explain that if any of the mentioned components is neglected or the necessary tools are not used to communicate with them, then the desired result for achieving the goals of energy diplomacy can not be achieved. Therefore, multilateralism can be considered as the main axis of cooperation that provides the necessary grounds for the participation of stakeholders through multilateralism (Alishahi, Soleiman and Aghamolaei, 2020: 187-189)

CONCLUSION

Energy diplomacy in the sense of using various tools by the structural institutions of the Islamic Republic of Iran; In other words, energy diplomacy means being able to provide the

necessary grounds for overcoming technological limitations, marketing, extraction, exploration and investment. Each of these components is part of the reality of energy diplomacy in the context of regional and international competition. Thus, ignoring the signs of interaction in the global economy, prevents the spread of multilateralism; it also establishes real interdependence in the global economy.

Such indicators indicate that the region will continue to be the focus of countries' energy policies. As industrialized countries, major economic powers as well as emerging powers, account for a significant share of total energy consumption, this consumption is also increasing; Therefore, energy resources, energy security and energy diplomacy have become more important to these actors, so energy diplomacy can not continue without considering the map of industrialized countries and actors playing a role in the Western world. Although Saudi Arabia plays a pivotal role in the energy market and economy in the Persian Gulf, Iran, as one of the richest countries in the Persian Gulf with oil and gas resources, needs to monitor and identify consumer energy policies, especially major economic powers and emerging powers and competitors. From each other and explore the horizons ahead in this area. This issue becomes more important and sensitive when we consider that the most important chapter in the connection between Iran's economy and the world economy is energy. The sphere of connection between Iran and the world economy should not be formed by multinational corporations and some regional powers alone. Any participation of Iran in such institutions can be considered a reflection of pragmatic policies in the field of energy as the axis of Iran's national interests. Therefore, adopting the right energy diplomacy can lead to the promotion of Iran's national and international position and its active presence in the world arena, so that lack of attention to it can lead to lagging behind the path of development and empowerment. Therefore, recognizing the changes and orientations of energy diplomacy of influential powers such as the United States, the Union, Russia and China is necessary for Iran to formulate proper energy diplomacy. Each of these actors is considered as one of the main axes of multilateralism. Energy diplomacy is important and effective when there are grounds for regional multilateralism; In other words, such a model can provide the necessary grounds for the realization of complex

interdependence between Iran and the world economy. Part of the need for energy diplomacy stems from the interdependence that prevails between Iran and major energy consumers. In this climate of mutual vulnerability and mutual interests, given that the country's annual budget and development are significantly dependent on oil revenues (Mayers, 2004, 239). Understanding this interdependence is crucial to achieving national interests, and Iran needs to lay the groundwork for constructive engagement and formulate sound energy diplomacy based on it. In this regard, an appropriate energy diplomacy can include the following features:

- A. Efforts to achieve a worthy position in the energy market given the competitive conditions of the energy market in the global economy. This is achieved by expanding the space of multilateralism;
- B. Record energy market developments through continuous review of the energy market and the policies of producers and consumers;
- C. Efforts to attract energy consumers who are entering the realm of great economic power. These countries include India, China and Brazil. Each of these countries in the coming years their share of energy consumption in the Persian Gulf will increase. Therefore, the main focus of energy diplomacy can be considered to be related to these countries. Countries that, along with some units in the East Asian region, have a central position in the global economy;
- D. Increasing and strengthening cooperation with other regional energy producers can be considered as transformational measures that provide the necessary grounds for multilateralism in energy diplomacy;
- E. Increasing constructive interactions in the foreign policy arena that can be effective in attracting different countries, including energy consumers. This process leads to the expansion of the process of multilateralism and the creation of a secure market for producers and consumers. Naturally, to achieve such goals will require investment in the oil, gas and petrochemical industries. This is part of the energy market coordination policy. It should be noted that such a process would not be possible without regard to the transfer of advanced technology. The global economic market can be considered as a facilitator in controlling

multilateral regional and international cooperation through energy diplomacy;

And. International time and conditions can be considered as two influential and determining factors in world economy and politics. Therefore, the main infrastructure of energy diplomacy should be considered the timely use of foreign tools and facilities. This is done in order to adopt energy policies according to the developments and trends of the energy market. The main axis of the formation of such a process should be considered through interaction with actors in this field in the field of energy economics.

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