Conceptualization of Geo-security as an Interdisciplinary Approach (Case Study: Neighboring Countries of Iran)

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Abstract

As an academic field in the study of politics through geographic and naturalistic approaches, geopolitics gives various explanations to political phenomena. In addition, security studies are a new sub-branch of international relations that deals with security issues.

Geo-security is a new interdisciplinary field of study that deals with the security of geographic relations between countries. It is a sub-concept of geopolitics. In an attempt to analyze geo-security, you can see that it consists of three main concepts: territoriality, conflict, and scarcity. Borrowed from geopolitics, social science, and economics, these concepts emphasize continuum relations of nation-states from war to peaceful settlements. Conceptualization of geo-security necessarily needs to claim that it can make a new understanding of relations among nations. The present research aims to analyze Iran's foreign policy towards its neighboring countries. The findings not only show all the main issues about Iran's relations with its neighbors, but also help to manage these relations and make a shift from a conflictual approach to a cooperative one.

Keywords: Geo-security, Geopolitics, Iran, Foreign Policy, Middle East.

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1. Introduction

As an academic field in the study of politics through geographic and naturalistic approaches (Gharayagh Zandi,2015:217-244; Cox and et al, 2008:9; Hafiznia and Kavianirad,2013; Ezzati,2006), geopolitics gives various explanations to political phenomena. In addition, security studies are a new sub-branch of international relations that deals with security issues, such as terrorism, drugs production and transportation, and nuclear proliferation, especially in regions such as the Middle East (Gharayagh Zandi,2020).

To answer a question related to why some world regions are more affected by security issues, you need to go through a new field of study called geo-security, which is a combination of security studies, political power, and geography. In addition, just describing the security issues in the world does not justify the introduction of new concepts to geopolitics. It should present some essential components to help us to discuss why some regions of the world are more prone to security issues. It also raises more questions about the relationship between security and geography. Based on a deterministic approach, geopolitics defines political geography in their mutual sense. In this case, components of geo-security can help us to solve the security problems in a place or to protect the environment against the destructive impacts of conflicts and wars. Focus on geography turns the subject into the environmental security, and attention to the security issues gives the importance to the national security, in a way that the main subject of the former is geography and that one of the latter is the nation-state. Geo-security, as described here, focuses on the latter and does not necessarily cover environmental security. It is also an interdisciplinary field in which the study of issues is related to both geopolitics and the state as the main Westphalia structure in progress today.

The main research question is what are the basic components of geo-security that justify it as a new concept of security studies? The main research hypothesis is that the main components of geo-security consist of territoriality, conflict, and scarcity. To conceptualize the concept of geo-security, you have to show what makes this concept distinct from the commonly used ones, discuss the three main components of geo-security, and apply them to Iran's foreign policy on its neighbor countries.

2.Research Method

As to research method, it is at first tried to conceptualize the Geo-security as the new conceptual framework to explain and to highlight the security dimension of geopolitics and then by using the descriptive-analytical research method, it described the Iran's Geo-security dimensions and by these two basic settings set a proper context to analyze the Iran's relationship with its neighbors as the result.

3.Geo-Security and its Relevant Concepts

There are some common concepts related to geopolitics, such as geo-strategy, geo-economics, geo-energy, and geo-culture, which need to be distinguished from geo-security. Describing these concepts not only clarifies the difference between them and geo-security but also shows how all of them can be used in geo-security studies. According to Edward Luttwak and Pascal Lorot, geo-economics is the study of interactions between economics, geography, and political power. It focuses on the earth, as the main factor of production, labor, and goods. Geo-security investigates economic resources location, points of supply and demand, economic management, main places of economic competency and economic exchange of goods and capital. Regarding the geographical view of geo-economics on production, labor, earth, capital, management and technology, it commonly discusses geopolitics and proposes an analytical tool for surveying the historical and transformative trends of economic phenomena related to geography and geopolitics Spark,2007:3). Geo-energy is concerned with relations between geography, energy and political power and discusses the distribution of energy resources, places of production and consumption, energy transmission and variation of the energy routes and reserves throughout the world. The relationship between geography, culture and political power directs you to geo-culture. "As a complex process of interaction among political power, culture and geographical environment, it shows that culture, like other social phenomena, is in the process of creation, transformation, combination and movement over time and all around the world" (Heidari,1999:147; Thrift and Whitmore,2005:10). Geo-culture examines the expansion history of a culture, where it comes from, its domination era, and how much it has interacted with other cultures or else remained pure. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) pursues to replace, in its turn, the current Christian global manner by the Islamic one.

Out of the above-mentioned concepts, geo-strategy is more close to geo-security. Before attracting attention in security studies, it discussed some domains such as non-military issues of national interests, as one of the areas of strategic studies. In political sciences, the military dimensions of the national security and interests gradually dominated the strategic studies, and other dimensions, like sociocultural and economic ones, went ahead with the security studies (Buzan,1992:11). Theoretically, before separating different domains of strategic studies, as Fredrick L. Schuman (1942) stated in general, it was related to "controlling and having access to domains like land, water and the outer-space, which positively or negatively, affects the country's security or progress" (Kempt and Harkavy,1997:29). Later on, there was a separation of the geo-strategy from the geography places and core regions in a specific military perspective.

Geo-security is related to geography and security. According to Cox's definition, geography refers to "issues and institutions related to place-space relations" (Cox,2002:4). In another sense, geography deals with time, place, and all the issues that are considered as objectives of human life. As defined by Spykeman, "geography is not the argument, just it is" (O'Tuathail,1996: 54). We just need to adopt the realities of geography and develop some geographical instruments such as electro-magnetic maps, cyber dates (Dodds,2007:7), and aerial pictures from critical places of the enemy's facilities.

The concept of security deals with the preservation of the people, a place or a thing from danger (objective security), a sense of security (subjective security), and protection against anxiety to be confident about personal findings (Buzan,1992:36). Therefore, some security issues, such as protecting places and material things against threats, are related to geography. Whilst geography is a context of well-being for humans, the security perception of geography affects the mutual human-nature relations. It makes us seriously take the human perception of geography into consideration. This determines the main subject of geo-security because multi-dimensional security would be more complex. Any issue is generally a geographic one; but it is very critical in the security studies to know that what the main subject of security is. Nowadays, any geographical and security studies are configured into the national structure. It means that the geographical divisions, urban planning and economic activities are affected

by the countries' behavior. It means that the main objective of the security studies is to protect the state regarding the common domain between the geography and the security, while the nation-state long-lasting objective is to preserve the state regarding the geo-security.

Geo-security is a dimension of the geopolitics that concerns the threats and opportunities of the nation-states; shortly, we work on 'the geography of national security' in which by focusing on the state-level, some sub-national and transnational issues are geographically paid attention. Geo-security is an interdisciplinary field by which some dimensions of the geo-culture, geo-strategy and geo-energy work on what makes threats and opportunities for countries. Generally, the geo-energy works on the resource, situation and transportation of the energy but in the geo-security context, oil selling stop by Prime Minister Mosadeq's cabinet in Iran in 1953 prepared the Anglo coup d'état against him. Why the Middle East is, as a long-rooted place for Islam (geo-culturally), so fertile for the terrorism (in geo-security perspective). Shortly, you can say about geo-security: 1. It considers dimensions of national security, including threats or opportunities, not solely on the strength and weakness of the geopolitics, 2. It is state-centered and 3. It is an interdisciplinary field of study.

4.Three Concepts of Geo-Security
The combination of these three concepts of geo-security made a good potentiality for the explanation of the related issues as follows:

Figure (1): Three Constituents of Geo-Security
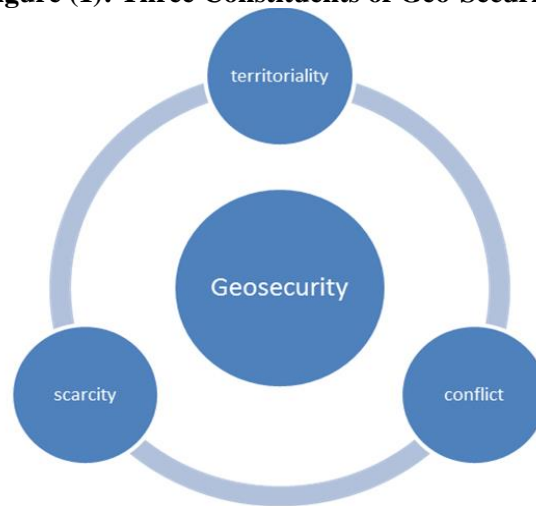
4-1. Territoriality

At first, making a distinction between the territory and territoriality for the geo-security would be useful. Territory means "the strategy used by the people, groups, and organizations working for exercising power on the space and its consistencies" (Blacksell,2006:18). In this connection, it has three features including: it is a form of the stratification of the regions; it can clearly be shown on the land or on the map and lastly, it can avoid the physical interventions of any police and military aggressions (Blacksell,2006:19). Territoriality, vice versa, as a human instinct, implies "the endeavors of a person or a group for influencing, penetrating and controlling the people, the phenomena and the relations, via making some limitation on the frontiers of a geographical region" (Muir,2007:21; Cox,2002:2-4). In fact, territoriality is a humanistic motivation for making an ad hoc realm in which persuading is exercised for acquiring more interest, pleasure and position. While it makes a conflict between two states, it is worth to examine it in the geo-security, because it is primarily related to the instincts and inner intentions of humans and physics of the territory come in second place.

Territoriality is somehow concerned with the third feature of territory: protecting the realm from the forces abroad. Any threat to the territory means a challenge for the authority of the state (Muir,2007:63) and coming

into high politics. Territoriality exists in the behaviors of the state in the modern age because they are primarily exposed to challenges from other states. Here, the boundaries appear real and critical for blocking the foreign threats from abroad and facilitating the social control in the domestic domain (Dryslare and Blake,1985:10-11). In other words, the centrifugal forces and the centripetal ones could have a pivotal role in destroying or preserving a territory. Any war, conflict and violence can generally be made by two causes: natural needs and preventing from the foreign attacks. A need to live in a realm would be naturally justified in the name of so-called lebensraum. So, it is necessary to make a safe place for living because a lack of protection and security in a territory would be a noticeable intervening temper. Both of them, intertwined together, get better if they come in the field of the geo-security.

Mentioned issues do not constrain the territoriality. It just does not have a natural base. It is a human's attitude for forceful inclination for reputation, pleasure, and credit. In a natural manner, the superior, by its might, could exploit the inferior. Privileges and profits are not to relief the natural need, but it is the opportunistic one in the lap of luxury life. As a result, "the world's geography is not a product of nature but it is a historical conflict for acquiring power, organization, occupation and space between states" (O'Tuathail,1996:54). The Western countries in the 18th and 19th centuries are the best instances of the territoriality not striving for satisfying the needs but for finding more markets in the East for their extra-productions and natural materials. In the beginning, territoriality was based on the land called colonialism and in the advanced form, so-called neo-imperialism strictly going to achieve the space instead of the land. "Space is not just a 'place' for fighting but it is a coordinated and integrated system in which the conflicts are created. Space is implying more complex qualities by the situation" (Hirst,2005:52). The influence and intervention in other regions configure it into the normative, soft and intangible shapes rather than territorial domination.

Shortly, there are two different aspects of territoriality: In the first one, the struggle is made on the territory and limited land, and in the latter one, it extends into the regional and global spheres. In addition, the first one concentrates on the place and the latter examines the space and its qualities. Therefore, the territoriality, as a human inclination, is in human nature.

However, the old form of territoriality ended in the international system. The intervention of Iraq into Kuwait in 1990 was strongly responded by the great powers as well as the support of the international society (Adib-Moghaddam,2006: Ch.2). An old fashion of territoriality, conflict on the land, remains in some regions that belong to the past. Those boundary struggles do not have severe effects on the survival of the states, but just have an effect on the legitimacy and accountability of the political systems.

The new territoriality, instead, has widely become current in the globalized world in the space form. The military campaign, nowadays, is not for dominating over a land, as it was common in the past, and acquiring a territory by force and transmitting it to the local state, as done in US-led military operation on Iraq in 1990 would be an absurd thing in the 18th-century atmosphere. As a result, the territoriality will experience development in the future, but it remains as the core constituent of the geo-security.
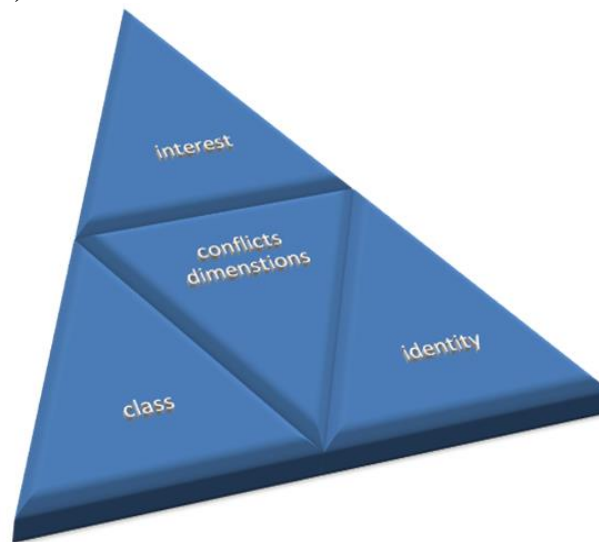
4-2. Conflict

It is worth mentioning that there is a distinction between conflict and competition. The latter is primarily common in the socio-economic and military domains such as geo-economics, energy section and military comparison. The competition means improving self-situation in comparison with the others for acquiring more interest or any other inclination.

In a conflict, there are some disputes on something between two or more sides. In competition, some established rules and capabilities draw the game, in conflict, instead, any parties demand some or all in monopoly. In this situation, a geographic conflict definitely comes into the geo-security. Here, there are three key issues in the conflict: conflict of interest, of stratification and of identity (Gharayagh Zandi,2007:105). When some try to reach more interest, this comes into the competition. Because of the related interests, some disputes may happen and it may lead to a struggle. When taking a position happens in an illegitimate manner or there are some serious obstacles in standing in a position that leads into the conflict, the deprived ones want to acquire the perceived legitimate social position. Third, the conflict on identity is more serious than the other ones, regarding scope and intensity, because it is a matter of honor. The first one could be solved more easily compared to a situation that the two others come and it is more negotiable and more peripheral.

The dispute of Iran and UAE on their common energy wells could be definitely more solvable compared to their conflict on the property of three islands, two Tunbs, and Abu Musa in the Persian Gulf. The latter comes into the point of honor and withdrawing of it delegitimizes the sovereignty of political systems and leads to the different fault of the Arab or non-Arab (Ajam) identity.

Figure (2): Three Dimensions of Conflict Resources

Some dimensions of conflict in the geographic domain would be seen in the sub-national or transnational disputes, indeed. Affected in executive apparatus, for example between the local and the central government, would make struggles such as the case of Kurdistan of Iraq over the Kirkuk oil benefits and its allocation in that country so that it could be set a pretext for separation of that realm from the Iraqi state. While the conflict remained in the budget allocation, it was not the case in quite severe things. It could be combined with ethnic issues such as the Kurd-Arab distinction and could lead to catastrophe. As the other sub-national issues, environmental security, the electoral constituencies, and the federal orientation all targeted the consensus-building function of the established government. The disputes over the social solidarity and identity and territory integration coalesce into the geo-security.

All the sub-national conflicts clearly aim to reach targets related to the productive, executive, consensus and integrity functions of the state domestically (Blacksell,2006:18). In addition, some conflicts do appear at the transnational level. Some, such as the ones over the boundaries, mineral resources and territory among nations, will be studied here. The Arab-Israel Conflict and the Kashmiri one (Gharayagh Zandi,2010: Ch.8), for instance, are not just mentioned as the conflict of interest. Nevertheless, they continued more than half of a century because it was really over the stratification and ideational dimensions of the conflict.

The pursuit of supremacy is the other instance of transnational conflict (Agnew,1998:67). As an example of being in a geographical-conflict context, we can mention the linguistic dimension of spatial differences in the world, for example in the underdeveloped or the industrialized countries. This is also the case with the Christianized role of the authorized international organizations, perceived by the other religions insisting on making changes, the terrorist reaction on the domination of a great power in some regions and the proliferation of the nuclear weapons throughout the world.

Some geographical conflicts may be securitizing the issues such as the terroristic attack in which you can see a virtue of resistance against domination of the great powers, as occurred in the Middle East. Any geographical differences and struggles that are not solved in a common manner or convert into a violent situation are considered as issues of the geo-security in theory.

4-3. The Scarcity
Unlike the first two constituents of the geo-security, the scarcity is mostly characterized by the natural, geographical and physical essences. It could be the cause of the conflict among nations in the form of a materialistic one. Meanwhile, it can separately be studied as a part of the geo-security. The scarcity means that there is just a stable natural resource for living from the outset in spite of an exponentially growing population and the increasing sense of taking pleasure of the human from nature. Therefore, in this situation, those resources would be more invaluable than the past (Dunmore, 1987:563).

As a result, more consumption means more welfare and more consent, too (Dunmore,1987:564). In this view, any invasion on scarce resources means

aiming at the welfare and prosperity of the other part so that it is a clear sign of hostility and it comes immediately into the security situation. In some ways, it may be threatening for the survival or the current living form of the country. Any threat to the fossil energy reserves as the strategic resources in the modern age are living proof for continuing the industrialized countries' manufactures because its reductive effects on the prosperity of the countries and as a result, some domestic upheavals are raised. This is a case of fighting for survival, for example in the Western countries, the Middle East or the Persian Gulf (Gharayagh Zandi,2009:21). In addition, it is important in relation to water and its distribution among the neighboring countries in the Middle East. For instance, one of the issues that comes into the geo-security studies is related to the water-sharing rights of Hirmand and Hariroud rivers in the eastern borders of Iran with Afghanistan, regarding the shortage situation. Not only does it affect the relation between Turkey, Iraq and Syria, but also it is a good reason for cooperation among the Persian Gulf sub-system over the drinking water.

The nuclear energy and related issues, such as deserts clean-up and drinking water, both in peace and defense and security situation, and also the safeguard security of the nuclear reactors, all would be mentioned in the Middle East, as the main subjects of the scarcity in the geo-security perspective rather than to examine it economically. The critical point in this perspective, on the scare and strategic resources, is that they exist in dispersed places throughout the world so that the resources are in some regions and the consumers are located in different zones.

In spite of the geographical distance, as a result, their economic and security issues are intertwined together, while any disturbance in the baseline would have huge effects on the terminus one and vice versa. Inquiring about the scarcity leads to striving to find out new ways for its relief, such as finding new and alternative resources. By those alternative resources, the dependency of the countries on the particular goods is reducing and multiplying their security efficiency, as a result. Trying to explore new energy resources and new transmitting routes in geo-energy inquiries are in fact a way of increasing countries' free will in interacting with the supplying countries. Planning the strategic reserves of oil as a result of the oil shock of 1973, for reducing the possible vulnerabilities in the crisis, is another way of security deal.

Another solution to reduce the dependency on the scarcity is related to the reproductive mechanisms in the production process (Dodds,2000:7). From the perspective of the liberal institutionalization, the mutual interdependencies between the suppliers and the demanding countries are a different way of multiplying the efficiency of the national security of both. Because of interdependency, they depend on each other so that any distance from the other part means a severe situation. As a result, more intertwining together means more secure conditions.

5.Some of Iran's Characters in Geo-Security Perspective
Not only are there some characteristics that could represent Iran's role in the geo-security perspective, but also they help to introduce the geo-security of the close proximity of Iran. These are as follows:
First, Iran with 1,648,195 sq. km area is in the 18th position in the world, a large amount of 1,531,595 sq. km of it is located in the land, and just 116,400 sq. km is in its sea property. Around Iran, Russia with 17,098,242 sq. km and Saudi Arabia with 2,249,690 sq. km are larger.
Second, in quantity, Iran's population by 78,878,711 people stands in a good place and with 18th position in the world comes after Pakistan, Russia, and Turkey in fourth. In quality, Russia with a large amount of population, 142,517,670 people, and huge energy resource is in a distinguished position in the region. In comparison, the relation between the population, 190,291,129 people and the economic resources in Pakistan is so inconsistent. Turkey approximately has a population as large as the population of Iran with a shortage in the natural resources and on the other side, there is Iraq with no shortage in the energy resources and half amount of population compared to Iran and Turkey. Saudi Arabia is the richest country in the world with a population as large as Iraq's one. You can say that Iran, regarding the relationship between population and natural resources in quality and quantity, has the largest good rank after Russia in the region.
Third, Iran has also 5894 km of land boundaries with the seven neighbors, respectively Iraq, Turkmenistan, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Turkey, and Armenia. "Iran with China and after Federation of Russia keeps the record in having that amount of neighbors. Iranian governments, by understanding these geographical facts, make a critical change in their strategic behavior" (Karimpour,2000:23).

Fourth, Iran has 2440 km sea boundaries of which 740 km is in the Caspian Sea. In spite of being a closed sea, it connects Iran with four countries in the north of Iran including Russia. The Persian Gulf and Oman Sea in the south are actually the vital water gate and windows of Iran to the world. An amount of 80 percent of Iran's export and import and more than 95 percent of oil export is via the Strait of Hormuz as a critical and strategic zone. As a result, any threat would not be in favor of Iran foremost.

Fifth, Iran is located in the core of several sub-systems, the Persian Gulf, the Middle East, Central Asia, and Transcaucasia and southwestern regions. It means that Iran connects those regions in greater regionalism, for example, the Greater Middle East or what gradually is known as Inter-regionalism (Hafiznia,2007).

Figure (3): Map Iran in the Core of the Several Regions

Sixth, Iran is one of the richest countries in the world regarding energy resources. With 157.3 bbl of oil reserves, Iran is the fourth country after Venezuela (297.700 bbl.), Saudi Arabia (268.400 bbl.) and Canada (173.200 bbl.) and also in the natural gas is in the second rank with 33.8 billion cu m reserve comes after Russia (47.8 billion m^3).

Seventh, regarding the energy reserves, Iran is located in the energy transformation route. The Strait of Hormuz alone transmits 17 percent of the world's oil and it is in the energy route to the western countries via the Suez Canal and to the east via the Strait of Malacca. (See the map below).

Figure (4): Map Energy Routes in 2013
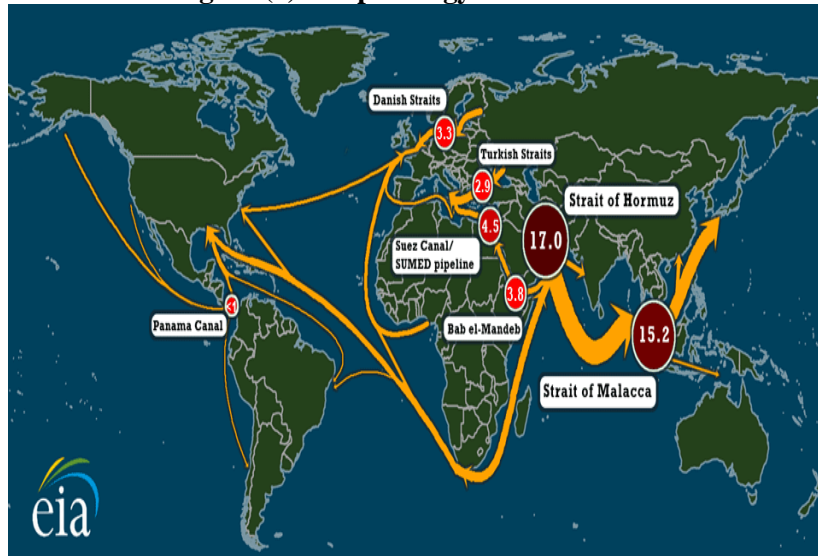
All estimates in million barrels per day. Includes crude oil and petroleum products. Based on 2013 data.

Eighth, Iran is a country of different cultures, languages, ethnic groups and races. By its empire nostalgia in the far past (See to Syrus, Hafiznia and Houchard, 2015), it has gathered some pieces of Persia as the main ethnic domain with the Lures, the Kurds, the Azeri and the Arabs. There is a majority of the Shiites and a Sunni minority. The Persian language is the official language and lingua franca along with Kurdish, Turkish and Arabic. From the perspective of geo-security, some ethnic groups like Azerbaijani, Kurd, Arab, Baloch, and Turkmen all stretch into the realms of neighboring countries. It could have the potential as a threat and an opportunity for all countries. (See the ethnic map of Iran below).

Figure (5): Map Major Tribal Groups in Iran
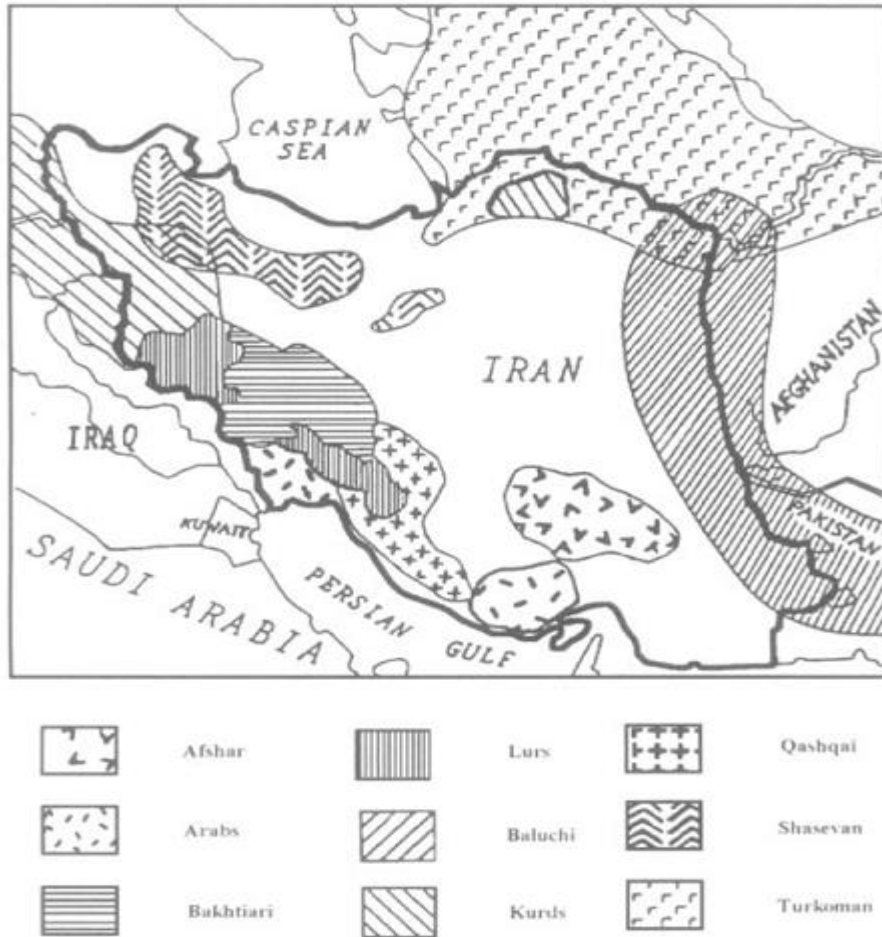
 Last, there are some cultural communities and diversifications (Hosseini Beheshti,2019) in Iran with their neighbors in Shiite and Sunni, Arab or Ajam, Muslim or non-Muslim distinctions, which have made some conflicts and cooperation in the past and they can set the ground for them in the future (Kavianirad,2007).

6.Iran's Geo-security with Its Neighbors
Now, we can study the geo-security of Iran in relation to its neighbors as a case study. As introduced in the definition of geo-security, it consists of

three concepts: territoriality, conflict and scarcity. In the next step, we examine sixteen geo-security issues of Iran with their neighbors in the context of the three concepts mentioned above.

Territoriality: In this section, there are six issues in the periphery of Iran's boundaries. Three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf, lesser and greater Tunbs and Abu-Musa are one of the issues that remained since the withdrawing Britain from the Persian Gulf in 1971. In spite of the mutual agreement on these islands in 1971, it has been an issue of absurd territoriality conflict between the United Arab Emirates and Iran, especially in the regional crises or at the times Iran has been in the weakest link. The reason for this is the strategic location of these islands in the routes of oil transportation in the Persian Gulf (Hafiznia and Janparver,2012:199-202).

**Figure (6): Map Sea Demarcation in the Persian Gulf**

The first issue has created the second one. It is the contest on naming the "Persian" Gulf (Hafiznia,1998). It is obvious that just a name does not bring supremacy for a country, but the power dimensions of a country define its strategic codes. It may extend to the name of Hormuz even by supposing that the first one is solved. It means that Iran is the main power in the Persian Gulf with a long shore, but by acknowledging the supremacy of Iran in the region, it is not a pretext for Iran to act as an authority and also for the

UAE to provoke. Emphasizing the second one by the UAE made the third territoriality issue on the closing of the Strait of Hormuz by Iran in aggravated situations as an asymmetric response. As mentioned above, any threat to the Strait of Hormuz makes more restrictions for Iran than for others. It is just the Last Hurrah.

The fourth one is related to the 1975 Algiers Agreement between Iran and Iraq. Although it was as an international agreement that had to be respected, it caused an imposed war of Iraq on Iran in 1981 and some problems remained on demarcation in the two countries boundaries according to that agreement and also there was the problem of compensation for economic damages caused by the 8-year war between (Adib-Moghaddam,2006, Ch.2).

Figure (7): Map Iran-Iraq Boundary Demarcation
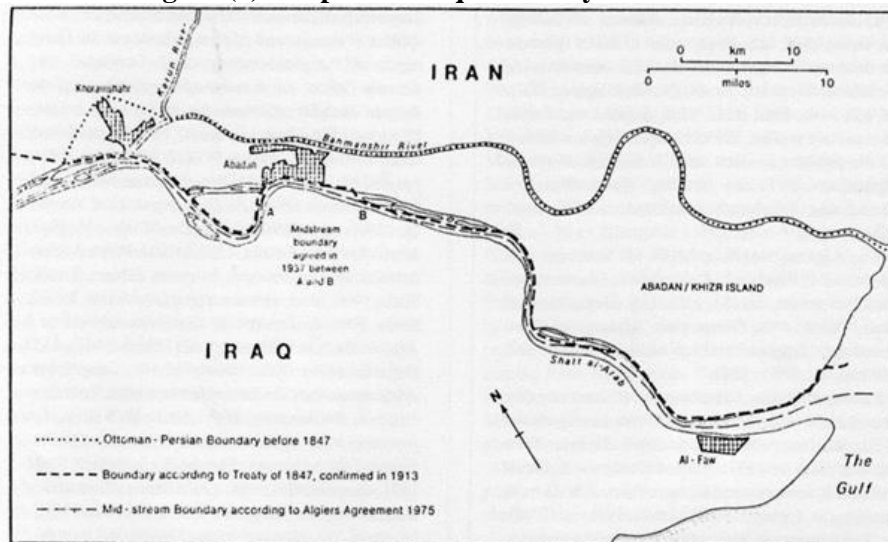
(**Source:** Drysdale and Blake, The Middle East and North Africa, a Political Geography,87)

Fifth, the ethnic groups that reside in the boundaries of Iran may be provoked for some disintegrating movement from the outside of the boundaries. The Azeri in the western north, The Kurds in the west, the Arab in the south-western, the Baluch in the south-eastern may be provoked from the same ethno-nationalists from the neighbors or other rivalries from the outer geography placed.

Sixth and the last one is related to the Caspian Sea demarcation conflict. Before the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Caspian Sea was a common

closed sea between the two countries. But now five countries, Iran, Russia, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, and Azerbaijan, are contesting on the demarcation and also sea bed natural resources. In this region, the rivalry between the US and Russia and their relations with the off-shore countries can set the scene for more contested in the future. (See the Map in the below).

Figure (8): Map Neighboring Countries in the Caspian Sea

Conflict: The five issues can also be considered in a way related to the conflict at the periphery of Iran. First, there is a historical misperception between Iran and the neighbors (Karimpour,2000: Ch.7). It affects any relations and initiatives between the countries. Iran is going to revive its historical empire in the region by any means, for example, the Iranian positive nationalism in the Pahlavi dynasty or the Islamic brotherhood of the post-revolutionary ideology (Fuller,1991; Ezzati,2013). What especially is thought by officials of the neighbors in Iraq, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, and the Persian Gulf states has roots in the Iranian admirations on their glorious background on one side and some territorial interventions occurred in the past. Strictly speaking, the region did not witness any serious endeavors for eradicating these cumulative historical ambitions. Further, it may vice versa

volatiles the issue from the sides of conflicts, as occurred in the Iraq-Iran war (1980-1987).

The Shiite - Sunni conflicts created some security elements from the both sides (Akhbari and Zolfaghari,2009). In one side, there is the Iranian revolutionary and ideological euphoria on supporting the depressed throughout the world, especially the Shiite population in Iraq, Bahrain, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Chechnya and so on. It leads into burning the boats as really occurred in Iraq-Iran war. In the other side, it provides some pretext for provoking the Sunni population, such as in the Baluchistan and Kurdistan and south Khorasan provinces of Iran, by some Arab countries (Gharayagh Zandi,2016:101-128).

The third issue making problems between the region's countries is that Iran feels highly concerned on the security relations of some countries with the western powers who are in contest with the Iran. In the Iranian officials' view, this relation in which one side is just sending military equipment in the region for profits, is a misalliance in essence. In addition, in the Islamic context, the survival of some regional countries depends on existence of military bases of those countries that are not Muslim and it means that they make them provide their devices that impose expenses on the Muslim world. In the other side, there are some reasons to do it. The countries in the south of Iran are the itty-bitty powers that are not able to do jobs regarding their security behavior. The unfavorable experiments of these countries confirmed it, like what happened in Iraqi attack on Kuwait in 1991. This disappointing happening occurred in spite of the fact that the Kuwait and Saudi Arabia had signed a security pact in 1982 with Iraq for defending them against the Iranian threats.

Alongside the Persian Gulf region, all around Iran, there are many US military bases in Iraq, Transcaucasia, central Asia and Afghanistan and Pakistan. This problem has made some complicated issues between Iran and the neighbors so that there is not a satisfying solution for it in the near future.

Iran's nuclear program is another issue making some conflicts between Iran and the region's countries. Nuclear program in both peaceful and military fields brings Iran to the supremacy position in the region. In Iranian security domain, it could play upper hands in the region along with its other geo-security characters mentioned above. Strictly speaking, Iran laid claim to

nuclear options by two reasons: one of them is returning to its unfavorable experience in Iraq-Iran war in which a lack of effective military means for responding any foreign attack in proper time made the Iraqi side intervene in the devastating political situation of revolutionary Iran. The second one is related to the Iranian deep concerns on Israeli possible attack to Iran for regime change because of their hostility background in the past three decades, especially in a domestic political crisis status and also related to defending its homeland security in a supposed all-out political situation in Pakistan in which the nuclear weapons may get out of hand of the army of that country and fall down to the hands of the extremist terrorist groups in eastern border of Iran. Iran is actually in a serious strategic situation in the region in which it could not be apathetic on it especially by which does not engage in any security arrangement (Araghchi,2016).

What explained here may be appeared as a concept paper for Iran's persuading to achieve nuclear weapons. It is not the whole story. Accessing the nuclear weapons burn heavy multiply expenditures by perpetuated expansion, safeguard security, reserving and nuclear testing of them so that they have rightly been called as the nuclear 'ambitions'. Also, strategic capability of nuclear weapons made high-pitched security warnings in the region. Pursuing the nuclear weapons program escalates the security dilemma which results in provoking the nuclear proliferation in the region and also getting the context of the defense dilemma by virtue of contradicting the defense budget with other expenditures in the GDP, as happened in North Korea's nuclear program. The peaceful nuclear performance is inadequate based on the Iranian strategic concerns in the region. The median procedure for Iran, regarding the nuclear issue, is doing the best to reach the capacity – instead of the capability – of nuclear program. Negotiating with 5+1 group in the form of JCOPA in parallel to the missile program set out the Iranian nuclear program in reality as I think so.

The last one could be a conflicting manner between Iran and its neighbors that are the route of the narcotic drugs from the fertile land of Afghanistan in the east border of Iran and transferring it to the north western of Iran in the boundary of Iran with Turkey. Not only is it the security problem of Iran for coping on it in the Sistan and Baluchistan province and its easy use in

the domestic environment, but only does it make problem in Turkey and the EU too.

Scarcity: It can introduce four issues in the geo-security domain of Iran in relation with the scarcity manner. First, the eastern side of Iran is faced with a shortage of water because of its warm dry climate. In addition, there are two border rivers, Hirmand and Hariroud, which comes from Afghanistan and stretch into the Iranian borders. These rivers with small flow into Iranian borders are really vital to fertile the agriculture of Sistan and Baluchistan Province of Iran. In the past years, making dams on these two rivers in the Afghani side has made some problems between two countries regarding to what was agreed in 1927 for rights of water sharing (Akbari, 2014:86).

The second one is related to common oilfield of Iran with its neighbors. In the Persian Gulf, Iran has some oilfield in common with Saudi Arabia in Frouzan and Esfandiyar oilfields, with Kuwait in Arash oilfield, with United Emirate of Arab in Noussrat, Mobarak and Farzam oilfields and a gas resource with Qatar in the South Pars and also sections A and B of Farzad oilfields. In addition, Iran has five common oilfields, including Naftshahr, Dehloran, West Payedar, Azadegan and Yadavaran in the Iraqi border. Defining how much and how the oil should be extracted out of the wells may cause some problems, as it did before (Akbari,2014: 87).

Third issue is on the gas transit line in Iran-Pakistan-India, known the peace line. It aims to transform the Iranian gas to the eastern borders by increasing their consumer needs in the future. It not only makes more economic interactions between Iran and its eastern border sides, but also it is a spill over technique for more integration among the shareholding countries (Kavianirad,2006). It is greatly useful for all in the region but the US officials, by any means such as made some pressures on the Pakistani side, have tried to restrain any attempt that improves the status of Iranian position in its periphery regions (Ghanbarlou,2010).

Last one is related to the Saudi-Iran competition on how much oil would be exported through the OPEC organization (Bahgat,2005:139). The Iranian side does deem that it should be diminishing and it is exactly opposite to the Saudi side that believes in increasing it more and more without any economic alternatives for the OPEC export. It is a leadership contesting between them.

Figure (8): Whole Geo-Security Issues of Iran with its Neighbors
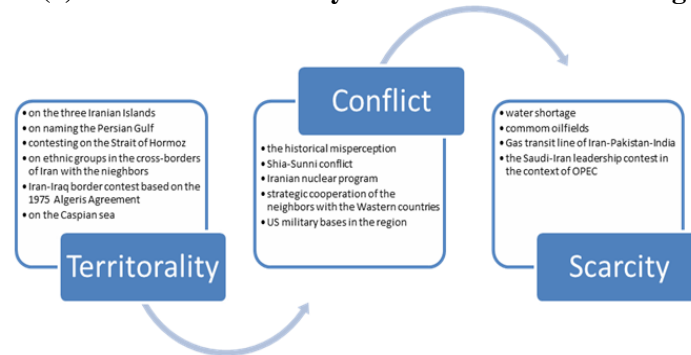
7.Conclusion

The main object of this article was to show that there are some issues in geopolitics that could not be studied by the power dynamics, strengths and weaknesses. Those issues are highly prior to be understood in context of threats and opportunities that can be brought to the states. By introducing those aspects, geo-security can make a new perspective in analyzing the geographical issues. Not only could three constituents of the geo-security, named territoriality, conflict and scarcity, be shown in the security situations of a geographical place or space, but also they show what issues are important, when the issues get escalated and how they can be managed. In this respect, in a geographical situation, when there are more issues in territoriality realm or there is a severe issue related to this realm, it means that threat aspect of geo-security is increasing. Also, more scarcity issues mean more opportunities for interested partners. It helps to conclude that in managing the geopolitical crises there is a need to transform the issues into the scarcity manner, rather into the reverse direction. In addition, to know the potentiality of this new concept in geopolitics, it is applied to the peripheral environmental security of Iran. The findings show that, by this concept, you can know the geo-security aspect of Iran's foreign policy toward the neighbors, numerate the critical issues and determine which ones can be escalating the situation and how you can manage them in a safe and effective way.

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