

Turbulence Management Model in Iran's Middle East Policy¹

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Abstract

The Middle East today can be considered an area with the features of chaos due to its geopolitical structure, complex historical identity and decades of crisis. In this volatile area, security has undergone an extensive alteration, and the Islamic Republic of Iran, as a major actor and historical activist, needs certain behavioral patterns to correspond to the situations and trends of security chaos. The present paper seeks to identify the elements of Iran's regional behavioral patterns in the Middle East security chaos. It is hypothesized that Iran needs to take advantage of patterns of constructive interaction, balancing, geopolitical stability, and Interactive Order-Building to play a regional role in this chaos. A descriptive-analytical method and theoretical modeling is employed to account for the historical process of chaos in the Middle East and Iran's chaos management model in foreign policy.

Keywords: Chaos, The Middle East, Iran, Strategic Management.

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1. Introduction

The Middle East is a region burdened with complexities, entanglements and incessant security turbulences, which has experienced various conflicts with different signs in different decades. An in-depth historical analysis shows that the Middle East has witnessed a multitude of internal and regional crisis-causing and destabilizing conflicts from antiquity until now. This region has been the center of global attention since mid-20 century, and perhaps the most significant region in the world strategically, economically, politically and culturally ever since. The escalation of long conflicts between the Arabs and Israel and the interventions of major powers in the Middle East issues have turned this region into one of the most critical regions in the world, which cannot be called a crisis anymore. Consequently, the strategic components of order in the political life of this region will change, and due to previous factors, the form of relations and its subsequent consequences proceed not systematically but generatively. The strategic and geopolitical birth of the Middle East took place through chain revolutions, the rise of a new type of terrorist group, the formation of weak governments and overlapping crises. Four large-scale wars between the Arabs and Israel, three major wars in the Persian Gulf, many civil wars, the rise of different movements, and the growth of terrorist groups, all indicate how much this region needs order and stability. The continuation of these ups and downs has caused the Middle East region to be at a point in the middle of order and disorder, in other words, "chaos". From this point of view, the changes that have occurred in this strategic region are so novel, complex and different from the past that have tempted many researchers in the field of international relations, regional studies and foreign policy to discover the foreign policy models of the countries in these new conditions. Existing research has generally focused the roots of the Middle East security crises and the creation of security structures in this region. One important study was conducted by Anthony Cordesman (2016) at the Center for International Strategic Studies, who worked on the changing security structure of the Middle East. Holmquist and Rydqvist (2016) also focused on modeling the security future of the Middle East (for about 10 years). Despite the fundamental changes in the regional order and chaotic trends, it seems that there is no scholarly and practical conception about the chaos

management processes in Iran. The present study is an attempt to examine the representation of Iran's behavioral patterns in dealing with such a trend by representing the concept of chaos through graphic models. Within this framework, the main question of the research can be formulated in relation to how to manage chaos in regional trends.

RQ: What is Iran's model of regional behavior pattern in the condition of chaos in the Middle East?

It is hypothesized that in order to play a regional role in this chaotic area, Iran needs to take advantage of the patterns of constructive interaction, balancing, geopolitical stability and interaction order.

2. Method

This research employed a combination of meta-objective method and a qualitative approach, with a descriptive-analytical design, to study Iran's foreign policy in the Middle East region as a case. Using the meta-objective method, the research actually sought to represent the Turbulence Management model in the foreign policy and regional policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

3. Theoretical Literature

3-1. Theories of Chaos

The current international system is wielding a condition called chaos for some regional and international areas due to factors such as intense competitions, instability in balances and alliances, decreased level, scope and depth of security, increased instability and security nodes, and spreading ideologicalism, extremism and terrorism. This "chaotic" security environment has made challenges for researchers to understand the nature and formations of the international system.

Although many researchers in the field of international relations have used mainstream approaches to understand the nature of the international system, with new theorization and the emergence of new currents, the need for the use of alternative approaches and the employment of currents in other sciences, especially natural sciences, is felt more by researchers and thinkers in the field of politics and international relations. In humanities, "chaos paradigm" is used as an alternative paradigm to explain and analyze systematic behavioral patterns. But the chaos paradigm was clearly used in political science by analyzing the internal chaotic changes in countries, and

in international relations, it was first used in the "power cycle" theories. Later, in the 90s, it was used as a dominant theory to explain international and regional changes. The changes in the systemic order in international relations can be conceptualized within the analytical framework of the chaos and the chaotic trends of international system (Ghasemi,2022:290).

However, the basic question is, under what conditions does chaos take place and what are its symptoms? In order to answer this theoretical problem, since the 70s, some academic theoretical efforts have been made in natural sciences and different humanities sciences in tandem, especially in explaining the concept of "chaos". This collaboration appeared in George Modelski's "long cycle of power" theory (1976), Diana Richards' "disruption of power" theory (1993) and James Rosenau's "Turbulence in World Politics" theory (1991).

Analysts in the field of international relations and regional studies in the last two decades have focused on how great powers emerge, grow and decline, what factors are responsible for decline and degeneration, and what situation will it face in the inter-systemic trends or in the power shifts in the international system and regional order? To answer these questions, it is necessary to refer to George Modelski's theory of "long cycles theory" of power. He considered the cycle as a reversible pattern of existence or functioning of a system. In other words, the system returns to its starting point after a certain period of time. Modelski considered this evolution of power and system cycle during specific periods of time to be chaotic (Kolaei,1998:160).

From Modelski's point of view, the concept of long cycles refers to repetition and sequence, and the recurring patterns of behavior that regularly occur in global policies. The concept of sequence and cycle include features such as order is gradual, non-uniform, global and limited in time (Modelski, 1988: 10). Modelski believed that every order is moving toward destruction, structures are disintegrating, and with the reduction of consistency in the system, the creation of situational fluctuations, the reduction of order and instability in the structures of the world order lead to chaos in the system. Thus, the presence of a powerful challenger can push the system to disorder, imbalance and finally collapse (Modelski and Thompson,1995:54).

In Modelski's chaos model, chaos emerges in world policies in two initial and final periods of the long cycle of power. In the period when the international system is facing world wars, it seeks order as the priority, but

the access to the world order is at a low level. Along with the emergence of a global power, the priority of order is promoted and its feasibility also increases. Through de-legitimization of global power and leadership, order becomes a lower priority in the hierarchy of global power, but the system is still orderly and far from chaos. When the system faces the decline of global leadership power by the challenging government(s), the order falls to its lowest point with regard to priorities and access.

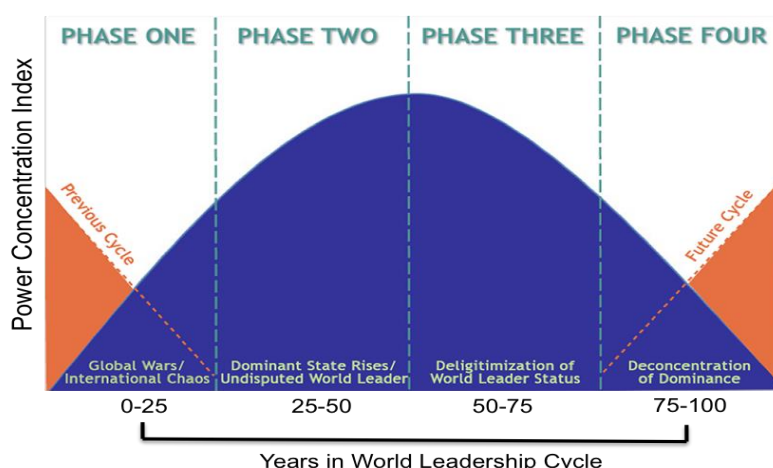


Figure (1): Chaos Infographic Model in Modelski's Theory

Although Modelski's theory is not directly considered a theory of chaos, the model that he proposed about power cycles in a historical period is a model of decline of order and the rise of chaos in the international system.

Another scholar on chaos is Diana Richards, professor of political science at the University of Minnesota, in an article titled "A chaotic model of power concentration in the international system" investigated the cyclical patterns of power distribution and power disruption in international affairs. Contrary to Modelski and Thompson's views, to her, the concentration of systemic power after 1941 is not cyclical but "chaotic". She believed that a precise cycle of power never emerges as a result of structural necessities, and order is never created as a result of patterned transfers of power or deterministic processes.

The study of power distribution in international relations and politics is one of the most fundamental issues since it is an area that is directly related to conflicts and wars. Of course, before Richards, many theorists (Singer,

1964; Waltz,1979; Doran and Parsons,1980; Organski and Kugler,1980; Gilpin,1981; Silverson,1983; Wyman,1983; Modelski and Morgan,1985; Morgenthau,1985) have also paid attention to this important area of international politics. However, the distinct point in Richards' model is her focus on theorists such as Modelski and Thompson, who tried to analyze chaos in the international system through the theory of long cycles of power. The empirical evidence of the dynamic chaos systems approach shows us that this approach is in its infancy. Thus, the basic question is What is the combined explanation model of order and complexity? Richards answered this question with the theory of power disruption, emphasizing that the application of chaos theory is a combination of three different approaches from a theoretical point of view:(a) The evolution of power is the result of interaction between governments, (b) the interactive line between governments is non-linear, and (c) non-linear interaction results in chaos, not cyclical processes (Richards,1993:64). She believed that her model of chaos and power disruption is not a model of evolution of power but can explain some assumptions of chaos and power disruption. From her point of view, two major forces in the evolution and distribution of power are "internal growth" and "decay of a nation's power" and these two important indicators are in a constant relationship with the variables of cost-benefit, public goods and systemic restrictions.

Perhaps it can be said that the most important research on chaos theory in the field of international relations was conducted by James Rosenau. Adapting the natural science model of chaos to the international relations model by Rosenau placed this theory in the mainstream theories of international relations in such a way that it became the main theory for the analysis of regional developments along the post-Cold War changes and subsequent developments in the Middle East. Based on his own method (potential observability) Rosenau tried to show how the macrostructures of world politics are changing. In such a situation, long-standing structures of authority are weakened, societies become fragmented, subgroups gain more power, and governments become feebler. Rosenau called these transformative moves "Turbulence" (Rosenau,2005:11).

Rosenau chose the concept of "Turbulence" from the seventies to analyze the new trends of world politics, although he believed that conceptual barriers should be broken. Furthermore, he employed his theoretical analysis of "complete disorder" the term "disorderly order" to express two different but complementary realities. While examining Turbulence in the fields of natural sciences, meteorology and organization theory, Rosenau believed that the concept of Turbulence is more than a situation that occurs when the main variables change. When the structures are unstable, new processes occur, the results are temporary and transitory, and the system enters a new era of long-lasting imbalance, abnormality occurs and Disorders flow (Rosenau,2005:28).

For Rosenau, Turbulence included "disorder" and "complexity", a phenomenon that makes the future situation unpredictable. These changes may appear as a phenomenon, but the real changes can still be evaluated in terms of specific principles, rules, and calculations (Eftekhari,2006:72). These two propositions imply that political analysts are guided by the idea of "order and disorder", and "orderly disorder". He believed that it is possible to design calculation formulas for these pervasive and continuous developments. However, Turbulence, from Rosenau's point of view, is a situation where every small fluctuation quickly becomes a major evolutionary point in the entire system, and thus that phenomenon changes continuously and profoundly. In this sense, Turbulence is not only opposed to disorder, but it is also a situation beyond "orderly disorder" which acts as a mechanism of "order and disorder" together simultaneously (Eftekhari, 2006:73).

For Rosenau, Turbulence makes both the actors and itself dynamic while it causes and sustain changes. Therefore, Turbulence in the global politics with a high degree of complexity and dynamism should be considered in the context of tensions and crises that exist between transformation and continuity. Some actors have a greater ability to adapt and even flourish despite the high complexity and dynamics, and some actors fail and transform in such a situation (Rosenau,2006:12).

Theories aimed at explaining a chaotic process and situation often introduce the government as an important agent in managing such situations, which in the Middle East seems to act a little differently with a more powerful vigor.

3-2. Theoretical Research Model: Turbulence Management in the Middle East

The decline of power in the Ottoman Empire and the rise of national government campaigns as well as the order of Westphalia in the Middle East made crises in this region find momentum. Later transformations in this region (the rise of extra-regional powers, regional fluid geopolitics and oil, the formation of overlapping cultural, economic and human geography, heterogeneous identities and ideologies, confusion in the balance of power, conflicting patterns of behavior of regional powers, uncertainty and ambiguity of security, the structure of the system of international and regional order) led to the creation of security chaos there. Hence, the Middle East has been a regional security complex within a framework with variables such as inconsistent borders, anarchic structure and conflict of power distribution (Niknami,2020:178).

The management of turbulent processes is of great importance for governments and regional and extra-regional actors. Due to the "non-linear trends¹" that have occurred in the Middle East, it is not possible to accurately predict or plan an operation for the system, and the situations emerge by themselves and are imposed on the actors. Under such circumstances, the governments need more than ever to manage the structures and the chaotic environment. Turbulence management is one of the main mechanisms that actors can employ in security chaos conditions. Turbulence is the situation and process in which security and tactical-strategic interests of regional and international actors are threatened by a set of components and signs of chaos such as disorder, emergence of identity actors, lack of balance and lack of acceptance of structural formations by actors.

Based on the theory of chaos, it is possible to provide several models and ways to manage chaos both regionally and internationally. On the other hand, a system, state and process of chaos with non-linear features can also form a special mindset for decision makers that changes the decision-making process for Turbulence management. This leads the researchers in

1. A heterogeneous system and process of independent variables and components in the Middle East, including identity uprisings, border conflicts and wide-ranging crises.

the field of international relations to consider the two concepts of order and Turbulence as the main components of the international system. In this perspective, each system of order and Turbulence in the international system leads to specific patterns of behavior in the governments, which can be considered forms of Turbulence management.

Rosenau (2005), as the main designer of chaos theory in international relations, has given reasonable answers to this theoretical problem. He refers to transformation Dynamics that can lead to fragmentation of the systems of governments and regions. He considered these Dynamics as an ignition that can fire micro, macro, micro-macro and macro-macro structures and create a revolution in systemic coherence. In such situations, Turbulence management can be divided into two strategic and operational levels and nation-state for analysis. Within the strategic domain of the Turbulence management model, it includes creating regional security networks, controlling common threats, and organizing order-making processes. Within the operational and executive domains, it includes components such as managing chronic security crises, prioritizing the economic requirements of medium-term planning to reduce bilateral and multilateral challenges (Rosenau,2004:151).

The Turbulence management model in the Middle East region can also be analyzed within this theoretical framework because the foreign policy of governments and regional actors have characteristics arising from the conditions of security chaos such as unpredictability, indecisiveness and interference of security issues. Moreover, many governments in the Middle East adjust their behavioral patterns in the foreign and security policy within the framework of national interests with the aim of managing chaos.

The Middle East region has been facing chaotic conditions due to successive and alternating cycles of order and disorder, balance and imbalance, frequencies and dynamics related to inevitable security campaigns. Under these circumstances, governments and regional and even extra-regional actors have tried to control chaos by restoring balance in the system through participation in multilateral security trends, creating a strong government and coalition, as well as through order-making processes. During the past decade, the Islamic Republic of Iran has tried to sustain the security environment by adapting Turbulence management through the management of the period of transition to order, reducing the cyclical effects of chronic

crises and managing the regional security network through its strategic priorities, which are explained in detail in this paper.

4. Iran's Strategic Priorities in the Turbulent Middle East

Regional levels are among the most influential levels in the international order, and with the increase in international and interregional relations, these levels have gained special importance and complexity. In such a situation, the regional security structure acts as an influencing factor on the behavioral patterns of governments and determines their strategic priorities. When the security environment in a strategic region like the Middle East is chaotic, what are the strategic priorities and requirements of the Islamic Republic of Iran in its security environment?

The evidence shows that Iran's strategic priorities have moved since 2011 towards chaos management with new strategic requirements along with the change in the security environment using the mechanisms and strategies of the past. These requirements consist of mechanisms such as threat removal, strategic depth, deterrence, strategic stability and power projection.

4-1. De-Securitization and Threat Removal

During the last decade, especially after 2001, threats to Iran's national security have increased sharply, and Iran's security has required to use a new form of strategic behavior. However, Iran has pursued de-securitization and threat removal in her security environment in two ways: (a) maximizing international communication and through harmonizing with international norms and (b) raising the costs of American interventionism (Mottaghi and et al,2010:74-77). De-securitization and removal of threats in Iran's foreign policy in Hasan Rouhani's moderation policy was promoted to a new level called trust-building that can be regional and international in nature (Mottaghi and et al,2010:74-77). Nonetheless, it seems that the pattern of de-securitization in the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is a combination of deterrence in the security environment and political interaction with regional countries and world powers. The mechanism of deterrence is carried out through hard power and soft power in the areas of regional security. The approval of JCPOA and especially UN Security Council Resolution 2231 can be read as an example of the process of de-securitization in Iran's foreign policy.

4-2. Deterrence

One of the distinct features of the deterrence power of the Islamic Republic of Iran is her indigenous defense power. The deterrence tools should be reconstructed and redefined based on the two principles of "balance of power" and "balance of threats". In this condition, the Islamic Republic of Iran is practically entering the stage of "offensive deterrence" from "defensive deterrence". Due to terrorist attacks on Tehran, it seems that the strategy of deterrence has changed to offensive deterrence in an unnatural altered form while maintaining the principles and tools of defensive deterrence. If we interpret defensive deterrence as building the capacity of a national unit to stabilize its survival, in the phase of offensive deterrence, a unit joins the competition and strategic activism regionally and internationally. Such a trend has become possible now through the localization of defense equipment, especially in launching (keshmiri and Enami,2011:99).

4-3. Power Projection

Power projection is studied under empowerment in the literature in international relations. In the condition of regional chaos, the Islamic Republic of Iran has tried to control the security chaos through power projection. Iran's participation in controlling the security chaos in Iraq and Syria and controlling regional security is done through political (Astana meeting) and military (advisory presence) tools in Iraq and Syria to deal with terrorist groups with the aim of building power projection. It is to be said that Syria is considered one of the "geopolitical codes" in the Middle East region, through which regional powers and world powers try to strengthen and balance strategically (Deheshyar and Aminabadi,2022:197).

4-4. Strategic Depth

Due to the geopolitical identity structure of the region (the influence of Iranian culture and the presence of Shiites) and the historical transition in the Caucasus and Central Asia and countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon, Yemen, Syria and Palestine, the Islamic Republic of Iran traditionally has gained a strategic depth. However, the developments and transformations in 2011 turned this strategic depth into a requirement and priority of Iran's foreign policy. The recent developments, the rise of the

ISIS terrorist group and the need to fight against extremist groups have underscored this priority. In this period, Iran's foreign-security policy decision-makers have believed that carrying out terrorist operations in Tehran may strengthen the presence of ISIS to gain power in the region (Report,2018:2). Under this condition, the Islamic Republic of Iran has tried to expand its strategic depth from Iranian borders to Iraq and then Syria, Lebanon and Palestine, with the priority of defeating ISIS. Figure (2) shows Iran's strategic plans in the Middle East region.

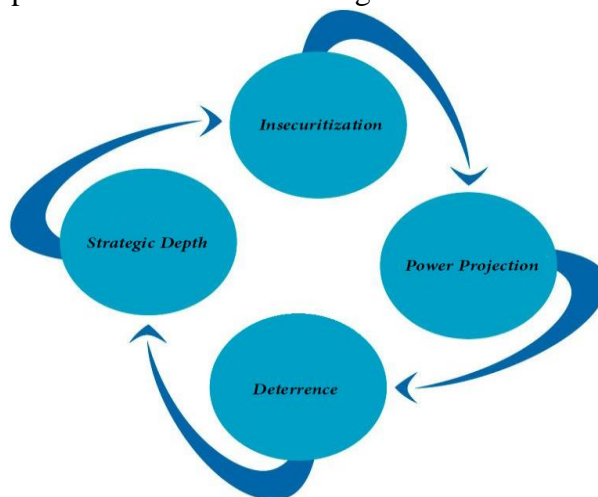


Figure (2): Iran's Strategic Priorities in the Turbulent Middle East

Understanding the strategic priorities and necessities of the Islamic Republic of Iran helps researchers to get acquainted with a profile of the strategic attitude of the Islamic Republic of Iran in regional geopolitics. However, what necessarily clarifies the policy of Iran's strategic management in regional chaos is the use of strategic management tools in the regional chaos.

5. Research Findings

5-1. Models of Iran's Turbulence Management in the Middle East

Iran is located in a strategic situation and plays a geostrategic role in the Middle East. Iran has a geopolitical vigor due to the arrangement of the territorial environment (the link of West Asia with Southwest Asia and proximity to the Strait of Hormuz), geo-culture and ideology (the role of the

Shiite government) and political heterogeneity, and the economic homogeneity (oil producer) with other geopolitical environments. Iran's geopolitical vigor has always been used as an endogenous factor in the regional environment and in regional politics. However, the historical analysis of Iran's foreign policy in the 1940s and 1950s, even the internal changes (Islamic Revolution in 1979) indicates that although its vigor has faced some small changes, it has basically been performed differently. The basic question to raise in this section is what mechanisms and strategic models does the Islamic Republic of Iran use to manage chaos in the Middle East? Below, we try to examine these mechanisms in the context of the general orientations of Iran's foreign policy and Middle Eastern approaches.

5-1-1. Constructive Interaction

All governments devise their national macro-strategies according to where they are placed in a regional and international environment, and pursue them according to geopolitical factors and the national power as well as the context and structure of the regional and international environment. The strategy of constructive interaction is one of these national macro-strategies, which is drafted with a focus on the macro-strategies proposed in international politics. Mottaghi and Mohammadi (2005) defined constructive interaction as adopting an active, dynamic, influential, and orientational policy with a detailed understanding of political equations as a powerful actor in the scene of international and regional relations, which is a more advanced stage than de-tension policy (Mohammadi and Mottaghi, 2005:231). In this framework, the equations and distribution of power in the Middle East and regional order shows that interactive foreign policy is the best way to manage security chaos trends in the Middle East. In the regional chaos, the Islamic Republic of Iran tries to follow the proposition of endogenous systemic order by reducing the strategic interests of the United States as an interventionist actor in the collective security order (conditionalization of the regional presence of the United States).

In the security chaos, although Iran could not create a strategic alliance to form a new regional order due to the interference of security issues and uncertain political equations as well as the necessity of temporary

cooperation, it could, to some extent, stabilize the geopolitical order in the Middle East.

5-1-2. Balancing

Regional balancing refers to using effective power to maximize the power of all countries that are located in a geographical and geopolitical area. In the regional balancing model, the cooperation which is formed is not for gaining hegemony. In this process, new patterns of relations are put on the agenda (Mottaghi,2013:176). During security chaos, the Middle East is out of structural balance and somehow it is in the middle of stability-instability and chaos-peace.

The wars in Iraq (2003), the 33-day war in Lebanon (2006), the Arab revolutions (2010), the Syrian civil war (2011), the rise of ISIS (2014) and the war in Yemen (2015) are all signs of a security chaos in the Middle East region, leaving a wide impact on the regional balance. In such a condition, the Islamic Republic of Iran should focus its strategy on creating a regional multipolar structure and order through "rebalancing strategy".

Thus, it seems that the Islamic Republic of Iran follows its macro strategy in three balancing strategies: (a) A tough balancing strategy by using military force and offensive deterrence through confronting terrorist groups, (b) The external balancing strategy via regional alliances and coalitions (creating a resistance line), and (c) Internal balancing strategy through the simultaneous increase of military and economic capabilities. In his book on regional security studies, Kenneth Katzman pointed out that the IRGC plays an effective role in regional security and balance mechanisms. (PustinChi and Mottaghi,2019:116).

Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran tries to deal with threats by creating a balance of power, while controlling the strategic actions of other countries and especially the United States in the region, to restore the geopolitical stability in the region.

5-1-3. Geopolitical Stability

Iran's conception of strategic stability in the West Asian region has undergone changes and evolution as the result of interpreting the strategic actions of the great powers in the region and the threats caused by the growth of rival political ideologies, extremism and terrorism. Iran has always considered an active and effective presence in the region to be effective in increasing its "relative security" as the basis of strategic

stability. The strategic changes in the Middle East (e.g., the security chaos and its strategic mechanisms, i.e., the rise of the Westphalian order), have caused strategic stability at the macro level and geopolitical stability in the sense of geographical transformations to face changes. The rise of the ISIS terrorist group and the formation of the "Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant" in the geographical areas of Iraq and Syria and its strengthening place in North Africa (Libya) have caused the Islamic Republic of Iran to change its view on the strategic and geopolitical transformations of the region.

The conceptual model of Iran's decision-making and policy-making structure of geopolitical changes in the Middle East indicates changes from above and the weakening of strong governments in the region to increase strategic interventionism and economic exploration. Thus, the Islamic Republic of Iran tries take advantage of the endogenous element in power, coalition building and balancing and effective power building to move towards interaction ordering and a strong state within the framework of its strategic priorities.

5-1-4. Interaction Order

The Middle East is one of the regions that has been subjected to disorder more than other geographical areas. Regional wars, frequent struggles, territorial disputes, and endless recurring crises are among the factors that have made the Middle East a disorderly and chaotic region (Ghodsi,2018: 203). It has also experienced different order structures during the decades after its formation from the turbulent era of the post-World War II to the bipolar order during the Cold War and the unipolar and multipolar orders, hierarchical order and concerted order. However, order in the Middle East has seen two fluid and fluctuating types during the past decades. These two types of concerted order and hierarchical order have actually resulted from the efforts of regional and extra-regional governments to establish stability and maintain the "status quo" in this turbulent region (Ghasemi,2017:1009). A professor at Georgetown University, Mehran Kamrava (2018) believes that "hierarchical order in the Middle East is unstable and a source of insecurity". This inherent instability is the result of the accumulation of four factors of global context, competition between regional powers, the conflict between pragmatist powers versus ideologically oriented states (contrasting powers) and the collapse or weakening of sovereignties and proxy wars.

These combined characteristics of regional hierarchical order have caused instability and tension (Kamrava,2018:2).

During the past decades, Iran has always supported regional balance within the framework of interaction order for collective security. From Iran's point of view, security is an endogenous process that is created within the framework of interactive relations between regional actors without the presence of extra-regional actors and intervening powers, and a situation that is established in the form of regional security and order arrangements (Enami Alamdari,2017:47).

The Islamic Republic of Iran needs to pursue the policy of interaction order to create participation in collective security in the security chaos in the Middle East. The concept of interaction order has entered the literature of international relations from other fields of human sciences, especially sociology. Irving Goffman (1982), a sociological theorist, established the foundations of the theory of "interaction order" based on social behaviors. (Moghtadaee,2016:2). within this framework, Iran tries to move in the path of interaction order through mechanisms such as step-by-step trust building, strategic pragmatism, balanced rationality, strengthening of balanced interests and interactive coalition building. It is also to be noted that a set of combined behavioral patterns will be able to manage the security chaos situation and trends. In the conceptual model below, you can see Iran's combined behavioral patterns for managing regional chaos.

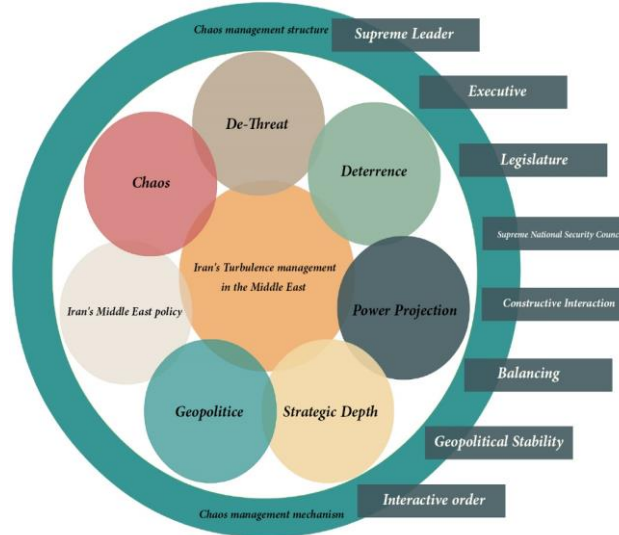


Figure (3): Conceptual Model of Iran's Turbulence Management in the Middle East

This conceptual model represents a set of actions, tools, structures and the organization of Iran's Turbulence management in the Middle East region. This cycle shaped model shows that the security chaos (independent variable), Iran's Middle East policy and Middle East geopolitics as overlapping and intertwined factors that are influencing Turbulence management. However, threat removal, deterrence, effective power building and strategic depth are considered to be among the mechanisms prioritized in Iran's security strategy, which are influenced by chaos and Iran's Middle East policy and geopolitics.

The output for these variables, which are parts of the cycle of internal variables of the model, are presented in two parts: (a) Iran's chaos management structure as the structure of Iran's foreign and security policy (leadership, executive branch, legislature, and Supreme National Security Council) and (b) chaos management mechanisms (construction interaction, balancing, geopolitical stability and interaction order-building). JCPOA is an example of chaos management in Iran's foreign policy, which was done through the policy structure, but decision-making for different cases in the field of regional chaos in Iran's foreign policy is done in interaction with

different institutions that have different roles and organization. The following diagram displays the central structure of decision-making in security chaos in the Middle East region.

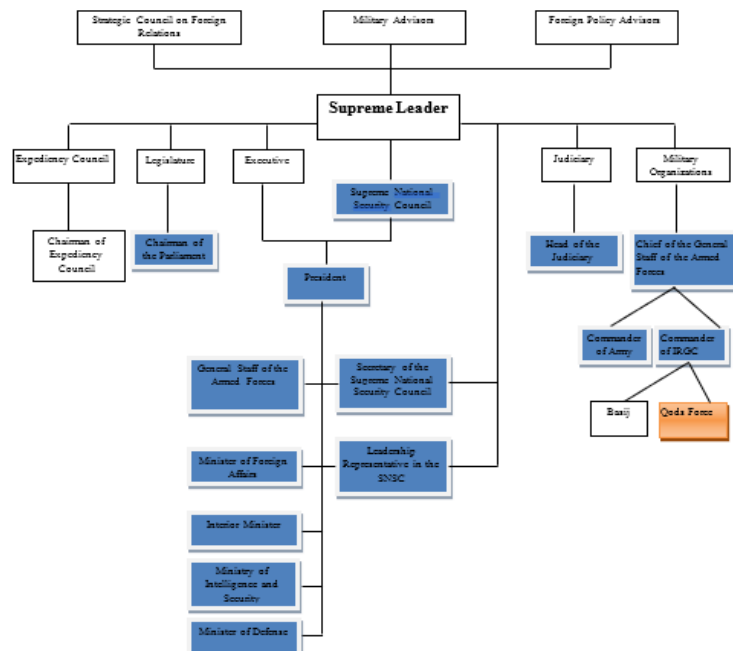


Figure (4): Diagram the Policy-Making and Decision-Making Structure of Iran's Turbulence Management

Figure (4) demonstrates that the organization of Turbulence Management in Iran's foreign and security policy includes a variety of institutions and important decision-making legal personalities. The blue boxes include the Supreme National Security Council, President, the Speaker of the Parliament, the Chief of the Judiciary and the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces who form institutions and personalities at the top of the decisions in chaos management. In the middle domain, the Secretary of the National Security Council, the Representative of the Leadership in the Supreme National Security Council, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Interior Minister, the Mister of Intelligence and the Minister of Defense form the second level of policy making, and the Commander of the Revolutionary Guards and the Commander of the Army are placed in the

third level. In this hierarchy, although the orange box that represents the Commander of the Quds Force is on the fourth level, due to his operational and direct presence (his personal and organizational importance) in fighting terrorist groups as a major part of Iran's chaos management, he holds a significant role in the executive decisions on chaos management.

6. Conclusion

The Middle East has been experiencing conflicts and security crises for many years and is now facing a chaotic situation. During the past years, actors, activists, elites, and researchers in the fields of political science, international relations, and regional studies have conducted studies on the system of chaos to account for the complex movements and disorderly dynamics. However, what doubles the importance of combining theories of chaos and chaotic developments in the Middle East is the attitude of executive elites to how to manage the chaotic situations and trends. Under chaotic circumstances, it will be difficult to make a definite prediction or decision. Thus, organizing and making decisions in a chaotic situation, especially in the complex region of the Middle East, requires classifying the trends and processes in three strategic, diplomatic and media domains.

Concerning the strategic domain, focusing on creating and shaping the geopolitics of order, economic internalization, deterrence and effective power building, coalition building, interest-oriented approach of actors, connection between regional and international interests will be among the most important solutions. Diplomatic strategies as complementary to strategic approaches can be done through diplomatic networking, balancing bilateral relations, active participation in multilateral processes, expansion of economic diplomacy, de-identification of diplomacy, and overcoming national interests over identity confrontation. In addition to hindering the geopoliticization removal strategy of competitors, the outcome of such a procedure will operationalize Iran's economic capacities in various ways. Media strategies as the third domain of Iran's strategic measures can represent the bilateral and multilateral relations of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Effective balanced public and media diplomacy can create integration links between Iran and other governments within an interactive management framework by focusing on the representation of shared identity and history,

Iranian geopolitics, economic orientation, responsible persuasion and the expansion of multilateral media cooperation.

Furthermore, in a security chaos condition in a geostrategic region such as the Middle East burdened with an intertwined multitude of chronic crises and chaotic events, chaos management requires the reconstruction of the order-stability management and the chaos management as balancing rings. The chaos management of two balancing ring and conflict management ring tries to show intra-macro intra-regional policies in the Middle East geopolitics.

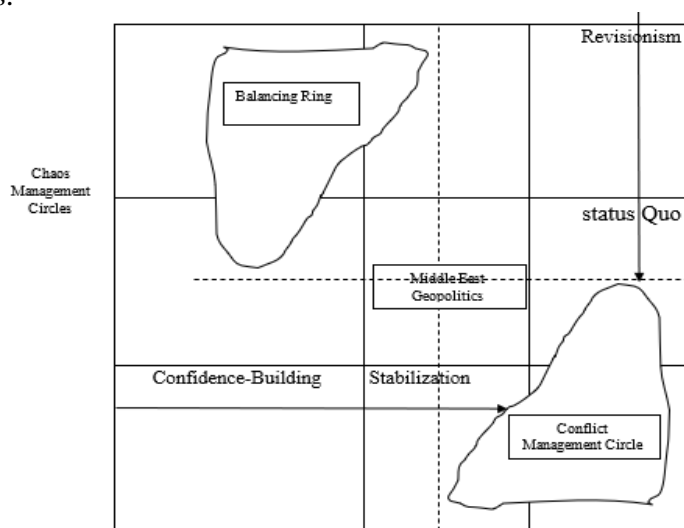


Figure (5): The Matrix of Balance Rings of Turbulence Management in the Middle East

In such a situation, Iran's chaos management strategy should be a combination of "active participation", "adaptation" and "maintaining the status quo". This process is now carried out in the form of participatory security models, active realism model, and active defensive and offensive deterrence models. Active defensive mechanisms are an effective tool for protecting Iran's power and national security because the most important feature is its active defense, which is linked to the deterrence power (Mossalanejad,2019:18).

Therefore, the instrumental options for the Islamic Republic of Iran can be divided into two sets of hardware and software approaches. The hardware

approach includes increasing the defense power and the software approach includes trust building, strategic persuasion through diplomatic procedures and public-media diplomacy.

Finally, in the condition of uncertainty prevailing in the Middle East region, the Islamic Republic of Iran should try to create a shorter accessible vision for strategic interests instead of long-term strategic planning. Iran should increase its capacity strategically to control the security challenge, predict the nature of developments, build coalitions, increase geopolitical magnitude, expand security cooperation, create platforms for partnership and build an interaction order in the region. Moreover, concerning communication, Iran's capabilities should be focused on creating a rational and responsible discourse, and minimizing or diminishing points of difference by means of scientific diplomacy and elite diplomacy.

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