

## **Regional Cooperation Model in the Horizon of Outlook Plan**

**Mohammad Akhbari\***- Associate Professor of Political Geography, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran

**Mohsen Chopani Rostami** – M.A of Political Geography, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran

**Aboozar Mear Abasi**- M.A of Political Sciences, Islamic Azad University, Isfahan, Iran

Received: 23/06/2010

Accepted: 03/08/2011

---

### **Abstract**

This study attempts to answer question addressing significance of regionistic view and foundation as well as background of the development trend of regional cooperation all over the world. Impacts of various markets – based cooperation scenarios or those of state – run on this model along with exploring the features of the most appropriate common model for regional cooperation which has brought about the introduction of the leading common stream of regional development model constitute another part of the study. The study was conducted on the basis of meta – analysis research method through which achievement of the objectives identified for the Iranian 20 year Prospective Development were also investigated .The study first deals with the significance of globalization and regionalization followed by investigation of the aspects of old and new regionalization approaches. Moreover, regional development models are briefly investigated from two perspectives: “Economic Models for Regional Development” and “Scenarios for Regional Development and Cooperation ”. At the conclusion, the study offers proposed models and approaches for development of South–West Asia.

**Keywords:** Cooperation, Development Scenario & Model, Regionalization, Stream of Regional Cooperation, Multi-dimensional Cooperation Model.

---

\* E-mail: [dr.m.akhbari@gmail.com](mailto:dr.m.akhbari@gmail.com)

## **Introduction**

Early of the third millennium and first decade of the 21st century are characterized by developments in international arena and collapse of bipolarity in the world, which, in turn, have entailed emergence of new structures in global geopolitics. The traditional orders have been collapsed and the world is witnessing emergence of new world order. Various approaches, theories, models and patterns addressing the future orders are suggested by theoreticians, states, regional and global observers in politics, culture and economics. Every great power is trying to inculcate its own intended order via following approaches corresponding with the status quo and capabilities of competing powers.

Naturally, all regional, national and global activists except usurp powers advocate the notion that the world future orders pave the way for justice, peace, equality and developments in human community and eradication of poverty and discrimination. On the country, hegemonic powers which consider the worlds as their territory, try to promote their own cultural, economic and political values and to obtain suitable grounds for ruling the world. Waves of technology of information, theorizing in globalization, world geopolitics and geo- strategies are taken as the foundations and theories addressing these objectives and promoters of their domination and hegemony. World powers' theory to manage the world depends on the extent to which they enjoy cultural, political, economic and military parameters as well as on their technological strength and the current position. On one hand, the super – powers define sovereignty for themselves throughout the world and pursue desired order, culture and structure and other states of the world and regional powers try to establish multipolarity in the world so that every nation can enjoy equal rights. Smart regional and national governments try to expand bilateral and multilateral ties at regional and global levels so that they can achieve their development and welfare objectives and guarantee sustainability and dignified survival for themselves. It is through such a trend that the analysis of pattern selection, strategies and the way international relationships are defined can be carried out.

This paper also addresses effective variables and state of insecurity at regional and international levels and the quick trend of internal and external developmental movements in South –West Asia (in particular west of Middle–East, Central Asia, Caucasia and Indian Peninsula) as well as the impacts of the global gostrategic trends and developments following the

deformation of bipolarity in this region.

Finally the paper attempts to propose a framework emanated from the ideas of scholars and analysis of the world successful frameworks and also the framework defined in the 20 year Prospective Development Document of the I.R.of Iran regarding regional and international cooperation.

Significance of this study is justified on the grounds that one can not sit idle given the changing and developing situations along with extensive changes at global, regional and national levels and get satisfied just with understanding the changes. Rather he is required to make necessary measures as to designing and establishing defensive mechanisms for the nation against the regional and global changes and identify an appropriate approach thorough effective and futuristic insights and smart and indefatigable efforts aimed at maximizing national interests and establishing desired regional and global order are identified. Obviously, identification of any flexible approach might be incompatible with the strategy of independence and reliance on national might and unity between people and state.

“Independence, Freedom, No- East, No- West, and Islamic Republic” as the ideal slogan of the past and forthcoming generations of the Iranian community has been materialized so far. This has been the obvious achievement of the fruitful life of the Islamic revolution and government of religious democracy in Iran in the three past decades, which is appreciated by liberals, revolutionaries, Muslims and oppressed people all over the world. Currently, however, our society faces certain challenges, opportunities, strengths and weaknesses at international, regional and national arena. In the light of the current state of affairs, an omen and innovative trend led by the supreme leader of the Islamic revolution was initiated with respect to managing the intelligent society of the Islamic Iran so that through identifying an active , futuristic , systematic and expedient approach and involving ideals , values , wills and facilities of the state , the 20 year Prospective Development Document of the I.R. of Iran by the year 2025 was developed , endorsed and communicated by the supreme leader to all executive agents of the country (bayat,2009: 13). Nevertheless, the following questions are raised to this end:

- What type of strategic change as to the national and regional development should be made at present in order to achieve the objective cited in the 20 year development document of the Islamic Iran?
- What are the strategic challenges facing it?

- What should be the patterns of bilateral and multilateral cooperation between Iran and the South – East Asia like?
- How to take the advantages of regionalization and globalization experiences in other parts of the world?
- What will be the approach taken by Iran as to the development and securing the first economic, scientific and technological rank in the region like?
- Will the stream of development in Iran spread or cause expansion of its dominance to other countries?
- How will be the Iranian regional discourse characterized?
- And what will be the pattern behind Iran's cooperation and competition with the regional states?

These questions are major concerns among the Iranian intellectuals at macro level. Of them, the most important and probably detrimental one refers to features of the approach, patterns, dimensions and effective variables in South – East Asia development and the role played by Iran in the introduction and application of these patterns.

Given this objective, the present article addresses the process of identifying the most appropriate models of regional cooperation in the realization of regional cooperation in a bid to materialize the objectives identified in the Document so that it can create a common stream of regional development in South- East Asia.

### **Geopolitic and political behavior of governments**

The political behavior of governments is influenced by a set of factors and fields which have mutual and very complicated relation with each other. If the foreign policy is regarded as a type of a government's attitude toward the international system and also a direction selected for accessing and protecting its interests and objectives, then the conditions, variables and factors which affect the state and type of attitude and also the choice of procedures should be studied and analyzed. Some thinkers have studied the decisive principles of governments' behaviors as the following factors: national interests and objectives, national security, national sovereignty, and nationalism. Some others have considered some variables including values and beliefs, historical and cultural fields, the general image of international policy, inferences, internal problems and public opinion, the internal demands and the structure of international system as being decisive. In addition to the above statements, the role of some variables including the

national power, the geographical position and geopolitical status, the unions and coalitions is also very significant. From other perspective, in order to provide a conceptual framework for understanding the foreign policy, the effective factors in foreign policy of countries can be classified as the fixed and changing principles of foreign policy. The fixed principles of foreign policy include:

- 1- The structure of international system
- 2- The geographical-political features.
- 3- The economic system, public and political culture of a country and the changing principles (i.e. the structure of political system and its governors) which include:
  - 3-1- Definition of interests;
  - 3-2- The belief system;
  - 3-3- The process of decision-making and data-processing.

James Rosenau is one of the thinkers who has studied the state of connection between two levels of minor and major analysis through formulating a hypothesis in the foreign policy (Soltani nejad, 2006: 111-113). At the minor level, the four factors including the individual personality of decision-makers, the role of government and the social factors, and at the major level, the international environment are considered as essential in the analysis of effective factors in the foreign policy-makings. Rosenau believes that the foreign policy should be studied based on a hypothesis which indeed clarifies the state of relation among the effective factors in foreign policy-makings. The personality variables include the spiritual and mental features, the orientations and inferences of individual from the events and phenomena and also the effective beliefs and values of individuals in the process of decision-making. The social variables including ideology, the level of political culture in a society, the level of ethnical unity and convergence are the result of culture, history and the ethnical common points of a society which affect the process of political orientation of a country. (Soltani nejad, 2006: 111-113).

### **Geopolitics and regional cooperation**

In determining the political changes, the geopolitics has been regarded as an equation or rule to explain the history. And indeed from this perspective, geopolitics reveal the dependence of all political changes to a reality called territory (Bayat, 2009: 288). Also, efforts are being made to study the historical and present conflicts regarding geopolitics. Based on this science,

the will of humans and great leaders are not the only determinants for course of history and society; rather, the natural environment and the geographical discipline of a country have the most influence on its destiny.

In short according to this group, geopolitics is the study of international relations and conflicts in terms of geography. Although it seems that the societies gradually develop technologically, the experimental effect of natural factors is reduced in politics and in a sense, the ancient governments depend on the geographical factors more than the allied societies. But in the theoretical domain, the faith in the effect of geographical factors on politics has changed the issues concerned by geopolitics (Bayat, 2009: 288).

In geopolitics theory, it is believed that the countries having geographical symmetry often form regions of bilateral and multilateral relations and their foreign policy is largely affected by each other. The more the geographical symmetry, the more the mutual effectiveness will be. Based on the type of mutual relation and political and cultural similarities and economic complementation they are expected to have convergence. So, the common geographical features include those which form the infrastructures of regional convergence. In some of these regional structures, the regional power poles do not have the necessary cohesiveness, and as the result there will be ground for effectiveness of those power poles which are located outside the region in the regional cooperation model (omidi, 2006: 127).

Concept of Globalization: As to globalization, McGraw states “globalization refers to improvement in ties and mutual communications which expand beyond states (and consequently beyond communities) and establish new world order. Globalization refers to a process through which events, decisions and actions of one part of the world can entail valuable out come for the people and communities of far remote areas on the earth”(scholte,1993: 13-14). One of the main features of globalization is mutual communications; however, globalization contrary to mutual interdependence nature is also concerned with the likelihood of dependence. Concept of globalization refers to significance of new space–temporal order. Scholars investigating mutual dependency have concentrated on internationalization of international relations, while advocates of globalization take in power of movement towards one world community? (show,2001: 14). Some scholars believe that globalization does not match monopoly; globalization considers monopoly as a fact rather than a historical possibility? (Williams,2005:138).

### **Concepts of Region and Regionalism**

The term "region" often refers to demarcated areas on the earth. In geography, region refers to lands classified on the basis of certain common features or utility considerations with internal or sectoral dependency characterized by managerial, political or economic considerations.

In the majority of studies, the term refers to a part of country. It also indicates territorial nature among states. Given these four model variables, any dependent system is made up of three sectors including central, subterranean and intervening and every sector may include one or more states. Generally, it could be claimed that authors and scholars offer various definitions for regionalism. Contrary to lots of efforts made by intellectuals during 1960s and 1970s in order to determine and define the term region and infra – systems of region, no agreed – upon decision has been on the term and it still remains ambiguous (Alagappa,1997:423). Some define it as a geographical area, a cultural entity, an economic unit, a political demarcation or combination of several or all of the mentioned notions. As a result, offering any rational and regional classification seems rather problematic and the demarcations offered for this purpose are not necessarily appropriate for other purposes (yalem,1965:15). In this article we favor regional , geographical , political , economic and cultural approach in defining region ; a definition comprise proximity , integrity , developing , mono – product and Islamic characteristic . Taking into account such a definition, the practitioners in an interactive and communicative trend can nullify divergence and prioritize convergence in a bid towards regional development and integration. Regional level refers to relations among several countries and their common areas in geopolitical underlying structure in a global region of convergence. Accordingly, regional convergence corresponds with international divergence which puts emphasis on the integration of political units in the world. To this end, this question is worthy of answering: What are the dimensions of convergence? The question implies that scholars consider convergence as a multi–dimensional movement (Dowrty,1993:618).

### **New Regionalism**

It was in 1990 that George W.Bush introduced the notion of the new world order for the first time in saying "Nowadays our world recognizes just one "absolute power" which is the USA" (New York,1992). However, nowadays

we are witness to emerging local powers and invitations to strengthening regional ties which have charged in to the main axis for many of talks on the nature of international order following the cold War. Regional blockings are developing in various areas of the world including Europe and East Asia. New regionalism in its new trend is characterized by:

- Varieties and levels of performance;
- Revival of regional interests and proposals in a world framework;
- “North – South” regionalism as a main feature of new regionalism.

New regionalism is multi-dimensional in nature and making delineation between economic and political regionalism has been proved rather difficult than ever (chishti, 1995: 461). Regionalism is believed to be potential for facilitating communications, community – building, exchange of information, development of science and cooperation which, in practice, entails organized mutual action, fundamental settlement of problems, expansion of common values, and enhancement of collective power and influence of the regional activists. Regionalism is defined and categorized in the light of given the concepts like social unity (ethnicity, race, language, religion, culture, history, common civilization and heritage), economic unity (methods of business and mutual economic ties), political unity (political regime and ideology), and organizational unity (existence of official regional institutions).

Nowadays innovative approaches addressing integration of globalization and regionalism are suggested. In this regard, Karl Dewich says: “we are living in a period of mutual interdependence. This statement is an indication of an extensive but relatively unknown feeling which presents a fleeting development in the global policy” (karl, 2002: 75).

Regionalism along with strategic, geopolitics, foreign relation, cultural and economic dimensions act as the basis of convergence and development of cooperation in many parts of the world. Many examples of regional grouping causing developments in the objectives and extensive systems can be referred to and methods of peaceful settlement and common responsibility of regional development can be cited. Mutual conflicting issues can also be referred to, which are replaced by broader concepts and win – win state due to regionalism and multilateralism. In several regions of the world, regional cooperation has been proved something significant which brought about remarkable developments in certain strategic aspects of region, political measures, economic orientations and realization of development. On the other hand, convergence process is taken as an

advanced state and evolved form of bilateral and multilateral cooperation which entails unity and integration through which goods, services, labor task and capital can be transmitted freely. This is coordination and cordiality in approaches, objectives, security, defense, media, scientific and technical cooperation. World states have recognized that catching up with quick developments and emerging conditions is both complicated and challenging.

They are then seeking for more modern mechanisms in their foreign policies and new partners, blockings and connections and trying to establish new institutions characterized by transparent political orientations. Regionalism can play role of a common powerful mechanism in disintegrating and weakening monopolies and profiting groups. Through fundamental development of national and regional markets and encouraging competition, it can also weaken development obstacles. This can trigger competition in each region and more powerful competing powers can enhance growth and dynamic competition in the world markets. New regionalism determines some parts of the developments in the world structure in which NGOs have played an active role and proved their own significance in various layers of the world system. A significance of this sort is not easily appreciated from individual region perspective. Moreover, new regionalism is a pre-requisite for the growth of civil society in each region and is preferred in terms of settling the local, national and global problems. Under this circumstances, not only economy but non – government cultural and social networks will also develop more quickly than the official political cooperation at regional level. New regionalism characterized as a synthetic approach, due to its synthetically multi-dimensional aspects, which had been exclusive to traditional research, enjoys rather extensive territory than its traditional counterpart.

### **Regional Development Models**

The term “model ” may refer both to particular geographical and historical models in that case its objective will be identification of variety of patterns offered for development. It can also refer to an abstract or clear expression of a simple concept on the basis of characteristics and indicators of crises of real world in that case it will be concerned with expression of functions and identification of main causal mechanisms in them. Generally speaking, the term refers to upgrading the advantages of beneficial phenomena in an area of development and or bringing about development for the identification of the given area (human development). It often refers to the notion that lands

and their inhabitants can transit from less developed level of life to more develop. Therefore, development is a process in which people play a role and benefit from it. This paper then investigates the models of development from two perspectives:

### **A. Economic Models of Regional Development**

Proponents of this model stress mainly on economic theory in regional development, resources and labor force. It is worth pointing out that this model is motivated by free competition and states and official ruling systems have played role in the realization of respective cooperation areas. Following models are the major ones included in this category:

- Neo – classical convergence models;
- Circular and cumulative Causation;
- Theories of modernization, dependency and unequal exchange;
- Models of endogenous development;
- Economic geography models.

### **B. Scenarios of Regional Cooperation and Development**

This category composes more realistic models being much more probabilistic in terms of implementation and stress mainly on developing cooperation through developing and management of governments and concentrate more on interactions among socio – economic infrastructures. These scenarios are generally categorized as follows:

- Market – oriented competitive development scenario;
- Corridor model bifurcated influence zone model;
- Scenario of state – run (centralized) Regional cooperation development;
- Grid model;
- Disjointed grid model.

Given the classifications offered so far, each of the models and scenarios are described in brief.

### **Economic Models of Regional Development**

In these models, development is assessed considering the amount of family members' wealth (GNP) produced in a particular area and in a particular year or income level (net national product). Many of the regional development models represent both such a trend of improvement in product and income levels and in the measures taken. Though this part is primarily concerned with general description of these models, it is worth mentioning

that wealth generation should act as a means rather than an end and as Seers (1969) says “development aims at eradication of poverty, injustice and unemployment (seers,1969: 30).

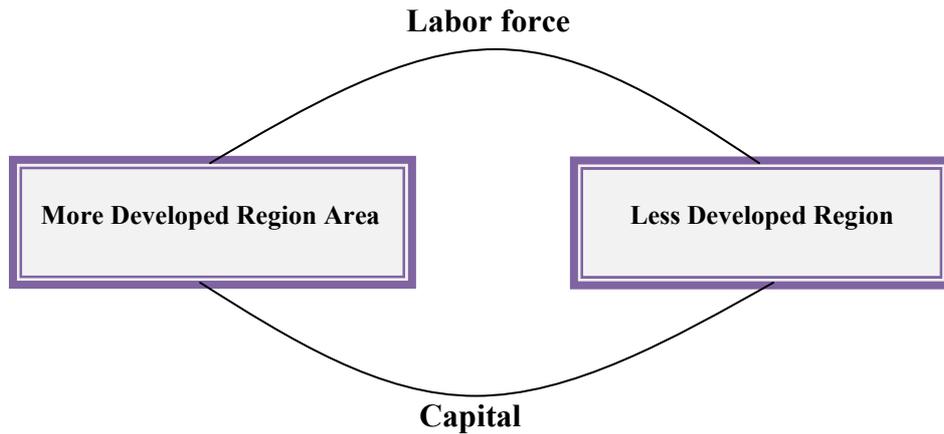
### **Neo - classical convergence models**

Growth of neoclassicism, regional development and trade models are in this category in which regional development depends on provision and utilization of resources. Trade models consider provision of resources, growth models, population growth and technological development as exogenous issues. Although financial resources depend on saving rate, investment and deposit of physical capital, this model assumes that surplus physical investment does not have any impacts on the growth rate. According to the regional neoclassic development models, free flow of capital , labor force , goods and services and their impacts on the provision of regional resources are permitted (e.g. , increase in human resources in certain areas of regional network in the form of emigration).These models overlook social relations and organizational performance. Instead, it is assumed that market mechanisms automatically provide required resources. All of these models rely mainly on safe competition based on market mechanisms and liberal economy.

### **Circular and Cumulative Causation Model**

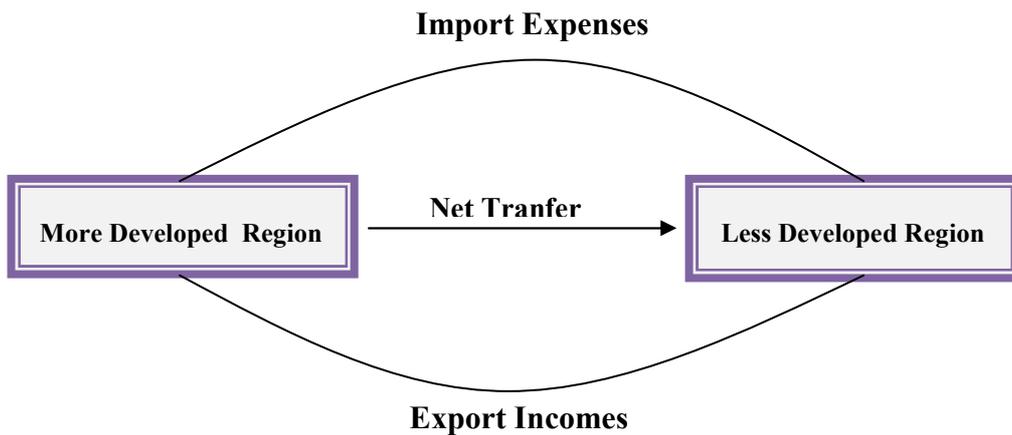
This model is remarkably distinct from the neo – classic models. One of the reasons of this distinction is attributed to the fact that this model tries to identify negative or positive feedback mechanisms and stresses on indigenous nature of parameters being exogenous in the neo – classic models. According to this model, comprehensive development depends on a relative weight and importance in misbalancing the centripetal and uniforming the centrifugal forces. One may exemplify this model in which development is in a path through which net flow of capital and labor force streams towards more developed areas rather than less developed ones (Figure 2). Myrdal (1957) claims that one of the objectives of this model is the illustration of imbalance between the more developed and less developed regions (Soltani nejad,2006:12).

**Figure 2: Myrdal's Illustration of Imbalance  
Between More Developed and Less Developed Regions**



In addition, Myrdal puts emphasis on the significance of common factors in shaping development trend and argues for active political involvement as to promotion of balance which causes economic growth. Flow of state net expenses is an example employed particularly for countering the effects of mechanisms unbalancing the market (Figure 3).

**Figure 3: Flows of Income, Parameters and Regional Dynamisms**



Another part of circular and cumulative causation models stems from Kaldor's study (Myrdal,1957:23). who in turn borrowed it from Young's research (Kaldor,1972:123).

### **Theories of Modernization, Dependency and Unequal Exchange**

Theories of modernization are derived from regional development analyses. These theories have been concerned with the process of introduction of styles, economic methods, social life and socio – economic organizations originally established in Europe and then developed globally. In its extremist state, it is assumed that all areas have occupied various positions in the path of balanced development. An example is the period following the World War Two during which Rostow introduced stages of economic growth of Neo - America, which included traditional society, pre – requisites of leaping growth, movement towards maturity and era of mass consumption. Current examples include neo – liberal models of globalization and development (Young,1998:42-43). All these states indicate that less–developed regions are in the initial stages of single development path nowadays illustrated by the developed capitalist economies in the world. One powerful version of the modernization theory is seen in the Eastern Asia called flying swan's paradigm (Figure 4). This model focuses on the notion that superiority temptation in the Eastern Asia requires creation of a dominant growth center (i.e. Japan), which will play the leading role for a group of hierarchical states.

The followers seen in the second rank in the hierarchy include Asian tigers economies, followed by the third rank composed of Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and the other members of ASEAN including China and Vietnam, too.

Following the introduction of dynamic versions of trade theory, the newly – emerging economies in the eastern Asia pursue each other as sequences of industrial revolution. The first of such sequences relates to that of production cycle preceding import by modern factories, national production, export and finally frequent import of the exported commodities. The second is concerned with that of industrial sequence which includes movement from low added–value products to higher added – value and sequence of industries from less advanced to more advanced technology (textile , chemical , steel , iron , engine vehicles and electronic commodities) and the third scene revolves around prioritizing international transactions in export – import stressing on transfer of products and industrial goods from developed states to those located in the lower rank in the hierarchy of states.

### **Models of Endogenous Development**

Dependency theories have resulted in emphasis on supportive policy to newly - established industries, replacement of import and centralized development approach. This concept has in turn brought about more general emphasis on relative merits of autonomous and locally controlled development. Such an emphasis is motivated by two categories of factors. First one is attributed to the impacts of economic crisis of 1970s on endogenous development or internally – controlled investments in many of the under – developed countries. Second category leads to decentralization of products which brings about crisis of identity loss in industrial areas (especially in Southern Europe); pioneer of regional economic growth. These areas are mostly characterized by industry centered on medium and small enterprises interdependent in one sector in secondary industries and in services. These areas are accounted as the synthesis of the impacts of both factors of which the first category is composed of economic factors including:

- Scale economies characterized by advanced professionalism and division of labor force;
- External economies emanating from common infrastructures, services and information;
- Availability of special skills and mass of labor force.

The second category includes interactions between social and economic systems which cause a social infrastructures and association of incorporates and people resulting in industrial development which leaves doors open to social, cultural, political models , organizational funds of regional models including soft analysis and social values , political structures , unity , good government , traditions, trust , social fund and entrepreneurship. Such a theoretical development is associated with changes in dominant models in the strategy approach to the regional development. On one hand, self – reliance strategies, centralized development and bottom – up development are preferred to top – down development approach.

On the other hand, growth engines of regional economy in developed countries have shifted their concentration from consumer and retailer commodities as dominant considerations to investment in human resources, communication and information technologies and use of knowledge for manufacturing information products. More general focus in this approach revolves around innovation, training, investment in research and

development, promotion of knowledge and socio-economic and institutional indicators. Final step supposed to be taken by classic models is taken towards endogenous growth. Although these models are based on supply, certain inferences similar to the circular and cumulative causation model are demand-oriented and are primarily connected with Pohmer and Lucus models.

### **Economic Geography Models**

Explanation of regional development assures explanation of territorial division of labor force (what, where and how is it doing? What is its wage and what is the position like relative to other people, other economic activities and other regions?). Previous geographical analyses on territorial division of labor force were mainly based on ideal models in terms of economic landscape. Those of 1970s, however, were based on conceptual clustering the functions of regional economies at national and international scales of labor force. Moreover, various arrangements from the conceptual models in 1980s and 1990s appeared as to developing and distinguishing geographical systems of production, fields of professional products, productive local systems of goods and services, customized industrial systems, clusters, new industrial atmospheres, techno-poles and scientific parks including innovative incorporations, universities and research institutions, regional innovation systems and educational sites. In order to explain these spatial structures and their mutual impacts on development, three major groups of mechanisms have been studied:

- Provision of resources;
- Industrial organization, industrial strategies, exogeneity and exchange of expense;
- Innovation, innovation systems, knowledge, creativity and individual and collective trainings.

As a result, interpretation of ideas is associated with control theories, organizational economy and sociology. These mechanisms seem act in hierarchy of particular historical circumstances and are composed of a set of historical development models.

Another breakthrough experienced recently is the emergence of new geographical economy followed by the emergence of economic schools (spatial density, regional professionalism and core-periphery establishments for regional resource provision as a starting point for many of the previous models).

### **Scenarios of Regional Cooperation and Development**

Although various scenarios can be assumed as for regional development in the world, two out of them including Market-based Competitive Development and Government-led Regional Cooperation and Development are of higher implementation likelihood and are based on more realistic approach in various regions of the world. Absolute and non – absolute variables at global and regional arena are the measures of Meta – nationalism and in the same vein the nature of nationalist role – playing proves rather vague in the future. The major parameter which makes these two scenarios distinct from each other is the extent of investments in the market. regional states have recently managed to move from point A to B , but no one can make sure what the region’s trend of movement in 20 – 30 forthcoming years will look like.

### **Market-based Competitive Development**

With respect to the issue of demand, macro – cities play a leading role which contributes to shaping corridor model in order to establish ties among them. Competitive growth will then act as the major factor in regional development. Free trade and other types of economic cooperation are based on neo-liberal thought. For example, one may refer to Beijing, Seoul and Tokyo corridor in East – north Asia (this corridor may be connected through Shanghai to the coastal corridor within China starting from Beijing to Shanghai. Small corridors such as those between Dalian – Harbin or Kingadoo – Jinan may be connected to the belt corridor).Trend of economic centralization towards coastal situations will sustain. Market pressure will make regional states as members to the Free Trade Agreement (FTA). As an example, the FTA among China, Japan and Korea will follow corridor approach. Cities and areas out of this corridor will also be affected; leading to escalation of regional imbalance. Corridor models are illustrated in the form of free trade and irregular competition. In this model, marine and air navigations receive much more significance than land transportation. Moreover, e-commerce and e-mail open different windows for the regional states.

If the formulation of the corridor model is stopped due to escalation of nationalism, bifurcates influence zone model will be possibly adaptable to axes of national development. In this model, principles of free trade are observed but economic convergence is not developed to the extent that it

can facilitate free competition. Regional development intrudes far beyond the territories towards two separate regions of domination. In this case, two economies; an ever – developing economy of China (a regional economy power) and Japanese economic power (sustained regional economic power) will still be dominant as leading regional and global economies.

#### Corridor Model

Based on this model, a connection line is established among regions and urban centers at regional geography realm. Urban population density plays a leading role in the establishment of this model. Marine and aerial communications among macro – cities, border line trade and land and geography-based transportation plays a key role in this model. For example, a regional aerial transportation axis is created in East- North Asia because of Tokyo, Seoul, Beijing, Hong – Kong and probably Shanghai corridor(Figure 6).

This model is designed in the form of as a two – sided pattern, for main macro – cities will have a significant impact on the formulation of development prospective. Meanwhile, small port cities occupying the main strategic points will bear a critical role in both borderline interactions. Similarly, joint marine and aerial communications will play a dominant role in over – sea trades. Figure 8 represents an example of bifurcated influence zone model.

#### **State-run (Centralized) Regional Cooperation Development**

Government identifies capital needs as economically supplementary for regional states. This process is formulated among those states with poor capital resources and in particular among those with rich resources, which facilitates grid model cooperation among the states as for taking the advantages of other states in the region. This model is of prime significance in underdeveloped regions in particular. The grid model developed based on macro – infrastructure projects at regional level is likely to be implemented. For example, Siberia and Eastern Russia due to their strategic resources including energy resources and rail–way line beyond Siberia can play an important role in North – East Asia grid model. Grid mode represents inter-state cooperation as to increasing interests of all regional states particularly those of underdeveloped regions. Evidently, this model has regularized free trade and a lot of efforts are made concerning establishment of a development community (possibly different from economic community which follows free competition principles). Two factors as for development

of macro infrastructure projects among the various regional states and proceeding them in each state are the main requirements for this model which facilitate resource provision and coordination of multi - faceted contribution in the region through negotiations among the national, regional and international beneficiaries and role players. More particularly, financial institutions including the Investment Development Bank are established in order to finance the required capital through public contribution to leading public or public- private groups.

Grid model is of significance due to its distinct role in regional development, in particular in its underdeveloped area. Selection of development models on the basis of communication and infrastructure ties among the states varies given their national interests in regional geographic territory and given the selected policies, methods and procedures, every national activist and extent of the role he plays, the selected model may be characterized differently. What seems crucial and is considered as a strategic requirement for the success of grid model is to observe characteristics, considerations and regulations in each states and the process of taking the advantages of co-enhancement among them in a fair and equal distribution of achievements. One of the factors threatening the cooperation and regional development model like this lies in the fact that certain states applying narrow- minded approach and preferring their national interests to common interests impair "cooperator and co-enhancement" grid between natural resources and physical infrastructures. For example, Russian ambitions to exercise power through abusing needs of others have made China and Japan rely on their national interests in their race for secure energy from Russia and thereby the connection between energy resources and railway line which could supplement their mutual interests has resulted in a gap and competition in cooperation and focus on nationalism. Under this circumstance, jointed grid model is replaced by disjointed model. Anyway, a comparative study of state-run and market-oriented models indicate that role-players and practitioners in each of these models and their principles, methods and approaches are quite distinct and selection of any model is carried out on the basis of national interests, geopolitical features, natural and economic geopolitical situation of each state and it is required that in designing any models of cooperation to regional development influential power of global hegemonies in geopolitics and ensuing developments are taken into account (Rostow, 1960: 112).

**Grid model**

Railway system, natural gas and oil lines, as well as electricity and goods transportation are critical examples of grid model. It is possible to shape convergence combining low costs with higher productivity. Railway network will act as a main platform to establish integrated infrastructures. Geography of resources in the regional states and their industrial development may be subject to development in principles thanks to provision of internationally common goods especially in the territorial sections of each region. It is worth pointing out that in a strong socio-political convergence in the European Union, the European railway network received prime attention. If the grid model and express railway system are combined, it will lead to a corridor model of development in the future. Figure 9 represents jointed grid model in East Asia (rostow,1960: 112).

**Disjointed Grid Model**

In this model degree of convergence in physical system can lead to cost reduction in providing goods from international system and shrinkage in geographical territory due to national interests. Geographical model, too, will be secondary compared to grid model because disjointed grid model can not similarly bring more advantages to the less developed territorial regions. Nevertheless, railway system can play a crucial role in this model, which, of course, will be devoid of efficiency unless there is marine shipment system at work. Relative importance of land transportation will then be enhanced. Figure 10 represents an example of disjointed grid model.

**Supplementary Suggestions on Cooperation-based Regional Development**

Consequences and impacts of each of the suggested models may receive priority by research institution of the member states in each region as costs of socio-economic benefit of regional models of development receive similar significance. As a second stage, developing joint vision as for regional development supported by investigating public inquiries and well-organized discussions by non-governmental research institutions in member states of regional cooperation can also enhance levels of cooperation. Procedures of financing along with the cooperation of states can also play a significant role in the development of regions and provision of scarce resources specially in developing regions. Supports rendered by states to market-based cooperation strategy and region-oriented development or

regionalism as well as rational policy-making and enhancement of the cooperation will be of prime importance.

### **Conclusion**

The definition and evaluations on the various models raise the question that how an appropriate regional cooperation model between Iran and South - west Asian states should be characterized. It seems that according to the new approach to regionalism, the economic, social, cultural, geographical and political models merely can not fulfill the needs of states; rather the new paradigm puts emphasis on multi – dimensional patterns. Therefore, regional relationship should be studied given developmental management approaches and multi – dimensional perspectives.

- 11<sup>th</sup> September is followed by various geopolitical developments both at global and South - West Asian levels. Hegemonic models based on regional balance of competitors and the unity of Central Asian and Caucasian systems with that of former USSR super-system (i.e. Russian) have all been disjointed (rostow,1960: 112).

- Global geo economic developments and the remarkable role which geo-energy plays in global economic development and social security as well as the peculiar position of the majority of the regional states neighboring Iran from the North (i.e, Central Asia and Caucasia) and the South (i.e. ,oil – rich Arab states littoral to the Persian Gulf) should be regarded as effective parameters in the study of Iran’s regionalist approach, though the West’s concord strategy as one of the prospective geo-economic and regionalist challenges should not be ignored. Studies and estimations carried out by the world energy institution, Iran centers world’s hydrocarbonate strategic oval possessing %68 of the world respective resources. The discovery of new gas fields in the inter-state territorial waters justifies special priority of regional economic convergence. Trade, exchange and transactions among communities, states and connections of infrastructure networks (information and communication technology), physical establishments, roads, electricity and telecommunication lines, railway system, decks and ports are further grounds of the cooperation (shojah,2007:112).

- Geo-culture issues have always been at work among the regional states, particularly in the territory of the Islamic civilization and Iran ranging from the southeast neighbors to the northeast ones characterized commonly by the Islamic culture and that of Iranian in the Iranian plateau can also act as an

influential parameter of regionalism, though ethnic, tribal and religious diversities in the region should be given due attention. Of course, common cognition and mental geography at social regionalism among those communities identified as cognitive region which given their regional awareness, identity and consciousness are known as communities whose boundaries have been roughly drawn as prospective communities, are regarded another issue worthy of attention in regionalist approach. Therefore, reliance on joint regional identity turns as a regionalist policy, for such an identity, regardless of all diversities, is still taken as the most appropriate link among components and various communities bringing about regional cohesion and convergence( Mojtahedzadeh,1997: 88).

- Another dimension worthy of attention to the regional elites and scientists is their common features, which refers to the same scientific and technological gap with which they are characterized to share with the advanced and developed world.

Most of the regional states are either adaptors or consumers of the world science and technology which can highlight their own underdevelopment and initiate cooperation by establishing governmental organizations and NGOs as to the acquisition of science. Contrary to the fact that majority of these states are characterized by the advantages of young population and geographical and human resource, they are still suffering from underdevelopment challenges in civil and socio-cultural fields that their solution lies in proper use of economic , political , scientific and socio-economic ties. Given these considerations and also four development cycles of geo-politics, geo-economics, geo-culture and geo-technology as well as their multiple interactions, it would be possible to establish a developed and influential region in the world, thanks to geo-strategic approach. Evidently, such an approach should be initiated based on common thinking, cultural, social, economic and scientific features.

Further requirement will be the institution of mutual trust, revision of ties and settlement of conflicts which can pave the grounds for regional cooperation model that can establish a network of strategic cooperation in four axes including the following subsystems:

- Arabian Peninsula centered in Riaz;
- Indian Continent states centered in Pakistan;
- Caucasian states centered in Georgia;
- Central Asian states centered in Tajikistan and Kazakhstan and among all these subsystems, Iran - Turkey and Syria sub-system centered in Tehran-Ankara.

This multi-dimensional grid model centered in Iranian Plateau and linkage of the afore-mentioned four subsystems with its synthetic approach in the form of a leading model for regional cooperation can initiate an extensive stream of developing cooperation such that all citizens of the regional states can cooperate given their common cultural, social, economic and political ties and linkage of their infrastructures, markets, trade and transit. With regard to strengthening the proposed model, the following areas are suggested for further investigations:

**A.** Study and assessment of both environmental factors (i.e., strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges) and effective trends in each subsystem in order to explore common areas which can set the prospective cooperation priorities.

**B.** Common values which constitute epistemological and cultural conceptions of the citizens of the regional states. This conception should be studied scientifically and the challenges and problems looming ahead of intellectual and cognitive convergence should be evaluated and exploited in developing cooperation approach, especially that of cultural cooperation.

**C.** Study of joint manufacturing and industrial plans and linkage between infrastructural and physical plans (i.e., electricity, oil, gas, water, road and railway, light fiber lines and satellite as well as media) should receive top priority in the agenda of the regional states.

**D.** Study of the fields such as transit, trade, industrialization and economy, procedures of economic liberalization and removal of legal, commercial, tariff and customs barriers should also be given priority as for shaping an integrative regional market by non-governmental interested groups in planning for bilateral and multi lateral economic and political ties.

**E.** Establishment of insurance, commercial institutions, industrial and economic companies, research, scientific and technical centers, and holding common training courses for the elites from the regional states are also among the leading areas of cooperation.

The approach proposed in this paper which represents the strategic intentions of the supreme leader of the sacred regime of the I.R. of Iran and those of the elite community and faithful nation should be taken into account in every study, planning and joint measures endorsed by the regional states. Moreover, it should be conceived that Iran is after playing a pioneering role in creating a regional cooperation wave blessed

by joint responsibility of all states and societies based on maximizing common interests within the mould of intra-regional cooperation and global competition. Moreover, Iran is also after upgrading the regional states to a level comparable with that of the developed states in terms of indices of development (Beigzadeh,2001:55).

#### **Acknowledgement**

We are willing to express our gratitude to all the professors and researchers who have helped and guided us in conducting this research. Special thanks to the deputy of infrastructural development in the expediency council.

## References

- Alagappa, M. "Regional institutions, the UN and international security: A frame work for analysis". *Third world Quarterly*, Vol. 18.No.3, 1997.
- Bayat,Masoud (2009), the geopolitical role of Caucasus in specifying the identity boundaries, the *Journal of Geopolitics*, fifth year, No 1, spring and summer.
- Beigzadeh(2001), *General international law*, course pamphlet, p.55.
- Scholte. J.A. *the international relations of social change*. Buckingham, Open University Press, 1993.
- Chishti, S (1995), *Regionalism, multilateralism, and the developing countries since the Cold war*, *International Studies*, Vol 32, No.4.
- Dowrty, James & Robert, Faltzraph. *Conflicting approaches in international relations*. Trnas. Alireza Tayeb & Vahid Bozorhi.Goms Publications, Tehran (1993),
- Karl D. & Robert K (2002), *Theories of international relations*, trans. Bozorgi, Vahid, Majed Publications, Tehran.
- Kaldor, Nicholas (1972), *The irrelevance of equilibrium economics*. *Economic Jurnal*,Vol. 82.
- Myrdal, Gunnar (1957), *Economic theory and underdeveloped regions*. Harper & Row.
- Mojtahedzadeh, Piroz (1997), *Geography and Politics in the world of realities*. *Journal of political-Economic Information*, Vol.12, No.1 & 2.
- New York Times(2005), January 28th, 1992.
- omidi,ali (2006), the effect of geopolitics on the facilitation of ECO convergence and pride of ASEAN, the *Journal of Geopolitics*, second year, No 1, spring.
- Rostow, W.W (1960), *the stages of economic growth: A non-communist manifesto*. CUP.
- Show, M (2001), *Global society and global responsibility; the theoretical, historical and political limits of international community*.
- Seers, Dudley (1969), *The meaning of development*. *International Development review*. Vol. 11 No.4.
- Soltani nejad, Ahmad ( 2006), the effective geopolitical factors in the establishment of foreign policy, the *Geopolitics Journal*, second year, No 2.
- Shojah, Mrtada (2007), *Journal of Political-economical Information*. Vol.21, No.11 & 12.
- Yalem Ronald, *Regionalism and World order*, public affairs. Washington D.C.1965.
- Young, Allyn (1998), *Increasing returns and economic progress*. *The Economic Journal*, Vol.38, N.152.
- Williams, Mark(2003), *Reconsidering concept of Authority*.