

Airpower Geopolitical Space Theory¹

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Abstract

The theory of Airpower Geopolitical Space is a hybrid concept based on understanding the influential realities of Airpower. It is based on the behavior of actors, decision makers and political rulers who have geopolitical interests in geopolitical space. The theory examines the interrelationships of Airpower in geopolitical space with power actions and geopolitical competitions that arise and emerge in the form of territoriality, territorial expansion, empowerment and superiority in various fields. Since Airpower exploits complex technologies, as technologies progress, it plays a different role and is influential in the behavior pattern of actors in the form of competition, confrontation, or interaction. It will play a decisive role, facilitating the attention of rulers to this area of competition or their confrontation with competitors.

In this theory which is inspired by Robert Dubin's methodology, the main theory assumption and the subject are presented as the theory of theorizing at first, then the theory of explanation is discussed based on five steps (explanation of units, manner and relationships of units, the scope of the theory determination, the system explanation, and propositions theory).

The theory is descriptive and prescriptive because the provisions and content of phenomena report and the relations between them are in the two areas of Airpower and geopolitics. Given that, causal and disability relations are related to the described phenomenon recommendation. The resulting theory consists of one supporting part, three main parts and 12 judgments or theorems.

Keywords: Airpower, Geopolitics, Territorial Expansion, Superiority and Empowerment.

1. This theory, after approximately 10 years of continuous scientific and research work, succeeded in September 2024 by obtaining a score of 97 (excellent rating) in the final assembly of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution (Secretariat of the Board for Supporting Theory, Criticism, and Debate Chairs). The supporting documents for the mentioned theory, in addition to the theorist's doctoral dissertation at Tarbiat Modarres University under the supervision of the esteemed Professor Dr. Mohammad Reza Hafeznia, include: 7 authored books (exceeding 2,300 pages), 11 translated books (exceeding 3,000 pages), 2 scientific-research articles in Persian, 1 scientific-research article in English (a total of three articles with over 4,000 citations and downloads) and the development of a comprehensive bilingual native software for assessing the Airpower of countries, which was unveiled in March 2024.

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1.Introduction

Countries deal with four strategic environments and sovereign territories, namely land, water, air and space, and territory in various fields and its management is considered a requirement of national power; so it can be said that in the present era, geopolitical competitions are not limited to the land arena, but are expanded on the seabed and can also be authoritative for countries in the air; Therefore, one of the influential organs in the national power of countries is Airpower that defines as the general power of a country to fly and operate through the air using controlled flight of all types of aircraft and its supporting infrastructure, to achieve national goals in the military/civilian sphere and globally (Nasirzadeh,2024:1-32).

The theorist in this theory believes that the special attention of the government to Airpower in two structural and functional dimensions with a geopolitical approach is very important to promote the weight and geopolitical status of countries, which has always been one of the concerns of geopolitics and so far no action has been taken in the field of theorizing this issue with two concurrent military and civilian views.

2.Background

George T. Renner, a professor of geography at Columbia University, was one of the first to describe his theory of aviation development and its impact on the social, economic, political, and military spheres in a work called "Human Geography in the Air Age". The starting point of his considerations was the fact that geography as a work of Man (and not nature) may undergo changes and developments, and every time a new invention emerges, space will undergo a transformation, which in its era called such a situation as "Modern Aviation", stating that with the advent of a new era in history, no country can pursue a policy of "Isolation"; further examination of the new strategic order led George Renner to identify important strategic areas on Earth and use maps to turn the Arctic into three the sector divided the central, adjacent and environmental importance respectively, and based on it in each region, identified strategic locations for the region and the world. In his geopolitical sense, he refers to the idea of the Heartland, Halford John Mackinder. However, he also recognizes the regions around the Arctic-North America with Greenland and Iceland on the one hand, and Russia, Turkestan and western China on the other, as the nucleus of the world, while land navigation in these regions is very difficult and almost impossible, Its Importance is

revealed precisely from the entry into the aviation age. He believed that anyone who took the air control of the region in the future would play a pivotal role in global affairs, so it could be said that the Arctic was a key region for Renner and played the role of a “Geopolitical Pin”.¹

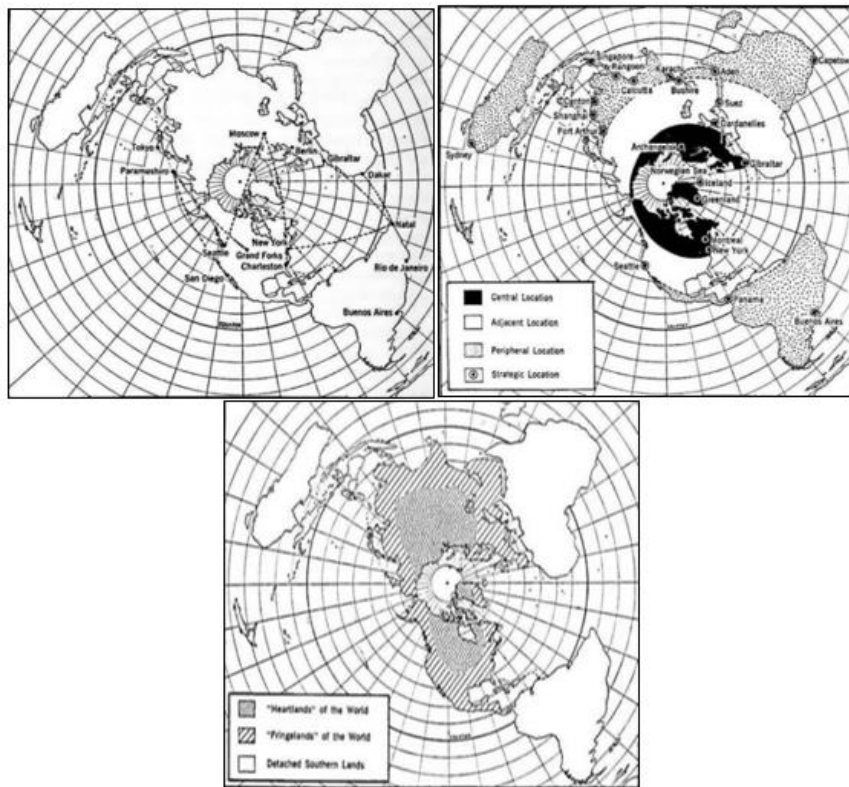


Figure (1): George T. Renner's Theory

Renner's polar map best presents the world's relations in the aviation age; the dotted lines represent the shortest air connections between the main points of the continent. He believed that apart from the nuclear regions of the world

1. AHDR (Arctic Human Development Report) 2004, Akureyri: Stefansson Arctic Institute, str. 17-18, Arctic environment: European perspectives. “Why should Europe care?”, Environmental Issue Report no. 38, European Environment Agency & UNEP Regional Office for Europe, Copenhagen 2004, str. 4 oraz Current research on peace and violence – Arctic Environmental Cooperation, [ed.] Oran R. Young, vol. XII, 3/1989, Tampere Peace Research Institute, <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/geos/xq.html>

(heartland) and its peripheral regions - there are separate and independent regions.

Alexander P. de Seversky, one of those who built the geopolitical landscape of the world on Airpower, was an American and Russian-born soldier. He established the geographical/spatial pattern of his theory in 1949. In his books “Victory through Airpower” and “Airpower, the key to survival”, Seversky expressed and believed that naval and land powers were subgroups of Airpower. Seversky presented his spatial pattern in the form of maps based on the azimuth system and focused on the Arctic heartland, proving that the distance between the sensitive Soviet and American centers is closer than the top of the Arctic. In his space model, he identified two territories of Airpower for the United States and the Soviet Union, each of which placed another geographical territory within its territory and also located areas outside the rival's cover area in its territory. Seversky called the common area “the decision zone” and stated that in the event of a full-scale war between world powers, the fate of the war will be determined by the decision zone (Hafeznia, 2022:240).

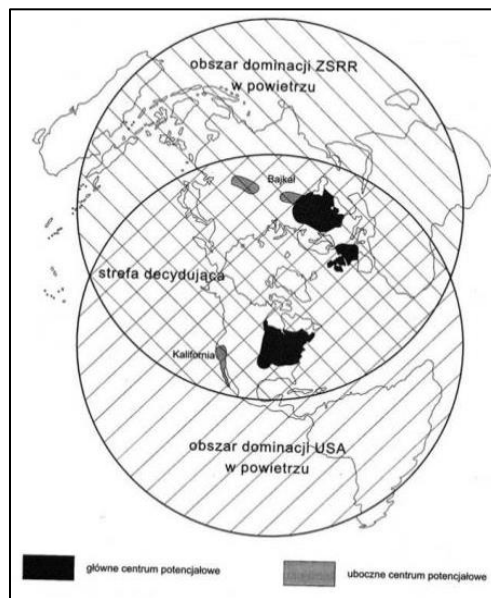


Figure (2): Decision Area (Areas of Interference between Soviet and American Air Domination)

In the 1920s, Giulio Douhet considered “aircraft” to be an unprecedented ability to achieve combat targets against others; before this period, human activities were influenced by limitations related to land and sea factors, but in air movements, there were no limiting factors. In 1921, he concluded that “aircraft gives complete freedom to man in operations and route selection”, and therefore, future wars are completely distinguished from past wars (Habibi,2024) Emphasizing precision technology and weapons, John Warden directly challenged the late belief that war was becoming an inefficient and obsolete political tool, but also introduced it as a flexible way for the United States to establish dominance and maintain its superiority; in the late 1980s and early 1990s, warden laid the foundation stone of modern Airpower theory based on the themes of the Airpower of presented below (Warden,2014:342-346):

- All organizations are vulnerable at the strategic level, so they're vulnerable to intimidation and coercion.
- Attacking enemy systems is better than attacking their components and elements.
- The loss of air superiority at the strategic and operational level is dangerous and deadly.
- A strategic airstrike is an important component of Modern Warfare. A strategic airstrike usually does not target or ignore enemy military forces.
- Parallel warfare has devastating effects.

Currently, the Air Force can attack a wide range of targets simultaneously instead of a serial and sequential attack. Simultaneously compresses combat operations in terms of time and space, in which case, the enemy's ability to react, disintegrate, and strategically paralyze. As a result:

- Disorder is the end of airstrikes.
- At operational and strategic levels, information warfare is of vital importance (Intelligence dominance in the Battle of order and parallel is of fundamental importance).
- Precision weapons are valuable and reduce the ambiguity and friction of war.

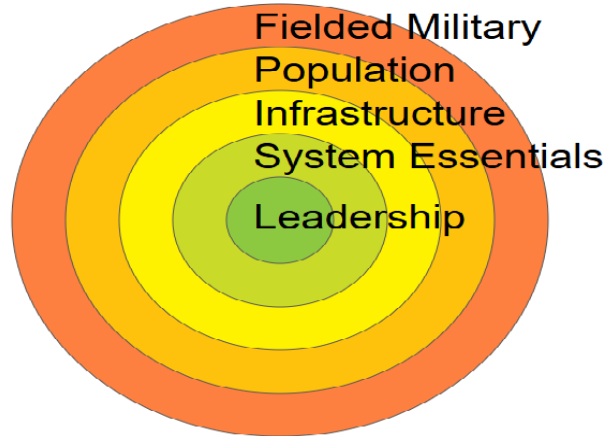


Figure (3): Warden's Five Rings

Table (1): Explaining the Rings of Warden's Theory

	Body	State	Drug Cartel	Electric Grid
Leadership	Brain • eyes • nerves	Government • communication • security	Leader • communication • security	Central control
Organic Essentials	Food and oxygen (conversion via vital organs)	Energy (electricity, oil, food) and money	Coca source plus conversion	Input (heat, hydro) and output (electricity)
Infra-structure	Vessels, bones, muscles	Roads, airfields, factories	Roads, airways, sea lanes	Transmission lines
Population	Cells	People	Growers, distributors, processors	Workers
Fighting Mechanism	Leukocytes	Military, police, firemen	Street soldiers	Repairmen

In an article titled “Airpower Development” published in 1924, William Bailey Mitchell defines Airpower as “the ability to do something in the air”, and considers it to include transporting everything by plane from one place to another, emphasizing that since Air covers the whole world, nowhere is immune from aircraft penetration.

Olsen (2018), in a book titled “The Rutledge Air Force guide”, presented a superior, important, and comprehensive review of Aerospace Force phenomena, written by an international expert group and designed to help

correctly understand the strengths, limitations, and capacities of the Air Force relative to other forces. The levers of power in the process demonstrate the growing importance of the Air Force to national security and determine how these levers change the war (Nasirzadeh,2024:1-32).

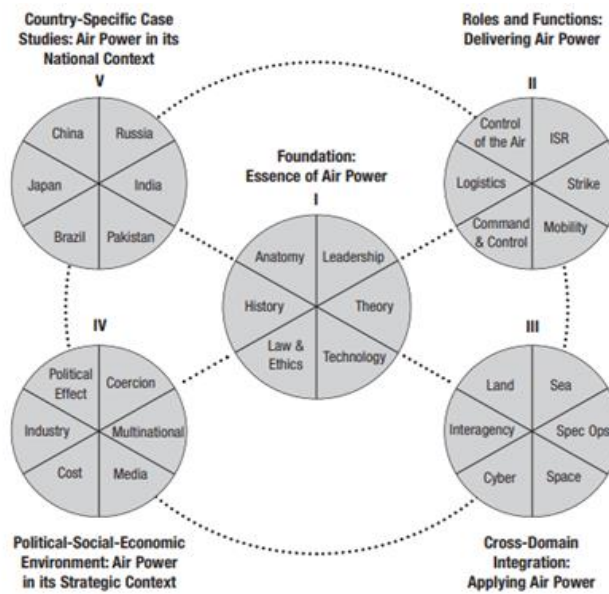


Figure (4): Olsen Theory

Ghiuhon defined Airpower as “the ability to use the third dimension (height) to influence a position or enemy”; in this definition, in terms of the height dimension, space can also be part of the third dimension (Ghiuhon,1995:8). Lambeth (2013) in an article describes the transformed capabilities of the United States in the field of Airpower gained over time after the Vietnam War: “Intercontinental-range bombers and high-durability fighter aircraft in the scene of operations; fuel-powered aircraft that enable and sustain combat operations around the world; displacement in a stable manner and across the globe and by a large number of long-haul transportable aircraft; combat groups associated with naval aircraft carriers capable of carrying out operations as a single force; digitized and intertwined Force; Information, care and identification without boundaries and the existence of a single force; and joint operational image for all; the existence of air operations centers around the world with weapons systems”.

Hallion (1990), In an article titled “A Troubling past: Air force Fighter Acquisition since 1945”, described military aviation as a subject involving the interaction of science, technology, invention, innovation, opportunity, necessity, needs, politics, economy, national Will and industrial process, and described its history in the development process of Tethered Observation balloon inhabitable with rope in the late eighteenth century, motorized guided airship in the late nineteenth century, military aircraft in the beginning of the twentieth century, aircraft revolution with an all-metal wing set monoplane before the end of World War I, revolution reactive propulsions (engines) like rockets and turbo jets in the late 1930s, the rapid advancement of the aerodynamic revolution that took place in military aircraft with The speed of sound or supersonic reached its peak. Ballistic missiles and then, orbital spaceflights in the same decade, the fan-jet revolution in the 1960s (including the high-bypass turbo fan that enabled the first wide-body military transports; and the turbo-fan afterburner for fighter and offensive aircraft), the engine control revolution and electronic flight from the 1970s to the 1980s, combined flight structures during the same period, weapons and radar-guided aircraft Low-Observable stealth aircraft, combining sensors and the widespread use of drones were other steps in this sequence.

Christian Melville (2014) presents the “airpower butterfly model” in a study that has three environmental strengths and four key roles of Airpower.

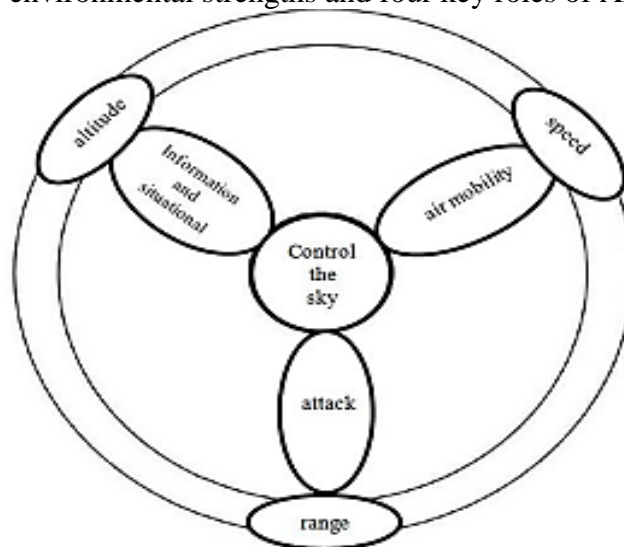


Figure (5): Melville Theory (Airpower Butterfly Model)

3.Summary of the Background

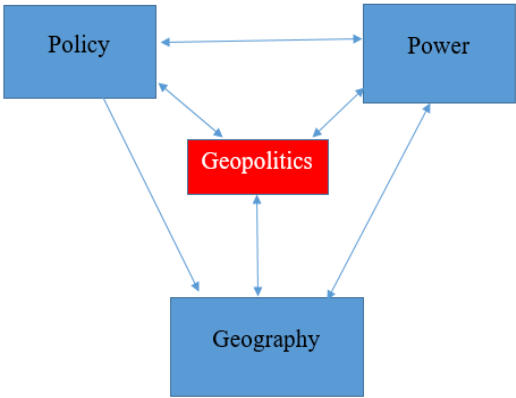
Most studies have examined only the military dimension of Airpower; only two of the studies conducted by Mr. Lambeth (2013) and John Anderson Olsen (2015 and 2018) dealt with limited dimensions of Airpower, which are somewhat related to political geography and geopolitical territorialization. The innovation of this theory lies in examining and counting all military and civilian factors and variables that affect and are affected by the Airpower Geopolitical Space; therefore, the necessary exploitation of the background of studies was made in three parts as follows:

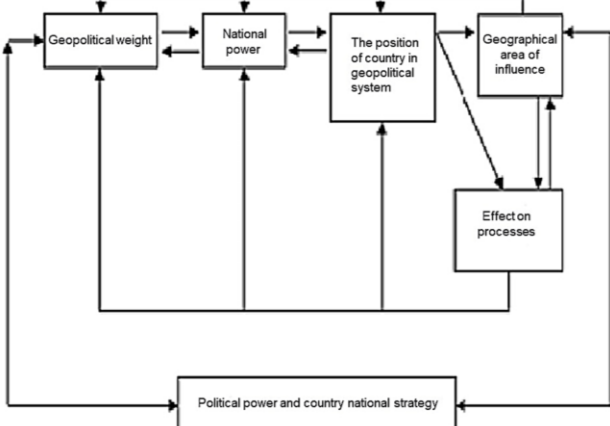
1. Knowledgeable and scientific use of the literature and theoretical foundations available in the field of study, following the research needs of the present theory;
2. Creating an attitude in the mind of the theorist to methodically count the factors and indicators that affect the Airpower Geopolitical Space;
3. Basic exploitation of the theories of George T. Renner and Alexander Seversky as supporting theories for the present theory.

3-1.Key Concepts Definition

Table (2): Key Concepts (Units of the Theory) Definition

Concepts	Definition
Power	The ability and talent of the individual to do the work and apply willpower to other people or the corresponding geographical space to create desirable behavior (Hafeznia,2022:284).
National Power	a set of potential and actual material and spiritual abilities or hardware and software that exists on the territory of a geographical/political unit called the country (Hafeznia,2022:303).
Airpower	the overall power of a country to fly and operate through the air using controlled flight of all types of aircraft and its supporting infrastructure, to achieve national goals in the military/civilian sphere and globally, which have characteristics such as: It is based on the exercise of will, change and influence and it takes place in order to achieve the desired goals (political, military, technological, social cultural and so on); its field of operation is in the sky and space; it requires special equipment; its users require special capabilities and training; its gender is essentially strategic; it relies on national interests and long-term goals; it is expanded in the regional and international environment; it interacts with nations and politicians; Airpower resources and tools are inclusive and derived from national resources and are available; it includes all components of a country's national power; it uses advanced technology; it has high speed and mobility and operates indefinitely at altitude so it promotes geopolitical actors global regional and trans regional access

	<p>in the strategic air environment and can centrally control the sky with decentralized execution and also consists of two dimensions and components as follows (Nasirzadeh,2022):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structural (physical): all the infrastructure, framework, and physical factors influencing the creation and acquisition of Airpower in two areas: military and civilian. • Functional: all executive, operational, and practical factors influencing the application and use of Airpower in two areas: military and civilian.
<p>Geopolitics</p>	<p>Rudolph Killen coined the term “geopolitics” in 1899, describing it as “the theory of statehood as a geographical figure or phenomenon in space”. According to Dr. Hafezania, the scientific definition of geopolitics can be explained in the form of a composite concept, in which the three main elements, geography, power and politics, have an inherent trait; the combination of the three parameters of geography, power and politics determines the behavioral patterns of human groups relative to each other; which can be defined and considered in various behavioral forms such as: “power fluctuation, competition, solidarity, divergence, influence, crisis, domination, subordination, coalition, peace, cooperation, war, security, peace and stability, trade and exchange and so on”. So, it can be said that: Geopolitics is the study of the interrelationships of elements of geography, power, and politics, and actions and the results of their combination with each other (Hafeznia,2022:38).</p>  <p>Figure (6): The Relationship between Geography, Power, and Politics</p>
<p>Geographical Space</p>	<p>Space, which in the past was considered one of the important concepts of geography along with place, region, scale, and territory, is considered the main subject of geography today. At the same time, it is said that the nineteenth century is the Century of Time, the twentieth century is the Century of Space, and the twenty-first century is the century of spatial turn. The meaning of the spatial turn is that space has transformed from a physical entity that was considered the bedrock of</p>

	<p>human activities into a commodity produced by humans and society. (Mirheidar,2025)</p>
<p>Geopolitical Territory/Boundary</p>	<p>is the geographical space and human or demographic structure involved in the sphere of influence and affecting of one or more political, religious, cultural, economic, social, Military, Security, commercial, technological and media variables of a country or a powerful political actor; in other words, it is defined as countries, territories and geographical spaces surrounding the sphere of influence of a powerful country or city with a central position (polar and Metropolitan)(Hafeznia,2022:154).</p>
<p>Geopolitical Weight</p>	<p>The gravity of forces and the positive and negative factors affecting the national and collective power of a country, or the geographical location and space that is directly related to the geopolitical position of the country in the global and regional (Hafeznia,2022:146-147).</p>  <p>Figure (7): The Relationship between Geopolitical Weight and the Position of Countries</p>

4.Literature and Theoretical Foundations

National power is defined as a collection of material and spiritual abilities composed of various fixed and variable elements located in the territory of a geographical-political unit called a country or state. It is one of the most effective elements in the national power of states, their Airpower, and in counting the factors that influence this power (Nasirzadeh et al.,2024:1-32). The first words on air-domain-based service separation from ground forces were voiced during World War I, culminating in 1919 with the inauguration of Britain’s independent Royal Air Force. The essential arguments became widely known through the works of Italian theorist Giulio Douhet and America’s William “Billy” Mitchell in the 1920s. The most comprehensive

assessment was published in January of 1942, just weeks after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. *Victory Through Airpower*, by Army Air Forces Major Alexander de Seversky, was an instant best seller (Dolman,2020)

Control of the air is often explained as having air superiority, meaning having a limited degree of air control, in which one side has the necessary degree of control in time and place without any effective interference from the enemy (Gray,2012:283-284). Airpower, continues the definition by Gray, “The ability to do something strategically useful in the air,” is neither limited to flying platforms and weapons, nor to air force assets alone.

Airpower has, over its century of existence, matured from experimental status to a preferred, versatile, and rapid instrument of military power for states, able to deliver effects in various offensive as well as defensive roles, from bases outside the conflict are (Olsen,2018:1-5). Airpower has an equivalent concept in which the term aviation covers the totality of the nation’s air-related capacities and allows for the roles and missions of the Air Force to be clearly stated in peace and conflict (Dolman,2022).

Airpower is not only composed of the components of aerial warfare but consists of the entire aerial activities, including potential and active, military and civil, public and private commercial aerial activities. From the perspective of the Theorist of this paper, the overall power of a state to fly and operate aerial operations using a controlled aircraft serves to achieve national objectives in the military and civilian domains, and its characteristics are as follows (Nasirzadeh et al.,2024:1-32):

- It is based on the exercise of will, change, and influence.
- It is exercised to achieve the desired (political, military, technological, social-cultural...) goals.
- Its functioning domain is in the sky and space.
- It requires special equipment.
- Its users need special capabilities and training.
- It is essentially strategic.
- It relies on national interests and long-term goals.
- It is developed in regional and international environments.
- It interacts with nations and politicians.
- Airpower resources and tools are inclusive and derived from national and available sources.
- It includes all components of a state's national power.

And the four fundamental factors related to Airpower are (Ibid):

- Airpower is the overall power of a state to fly.
- A state's Airpower (its military air force and civil aviation) is indivisible.
- The physical flying power to exercise political rights, the sovereignty of flight, and to dominate the airspace is necessary.
- Self-reliance to supply systems, equipment, and technical and human training is necessary.

The strategic advantage that airpower can convey depends entirely upon the contexts of war, crisis, and peace. Seven contexts determine: Political, Social-cultural, Economic, Technological, Military-Strategic, Geographical, Historical. These are sufficiently broad, yet also adequately focused, to capture all that we need to know about the conditions that govern the terms on which a conflict, in time of peace or actual war, must be waged. As many theorists have argued, correctly in the view of this study, airpower is highly situational in its ability to deliver advantage. And that idea of situational airpower is just another way of saying that the airpower advantage is strongly contextual (Gray,2007). With Airpower now ubiquitous and indispensable, any conceptualizing of warfare without absolute regard to Airpower is bound to disappoint (Luck,2023).

The use of Airpower has shifted over the years in parallel with developments in technology, the character of conflict, and doctrine; Exercising “control of the air” is a strategically fundamental consideration for the Airpower of any state. Such control promotes a higher level of freedom of maneuver in almost any aspect. From an Airpower perspective, geography provides a base area to operate from as well as sets timing conditions for detection, warning, response, and counterattack. Concerning air warfare, you count by minutes or seconds even at the centralized strategic level and it is normally favorable to fight over your ground, giving you the upper hand concerning sensor and command, control, communications, computers, intelligence (C4I) coverage while forcing the adversary to fight closer to the limits of his range. There are certain aspects of detail to consider here that are mainly given but harbor potential for possible improvement. Geography and basing options have a great impact on air warfare (Gray,2012:283-284).

Airpower is a vast subject, comprising all the uses of aviation in the pursuit of nations' and other political actors' power and security interests (Gray,

2008). The dissection of the problem shows that the need for an efficient and effective theory linking the two phenomena “geopolitics” and “Airpower” and examining the interrelationships and influences of Airpower in the form of geographical space (air) with power policies and actions and statistics of its impact on geopolitical status and weight with a geopolitical empowerment approach is essential; a theory that is developed in the form of a hybrid concept based on understanding the influential realities of Airpower on the behavior of actors. Decision makers and political rulers with geopolitical interests in geopolitical space can examine and analyze the interrelationship connection among Airpower in geopolitical space with Power actions, geopolitical competitions and factors the influencer use based on a comprehensive structure in the form of a power pyramid and its dealing with different roles of competition, confrontation or interaction in the behavior pattern of actors.

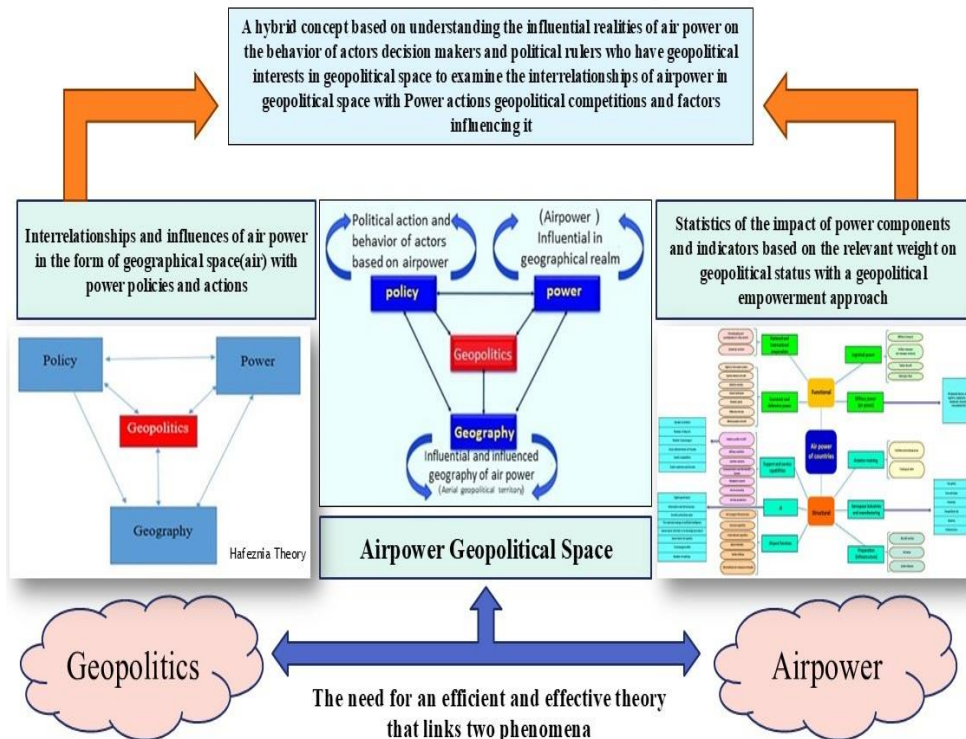


Figure (8): Theoretical Statement/Framework (Theorist)

5.Theoretical Framework

Organization, regulation, and control of geographical space are continuous goals that are appropriate for the actors in the international system. It seems that, like traditional geopolitical views, the irreplaceable position of the physical-structural elements of geographical space over power plays the most important role in the passivity and adoption of territorial policies of countries; with these interpretations, territorialization has attracted the most attention and the most important field of action of actors, as the production and redefinition of space to meet the three basic needs of humans, namely residence, activity, and movement (Rezaei et al.,2023).

The present theory is a national and global theory that has linked three areas of power, geography, and politics based on Airpower, and has considered all military and civilian aspects of Airpower in a geopolitical space. This theory complements previous theories and does not violate other powers. Considering this idea that geopolitics has a more territorial, territory expansion, power-building, and superiority view in transnational dimensions, the foreign policy of countries takes on a geopolitical aspect in pursuing national interests in the regional, trans regional, and global arenas. It is also based on describing the airpower; so, the country with Airpower follows its national interests in various arenas based on geopolitical realm and its strategic position, which is influenced by the geography associated with the airspace and Airpower-based policy; therefore, the theory of the “Airpower Geopolitical Space” is based on the understanding of the environmental realities and phenomena affecting Airpower and the factors influencing this area in aerial geographical space.

In this theory, geography refers to the geography affecting the air realm and influencing it, which looks at national power in both military and civilian dimensions, and the results of its study in the form of the Airpower Geopolitical Space affect the political decisions of the power holders.

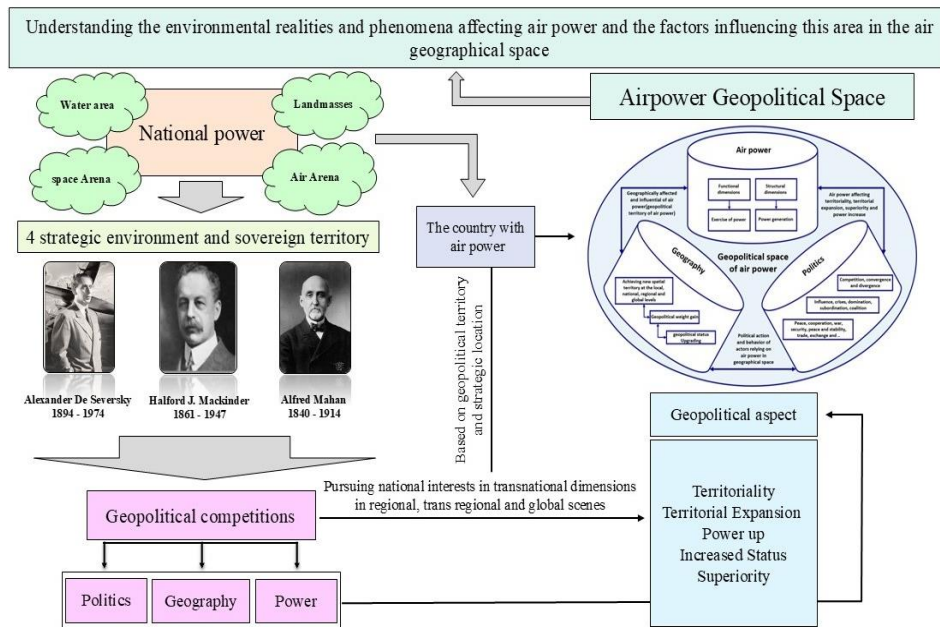


Figure (9): Theoretical Ontology (Theorist)

6. Methodology of Theory

The present theory is a “descriptive” theory because its provisions and content are a report on phenomena and the relationships between them in the two areas of “Airpower and geopolitics”, and considering that it deals with causal and disability relationships coupled with the recommendation of the described phenomenon, it is a “descriptive-prescriptive” theory.

In this theory, which is inspired by Robert Dubin's¹ methodology, the main assumption of the theory and the problem were raised as the theorist's concern at first, then the theory was explained based on the following five steps:

- ✓ In the first step, the main concepts of the theory, which Robert Dubin refers to as the units of the theory, were determined and defined.
- ✓ In the second step, the laws of interaction and the relationships between them were explained.

1. Robert Dubin published a book titled “Theorizing” in 1978. This book took a quantitative-positivist view of theorizing in applied fields. From Dubin’s perspective, theorizing in applied fields follows a deductive approach (Danaei Fard, 2008).

- ✓ In the third step, the boundaries of the theory were determined. In this framework, those aspects of the real world that the theory models and, as a result, the scope of the theory were identified and determined.
- ✓ In the fourth step, the states of the theory system were determined; accordingly, when the elements of the theory and the laws of their interaction in a territory are determined, the theory becomes a system in such a way that its elements interact with each other within a certain range.
- ✓ In the fifth step, the theorems of the theory, which are the same as the predicate propositions, were extracted from the core of the theory system. Therefore, in this theory, based on the following conceptual framework, the basis and principle of the theory of “Airpower Geopolitical Space” based on the three areas of epistemology, ontology, and methodology were explained with the following four detailed approaches:
 - ✓ Description: Understanding the current state of this phenomenon.
 - ✓ Explanation: Revealing the why and causes of a phenomenon, linking multiple factors together.
 - ✓ Prediction: A conscious guess about a phenomenon in the future.
 - ✓ Control: The highest goal of any theory is control; that is, we must be able to bring a phenomenon under our control.

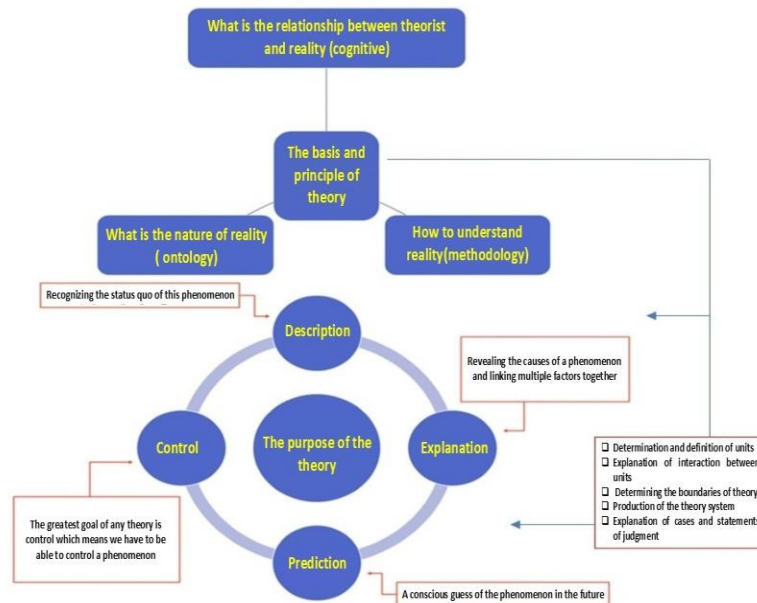


Figure (10): The Conceptual Framework of Theorizing (Theorist)

7. Analysis

The present is a theory in the form of understanding the realities of the environment affecting Airpower and influencing it with the approach of examining the interrelationships of Airpower in geographical space with power policies and actions that lead to the ranking of countries based on the explanation of their weight and geopolitical status. It has a supporting section, three main sections, and 12 judgments (cases) as follows:

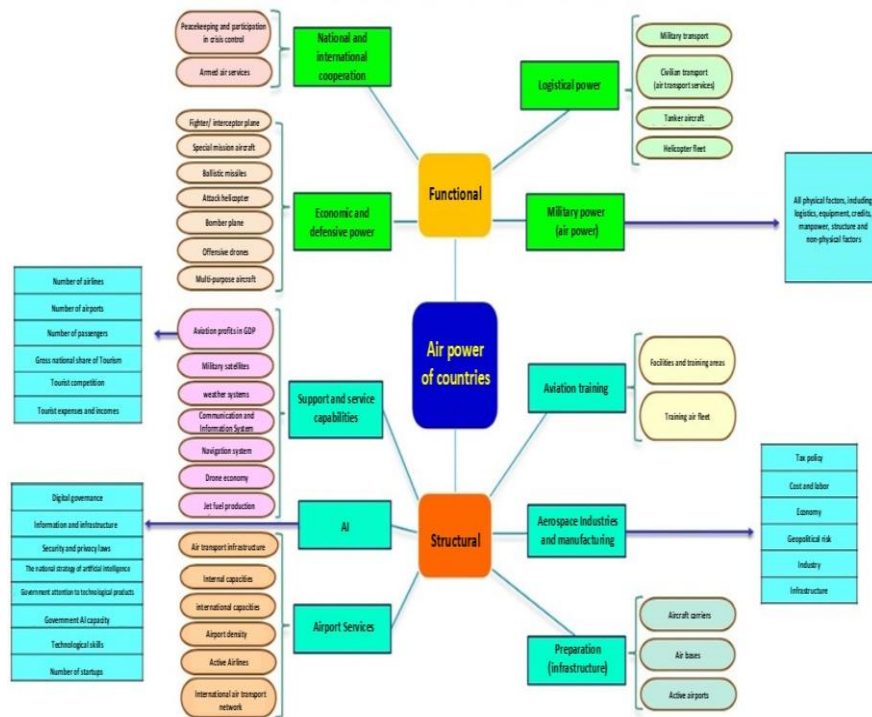


Figure (11): Part one (Supporting the Present Theory)
 (Source: The Model of Measuring the Airpower of Countries (Doctoral thesis of the Theorist)

One of the supporting documents of the present theory is the model of measuring the Airpower of countries¹, in which the prevailing attitude in various areas of Airpower, identification and decision-making capability were provided for decision-makers based on the information obtained, in this regard, to better and more accurately calculate the effectiveness of various components affecting the Airpower of countries, the proportional factor coefficients for the factors affecting were explained and considered.)

1. Aziz Nasirzadeh (2022). Doctoral thesis entitled “Presentation of the model of measuring the Airpower of countries”, Advisor: Dr. Mohammad Reza Hafeznia, Tehran: Tarbiat Modarres University.

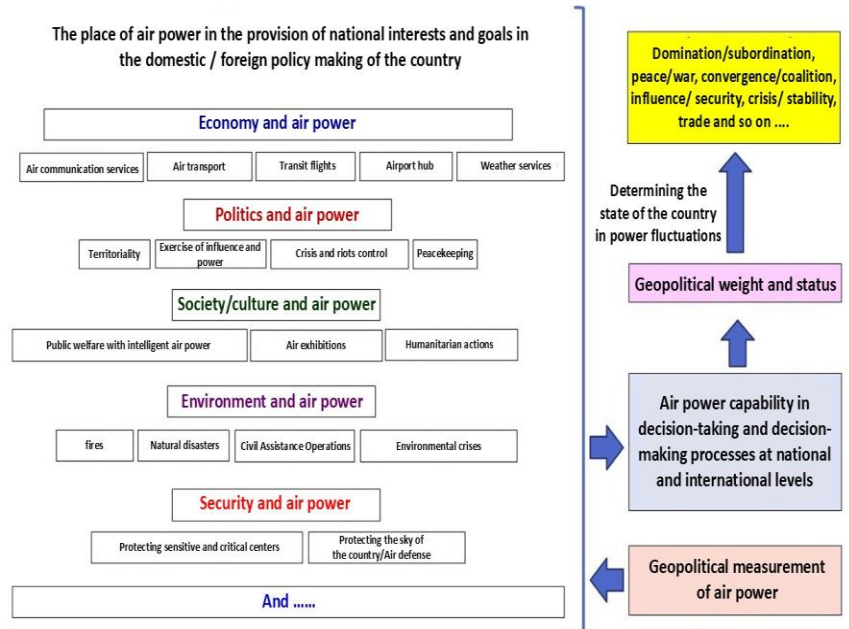


Figure (12): The Second Part (Main), The place of Airpower in the Provision of National Interests and Goals in the Domestic/Foreign Policy making of the Country

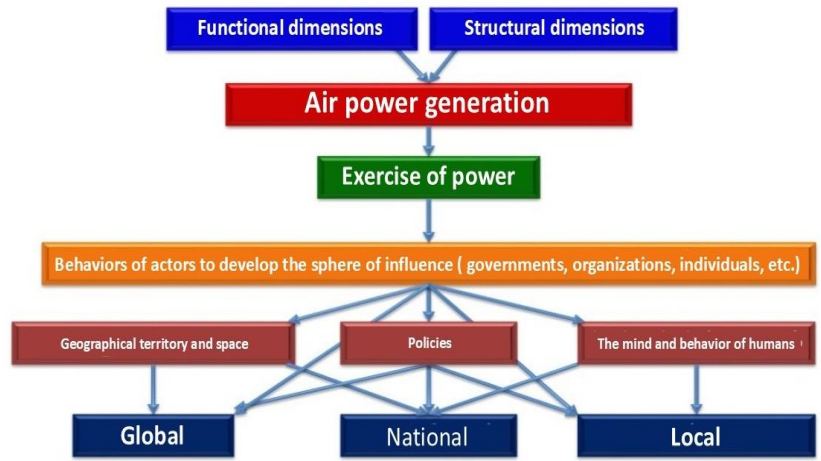


Figure (13): Third Part (Main): The Relationship between the Production and Application of Airpower at the Local, National and Global Levels

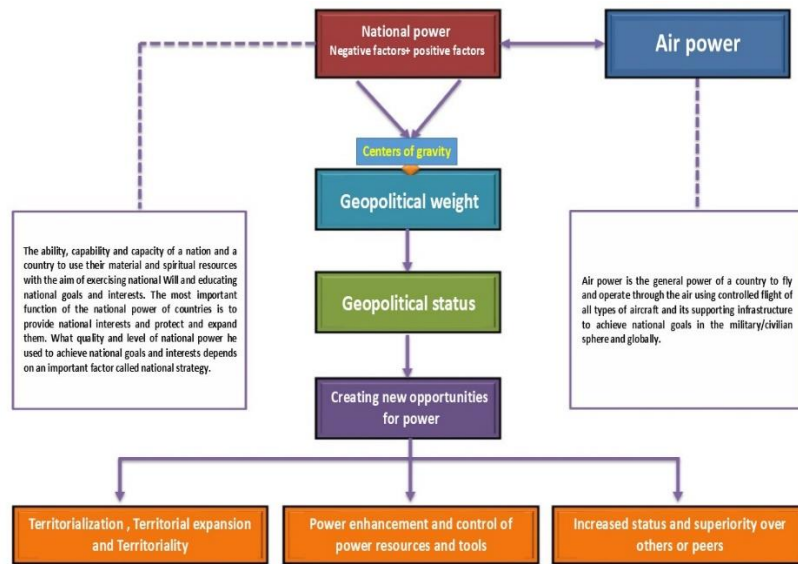


Figure (14): Fourth Part (Main): The Relationship among Airpower, National Power and Geopolitical Weight and Status

7-1.Theoretical Judgments and Statements

1. Geopolitical competitions in the form of territoriality, territorial expansion, empowerment and superiority in various fields and its management, which is a requirement of national power, are not limited to the land arena, but are expanded and spread on the seabed and are also authoritative in the air for countries, and the rules governing it that are called Airpower, the same as the topics discussed in political geography will affect the relations of governments in the two areas of the use of geographical space (air) and geopolitical territoriality (air superiority and universal access).
2. The theory of “Airpower Geopolitical Space” is a geopolitical theory that studies the interrelationships between geography, power, and politics, and the actions arising from their combination with each other based on Airpower.
3. Airpower, as one of the most influential elements in the national power of countries, is the overall power of a country to fly and operate through the air using controlled flight of all types of aircraft and its supporting infrastructure, to achieve national goals in the military/civilian sphere



globally, and is explained in two formats: “structural”, which includes all the infrastructure, substructure and physical factors influencing the creation and achievement of Airpower and “functional” all the executive, operational and practical factors influencing the application and application of Airpower.

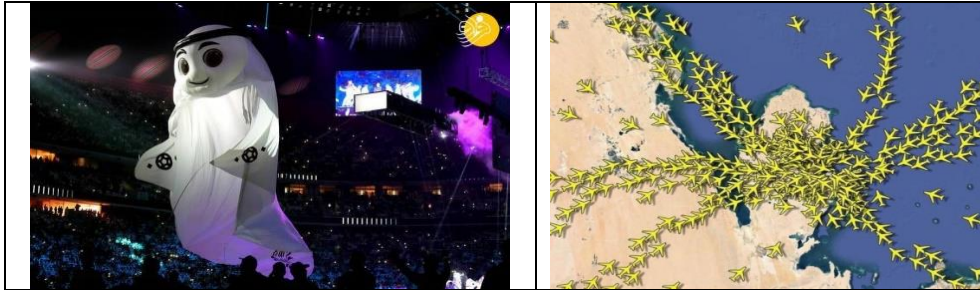
4. The pursuit of national interests in the regional and trans regional scene takes on a geopolitical aspect based on the proportionate use of Airpower within the framework of this theory.
5. The country with Airpower pursues its national interests in various scenes, by creating and applying it in the air geographical space based on geopolitical territory and strategic position.
6. The production of Airpower in various dimensions and its application in the form of national power affects the relations of actors and their conflicts (politics) to develop the sphere of influence in geographical spaces and human groups on local, national, and global scales.
7. The geopolitical atmosphere of Airpower affects territoriality, territory expansion, empowerment, and superiority in national and transnational dimensions.
8. Airpower is based on the exercise of will, change, and influence, and is designed to achieve the desired goals, such as: political, military, technological, social, and cultural, and so on. Its field of operation is in the sky and space; requires special equipment; its users require special capabilities and training; its gender is essentially strategic; it relies on national interests and long-term goals; it expands in the regional and international environment and interacts with nations and politicians; Airpower resources and tools are inclusive and derived from national resources and are available and include all components of a country's national power.
9. The theory of “Airpower Geopolitical Space” is a composite concept in which the three main elements, namely Geography (geopolitical aerial territory, geopolitical and influential geopolitical territory of Airpower), power (Airpower influential in geopolitical territory) and Politics (action and behavior of actors relying on Airpower), have an inherent character, and the combination of these three elements, patterns of behavior in the form of power fluctuation, competition, convergence, divergence, influence, crisis, domination, coalition, peace, cooperation, war, security,

peace and stability, trade and exchange, etc., determines their relateness to each other based on Airpower.

10. The theory of “Airpower Geopolitical Space” is a link between the two phenomena “Geopolitical” and “Airpower”, which examines the interrelationships and influences of Airpower in the form of geographical space (air) with power policies and actions and statistics of its impact on geopolitical status and weight with a geopolitical empowerment approach; this theory complements its previous theories and focuses on the position of Airpower in the relationship between politics, power and geography with a geopolitical approach.
11. The algebraic sum of Airpower structural and functional factors as one of the components of national power (gravity of forces and positive and negative factors affecting) has an objective and mental impact on processes, decision-making, actions and behaviors on various local and neighboring, regional and global scales of countries and can play a pivotal role using accessible components at the geographical level.
12. The geopolitical thought and action of Airpower is meaningful and expanded in three contexts and traits:
 - Territorial expansion or privacy, territory or territorial arrangement, and territorial establishment in related geographical space;
 - Empowerment, resource, and power tools control in the territory of related geographical space to ensure survival, existence, and life;
 - To increase and excel others or counterparts in competition, confrontation, or interaction with them in a geographically relevant space on different scales.

Table (2): Concrete Examples

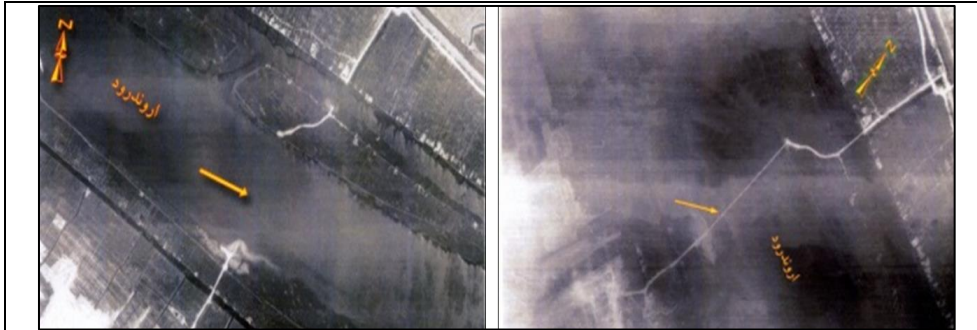
	
<p>China's reliance on Airpower (structural-functional) in an important geographical area (the South China Sea) for territorial expansion and power expansion</p>	



Building the geopolitical identity of Qatar by creating appropriate Airpower infrastructure for holding the World Cup games (attracting and increasing transit and tourism)



Image of the European Space Agency using the aviation industry as a means of rapid and reliable transportation (attracting and increasing transit and tourism) but also as a means of growth and progress for any country; in other words, civil Airpower in all areas, especially passenger and trade transport, can increase the geopolitical weight and status of countries at the regional and global levels. The “Proba V” satellite has recorded twenty-five million different locations and fifteen thousand passenger aircraft.



The Strategic Effect of Airpower in the Sacred Defense

The destruction of the suspension bridge over the Arvand River, which cut off the rear and support lines, led to the capture of a large number (more than 19,000) of enemy forces.



Airpower in a geographical space has an impact on national politics and power, such as Operation “Dora” to make Baghdad unsafe to prevent the Non-Aligned Movement Summit from taking place and the need to change the venue of the summit, which was achieved thanks to the sacrifice of the pilots of Air Force “Martyr Doran” and his comrades.



Transforming airports into global flight hubs¹ with a geopolitical empowerment approach based on Airpower.

1. In aviation industry literature, a hub airport is an airport that handles a significant number of domestic, international, and regional flights and is used by many passengers for multi-destination (connection) flights.

The existence of these modern aviation technologies and infrastructures in countries in the Airpower Geopolitical Space can provide a special strategic position in geopolitical competitions in the form of territorialization, territorial expansion, power expansion, and superiority in various fields, creating authority and managing it, which is a requirement of national power.



Using Airpower in crisis management and humanitarian assistance



The emergence of relatively cheap and capable armed drones is a tempting alternative for countries seeking to break their long-standing geopolitical deadlocks.



Holding air shows (Airpower Geopolitical Space in the social and cultural sphere)

8. Conclusion

The theory of “Airpower Geopolitical Space” is a hybrid/composite concept based on understanding the influential realities of Airpower on the behavior of actors, decision-makers and political rulers who have geopolitical interests in geopolitical space. It examines the interrelationships of Airpower in geopolitical space with Power actions and geopolitical competitions that arise and emerge in the form of territorial establishment, territorial expansion, empowerment and superiority in various fields. Since Airpower exploits complex technologies, as technologies progress, Airpower plays a different role and is influential in the behavior pattern of actors in the form of competition, confrontation, or interaction. It will play a decisive role,

facilitating the attention of the rulers to this area, their competition or confrontation with the competitors. In the Airpower Geopolitical Space, three main elements Geography (geopolitical aerial territory, geopolitical and influential geopolitical territory of Airpower), power (Airpower influential in geopolitical territory) and Politics (action and behavior of actors relying on Airpower) have an inherent trait, and the combination of these three elements determines behavioral patterns in the form of power fluctuation, competition, convergence, divergence, influence, crisis, domination, subordination, coalition, peace, cooperation, war, security, peace and stability, trade and exchange, etc. towards each other.

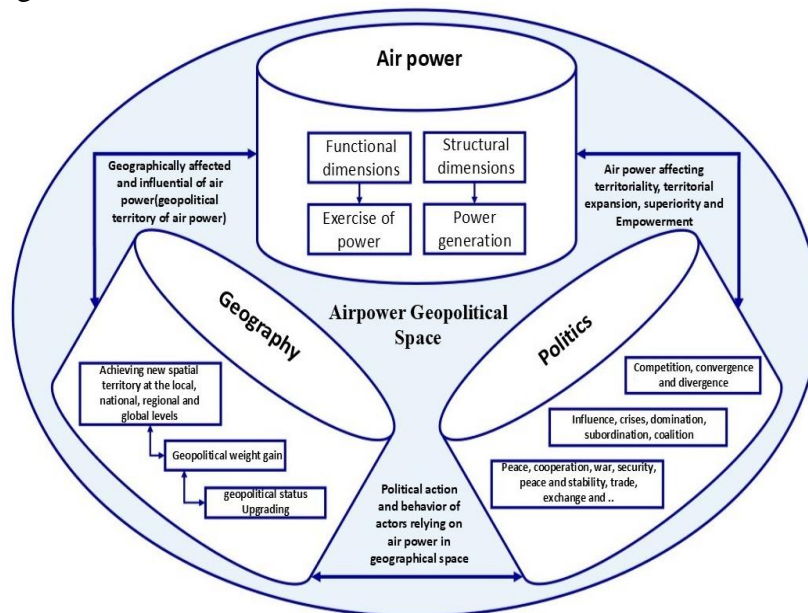


Figure (15): The Airpower Geopolitical Space Theory (theorist)

This theory, after approximately 10 years of continuous scientific and research work, succeeded in September 2024 by obtaining a score of 97 (excellent rating) in the final assembly of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution (Secretariat of the Board for Supporting Theory, Criticism, and Debate Chairs). The supporting documents for the mentioned theory, in addition to the theorist’s doctoral dissertation at Tarbiat Modarres University under the supervision of the esteemed Professor Dr. Mohammad Reza Hafeznia, include: 7 authored books (exceeding 2,300 pages), 11 translated

books (exceeding 3,000 pages), 2 scientific-research articles in Persian, 1 scientific-research article in English (a total of three articles with over 4,000 citations and downloads) and the development of a comprehensive bilingual native software for assessing the Airpower of countries, which was unveiled in March 2024.

9.Theoretical Contribution

The Airpower Geopolitical Space is a national and global theory that, based on Airpower, links the three domains of power, geography, and politics, and considers all military and civilian aspects of Airpower in the geopolitical space; this theory complements previous theories and does not contradict other powers.

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