

The Geopolitics Role of Energy in the National Security of Countries

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ABSTRACT

Today, energy plays a role in the politics and economics of countries as one of the levers of power, and many of the current global politics and conflicts are affected by this. The dependence of industrialized and developing countries on such resources has given rise to new strategies in the field of energy security, because the political fate, economic potential and national interests of energy exporters and importers are tied to energy topic. Therefore, providing, maintaining and safeguarding the security of such a strategic commodity is a priority for the national interests of the producing and importing countries and also affects their national security. Currently, one of the most important geopolitical variables affecting the fate of countries is the energy variable and one of the ways that countries can increase their national security factor is to pay attention to the geopolitics of energy in the national and transnational contexts. The research method used in this study is descriptive-analytical and the data collection tool is library studies. Security and energy are now the focus of countries today and they seek to strengthen their power in both areas and to obviate security weaknesses and required energies and there is a significant relationship between energy and security.

Keywords- Geopolitics, Energy, Security, Economy, Country

I. INTRODUCTION

In the era of the rule of geoeconomic discourse, economics has become more prominent than ever, and energy geopolitics has opened a new chapter in international relations. Energy resources appear to be one of the most important geopolitical variables in the current political system of the world in international interactions between countries, as well as the transition from non-energy places and spaces, to control of production resources and routes of energy transfer, processing, transmission and even energy consumption for maintaining global and regional lordship and challenging competitors in the international arena has an important role and has made energy credentials an important geopolitical issue. Because energy and its aspects are the focal point of the three parameters of geography, power, and politics (Hafez Nia, 2017: 103), therefore, energy is a

strategic commodity whose providing Security of energy plays a focal role in international security and the world economy. This situation in the global geopolitics scene and where the growing need for oil and gas in developed countries is increasing, has forced the world to incorporate the issue of energy security into the global security literature and adopt a strategy on how to provide it. Contrary to popular thinking in the twentieth century, today's security is not just the military dimension, but economic security and energy security mode are of increasing importance, and governments that dominate geopolitics and geoeconomic areas of energy will play an important role in the security equations of the international system. The events of the first decade of the 21st century in the field of energy relations show that in the field of international relations, energy geopolitics has become of strategic importance. Nowadays, energy is a strategic commodity, which providing and maintenance

of its security is one of the top priorities of countries in the field of domestic and international security. Energy, on the one hand, has a political function and according to his nature, acquisition, preservation and maintenance aspect of power and security, and is one of the most influential components in the world economy. Given the dynamic events in the world's political and economic arenas, energy geopolitics plays a more strategic role than ever in the global equation scene and its strategic importance to producers and consumers is undeniable and plays an important role in providing the national security of countries. The diversity of resources and variation in access to required energy has become an important part of global policies components to providing the energy security. As diversification of energy sources is one of the most important guarantees of energy security and in fact an important and vital point of its security (Stringer, 2008: 7-11). Energy security depends on various issues. From the simplicity or complexity of discovering a resource in producing countries, to the instability and rebellion with rest and development in the oil-rich country, to the transfer by pipeline or ship, to piracy or terrorist attack on infrastructure and pipes to supply shortages and rising demand, crude oil pricing, everyone in energy security is both debatable and significant. The present article is an attempt to accountability the question of how energy geopolitics affects countries' security and what is the approach to energy security and how will countries national interests be provided from this perspective?

II. RESEARCH METHOD

The research method used in this study is descriptive – analytical and data collection tools are library tools and the use of valid statistics and documents and scientific articles.

III. PURPOSE OF RESEARCH

1. Scientific study of energy geopolitics and its relation to national security of countries
2. Identifying strategic points of global energy security
3. Identifying geopolitics components of energy and security

IV. THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS

4-1- National Security

National security is a state where a nation is free from the threat of losing all or part of its population, property, or territory (Vandai, 2012: 10). National security is conceptually weak and ambiguous in terms of definition, but in terms of politically, it remains a powerful concept, because the vague concept of national security paves the way of developing strategies for power

expansion by political and military elites (Mandel, 1998: 49). In recent decades, security, and consequently national security, has not been restricted to military matters domain, and has been applied in other domains as well, and with the events changes and developments in various political and social arenas, the term has become more widely used today and it has become one of the important goals of countries. This is the basis of all efforts at national, regional and international levels have political, military, economic, social, cultural and environmental dimensions (Tahami, 2005: 83).

4-1-1- National Security Strategies

1. Maintenance or creation a situation in which the vital interests and values of the country are not seriously threatened.
2. Maintaining military, political, economic, cultural and governmental power in internal and external affairs against foreign influence and preventing unlawful enemy operations aimed at undermining or overthrowing government.
3. The ability of a nation to safeguard its internal values from external threats.
4. How a country does not feel threatened by military attack, political or economic pressure and can freely pursue its own development.
5. The state where a nation is free from the threat of losing all or part of its population, property, or territory (Mehrabi et al., 2013: 5)

4.2 Geopolitics of Energy

The geopolitics of energy studies the role and effect of energy and its various aspects and dimensions on the politics, power, and various relationships of nations and countries (Hafez Nia, 2017: 101). In other words, conflicts between competing powers over control of land, natural resources (oil, gas, minerals, food products, water, etc.), important geographical locations (strategic ports and military bases, rivers and canals, trade routes etc.) and other factors affecting military and economic superiority. Energy as a subject of geopolitics has long been the focus of governmental systems. But in the past, the heating aspect has received more attention. Access to wood in Northern Europe has been one of them. The formation of the European Coal Society has also been one of the geopolitics issues that formed the foundation of much wider developments in Europe. Since the early twentieth century, when oil has become a vital resource and used as fuel for modern motor vehicles and fleets, it has become a pivotal role in geopolitical activities (Walsh, 2006: 456-458). Fossil energies, especially oil and gas, as they have a high share in the world energy balance, have gained a prominent place in international relations and they have also influenced international politics. The issue of access to energy sources, including fossil, nuclear, solar, etc., as well as the transfer of energy from places with energy to places and spaces without energy or needy, as well as the control of production resources and energy transmission

lines, as well as technologies and means of production, Processing, transferring, and even consuming energy to maintain global and regional lordship and challenge competitors in the international arena, all have, spatial or geographical dimensions, and for that reason it has made energy credibility an important geopolitical issue (Hafez Nia, 2017: 102).

4.2.1 Geopolitics of energy and energy security

Energy is one of the scarce resources of the earth, and the best resources in power games are scarce resources; therefore, scarce resources have high geopolitics significance, giving them a great opportunity to advance goals in power competitions (Mojtahedzadeh, 2016: 41). The issue of access to energy sources, including fossil, nuclear, solar, etc., as well as the transfer of energy from places with energy to places and spaces without energy or needy, as well as the control of production resources and energy transmission lines, as well as technologies and means of production, Processing, transferring, and even consuming energy to maintain global and regional lordship and challenge competitors in the international arena, all have, spatial or geographical dimensions, and for that reason it has made energy credibility an important geopolitical issue. Therefore, it can be stated that the geopolitics of energy studies the role of energy, its various aspects and dimensions, on the politics and power and various relationships of nations and governments (Hafez Nia, 2017: 37), in the modern world today, the Foundation for Industrial Development relies on energy. The world's largest energy consumption hubs are developed areas with high economic growth rates. Therefore, the industry has an indiscrete link to hydrocarbons material (oil and gas). This indiscrete link between energy and industry is the basis of power in the 21st century. Therefore, in power relations in international relations dominance on hydrocarbon material production hubs and their transmission line, especially natural gas in the future is many of today's political units actors (Kaviani rad, and veisi, 2005: 299), It is important to control the energy resources for the independence and national security of all its producing and consuming countries. Producer countries, striving for continuous control and protection of their vital and treasured resources, wish to actively and equitably participate in the growth of the global economy and make optimal use of its resources for the development of national economies and increase the living standards of the people in order to achieve the benefits and their national goals. On the other hand, consumer countries tend to guarantee the flow of energy with the lowest price level and to provide strategic security and its transport to the target markets (movahedian, 2006: 100). The word "energy security" has evolved throughout history with changes in the challenges of energy supply. In the 1990s, energy security was used to justify support for domestic oil production to ensure it was adequately supplied in

times of war. In fact, energy security at that time largely oversaw the military dimension of security. In the 1980s and after the oil shock of the 1973, energy security to protect the national interests of consumer countries against a group of oil-producing countries that could use oil weapon to influence the foreign policy of industrialized countries it was used. At that time, energy security was considered synonyms with independence of imported or foreign oil. In the 1980s and 1990s, energy security became more of an economic nature, and the concept was used to support the US economy and other importing countries against the negative effects of supply cut and oil price shocks. But in the early 1980s, economic concerns faded away and its related debates took on a more dramatic form (Nadarian, 2: 1-6).

V. RESEARCH FINDINGS

5-1- Energy and National Security

The relationship between reliable crude oil reserves and national security was first recognized in 1912. At that time, Winston Churchill, the first British Minister of the navigation, ordered the conversion of all British ships propulsion from coal to oil to boost their power and speed. Since the end of World War II, the relationship between oil and security has been one of the most important issues in US military policy and is likely to become even more important in the future (Gharayagh Zandi, 2007, 269). Energy is now one of the keys to the mobility of the global economy. Any physical disruption in the arena or a major change in prices will seriously affect world economic activity and consequently endanger the security of countries. The role of energy in the global economy has grown to such a degree that it has a direct and harmonious relationship with issues such as economic growth, recession and trade balance of countries (Mottaghi, 2007: 10). The increasing disproportion between energy production and consumption in global level has now brought energy security into the context of international security issues and this issue has been the subject of much attention. The free market environment of the 1980s has made the issue of energy security meaning to protect the domestic economy from changes in prices, inflation, economic growth rates and wealth transfers. Therefore, ensuring energy security for modern economies is a must because they are heavily dependent on energy and their long-term economic planning depends on stability in energy access, which is a key component of providing national security of countries. Therefore, energy security is an influential factor on how economic-political of countries behave and international security policy. Some see energy security as protecting the domestic economy in terms of price changes, inflation of economic growth rate and wealth transfer, as well as international economic and financial systems. In these circumstances, the issue of energy

security has gone beyond the simple framework of securing oil-rich areas or consuming energy and has become a very complex issue. One of the factors that make national security a major issue for major powers and major consumer states is to increase global dependence on oil and gas resources at least in the foreseeable future and to have an its impact on the economies of producer and consumer countries. These developments increased the focus on the energy sector and led to widespread energy security concerns. In the global market of energy, there is no absolute independence, and there is interdependence between consumers and producers (Wazaki, 2010: 1). This interdependence in the event of conflict of interest can pose a threat to national security. A country that exports energy if it has a conflict with an importer of this energy can prevent energy exports from exporting, which is a threat to the national security of the importing country, because a lack of energy in a country can cause political and security crises.

5-2- Security from the perspective of energy exporting and importing countries

From the perspective of manufacturers, energy security is linked to demand security. Owners of huge reserves have expressed concern over the long-term security of their energy demand. This concern is based on two areas: 1- rotational growth pattern and policies that reduce demand for oil and advocate for other energy sources; 2. failure of OPEC member countries to diversify their economic revenues and maintain their heavy dependence on oil revenues. So, they are concerned about the security of markets for their revenue's huge resources (Halim Zamharir, 2: 1).

Energy security for manufacturers is about having access to a continuous market with reasonable future growth. Because most oil producers are from the group of single-product economies that are heavily dependent on oil sales, any possibility of lower demand and developed countries' reliance on alternative energy or their preference to supply oil and gas from non-OPEC countries meaning building barriers to social development and economic growth of these countries (Maleki, 2007: 18). The concept of energy security in terms of importing countries includes the following components:

- 1- Reliable, guaranteed, easy and permanent access to cheap energy to meet modern economic needs and economic growth and development;
- 2- Energy self-sufficiency and minimizing dependence on imported energy;
- 3- Creating energy strategic reserves and importing oil into the stock markets to make the oil market competitive;
- 4- Controlling the flow of energy information and market forecasts;
- 5- Controlling of routes and bases of energy production and transmission (Hassan Tash, 2008: 20);

Energy security comes from consistent and reliable supply at reasonable prices in energy carriers.

These resources are logically diverse in terms of geographical area of resources as well as transmission routes. As consumers of oil and gas pose energy security from their point of view, it is only natural for manufacturers to seek their own definition of this concept. So instead of focusing solely on consumer dependence on producers, one can talk about mutual dependence and the recognition that some degree of interdependence between energy producers and consumers will increase in the future (Buhgat, 2006: 966).

5-3- Strategic Points for Providing Global Energy Security

There are five critical points in the world where the world's energy security is directly dependent on their security and any crisis in them the energy security of the world will face complex problems.

1. Strait of Hormuz: One of these points is the strategic Strait of Hormuz, which approximately 5 million barrels of crude oil daily that's mean about 5% of the world's oil production passes through this gorge;
2. Malacca Strait: This strait situated between Singapore and the Indonesian island of Sumatra, about 15 million barrels of oil equivalent to 18% of the world's total oil production per day pass through it;
3. Enbridge Pipeline: These pipelines deliver about 2.2 million barrels of crude to the United States daily which equivalent to 5 percent of its daily imports of this country;
4. Al-Baqi Oil Refinery: This oil processing center is built in a large oil field of the same name in Saudi Arabia, whose facilities refine two-thirds of its oil;
5. Ras Tanura Oil Terminal: About 10% of the world's oil is shipped from this terminal. The Ras Tanura is one of wide and long installations of the Saudi Arabia's Aramco oil company in Persian Gulf.

US Energy Information Agency also lists five straits and canals as important transit points in the world, including the Hormuz Strait, the Suez Canal, the Mandeb or Bab El Mandeb Strait and the Panama Canal (Nabavi, 2009: 29).

5.4 Strategy of economic powers in providing energy security

Energy security is a multidimensional issue and no country alone can achieve energy security. Based on these multiple dimensions in which producers, consumers and investors participate in risks together, one can achieve sustainable security by interacting and taking into account the goals and concerns of all parties to the case; any unilateralism and eliminating the goals and interests of producers or consumers will lead to energy insecurity in the long run. Achieving this understanding and agreement requires a foreign policy and successful and efficient energy diplomacy. Thus, there is a direct and close relationship between energy security and the common foreign policy of energy. (Halim Zamharir, 2011: 126).

For example, the US, Europe and other economic powers have adopted separate strategies to

secure their energy security. The European Union uses multilateralism, cooperation in the creation of international structures, and bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the form of energy dialogues and dialogues to ensure its future energy security. These strategies include drafting the Energy Charter Treaty and encouraging countries to join it and create different companies to build gas pipelines from different basis is one of these strategies. Large economies such as China, India and Japan each seek long-term contracts with oil-producing countries and joint ventures to produce more oil and gas. Ultimately, the US strategy, which is about controlling competitors and unilateralism, and ensuring that it maintains its energy security and controls its competitors, and continues its hegemony, unilaterally, warfare, direct occupation, and change of political structure of countries of Persian Gulf region and Southwest of Asia and the physical seizure of oil resources on its agenda (Faraji, 2013: 80).

5.5 National Security in the shadow of energy

Energy is undoubtedly the largest and most efficient leverage of the Exercising power of the Countries with energy in world politics scene. Energy policy making is a framework of written and unwritten rules and attitudes that have generally been built over decades. This framework involves mainly all levels of government in a country as well as the private sector. The effects of economic, social, and political aspects of society that are not necessarily energy-related at first glance are discussed in interaction with energy. Energy policy making strive to improve ways of producing and consuming energy resources (Dukert, 2009: 167) The features that make energy one of the most effective tools in maintaining national security and enhancing national power are:

- 1- Having
- 2- Getting
- 3- Controlling
- 4- Using.

A country that has a small amount of certain raw materials is certainly has a better position than a country that does not have them. But this actor must also be able to extract them. For example, in the far eastern parts of Russia and Siberia there are many resources due to the climatic conditions, it has not been possible for Russia to extract them. Control is another factor; if one country's resources are extracted by another, these resources may not be very reliable; oil-producing countries are a clear example in this regard. As long as the multinationals companies had extractive power in these countries, they were not strong enough, but once they were able to control prices through OPEC, they were able to emerge as effective economic cartels, and eventually that the extracted resources should be usable under control. If the actor with the right resources fails to properly utilize them

for economic development after extraction, he will certainly have less power (Simber, 2009: 98-9).

VI. ANALYSIS

The lack of geographical distribution of oil reserves by scope of its use means that there is little oil consumption in that part of the world where huge oil reserves exist, and the major oil consumption in that part of the world is where oil reserves are scarce. This disproportionate geographical distribution of reserves and consumption causes oil to be strongly linked to power equations to provide security and achieve national interests around the world arena (Mirtorabi, 2012, 2: 1). Producer countries seek to actively and justly participate in the growth of the global economy by continually controlling and protecting their vital and revenue-generating resources and they are making the best use of resources to develop national economies and raise people's living standards in pursuit of their national interests and goals. Consumer countries, on the other hand, tend to guarantee the energy reception with lowest level of price level and providing strategic security and transport to the target markets (Movahedian, 2006: 100).

With the change of indicators in the selection of geostrategic territories after the end of the Cold War and the prioritization of economic issues over the military issues of co-ordination between geoeconomic and geostrategic territories emerged and geoeconomic issues, the geopolitics issue of oil, and the strategic security of energy resources were introduced as the most important determinants of global strategies. This means that the decline of the Cold War actually reflects the shift of the path and movement of world system from geopolitics to geoeconomic (Etotile et al, 2001, 2: 1). In fact, after the Cold War, the new energy system of the world has dramatically changed the geopolitics of energy, and providing national security is part of the problems. Emerging powers such as India, China and Russia, seeking to play a role in Southwest Asia, are competing for access to and control of energy resources. This new situation weakens US influence and strengthens the position of special regional actors. In the future, energy is characterized by multiple actors instead of one dominant power or two superpowers: The United States, the European Union, the developing world, energy producers, including companies, countries and actors of economic arena are among them (Ibrahimi, 2012: 33).

With the discovery of oil and the need of the global industries to it on the one hand, and the scarcity of which there are limited areas with almost specified capacities in the world level, this material has entered the geopolitical arena. The rival powers that needed this material competed to control it. Countries with this material most

of the countries are economically dependent countries which formed geopolitical grouping like OPEC. Energy is thus one of the deepest geopolitical issues in the contemporary world. Oil alone accounts for 39% of energy consumption. Coal that was more important in the past, today only accounts for about 2 percent of energy resources. Natural gas, nuclear energy, wind energy, solar energy and recycled energies are at the next places, accounting for 37% of energy consumption. Oil is more important as the first exergonic source and plays an important role in today's world. Thus fossil energies, especially oil and gas, as they have a high share in the world energy balance, have gained special prominence in international relations and overshadowed international politics. Since the beginning of the twentieth century, oil has become a vital resource and used as fuel for modern motor vehicles and fleets has become a central issue in securing countries. Today, gas, which has applications such as producing electrical energy, using it in industrial processes and heating homes, is just as important. Energy security has become at the center of providing national security, and at the same time a threat to, the concept of national security, and its issues have become an effective factor for the convergence and development of all countries in the world to maintain their national security for stability and good governance. One way that countries can increase their national security coefficient is to pay attention to foreign policy based on energy security. Energy-focused foreign policy increases the power of interaction and bargaining on the international scene. Overlap between consumer and producer countries can also be one of the energy field policies to pursue. This will increase regional power and influence countries in the security equations, and on the other hand, create convergence, trust building, and reduce national and transnational security threats. Investing in the energy sector will also put countries on the sidelines of cooperative security and the political power of oil and gas. Because it links the interests of countries to these countries, the challenges facing and investing in countries need to be gain trust of investor countries. Obviously, a close economic relationship and cooperation in the energy sector will also lead to a close political relationship, thereby avoiding challenging security implications and national security threats. For countries, achieving an appropriate level of national security requires a detailed understanding of geopolitical possibilities and constraints and their proper and purposeful application. Finally, it must be said that one of the geopolitical possibilities is the country's opportunities in the field of fossil energy resources, especially oil and gas resources, which require a national security strategy and approach that is in line with geopolitical capabilities and considering the energy issues of the countries.

VII. CONCLUSION

In many current security issues, security has been reviewed and, in the new perspective, security is of various dimensions and incorporates its own factors. In this view, security is not only enhanced by increasing military power, but maintaining and enhancing national security and reducing the security threats of each country requires increasing national power in all economic, political, social, and military spheres at home and abroad. Countries need to provide national power in various political, economic, military and social spheres to mitigate national security threats. Geopolitics and especially energy geopolitics are one of the most important factors affecting the national security of countries in domestic and foreign dimensions. Because among the decisive elements of foreign policy, geopolitics has finally shaped the fate of countries in the turbulent world, and the positive and negative consequences of this geopolitical fate in foreign policy are overwhelming. Now, One of the most important geopolitical variables affecting the fate of the country is the energy geopolitical variable and one of the ways that countries can increase their national security factor is to pay attention to national and transnational energy policy. Also, the development-oriented approach to national security through an interactive view of the global system can more effectively use the energy geopolitics of countries to provide national security. By adopting such an approach, energy geopolitics increases the economic power of countries. Increasing economic power leads to national growth and development, which in turn contributes to increasing national power of country in other dimensions and its result is providing national security.

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