

## A Survey on Role of America's Energy Security in the Persian Gulf on Divergence of Iran from Persian Gulf States

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### ABSTRACT

Energy plays a significant role in the development of industrialized countries in the world. America by taking part of the global economy requires a lot of energy. Country's involvement in world energy centers strives to take part the situation under which these parts as a means to supply their energy needs cheaper and more reliable. Persian Gulf is one of the important energy centers in the world that generates lot of energy. America's presence in the Persian Gulf and building alliances with Persian Gulf states and dependence on their own, seek some sort of convergence with Persian Gulf states. In this regards, Iran as one of the most important and influential countries in the Persian Gulf region and one of the main opponents of America in the region and the world plays a significant role in America's relations with the Persian Gulf states. Iran's role in international relations with America and other countries can be positive or negative, in a manner that the divergence between Iran and other countries in the region improve America's relations with these countries. On the other hand, convergence between Iran and the countries by emphasizing the common interests between Iran and other countries in the region cause America's relations with these countries undermined.

**KEYWORDS:** Energy, energy security, Persian Gulf, Iran, convergence, Divergence

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### INTRODUCTION

Today's global economy is tied to oil and gas Middle East, and energy consumers in the world are dependent on energy of this region, and because of this dependence, they have defined the Middle East as one of its geopolitical interests. Great powers try to participate insensitive area so middle east such as Persian Gulf by taking power of their rivals as a means to make a big challenge in the region. In this regards, America as a superior world power, plays a large role in the world economy.

America, as the largest consumer and importer and the second largest producer of petroleum in the world and the largest national economy in the world with over\$ 10 trillion GDP, is the largest energy actor throughout the world. Hence, policies and measures by these superpowers of the world's economy and energy affect World energy markets and the producers and consumers of energy in the world. In fact, America's power of military, energy and communications is the most influential power in the Middle East, especially the Persian Gulf. Iran, located in the Persian Gulf, is very important having regard to the specific situation and enjoying the global geo-political and geo-political space, and plays a significant role in developments in the region, in a manner that no country can afford to ignore the role.

#### Research importance

Achieve a stable and cheap procedure for Energy supply required to America in different regions of the world always has been of importance in America's foreign policy. America needs this stable and affordable procedure to maintain its hegemony in the international system. Persian Gulf is one of the important centers of America's energy supply chain to reach their destinations. America uses a variety of instruments in this region. From one side, America by creating a convergence with the Persian Gulf states, and associating them to their own, on the other hand by creating a divergence between Iran and other countries, attempt to get close to most of these countries. This will disturb the balance in the Persian Gulf against Iran and in favor of trans-regional powers especially America in the Persian Gulf.

#### Problem statement

This paper aims to explain the rationale of America macro strategies outlined in the Persian Gulf as a means to create a supportive and united region in America in order to meet its energy needs away from conflict. Hence, this paper seeks to know on what rationale the strategy of America macro strategies in the Persian Gulf outlined?

#### Hypothesis

The rationale of America macro strategies outlined in the Persian Gulf is to make a convergence and relationship between Persian Gulf states and America as a means to create a secure and reliable region to supply energy resources.

## Research questions

- 1-To what extent America's energy security in the Persian Gulf relies on convergence between this country and other?
- 2-To what extent Persian Gulf region supplies America's energy?

## Theoretical concepts of research

### Hegemony, hegemonic stability, America's security and economic strategy in the International arena

Hegemony or trying to maintain and strengthen the position of hegemony prevailed in the next America's foreign policy includes different orientations and objectives. Current perspectives on hegemony have been proposed as follows:

#### Realistic - liberalistic impressions of the concept of hegemony

Realism in defining hegemony emphasizes more tangible elements like economic power and military power. In general, in realistic – liberalistic perspective, hegemonic system is a system in which such an unequal distribution of power governs which a government plays a role as a superpower [1].

#### Marxist Theory of Hegemony

Marxist conception of the concept of hegemony in the political economy is under the influence of Marx's assumptions about capitalism. In this regards, fundamental forces that affect the global political economy, are the same forces that create unequal struggle and development. What criteria analyzed in Marxist ontology are the classes and kind of class relationships that their formation originates from a logical consequence of capitalism. In this regard, the Marxists in the analysis of hegemony over all other criteria take into account the class infrastructure of hegemony [2].

#### Hegemonic stability on historical experience

The origin of hegemonic stability theory empirically traced back to the fact during the past two centuries that has been achieved in the international political economy arena. Hegemony of Great Britain in the 19th century and United States hegemony in the 20th century are two models that hegemonic stability theoreticians in support of this theory refer to it. More specifically, mid-to-late-19th Century has been recognized as Britain's cycle of hegemony, ax- Britannic, and the years after World War II until the 1970s have been recognized as Hegemony of the United States, Pax- Americana [3].

## Importance of security energy

### Energy and power

Following the discovery of oil in the second half of the nineteenth century, another dramatic change in the surrounding of nature emerged. However, in the case of oil as well as coal, different stories based on limited and scattered use of this substance in the past exist. But the widespread commercial and industrial use of oil, in a way that importance and attractiveness of coal was greatly overshadowed by the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century. In the early 1870s, John D. Rockefeller and his colleagues founded the first major oil company in the world, Standard Oil Company of New Jersey; later, with the rapid and competitive development of explorative operations, another large companies including Standard Oil Company of California, Gulf, Texaco, Mobila, Royal Dutch- Shell, British Petroleum(BP) allowed to use their emergence, where among preliminary oil giants except for two final European cases, others all are American[14]. World oil demand in 1900 was approximately 500 thousand barrels per day. This figure reached to 1.25 and 4 million in 1915 and 1929, respectively, where these figures indicate that in the early decades of 20<sup>th</sup> the production and consumption of oil have not been developed yet. But in the decades after World War II, this was impressive, in a way that given Energy Information Administration, World oil production reached to about 77 million barrels per day in 2001; It is evident that the industrialized countries are the main consumers of oil, e.g. While the United States is the world's top oil producers, only 40percentof its oil production assigns to consumption. This country alone consumes 25% of world oil production [5].

### Energy crisis scenario

Parallel to exacerbated dependence on non-renewable energy sources, particularly oil communities in the minds of researchers, policymakers, energy crisis scenario seems more likely. Parallel to exacerbated dependence on non-renewable energy sources particularly oil, Energy crisis scenario seems more likely in the minds of researchers and policymakers. Since the conventional energy policy is designed with the ultimate goal of ensuring stability and energy security, the issue of insecurity and energy crisis and its inhibition mechanisms would be of particular importance. A general definition of energy crisis refers to a situation in which the usual relationship between the normal relationships between supply and demand of energy is disrupted, in a way that the economies related to its face shock or crisis. In October 1973thefirstenergycrisiscausedby Arab states of OPEC a shocking result to oil exporters using oil as a weapon. Governments in the 1967 Arab-Israeli War tried to use Oil embargo as a weapon, but this came out fruitless, but, this time the war in 1973 more coherent than the past, put America-Israel supporters in America under sanctions. Arab boycott occurred at a time when global oil demand was rising sharply, for example, while oil imports America about was about 3.2 million barrels per day in 1970, this figure had reached to 6.2 million barrels a day in the summer of 1973[6].

## **America's position in the field of energy**

### **Dependency level**

In the nineteenth century, Americans especially when slavery was a legal system were less dependent on fossil energy; The nation's dependency on fossil energy use was exacerbated since the final decades of the century; along with the rapid development of coal, oil's role in America's economy was highlighted. From the beginning of oil production in the second half of the nineteenth century until World War II, America was the world's big oil producers-Consequently, given such a situation, Americans with their needs exported their surpluses. Their Self-sufficiency in oil supplies is one of the America's key economic- military variable and turning it into a great power; During World War II, America is also taking steps to consider saving into its policies. In Abroad, the main allies addressed oil supply, even after the war, America's oil was used to start rebuilding Europe and Japan[7].

In the years after World War II, The U.S. was on track to reach records for crude-oil production, e.g. while in 1945, about 26carswere being used in America, this figure in 1950reached to 40million.During these five years, the consumption of gasoline in America has increased by about42percentand for the first time in supplying the country's energy needs was prevailed to coal. In addition, for the first time since 1948, imports of petroleum products exceeded exports. From this time, America, to compensate for the lack of oil production comparison to consumption relied on other countries, and the culture of America gradually prevailed for foreign oil. After World War II, America's oil companies were more active to invest in oil-rich regions of the world particularly middle east. In U.S. foreign policy, the issue of energy security and its realization mechanisms, either for itself for its allies has become increasingly important. The key strategic importance of oil to America, not only was because of its high quantitative and qualitative level of dependence, but also because of difficult and complex supply, in a manner that any disruption in oil supplies could affect standard of living level of people by exacerbating the inflation rate[8].

### **Mechanisms of energy supply in foreign policy**

Rising dependence on imported energy, which primarily highlights oil index, has been the biggest economic security challenge of America, and its intensity is increasing over time. It is a fact that has been approved in analytical reports by American policy-makers. It is undeniable that the Americans have actively attempted to stabilize the oil trade in dollar units. America's economy has been a great privilege. But it can never adjust the challenge of dependence on foreign oil. After the end of World War II, the dependence on foreign oil as one of the most important variables to represent the U.S. foreign policy pragmatism has played a role.

The most striking example is the case of the development of friendly relations with Saudi Arabia that Arabian-American Oil Company (ARAMCO) has invested in this case as one of the largest oil producers in the world. In the early years of the cold war that development of freedom and democracy around the world mentioned as a fundamental discourse dominated America's foreign policy; the state tends to strengthen the friendship with traditional Arabian government with its absolute monarchy. The statement in a letter by President Truman in October 1950 to monarch of Saudi Arabia, Ibn Sa'ūd, was interesting". I wish to assure supreme majesty several times, now as in the past, the United States is interested in maintaining the independence and territorial integrity of Saudi Arabia. There is no possibility of any kind of danger that threatens you and not regarded as a first-degree urgent issue that is alarming in view of state of America. "It is clear that adopting such a position represents a key variable of oil interests in America's foreign policy orientation. Role of America's energy security in the divergence between Persian Gulf countries and Iran in the 1990s began with new wave of instability in the region (Invasion of Kuwait by Iraq followed by Operation Desert Storm by America and its close allies). Threat to America's oil interests just happened when the Soviet Union spent the last months of its decline and Cold War was virtually over, and this procedure caused America and its close allies cope easily with crisis and upcoming instability. Weakening Iran and Iraq was pursued prevailing as policy of dual containment that was limited to Iran after the overthrow of Saddam Hussein's government in the spring of 2003. In order to develop security relations with the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, United States in 1990 with Oman, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain with Kuwait in 1991, Qatar in 1992, and United Arab Emirates in 1994signed defensive agreement. These agreements ensure development of military presence and America's security management in region. Following Kuwait's liberation and acting degenerative pressures on expansionist government of Saddam caused America's position as the mainstay of region to be more acceptable for Southern Persian Gulf countries, especially Saudi Arabia. In 1998, the new crown prince of Saudi Arabia, Abdullah, during a meeting with oil executives of United States has explicitly confirmed that the ties between the two countries has been strategic and deep and would be highlighted as times go on. Cooperation between Persian Gulf Cooperation Council states and America, in addition to the security benefit, gains economic consequences for them. These countries have recently taken steps towards a new integration with the world economy, being in need of America to continue their activities. Americans in order to secure access to oil in this region, in addition to the security - military capabilities, have also used their hegemonic economic advantages. Unlike the area of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, Americans in the control of Iran's and Iraq's energy sources have been encountered

with numerous political obstacles. The two countries are major holders of world's oil and gas resources and have high potentials to supply the world's energy needs. They have so many possibilities for creating or aggravating energy crisis in the global arena. However, after Saddam regime was toppled and another political system that was under influence and control of U.S. was replaced, despite continuing security challenges; Iraq's energy resources have been controlled. But since the anti-American government in Iran and political problems between the two sides continued, America's access to Iran's resources and control faced with difficulty. One of their concerns is that Iran may use its energy resources as a political weapon while required [10].

### **America's energy security and hegemony**

One of the key functions of a hegemonic superpower is its ability and willingness to promote free enterprise and economy in the international arena. This function was obvious in British hegemony, and the United States have been actively looking for applying it. In general, the role of energy in international economy arena is particular essential in sake of the two interconnected dimensions. First, energy sources as merchandise is of vital interest to the country and makes up a large volume of goods in international trade. Second, Industry and business prosperity is not possible without the support of the energy, and accordingly accelerating cycle of free international economy over the past two centuries in perspective of modern human capabilities has been essential in order to discover and apply widespread powerful sources of energy. America's contemporary business hegemony largely depends on its ability in dominance and use of oil.

Today, in America about 25 percent of the oil consumption is used in the industrial sector to supply industrial fuel and prepare some industrial materials such as petrochemicals and asphalt and Closer to 70 percent for transportation arena. Oil In the field of industry prospers production and transport in the field of trade and services. Thus, international free economy without adequate energy resources is not basically possible. A government as a hegemony that addresses promoting free economy, basically has to adopt a proper approach in energy trade arena [12].

### **Review of America's foreign policy in the Persian Gulf**

#### **America's Basic strategic elements in the Persian Gulf:**

Persian Gulf is the strategic part of Middle East. Strategic focus that connects Asia, Africa and Europe to each other. In the past few decades, America defended its extensive interests in the region and supported its allies as means to supply its major interests in the Middle East, and use all political, economic and diplomatic levers.

#### **Pillars of America strategies in the Persian Gulf:**

- Supporting oil resources and ways to ensure injecting it into the West, especially America and support low prices
- Maintain the region as a consumer market for American goods and services, as well as for the sale of U.S. facilities in the region
- Support America's allies in the region, as well as ensuring Arabic countries' security and stability throughout the region

#### **Persian Gulf's position on foreign policy and national security of America:**

Today, the West Bloc countries, particularly America know Persian Gulf region as their lifeline so far as Zbigniew Brzezinski, America's national security adviser at Carter time, in the book of power and principles, writes:

Carter's latest annual report to Congress of the Americas has made America's new policy in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf clear that this policy has been also accepted by the Reagan administration. Based on this policy, America's security is linked to the security of the world's three strategic areas of critical, that is, Western Europe, the Far East and Middle East, which includes the Persian Gulf[13]. So America's national security is in relation to security of energy rich regions such as the Persian Gulf, used a variety of tools to access and supply security, asking foreign, economic, military and defense policies in line with achieving their purpose[14].

#### **First Persian Gulf crisis: Iranian Revolution and the Iran-Iraq war**

Following the fall of the Shah as the most important foundation of America's influence in the region and the Islamic Revolution in Iran, America that because of its economic resources relied on the Persian Gulf, was concerned of jeopardizing its position in this vital region around the world. This country was therefore determined to dominate the Persian Gulf through its military presence in the region [15].

From this time, America began to strengthen military system of Saudi Arabia and other Arabic countries of south Persian Gulf.

#### **Iraq's invasion of Kuwait (Persian Gulf War):**

In August 1990, after the invasion of Kuwait by Saddam Hussein, Iraq policy advocates in America changed their policy, and desired to the overthrow of Saddam Hussein regime. After five days of this action, America identified four principles that include:

- Complete and unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait territory
- govern Kuwait's legitimate government
- Adhere to security and stability in the Persian Gulf

-Protection of American citizens in the region

In the meantime, the price of oil rose from \$ 19 to \$ 40 per barrel, with the continued absence of Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil in the world markets, and increasing the probability of attack by Iraq to Saudi Arabia Petroleum Tank were all the reasons for the rise in oil prices. Hence, Persian Gulf crisis provided an opportunism for America; In practice, one modern state and the world order with full support of the United Nations was provided in this way called itself the world's only strength.

Besides the Persian Gulf crisis, the collapse of Soviet and communism as another golden opportunity paved the way to realize America purposeful planning underlying changing the current international system from bipolar to unipolar system within modern world order[17].

America's invasion of Iraq and its impact on the oil market: Iraq as a geopolitical and geo-Economic focus in the Middle East after Saudi Arabia has the world's largest reserves of crude oil. America is also the largest consumer of oil which oil reserves between 10 to 15 years later end, unless new exploitable resources added to the current reserves. One of the most telling signs that reflects America's impetus for invading Iraq was Cheney's speech in August 2002.

In this speech, he reminded the danger of weapons of mass destruction under Saddam, said, Saddam has sat on 10% of the world's oil and will have a decisive impact for America and the Middle East by controlling a large part of oil contribution. Hence America for regime change in Iraq seized Iraq's oil and then began to attack through access to energy in region. Domination of Iraqi oil due to expansion of country's resources and cheaper production costs in Iraq allowed America to take advantage of these strategic tools in dealing with hostile countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America [18].

### **America security measures in Persian Gulf**

America after the Islamic Revolution followed by the Iran-Iraq war through the announcement of the Carter Doctrine and strategy of Southwest Asia, organized a rapid reaction force. In this regards, America's military troop and equipment belonging to the Persian Gulf reached to dozens of freund of all types of warships in the Persian Gulf from five feund of the old Middle East forces. After Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, simultaneously with the collapse of the Soviet, America developed the New World Order and called itself the world's only superpower; thus the order of the Persian Gulf region as well as the global system changed [19]. In other words, Persian Gulf Cooperation Council countries are dependent to America by ensuring security throughout such countries. This not only provides for greater involvement of America, but lacked from a lot of regional agreements; Mistrust by Persian Gulf Cooperation Council countries towards Iran especially in the early years of the Islamic Revolution in Iran caused more dependence of the member states of the Council on America[20]. America has tried to design a specific plan for security in the Persian Gulf to achieve its goals, and generally attempted suggest the countries of the region especially Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, that their security can be supplied only through trans-regional supports. With such thinking, these countries have attempted to strengthen hostilities in military's heterogeneous contests in the region, on the other hand, spending huge capitals on purchasing U.S. weapons. Hence, the wealth of nations in the region comes out without resistance by countries. American initiative for Persian Gulf security system that was designed to provide the Damascus Declaration, not only is not effective security coverage for the Persian Gulf region, but a design for alienating Iran. Such initiatives not only protect the countries in region but give rise to conflicts between countries in the region. Every time that friendship countries between countries in the region has reached to process of creating a security formula, western countries by applying preventive agents and creating suspicion and discord, conflict of interests and territorial disputes, have attempted to strengthen countries' dependence on themselves by creating a worry and tension between Arabic countries in the region and/or countries in the region and Iran. Suspicion and lack of trust in the countries by region can be a major factor for fleet presence by trans-regional countries especially America in the Persian Gulf, in a manner that America has been always in search of a strong defensive deterrent force in the region, that has been arranged with America's presence along with effort and resort to instruments of war and non-war, attempted to provide the conditions necessary to build a defense network between itself and its regional allies.

### **Arms Race**

One important factor that is closely related to the stability and security of the Persian Gulf mentioned the issue of Arms Race. Regional competition followed by tension has become Persian Gulf region to one of the insecure areas and one of the world's arms sales markets. Indiscriminate entry of modern weapons regardless of regional capacity has sparked regional instability. This instability and insecurity has led to alien powers with their presence and military maneuvers under the pretext of creating peace and security in the region prevent any kind of security systems that are affordable and comprehensive. Non-alignment in regional policies on their military situation has caused these countries to follow security guarantees in the West so as to provide a solution to resolve security problems in the region[22].

## **Control Strategy of America**

One of the most America's strategies in the Persian Gulf is its continued presence of military forces in Persian Gulf countries. America's direct military presence in Persian Gulf meant full support of its policies and its allies against changes that may occur in the Persian Gulf away from their willingness.

Currently, America map in the region is serious presence and exclusive role-playing. America seeks to prevent Iran's central role for regional convergence in the Persian Gulf and dominance on political will of region countries [23].

### **America aims to dominate the Persian Gulf region:**

Keep America's dominance and prevent the emergence of any problematic rival or union is vital for the country, because emergence of such a situation, according to the American leaders, meant disruption to oil supplies, threaten the country's leadership and replace competitors.

It must be remembered that all Persian Gulf states are among the countries with the most trade with America [24], and this region is the largest sale market for America's weapons manufacturing.

### **America in the form of unipolar security system in the Persian Gulf region will pursue the following strategies:**

1-StrategicroleassignedtoIsraelthrough undermining the regime's enemies and turning it to a weapons cache in an emergency situation so as to not being in need of importing arms from America to Western Europe [25].

2-Prevent the growth of independent national regimes

3-Preservinglifeand regimes at any cost. In this context, presidents in America have always been a defender of governance structures in the region, and were always cons against changing situation through supply of necessary arms and military contracts

4-Toresolveterritorial disputes in the region With respect to their future benefits like imagine Kuwaiti border into Iraq

5-Preventingarmssalesfrom other countries and turning the region into exclusive club to control the military leadership

Most of these strategies were applied from the beginning to the end of the Persian Gulf War where on mistrust in the region peaked at, and Vulnerable systems appeared with granting major concessions, call trans-regional powers especially America into a strategic partnership[26].

America's rival in the Persian Gulf

Today, the bulk of China's imported oil and gas comes from this region; Chinese Government Behaviors suggest that more investment in order to control the energy resources of the region can be applied.

Special tactics of China in the region attributed unfriendly and opportunistic in view of Washington authorities, and in practice, mentioned barriers to align, are the very establishing friendly relations with countries like Iran and Syria that have conflicting approaches to America's hegemony in the energy field.

For instance, it can refer to the proposed\$ 100 billion contract between Iran and LNG gas and proposed the establishment of a Chinese oil company; the regional countries after the collapse of the Soviet Union witnessed development of America's presence in regional development.

Such situations have sparked interventionist stance by U.S. officials against China in a manner that beyond the issue of energy, affairs like military expenditures have been evaluated over measure and criticized as well whereby their sensitivity and intervention in the affairs of region countries have been increased. One of the concerns of America and other countries in the region is the possibility of a terrorist attack to power generation and transmission facilities in the region [28].

For instance, with the rise of Osama bin Laden, although he has not applied to openly address interrupting energy transmission to America and the West , addressed the ways to increase oil costs, where admired bold action by King Faisal of Saudi Arabia to impose OIL Embargo through OPEC in 1973. It seems resort to oil weapon in appropriate circumstances provided in agenda [30].

Nonetheless, Americans are much concerned beyond petroleum terrorist attacks. those of countries with Energy resources, Meanwhile, in conflict with America's hegemony especially Iran which may in getting support from with other countries such as Syria, Libya, Sudan and Venezuela to use oil weapons against America act well, would enjoy stronger potentials to use energy weapons. Among these countries, only Venezuela enjoys a large part of America's imports of foreign oil. There is the potential in their entirety to build energy crisis worldwide by limiting exports or even disrupting the flow of energy transmission. Saddam's regime in Iraq was among those governments who had a strong tendency to use the oil weapon[31].

In recent years, following the acute case of Iran's nuclear activities and intense international pressures under the hegemony of the United States against Iran, statements by some Iranian officials based on resort to oil arms in an emergency together with other acts including attempt to reduce reliance on dollar Unit, entered the position of this country into a specific condition. Including Ayatollah Khamenei's statement that in case of emergency, Iran would endanger energy transmission from the Strait of Hormuz, and this would lead to the solutions to inhibit or reduce the

costs to be followed with more seriousness in America and other beneficiary countries. In the present situation it seems important to prevent from severe energy crisis by Iran, mentioned from fundamental variables that have caused America's intervention-oriented pressures against Iran to be done with care and consideration. However, this is not considered as withdrawal of overall goals of control of energy resources and at the same time inhibiting governments in conflict against hegemony of America [32].

### **Islamic Awakening in the region**

Turbulent waves of Islamic awakening overshadowed the Middle East has exposed this geo-strategic region to great developments. Scope of the changes in the political system in some Arabic countries occurred or is occurring is not limited to the country's borders, where position and influence in other countries would be influenced of these changes. These changes will alter the existing regional order and the balance of forces and make the infrastructure to emerge threats for other countries [33].

In this regards, Iran's role in terms of spiritual leadership of these movements and potential power in the region enjoys a sensitive and specific position. From now, it should expect a power struggle between America and Iran. In this regards, how two countries engaged and manage the situation and role-playing by countries in the events known as the Islamic awakening will be decisive for future relations. With a realistic view, recent events in Arab North African and Middle Eastern nations would be followed by opportunities and threats to Iran. Regime Change in region and collapse of governments Dependent and close to the America and West will provide new opportunities for Iran. some countries that today subjected to change in their political system With the developments and people's revolution or found themselves close to reach the wave of popular revolutions are America's close allies particularly in West, so that In recent years, have taken the strongest stance against Iran, Therefore, the changes in the region are in line with interests of diplomacy and foreign policy of Iran, and revision of America's Middle East policy is an expression of this claim [34]. According to Iran's policy and a fear that America has ever promoted since Islamic Revolution to date, such a suspicion would be more serious about Iran. Hence, other countries might be afraid of this increasing power and its influence in the region of other countries by fruition of the popular revolutions, creating new allies for Iran and as a result increasing power and influence in the region, and build new treaties in contrast to this country by reducing the relations with Iran [35].

### **The importance of Iran in Persian Gulf**

Iran's position in terms of having such huge energy resources, Exposure on the Silk Road, Main branches and highway to transit goods to the free waters from their north eastern neighbors, Having a religious ideological state, the world's largest Shiite country, Dominate the most important Strait of energy transit in the world and so forth has found a distinctive position in the world [36].

### **Iran's Constraints in the Persian Gulf**

One of the most important tools of Iran's diplomacy success in regional policy mentioned the very notion of expansion of diplomatic relations in Iran. In this regards, Iran has several security concerns such as Iraq crisis, instability in Afghanistan, terrorism and drug trafficking, Military threat of America and Israel, United Arab Emirates claims over the three Iranian islands, Prospects for strengthening the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, Arabic countries and putting aside Iran in regional security arrangements. On the other hand, The situation in Iran is not a requirement for alliances and coalitions with neighbors, and given current security conditions throughout the region and world, it is necessary to make an effort to seek regional agreements and cooperation throughout the international system. In the current situation after 11 September 2001, and later fall of Iraq Government and neighboring countries' concern over growing insecurity due to high dependence on foreign forces, Their potential willingness to cooperate with Iran, Iran's bargaining power with them and others on security issues have been increased[37].

Variables and regional convergence between Iran and the Persian Gulf countries

A particular attention has to be paid on a variety of variables which indicate the common and different characteristics existing among the regional countries. Given Geographical, political, economic, social and military situation, then common and different characteristics existing in Persian Gulf countries can be defined:

### **Commonalities**

- Persian Gulf states enjoy distinctive geographical proximity.
- Oil is the most important wealth to these countries.
- Persian gulf states enjoy such a dependent economy, depending mostly on west.
- Political system of Persian Gulf states except for Iran is influenced of west.
- Islam is their formal religion
- A great contribution of Persian Gulf states' foreign export comes to realize through the Persian Gulf.

-Socially, Population growth, the demand for greater participation in the political affairs, diversity, ethnicity, the transition from tradition to modernity, and features like this are faced within Persian gulf states.

### **Discrepancies**

- These countries have different attitudes towards security affairs.
- In terms of land area, Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia have a total of four million square kilometers, and the remained area of the Persian Gulf nations is 330,000 square kilometers.
- Power levels in the region is uneven.
- These countries are different in terms of language and system of government, like the Iran with Islamic regime, but kingdom is ruled out in Saudi Arabia, Oman, UAE and Qatar [38].

### **Conclusion**

America is the largest energy consumer in the world. This country, to meet its energy needs in sensitive areas such as the Persian Gulf, has active and widespread participation. Persian Gulf is considered as one of the hotspots in the world's energy supply. Hence, America in the region has tried to provide a steady and cheap procedure to supply energy resources. America tries to create a convergence between itself and other Persian Gulf states as a means to make these countries dependent on itself and creating a dependency between them so as to Ensuring political and economic relations with these countries. On the other hand, Iran as the main actor in the Persian Gulf region plays a significant role in the political and economic relations. With Iranian Revolution, a New age of relations between America and Iran overstretched so that before the revolution, Iran was the most important America's ally in the region, and by the Iranian Revolution, Iran has gradually become one of America's most important opponents in the region and the world. Hence, America attempts to create a divergence between Iran and regional countries to increase the fear on distance between Iran and these countries. Iran could also reduce the distance between these countries with an emphasis on positive and common interfaces. America After September 11 and the invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan played a stronger role in the region. America under various pretexts, including combating security threats to themselves and other allied has set its warships in the region; further, War arms sales let the America's allies in addition to providing security in this country, gain so many benefits from Arms race.

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