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Persian Gulf Desirable Security System

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Abstract

Persian Gulf has been important in terms of its natural status, geographic location and the existence of vast oil and gas resources. On the one hand, this area is communication circle between the East and the West, and on the other hand, due to the Strait of Hormuz, that is one of the most strategic global straits, has particular importance. The Persian Gulf is one of the most geopolitical regions of the world that due to the presence of oil and gas resources in this region, there have always been conflicts and disputes that bring foreign powers under this excuse to the region. So far, the region did not have stable peace and security system. In this research, an analytical-descriptive method with reference to written and internet sources after the features of the Gulf region and the security systems developed in the Persian Gulf have been investigated this important issue that what is the solution to establish a desirable Gulf security system? And investigated the role and states of region countries of this Gulf in ensuring security in the Persian Gulf among region countries with regard to existing issues.

Keywords: Persian Gulf, Arab countries, America, security, strategic, interests, power

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Introduction

Undoubtedly, Persian Gulf as a commercial highway, has been from the past, and considered as the most sensitive and important areas in the geopolitical and geostrategic calculations of the world. Since the expansion of the great empires power in the west world, such as the Greeks, Macedonians, Romans and, finally, the Achaemenids and Sassanids, role of Persian Gulf became greater. The Persian Gulf is a strategic canyon that has seen a great deal of conflicts. Ethnic-religious and historical differences, along with border conflicts and political misunderstandings, have been among the factors of divergence in the region. On the other hand, the strategic location of this region attracted the attention of colonial governments to this region, which is the main reason of insecurity and instability in the Persian Gulf. The Persian Gulf energy station also has a privileged position, which includes 59.1 percent of the total fixed oil reserves and 40 percent of the total gas supply. The Persian Gulf also supplies approximately 41 percent of the world's oil consumption and daily half of that consumption oil passes from the strategic Strait of Hormuz (Strategic Research Center Strategic Report, 1389).

Persian Gulf countries include Iran, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, the UAE and Qatar, with the exception of Bahrain, the rest are members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). This region, with 622,000 million barrels of crude oil, is the world's most important oil storage and reservoir. Indeed, geopolitical, geostrategic and geo-economic reasons contributed that stability and security of the Persian Gulf in post-World War II and in the recent years, become the agenda of great powers, especially the United States. These efforts were mainly through direct military presence, the creation of gendarme in the region, and being ready for rapid reaction (Ansari, 1381:32).

Despite of these efforts, security arrangements in the Persian Gulf region have not been successful due to the neglect of existing realities and structures. Considering the importance of security in this region, this paper examines the desirable security system in the Persian Gulf.

Definition of security relationships

Dictionaries definition of "security" is: not at risk or protected from danger. "Security" also means: relief from hesitation, freedom from anxiety and fear, and having trusted and documented confidence. Security, either individually, nationally or internationally, is one of the issues that human beings face. Security generally used in a concept that refers to peace, freedom, trust, health and other conditions that a person or group of people feels free of fear, danger, or threats from inside or outside . Considering all things, one can say "security" means freedom and free from violence that others can apply against people. This is the most complete definition that almost cover all definitions. Therefore, "security relations" can be defined as "any relationship that exists between at least two countries in order to free themselves from the violence that others can enforce against those people in those countries call security relations". (Rabie, 1383:44)

Persian Gulf security system

Regardless of the Portuguese presence period in 16th-century in the Persian Gulf, and the early British excuse for dealing with piracy and slave trade, the Persian Gulf gain great importance in geopolitical view after discovery of oil and then emergence of semi-autonomous lands in this region. By announcing

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England's retreat from all the eastern Suez lands in 1968, United States has been trying to fill the gap in Persian Gulf region. But the Vietnam War led this country to take control by the policy called two-column security policy in the Persian Gulf region. According to this, America establish a security balance in the Persian Gulf, relying on its two regional allies, Iran and Saudi Arabia in the 1970s. This policy suggested in situation when Iraq became a Soviet ally, and the growing uprisings of the Soviet Union in Zafar, South Yemen and Africa threatened energy security. By the revolution in Iran in 1979, the United States faced with the changing circumstances of Iran. With the invasion of the revolutionaries at the US embassy in Tehran, it became clear to America that the main pillar of the two-pillar policy of the United States of America was virtually broken. The United States turned to Iraq in the 1980s to create a balance with Iran.

Iraq occupied Kuwait in 1991 after the end of the war with Iran. This action has led the United States to confront Iraq. The United States could form a coalition against Iraq and evict Iraq from Kuwait during the Sahara Storm operation. The results of this war also led to a massive boycott against Iraq and massive US military presence in the Persian Gulf. During the Kuwaiti liberation operation, the United States provided 575,000 troops, many of whom remained after the release in the Persian Gulf region (http://fa.Wikipedia.org)

In the 1990s, the United States by adopting a policy called double containment of Iran and Iraq, tried to create a balance of power between the two countries in order to prevent over-gaining of power in both countries.

Incident of 11 September in 2001 was a turning point in the American perspective on security in the Middle East, and in particular the Persian Gulf. A view expressed in the context of the war against terrorism, which, on the pretext to suppress US terrorism, had a military intervention in Afghanistan. In the same pretext, the United States proposed an idea that became known as a pre-emptive war. On this basis, the United States permitted itself to eliminate a source of threat to eliminate any threat to its national security, even if the source of the threat is one country. By studying the causes of September 11th events and its implementing factors, it is possible to understand the importance of the American presence in the Gulf region for Americans themselves. Over the past few decades, the Persian Gulf from region with marginal significance has become a region which has a direct impact on the internal security and economic prosperity of the United States (Andrew Raeml et al, 2005: 34)

The current Persian Gulf security system is the Persian Gulf security system that the United States has designed, it is based on this country readiness for continued military presence in the region and the prevention of massive and devastating wars that rely on mass destruction weapons. In other words, because of the impact of the two issues of oil and the proliferation of nuclear weapons on their own interests, the United States seeks to create and develop a stable security system in the Persian Gulf that has tendency to west. Western countries, especially the United States, believe that issues of Persian Gulf is increasingly associated with the security of the countries of the transatlantic community. Terrorists and weapons of mass destruction from this region enter to southeastern Europe, then to Europe and America. Therefore, NATO forces operate on the basis of the war on terrorists in the region. What is priority of NATO is the security of the transatlantic countries threatened by global terrorists headquartered in the

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Middle East and Persian Gulf. Of course, there are differences of opinion on how to deal with the phenomenon of terrorism. According to them, after the 2003 war, all NATO nations did not send troops to Iraq. Although all 26 NATO member states participated in the training course inside and outside of Iraq (Vaezi, 1388).

In recent years, with the policies of the Obama government and the creation of Salafi Takfiri groups in the region and civil wars including Syria and Iraq, Arab regimes of the Persian Gulf, which are affected by domestic intolerance, have introduced Iran and sometimes Iraq as a threat to security. And by doing so, delaying the demand for political participation and reform, and justifying the purchase of modern weapons and suppression of the opposition. Therefore, it feels that the Persian Gulf countries are seeking to establish security for their own regime, rather than trying to provide security for the people. The features of such an attitude in Richard Falk's words is arms competition, the importance of domination by adopting aggressive behavior, regional wars and, finally, domestic militarism. (Defensenews.com)

Role of the United States in the structural insecurity of the optimal security of the Persian Gulf

Since 1971, with the departure of Britain from the East Coast of the Suez Canal, the United States has conducted policy called “two-pillar” policy of Nixon doctrine formed the Persian Gulf security system. After the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, the United States tried to establish an Arab and anti-Iranian security system in the Persian Gulf by establishing Persian Gulf Cooperation Council. However, the ineffectiveness of this structure was quickly proven during the imposed war against the Islamic Republic, and thus the United States in the middle of the 1980s, under the pretext of protecting the flow of oil and escorting oil tankers, entered the Persian Gulf in military form, and later, with the invitation of the southern countries of the Persian Gulf and as a result of the First Gulf War, it established its military presence as a security agent in the Persian Gulf. In Persian Gulf, the United States appears to be a complete and most active counterpart and uses intimidation, threats and military action against the region’s independent states. Therefore, the conditions in the Persian Gulf region security can be considered based on the manifestations of near future interests of region countries (margin of Persian Gulf) and international powers (Motaqi, 2010).

This security system is based on the “mutual constraint” and “imaginary threat of the Islamic Republic of Iran” approaches and mainly based on the “import security system” and based on the wishes and interests of transnational actors, or in other words, “the interests of the third party” (Karami, 1385).

In fact, the idea is persistently being promoted; in case of lack of US-based security system in Persian Gulf, Iran will carry out its aggressive intentions. In the shadow of this same Iranian terror, legitimacy has been created to maintain American bases in Arab countries, as well as trade in arms and military equipment in the Persian Gulf region. There are fifth maritime base in Bahrain, two military bases in Kuwait, two other military bases in Oman, an air base, a weapons magazine, and the US Central Command Office in Qatar. Also, Bahrain and Kuwait are the most important non-NATO allies of the United States. It is said that the transfer of arms to the Middle East between 2003 and 2009 was more than 38 percent higher than in 1993 to 2003. (Abdul Ghafar, 2012).

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Indeed, this anti-security structure does not have an effect, except to exacerbate the tension and distrust among governments. The presence of the US military in the region has led to a misunderstanding of the role, position and objectives of the countries of the region towards each other, and its ineffectiveness also revealed by the emergence of various crises such as the first and second wars of the Persian Gulf, the Islamic awakening protests, increase threats of Takfiri terrorism. Another point is that this so-called security system has not increased the sense of security of the Arab reactionary rulers, while the model was expected to bring about a degree of territorial security and political stability for US regional allies. For example, in recent years, with the intensification of the whispers of US strategic shift from Middle East to East Asia and the lack of accountability of the United States in the Middle East, Persian Gulf Arab states such as the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain have become increasingly afraid of strategic fears. At the same time, the main proposition for the US defense strategy is that Arab partners of Persian Gulf will take a larger share of the burden of responsibility for the region, but they are not in a position to provide even their own internal security despite American aid. (Sab and Powel, 2015).

Persian Gulf Challenges and how to create a desirable security system in it

The Persian Gulf region has been at the center of attention of many powers, with hundred years behind the historic significance of the discovery and export of oil, the existence of massive energy resources, as well as developments in political, economic and security systems in the region. Undoubtedly, in the last half century, the Persian Gulf has been one of the most important and sensitive areas in the world in terms of geopolitical and strategic calculations, and, given the profound and current changes in the international field, wars and conflicts of the last two decades, Iranian Revolution and opposition to the Arab-Israeli peace process can claim that in the twenty-first century, it becomes the most important focus of strategic attitudes and calculations, and as classical geopolitics call, it is heartland or the heart of the earth. The collapse of Shah of Iran, collapse of the Soviet Union (the Eastern bloc), the invasion of Iraq to Iran, the Persian Gulf War, the wars and Arab-Israeli conflicts, the importance of finding a factor in the economy, the crisis in Afghanistan, the rise and fall of the Taliban, al-Qaeda and the last stage, Iraq occupation is one of major developments in the last two decades. In addition, structural problems such as the lack of integration and the structural weakness of the countries of the region and their dependence on powerful countries outside the region, the weakness of countries in influencing international politics in front of other countries, not being active participant of governments in ensuring security of the region, existence of extreme religious conflicts, the distrust of the countries of the region towards the policies of other states, the involvement of the foreign agent and so on over the years has led the countries of the region to never be able to successfully and safely advance the security situation and follow their interests and achieve objectives with reliance to national power without the intervention of foreigners. The existence of an atmosphere of distrust among countries and a lack of willingness to regional agreements eliminates the scope of bilateral or multilateral cooperation between governments and regional economic units. That is why some of the region countries to achieve the goals of the interests as well as their security resort to powers beyond region. The result of this policy is to create tension in relations of the region governments with each other, to increase the atmosphere of distrust and the interference of the foreign agent. The emergence of nationalist ideas such as Pan-Arabism, Pan-Turkism and Pan-Iranian, and the plots of foreigners and benefactors by creating divisions among different Islamic religions, the weakness of leaders in the administration of society, and the existence of some authoritarian governments, make this

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region a focus of change and tension in current world. Also, the crisis of legitimacy in Arab countries and the wave of awakening, as influenced by democratization, political and religious conflicts in the region, social unrest and political instability by the liberation movements are other factors of vulnerability of region countries. (Zolfaghari, 1384: 14)

Gulf security as a security suite is, of course, a public good, in which security of one is security of others as well. In other words, the security concept for a country in this region cannot be distinguished from others, so playing a zero sum total will result in general insecurity in the Persian Gulf. On the other hand, with regard to post-Cold War developments, the notion of security is beyond the traditional military concerns, including economic, political, identity, social and environmental concerns. The inference drawn from the two above propositions is that a security system in the Persian Gulf, first, without the Islamic Republic as a major and influential neighbor is not possible. Second, the solution to the Persian Gulf security crises is not to request from US military forces because security concerns have evolved so that there is no need for military tool in the world. The historical experience also shows that security arrangements based on violent transnational states not only do not help to maintain the security of the Persian Gulf, but also lead to distrust and eventually more insecurity. According to this, the Islamic Republic of Iran follows the rule of the regional states on the Persian Gulf and maintains its stability without interference by foreign powers and the establishment of a principled and credible formula that is the basis for the common understanding of all Persian Gulf countries (Mousavi, 1386: 44)

Solutions to create a desirable security system in the Persian Gulf

1. The root of many prejudices and extremes is ignorance and lack of knowledge. It is necessary that scholars of Islamic countries, institutions and religious organizations and governments to take the necessary measures in order to have better understanding of the Islam.
2. The danger of Takfiri uprising is not only for Islam and Shia, but also against humanity and mankind, and requires to take a series of systematic actions by international institutions, the international system and governments in the financial and political fields, so that to eradicate the root and origin of Takfiri blind terrorism (al-Qaeda, the Taliban and other blood seeking and terrorist groups) inspired by Wahhabi teachings and Salafist teachers.
3. Blockade of the means of transportation and economic interaction and military equipment from neighboring countries and international organizations to undermine the support and logistical lines of this movement seems necessary.
4. Exit of trans-regional forces from the Middle East: The presence of Western powers in the Persian Gulf region has caused radical reactions from Muslims. Because this presence is totally out of the question of Islamic sources.
5. Gulf countries to ensure security in a region rich in energy sources need more convergence in the face of future threats and challenges. Undoubtedly, Washington and Tel Aviv's definition of stability and tranquility in the Persian Gulf is different from that of the native countries of the region. One needs oil for development and crisis to realize other goals in the world, and another needs peace and stability and peaceful coexistence.

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Conclusion

According to the results of the research, the foreign intervention factor, due to the lack of attention to the local problems and issues of the region, as well as the violent military approaches to deal with crises, as well as the approach of the rulers of some neighboring Arab countries to bring foreign power into the Persian Gulf to confront the republic Islamic Republic of Iran are the main factors of the spread of insecurity in the Persian Gulf. This is despite the fact that the Persian Gulf security system cannot be realized except in the light of multilateralism, attention to the definitions of security and the negation of militarism in the region. Based on this, the "independent and participatory" model in the Persian Gulf can provide Persian Gulf security based on mutual trust, mutual benefit and joint cooperation.

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