

In the name of GOD

**The outlook of Islamic Republic of Iran for the
marine security of the region**

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“Sea is a great opportunity for our country to progress and safeguard national interests. Sea benefits for a country and nation are strategic benefits.”

The super leader of Islamic Republic of Iran

Allah is he who made subservient to you the sea that the ships may run there in by his command, and you may seek of his grace, and you may give thanks.

Holy Quran

The Importance of sea:

Seas and seashores have been the cradle of great civilizations, from distant past. The role of seas and ocean in the economic development of countries, has been remarkable especially in the recent decades.

We can consider the importance of seas and oceans as follows:

- 1) Over $\frac{2}{3}$ of the earth surface is covered by water.

According and considering the growing population of the world, human should have an optimum use of all available space. Despite the insufficient

knowledge of human being of seas and oceans, they can be a very good source for us.

2) Over 90% of world trade is carried on by sea. Sea transportation is faster, safer and more economical. Many bulky goods can only be transported by sea. Today, as we see huge amounts of foods, new technologies, and even perishable foods, sanitary ware and whatever man can produce are transported by sea. Today, the import and export of goods, on which the modern world business is based, is impossible without marine transportation. There are about 500 international merchant ships in the world. Carrying all kinds of goods all around the world.

3) The majority of large cities of the world are located at the edge of the sea or a short distance away from

it. So, from a communicating point of view we could say that sea can be a turning point in building up relationships among countries. Today, 20% of the world population lives within the range of 25 kms from the sea and 39% lives within the range of 100 kms from it. Nowadays, there are about 2800 ports in the world which can play a crucial role in establishing links among nations.

4) Seas can give strategic depth to their littoral states. It is why a littoral state can give strategic depth to its defense and national security whereas the land-locked states are deprived of this ability. (The author of naval power. the Persian Gulf security Journal.

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5) Due to its physics (different temperatures), chemistry (different mineral compositions) and rapidly changing conditions, sea is very less predictable than earth and air. This plays a strategic role in military issues. The camouflage and hiding of sea caused many countries to place many of their command and control centers in depth of oceans.

Concepts of security, National security, regional security

If we want to have a scientific and reasonable definition of security we can define it as the lack of threats to values, interests and goals. In other words, It is referred to as the situation in which a nation or

country feels no fear it is that its interests, goals and ideals will be attacked.

Of course there are other definition of security. Such as not to be in danger, or to be protected from danger. It can also be defined as freedom from hesitation, freedom from anxiety and having confidence and certainty. For example, Mr. Barry Buzzan defines security as: “In terms of security, the main point is to get rid of any kind of danger or threat.” Buzzan considers friendship and hostility and sharing power between main states effective factors in security.(Barry Buzzan. Government, people and fear. The strategic studies Institute.Samt. Tehran 2002). Anyway, It can be concluded that security has been one of the most

important objectives, and motives from past to present.

This motive has linked with the original essence of human and one of the most important goals of everybody is to protect his being. The main need of each person, family, community and government is to provide security.

A country as a political unit is responsible for providing the security of people, different social groups and its own organizations. (Roshandel.Jalil. National security and International system. Tehran. Publication 1373)

But the concept of national security, despite its importance, couldn't come in companion with other increasing developments in internal and external

levels. Barry Bozzan mentioned this concept as an under developed concept. National security means a condition in which a nation lives without the treat of losing its fundamental values.

National security is a western and specially an American idea, that entered scientific and academic meetings as a concept, after 1945. There are two kinds of theories about the attitudes and approaches to national security.

A) Traditional approach to security.

This group is divided into two categories:

1) Realists

2) Idealists (Idealism)

B) New security ideas:

1) New realism (Neorealism)

2) Institutionalism (Neoliberal)

3) Construction theory

4) Copenhagen ideology

5) Universalism

6) Security in modern day

Speaking about the approaches to these is not within the scope of this convention. But we want to say that if we have a glimpse at the security studies, the conceptual and objective dimensions of security become complicated. Consequently, arriving to an ideal point has more complexity. The International system and regional system are composed of governments.

The interaction among governments on one hand and international organizations will finally lead to

the regional and international security. So, in fact the regional security means attempt and convergence of the governments in one region to achieve the desired international security.

Today, we live in a condition that no country will have security without the regional security. In other words, no country will have its national interests without the regional security. Today, Oil which forms a significant part of the economy of regional countries, is a crucial source for many of them. As a matter of fact, it is one of the important parts of our national interests.

Hence this vital substance is tied to our economy and national security and also that of world. So, if we and regional governments want a stable

economy, we should participate in the regional security arrangements. This subject is also true for northern parts of our country and central Asia countries and Caucasus. Therefore, our national security and that of other countries in the region are tied together.

We also know and believe that in structural point of view the region in question is heterogeneous. This heterogeneity is because of different factors such as ethnic and national complications, border conflicts, political and cultural reputures and the intervention of extra-regional powers in our maritime security and tens of other factors. We also share common interests, characteristics and features that if we consider them,we can get the regional convergence.

"The development of Islamic Republic's relation with other regional countries is not a compliment, it is consider as a long-term strategy. We believe that the region's security is our security." (Dr. Larijani - 1.8.87)

Security characteristics of west Asia:

West Asia has been considered as the most sensitive area in all proposed scenarios for international system by strategists after the disintegration of the Union of soviet Republics. West Asia as the center of Islamic Civilization, is the only Civilization that has not taken along with the world evolution and is still in confrontation and challenge with it.

In this critical region the issues such as border and territorial disputes, ethnic differences, ideological differences, extra – regional and interference of hegemonistic powers the existence of undemocratic governments, economic problems, movements of extremists and energy issues have always been challenging issues of the region. Islamic awakening subject in the region is now one of the major issues that shapes the Middle East security discussion. Consequently in the current unstable situation of west Asia, we can't have an accurate estimation of the future.

According to the mentioned issues, the role of Persian Gulf's energy in the security discussions of west Asia is more important and significant. The

features of structure and the security interconnections in the Persian Gulf have formed a network of security connections among the regional countries. Accordingly, we can't consider these countries apart from each other. In a way that any kind of changing in the situation of a country will affect other. This matter, in part, cause the formation of a security complex in the region. On the other hand, this leads to a security interdependence among the members of this complex. Of course, these countries mainly share common concerns, and confronting these challenges is only possible through a collective action participation of all the regional countries.

The security patterns offered by some extra-regional countries, have neither been an appropriate

response for resolving regional security problems nor developed a convergence among the regional countries till now. Because, ignoring the role of regional powers is considered as one of the weaknesses of these.

The role and position of Islamic Republic in west Asia's security system.

Most experts of International relations believe that the situation of Islamic Republic of Iran in the critical region of west Asia is distinguished for the following reasons:

1. The wide geographical range such as common borders with several countries and thousand

Kilometers water line give this countries a particular importance.

2. Great economical capacities in different areas of energy, mining, electricity, water, and so on.

3. The cultural capacity of Islamic Republic of Iran specially in using soft power among nations.

4. The cultural range of Islamic Republic of Iran in the regional level.

5. The importance of Persian Gulf and the strategic role of strait of Hormuz and the domination of Islamic Republic Of Iran over this region.

6. Having Considerable military power in the region.

Collection of the above mentioned qualities make the Islamic Republic of Iran find its role in west Asia as a regional power.

The naval situation of Islamic Republic of Iran:

The Islamic Republic of Iran has a unique naval situation. This situation has given a strategic importance to our dear country. This strategic importance of ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN is partly of its long borders in Persian Gulf and Oman sea and having control of strait of Hormuz and placing among two fossil energy centers in north and south.

The ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN has about 3180 kms of water borders 740 kms of which is located

in North and 2440 kms in south. So, it is about 37% of our borders.

- Water borders 2045 kms
- Maritime boundaries 2564 kms
- Total border in the Caspian Sea 524 kms
- Total border in the Persian Gulf 1278 kms
- Total border in the Oman Sea 762 kms

In the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN only seven provinces are connected to sea, 7 of them are in south and 3 provinces in north of the country. The population of the seven provinces make up 22% of the country's population. The Islamic Republic of Iran has 384 big and small ports, each of them has different roles. The Iranian islands of Persian Gulf are more than 17 islands that each one has its own

special significance. For example, Qeshm island is economically important, Khark, Siri and Lavan islands have high oil value and Bushehr, Hormuz and Farsi are from the political and security point of view.

Defense policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

The defense, security and also policy concepts have long age. So that, some political experts consider defense and security promotion in the society to be the first cause of government's emerging. What is defense and security? How defense policy is defined?

Strategic defense adopting to resist the political, military, economical, social, psychological or

technological attack of one or more countries, reinforces the deterrence capacities and deference also gives force to these capacities. (Norouzi. Mohammad Taghi. Culture of security defense. 1385)

But, defensive policy is referred to as the strategies and solutions of a state including military, economy, policy, culture, and so on to utilize elements of national power in order to provide security and repel internal and external threats and also face disasters including natural, security and ...

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Of course, various definitions have been offered for defensive policy, all of which are generally the same. Briefly speaking, policy means a set of actions

and solutions of a state to eliminate a danger or threat.

But, what is the defensive policy of Iran? And how can it be defined and interpreted?

In the outlook of ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN as a strategic document, the major objective of the country is defined as:

“Relying on eternal power of Allah and in the light of faith and national determination, ... according to 20-year-old outlook, Iran is a country at the top of the region in terms of economy, science and technology”

As noted, according to the outlook document, the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN should be able to become a regional power.

In order to become a regional power all components of power must grow all together. So, as the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN should become the first power of the region in economy, science, technology and ... in defense and security dimension this issue should be considered, too. I believed that achieving this goal needs some rudiments, requirement of which have been provided and hopefully they can grow and develop along with other components and operate as a powerful arm beside others.

The principles of ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN's defensive policy:

1- The ability to respond multilateral threats:

The defense policy of ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN should be so that it can respond all kind of threats against the holy system of IRAN. Today, the model of threats against the IRAN are defined as:

A) Hard threats

B) Semi-hard threats

C) Soft threats

2- Deterrence power:

Adopting a process and policy that can disrupt the decision-making power of enemy can kill its time and make it not think of threat against national goals, is the important features of ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN's defensive policy. This subject has been frequently after the glorious Islamic

Revolution of Iranian nation. After the 11th of September, a few times, our country was about to be engaged in a war but wise policies of the supreme leader of revolution and the abilities of Armed Force of ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN and the enemy's lack of knowledge of major strategies of Iran has grabbed the power of decision-making from the enemy.

3- Democratizing the defense:

The idea of democratizing the defense by Imam Khomeini during the imposed war, showed that we can overcome classical and powerful forces while relying on nation. Although this idea has not composed classically and has not written as a

strategy, but this idea became such a base that the system could use this doctrine in its future evolutions and events, throughout its life.

4- Resistance Doctrine:

Resistance doctrine has been the most significant and effective strategy of IRAN against imperialism, since the beginning of Islamic glorious revolution of Iran nation, this kind of doctrine is in fact, the ideology of the holy system of Islamic Republic in encountering the enemy. The thinking system and foundation's base of the Islamic Republic idea is "resistance in the defense issue".

Resistance, in fact, is a culture that promotes jihad and martyrdom, and offers a beautiful picture of

field of battle in which martyrdom is the highest ideal and aspiration of a person. This culture offers an image of victory that in certain conditions of military failure a man can see himself as the winner, because he/she believes in performing her/his duty. Either he kills or is killed is the winner of the field of battle. In fact, man is under order, an officer on duty, this is a lesson that a Shiite has learned from Imam Hussein in the Ashura event. The resistance doctrine of Iran is a lesson from the Ashura event.

(Author)

The maritime security environment of ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

What is the security environment of a country?
What does this environment depend on? How can

the maritime of ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
trace according to the conditions of system and
following threats?

In fact,

The security environment of a country is a
framework in which the governments play a role.

This environment depends on several factors:

- 1) Political factors
- 2) Military factors
- 3) Economical factors
- 4) Geopolitical factors

These factors are Considered effective factors on
the security environment of a country. But if we
want to investigate the maritime Security
environment of ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN,

we can say that, according to the above-mentioned components, some other factors also play a role in this matter.

The countries existing in the maritime security environment of ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN can be defined in two way.

1) Rim countries some of which are smalland some others are equivalent and competitors. The rim countries of Persian Gulf are small countries net having such a strategic importance in the maritime security environment of ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN. But, by relying on great and domineering powers, sometimes they can be serious challenges in the maritime security environment of ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN and act as enemy's columns

in the region. Just as the domineering governments, in time of probable crises, have to use these governments and perform joint operations against the interests of ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

These countries increase in strategic importance for enemy and other equivalent and Competing countries such as Pakistan, Turkey and the Zionist regime whose capacities are the same as those of ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN , and in different areas, we should use especial strategies to deal with them.

2) The extra – regional and domineering countries have been in the maritime security environment of Islamic Republic of Iran, in order to take Control of oil resources, and to Carryout dozen of other

strategic schemes. These Countries have designed and performed many big and small plans to archive their goals.

Consequently, according to the mentioned issues maritime security environment of ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN is fragile, unstable and unpredictable. It is why many strategic researches believe that the maritime security environment of ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN is one of the most difficult environments.

Of course, the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN is seeking to establish a local security by the regional states if ,this strategy is evident in the remarks of the supreme leader of ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN as the highest decision making authority.

“The security of Persian Gulf must be provided by regional governments.”

The security threats of maritime environment of IRAN:

The IRAN has always wanted to establish calmness and peace in the region.

But, by west as psychological operation influence on regional countries, these countries are seeking their security and policy stability in west's support.

However, in ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN opinion the most important security issues of the region are as follows:

1) Several legal disputes over border, water and oil wells issues among the regional countries which

have not been settled and could help to produce crisis in the region.

2) The presence and role of major powers in the region so that some of them had concluded that in security issues of west Asia's region, they should be a director than an actor. With this strategy, they follow tension among countries and on the backstage they are directors.

3) The Israeli policies seeking to create disunity and prevent convergence in the region.

4) The issue of Islamic Awakening and presence of people on the scene, that are unpleasant phenomenon for regional states.

5) The violence phenomenon in the region, by the label of Islam, which actually reminds of terrorism.

6) The countries arms races which are taken place without any plans and performing psychological operations among governments and nations as Islamphobia.

7) Vast energy resources in the region and the world's nation needs to this model of energy and its impact on governments' behaviour and the willing of domineering governments to be in the region and have control over these resources as the most important tools of power.

8) Conflict with the idea of revolutionary Islam as fundamentalism idea in the region.

9) Un- convergence among region countries.

In all, according to the mentioned issues and may be dozens of others the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF

IRAN have no choice except relying on itself and following self-help policies.

Future prospect:

One of the most important approaches in the development of IRAN , that have the capacity of accessing to free waters and exploiting of geopolitic, geostrategic , geo-economic and geo cultural regions, is sea-based development. Development has several dimensions, such as: political,economical, internal, administrative, organize tional, national, occupational, ... and several other models that are not in the subject of our discussion. Our main goal is to have a sea-based development and this issue can be effective in development models especially in

permanent development and finally in national development.

Sea-based development in fact, show the capacity of a country to achieve its resources by seas and oceans for political and economical actions in order to gain their national and regional goals. So, the development of sea and sailing can be effective in different dimensions such as economic, political, commercial, transportation, security and military and exploitation of and sources using the energy of sea and finally using sea in political and national goals and also national ideals. In sea-based development discussion we should consider the stable development.

One of the most important issues in sea-based development is the maritime security. Maritime security is maybe as tactical level. But, its influence is strategic.

So, it have a close connection with political, economical and social security.

- The influential issues in maritime Security are:

- 1) Political authority
- 2) Economical authority
- 3) Geopolitical authority
- 4) Maritime transportation security
- 5) Trade and Commerce security
- 6) Environmental security
- 7) Sea power

I believe that maritime power is the most important and effective issue in establishing maritime security.

The importance of sea power:

Maritime power of a country is a set of military and commercial fleets, port facilities, shipbuilding industry and flotation repairments, fishing and fisheries fleets, and maritime training center, but the main support of maritime power of a country is to have experts and efficiency. Today, some use a very simple formula to define maritime power (sea power).

Military power = military fleets + commercial fleets

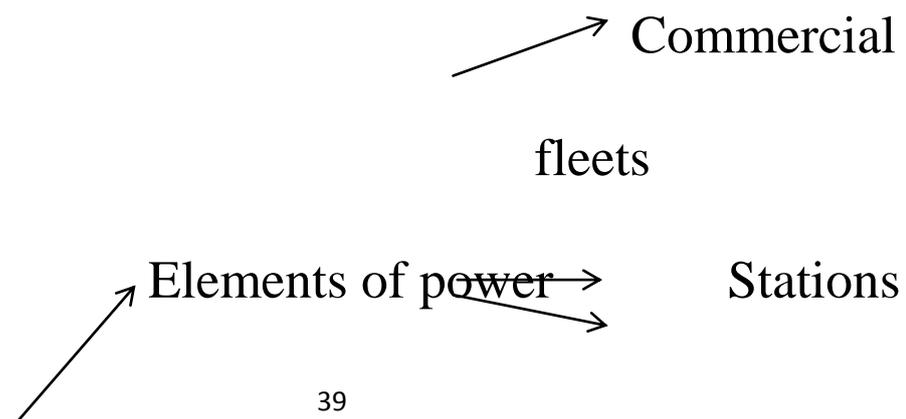
But, the study of the maritime power of a country is in fact, the study of its strategy, the expert

and efficient forces, its benefit of technology, having port facilities, commercial and uncommercial fleets, and the most important point is the nation's willingness toward the maritime problems and discussions.

Of course, there are other definitions about maritime power, for example, some believe that the maritime power of a country is depend on some factors such as: Geographic and strategic condition, national wealth, country's population, the morale and ethnic of the people about the maritime culture, scientific and technological backer, port facilities, ...

We all know that the assumption of maritime power at was first posed by Alfred Mahan a senior officer in U.S.A in 1840- 1914. He had named some

effective issues in forming the maritime power, Such as: geographic condition, natural features, the length of beaches and extent of territory, population and national characters which are not in the scope of our discussion. Although, there are others in the world field of completing the maritime power's theory such as Mr. Geo ferry till, Who believed that maritime power is effected by the elements of maritime power and power sources.



The war
technology tools

Maritime power



Economic resources and
human capital

Maritime attractions

(culture existence)

Power sources



The government's nature

Geography and geopolitic

Apart from various perspectives, we believe that our today's world in sea field, especially in sea security dimension, suffer from some basic issues. This issues include all the world countries which are liked

to sea, especially the region countries. The new threats of international and regional security include: terrorism, smuggling, piracy, environmental issues, the presence of foreign fleets, ... and dozens of other issues.

The Iran's perspective in the discussion of sea-based development is to be present in regional maritime fields, apart from the usual and mooted world theories in order to dominate on resources, put pressure on countries, and controlling the governments and nations of region.

Sea acts as a determiner field for those countries that have access to open waters. So, the IRAN consider the right of using prestige policy in the form of international law in the maritime field. If, we want to

enumerate the IRAN's interest in the maritime field we can say:

1) Establishing convergence among the region countries involve Persian Gulf and around Caspian Sea's area according to the potential of IRAN and other countries.

2) The formation of regional alliances in different areas of policy, economy, culture and security because of the common objectives among the regional countries.

3) Promoting defense and security capabilities in order to create a safe and stable environment in maritime transportation.

4) Increasing the ports and transportation fleets capacity in IRAN and region countries.

5) Active participation in the discussions of regional organization like OPEC and trying to establish similar organizations in other areas with this potential.

6) Protecting national interests and helping poor in different parts of the world and keep the security of waters and sea routes by the Article No.143 of IRAN's constitution.

7) Have constructive and effective engagement with the world, based on the principles of dignity, wisdom and expediency.

8) To campaign and serious impact with any kind of challenge and threat which endangered the maritime security of the region.

9) Changing of power's balance in favor of regional countries because of the absence of extra-regional powers and preventing their unwanted presence in region.

10) Being in region waters in the framework of performing preventive acts to show the power of development and ever-increasing reinforcement of maritime power and expansion of skillful manpower and strategic doctrine to defense the national interests and national aspirations.

Hoping to the victory of Islam on world's paganism that's all.

