

A Geographical Analysis of Security in Border Regions (Case Study: Bandar Abbas)

Seyed Abass Ahmadi and Bahador Zareiee and Mohammad Sadegh Ranjbar

ABSTRACT

Along with the transformation of the concept of national security, the nature of threats against countries has been transformed as well. However, external military threats constitute part of the factors that have an effect on national security, in which border areas as entrance gates in each country are exposed to more threats than internal areas which make the former more vulnerable. Using analytical-descriptive methodology, the present article seeks to answer the question of “What status does the security of Bandar Abbas as a coastal border city fall in in terms of military, economic and geographical features and locations?” This question can be paraphrased as “How much effective are the geographical factors as well as the internal and external threats in contributing to the security of this city?” The findings of the research indicate that factors like smuggling narcotics, goods, and humans along with immigrations and extraterritorial cultural effects and external threats involving regional and extra-regional threats, and natural and political threats have challenged. Also, the islands of the Strait of Hormuz with its economic status and geographical location contribute to the security of this city.

KeyWords: *security; border; border areas; Bandar Abbas; Hormozgan; the islands of the Strait of Hormuz; regional and extra-regional; national security.*

A Study of Security Vulnerabilities in the Northwest Kurdish Regions against American Threats

Gholamreza Alamati

ABSTRACT

Pathology means understanding the reasons why disorders and deviations take place, and capturing the objections raised against the beliefs, the level of awareness, behavior, and function. Hence, the occurrence of internal and external crises could be preempted through vulnerability detection and problem diagnosis.

In case the vulnerabilities increase both quantitatively and qualitatively, they may be translated into security threats. This article tries to detect the security vulnerabilities in the Kurdish regions and craft the counterstrategies. The type of research is applied, and the methodology is descriptive-analytical (survey).

KeyWords: *the security pathology of Kurdish regions; internal and external crises; the reasons why disorders and deviations occur; the political-military deployments in the West region of Asia; American threats.*

Syria's Status in the Security and Foreign Policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran (2011-2015)

Measam Rezazadeh and Sajjad Najafi

ABSTRACT

After the victory of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iran and Syria- albeit with different attitudes and ideologies, increasingly developed their relations in international and political fields, due to the fact that they had adopted common positions on a few regional and international considerations. The United States and its regional and Western allies do consider Iran, Syria and the Islamic resistance as the greatest threats in the region. On this basis, this research tries to answer the question of "What approach has Iran taken in its foreign policy in its relationship with Syria with regard to the recent developments in the former?" by using an analytical-descriptive method and from the viewpoint of defensive realism. The hypothesis in this research is: "Syria's status in IRI's security and foreign policy has become of increasing importance, with the formation of new security-political arrangements in the West Asia region after the September 11 attacks especially American invasion of Iraq, the Syrian crisis and the pressures upon Syria exerted by America and its Western and Arabic allies to make it keep away from Iran.

KeyWords: *IRI's security-political policy; Iran's axis; Syria and the Islamic Resistance; the West Asia region; America's invasion of Iraq; the Syrian crisis; the new political-security arrangements.*

A Study of Turkey's Foreign Policy towards Syria under Islamists and Its Effects on IRI's Environmental Environment

Hadi Tajik and Abolfazl Saadati

ABSTRACT

The reciprocal relationship between Turkey and Syria until the early years of the 21st century has gone through three major disputes- namely the issue of Kurds, and the territorial dispute over Hatay, and sharing the water of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. However, as the political developments took place with the outbreak of the Syrian crisis in 2011, this country developed into a scene of international rivalries on which the regional powers acted their parts. Acting its part in the developments that took place in Turkey, the Administration made every effort to acquire a social prestige and secure the support of the West, carrying out different measures on different levels-political, economic, and military- against Syria. Applying the analytical-descriptive method with the use of library and documentary data collection, the present article plans to answer the question of "What effect does Turkey's foreign policy under Islamists towards the Syrian developments have on the security environment of the Islamic Republic of Iran?"

KeyWords: *Turkey's foreign policy; under Islamists; the Syrian crisis; IRI's security environment; international rivalries; theory of Neu-Realism.*

The Effect of the United Kingdom's Foreign Policy on the National Security of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Mahdi Nataghpoor and Mahdi Vaez

ABSTRACT

The United Kingdom's presence as a trans-regional power in the West Asia region has long had much effect on the countries in region including Iran. These effects continue to exist in different ways. The United Kingdom in the West Asia region pursues its strategic objectives, which are at odds with the interests of these countries. It plans to pursue its colonialist objectives by its presence in the region, which, of course, differs in form from the past, though not in nature. Therefore, this article aims at capturing the identity of the effects of the United Kingdom's foreign policy on IRI's national security in three domains-namely security, economic and military. Further, it draws on a descriptive-analytical methodology to answer the question of "*What effects does the United Kingdom's foreign policy have on the security of the Islamic Republic of Iran?*" This is followed by the use of note-taking to gather data in order to collect and analyze different documents.

KeyWords: *the United Kingdom's foreign policy; IRI's national security; West Asia region; trans-regional powers.*

The Effects of the Actors' Geopolitical Interests in the Gulf of Oman on Developing the Defense Strategy of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Fazlollah Nozari

ABSTRACT

Influenced by various factors with various functions, the geopolitical climate in each country or region might be under a range of conditions from fully favorable to unfavorable, where the actors in the international system, who are under the influence of their specific objectives- try to define and explain the geopolitical environment in their country or in the region. The Gulf of Oman region and its peripheral countries involving Iran, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates, considered a part of the geopolitics of the Indian Ocean region, is a relatively unknown environment in terms of various dimensions including geopolitical factors and interests related to defense affairs. Therefore, having conducted theoretical studies on the Gulf of Oman region, this article tries to detect and explain the geopolitical interests of coastal countries, as well as the regional and trans-regional countries by using analytical-descriptive method in an applied manner.

KeyWords: *the effects of geopolitical interests; the actors in the Gulf of Oman region; developing IRI's defense strategy; geopolitical climate; the geopolitics of the Indian Ocean; regional and trans- regional powers.*

The Factors of Soft Power in the Defense Diplomacy of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Saeed Pirmohammadi


ABSTRACT

Employing a miscellaneous range of soft- and hard options in countries' defense policy, will pave the way for increased freedom of action, in which defense diplomacy could be used as a mechanism for drawing on soft power. This use of soft power has been made in defense-related areas, but a cognitive reflection on the components of soft power in IRI's defense diplomacy must be developed through identifying the factors of soft power of defense diplomacy due to the lack of an integrated framework of defense diplomacy. So, using analytical-descriptive method with content-analysis, the present article addresses the indications of soft power in IRI's defense diplomacy in the light of factors such as enjoying spiritual authority, demonstrating independence and being non-aligned to poles of global power, inspiration, cultural legacy, democratizing defense in the form of full spectrum defense, Iranian-Islamic identity, national integration, displaying honorary records during the Holy Defense and soft deterrence.

KeyWords: *the factors of soft power; IRI's defense diplomacy; al-out defense; democratized defense; non-alignment; inspiration; soft deterrence.*

Table of Contents

The Journal of Defense Policy, Vol. 24, Serial No. 95, Summer 2016

Title	Page
 Articles	
The Factors of Soft Power in the Defense Diplomacy of the Islamic Republic of Iran ...4 <i>Saeed Pirmohammadi</i>	
The Effects of the Actors' Geopolitical Interests in the Gulf of Oman on Developing the Defense Strategy of the Islamic Republic of Iran 5 <i>Fazlollah Nozari</i>	
The Effect of the United Kingdom's Foreign Policy on the National Security of the Islamic Republic of Iran..... 6 <i>Mahdi Nataghpoor</i> <i>Mahdi Vaez</i>	
A Study of Turkey's Foreign Policy towards Syria under Islamists and Its Effects on IRI's Environmental Environment..... 7 <i>Hadi Tajik</i> <i>Abolfazl Saadati</i>	
Syria's Status in the Security and Foreign Policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran (2011-2015) 8 <i>Measam Rezazadeh</i> <i>Sajjad Najafi</i>	
A Study of Security Vulnerabilities in the Northwest Kurdish Regions against American Threats..... 9 <i>Gholamreza Alamati</i>	
A Geographical Analysis of Security in Border Regions (Case Study: Bandar Abbas)..... 10 <i>Seyed Abass Ahmadi</i> <i>Bahador Zareiee</i> <i>Mohammad Sadegh Ranjbar</i>	
 English Abstracts	
<i>Seyyed Saadat Hosseini Damabi</i>	

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