

CHANGING IN POLITICAL STRUCTURES OF IRAQ, FROM CENTRALISM TO FEDERALISM AND THE FOREIGN POLITICS OF IRAN REGARDING MAINTAINING THE NATIONAL SECURITY IN IRAN

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Abstract: Time and place determine the types of national goals in every country and it could not be expected for the national goals of a country to be stable and fixed during a period of time and in different conditions. Efforts for understanding historical events and happenings in a specific period requires the recognition of political – administrative structural context and qualities, and finding cultural and political activity lines in the society in the new political world and the world’s transformed geopolitical environment, together with quick communications and informative aspects. Hence by changing the political structures in Iraq, it draws a new term in deciding strategies for Iran, with a realistic view from the new geopolitics, and provides a road – mapping in Iranian foreign policies by using diplomatic tools to stabilize peace and reduce debates and threats, to maintain the nation security in Iran.

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Introduction:

Political pluralism completes the world’s political map, in which the interests and priorities have their own specific definitions, which specifications like: conflicting bodies, economic and Strategic interests, Middle east started the beginning of 3rd millennium with an important event that after Sep. 11, white house provided rushing to Afghanistan and then, by Mar. 20 2002, Washington authorities Provided attacking to Iraq, since they considered Iraq as a threat to the world peace. U.S.A tries to introduce Iraq, now as a suitable model in democratization in Middle East and Persian Gulf region. Hence, establishment of government, power distribution in Iraq according to the federalist system and its direct effects on Iran are of great importance with regards to geographic entanglements and historical, lingual and cultural synergies, geopolitical and geo-strategic gaps and tohery binderies, as well as for maintaining national Iranian security. he main question of the above research is as follows: “what is the optimized approach of Iranian foreign policies in maintaining national security, with regards to the structural changes in Iraq, from centralism to federalism?”

the hypothesis of the article includes that it seems admittance of Iraq transformations is a stable reality that will have undeniable effects on Iran security, by the presence of ethic and religions minorities in the

structure of government and the presence of regional and inter-regional powers, and the Iranian strategies according to elaboration patterns, competing and creating the sense of confidence and convergence could be made in the direction of national security and advantages.

Research methodology

To achieve the considered aims of this research, the analytical – descriptive method was used and the contexts of this article are taken from valuable books, articles, speeches and other publications, websites sources and the authorities’ views in the field of national security.

Trends of Iraq transformations and its relations with Iran

In lexicology, Iraq has the meaning of riverside or seaside. Due to stable and variable geopolitical factors, and the geographical situation of being north of Persian Gulf, having more than 12 milliard barrels of oil and 110 milliard foot of gas reserve, Iraq is considered as a part of Persian Gulf region. During the Ottoman Empire, Iraq was established by 3 different from. After Sykes-Pico contract between England and France foreign ministers, Iraq was established in 1916, but it was completely occupied by English forces in 1971, as Wilson, the English Member of Parliament stated “strategic regions are situated in Middle East,

and by occupying Iraq, we could anchor to the Islamic world. By the decline of English power and the end of World War 2, the geostrategic situation of Iraq did not abated and it was a part of West geostrategic, up to May 1958, when a military coup took place. After that, it went under U.S.S.R. Geostrategic domain. When Sadden took office in 1978 and tried to become a regional power, playing the role of Arab World leadership, that was due to seclusion of Egypt after signing Camp David treaty, he provided the basis for disruption of regional balance and parity. After the American invasion of Iraq in Mar. 2003, this country faced deep transformations in political, economic, military and geopolitical aspects. The most important characteristics of the new Iraq is the functions of internal groups, and the regional and inter-regional factors, as Iran and U.S.A that have great roles in the new Iraqi government-nation trends.

Iran – Iraq relation has always faced a sinusoidal trend of conflicts, contend and also friendship that requires appropriate strategies from the Iranian side, it regards to geopolitical transformations in Iraq, going out of political isolation by the Shiite Muslims and Kurds after 80 years and formation of the federalism system in Iraq and inhibiting reactions by Iran. These relations are affected by some different measures:

- 1- Cultural and religious commonalities and existence of a historical relation.
- 2- Existence of common interests between the two nations.
- 3- Cooperation potentials including a long border between the two countries, as compared to other neighbors – having 6 border passages and 12 border markets existence of holy, tourism and political places.

Ethnic mosaic in Iraq and federalism

Recognizing social conflicts and gaps in Iraq is the first step towards political sociology in that country. Social gaps in Iraq could be divided in two parts of religious driven (Shiite - Sunnite) and ethnic driven (Arab – Kurd). 55 to 60% of the Arabs are Shiite, 25% are Sunnite Muslims and 15 to 20% are the Kurds. The No. of Christians is estimated to be 650 thousands, while they were about one million people before Persian Gulf War in 1991. Pan Arabism and its development after the collapse of Ottomanid dynasty have led to continuous dominance of Sunnite Arab groups, due to coalitions with Sunnite Arab population in Middle East. Regarding the ethnic and religious variations, Iraq was selected, by the U.S.A as the place disseminating American cultural values, economic views & political structures; hence since 1990 the international systems divided the country into 3 states to confront with the Baathist region and

after determining the no fly zone over 36° and less than 33° of the north and south of Iraq and the basis for the independent identity was provided for that land, and ethnic interests confrontations were immersed. One effective internal element in the new political formation of Iraq is the Kurds. Due to the geographical situations, strategic and geopolitics. Conditions, the history and social situations of the natives, unstable and fragile structures, in homogeneous demography and non-uniform conditions of the countries that the Kurds have formed the most important minorities within them, Kurdistan is of specific importance and the Kurdistan part of Iraq has been the center of attention for Middle East matters during cold war period and the world after the collapse of cold war era. The Kurds live in the northern heights and adjacent valleys of Soleimanieh, Erbil (Dehak), Kerkuk (Tamim) province and the Kurdish relations are ethnical, with maintaining traditional contributions.

Shiite Muslim has had no important role in decision making aspects within the Iraqi governments and has always been considered as opposition. The policy of Iraqi region regarding limiting the Shiite Muslims was supported by Arabic countries and international powers, and hence they had the most important motivations and topple down Sadden. Iraqi Shiites regard Iran as their spiritual supporter, and they also regard U.S.A for achieving the power. But the two main basis for the power of Shiites, i.e. Iran and the U.S.A have ideological contractions with each other. The main problem for Iraqi people is different formations of tan tat before respecting a political criterion; they are stuck in their ethnic and religious layers. This is undoubtedly a serious obstacle in reaching a unified national apprehension. To fill the relevant gap, the constitution was established within the federalism framework, in order to convince the Iraqis for common convergence and understandings. Federalism is an ideology towards the society and is a form of social organization. According to the constitution, each federation consists of mechanisms that include: the basis of disunion, the principle of autonomy and the basis of cooperation, and the duties of the central government and local governments are defined for each of the above principles. Elaheh Koulaei says: “Geographic area, achieving economic benefits, cultural diversity, racial, ethnical, religious and lingual varieties, fear from a common enemy, unity and confrontation with it are the main elements of establishing federalism.

New transformations in the structure of power and politics in Iraq are considered as a turning point in ethnical geopolitics formation and ethnical developments, as well as improving different ethnical – political identity strongholds of the region and

efforts for defining a new and independent definition from the role in power and in government, despite the national borders with other countries of the region. The 1st law of Iraqi constitution states that Iraq is a country with independent government accepting a parliamentary – democratic & federal republic (Iraq constitutional law - 2005).

The mentality for federalism was created at the time of Molla Mostafa, within the Kurdish people. In Sep.17 1916, Molla Mostafa asked Arabs to start a mutual life in the federal country of Iraq, by mutual cooperation. This message was decorated by the motto “Long live Arabs and Brother Kurds”.

Today, the Kurds are among the important geopolitical factors in Iraq and presence and direct support of America in Iraqi Kurdistan in the 12 year period, from the 2nd war of Persian Gulf in 1991 to downfall of Saddam in 2003 provided necessary basis for restoration of power by the Kurds. These supports are very important in promoting the geopolitical importance of Kurdistan. Establishment of new Iraqi government, power division in Iraq and the effects on security, political and economic variables of Iraq on the neighbors, recognizing the federal government in Kurdistan, according to clause 114 of the constitutional law is the potential challenges that could affect the interests of Iran.

Effects of federal Iraq on national security of Iran

National security is indeed maintaining government – nation against potential and actual foreign threats and it has sometimes interpreted as maintaining domestic values against foreign threats and menaces.

Development gaps, ethnic, lingual, religious differences and geographical isolation and the conformed relations in Iran provide stabilities for origination of unrests and crisis. There are at least 40 lingual – ethnic groups in the land of Iran and the religious atlas of Iran is quite complicated. The term “no state nations” has been used in the last 4 decades in political geography literature and Iran is regarded among the first 10 countries of the world with respect to lingual inhomogeneity and has faced escalating ethnic stresses a lot. In case of classic (traditional) factors and divergence from economic inequalities, the most powerful centrifugal force could immerge.

Iran and Iraq have the longest common international border, with the length of Dalamper Daq region to Faw estuary. In adjacent regions with Iranian Kurdistan, Kermanshah and Ilam, Iran has a geopolitical gap that is due to threats regional unity, via the Kurdish population, such that the neighboring region with Kermanshah province is called “Iran security corridor”. The western borders of Iran and Iraq are resulted from the treaties and contracts that have been concluded from 1155 (Amasieh

agreement) to 1975 (Algier treaty), between the two countries. Iraq Kurdistan region is among the main winners of Iraq transformations and Iran could not be indifferent for some main threats in its borders, as far as security is concerned, that includes the increase in the influence of Israel in this region, since the Kurds believe that the Palestine conflict is Arabs’ problem and not the Kurds. The second subject is the intensifying of ethnicity and transforming it into a potential internal threat. The consequence of it is transformation of economic claims by Iranian Kurds to political claims, such as federalism that could reinforce ethnicity in Iran.

Now, if by a realistic view, we accept Iraq (the new Iraq) as a stable reality in the international scene and with regards to stable ethnic, cultural, political characteristics and creation of a specific type of federalism, as the first experience in Middle East, effecting the national interests of Iran and admit the globalization process and its time and place complications and its decimalization and in other words the death and dismissed of distances, Iran should deal with providing the geopolitical instructions for Iraq, as the most effective regional element, in Iraq and respond to the regional problems by avoiding military and security act and also provide national security and keeping the relevant interests, since the most active sections of Iranian diplomacy would be focusing on Iraq.

Foreign policies of Iran against geopolitical changes of Iraq

Foreign policy includes strategies and methodologies that a government decides in confronting foreign affairs to maintain the governance and defend the existence and interests. The most important political tool in executing foreign policies is diplomacy that consist of the technique for administering foreign policies or regulating and settling international relations, as well as resolving conflicts and discrepancies by reconciliation. Hence, one of the most active parts in Iranian diplomatic affairs is focusing on Iraq. By considering two principles of place and time, Iran should provide justifications, for facing threats, in coordination with transformation trends to maintain its political prestige and reputation.

To achieve an efficient foreign policy, based on geopolitics, Iran should emphasize on recognizing limitations and facilities from the regional and global situations and consider the surrounding geopolitical measures to provide the elaborative and effective doctrine in its foreign policies, and do not forget that this country is situated in the “crossroad of accidents” in the world. Now that Obama has stepped in the field of global policy, emphasizing on “Smart power”, Iran is to have a new definition for its foreign policies, in

order to have max. advantages for the security conditions that have entangled with the interests of the U.S that has placed the surrounding regions of Iran within the center of global situations, in achieving its national interests in the framework of a doctrine for constructive elaborations and decide in the common strategic views to achieve the goals for its planned perspectives. The goals regarding Iranian foreign policies are mainly relied on two aims: securing, development and achieving the above aims requires a stable and calm environment in the immediate loops of the country, with regards to its neighbors for the aims of development. Coalition in accordance with “common threads” or “common interests” are organized and the threatening domains should be compounded for a new synthesis to be created, in order for the new political elaborations to be organized in a multiple space by transition from conflicting conditions and reducing distrusts.

Internal transformations of Iraq could be considered as an opportunity for Iran that in addition to have relations with Kurdistan, via developing economic and investment relations with relative security in Long – term could lead to economic welfare and developments. Neglecting from such investments is a strategic mistake. Education – cultural center and industrial estates could be constructed for Kurdistan cities. Policies of Iranian government in Iraq should be based on confidence and coalition, insensitivity towards Iraq situations and focusing on convergent and unifying matters, with regards to realistic views, strengthening cultural, social, economic and political elaborations within the diplomatic frame, and activating neutralized policies and efforts in reducing border tensions.

Providing strategies

Specific geographical situation – large area – cultural and historical backgrounds – plurality of neighbors – existence of rich reserves – power and politics characteristics and type of ruling – ideology and ethnic, cultural and religious diversity are among the factor that could endanger Iranian security and according to “Graham Fowler”, “Iran is the center of the world” that needs to be reassessed with regards to Iraq political transitions and geopolitical matters between the two countries, and Iran should consider max. Opportunities in the new geopolitical relations with Iraq, for its national interests, by a constructive and effective elaboration in its foreign policies.

Iran has tangible interests in Iraq. It is only by the existence of a stable country that potential opportunities are provided in the foreign of Iran. The downfall of Saddam and formation of the new government in Iraq with management of Kurds and Iraqi Shiite Muslims that have close cultural and political relations have provided an appropriate

opportunity for development of economic relations and particularly exporting Iranian goods that country, that include:

Cooperation regarding data production and exports in border regions of Shalamcheh, Khorramshahr and Hoor al-azim plaine, reducing the geopolitical ethnic and religious gaps, growing fish in rivers and common reservoirs between the two countries, analysis of approaches for better exploitations of Iraq from Persian Gulf in return to payments for transit rights, max. exploitation from arvandroud an appropriate potentials of Khuzestan province, creating border markets and providing employment for native and border residents and supporting handicrafts and small industries, trustfulness and efforts of both countries to reduce border conflicts, educations and cultural cooperation, with regards to common cultures, improving tourism attractions for reducing ethnicity among the Kurds by developing economic infrastructures via development of subordinate industries, selecting native managers, destruction of divergent elements to reduce the danger of comprehensive frictions along Iran – Iraq fault, political morality for convergence in these regions.

Conclusion:

This research was an effect to find a proper answer to the question that: “what is the appropriate policy by Iran regarding Iraq federalism, for maintaining national security of Iran?” we first provided our answer in such a way that Iraq federalism phenomenon could transform Iraq from an old enemy to a strategic friend, in case of managing an efficient foreign policy by Iran. Then by focusing on this assumption, we organized the research in 3 different frameworks and tried to show the two variable relations, by proving the assumption. In the first part, we dealt with analyzing the transformations and political structural changes. In the 2nd part, we discussed about federalism as an independent variable and the state of balancing the sense of democracy by ethnic – religious groups through this phenomenon that provides this process, appropriate with pluralism structure of contemporary communities, to prepare the unity of the land in global frame. In the 3rd part, we dealt with analysis of Iranian foreign policy to achieve the national security, as a dependent variable and discussed about the strategies and proposals with regards to peace geography.

The strategy for Iran foreign policies in Iraq should at first place be based on pursuing stabilizing policies, maintaining land and working with all groups and ethnic and cultural identities and providing commercial relations and investments in the modern Iraq and should deal with decentralization and improving cultural infrastructures in the domestic

level and national level in border regions with Iraq, or in other words, crisis region, improve the strategic levels and criteria in Iraq, and in addition to understanding the possibilities, start cooperation from low levels to achieve the national security goals by going out of dissensions.

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- 2- Geography of security in neighboring countries.
- 3- Middle East, new Iraq & Iran.
- 4- Analysis of political geography of Iran.
- 5- Modern Iraq and strategic requirements of Iran.
- 6- Principles and concepts of geopolitics.
- 7- Effects of independence of northern Iraq Kurds on neighboring countries.
- 8- A criticism on federalism.
- 9- Iran & modern Iraq, challenges and opportunities ahead.
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- 11- Modern Iraq & threats of regional respects of I.R. Iran.
- 12- Triple basis of international relations and morality functions.
- 13- Events & analysis.
- 14- An analysis in Iran geopolitics.
- 15- History of new Iraq.
- 16- Seasonal magazine.

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- 18- Iran geopolitics – Center of the world.
- 19- Middle East of transformations.
- 20- Doctrine of constructive elaboration in foreign policy of Iran and new geopolitics of Iraq.
- 21- Iran and neighbors.
- 22- Regional geopolitics & country divisions.
- 23- Report.
- 24- Security concerns in foreign policies of I.R Iran.
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