

## Convergence and divergence roots of Islamic Republic of Iran and Russia on Caspian Sea

<sup>1</sup>Ahmad Mir, <sup>2</sup>Gholamali Cheginizadeh

1- Department of Political Science, Zahedan Branch, Islamic Azad University, Zahedan, Iran.

2- Assistant of International Relations Group, Allameh Tabatabayi University, Tehran, Iran.  
Mirahmad620@yahoo.com

**Abstract:** Since the geo-political and geo-strategic of Iran and Russia countries became fundamental change later the Cold-War and collapse of the Soviet and Republic newly emerged from the Soviet collapse, border changes, increasing the number of actors in the Caspian region and also presence and influence trans-regional powers in the newly independent states have implications followed for Iran and Russia, On the one side, there was not history Soviet threat from the north the Iranian border and on the other emergence these newly emerged Republics and a retaining between Iran and Russia, which involved numerous economic and political problems and did not have necessary consistency and was in conflict with Iran's national security with regard Russia's role in the region led to this country is very important for Iran and Iran has tried up to view realistic look to Russia as a regional power. Therefore, cooperation between Iran and Russia expanded at different levels of bilateral, regional and international. Therefore, in this research investigated at the regional level in term of settlement of regional crises, energy and resource utilization and deal with foreign powers sphere that have common goals resources and at the international level that both countries have announced their dissatisfaction with the unipolar system and unilaterally policies of America.

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### Iran and Russia cooperation after the Soviet collapse at Caspian Sea:

#### 1- Bilateral cooperation

Iran and Russia have a large role in the bilateral relations based on the resources and their political appropriate after the Soviet collapse. One side Iran has tried by showing goodwill to Russia provides its military and economic needs from Russia and the other side used from Russia as a safety valve against America's effort to isolate of Iran. Moscow statesmen has expanded its relations with Iran and at these relations in addition to economic considerations, Iran as a raised power in the region that has been politics of west, particularly America, to catch points of the west, particularly America, in direction supply its interests in the central Asia and the Caucasus have extensive cooperation between with the Islamic republic of Iran. Transfer of technology and defense cooperation, are important issues including bilateral cooperation between Iran and Russia. So that military cooperation and arms sales from Russia has been including of interest important issues in expanding of two countries exchanges. And noting that Iran is under West's sanctions in this term, The Russian government is the best option for to supply of

military weapons of Iran. One of the most important issues in relations between Iran and Russia after the Soviet collapse is the problem of completing the Bushehr nuclear power-plant by experts and Russian technology. Russian nuclear cooperation deal with Iran started since 1995 and has given commitment to completing this power plant, but already America and Israel governments have done an extensive advertising on line in Iran become a nuclear power and Russian companies cooperate in the completion of these power plant not only have been sanctioned, but also it has been most important factor in creating crisis at relations between America and Russia. Nevertheless, the Russian government insists to continue implementation of project with Iran according to political and economic reasons and referring to Iran's adherence to rules of International Atomic Energy Agency and its joining to Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, Because the nuclear deal Iran with Russia hasn't any threat to security and stability of the region and Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant is purely functional and peacefully.

#### 2- Regional cooperation between Iran and Russia

Although the efforts of trans-regional powers to influence at retaining areas between Iran and Russia

took place in order to provide benefits of both countries at regional level. But Russia and Iran have a common goal in term of regional crises resolving, exploitation and transport of energy resources Caspian Sea and also communication between two countries. Following noted to regional cooperation between Iran and Russia after the Soviet collapse:

**a)** After the collapse of in the regional relations, although there was a very complex issues that could have a negative impact on bilateral relations. but with attention Iran and Russia statesmen prevent from NATO expansion to this region of the world and were held importance for Caspian oil and gas interests led to politicians and statesmen of the two countries adopted a wise policy with restraint and deal and competition policies replaced by work together to establishment of peace and stability at region. In Russia's security politics, southern borders are Specific importance and have a key role in relations with Iran in Middle East, Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean. In solving the crisis in Tajikistan and Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the role of Iran was well clear in stability and security at this region, as well attracting cooperation the Islamic republic of Iran as a hub of Islamic World had a significant impact in decreasing Tension and tenderness to Russian presence in republics with predominantly Muslim in region.

**b) Caspian Sea Cooperation Organization**

In the field of regional cooperation, Iran made proposal to creating Caspian littoral Cooperation Organization, it is including Russia, Iran, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan that do follow cooperation in the affairs fishing, shipping, dealing with climate fluctuations, environmental protection and scientific research.

**c) Exploitation of Caspian the energy resources**

Exploitation of oil and gas reserves of the Caspian Sea is one of the important issues that have created more cooperation between Iran and Russia in the region. Based on Initial estimates done by the Western nations in the years after the Soviet collapse it had suggested that there are 200 billion barrels of oil and 279 trillion cubic feet of gas in the Caspian region, which this region would be after Persian Gulf in the second in term of hydrocarbon reserves at world. The major problem in the operation of oil and gas resources of the Caspian Sea is legal regime situation of sea. Based on 1921 and 1940 treaties between Iran and the soviet union, the Caspian sea be considered as a water common range to exploit with regard to equal rights for two littoral countries, but there was initiated complex legal discussions with increasing number coastal states between stakeholders. Due to interests of coastal states, these

countries have attempted to exploit the resources of the Caspian Sea with cooperation of oil consortium. Although the positions of Russia have changed for Caspian Sea's legal system and their interests were at these agreements and no comply with interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran, but to prevent the presence of trans-regional powers and in order to determine legal regime of the Caspian Sea are working together and with efforts of this two countries in October 1994 in Moscow and the participation of representatives coastal states, regional cooperation agreement was approved between coastal countries.

**d) Cooperation in transfer of energy from the Caspian region:**

Efforts of United States for Advancing Baku - Ceyhan oil pipeline and gas pipeline across the Caspian Sea, make closer Iran and Russia together. Declaration of Security Council and Europe Cooperation in about their plans to build a gas pipeline across the Caspian Sea and from Turkmenistan to Baku for transferring into Turkey will further cause for concern Iran and Russia. Moscow hopes that will be the foremost supplier of natural gas to Turkey via the Blue stream pipeline and Iran was followed that supply the required gas of Turkey via a pipeline itself from transfer of Turkmenistan gas, while the trying Washington was to end the monopoly of Russian in Caspian Sea oil. Immediately after the signing of the Agreement on Security and Europe Cooperation, Russia and Iran have tried to undermine the economic justification of this project. In addition, Attempting America and the West government from build oil and gas pipelines from Central Asia and Turkmenistan and connecting them to the Arab Sea (Indian Ocean), tried to outside oil-rich countries of Central Asia from traditional sphere of influence of Russia's and create a base for influence extensive of America's in region. or prevent the spread of Iranian influence in the region because pipeline Turkmenistan - Afghanistan - Pakistan, can be limiting the Islamic Republic of Iran from get the transit right due to no- passing Turkmenistan gas through its territory.

**e) Central Asian countries Caucasus relationship with the global economy:**

All countries of Central Asia and Caucasus, exception of Georgia are the inscribed and close states that their economic relationship with world in directly and indirectly passes from Iran. If world countries wish to expand economic relations with the republics of Central Asia and the Caucasus, the little choice but to use aerial and territorial routes of Iran, China, Turkey, Afghanistan and Russia which Iran have a special place among all the states and has

associated with Caspian littoral states though land and sea path. It is impossible integration of the newly established countries in world economic system without using of Iran communication lines. Iran has taken great strides in complete north - south communication roads that its complete facilities, transport and trade exchanges of the Central Asian states and Russia will provide through this ways. This part of the regional cooperation between Iran and Russia brings the scope of cooperation with Russia and the Central Asian republics along to the Persian Gulf. Iran is interested to play an active role in the Persian Gulf as an intermediary trade transaction to Russia and the Central Asian republics and elsewhere: which in this regard has been made agreement in 1997 too.

**Iran-Russia cooperation at the international level:**

Both Russia and Islamic Republic of Iran in the international arena has a relatively similar position and similar stances which has caused Iran and Russia to expand an increasingly their cooperation in this field. Both countries are committed to a changing strategy of the status quo order to achieve the desired status and this commitment arises that this two countries are unhappy from their status in the global arena. In addition, both countries have declared their dissatisfaction with the existing hierarchical system and wants to have a multi-polar system. This is something that Iran and Russia have been emphasized repeatedly. Including Russian Foreign Minister declared at meeting with Deputy Chairman of the Iranian Parliament's in 1999 That Tehran and Moscow should be have collaboration and participation in shaping the world system in 21st century. Russia's Foreign Minister at that time described cooperation between Iran and Russia, India and China as an important factor to deal with America's dominance at world. Non-compliance Russia on international pressure to change its relations with Iran, on the one hand and Iran's determination to maintain its special relations with Russia on the other hand emphasizes on these tenets of international system that no country should be allow itself that interfere in term of national interest governments and each state is free which with any government that wants and there is mutual interest to establish good relations and other states have no the right to forbid them to have such a relationship.

**From Iran Viewpoint in attracting perspective expanding cooperation with Russian government:**

**1- Cooperation with Russia to prevent the domination of foreign companies and transnational on energy resource area:**

Islamic Republic of Iran is opposes activity and influence of multinational companies in Central Asia and the Caucasus. The presence of Western companies and American with special effects and such as influence of America and Israel at region, national security of Iran would endanger and the necessity to applied appropriate strategies proposes to deal with it for Islamic Republic of Iran. The other hand Russia also is concerned from widespread presence of Western companies and U.S. in the region and other words the issue development of oil and gas resources for Russia is a strategic issue that is directly related to national security. Therefore, cooperation with Russia for Islamic Republic of Iran is important in this regard.

**2- Attract support of Russia in the against with influence countries opposed Islamic Republic of Iran in Caspian region**

Influence the other powers at region, including America, Israel and Turkey are threatened Iran's national security and interests. In such condition, it is inevitable that Iran will its policy based on cooperation and convergence with the other regional power namely Russia that it also will be affected by the influence of other powers in the Caspian region. Russia as inheritor Soviet Union is not willing simply to be put aside of geopolitical game in this sensitive area. Caspian region perhaps the most important bastion of defense for national security and energy needed to continue to compete in the regional and world stage, Russia and the West. The position and authority Russia will decline. From Moscow's view, the Caspian region is composed of a series of disturbing factors that could affect the fate of this country. From the Russian looked, an informal alliance between America, Turkey and Azerbaijan could weaken the position this country. Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin to strengthen of position this country at Caspian region has made several actions that including warning to National Security Council of country to defend Russia's national identity and its strengthened at region and also is determine special envoy on Caspian Sea issues.

**Conclusions:**

after the Soviet collapse, was begun a new chapter of relations between Russia and Iran and was became a new shape, the new position created for Iran had desirable and limitations. The one side history threat of Soviet was eliminated in north and was decreased of Iran's security concerns. Therefore, at new a

condition was instituted more balanced relations rather than past between two countries. Other hand, Soviet collapse caused to established newly countries in the northern borders of Iran that mostly were involved in domestic problems and lacked the necessary political and economic stability. As a result of this situation, regional and trans-regional powers for influence among the emerging countries and began vast scrambling to achieve the resources of the region and for presence and influence effectively in between newly established countries and gain more benefits in the Caspian Sea began to compete with each other. After this period, Iran and Russia are in domestic level, regional and international goals and common interests that these two countries are pushing to strengthen strategic relationships. moreover, in prevent domination by foreign companies and transnational on energy resources of central Asia and the Caucasus, this two governments will make in addition to strategic issues which directly related to their national security have been required an extensive cooperate at region to prevent influence of western powers headed by America.

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