

Geopolitical Factors of Conflict and Cooperation in the Caspian (Potentials of Convergence and Divergence)

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Abstract

Political geographic changes of the Caspian region due to the independence of the states of the Soviet Union in 1991, has created changes in the geopolitical situation. Iran and Russia's policies in order to maintain and extend their dominance on the region, and the performance of Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan in the field of economic progress, to achieve greater independence and reduce reliance, has created a competitive atmosphere in the Caspian Sea. Negotiations and relations with the Caspian countries have so far failed to provide a desirable level of convergence in the region. The main research question is: What are the factors causing conflict and cooperation in the Caspian region? And the atmosphere of the Caspian ties in what direction it is moving? In this paper, we use library and a questionnaire and descriptive- analytical approach, seeking to answer the questions. The results indicate the influence of geographical and geopolitical factors in the prevention of conflict and cooperation in the Caspian region. Among all the factors, those created the conflicts are more dominant and Lead to more and more divergence among the Caspian countries.

Key Words

Caspian region, competition, convergence, divergence, geopolitics.

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New Strategy of NATO in the Context of the Lisbon Declaration of 2010 for the Russian Federation

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Abstract

We try the best to scrutinize the process of cooperation and especially the convergence between Russian and North Atlantic treaty based on constructivism theory. Both sides have continued the enmity after terminating Cold war and collapse of Russia, despite of change in international structure and patterns. Both sides could have solved common needs and problems through more cooperation and collaboration. They embarked on cooperation after the terrorist incident on Sept. 11, 2001. Theoretically, the important factor of this process is to spread functionally structured ideas in international relations and to challenge realism ideas that have already dominated over theorizing process and analysis of international relations.

Key Words

constructivism, Lisbon Summit, new strategy of NATO, Russian Federation.

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Theoretical Approaches to Causes of Iran- Russia Warm Relations after the Collaps of Soviet Union

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Abstract

Iran has the longest political relations with Russia among other great powers. This relation is resulted from neighborhood, trade, and cultural and racial factors between Iran's people with some of the Russia's independent republics. Purchasing of weapons by Iran and participations of the Soviet Union in economic projects of Iran helped the strengthening of the relations between the two countries in the period of the second Pahlavi government. Competition and threats are two concepts that explain relations between Iran- Russia in these years. These relations changed from anxiety and threat to cooperation after Iran Islamic revolution. This paper examines Tehran-Moscow relations in context of realism, liberalism and constructivism theories. Analytical method will be used for this purpose. Findings of this Paper show that among the theories constructivism can completely explain the causes of the warm relations between Iran and Russia after 1990s.

Key Words

constructivism, Iran, liberalism, realism, Russia.

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A Survey about the Reasons of Cold Relations between Iran and Republic of Azerbaijan

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Abstract

This study is looking to understand the reasons behind cold relations of Iran and Republic of Azerbaijan. The authors believe that Iran and Azerbaijan have not had friendly relationship in spite of many similarities including historical, cultural, ethnic and religious background. The hypothesis of this study is that there are six factors that cause the unfriendly relations. These factors are ethnicity, Iran's religious activities in Republic of Azerbaijan, Nagorno-karabakh crisis and Iran's relations with Armenia, the problem of legal regime of Caspian Sea, role and influence of Turkey, influence of Israel and its relations with Azerbaijan, and ultimately US's policies and goals in the region.

Key Words

America, Armenia, Iran religious activities, Israel, legal regime of Caspian Sea, Pan-Turkism, Turkey.

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America and Its Influence on Iran in Achievement of the Goals in the Caucasus (Case Study: Republic of Azerbaijan)

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Abstract

After the collapse of Soviet Union, America, which saw itself unrivaled in the world, wanted to play an active and effective role in the independence of countries from the Soviet Union and their willingness, particularly the Republic of Azerbaijan, to the West- especially the US. This made it easier for to penetrate in the region. American foreign policy elites thought that the withdrawal of the Soviet Union and the dissociation of the bipolar system, for the first time it would be able to have political presence in the new independent states to the borders of China and get other successes with this political presence. Among the countries in the Caucasus region, America's presence in Republic of Azerbaijan had a negative impact on Iran's relations with this country in some areas such as energy transfer, determination of the legal regime of the Caspian Sea, and security issues. This paper attempts to examine Iran's interests in the Caucasus (Study case of Republic of Azerbaijan) and determine the reasons of Iran failure as one of the main neighbors. This paper analyzes this presence based on the conflicts between Iran and America.

Key Words

Caucasus, Iran, new realism, Republic of Azerbaijan, United States of America.

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The Effects of Jamiat-ul-Ulama –i-Islam in Pakistan on Taliban in Afghanistan

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Abstract

The Taliban emerged in 1994 as one of the important phenomena in contemporary political history of Afghanistan, south western Asia, Middle East and Islamic world. Taliban initially demanded the unity of the country and elimination of local authoritarian rulers and rogue groups to provide stability in Afghanistan. But after the initial successes, they declared their goals as a Shari'a -based system. In a short time they were able to take over most of Afghanistan and to create the Islamic Emirate in Kabul. After gaining power, they put into effect a series of extreme laws that have not ever performed in other Islamic countries such as Saudi Arabia. Researchers who examine the impact of foreign factors upon Taliban have focused on the role of the foreign governments. From the external factors, the impact of ideas and the role of the Pakistani fundamentalist groups are much more important than the role of foreign governments. This paper has investigated the influence of Jamiat-ul-Ulama –i-Islam in Pakistan and its religious schools and education on the formation of ideas, positions, and actions of the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Key Words

Afghanistan, fundamentalism, Jamiat-ul-Ulama –i-Islam, Pakistan, Taliban.

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The Central Asia under the Domination of Arabs and Turks: A Comparison of the Governmental System

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Abstract

Since the advent of Islam in Central Asia, several types of empires ruled on the region; the Arabs Empire (Umayyads and Abbasids), the Ghaznavid, the Seljuks, the Mongols, the Tatars, and the Russians. The Abbasids actual power did not last more than a century and a half and gradually independent states emerged at the eastern parts of the empire. The role of caliphate system was then limited and gave legitimacy to those states. In this article, the governance in two types of these empires has been compared. This research is based on primary sources, Persian classical texts, as well as researches on the mentioned dynasties. This article addresses the question: “what are the most important distinctions between the two empires?” Access of the Abbasids, Ghaznavids, and Seljuks to power, their administrative systems and militaries have been examined and compared. Three differences among their administrations, i.e., the degree of concentration in the empire, military force, and the plurality of the ministries, have been examined in the study.

Key Words

Abbasids, administration, Caliphate, Ghaznavids, Seljuks, Sultan.

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Role of Cultural and Ideological Considerations in the Foreign Policies of Turkey

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Abstract

This study deals with the Turkish foreign policies on the basis of its cultural and ideological background. The main question asks about the most powerful cultural and ideological factors driving Turkey's foreign policies. The research emphasizes mainly on Kemalism and Islamism as two main independent variables. Kemalism or Atatürkism consists of some basic principles including nationalism, secularism, and Westernism that have influenced the Turkish foreign policies since the founding of the republic. In addition, it has also been influenced by some Islamist considerations. The conflicts between Kemalism and Islamism have been one of the main problems in the Turkish politics. The AKP government under the leadership of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has tried to rely on a coherent combination of Kemalism and Islamism for Turkish foreign policies.

Key Words

AKP, Islamism, Kemalism, Middle East and North Africa, modernization, Palestine issue, The West, Turkish Republic.

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The Continuation in Threatening Attitude of European Union Towards Russia

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Abstract

The effect of historical and identity factors between Russia and European Union appeared as threats for the union. America's hegemonic position in the world, the two recent actions of the Russian government including strategy and doctrine of anti-Western and the efforts to become a regional hegemon, and dealing with the strategies of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization lead to increase in threatening attitudes of Union Europe and uncertainty range against Russia. This research is related to unions with policy and its relations with the state more susceptible to pressures and security damage; Preparation of security policy depends on factors of history, structure of the international scene, and contentiously behaviors. This study is to investigate why the European Union considers Russia as a security threat to itself? The focus of this research is that the behavior of Russia in the two decades is the main factor that the union sees Russia as a threat. However, with thereby the history and identity factors between the two actors and also the role of Europe in cooperation with the United States are increasing the uncertainties against Russia.

Key Words

America, European Union, historical- identity factors, Russia, security policy.

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Analysis of South Caucasus Security Issues According to Security Theory of Copenhagen School

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Abstract

After collapse of the Soviet Union, south Caucasus countries (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia) gained independence. This Independence was associated with tensions such as Ethnic and territorial disputes. These conflicts contain Kharabakh, Abkhazia, and South Ossetia which have remained unresolved till now. The main question is why these conflicts have remained unresolved and what conditions are required for the south Caucasus to achieve peace? The methodology of the present study is descriptive–analytical. A possible answer to the research question is that one of the main reasons for these conflicts is the military security of this region which was highlighted after the collapse of Soviet Union. If other issues such as economic and social status are considered by regional countries we can hope for closer relationships.

Key Words

Copenhagen School, military security, drug traffic, poverty, South Caucasus.

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