

**Iran's foreign policy with Arabic regions during the presidency of Ahmadinejad with emphasis on Iraq**Saad Mansouri <sup>1</sup>, Dr. Rohallah Shahabi <sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup>. Department of Political science, College of Humanities, Ahvaz Branch, Islamic Azad university, Ahvaz, Iran<sup>2</sup>. Department of Political science, Ahvaz Branch, Islamic Azad University, Ahvaz, Iran

**Abstract:** Iran's foreign policy-driven security that all decisions, actions and behavior can be explained in terms of national security and analyzed. The main objective of the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic's survival in the international system is anarchic. Survival or the national security of the Islamic Republic as well as territorial integrity, political independence and freedom of action in the international system are defined and followed. In addition to the issue of Iran's policy process is hierarchical and based on a certain ideology and preset functions, such as interest-based Islamic and anti-imperialist ideals of the Islamic Revolution in the principles are inviolable. Lasting peace in the world are considered. Rejection of domination and emphasize the international system free from domination of arrogant powers and denial of aggression and crimes and injustices and abuses great power, discourse Ahmadinejad's foreign policy is to achieve justice. In general, the foreign policy of Iran during Ahmadinejad's Arabic countries considered in two parts, one in the Arabic countries of the Persian Gulf and Egypt and the other called from Iraq. However, the foreign policy of the two parts of the same principles of common elements, but the cause is two different approaches.

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**Introduction**

Perhaps the most important part of foreign policy challenges is abstract. Even the most consistent and most systematic foreign policies are associated with problems in type and performance. Similarly, understanding of the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is very sophisticated. On the one hand, the study of foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, so with the help of theories of international relations and foreign policy theories general and specifically should be done. On the other hand, due to the specific characteristics of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to keep carefully to understand the behavior of these properties should also be considered. It seems that the Islamic Republic of Iran is faced with a paradox in its foreign policy and that discussion of the principles of international cooperation on adaptation and ideology based on changing international environment and the rules have changed geo-strategic environment. While Iran because of its geopolitical and geostrategic importance, it is one of regional and international actors that considered one of the practices and policies has a major impact on regional and international dynamics. Iran is a country with national (strictly related to Iran) and international (mainly related to the Muslim world) considerations. In other words, here, too, the nation-state logic and the logic of religion, or in other words, ideology is important. To create a balance between the two logic that sometimes interfere with each other in some

cases may be a very difficult task, especially in foreign policy of Iran. Islamic Republic of Iran from the beginning of the formation with the aim of spreading justice, freedom, equality and peace in the world was founded for the whole world, all of which are rooted in Islamic school. The policy also removes force in international relations and vigilance against threats and these are Iran's fundamental principle. The development of relations with all nations and countries according to the mutual respect and common interests, to negate any domination and submissiveness and emphasize the institutionalization of international law, efforts to reduce tension in the region and the world, to strengthen the cohesion and unity of the Islamic and non-aligned countries, including components and objectives of the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy in the past, present and future is considered. The fact is that the current state of relations between Iran and the Arab and regional environment is not comparable to the pre-presidency of Ahmadinejad. Ahmadinejad came to power when the Islamic Republic of Iran after a period of sixteen-year-old conflict in reconstruction and reformed governments have good relations with its Arab neighbors shape and overcomes the adverse effects of the war in Iraq. In 1384, relations between Iran and Arabic countries (except Egypt) was the highest diplomatic levels. Not only at the state level but also in the Arabic public opinion Iran's position was improved. Arab knew Iran's foreign policy clever, thoughtful. But Ahmadinejad in 1392, while

transferred to the next president that Iran's relations with the Arabs was one of the most stressful course that cooperation with Arabic countries was almost zero.. In addition, it should be noted that although the governments of Arabic from the early days didn't show confrontational approach to his foreign policy, but in the first two years of his presidency by his testimony to a populist behavior, had not bad Arabic Iran's image in public opinion.. In particular, Hezbollah's victory in the war 33 days in 2006 to increase the popularity of Iran in the Arabic public opinion. But the events that took place in recent years, including the rise of religious war and sectarian strife in the region, especially Iraq, Syria and Bahrain as well as the crisis caused by Ahmadinejad's final report was not good at public opinion better than the record of formal relations with his Arabic governments. In 1970, Iran's foreign policy with the support of America and good position and status of regional superpower patron had helping Kurdish politics and then with getting privilege of Iraq, accepted political compromise with Baghdad. But in the recent period, the conditions and the situation is less favorable international environment and efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran detente in the world, despite some successes, cannot still have achieved tangible politic i in relation to with region. Hence, the formation of the next Iraqi without considering the interests of Iran, is a major concern among those involved in Tehran's foreign policy.

#### **The literature review of relevant records**

1 - A. Galenic in his thesis entitled "The foreign policy of Iran in the Persian Gulf in the 70s (1971-1979)" in 1371, says Shah with multi-billion dollar army purchases and the most modern military weapons, and the establishment of naval bases along the coast of the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman, and the training of thousands of US military advisors in Iran, made most powerful and best equipped army in the Persian Gulf and providing regional security and the Hormuz strategic Strait and goals of Iranian foreign policy was applied.

2 - SH Shariydyr thesis titled "idealism in foreign policy of Iran during Khatami" in 1384, says the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran during Khatami despite all the changes that have occurred in its appearance, from the perspective of sociology of knowledge can be an idealist continuity of approach and calls for changing in Iran's status in the world, which has always been from the beginning of the revolution, the Islamic Republic has been one of the key aims of policy makers.

3 -Hady Nakhaei in his thesis as "a combination of national interests and the interests of Islam in the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy (comparative analysis of the foreign policy of the

national government and the Islamic State) in the foreign policy of the country, in better words "nation - state" contemporary, "national interests" is objective foundation and an essential and determining factor that guides decision-makers of the foreign policy.

4 - Kazem Rezaie in his thesis on the evolution of security and foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran (from 1357 to 1376) in 1376 says, essentially, on the evolution of security in foreign policy c. is. Three different times, However, under the headings relevant security approach "development-oriented" security approach "to maintain the" growth-oriented security approach ".

5 -the book analytical framework for foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran: Ruhollah Ramezani.

The contents of this book is organized into seven chapters.

6-thebook foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran: theoretical review and publishing paradigm of coalition year 1379 prepared by the Foreign Policy Centre for Strategic Research Department briefly is discussed the following statements: Foreign policy is not possible without cooperation with other countries. This can be advantageous when it realized that its cooperation and alliances become in broader dimensions. The author aims to provide solutions to advance strategy in foreign policy of the Islamic Republic, and the fixed principles of Iranian foreign policy must be considered for decision maker.

#### **Hypotheses:**

1 - some of Ahmadinejad's failure to maintain good relations with the Arab world can be attributed to events that had occurred outside the will of his government, but his inefficient and non-integrated approaches caused to miss important opportunities in the courses

2 - but in the recent period, both the conditions, the situation and international environment was less favorable and the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to detente in the world, despite some successes, it cannot still have obtained achievements in relation to the concrete political.

#### **Dependent and independent variables**

Iran's foreign policy as a dependent variable in this study and Arabic and Persian Gulf countries and Iraq were included as independent variables.

#### **Foreign policy:**

Recently, proposed background in the study of international relations are numerous, but it can be divided in three groups of ideas, called the axis, multi-axis and oriented world (Rzvna, 1995). Such a model can be proposed in similar foreign policy, called the idea of realism, idealism and universalism that are famous. Global system, relations between

countries and the emergence of international actors other than states is in the point that it cannot be comparable with relationship of a few decades ago. Foreign policy found equally importance and the factors that make foreign policy, have been more and more important. Action, reaction and interaction between the countries reached a high level. In the first 21<sup>st</sup> years of the third millennium without having relations with other countries, survival is not possible for any political unit. Decision-making in foreign policy generally called the name of the country. For example, we say that country A to country protest to B's action. While we all know that the country is a subjective term and it cannot be decision making. In fact, foreign policy, a process of decision-making and decision-making, like other people in the name of the country on behalf of the country or the people makes decision.. Many observers state model of decision-making made by certain international actors. This means that the action in the international system is usually attributed to the government. But these states are a set of public employees that according to the task they have been given these communities operate. According to James Rosenau, "This that we say Germany will this or France will avoid the danger is that attributed human characteristics to non-human or abstract units should be too simplified (Rosenau, 1961)". However, he defended it as a necessary brevity. Morgenthau, after World War II is one of veteran theorists in international relations and foreign policy. He In his book acknowledges logical or rational way and says: "We (analyst) placed ourselves rather than politicians, some of the nation's foreign policy should be resolved under the situation.. And we ask ourselves, in such circumstances, what other logical ways is there that a politician can (assuming that rational behavior is always) solve the problem and which way of rational choices will the politicians probably choose." (Morgenthau, 1970)

#### **Theory of decision-making in foreign policy**

This type of logic presupposes and requires a special process of decision-making in foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. First, the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran has the same structure based on three principles: hierarchy, segregation of duties and powers of decision-making bodies at the national level. Second, policy-making and decision-making in foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is adopting a centrally and integrally at the national level, so that subnational actors do not play a decisive role in policy and decision-making in foreign policy. Third, Iran's foreign policy decisions, regardless of conditions, and internal pressure changes only in response to the nature, characteristics and structure of the international system, particularly

the balance and imbalance of power is formed. In the past, foreign policy analysis was done mainly with historical approach with an emphasis on explaining the details of the events that occurred. Then, using mathematical approaches have been common, complexity of actors and their relationships were expressed in a mathematical formula (Taber, 888, 1992). In recent years, some experts have concluded that foreign policy decision-making can be at the intersection of political psychology and international relations (Silvan et al, 4, 1998).

Checking the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic especially in Ahmadinejad's course on the process of decision theory

Based on the rational actor model and logic result in neo-realists, both defensive and offensive, the Islamic Republic of Iran, like other countries, has certain preferences based on cost-benefit analysis in the foreign policy. This type of logic model requires a special process of decision-making in foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The most important determinant of foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is the position of its relative strength in the global and regional power structures. Iran's position relative strength is the resultant effect of its share of global power and the capabilities of regional and national capacities and the distribution of power in the international system and regional level, the polarity.. Power is defined as control over material resources, more and foremost military and economic capabilities defined in terms of accessibility to the Islamic Republic of Iran and it permits and determines their interests and it allows the defense. Competences and capabilities is also highly convertible. The power is a general and universal talent and there allows using it in different areas of foreign policy. Considering the foregoing, two points need to be considered in this regard: First, the Islamic Republic of Iran policy process is hierarchical and based on a particular ideology and set of acts, which includes all interests along with the ideals of the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic arrogance principles are immutable. Second, although the individual characters in decisions of foreign policy in a has different state, but at higher levels of hierarchy and attitudes are more important than the presidency.. The point about these two seasons after careful review and analysis, factors influencing on decision-making in foreign policy, stated especially in the term of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

#### **Factors affecting the changes in foreign policy discourse during Ahmadinejad's course to justice discourse**

Overall, there are two types the impacts on foreign policy: one of requirements is that the environment imposes on country's foreign policy.

Another is feed back to continue or change foreign policy. Islamic Republic is no exception, and it under the influence of internal and external environment regulates its foreign policy.

**To review Iran's foreign policy in the period ahead of Ahmadinejad and to compare them with fundamental decisions on foreign policy**

In the first section, we briefly review the principles of Iran's foreign policy during the presidency of Hashemi Rafsanjani and Mohammad Khatami, it was tried by the foreign policy of the two courses, especially in connection with the Arabic region and Iraq, expressed the difference of dialogues in each period and its impact on Iran's foreign policy

**Iran's foreign policy towards the Arab countries**

International developments after the end of the Cold War and especially in the event of the September 11 had a profound impact on the balance of power in international relations and in the relations between countries. Under these conditions, countries reviewed their strategic relationship with the with regard to international the new requirements. Among the countries neighboring Iran, the Arab countries in terms of numbers, are important.. Iran's relations with each of the Arabic countries and as a set of countries that have subscriptions in common among themselves and also with Iran, due to the intervention of geographical, religious, cultural and political factors, not too distant past have been ups and downs. So that review is necessary with regard to future prospects

**Iraq's strategic importance and its influence Iran's foreign policy**

In the past four decades, no country in the region in the background of security and political aspects of the challenges and costs imposed for Iran as much as Iraq. Baathist regime change and new developments and new features that will change the nature of power and Iraq policy has been a turning point in relations between the two countries, which means that for the first time, emphasizing the commonalities and fields of opportunistic tools along with the challenges is the criteria of the relations. Iran and the Arab world as well as the position of Iraq in international relations and foreign policy of great powers like America has impact on national security and interests of Iran. In other words, the future government of Iraq and its relations is beyond the bilateral, regional and international levels also it is under effect of Iran's foreign policy.

Iran and Iraq are not always strategic adversary. Stress history and roots of distrust and conflict between the two countries is more than strategic aspects and result of the presence and role of foreign powers intervening in the power structure and politics of the region on the one hand and regional political

rivalries between the two countries had been threatening roles for each other. Based on new developments in the fields of nature and the power of Iraq and the withdrawal of mutual threatening roles, bilateral relations between two country could enter a new phase based on mutual trust and strategic cooperation in the political, security, economic and cultural development in the regional level. (J, 1385) Iran has tangible benefits in Iraq. To achieve to national interests, Iran needs to work with a stable government in Iraq. Instability in Iraq, while providing high security costs for Iran is led to the continued presence of aliens in the region under the pretext of regional and global security in the fight form against terrorism or the spread of democracy. Thus, it destroys the natural balance of forces in the region against Iran.

In this context, no doubt over confidence of Persian Gulf emirate in the design of claims to three islands in the region led to direct participation of America. An Iraq that is secure, stable, balanced and interactive, while expediting the remaining issues between the two countries since the war, it looks at Iran as a friend and partner in a new regional security arrangements, and it increases the views of regional and international bargaining power. (Firoozabadi, 1387).

**Compared to the presidency of Hashemi Rafsanjani, Khatami and Ahmadinejad and painter and difference of dialogue between the foreign policy of the three periods**

With the Khatami government, the process of detente in foreign policy in period of construction was started, quickened. Government was reformed according to internal political development and application of the concepts of detente and dialogue of civilizations on the outside, he presented the new political face of Iran to World public opinion and tried to take steps in this direction. Although the dialogue of civilizations theory exposed to Iran's peaceful face to the world and in 2001 by the United Nation sit was called as the Year of Dialogue Among Civilizations but the September 11 attacks and the subsequent army invasion of America to Afghanistan and Iraq showed that dialogue of civilizations is something ideal, or at least under the conditions and atmosphere of the world cannot hope that it was successful, presenting the problem of negotiations with America and easing tensions between the two countries, is expressed seriously both inside and outside of the period under consideration thought America's insistence on the hostile policies of our country and determination of the leadership of the system and the people for the ideals of and the values of the revolution, the whispers of some internal political process in this way battle has nowhere.

Mr. Ahmadinejad's government came with a view to reviving the Islamic and revolutionary values and principles in different areas of the country, and the same approach and thinking, was upon all the government and it had significant impact on the country's domestic and international dimensions. This period may be seen as reflecting and responding to prior periods because in the main body of society is the right, there was this mentality that we distorted from the original framework of revolution and that is why we have to review and restructuring of thoughts and approaches against the past. According to the ninth and tenth state, government looks more tangible in achieving the goals of the revolution and the people to respect the rule of valuable views on the management of the country's revolutionary. With the rise of the fundamentalist, there was a radical change and significant rotation in foreign policy unlike the previous period that defended a weak position in some cases passively in various issues, in particular the nuclear dossier. The country's conservative government showed authority in the field of foreign and they expressed positions of principles and values that in the previous period was looking pale, dealing with the international arena and standing against the injustice of unfair international arena and standing against the excesses of America in the world and challenge of the Zionist regime in the world and affirming the sovereign right of Iran to produce nuclear energy and not getting submission against threats and intimidation and a revival of the views and revolutionary positions of and the value of the foreign policy achievements at the international level can be considered the state. However, such a foreign policy, had anger of arrogant powers, particularly America the country and some European countries exerted pressure against our country yet it is acknowledged that the principles and values of Islam and revolutionary stand, had cost of very brilliant achievements for the country's cause.

### Conclusion

Iran religiously and racially almost with all their peripheral countries is different. Although there are similarities and differences between the border areas of Iran and some neighboring countries, but what forms the image of Iranian (Persian Shiite Iran) causes that Iran cannot be a reliable ally in the region. We had to search connection rings in region or out of it. Lack of capacity and our objective among Arab neighbors, needs of Iran in the field of technology, science, economics and finance, this causes that Iran search them in the West or the Far East and this is one of the reasons of distance between Iranian and Arabic relations. Iraq has always been a special place in Iran's foreign policy. Iran and Iraq over the past

half-century, they have the security look at each other. In the new situation with the introduction of new elements in the political arena in Iraq, the country's position in Iran's foreign policy is more important. In fact, the trends of conflict tends to cooperation. Iraq after -Saddam Iraq has elements that change in the power structure will cause changes in a geopolitical region and the processes of actors of Middle East. Thus, to be neighboring with Iraq, according to Iran's historical and geopolitical atmosphere, this country imposes a series of requirements. The requirements that in the security and political space are analyzed because of the nature of identity triple of the population of Iraq (Shiite, Sunni Vekerd) independent presence in the intercept of citizens, geopolitical problem and how to deal with Iraq, it is an issue of fundamental challenges in the field of foreign policy Iran.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's historic visit to Iraq in the Persian date Esfand 1386 after forty years in the presidency level happened for the first time, created a climate of confidence and optimism very much between the two countries. But soon unipolar policy in Iraq by Ahmadinejad's emphasis on the Shia and lack of attention to Kurds and Sunnis and causes imbalances in the relationship between Iran and Iraq, as well as had its impact on Iran's relations with the other Arabic countries. However, to check the current situation of Iran in some international organizations such as the United Nations and specialized agencies, and their subgroups as well as Iran's relationship with the great powers suggests that Ahmadinejad's administration has not only failed in potential of the institutions and power and the it used the grouping in the defense of national interests but also in practice it will cause the assembly of institutions and actors against Iran's national security and interests. Ahmadinejad came to power when the Islamic Republic of Iran after a period of sixteen-year-old conflict in reconstruction and reformed governments have good relations with its Arab neighbors and overcame the adverse effects of the war in Iraq. In 1384, relations between Iran and Arabic countries (except Egypt) was the highest diplomatic levels. Not only at the state level but also in the Arabic public opinion, Iran's position was improved. Some of Ahmadinejad's failure to maintain good relations with the Arab world can be attributed to events that had occurred outside the will of his government, but his inefficient and non-integrated approaches caused this process would intensify. The attention to two points is important. First, the Islamic Republic of Iran policy process is hierarchical and it is based on a particular ideology and set of acts, which, such as the interest of Islam and arrogance in the ideal are inviolable principles of the Islamic Revolution.

Second, although the individual decisions has effect on foreign policy in a different state, but hierarchy and attitudes at higher levels are more important than the presidency.

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