

Chabahar international regime as an opportunity for economic exchanges of the Islamic Republic of Iran

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ABSTRACT

Chabahar is one of the strategic parts of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the region, with its great potential in terms of access to the high seas and special geographical location. The connection of the Chabahar port railway to Afghanistan and the North-South corridor project has increased the importance of Chabahar in economic terms. The presence and activity of India and Afghanistan directly, the interest of Russia, Japan, China and Central Asian countries on the one hand and the benefit of Chabahar port for economically active countries are the grounds for creating an international regime in Chabahar. In general, any international regime must have the appropriate conditions in the terms of national interests for the benefit of the concerned countries. The existence of ideological and value consensus, the support of the structure of the international system and the existence of common knowledge are some of the other conditions for the creation of a regime at the international and regional level. The Chabahar International Regime is a case for the progress of Iran in increasing trade with the region and the world which is mentioned in this paper. In this regard, the main question of this article is what effect does the establishment of the Chabahar International Regime have on trade and security exchanges of the Islamic Republic of Iran? The main hypothesis is that the Chabahar International Regime, with its special geostrategic position and high trade capacity in the region, can increase trade exchanges and improve the security of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the world. Also, the Islamic Republic of Iran can play a key role in the commercial and security arrangements of the Chabahar project in a way that will lead to increased security stability and economic prosperity at the national and regional levels. The research methods used in this paper are analytical descriptions and the use of library studies to analyze data. Considering the subject of this article, the use of the theory of international regimes can help us in two dimensions of the characteristics and capacities of Chabahar to become an international regime on the one hand and the role of this regime in Iran's trade and security exchanges. Addressing the international regime, Chabahar's capabilities, the impact of the international Chabahar regime on Iran's trade and security exchanges, conclusions and suggestions are some of the components of this article, which are discussed below.

Keywords: Chabahar, Chabahar International Regime, North-South International Corridor, Economic Regime, Makran Coasts.

Introduction

Chabahar, as the only international port in the Islamic Republic

of Iran, is of great political and economic importance. The pristine coasts of Makran, agriculture in different seasons and proximity to Pakistan have added to the importance of this port city. Emphasis on the use of potential capacities of Chabahar and Makran coasts in particular has always been of interest to the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Supreme Leader of the Revolution has referred to the Makran coast as a hidden treasure and has repeatedly emphasized the need to plan and develop this great national capacity over the past two decades (Supreme Leader of the Revolution, 2015). Some officials have also signed agreements with various countries, such as India and

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Russia. One of the major projects for the growth and prosperity of the Makran coast is the connection of the North-South International Corridor, which has been in operation for more than 60 years. In this paper, we seek to explain how the North-South International Project turns into an international regime as a way to accomplish this project. The international regime means the creation of an international regime in the economic dimension as the international regime of Chabahar. The importance of this plan and the establishment of an international regime in Chabahar is that in addition to the development of the Chabahar port, it will reduce costs and flourish the potential of this international port with the participation of other countries. Considering the researches on Chabahar and its capabilities, we can mention Khorasani's article. In his research entitled "Strategic Analysis of Southeast Coasts of Iran with the aim of improving the quality of coastal resident's life ", Khorasani concluded that by considering the process of planning for the Chabahar region development, people's quality of life will be improved. The point to note is that these strategies are largely economic in nature. The most important factor in the people's deprivation of this region is the weakness or lack of economic development, and this has been considered in the determination of strategies by experts, and shows that in order to improve the quality of the people's life in this region, we have to consider the developmental process of the southeastern region of the country^[1].

Chabahar is important for the countries of the world, and in this regard one of the agreements reached between the Islamic Republic of Iran and India could be mentioned. The Chabahar Treaty is a very important strategic decision that will help India shift its transit route to Afghanistan and to the Central Asian region and beyond. With India's membership in the Shanghai Organization, the port of Chabahar is also seen as an opportunity to increase contacts and cooperation between these countries in the form of the Shanghai Organization. Economists estimate that South Asian countries will be the new global center of economic growth in the next decade, and that the port of Chabahar could be their connecting point to Turkey, West Asian countries and Afghanistan^[2]. Also, with Iran's membership in the Eurasian Economic Union, an opportunity has been created to use the country's capacities, and in particular the port of Chabahar.



Figure 1. Chabahar port capacity after accession of Iran to the Eurasian Economic Union (source: IRNA, emphasis from researcher)

The initial formation of the Eurasian Economic Union in 2014 was concluded between Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan and replaced the Eurasian Customs Union. Eurasian countries now have an area of 20 million square kilometers and a population of more than 183 million. The most important goals of this economic union are to facilitate trade, create a common market in the field of member countries which are beneficial and independent, gradual elimination of customs laws within the union, establishing common foreign tariffs among member states and organization of customs formalities (IRNA, 2019). Turkmenistan is considered as a bridge between Iran and members of the Eurasian Economic Union, which plays a key role in connecting the Chabahar port to the member states.

According to the above explanations, the main question of this article is what effect does the establishment of the Chabahar International Regime have on trade and security exchanges of the Islamic Republic of Iran? The main hypothesis is that the Chabahar International Regime, with its special geostrategic position and high trade capacity in the region, can increase trade exchanges and improve the security of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the world. Also, the Islamic Republic of Iran can play a key role in the commercial and security arrangements of the Chabahar project in a way that will lead to increased security stability and economic prosperity at the national and regional levels. The research methods used in this paper are analytical descriptions and the use of library studies to analyze data. Considering the subject of this article, the use of the theory of international regimes can help us in two dimensions of the characteristics and capacities of Chabahar to become an international regime on the one hand and the role of this regime in Iran's trade and security exchanges. Addressing the international regime, Chabahar's capabilities, the impact of the international Chabahar regime on Iran's trade and security exchanges, conclusions and suggestions are some of the components of this article, which are discussed below.

1. International Regimes and its variants:

International regimes are the continuation of liberal and neoliberal institutionalism discussion, which is rooted in convergence, interdependence, and functionalism. Each international regime contains specific elements that have specific functions. One of these elements is the norm. A regime is formed by creating meaning and awareness about a particular issue. The process of formation takes the form of bargaining and the exercise of power and will appear in form of encouragement and punishment. In this process, the concept has become the "norm," which is a part of an international regime that deals with the behavior of actors. Another dimension of regimes is "rules", rules that are not only relate to prevention and requirements associated to actions and behavior within a regime, but also determine how to implement the

principles and rules and create a general and formal structure for creating procedures. The monitoring system is also one of the components of an international regime; in fact, one of the most important components of the regime that follows the issue of performance guarantee is the monitoring system. Regimes are created in conditions of conflict and cooperation in the field of international relations and are considered as one of the mechanisms for the realization of cooperation^[3].

In the definition phase, international regimes are defined as social institutions that implement the expectations of actors in a given area of international relations, and their constituent analytical components include principles, norms, rules, and procedures in different contexts^[4]. Different definitions have been proposed by thinkers such as Cohen, Nye, Holsty, etc., which can be divided into extensive, intensive and moderate definitions in general classification. Pochala and Hopkins, in their extensive definition, consider regimes as the ones which include principles, rules, procedures, and norms that exist in all matters of international relations^[5]. In a limited definition, Yang equates regimes with "social institutions" and multilateral agreements between countries to control and regulate relations between them on a specific issue^[6]. The following is a criterion for addressing the theory of regimes, relying on Crosner's definition as an intermediate definition of regimes, that is, regimes as a set of explicit or implicit principles, rules, procedures, and norms that bring actors closer together in the supposed domain of international relations.

In this definition, principles are meant to be beliefs about reality, causality, and correct action, and norms are the general criteria for behaviors that are expressed in terms of rights and obligations; the rules include specific prescribed prescriptions or sanctions, and procedures include common methods for adopting or selecting collective choices^[6]. One of the important differences between the concept of "regime" and similar concepts is that international institutions are more general than regimes, so that each regime is an institution, but not every institution is a regime^[7]. Another distinction is that the concept of regimes is more general than that of international organizations, so that not every international regime is necessarily an international organization. International regimes are just one example of international cooperation and, in contrast to international agreements and treaties, in addition to explicit and written rules, also include norms, rules, customs and habits^[8].

The scope and criterion of international regimes ranges from bilateral to comprehensive relations at the international level, and each of these regimes seeks to regulate some of the international relations and behavior of countries. By considering the "behavioral pattern" for regimes, it is possible to establish independent and dependent variables under the influence of established regimes. Regimes have different instances and types that can be specifically attributed to the environmental regime, the economic regime, the maritime regime, the oil regime, the monetary regime, the security regime, the space regime, the

aviation regime, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons regime, the human rights regime and the natural resources regime. In a general division, regimes can be divided into formal or informal, imposed or spontaneous, bilateral or multilateral, security or non-security, and discriminatory and impartial^[6].

It should be considered that achieving the goals of regimes depends on their support and evolution towards their primary goals as a system^[9]. Also, if activities covered by the regimes overlap or enter the economy, the likelihood of coordination with effectiveness increases^[10]. Therefore, determining the primary goals and considering the goals commensurate with the needs is considered a fundamental issue in the creation and continuation of regimes. In this regard, it is necessary to have a long-term perspective and flexibility to make changes appropriate to the actions of international actors. In the continuation of this process, the existence of overlapping and the entry of international regimes in the field of economy to increase the effectiveness of regimes is one of the important measures.

The most important role of international regimes is to establish cooperation between governments. In other words, regimes, as a tool, facilitate cooperation between governments. Regimes divide costs among governments, and regimes facilitate and order the diplomacy. Principles, rules, and institutions establish a connection between different issues and motivate them toward the agreement. There is a situation where governments will have common interests, this is mostly about economic issues^[11]. Among the reasons for the formation of international regimes can be considered national interests, power and its distribution, common knowledge and understanding, value and ideological consensus and international custom^[6] which has been studied in the description of the Chabahar formation as an international regime.

2.Chabahar International Regime

In general, Iran's geopolitics is not compatible with isolationism and recommends a kind of extrovert and active foreign policy to policymakers^[12], in this regard, the role of Chabahar International Port in relation to other countries is significant. Chabahar province is located at the end of the southeastern side of Iran next to the warm waters of Oman, at 60 degrees and 37 minutes east longitude and 25 degrees and 17 minutes north latitude. It is bounded on the north by the cities of Iranshahr and Nikshahr, on the south by the Oman Sea, on the east by Pakistan, and on the west by the provinces of Kerman and Hormozgan. The area of Chabahar city is about 9739 square kilometers, the height of this city is 7 meters above sea level and it has 130 kilometers of land border and about 115 kilometers of water border in Oman Sea. The population of Chabahar province is 291910 people and it includes Chabahar and Negor city and 3 parts such as Dashtiari, Plan, central part, and eight districts (IRNA website, 2019).

The ports of Chabahar are the easiest and most strategic way to access open water for 6 landlocked countries in Central Asia.

Chabahar port is of great importance due to its strategic location, which is the closest access way of landlocked countries in Central Asia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan and is considered the most significant port of Iran in the Oman Sea ^[13]. Therefore, Chabahar's economic potential on the one hand and the need of Central Asian countries for maritime trade along with the political and cultural commonalities of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the countries of this region on the other hand, can lead to the creation of a regional economic regime. The creation of an international regime can be achieved in an open manner and with the possibility of membership for other countries of the world or in a close manner and the possibility of membership for a limited number of countries.

Due to the wide range of dimensions and different types of international regimes, in this article, the authors aim to address the international regime of Chabahar in the dimension of economic regime. Despite its enormous economic potential in the fields of tourism, maritime, agriculture and industry, Chabahar has an extensive talent for shaping the international economic regime. One of the concrete examples of the potential capacities of Chabahar is the North-South International Corridor, which is discussed in this article regarding the capability of this plan to create an international economic regime. Of course, the creation and formation of international regimes in one area can be influencing for other areas, including security and the environment.

2-1. National interests: National interests can be regarded as a guiding light in terms of foreign policy. The establishment and connection between north and south of Iran has always been significant for the countries of the region and the world. The case was objectively identified in the North-South International Project. The North-South International Project was important not only for the Islamic Republic of Iran but also for Europe, Russia, Japan, India, China, Afghanistan and other Central Asian countries. With the implementation of this plan, Europe will finally achieve the benefits that it aimed to have with the start of the Therasica 2 plan.

The Ural region in Russia and western Siberia will have access to efficient trade corridors in India, Southeast Asia and the Middle East. Turkey and the Republic of Azerbaijan will become important transit countries which connect the East to the West through Iran and Central Asia. Both Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan will benefit from the expansion of the north-south line, which connects northern Europe and Russia to the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea. Oil and gas producers in the Caspian Sea region will take the advantages regarding the economic and security benefits of the numerous pipelines. Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan will be able to export their most valuable agricultural and cotton products directly to markets in South Asia instead of exporting to Russia over a distance of 7,000 kilometers and crossing the Baltic Sea, which will break the monopoly of Russian exports to the countries of the region.

Turkmenistan will also have access to multiple oil and gas buyers. Afghanistan will also benefit from transit and transport tax revenues. The opening of East-West trade corridors through the Pakistan way and the opening of new corridors to China will eliminate the isolation imposed on Pakistan (World Economic News Agency, 2018).

Also in September 1954, when the North-South Corridor Agreement was signed in St. Petersburg between the Transport Ministers of the three countries of Iran, India and Russia, Chabahar was introduced as a strategic port in this corridor and land routes connecting it to the Turkmen border were regarded as the shortest route for land transport of goods in the Eastern Corridor and the Central Asian Highway. The Chabahar port is as the Indian Ocean outlet for India in the major international transit North-South corridor, and will provide New Delhi access to Central Asia, Russia and eventually European markets, and it will cause India to no longer need to transport its goods through Pakistani land to trade with Central Asian countries ^[14]. India's main goals of presence and investment in Iran can be considered as: meeting its domestic needs, competing with China, expanding its presence in Central Asia and accelerating the process of becoming a strategic navy ^[15]. The Chabahar port to India, the world's fourth-largest energy consumer, also allows to gain access to more than 150 billion barrels of Iran's crude oil reserves and 1,187 trillion cubic feet of gas, as well as additional energy resources in Central Asia, including Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan to access ^[2].

Due to its strategic location, the Chabahar port is the closest access way of Central Asian countries (Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan) to open waters and is of great significance. In this regard, if we look at the positions of these countries in recent years on the use of the Chabahar port considering the ability to pilot commercial and commercial activities with neighboring countries, it should be said that in fact considering Chabahar while the countries of the region are reducing their economic dependence to Russia, and in line with their economic growth plans and growing ties with the Far East, the Middle East and Africa, they recognize the Chabahar port as the cheapest, safest and closest way of trading. In the meantime, the significant prospective of Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan on launching the Iran-Turkmenistan-Kazakhstan railway is analyzed in this regard. Countries such as Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan considering their political and security problems are also working with Uzbekistan to expand their beneficial Commercial relations by the use of Chabahar port. Therefore, in recent years, Tajikistan has tried to ensure that goods and passengers do not have to cross Uzbekistan due to the location of the Iran-Afghanistan road. In the meantime, Uzbekistan, although it has not had agreeable political relations with Iran in recent years, is considering Chabahar with an economic perspective ^[16].

Another reason for involving the interest of region in trading through the Chabahar port is the situation of Pakistan. Pakistan has problems like the lack of transportation infrastructure,

industrial and commercial capacity, a problem with its social structure and insecurity in southern Afghanistan. But the main and most important problem for both China and Pakistan is the presence of the Gwadar port in Pakistan, Balochistan province; because of the ethnic and sectarian conflicts, the separatist views of the Balochistan people, the idea that the development of the Gwadar port will not do anything for the people, and the existence of terrorist groups such as al-Qaeda and the Taliban, the region has always been a scene of conflict with the central government. (, 2008: 58).

All of the above indicate the importance of the north-south connection and the use of the capacities of the Chabahar port for other countries. It is important to ensure the interests of all countries trading with Central Asian countries and members of the Eurasian Economic Union through the Chabahar port. This will be achieved through the connection of Central Asian countries and members of the Eurasian Union to the Chabahar port through Iran and the use of maritime trade.

Also, the assassination of Chinese engineer in Pakistan can be mentioned among these issues. The repetition of these events and the inability of the central government of Pakistan to repel such movements may cause the Chinese side to withdraw from constructing and working in the Gwadar port. The presence of narcotics and its transit from Afghanistan to Pakistan (according to available statistics, 33% of Afghanistan's smuggled heroin is transported to Pakistan through ports such as Gwadar to other parts of the world), are other problems facing the Gwadar port and the Chinese government. ^[17]. From China's point of view, China's new Silk Road project with two types of land and sea possibilities is proposed. The Sea Silk Road project aims to connect the South China Sea to the Mediterranean Sea ^[18]. In this regard, the significant of the Chabahar port, for China, as largest emerging power of the world is indicated.

The interest of Japan for being active in the Chabahar port not only strengthens needs and interests of Tokyo in South Asia, but also this country seeks to have a new independent road in this region. Japanese politicians emphasize the growing role of Tokyo's geopolitics in South Asia and the strengthening of its presence in Central Asia, and cooperation between New Delhi and Tokyo in the Chabahar port could strengthen the economic ability of the Chabahar port (Wall Street Journal, 2016).

According to senior Japanese officials, Japan's economic presence in Central Asia to develop the energy sector in the region is not only in the interests of the country, but also as a device to improve the living conditions and well-being of these countries' people ^[19]. Another goal of Japan's entry into Iran is investment considering specific goals, and for this reason it considers the Chabahar port, because on the one hand, this port is located in the southeast of Iran and is considered a part of free zones and on the other hand, provides full access to shipping lines across the Indian Ocean. In competition with China, Japan has a very strong device which is financial backing ^[20].

From Russia's point of view, although Iran has long been a rival to Russia's regional influence, it is seen as a strategic partner in

countering the growing influence of trans-regional powers, especially the United States ^[21]. In this regard, the creation of the North-South International Project is important. The Russians have been dreaming of access to the Persian Gulf's warm water for centuries. The Great Peter, the Russia Tsar, is even said to have mentioned in his will that the Russians had access to warm waters. The dream is due to Russia's declining dependence on the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits in Turkey and the Panama and Suez Canals, which are under US influence. For this reason, the connection of the Caspian to the Persian Gulf can meet all of Russia's political needs together.

Afghanistan is one of the landlocked countries that needs Iran or Pakistan to access open waters. Despite strained relations with Pakistan and, of course, with widespread insecurity along the way, Iran, and in particular Chabahar, is Afghanistan's best and closest route to the world's open waters (open seas). In this regard, the three countries of Iran, India and Afghanistan signed the Chabahar Transit Agreement in Tehran in June 1931 in the presence of the three countries' leaders. The tripartite agreement makes it possible for countries in the region to connect from China to Central Asia. Also, the transit of Afghan goods, which are mainly minerals, to other consuming countries such as India, China, etc.; the passage of these goods through the Iranian railway route and the Chabahar port will be realized. The railway line from Chabahar to the Afghan border was completed by India in 2010 from the border to the central regions of Afghanistan (ILNA News Agency, 2016).

Another reason for the importance of Chabahar port compared to other places, such as Abbas and Bushehr ports, is the possibility of modern 6th and 7th generation ships to travel to this port. Currently, due to the shallow water depth in the Persian Gulf, it is not possible for the 6th and 7th generation ships to travel in these ports. Meanwhile, the Chabahar port has made it possible for the two generations to dock.

In addition to the above-mentioned national interests of the economic presence in Chabahar port, there are other reasons for the formation of the Chabahar International Regime and its impact on Iran's trade, including: ideological and value consensus, accompanying the structure of the international system, and how power is distributed in the international system. These are discussed below. According to the authors of the above factors, these factors are coordinating and covering national interests in line with the formation of the international regime.

2-1-1. Value and Ideological Consensus: One of the common elements that is the source of Iranian unity, cultural identity and civilization is religion. The Islamic Republic have some kinds of common points with other countries: considering Islamic religion through the countries bordering the Persian Gulf, and on the other hand, through long history and coexistence, before the separation, with countries such as Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, and some Central Asian countries. There is also a common language between Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan, which facilitates cultural identity. Another common

language between Iran and Afghanistan is Pashto; Pashto is an Iranian language used by the people of the eastern part of the country. Despite many developments, the Persian language has always maintained its identity^[22].

The common myths of Iran and Afghanistan are reflected in the poetry, literature, music, customs and myths of the common Iranians. A clear example of common myths can be seen when there was no geographical border between Iran and the countries of the region, including Afghanistan and Azerbaijan. The common national heroes have been very tangible since there was no border between the two countries. Among the common honors of Iran and Afghanistan, we can mention Abu Ali Sina, Molavi, Sanai, Biruni and Razi. Further development of the concept of myth is possible inside the countries and through human geography and helps to advance goals in other areas which can be used to benefit from value consensus.

The common religion of Iranian people, the countries of this region and some other parts of the world is Islam, and scholars, including Imam Khomeini and the Supreme Leader of the Revolution, have always sought the unity and empathy of the people by relying on the Islamic Ummah. Relying on this element, which has many followers around the world, is one of the important factors in creating a valuable and ideological consensus in line with the Chabahar International Regime and proper use. Another important factor in the existence of common values between the countries of the region is the historical background of peaceful life, so that Iran's political and economical relations with the countries of the region have been formed over several centuries.

2-1-2. Common knowledge and cognition: Before embarking to establish a common international regime, countries must have a common cognition and understanding of the issue and its interdependence with other areas based on existing knowledge about it. Knowledge includes "political knowledge" which means values and preferences about what needs to be done, and "practical knowledge" confirmed by claims of credibility and validity of both countries^[6]. In order to have political knowledge and confirm it by the countries interested in their claims, we can mention the cooperation of Iran, India and Afghanistan with the focus on Chabahar port. One of India's strategic plans in recent years has been economic investment in Afghanistan to influence regional security activities and make a profit through the port of Chabahar. Indian Shipping Minister Nitin Gadkari and his Iranian counterpart Abbas Akhundi signed a memorandum on Wednesday (8 November, 2017) on the development of the Chabahar port in the Gulf of Oman (Tasnim, 9 November, 2017); the Indian government issued a statement emphasizing that Indian companies will implement the Chabahar port development project.

2-1-3. Power and its distribution: An important determining factor, especially in the structural approach of the

regimes and the new realism, is the power and how it is distributed among the countries on which the structure of the international system is based. Therefore, the emergence and establishment of a regime in the field of a particular issue in international relations involves and requires an appropriate amount of power in that field. In fact, international regimes, as a kind of institutional arrangement, are a reflection of the formulation and arrangement of power in the international system and the relevant subject area. Therefore, the superior actors of the international system in general and in the specific field of the subject play a major and decisive role in the formation of the international regime. In this context, the presence of superior power or hegemony is necessary, as exemplified by the US presence in the establishment of the World Bank regime, the International Monetary Fund and GATT^[6]. It is worth noting that one of the ways to achieve a hegemonic position is to cross the level of the regions. That is, hegemonic domination over different regions that eventually leads to the domination of the international system. This approach is close to Berry Bouzan's view, as stated in the book which is called Power and Areas. Finally, international security will come from the security of all the regions^[23].

India's potential and actual capabilities, the unprecedented development of India-US relations in recent years and, most importantly, India's great desire to enter Central Asia, are the factors behind the formation of the India-US Alliance to penetrate Central Asia. Another factor is the reduction of US power comparing to the past; Although America's economic, political, and military influence in the world has diminished since the Cold War, its cultural, informational, and ideological influence has greatly increased. While the United States encourages and strengthens unity in its system, but in Global scene it acknowledges and supports the dispersal, and nationalism of other nations and countries, including the Arabs, Latin America, Asia, and Africa^[24]. John Mersheimer, the theorist of aggressive realism, argues that in the current situation there is only one power of energy, and that is the United States in the Western Hemisphere^[25]. The decline of American power and the global movement towards regionalism and the formation of different regions in various fields are among the factors of accompanying of other countries with the formation of the Chabahar International Regime. Despite hostility to the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United States has agreed to invest and cooperate with India in the Chabahar port. Despite US pressure on countries to cut off oil cooperation with Iran, India, while consolidating its presence in Chabahar, was able to own an exemption in Iran's oil sanctions during the negotiation with Washington.

As the regionalization process continues, the reasons for the US agreement will also be clear. In fact, one of the main motivations for the United States is to create a rival for China as an emerging force in order to balance the situation. In this regard, the best option to compete with China is India as an ally. Thus, in the global power structure, we are indirectly

witnessing the support of the United States as the leading power to establish the Chabahar International Regime to counter and reduce China's power. Russia, on the other hand, is one of the world's leading powers, along with Central Asia, Japan and Europe, benefiting from the prosperity of the Chabahar port.

After the world wars and the heavy casualties of the countries, they realized the need for peace and security more than before, and subsequently, they began to form alliances and international organizations. The abundance of various regimes in various fields is one of the achievements of cooperation and interaction of countries in certain fields. The basis of the formation of the Chabahar International Regime is the economical consideration and does not conflict with international values and customs, to the extent that it evokes one of the most important international customs, namely peace and cooperation, for economical benefits. On the other hand, encouraging countries to join the Chabahar International Regime and using its interests will lead to greater legitimacy and enforcement.

According to the typology of regimes and their division into formal or informal, imposed or spontaneous, bilateral or multilateral, security or non-security and discriminatory and non-discriminatory [6]; we can consider the Chabahar International Regime as an informal (due to the lack of a registered organization and formalities), spontaneous (due to the non-compulsory presence of countries such as India and Afghanistan), multilateral (following the participation and willingness of India, Russia, Afghanistan), non-security (due to the centrality of the economy in this regime), and non-discriminatory.

3. The impact of the Chabahar International Regime on Iran's trade and security exchanges

In addition to the desire of the mentioned countries, in the second part for trading cooperation with Iran on the Chabahar port axis, the formation of the Chabahar International Regime will have a significant impact on connection between Iran and Central Asian countries. More than two decades after the independence of the republics, it must be acknowledged that Iran's diplomatic actions and initiatives in relation to these countries, while removing doubts and ambiguities regarding Iran's real goals in the region, provide the ground for practical and constructive cooperation. It was between Iran and its northern neighbors. In addition, competition with Turkey over regional influence has stopped, Russia's role as a guarantor of security and stability in the region has been recognized, and Iran's attempt to revive cultural-historical ties in the region has not been seen as a threat.

Considering bilateral economic relations and Iran's various strategic economic plans in the region, it should be acknowledged that Iran's actions, especially in developing economic relations with Central Asia, have been significant for more than two decades after the independence of the region. So that in response to the massive needs of the republics, especially in the early years after independence, Iran has done extensive activities in various fields, including: providing urgent needs

(such as fuel, electricity and basic goods), helping to modernize and develop the economic infrastructure, develop transportation routes and their connection to the lines of Iran's rail and road transport network, and granting financial credits. In fact, although Iran's economic activity has not been significant compared to the initial expectations of the parties, it has followed an upward trend.

In this regard, the volume of Iran's trade relations with the countries of the region in a 25-years period increased from about \$ 300 million in 1995 to 4 billion in 2005 and about \$ 3.7 billion in 2011, which (despite a declining trend in the last years of the tenth government) it represents a 13-folds increase over the first years after the collapse. This volume again improved in the years after the 11th government took office, reaching \$ 5.3 billion in 2015. In addition, Iran's participation in the construction of economical and developmental projects, such as Dosti Dam, Sarakhs-Tajan-Mashhad railway and the eastern Caspian transit railway, is one of the most important economic movements in Central Asia in recent years, which is going to play an important role in facilitating the process of exporting energy and goods from the countries of the region to the world markets [26]. Another important aspect of economic relations between Iran and the Central Asian republics during their post-independence period is regional cooperation in the form of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and cooperation in the Caspian region and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. The experience of ECO and explaining the reasons for the formation of the Chabahar International Regime will indicate the increase of trade exchanges between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the countries participating in this new structure. In the following, our country's exports and imports with some Central Asian countries are discussed.

Table 1: Iran-Turkmenistan Trade 1388-1396

The export values of Iran to Turkmenistan (dollars)	The import values of Iran from Turkmenistan (dollars)	year
357531731	403695659	1388
858618860	12772407	1392
417961456	77072626	1396

Source: Chamber of Commerce

Table 2: Iran-Uzbekistan Trade 1388-1396

The export values of Iran to Uzbekistan (dollars)	The import values of Iran from Uzbekistan (dollars)	Year
66023035	140841287	2009
101602246	140723283	2013
98337819	61135771	2017

Source: Chamber of Commerce

Table 3: Iran-Tajikistan Trade 1388-1396

The export values of Iran to Tajikistan (dollars)	The import values of Iran from Tajikistan (dollars)	Year
163454698	49738181	2009
248483470	18901687	2013

217244391	13666292	2017
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Source: Chamber of Commerce

In terms of the security implications of the establishment of the Chabahar International Regime on regional equations, we must first consider the overlap and close relationship between politics and economics in the contemporary era. The use of economic leverage and sanctions against countries have already caused irreparable damage. Forty years after the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the US offensive role against Iran has been quite tangible.

The process of aggressive US foreign policy against the Islamic Republic of Iran has been observed since the beginning of the Islamic Revolution, and we will see its culmination especially in administrative periods of Clinton, George W. Bush, and now Trump. The US government's actions during this period to contain the Islamic Revolution in Iran include the following actions: Supporting Iraq and beginning of the war, selling weapons to countries in the region, establishing military bases in neighboring countries, not confronting with dissenters in Iraq as a hostile group and keeping them as prisoners of war of the Fourth Geneva Convention, supporting the mechanism of confronting with the Iran's nuclear program in the Council of Governors, bringing Iran's nuclear case to the Security Council and issuing a resolution on multilateral sanctions, ordering the destruction of nuclear facilities in 2008, keeping all options on the table, accusations of interference in Iraq and Afghanistan, launching and supporting terrorist groups, withdrawing from the UN Security Council and imposing unilateral sanctions measures were among the most important actions taken by the United States. These movements come as the post-Cold War unipolar structure has led the United States to use open-ended, and multilateral tools to push Iran in two directions: one to change Iran's behavior and the other to change the system of this country. It is noteworthy that the United States has used the sanctions strategy for the past four decades to curb the Islamic Revolution^[27]. In this regard, the establishment of the Chabahar International Regime is an auxiliary lever to reduce US economic pressures and increase convergence and security between the beneficiary countries.

Also, the immediate environment of Iran's national security is insecure, and Iran has to spend a lot of money to ensure national security and eliminate threats to its national and political security and identity. The methodology of achieving many fixed goals and principles in foreign policy is the principle of the coalition. The coalition not only creates confidence in cooperation, but also reduces threats to national security and increases national wealth^[28]. On the other hand, the notion of the Iranian threat is derived from the long history of countless victories and defeats. The general perception is that in a country that was once a great power, has been humiliated after being weakened by the West, especially the United States. The Islamic Revolution helped strengthen Iran's sense of exceptionalism and combining religious ideology with strong

nationalism. The Islamic Republic of Iran has the ability to act beyond the scope of the revolution, as a nation pursuing its own non-ideological interests^[29].

Conclusion:

In recent years, we have seen an increase in the convergence and growth of regimes around the world. The North-South International Project is one of the national projects that can be of great benefit to the Islamic Republic of Iran by creating an international regime and given the interdependence of countries. Since the formation of economic regimes, such as the Steel and Coal Alliance, has a long history of security regimes such as NATO, the international economy can be extended from one economic sphere to another, including security and the environment.

According to the above estimates, Chabahar, with its Makran coast and international port, has the ability to become an international regime in the field of economy, which includes national and international interests for the countries participating in this regime. In the national interest of the Chabahar International Regime, in addition to the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the national interests of the great powers include India, Central Asia, Turkey, and European countries due to their greater presence in economic markets. In terms of software, the association of Islamic countries in the region and common history with some of them, such as Afghanistan, common international custom with all countries of the world, knowledge and common knowledge of the international regime of Chabahar, are factors accelerating this process. The structure of US power and competition with China also justifies the presence of major powers in Chabahar's international regime and the tacit agreement of US to reduce its influence over the post-Cold War era.

The current context and conditions for the creation of an international regime in Chabahar are so numerous and important that even without considering the North-South international project, the need to establish an international regime for the Islamic Republic of Iran and other countries is still felt. Another objective or created capacity is the railway connection of Chabahar port to Afghanistan, which has encouraged Central Asian countries to invest in the sea. The Islamic Republic of Iran has an irreplaceable role in comparison with other countries by creating common interests of the countries and its direct impact on the policy of Chabahar port as a part of its territory. The importance of this plan and the establishment of an international regime in Chabahar is that in addition to developing the port of Chabahar, reducing costs and flourishing the potential of this international port will be accompanied by the participation of other countries.

According to the above article, for better and more efficient regimes in this field, the following suggestions are provided:

1. Establishment of special customs facilities for the beneficiary countries and the entry of other countries to tie and further intertwine

2. Peaceful relations based on religious, cultural and value propositions, in order to understand more value and ideology
3. The opportunity for the presence of major powers, including Germany, France and Britain, along with Russia, China and India, in line with the structure of the international system.
4. Promoting and developing common international customs in order to persuade and further support for the establishment of the Chabahar International Regime.
5. Cooperation and coordination with international organizations that have a common ground with the Chabahar International Regime.

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