

Study The Iranian Hydropolitical Challenges In The Shared Drainage Basins With Neighboring Countries

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Abstract: Iran has special hydropolitical conditions in the region that beside the threats, has created ample opportunities for the country. Hydropolitics as an important topic of political geography which explores the role of water in political behavior, includes different approaches such as conflict and cooperation, interaction between individuals and groups and trying to apply the rule and the exclusive use of water resources. This research with descriptive and analytical method try to find the cause and explain the nature of Iran's regional hydropolitical challenges. Iran in the one hundred years ago has always been faced with numerous changes and shown different approaches to each shared basin area, and always in all basins except the Atrak River and the Aras River, with tensions and conflicts, and finally hydropolitics challenges faced at the regional level. Hydropolitics challenges has created negative impact and crisis such as war, immigration, unemployment, smuggling of goods and drugs, desertification and brought a lot human and environmental consequences for Iran. by study the hydropolitical challenges that Iran have been facing at the regional level, conclude that the lack of international rules, the involvement of Trans-regional powers and gain more benefits of the water resources of the major factors shaping Iran hydropolitical challenges in the shared basins. Knowing the cause of the challenges of the hydropolitics create more complete view in the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, that in the foreign diplomacy in the water sector, play more pronounced and more efficient role in the international arena and be able to largely prevent negative impact of hydropolitics challenges.

Keyword: Hydropolitics, Border River, Shared Basins.

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I. INTRODUCTION

No country without ensuring have sufficient water resources can not maintain its political and economic stability. Water as a source of life, is one of the basic elements of living organisms that in the event of shortages, competition for seizing it inherently among different geographical residents manifested. Today, more than ever, due to several reasons such as population growth, industrial development, the need to produce more food and improves standard of living, geopolitical value of water has increased. With the increasing geopolitical importance of this natural resource, cause entering this source to the competition and conflict area. This struggle for more water, especially when the political boundaries of a country with natural shared basins boundaries do not match, and two or more countries in use of water resources have common use, are more manifested in hydropolitics countries.

Patterns of conflict and competition between countries, leading to the formation of the hydropolitics challenges. Hydropolitics challenges often arise in national and international level. Iran is a country which historically has always been known as a water scarce country and was part of dry area. So, for this country water is more valuable. Iran is located in the Middle East and neighboring countries that are facing a shortage of fresh water. Iran's hydropolitics problem is more pronounced. Iranian plateau of Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea and Central Asia to the Pamir plateau is widespread. Iran is a vast country of more than 1648000 square kilometers that 320,000 square kilometers are arable land and 180,000 square kilometers are covered with lake and domestic water and the remaining has covered by mountains and desert. Governments that have ruled since ancient times in Iran so far, have special attention in the water. Looking at the geographical position of Iran in the region despite being at the basin of Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea and all shared basins as trans-border Rivers, in addition to display geo-strategic status, expresses Iran hydropolitics position. This position created ample opportunities for Iran, and if not addressed properly to the hydropolitics of these basins, national security will be threatened.

Accurate and comprehensive study of Hydropolitics of Iran in the shared basins by three factors are crucial: First, so far, as a result of Hydropolitics challenges that country of Iran faced, a lot of negative effects such as war over the Arvandroud, immigration of Sistani, unemployment, hamon dryness, and environmental consequences has formed. Secondly, Iran by positioning in the region that in terms of water has a fragile situation, in shared basins with the low water countries, such as all the Persian Gulf countries, Turkmenistan and Afghanistan are neighbors. So, there will always be access and competition for takeover of freshwater resources in this area and with increasing demand, Hydropolitics of these shared basins will be more important. Thirdly, there are valuable resources such as oil and gas in the Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf and economic gain would insist of geopolitical value of these basins.

So, should know those mentioned items as important factors in the country's diplomacy that at any competitive behavior, tension or conflict could preserve national interests, sovereignty rights and national territory in these areas and with finding causality of formation of competition relationships over water resources among the region countries, forms stronger and more efficient diplomacy on the part of our foreign policy. So, because of importance of the issue, this study has attempted to study and analyze hydropolitics challenges of shared basins and at the end explains the causality of these challenges and three factors including lack of comprehensive and transparent international rules, intervention of trans-regional powers and gain economic interests of the major factors shaping the hydropolitics challenges of Iran in shared basins that in the following we look at it.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This article is the type of research and among the descriptive and analytical research and in terms of target, is among the applied research. Information related to this article is mainly based on documentary sources and library.

Hydropolitics

Having clean water for basic human needs and as a civilization factor, we can say that no country without ensuring of having water can preserve political, economic and social stability of itself. Now due to population growth and also improvement of standard of living, per capita water consumption in the world increase and consequently, the lack of safe water supplies in many regions is deeply felt. Excessive harvesting and ground water pollution, exacerbated water shortages and as a result creates social and political tensions in the world, especially countries in arid and semi-arid.

Ratzel, German geographer states his comments about the importance of rivers: "The major rivers such as the Nile, Ganges, Yellow River, Yangtze, Tigris and Euphrates rivers, Tiber, Po, Danube, Elbe, Seine, Times, Hudson, Ohio and Mississippi almost have been the foundation of all fertile coast civilizations."

Huntington, an American geographer, with study of Asia cities, concludes that reduction of the amount of rainfall in the Southwest and Central Asia led to the loss of rivers, streams, springs and wells and has provided gradual destruction of agricultural centers and prosperous and populated areas as far as Saltwater lakes with the lack of import and gradual evaporation of water and limiting its scope, have provided new ways for caravans (Shakouie, 1997:73). According to the United Nations, now one of the most serious problems that the developing countries are facing is related to water supplies, so that the situation of most areas is critical. Of course, problems related to water resources in these areas is in relation to geography, topography and climatic conditions of each area (United Nation, 1995). Due to these issues and the crisis caused by the shortage of water resources, Water has become an important issue in Political geography and branch of Political geography science that deals with this issue, is called hydropolitics. Water is one of the greatest challenges of humanity in this century that could be the source of many positive and negative developments in the world (Camp and Harvey, 2004:165).

Hoggett in his hypothetical model points out twelve factors of tension between hypothetical countries with its neighbors, that at least one-third, means a fourth of these factors depend directly or indirectly on water resources.

These factors are: straight line of water, Border Rivers, river that is focus pool is in one country and its basins in other country. He also knows the Lake and sea borders of tension factors among the country (Rahimi, 1999: 34). gap between water supply and Intensity of demand, creating crisis and based on the hydropolitics theory that is combined of two words of "Water and politics," Now one of the most important human issues and challenges entered to the UN General Assembly and affects international borders (Azzati et al., 2011:95). In other words, Hydropolitics including subsets of political geography that study the role of water in political behaviors at various scales (Mokhtari Hashi, 2013:49). According to the definition of Hafeznia, hydroPolitics study the role of water in the relationships and conflicts of human communities and nations and governments, whether within countries or between them and have dimensions of transnational, regional, global and international (Hafeznia, 2006:102). In another definition, hydropolitics is systematic study of the relationship

between state and non-state actors and other elements such as supra-state institutions about the exclusive use of international waters.

That on the following items is emphasized:

- Study the mutual relationship between state and non-state actors;
- Emphasis on actors and institutions within and outside the governments;
- Efforts to exclusive use of water;

-Ruling various Sovereignty on the rivers that have national and international aspects (Abdi and Mokhtari, 2005:149).

Mojtahedzadeh believes that hydropolitics study the effects of decisions related to water use in the formation of political relations between states and the people, even in a country. Lack of water or allow water to cross the international borders are increasingly affects the political relations between states and their nations, and relations with each other (Mojtahedzadeh, 2002:131).

Water and politics relations at the regional level, policy between country about distribution allocation, control and quality of water resources, which can cause stress or convergence between them. Some knows relations of water and politics at the regional level to express the relationship between water resources and foreign policy that how a country's foreign policy explains supply of water resources (Asgari, 2002:49). Others define hydropolitics the water and politics relations at the regional level which corresponds to the political process among countries about allocation and use of water resources of international rivers shared between countries. To study the relationship between water and policy at the regional level, continuous water resources on both sides of the border are discussed and the main disputes arising from transboundary water resources on the exploitation of water resources and management of rivers basins will be examined (Drayzedel & Bhaik, 1993: 12). Look at a map of the natural geography and political of world shows the mismatch between the political boundaries with the basins, so that today more than 40 percent of the world's population live in areas that the basins between two or more countries are shared and 50 up to 65 percent of each continents of shared basins is formed. Thus, addressing the water issues of shared border is so sensitive and important, and to manage them more than 38,000 statements or convention and about 300 international treaty is drafted and stabilized (Mokhtari Hashi, 128: 2008). Conflicts in the Middle East, South Asia, Central Asia and North Africa over water, are examples of the hydropolitics impact on the tension of state relations with each other. Some countries accept likelihood of conflict over water shortages, but reject it and prefer compete and Effort of the countries around the river to reach a mutual or multilateral agreement for river division on the military conflict (Swain, 2004:770). Type of interaction among nations in the exploitation of the shared water resources, covers a wide range of compatibility and incompatibility up to Conflict and War. Usually in different approaches about hydropolitics on factors such as conflict and collaboration, state acting and presence in international basins is emphasized. Due to the increasing consumption of water in the future and increase the consumption of the upper rivers states in the exploitation of these resources, we are witnessing the increasing hydropolitics disputes between nations (Nami, 2011:61).

The dispute over the quality of water resources and lack of proper water resources, despite the problems related to water quality problems hardly can be solved, in many cases, is the factor of conflict and the dispute between the countries. Also, the absence of international rules and regulations has increased the likelihood of conflict and dispute between countries (Alizadeh, 2004:34). In the last hundred years appropriate legislation on basins management has been adopted globally. Declaration of Madrid (1911), Helsinki guide for Exploitation of shared water (1966 AD), the UN Convention and the Non-navigable law of International Water Resources (1997), among these cases (MianAbadi, 2013:221). Ratified the Convention on the international law of the Sea in 1982, which in 1992 was signed by 154 countries and now is the basis for international cooperation in maritime affairs. As well as the legal system of the Danube River and other maritime jurisdictions such as the Black Sea, an example of the impact of hydropolitics on regional relations (Alizadeh, 2004:23).

III. RESEARCH FINDINGS

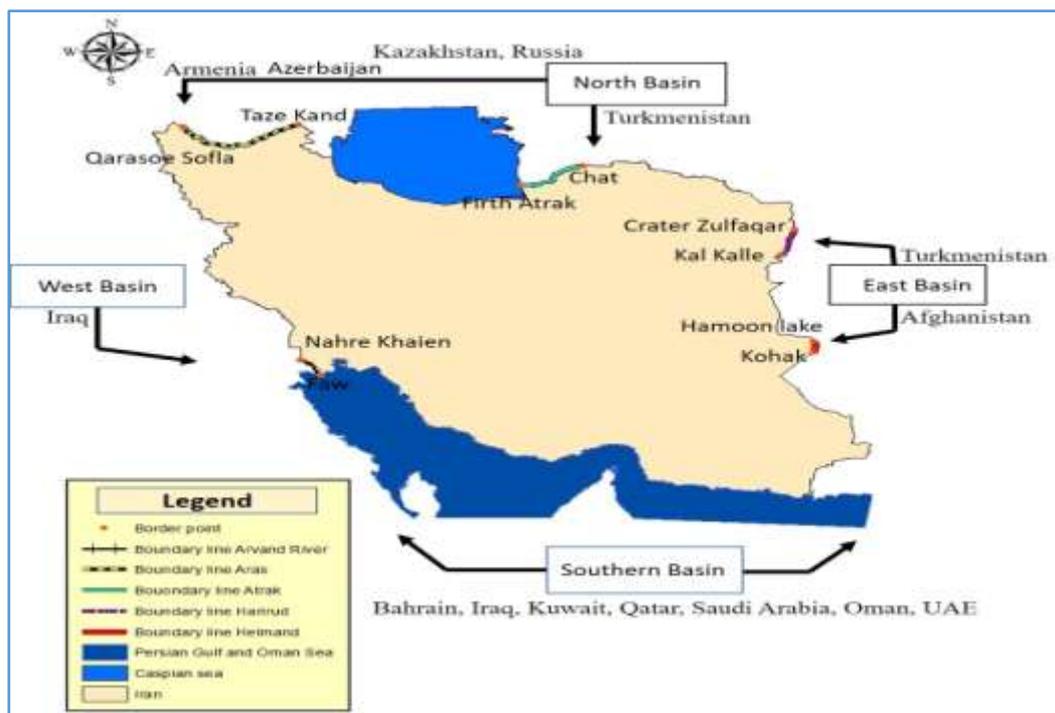
Iran hydropolitics challenges in shared basins

Iran in terms of exposure in the desert belt of world as well as the geographical location is far from high seas, particularly air currents, mostly have dry and rough weather. And this has caused an annual average of rainfall from about 240- 250 mm, does not exceed and this low amount have spatial distribution Heterogeneity, so that only 1 percent of the total area of the country, has rainfall of 1000 mm, while the 28 percent level of country, has annual rainfall less than 100 mm (Movahede Danesh, 2003:87). In a geographical range such as the Islamic Republic of Iran, fresh water as one of the affecting variables on the security in the external area, So that, today, one areas of the world that the politicization of water or in other words hydropolitics obviously proposed and intensified is Middle East.

Middle East have many geopolitical problems and for the hydropolitics issues is one of the critical areas of the world (Nami & Mohammadpor, 2010:133). At present, many countries in the region are faced with

water problems. countries like Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Libya, Egypt, Yemen, Kuwait, Syria, Iran, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. For example, water is Israel's problem

This matter may in the Middle East as an important factor to inflame all-out war is considered, and perhaps for a long time the main engine, but behind the scenes become regional conflicts. As one of the reasons for Israel's assault on Lebanon is to achieve the Litani river (Rahimi, 1999: 34). Iran's Dependency ratios on external sources of water is a factor between 7 and 8 percent. Although this figure is not impressive in terms of national but in regional dimension is crucial. For example, Dependency ratios of Sistan to Helmand is almost 100%, Moghan area along the Aras River nearly 80 percent and Sarakhs area is nearly 90 percent. Iran's exceptional geographical location between the Persian Gulf basin and the Caspian Sea (two important hydrocarbon reserves in the world), and also by looking at river distribution networks can be found, Iran has a special hydropolitics conditions in the region. Map No. 1, shows the status of Iranian Water borders situation at the regional level that in the following, study the hydropolitics status of these basins and challenges formed by them.



Map Number (1) - Iran's water borders (drawing: authors)

East Basin

Helmand: Among the very important hydropolitics issues in the Iran is the Helmand River, which Iran has shared borders with Afghanistan. The two countries due to lack of mutually acceptable agreement, has always been faced with the hydropolitics challenges. Expansion of the Helmand River in the territory of Iran and Afghanistan and being part of the border between the two countries caused the Helmand as an international river is considered. This river originates entirely from Afghanistan, and because of the flatness of the delta part of the river, being part of the river as the border between the two countries, and redirect the river in case of rebellion has created disagreement about the location of the border.

Look at the developments in Iran's relations with Afghanistan shows that Afghans from their upstream position in relation with Iran well utilized and have put pressure on Iran. The main problem of Iran and Afghanistan began when the political leaders of Afghanistan, under the auspices of Great Britain in the early 20th century assumed the Helmand River as a local river and know any use of its water as their exclusive right (Abdi and Mokhtair, 2005:194).

By specifying Iran's borders between Iran and Afghanistan, unfair division of Helmand, has created tension between the two countries. In 1872 AD, by arbitration of Goldsmid, main branch of the Helmand River between borders of two countries were determined. In this division Iran's historical rights were ignored (Mujtahidzade, 1999:389). By changing the context of the Helmand River in 1896, McMahan was appointed to Arbitration. He confirmed Goldsmid path as well as voted for the unjust division of water between Iran and Afghanistan, so that two-thirds of water rights devoted to the Sistan and Afghanistan that was dry and barren and

one – thirds of Helmand water devoted to Iran which was fertile lands (Hafeznia, 2006:327).Iran has not accepted this agreement and always try to be at the bargaining and the signing contracts like the friendship treaty, vadadiye and Taminiyeh treaty, Resolve the created tensions. In 1945, Afghans due to the political situation and the crisis of Iran, for the construction of several dams and canals in various parts of Helmand and its branches in Afghanistan, agreed with the Americans (Mojtahedzadeh, 2002:437).

Water shortage in 1947, caused widespread concern among the public and local authorities in Sistan. Severely of water shortage so much that some people were forced to migrate and entire Zabul was in distress and famine. Afghanistan in 1953, completed Arandab and Kajaki Reservoir dams and by reduction of water of Helmand provoked objections by the Iranian government. With Revolution in Iran in 1978 and the Soviet invasion to Afghanistan led the agreement and all initiatives agreed upon by the two countries to be forgotten. Severe drought in Afghanistan in 1999, causing a complete cessation of Helmand water and drying up Hamoon lakes. Now treaty that cited for Helmand water was the 1972 treaty, that the treaty has been violated several times by the Afghans (Abdi and Mokhtari, 2005:149). Afansatan by locating in the upper part, by justifying the Complete sovereignty of Helmand, has always led Iran to a passive position and irreparable damage include: Drying of Hamoon lake, the migration of Zabol people to cities in northern Iran, leaving a wasteland of agriculture, goods and drugs trafficking, environmental consequences and now have caused the problem of dust in the province.

Harirud: The Harirud River comes from the central mountains of Afghanistan and after crossing the Herat city part of border of Iran and Afghanistan, and also formed about 112 km from the border with Iran and Turkmenistan. Flow of river an average of 2.1 billion cubic meters per year that according to the agreement, 50 percent belong to Iran (Kavyani, 2005:350). Studies on the Harirud River and exploit its Exploitation in 1921, with the signing of the Treaty of Amity between Iran and the Soviet Union began. After the collapse of the Soviet Union and the independence of Turkmenistan, negotiations between the two countries and eventually contract of Further studies of dam construction on Harirud on the tenth of November 1370 between the two countries was closed and executive operations of the dam's construction in the 79 was began and in the April of 84 by the presidents of Iran and Turkmenistan opened. Overall the goals of the dam are:

- storage and regulation of seasonal water of Harirud river and convert a non-permanent water to adjusted flow to use it during the year by 820 million cubic meters;

- supply of drinking water of mashhad to 150 million cubic meters in year of Iran's share of the 410 million cubic meters;

- consolidation of shared borders of Iran and Turkmenistan each year due to severe flooding in the river on the Iranian side that is fertilized agricultural soil and washed away and destroyed, and the position of the border between the two countries on the basis of signed protocols in accordance with the thalweg of rivers, leading into the Iranian and part of Iran soil naturally attached to Turkmenistan, So dam construction and flood control can be very effective at border stabilization.

- supply agricultural water of Sarakhs Plain in Iran and Turkmenistan, each of 25,000 hectares (Azzati et al., 2011:96).

Since the source of Harirud is in Afghanistan, dependency of cities and downstream regions to the water can in crisis and emergencies situations, as Leverage in the hands of Afghanistan be used, and thus by entering Harirud of Iran and Turkmenistan to earn points. Turkmenistan is among the countries that are faced with a shortage of fresh water. Also 98% of the water resources of Turkmenistan is from the outside borders. Population growth and climate change caused Turkmenistan wants to irrigation 60,000 hectares of agricultural land (Micklin, 2002:37). However, it should be noted with the political stability in Afghanistan, the Afghan government will take stronger action to curb its transboundary waters. For example, can noted the construction of Salma Dam on Harirud that in 2007 the cornerstone was laid. Salma dam construction is one of the largest projects in West Afghanistan, concerns of the possibility of dehydration or even drying of the Iranian doosti dam is created.

In this regard, Minister of Energy and Water of Afghanistan, about the Utilization of the Selma dam and concerns for the low-water of doosti dam in Iran insisted that the Selma dam not causing the problems with the water supply of doosti dam that built on Harirud (<http://dari.irib.ir>). But because of the unstable political situation and power interference such as America in Afghanistan, it should be noted that the Afghanistan has unstable diplomacy and have considered these items on political considerations and with prudence and foresight Convert threats into opportunities.

West Basin

Arvandrod: Now from three West sub-basins namely sub-basins of Zab and Sirvan, Alvand, Karkheh and Great Karun of Iran territory around 7.9 billion cubic meters of surface water by rivers such as: Zab, Sirvan,

Changooleh, Ganjanchem, Zikman , Alvand, karkhe flow to Iraq(Nami and Mohammadpour, 2010:133). The most common river border with Iraq is Arvandrood (Shatt al-Arab), with about two billion cubic meters annual flow (Afshin, 1994:258). The Arvandrood River from the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates in Iraq and Karun in Iran is emerged and formed the Iran-Iraq border. The Arvandrood River in 110 kilometers northwest of Abadan, 64 kilometers north of Basra, formed the shared border between the two countries up to a length of 81 km. The amount of water varies in different seasons of the year and its amount is flow of Karun, Tigris and Euphrates. This amount in Rainfall seasons is high, but in Dehydration seasons is reduced. Its flow average at the gharneh of 1200 cubic meters per second (Mirzaee, 2010:70).

Prior to the establishment of the State of Iraq, Iran shares a border with the Ottoman Empire, so Iran borders to the West is the result of treaties and agreements that was signed between the governments of Iran and Ottoman over past centuries. Second Treaty of Erzurum in 1847 AD, for the first time, land and water borders with Iran and its western neighbor precisely defined and determined. Later this treaty was basis of border negotiations between Iran and Iraq and Turkey. And finally, the boundary line in the treaty related to the shared border and good neighborly between Iran and Iraq in 1975, it was found that consists of three protocols, one extensions and four supplementary agreements. Although both country signed Algeria treaty in 1975, however, closing the Arvandrood River since 1980, so far has proven that both countries can live without this border river, but to live without Arvandrood for Iraq is more difficult (Mojtahedzade, March 24, 1995).

Relations between Iran and Iraq as well as the establishment of the state of the third decade of the 20th century because of geopolitics issues has been strained, and with the overthrow of the Baathist regime in Iraq and the formation of a government of the people in this country, the relationship between the two countries are steadily improving. Iraq historically and geographically (natural and human) mostly placed at geographical and civilization area of Iran, So that nearly twenty percent and sixty percent Shiite, along with weaknesses such as lack of access to the sea in connection with political differences between the political systems of the two countries in the past, Iraqi political leaders, especially Saddam Hussein to take a strong "anti-Shiite - anti-Iranian" Position pushed and in less than thirty years imposed war on Iran. Today, according to policy developments in Iraq and securing the rights of the Kurds and the Shiites in the political system converged with Iran, it seems some geopolitics problems such as the protection of ethnic groups from both sides and border problems faded, and for a while be off. But another problem that could affect bilateral relations, is water discussion (Turton, 2002: 36).

Both countries from the perspective of climate have been in the northern temperate zone. The volume of rainfall in Iran is less than Iraq, proximity and cultural and religious commonalities between the two countries has not prevented the conflict between them (Mirzaee, 2010:70). Iraq's access to the open waters of Iran and Kuwait way is possible and the government repeatedly has tried by giving a new definition of the borders with Iran and Kuwait, eliminate the problem (Karimipour, 2001:51). The Iranian government's determination to use water and dam's construction in the country, can decrease the amount of water input to Iraq, and even deviated the rivers leading to Iraq that it would be Stressful between the two countries relationship. Look at the state of water resources in Iraq shows that the country relies heavily on water that flows from Iran, Turkey and Syria to Iraq. Iraq's two main sources of water supply, originate from neighboring countries. Tigris and Euphrates rivers has created concern for Iraqi officials that from Turkey and Syria are closed (Bigdeli, 1989:97). Building dams like Ataturk, Al-Thawra and other projects between Turkey and Syria, has created problems for Iraq and has been part of the national security of this country and the dominance of the two countries of Turkey and Syria on the Tigris and Euphrates with having geo-strategic role, has enabled these countries to some extent impose their views on Iraq.

So, the issue of water and its reduction due to hydraulic operation of neighboring countries or the loss of dams during the war, not only a problem in the field of agriculture, but also in the creation of electrical energy creates damage (Nami and Mohammadpur, 2010:133). According to the rules of international law, Iran's policies that regarding the use of water resources in the basin West should be in the Framework that as dominant country have the satisfaction of poor countries, and not put in strait a poor country. Position of West water projects, can be a promotional tool for the Iranian opposition to give their anti-Iranian propaganda a popular image and use as a means to enable the ethnic divisions on both sides of the border.

So, considering these factors as active factors in the hydropolitics of country could prevent the creation of hydropolitical challenges.

North Basin

Atrak: the length of the Atrak River of its tributaries along the Shah Jahan Mountains in the North Khorasan to the Caspian Sea with a total length of 535 km. The main and internal branches of the Atrak River in the Chaat village with the Sumbar River well-blended and from this point of Iran and Turkmenistan border with the length of 190 km is formed (Bay, 2005:189). Atrak legal regime based on the main provisions of the Convention and border Protocols relating to Aras and Atrak borders rivers after the war between Iran and the

former Soviet Union, has been signed for the period of Russia. In the first agreement that after the formation of the Republic of Turkmenistan, between Iran and the former Soviet Union was held, in "Article 14", of this contract on Atrak River is mentioned: the water of border river around the border between the two side of agreements into two equal parts between Iran and Turkmenistan be divided. Again in 1957, an agreement between Iran and the former Soviet Union, on the shared exploitation of the Atrak River water, the Commission Formation for putting up bars in two borders and monitor the change of river path assigned by the parties that currently, this contract as the basis for legal decisions regarding Iran trans-border rivers with Turkmenistan. In all concluded contracts between Iran and the former Soviet Union, the Russians on guarantee shared exploitation of water flow of the Atrak River to development of downstream land (territory of Turkmenistan) have insisted. We should emphasize that after the independence of the Republic of Turkmenistan, in relation to the legal regime of its rivers border with Iran, has not signed any formal agreement between the parties (Paknejad and Ezzati, 2011: 20). Based on available statistics one billion cubic meters of Turkmenistan required water of two Atrak and the Hirud River that from Iran and Afghanistan entered to the Turkmenistan. As well as other part of the country's water needs of the Amu Darya River which originates in Tajikistan will be provided. So Hydropolitics Role-Playing in Turkmenistan borders with its neighbors, including Iran. Water in northern Iran especially near the borders of Iran with two countries of Turkmenistan and Afghanistan as a Hydropolitical challenge has been considered (Ibid). Also, a lot of agricultural land of Iran in the north of the Golestan province due to lack of sustainable fresh water is not cultivated.

Aras: Aras basin from the beginning to the end will be exploited by the 4 countries. The Aras River basin area of about 10320 square kilometers that 3900 kilometers is Iranian territory. So about 40% of the land area of Aras basin belong to Iran. This river from the mountains border of Min Ghol Dagh that in the southern city of Erzurum Turkey is originated. The length of the Aras River from the origin to the Caspian Sea was about 1072 km that more than half of which are borders of three countries of Iran, Armenia and Azerbaijan respectively. Aras legal regime based on the main provisions of the Convention and Protocols relating to Aras and Atrak trans-border rivers that after the war between Iran and the former Soviet Union, has been signed is related to the period of Russia. After the October Revolution of 1917, the main elements of these contracts are not had any radical change and only some Border minor agreements included in it. In all of these contracts to the borders of Iran and the former Soviet Union, in the border River especially Aras, on the fairness of border line has been emphasized (Paknejad Motaki and Faraji Rad, 2010:79). After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the use of two governments of Armenia and Azerbaijan of Aras border River as the isolated government is more than Iran. Study the position of the neighboring countries and their attitudes towards the use of the Aras River states the hydropolitics of this border river. Turkey as the Upper country that source of Aras is located, have proven that of water in line with its national and political and economic interest's Exploited, and knows it as the means to apply its policies in the region, a work that in the past, about the exploitation of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers to pressure Syria and Iraq have done. Republic of Armenia after independence, based on treaties and protocols that left of the former Soviet Union will act to exploit of the Aras River. This river in development of Yerevan plain that the capital of this republic is located, has an important role. Azerbaijan is based on treaties and protocols in the period before the collapse of the Soviet Union of border the Aras River and built shared water supply facilities at the time of the Russians is used, with the explanation that the population living in Aras River in this republic was low. And this border rivers as the longest and one of the most probe Iranian Trans-border rivers has a very important role in the political-economic development of Ardebil province (the same). Existence of Aras sources in Turkey, and the absence of clear and appropriate legal regime to withdraw from sub-basin of Aras with increasing water demands in Iran could turn the basin as a threat to national security. If with appropriate strategies and solving legal problems with active diplomacy in foreign affairs, appropriate action is not taken, with too much use of water at upstream, hydropolitics of this basin will be in Strait and may shape a hydropolitical challenges in the future. It is essential to say that in this basin has not shape a hydropolitical challenge and even Soviet-Iranian agreement on the peaceful use of Aras is represents a range of hydropolitical cooperation. Hydropolitical cooperation between Iran and the former Soviet Union in the Aras River indicated that disputes over water, could turn out to the regional cooperation and the peaceful uses of water. Construction of Aras Dam on the Aras River, an entering river to the Caspian Sea is a cross-hydropolitical sample that both Iran and Azerbaijan have benefited.

Aras Dam was completed in 1970, irrigate the vast plains of the Magi and produce a significant amount of electricity that is used by both countries (Mojtahedzade, 1995).

Caspian Basin: Caspian Sea, as the largest closed lake (no natural connection with the world's oceans) and salty, northern Iran and among Iran, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Russia and Azerbaijan is enclosed. This sea of Decomposed remains of "Tethys Sea" has emerged in the geological Tertiary and through the Volga-Don channels connected with the Black Sea. Caspian Sea area is five times larger than the largest lake in the world, called "superior" (Ehsandar, 2007:146). Basin area of 386,400 km is introduced and in some source 420,000 square kilometers have written. the length of coastline of the Caspian Sea about 7,000 km to 1,000 km

(from Astara to the Atrak river) part of the Iranian coast, about 2,300 km the coast of Kazakhstan, 1642 kilometers the coast of Turkmenistan, 825 km the coast of Azerbaijan and 695 km is the coast of Russia (Dagestan 490 km, "Kalmykia" 110 km, Astrakhan 95 km) (Ahmadipour 2000:96). With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the emergence of the newly independent country within its margin as well as the discovery of oil and gas in the Caspian region, emerging countries want to determine ownership and determining their delimitation to exploitation of the seabed and subsoil sources of the Caspian Sea independently. In this regard, the legal basis of the Caspian Sea to the emergence of three other countries on the sidelines in recent years, as the vital and economic area and one of the most important strategic areas of the world, causing regional disputes and competition and Caspian Coastal states each one has offered specific comments on the legal system of this sea. legal regime of the Caspian Sea is Multi-dimensional and complex subject, that after the collapse of the Soviet Union and rose its neighbors to five country its complexity has increased. of 180 countries that in the world have way to the sea, all of them have identified their homework and only case that in the history of the Political - geography of the world sea still unresolved is Caspian Sea (Mojtahedjadeh, 2008: 72). Different views suggest that the dividing system of the Caspian Sea to the legal nature of the regime on the one hand and requirements of economic and ... on the other depends. The legal regime of other examples of political and security interests in the Caspian Sea that are affected by competing powers over economic interests and energy. While there has no agreement on Caspian Sea's legal structure and How to exploit of sea resources, some countries actively to explore and extract oil from the sea with foreign companies have entered into the transaction. Taking into account the different views of countries on the demarcation of the sea of each of the 5 countries, such unilateral activities in some cases led to tension (Firouzian, 2009: 24). The region's energy resources and its developments on the orientation of these security components and draw the demarcation between the powers in this area have a major impact. Firstly because, Caspian energy carriers has the primary and fundamental role in the presence of trans-regional great power in this region, And secondly, actions taken by the major foreign powers to manage the security parameters, such as counter-terrorism, Islamism and intervention to resolve territorial disputes based on ethnicity and race is justification for the transportation of energy resources of the Caspian Sea at a cost lower than the energy market.

Southern Basin

Persian Gulf Basin: Persian Gulf in terms of the geopolitical and strategic is one of the most important and most sensitive regions of the world. Due to the discovery and export of oil, there are vast energy reserves as well as changes in the Political systems, economic and consequently security in the region, was in the spotlight of most of the power. Iran in Persian Gulf basin, with Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman and the United Arab Emirates, has common borders.

Persian Gulf countries in terms of geographical features and having weather, climate, land area, in some cases, have differences. And freshwater resources in these countries doesn't have favorable situation. And measures such as buying water from other countries such as Kuwait from Iran, the use of desalination devices by Saudi Arabia, is a sign of water shortage in the region (Mahkobi et al., 2014:133).

Persian Gulf, which is mainly include countries that with issues and political, social and economic and structural problems are facing. This structural backwardness underlying insecurity and instability in the region. This issue gives foreign players the opportunity to play a leading role in the Persian Gulf region. Foreign agent with its direct presence, plays a major role in the region, and this is the consequence of the internal situation in the region. In the wake of World War II and the rise of the damages and the costs of war and domination of America in the world, the need for attention to the region were on the agenda of Washington politicians. In the early days of industrialization and the second half of the twentieth century gradually the role of oil in global energy supply increased and now has first ranks in the world's energy security.

The importance of the Persian Gulf for Americans is because:

- Persian Gulf region has the largest oil reserves;
- Persian Gulf Strategically, sequence the Indian Ocean
- Persian Gulf with the Arab-Israeli conflict is bonded
- Feel threatened by Area of Political Islam in the countries of the region and its increasing trend;
- Dependency of West Industrial wheels on oil transit security in this region (Zolfaghari, 2007:56).

In the Persian Gulf, Iran is faced with three problems. These three issues are: America efforts and its Arab allies in the region to create a new military balance that leads to its obvious military superiority over Iran and Iraq; creating security system for Persian Gulf on the initiative of the America and with Cooperation of countries of Persian Gulf Council, Egypt and Syria and without Iran and Iraq participation, show signs of effort to change the political geography of the region. The most notable example of such efforts, perhaps UAE Arabic efforts in 1992 on claims of sovereignty and ownership of the islands of Tunb and Abu Musa, which since 1971 after a long negotiation with Great Britain, on behalf of the United Arab Emirates were provided to Iran (Mojtahedzade, March 24, 1995). The legal regime governing the Persian Gulf, is the international legal regime

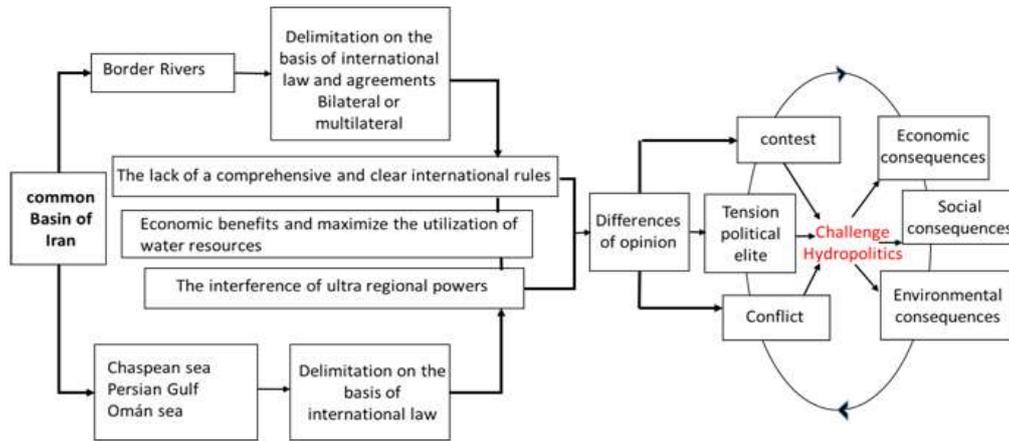
of the sea. And accordingly, Iran has designated its maritime border in the south, so that its maritime borders with Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman has defined and established, but its borders with the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Iraq is still undefined and unclear and their delimitation with respect to the development of bilateral disputes, seems to be difficult problem. Also the Iranian border in the Sea of Oman, the boundaries of exclusive - economic zone of Iran and Pakistan, despite holding rounds of talks between legal authorities of Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the two countries and signing an agreement still undecided and is not approved by the regulatory authorities of the two countries (Hafeznia, 2008:347). An example of positive hydro-politics in basin of the Persian Gulf can be Iran and Qatar agreement to establish a water supply pipe for the transfer of 10 cubic meters of water per second from the Karun River to Kuwait.

IV. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Considering the importance of Iran hydro-politic in regional level is the most important. Because its negative effects have been more than positive effects and formed hydro-politics challenges, has put Iran in pressure. The overall consequences of these hydro-politics challenges can be summarized in the following factors:

Human consequences: economic and social consequences that hydro-politics challenges is formed, have been brought irreparable damage to the Iran, especially in Sistan-Baluchistan province. The most important form of Hydro-politics challenge that show itself in the form of dehydration and lack of confidence in the water, primarily makes an agricultural society put aside their land and leave their jobs, consequently livestock jobs also trimmed, as a result, the unemployment rate was increasing. So, creation of phenomenon such as migration, drug and goods smuggling is not far-fetched. As a result of cutting off Helmand Water, most Sistani villagers, have lost their jobs and widespread Sistani migration to North Khorasan and eastern shores of the Caspian Sea took place and engaging in negative economic activities have been followed. Economic and social consequences may occur in Helmand and Aras basin because of heavy reliance on the water resources. Also, can note the eight-year Iraqi imposed war on Iran with the excuse of ownership of Tom Shatt al-Arab that economic and human losses is no secret to anyone. Also, Uncertainty of Iran Maritime boundaries in the Caspian Sea and some Persian Gulf states led to the undecided status of resource exploitation within it that if exploit them involves economic interests.

Environmental consequences: degradation of the environment caused social gaps and will create new forms of Ethnic and religious conflicts, especially in areas where there is a dispute over land or ownership and control of resources will heavily affect, an example of this differences in Sistan-Baluchistan due to wrong policies of resource management by Afghanistan is occurred. Prominent examples of it, is drying up Hamon lakes. Drying Hamon and succession drought alongside the release of agricultural land has caused the phenomenon of Desertification is formed, that one of the most important effects is dust that has severely constrained the Sistan and Baluchistan province. As well as industrial pollution arising from the activities of the states of the Caspian Sea, threatened status of Caspian in terms of environmental and is causing concern in the international level. Indiscriminate Loss of oil waste arising from the Exploitation of the wells located in the sea and refineries activity of Baku area, this part of the Caspian Sea is one of the most polluted sea areas of the world. It is estimated that in the 60s, a million tons of oil in the Caspian Sea has been abandoned. Reach agreement on a regional level for various reasons such as differences of opinion between countries, economic interests, the intervention of trans-regional powers, Structural weaknesses of Countries in the region, distrust of governments to each other and need bargaining power and strong diplomacy, What is necessary is that Iran should in its foreign policy to adopt diplomacy that demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of all the issues in the shared basins with neighboring countries. Thus, with knowledge of the causality of hydro-politics challenges that Iran is faced so far, reaching a comprehensive and efficient solution is much easier, and emphasize active participation of Iran diplomacy in the international community. Model 1 shows a Hydro-political challenges forming process of Iran in the region.



Model 1 - Iran hydropolitical challenges in the shared basin (drawn from the authors)

And finally based on what we've discussed, Iran hydropolitical challenge at the regional level is due to the following three basic elements:

1. The lack of a clear international legal regime and acceptable agreement, in determining the maritime borders: So far, laws, treaties and different resolutions in the areas of Exploitation and demarcation of the shared basins Borders is adopted, but in some cases because of some ambiguities and problems in terms of these rules, as the reference law in the fair Exploitation discussion of shared basins have not accepted. As well as the international community over comprehensive and efficient international law and management of water resources have not reached a consensus. Countries to achieve sustainable state are forced to bilateral or multilateral agreements with its neighbors, that at this stage may be the country with the more power of diplomacy, earn more points for itself, or like Iraq, despite the determination of the boundary line in the Alvandrood, not accepted and claims total sovereignty and form conflict Pattern. It can also refer to the legal regime of the Caspian Sea that due to specific geographical features and five countries around it with different views, hardly can act according to the "international law of the seas" in determining the delimitation of territorial waters of countries. It can be argued that the basic problems of law and international agreements is diverse and natural characteristics of the basins. So that each basin has its natural geographical features and achieving comprehensive legislation that be efficiency for all the basins is very difficult and will not be devoid of tension issues, as some other factors such as historical territorial claims, the existence of natural resources such as oil and gas, economic interests and... will increase the complexity. Therefore, it is necessary each country to protect the interests of its territorial, and reach the most desirable in the exploitation of water resources in the shared basin, increase its political participation in the international arena. Iran also with a thorough and comprehensive knowledge of shared basins in all fields, including geographical features, natural and land, human, environmental and finally all quantitative and qualitative characteristics, increase its presence and participation in the international arena and try to preserve and protect the national interests and its territorial and be active as a member of international organizations, Hydropolitics challenges through the establishment of appropriate management structures in the Exploitation of shared basins with Macro planning and Realistic, based on international cooperation and using all the features and capabilities, will be turned into opportunities.

2. Maximum use of opposition of water resources and available source, from the political units regardless of territorial rights and the environment: In addition to the legal issue of shared basins, economic and commercial issues is involved. The economic ambitions of some of the neighboring countries of Iran, and one-sided contracts of America and other countries with regional governments on oil and gas and construction of dams and canals, is made legal explanation of shared basins more complicated; Because the legal issue with political issues, international, geographic, and etc is related. Afghanistan by using too much of Helmand basin, causing irreparable damage to the economic, social and environmental of Iran. Despite the oil resources and economic benefits of the states of Caspian Sea, each trying to support the view that the greatest benefit is for them. So, get a full and dominant view of the Caspian Sea has been delayed. Construction of Salma dam on Harirud by the Afghanistan, with the aim of further exploitation of hydropower and water, certainly in the future will affect drinking water of Mashhad. The existence of shared oil resources in the territory of Iran and Kuwait cause the situation of the land of the two countries in the Persian Gulf remain uncertain. UAE also claims sovereignty of the Iranian islands with the Supporting of trans-regional powers, put its border situation with Iran in unknown state. Therefore, it is necessary for all countries within the framework of its national interests to the territory of each country in accordance with international law and the historical rule and concluded obligations, and

environmental consequences arising from the utilization and management of water resources as a global issue, consider it as one of the most important principles in their diplomacy.

3-Intervention of trans-regional powers like America:

The presence of foreign powers, especially the United States of America, has put the political pressure on Iran in the areas of water. America's policy is to limit Iran. The policy that tirelessly neutralize Iranian natural influence in the region

So that can be said America from the smallest political differences between countries get the full advantage to limit Iran. In all cases, cause further complication of situation and the formation of the hydropolitics challenges . For example, refer to the following:

-Financial support by America and the former Soviet Union for Helmand projects with the aim of attract satisfaction of the Afghan;

-In the critical political situation that Iran have in the 1320s, Americans for the construction of several dams and canals in different parts of Helmand and its branches in Afghanistan Reached an agreement;

-lack of considering of iran complaints to international bodies on the subject of water diversion channels of Helmand by afghanistan, from government of America;

-concluding contracts such as the Caspian states such as Azerbaijan with topics of energy and exploration of oil wells and with America and oil contracts has complicated the delimitation situation of the Caspian Sea;

-Most presence of trans-regional powers seen in the Persian Gulf.The invasion of Kuwait by Iraq and create pretexts for America's military forces to the Persian Gulf, encourage UAE to claims sovereignty over the Iranian islands, the political controversy between Arabs and attack Saudi Arabia to Qatar, The formation of nationalist thinking such as Pan-Arabism and expression "Arab Gulf" instead of "Persian Gulf" all America politics to transform the political face of iran in the Middle East and being pragmatic ofthis face.

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