

Foreign Policy Based on Development and Education (Iran Case Study)

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ABSTRACT

In development-oriented foreign policy, the principle is based on cooperation and coordination in the field of international relations. However, the originality of cooperation in this policy, as it avoids tension and confrontation with the international system, does not mean commitment and acceptance of the status quo in the international arena. Rather, it uses international rules and creates a purposeful consensus with neighboring countries and moves in the direction of interests and goals of the country. Thus, the main question of the article is based on why countries, especially Iran, adopt a development-oriented foreign policy? The research hypothesis is based on the fact that all countries in the direction of economic growth and expansion of their political activities are turning to development-oriented foreign policy. However, the Islamic Republic of Iran, according to its national strategy, which is development-oriented according to its 20-year vision document, has therefore considered development-oriented foreign policy as its beacon in relation to other countries.

Keywords: Foreign Policy, Development, Iran, Economic Relations, Political Relations.

Introduction

After the end of the Cold War, many governments went through the process of preserving their territorial integrity and political system and introduced foreign policy into the process of generating wealth and economic power. In an article examining the concept of power and the performance of foreign policy, Dr. Mahmoud Sari al-Qalam clearly points out the differences between China and Iran considering the foreign policy: "The Chinese seem to see power more as the production of wealth and economic activity, and pursue

their foreign policy goals accordingly, while in Iran power is still defined as the preservation of territorial integrity." (Tishe Yar, 2016: 48)

The vision document states that in 2025 Iran is a developed country with the first scientific, economic and technological position in the region. It may at first be thought that this document is an ambitious one in the current situation of the country; But considering the facilities and strategic position of the country, skilled manpower, number of professors, researchers and scientists, rich resources of this land, this goal is achievable. Although unfortunately we did not have the desired growth and acceleration in the implementation of the fourth plan, but it must be said that this shortcoming can be compensated in the next plans. The vision document is accessible if we focus all our efforts on achieving this goal in the next five-year plan. If the goal according to this document is the development of the country, and if the national goal is to be first among the countries of the region in terms of science, technology and economy, that is, among the 25 countries in the region, then our foreign policy must be development-oriented. Iran is a country in a very sensitive region, which this region unfortunately has been turbulent in recent decades and has faced many problems, but at the same time it is a very important and influential region. On the other hand, we face a world in which the great powers are very influential, although the role of these powers and actors is changing. In recent decades, we have witnessed dramatic changes in the world and in the region. Therefore, adopting a development-oriented foreign policy in relation to these countries can create a better horizon of political and economic relations and growth and development in relation to these countries with Iran.

Theoretical Framework

The theory of world systems is a single-disciplinary and macro-scientific approach to world history and social change that emphasizes the world system as the main unit of historical developments. The world in this approach does not mean the planet or the whole world; rather, the "world system" is an analytical unit composed of a large number of people in a wide geographical area with the focus on a system of division of labor; thus, contrary to popular theories in the social sciences, it does not consider government, society, or a social formulation as a unit of analysis. Following this analytical approach, several different theories are presented. According to Wallerstein, it is incorrect to assume that the analytical approach to the world system is a school or theory base on the common social sciences. Rather, it is a single-discipline alternative to the current social sciences. The most famous developers of this approach are Immanuel Wallerstein, Samir Amin, Giovanni Arrighi, Janet Abu-Lughod, Fernand Braudel, Andre Gunder Frank, William H. McNeill and Andrey Korotayev, who often have leftist and anti-capitalist views. (Su, 1999: 211)

The theory of world order emerged in the 1970s as the new issues of the historical forms of world government. Immanuel Wallerstein, the founder of this theory, said that inter-social governance is an important feature of human history. In particular, he distinguished between world economies and world empires, and provided historical insights into their distinct political and economic dynamics. According to him, the trajectory of the world empire is determined by the ultimate loss of its "power" to sustain a vast empire from a single political center, while the trajectory of the world economy is more dynamic because it is determined by competitive relations between many governments. Wallerstein developed the concept of a new world order to participate in the debate over the rise of "capitalism" (Wadiyeh, 2017: 51).

This approach emphasizes the division of interregional and transnational labor, according to which the world is divided into three regions, core, semi-periphery and periphery. Production in the core countries is done with high skill and using capital, but in other countries of the world it is done with less skill and using labor and it is more limited to the extraction of raw materials. This causes the core states to dominate other countries. However, the expansion of communications and transportation has made this situation dynamic, and the position of countries may change over time. There is always a country that becomes trans-global (global hegemony). In the past centuries, the Netherlands had such a position, but after a while, it gave its position to Britain, and then in previous years, the United States took over this position. (Saei, 2009: 64)

In a structural analysis, Wallerstein's theory can be seen as a modified, and reformed form of Marxist sociology of social class. This theory seeks to prove the hypothesis that the bourgeoisie in the central societies, states, and economic and political systems exploits and plunders the working class of "peripheral" societies.

As we will consider, Wallerstein emphasizes in the development of this theory that in addition to the "core" and the "periphery" there is another vast area called the "semi-periphery" which includes new emerging powers - such as Japan and Russia - and old declining powers such as Spain and Austria - Hungary. Wallerstein derives the concept of center and periphery from the theory of dependence; at the same time, on the one hand, it uses the relationship between the center and the periphery to understand the developments of the center, and on the other hand, it adds the concept of quasi-periphery to the conceptual classification of dependency theory. (Griffiths, 2009: 986)

Foreign policy

The beginnings of foreign policy field were usually sparked by three main sources: James Rosena's article entitled "Pre-Theories and Theories of Foreign Policy", Richard Snyder et al., " The Decision-Making Approach to the Study of International Politics", and Harold and Margaret Sprout's book, "The Suitable Human Hypotheses - The International Environment". Although, behavioral patterns and interactions in international politics should be evaluated in the context of foreign policy of various actors, but neglect and inattention to this field of study has led to a lack of sufficient and comprehensive explanations of foreign policy. (Ghavam, 2013: 231)

Regarding foreign policy, several definitions have been mentioned, including: actions that are defined as goals, instructions and commitments, and the officials of countries in the form of community representatives are trying to implement it in the foreign sphere (Moshirzadeh, 2015: 141). In another definition, foreign policy is a set of actions that governments take beyond their borders to achieve short-term and long-term goals (Keshavarz Shokri, 2013: 78). Another type of foreign policy definition includes a set of pre-designed strategies or actions that are made by government decision-makers with the aim of achieving specific goals within the framework of national interests and the international environment (Babaei, 2004: 215). In a general sense, foreign policy is a guide to the actions that a state takes beyond its borders in order to advance its goals in relation to government actors.

James Rosena distinguishes three concepts of foreign policy. In his view, a foreign policy concept is a set of commitments and plans to administrate, that include explicit strategies, real decisions, and tangible policies that are manifested when communicating with the outside world. He also defines the concept of foreign policy as an orientation in which he believes that foreign policy is the result of attitudes, perceptions and values that are the result of historical experiences, traditions in a society, culture and strategic circumstances. Finally, he defines another level of foreign policy as behavior and believes that foreign policy is the same behavior of governments in the field of international environment that is the result of the previous two levels. (Abedi Ardakani, 2019: 439)

Development

Development literally means gradual growth to become more advanced, more powerful, and even bigger. "Development should be defined in terms of progress towards welfare goals such as poverty reduction, unemployment and inequality," stated Brookfield. In general, development is a process that brings with it a reorganization and a different orientation of the entire socio-economic system. In addition to improving output and income, development involves fundamental changes in institutional, social, and administrative structures, as well as the views and attitudes of the general public. Development can be seen as a normative concept because it involves the selection, training, and assignment of values and norms in society. These things have an existential priority over the development strategy and act as the foundation from which the development derives. (Rezaei, 2003: 45)

Furthermore, development can be thought of as a dynamic and objective process in order to change current social realities into more desirable societies. To achieve such a goal, qualitative changes must take place in the existing behavior, social structure, economic organization and political process. This definition is characterized by the definition of the value principles of development and its priority over development strategy. (Ghaffari, 2011: 122)

Moreover, it is stated that development deals with the voluntary actions of human beings and the norms and social institutions created by them. The voluntary actions of human beings and the norms and patterns of their social action have the necessary carnal principles and motivations, and the intellectual, cultural, and psychological features of the people involved in the process of development play a key role in creating development. Additionally, as long as individuals' intellectual backgrounds, beliefs, and values do not change, they will never change, either quantitatively or qualitatively.

Therefore, one of the factors in the emergence of development is cultural change. Some thinkers recognize the cultural requirements of development considering several things: being scientific and non-superstitious nature of culture, collective disciplinary, respect for work, respect for equal opportunities for all, and the belief that the enjoyment of material life is reasonably necessary for human excellence, although poverty does not cause shame, but does not bring honor and freedom to all. Thus, considering what has been stated so far, it is possible to provide a relatively accurate definition of development from a sociological point of view that is appropriate to the conditions of all developed and developing societies. "Development is a social process based on the rationality of action, in which society passes from an irrational and undesirable state to a rational and desirable state." (Jahanian, 1998: 10)

The role of education in development

Growth and development in different countries depend on the sustainable development of those countries, so achieving sustainable development requires planning at every economic, political, social, cultural and humanistic level. However, as one of the components of sustainable development, human beings are in the center of attention and need education. Considering the fact that education is also one of the components of sustainable development, so education in general and education in particular can play an effective role in sustainable development. In fact, education, as the most fundamental institution in society, is the main and undoubted factor in the comprehensive development of the country. Education and development have a two-way relationship, on the one hand, education is the bedrock of development; on the other hand, development requires a fundamental change in the education system. Therefore, it is necessary for every society that thinks about sustainable development to put the desired education at the top of its programs. (Sharipour, 2011: 12)

Since the role of education is clear in almost all societies, and considering the fact that governments have paid attention to the material dimension of this important institution for many years, they paid less attention to how to improve its quality in order to develop society. However, the concept of development is one of the most important concerns of society nowadays, and in terms of addressing this issue seriously, it is very significant considering both educational and developmental issues. Accordingly, it seems that education in developing countries will contribute to development if it has the following characteristics.

- ✓ Teaching skills related to life and job
- ✓ Fostering creativity and innovation
- ✓ Strengthening perceptual skills
- ✓ Ability of decision-making skills

Any educational system that does not have the above characteristics is non-developmental education and cannot lead to sustainable development which is based on constructive and evolutionary interaction with nature and other human beings.

Development-oriented foreign policy

Development-oriented foreign policy originates from globalization, and therefore it causes, geo-economics, geopolitics and geostrategy to become important in the mentioned component, namely economics. In the second case, it should be noted that development-oriented foreign policy is not a complex and idealistic concept, but on the other hand, it is the product of years of efforts to counter traditional economic diplomacy. In the latter case, however, it should be noted that development-oriented foreign policy is the final product of the political economy which believe interior issues. (Lahoutian, 2016: 70)

However, economic diplomacy in the modern sense is a new, efficient and advantageous concept considering the relations between countries. Nowadays, it can be said that the era of traditional governments is over and the economic parameters and indicators of the national economy play a role in the economic negotiations of governments. Economic diplomacy in the era of globalization teaches us that economic and diplomacy, and in other words economists and diplomats, are important actors for countries. Therefore, in the Islamic Republic of Iran, this important issue should be considered in the field of implementation after structural evolution. Development-oriented foreign policy in this regard must first be seen in the minds of foreign policy agents and finally in the practice of these institutions. It should be borne in mind that in order to get out of the current situation of the Iranian society, the developmental foreign policy towards the neighbors is of increasing importance. (Sari al-Qalam, 2011: 55)

Developmental foreign policy in the current world

Since the international position, prosperity, security and power of any nation in the coming years depend on the entry, presence and participation of that nation in the globalization space, and at the same time the necessary condition for playing a role in this space depends on the level of development of each country; thus, there is no escaping except entering into this two-way relationship. The relationship in which, on the one hand, development is a necessary condition for entering the space of globalization with the aim of gaining welfare, wealth, security and power for citizens and the nation, and on the other hand, the significant condition for moving in the direction of development will be entering the space of globalization. Moreover, it is the foreign policy that must establish a synergistic link between these two significant issues in a desirable and constructive way. (Mousavi, 2008: 24)

In the current global context, achieving sustainable and increasing self-confidence and freedom of action in the international arena will occur mainly based on the level of development of the country. In the age of globalization, a country can gain its worthy freedom of action, self-esteem, and international status, and improve its independence (in the sense of freedom of action) and the well-being of its people, and maintain its national security in a way that has a high level of development, or moves in a continuous and rapid step towards sustainable development. More importantly, developmental experiences around the world and in various developing countries show that in the context of globalization, the possibility of implementing introverted national development programs based on self-sufficiency and self-reliance is very low. (Waezi, 2008: 87)

On the other hand, successful models of development among developing countries have depended on extroverted development and the use of global resources and facilities (and overcoming barriers and international threats). This type of development requires constructive connection and interaction with the world to create peace, stability and security of the surrounding environment toward economic development and the use of international facilities. In the current world, the goal of maintaining independence / freedom of action / self-esteem is achieved through developmental tools based on constructive interaction with the world; therefore, this issue requires a dynamic balance between national development programs and the

requirements of the international system. Additionally, creating the stated interaction and balance between the internal and external levels of the country is also closely related to the issue of systemic authority. (Shirzadi, 2011: 51)

As mentioned earlier, at the international level, especially in the period after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, we have witnessed the globalization of development and welfare as the dominant aspect of the current international system. To the extent that we can consider pervasive change in the foundations of various systems in the age of globalization and claim that the path of global change is progressing in such a way that governments are significantly able to move towards development, prosperity and continuous progress based on national authority and security. In the context of globalization, the people of different countries think more than anything else about achieving prosperity and securing their future through sustainable development. (Imani, 2017: 40)

This puts a lot of pressure on governments that base their policies on something other than development. In the current world, the people of the world, especially Iran, in the context of the process of globalization are always comparing their economic and welfare conditions with other countries that are rapidly following the path of economic development by focusing on extroverted development and linking their destiny with the global economy, those countries which are rapidly on the path of economic development and achieving sustainable prosperity and stabilizing their foundations, and seeking to increase their degree of freedom of action, self-esteem and national security in the international arena through development. Accordingly, the need for connection with development has become more apparent in the context of globalization, and the country's growth and dynamism have become dependent on extroverted development. In addition to physical, human and social resources, institutional and structural transformation, and foreign trade which means "efficient foreign policy" are among those factors that are considered in development nowadays. Additionally, in isolation and separation from the world, there is basically no possibility of development. The international system, contrary to our expectations, has a more significant economic aspect, and at the same time, a lot of economic potential that can be achieved with a little ingenuity and expediency. (Rezaei, 2013: 45)

Conclusion

Developmental foreign policy originated from globalization and has therefore made geo-economics, geopolitics and geostrategy important in politics and economics. It should also be noted that development-oriented foreign policy is not a complex and idealistic concept, but on the other hand is the product of years of efforts to counter traditional economic diplomacy. In the latter case, it should be noted that development-oriented foreign policy is the final product of the political economy which believe interior issues. Economic diplomacy in the modern sense is a new, efficient and advantageous concept considering the relations between countries. In the current world, the people of the world, especially Iran, in the context of the process of globalization are always comparing their economic and welfare conditions with other countries that are rapidly following the path of economic development by focusing on extroverted development and linking their destiny with the global economy, those countries which are rapidly on the path of economic development and achieving sustainable prosperity and stabilizing their foundations, and seeking to increase their degree of freedom of action, self-esteem and national security in the international arena through development. Accordingly, the need for connection with development has become more apparent in the context of globalization, and the country's growth and dynamism have become dependent on extroverted development. In addition to physical, human and social resources, institutional and structural transformation, and foreign trade which means "efficient foreign policy" are among those factors that are considered in development nowadays. It should be noted that, in isolation and separation from the world, there is basically no possibility of development. Thus, adopting a development-oriented foreign policy for the Islamic Republic of Iran in relation to these countries of the world can create a better horizon of political and economic relations, growth and development in relation to these countries with Iran.

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