

Geopolitical regions of Southwest Asia based on civilization variable

Ebrahim Roumina* - Assistant Professor of Political Geography, Tarbiat Modares University, Tehran, Iran

Received: 16/04/2014

Accepted: 09/11/2014

Abstract

South-West Asia, the most common theories is the world as part of the Middle East. Limits the term is unclear or there is no consensus. While South-West Asia, is a geographical term that refers to the part of Asian countries and political units of the Southwest are included.

This part of Asia is a large region based on different variables, is comprised of several distinct regions. Study based on cultural and Civilization factors, several regions the region's geopolitical and political units combined and a single political unit that is shared between each of these regions, there is geopolitical hierarchy. In each of the geopolitical regions in South-West Asia, intra-regional competition and competition between regions neighboring a region with no longer there, Therefore this kind of competition is reflected in the behavior of social - cultural and Civilization regions appears.

This article is a descriptive - analytic study using a documentation data gathering method, tries to analyze the geopolitical regions South-West Asia and geopolitical relationships prevailing each of these regions is based on cultural and Civilization variables.

Keywords: Southwest Asia, Geopolitical regions, Civilization.

*E-mail: e.roumina@modares.ac.ir

Introduction

Geopolitical structure of the world into four levels: local (within the country), national level, regional level and spherical has been established. Each of the levels, characteristics, territory, nature, and their specific functions.

Among these levels, national independence and sovereignty of the country because of the originality and strong and plays a major role in shaping the other levels. National level as well as organic and systemic relationship with other levels and rates directly with the interaction of the supra and infra (Hafeznia, 2004: 57).

The difference between national and supranational level in the national territory in the sense that the correlation component is important. While the international level in the form of non-territorial system is based on a global actors based on their interests, their actions are regulated (Abi.Saab, 1995: 92). With the view of power relations, geopolitical structure explains, power systems, power levels and structures relation with each other (Hafeznia, 2010: 1).

Geopolitical regions are formed based on geographic region. The resulting geopolitical geostrategic region is divided into the realms global geopolitical structure of the theory proposed by "Saul B. Cohen » (Taylor & Flint, 2000:371) has referred to this realm.

Cohen, in his theory, geopolitical structure has divided the world into the realms geostrategic sea and land. In theory, the two regions land territory and Marine territory is divided into six geopolitical regions (Cohen, 1994: 28).

Different definitions presented in association with the relevant scholars that the often noted is the definition of geographic factors (Hettne & Others, 2000: XX-XXI). Some of the definitions below:

- 1- regions following: a group of neighboring countries in a geographic range that usually have a common economic and political institutions (Nel & MCGowan: 1999:328).
- 2- regions following: The area is somewhat limited and relative structural unity has to be distinguished from other areas. This area is not closed and is

constantly evolving by different actors (Jones, 2004:174).

Various theories have rather different ideas as compared to those regions. Below are some of the ideas in functionalist theory, dependency theory and neo-functionalist theory is given.

Functionalism theory of regional integration: According to this theory, the complexity of political systems, have increased their non-political tasks. Thus, political unity is a process in which political integration as a condition that is realized. Unity increase or strengthen existing links between the constituent units is a system (Wolf, 1973:351-355).

Dependency theory: Carl Deutsche analyzes its integration theory; national political unit formed to evaluate the flow of communication and exchange within the unit and between the unit and the external world depends upon it. Deutsche's view of itself in relation to the formation of a security community has used different conditions for the formation of such a society is necessary. He was under the influence of different factors are important for the formation of a regional integration. That includes the compatibility of shared values, there is a distinct lifestyle; expected to achieve common interests, political and administrative abilities Member, Member, economic growth and the emergence of a strong central parts of the region are relatively weak gathered around them, the coherence of the communication increased political elite, and a plurality of exchanges and communications (Dougherty & Phaltzgraff, 2006: 666-686).

Neo-functionalism theory in the process of regional integration in theory decides to go against consensus or integration depends on the fact that the major parties forming the integration perspective and see it as beneficial or harmful. Neo-functionalism and neo-functionalism is one of Joseph Nye's model is based on the concept of "making work process" and "capacity" is based on the integration. The framework is based on a neo-functionalist approach is based on neo-functionalism and believes in the literature, there are seven operating process. The basis of this approach, re-conceptualization and

formulation of the theory of neo-functionalism is paid. The seven practice process includes:

- Graft function or functions of the extended horizontal - vertical;
- Increasing exchanges;
- Intentional linkages and coalitions;
- Socialization of elites;
- Establishment of regional groups;
- Gravity ideological and identity;
- The foreign actors in the integration process (Gehrin, 1996: 227-236 & Dahlberg, 1970: 122-128).

Problem

The research problem is: do the areas in the South West Asian civilization there? Finally, the structural model of the power in each of the areas mentioned what follows is a hierarchy?

The research question:

The main question:

What geopolitical region in South-West Asia there?

Sub-questions:

- 1- based on cultural variables - South West Asia What are the geopolitical region civilization?
- 2- each of the geopolitical region South-West Asia, the regional structure of the model to follow?

Hypotheses:

geopolitical region southwestern Asia, including three Arab civilization, Iranian civilization and Turanian civilization. Two countries, Iraq and Pakistan combined civilizations, Armenia, Georgia, Israel, with a single civilization in South West Asia.

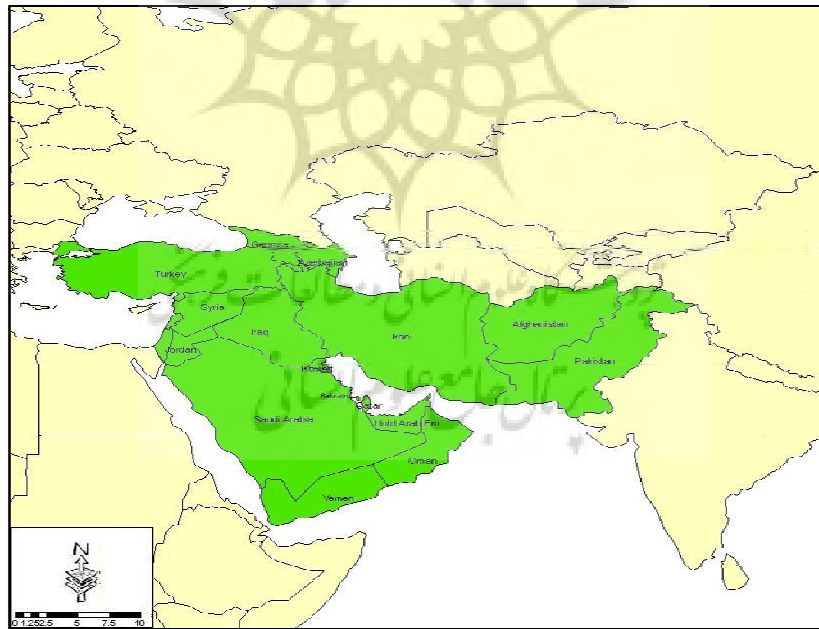
In the Arab region and Turan, the three-level structure of power. First-

class power in the Arab region, Saudi Arabia. The first power-Turanian region, Turkey. Iranian area, surface structure, there are two first-class power, Iran. Cultural units - Civilization combination of neighboring civilizations are competing in a single political unit, Armenia, Israel and the Jews are carriers of Armenian civilization. Georgia continued Christian civilization in this part of Asia.

Environmental Studies Research

In a geographical arguments, South West Asia, consisting of 19 countries, including Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Georgia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, UAE(United Arab Emirates), Yemen (Map No. 1). (The Association of Iranian geopolitics, meeting dated 04.15.1387).

Map 1: Countries Southwest Asia

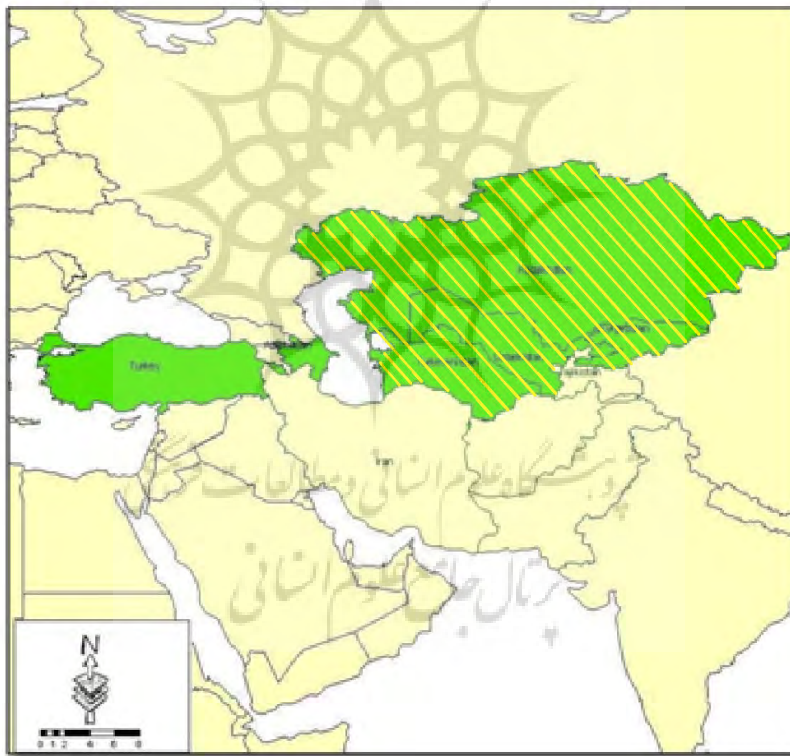


Source: Iranian Association of geopolitics (meeting dated 6 Jun 2008)

Geopolitical regions Southwest Asia

Cultural District Turanian: Turanian region, including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and Turkey on tape east - west from Central Asia to the West, it has spread (Map 2). Among the countries mentioned, Turkey and Azerbaijan are located in South West Asia. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan are located outside the region. Moreover, these countries are no geographical connection. Turanian region in terms of language, culture and customs are subscription.

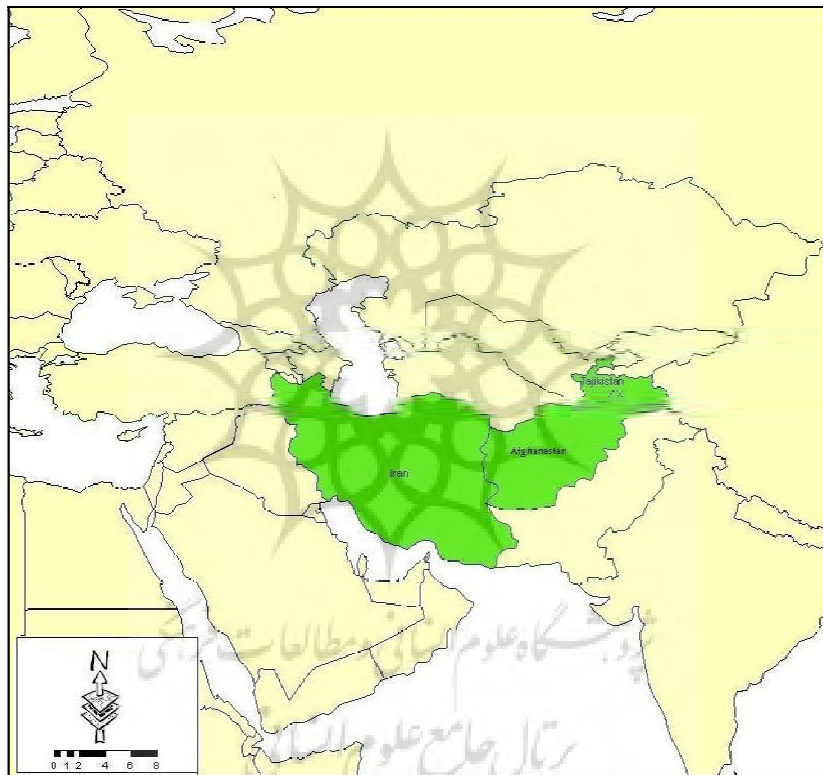
Map 2: Regional Turanian civilization



Region of Iran: Iranian civilization region southern Turanian region in the east - west from the borders of China and the Indus River in the East to the West expanded the borders of Iraq. This region in terms of language,

customs, myths and epics, poetry and music is common. Iranian civilization in terms of physical geography is consistent with the Iranian Plateau. Now Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan are heirs to this civilization (Map 3). But Tajikistan is located in Central Asia.

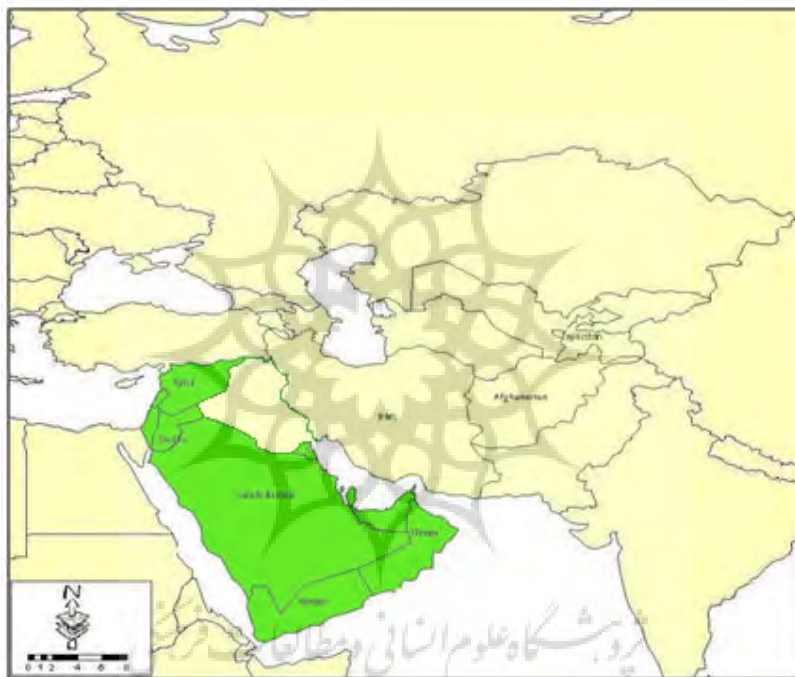
Map 3: Regional Iranian civilization



Cultural region Sami: Sami region in the Arabian Peninsula is located. In the Northeast, the Persian civilization is located. It is located in the north of the Turanian civilization. The cultural influence of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), the last messenger of God, on the other civilization and the civilization of Iran and Turan was created. Because of the geographical spread of Islam through other territories Sami culture, some

feature of the Sami culture was transferred in this way. Territory of Sami civilizations in Asia currently include the countries of the Arabian Peninsula and the northern parts of the country, Syria, Lebanon, the Occupied Territories, Jordan and Kuwait (Map 3).

Map 4: Regional Sami civilizations



The combination geopolitical territory: Territory the geopolitical the combination of countries in terms of culture, the cultural region are connecting two or more. Although it is possible in any of these territory, on the other hand is a civilization, but their combined identity cannot be ignored.

Combining territory in Southwest Asia includes:

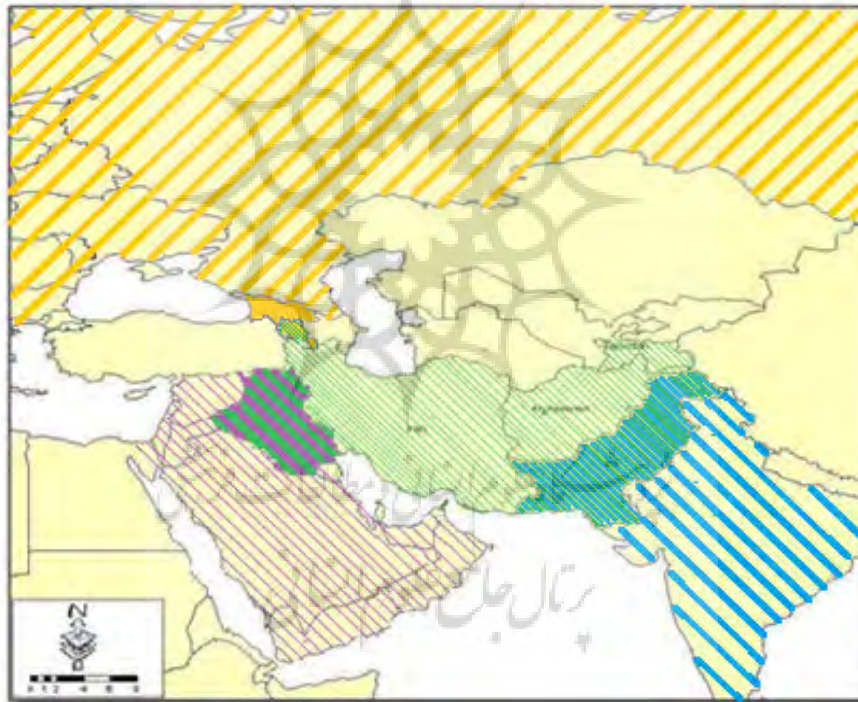
- Iraq: connection the level of Iranian civilization and Arabic;
- Pakistan: connection the level of Iranian civilization and Hindu;

Single geopolitical unit in Southwest Asia, countries that share a

civilization at least another region, they are part of a single civilization units. These political units include:

- Armenia: Armenian as the only country in the world located between Iran and Turanian civilization.
- Georgia: As part of the Christian world is located in the northwest of the Turanian civilization.
- Israel: a political unit with special features and claim Jewish civilization.

Map 5: the combination and single geopolitical regions in South-west Asia

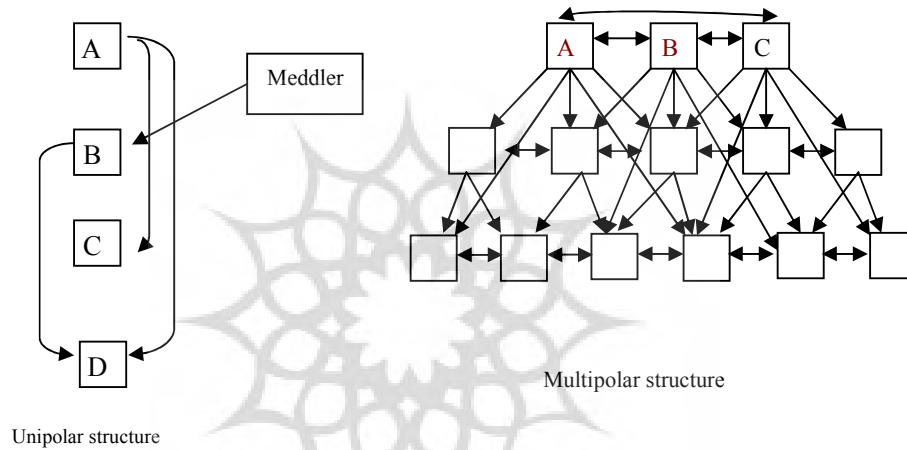


Geopolitical region structure of South-West Asia

Territory geopolitical region includes the region member states, where a state has a central location and the rest of their function. This structure is the result of unequal power relations in a region that creates a relationship of

domination and under. Based on the relationships formed within each region, geopolitical hierarchy is formed. In the hierarchy of geopolitical classification of countries according to geopolitical weight and how they communicate with one another (Hafzania, 2006: 117).

Figure 1: Model of hierarchy and power relations in a geopolitical region



Source: (Hafezania, 2006: 113)

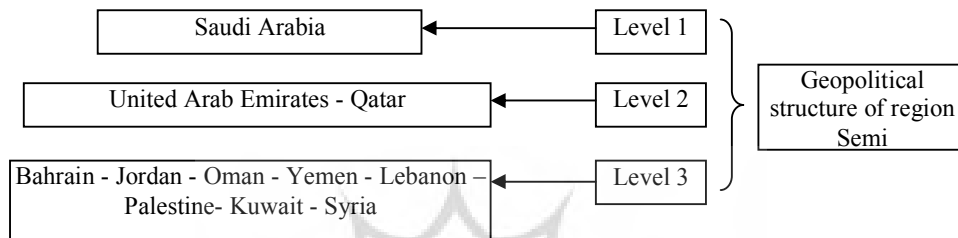
Systems with two or more polar geopolitical balance, the balance of geopolitical position. Unbalanced systems, the an element of system, in terms of improving their position and alignment with other regional units see attempts to the development of resources and power, to be in alignment with regional power, and relationship of domination and inequality and the interaction between the formats. That is, the powers of the second degree, the inconsistency with power primarily in one area of their react and control over the region changed into the status and balance of interests and power to compete with each other.

Based on the above model, in Southwest Asia, there are three civilizations in the regional structure of the model follows.

1- Geopolitical region Sami: Sami geopolitical region with the monopolar

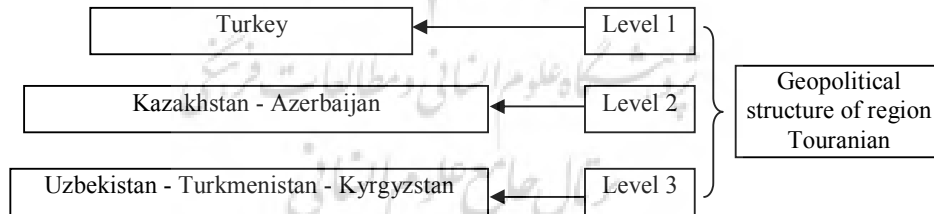
geopolitical structure. Sami geopolitical structure of the region is shown in the figure below (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Structure of the Semi civilizations geopolitical region



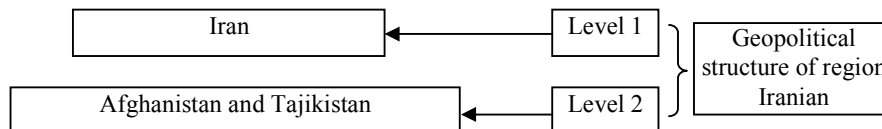
2- Geopolitical region Turanian; Turanian geopolitical region in the west - east from Central Asia to Anatolia expanded. The geographical area with two faults: the Caspian Sea and Armenia is separated. This has been the core of civilization in Central Asia to the West has evolved over several centuries. The claim of the civilizations, Turkey. Regional structure of this civilization is monopole.

Figure 3: Structure of region Turanian civilization



3- Iranian geopolitical region: region geopolitical Iranian civilization, has a two-level structure (Figure 4). First of Iran, Tajikistan and Afghanistan are located on the second level. Second, the region's countries (Tajikistan and Afghanistan) is far below the first level (Iran) are located.

Figure 4: Structure of region monopole Iranian civilization

**Conclusions:**

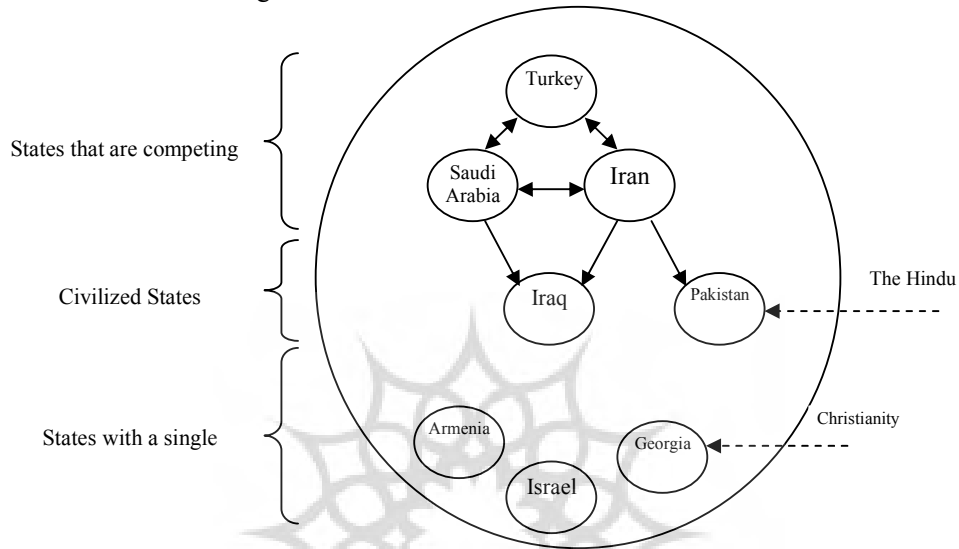
Countries in Southwest Asia, although the gap with intussusceptions structure and interactions are complex area. But the culture and civilization, is forming a special geopolitical areas. The results of this study show that the three territories the Semi civilizations, Iran and Turan as rival civilizations throughout history, have had a relationship interaction with each other. Means, the identity of each civilization and its configuration consistency between civilizations interact and have sustained. Therefore the complementary nature of civilization in the region between civilizations. On the other hand, three Turanian civilization, Iranian and Semitic civilization in the area are dominated by their unity.

Iranian civilization has a two-level structure. In this civilization, with power primarily in Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan are followed.

Semitic civilization has a three-level structure. In this civilization, class and power Arabia, and then other Arab countries Southwest Asia, is an act of civilization.

The structure is a three-level structure of the Turanian civilization. Turanian civilization power classy Turkey, the countries claiming the act civilization the civilization, and the relation of neighboring civilizations, civilization has come for action.

Figure 5: The structure of civilization in Southwest Asia



Throughout history, civilization Turanian and Semitic tension level less than the Semitic civilization - Iranian and Turanian civilization - Iran has. In fact, the Iranian civilization buffer zone between Semitic and Turanian civilization is the only civilization in terms of the relationship between world expansions of civilization has been established between them. Intra-regional features associated with each of the Semitic and Turanian civilization, their civilization has led to the formation of geopolitical regions. But so far there has been little contact with the Iranian civilization in such a process.

Pakistan and Iraq in terms of civilization are integrated entity. Therefore the conflict and competition are civilization. Cultural values in the country in terms of language and culture between civilizations.

Countries monopoly civilization, the civilization Means Jewish claim to Israel and Armenia are Armenian. Georgia is one part of Christian civilization. These units, civilization, civilization is not competition but claim their civilizations are mentioned.

According to the results, most of the actions in Southwest Asia, especially in countries with civilization are combined, the result of competition between countries civilization is the civilization claim.

Acknowledgement

The idea of this paper is related to the discussions held in graduate classes that Professor Mohammad Reza Hafeznia was held in Tarbiat Modarres University. Hereby, I would like to express my deep appreciation to him.



References

- Abysb, Georges (1995), the concept of international organization, Translated into Persian: Iraj Pad, Tehran: Elmi & Farhangi Publishing Company[in Persian].
- Cohen, Saul. B. (1994), Geopolitics in the New World Era, Chapter 2 from Reordering the World, and Edited by: George J. Demco and William wood. USA: West view Press.
- Dahlberg, Kenneth A. (1970). Regional Integration: The Neo-Functional Versus a Configurative Approach. *International Organization*. Vol. 24, No. 1. pp. 122-128
- Gehring, Thomas. (1996). Integrating Integration Theory Neo-functionalism and International Regime. *Global Society*, Vol. 10. No. 3.
- Hafeniza, Mohammad Reza. (2004). the New Approaches in Political Geography (In Collaboration with Morad Kaviani Rad), SAMT, Tehran, [in Persian].
- Hafeniza, Mohammad Reza. (2006). Principles and Concepts of Geopolitics, Papoli Publication, Mashhad, [in Persian].
- Hafeniza, Mohammad Reza and Ebrahim Roumina (2008). The convergence of geopolitical and security in South-West Asia. *International Conference on Human Security in West Asia*. Iran- Birjand, [in Persian].
- Hafeniza, Mohammad Reza. (2010). Emerging Perspective of the World Geopolitical Structure. *Geopolitics Quarterly*, Volume: 6, No 4, Winter 2010. PP 1-6, [in Persian].
- Hettne & Others (2000), the New Regionalism and the future of Security and Development, London: Macmillan Press.
- Iranian Association of Geopolitics. (2008) [in Persian].
- James E. Dougherty, Robert L. Phaltzgraff. (2006). *Competing Theories of International Relations*. Translate by: Ali Reza Tayeb. Tehran: Ghomes[in Persian].
- Jones, Martin, Martin and others. (2004). *an Introduction to Political Geography*. London: Routledge.
- Nel, Philip & McGowan, Patrick J. (1999). *Power, wealth and Global order*. South Africa: university of Cape Town Press.
- Taylor J. P. & Flint C. (2000). *Political Geography. World-Economy, Nation-State and Locality*. Fourth edition. Pearson.
- Wolf, Peter. (1973). International Organization and Attitude Change: A Re-examination of the Functionalist Approach. *International Organization*. Vol.27. No: 4.