

Geopolitical bottlenecks of Republic of Azerbaijan based on Peter Haggett model

Yashar Zaki*-Assistant Professor of Political Geography, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran

Rasoul Afzali- Associate Professor of Political Sciences, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran

Ahad Pashalou- MA Student of Political Geography, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran

Received: 28/08/2013

Accepted: 12/11/2014

Abstract

National space and existing human and natural geographical values in each country are the creating factors of tension and conflict within the milieu of that country, especially with neighboring countries that may have potential and actual effects on geopolitical relationships of that country with its neighbors. Using a 12 – trigger hypothetica model, Peter Haggett, the famous English geographer, has represented the geographic sources of tension contributing to the conflict of that country with others. Depending on a country's geographical situation and the functionality of natural factors and human operations, these sources of tension can play a role in creating crisis at national and supranational (macro regional) scales. If proper management fails, the geographic sources of tension can not only overwhelm the country's capabilities to reinforce general politics of the country, but also falsify the relations and ties of a political unit with other neighboring political units. Hence, the role of geographical factors and values should not be considered as neutral, null and void in international relations and in the emergence of geopolitical challenges and crises. As the most important country in the Southern Caucasia, 'The Republic of Azerbaijan', like any other political unit, has a series of geographic sources of tension with neighboring and other countries and this is no exception. Naturally, the geographical grounds of conflict involve in determining the level of foreign relations and policy and without doubt, recognizing these factors contribute to reducing this country's problems and tensions in the region both intrinsically and extrinsically and particularly with its neighbors as well as with Iran. Accordingly, the current study, using descriptive-analytical method, attempts to answer this question 'if geographic sources of international tension of the Republic of Azerbaijan fully conform to Peter Haggett's 12 - trigger hypothetica model'. According to research findings, from among twelve triggers which Haggett called geographic sources of tension, six triggers can be obviously observed in Azerbaijan and the remaining six ceased to prove true in this country. Meanwhile there is a series of geographic factors creating tension in geopolitical relations of this country about which nothing is mentioned in Haggett's model, the differences and conformities of geographical factors of conflict with the facts and realities of the Republic of Azerbaijan are reflected on various maps.

Keywords: Republic of Azerbaijan, Hypothetica, Geographical sources of tension, Peter Haggett.

* E-mail: yzaki@ut.ac.ir

1. Introduction

Different geography of each country and, in other words, dissociation in geographical values recreate specific capability and capacity and also limitations and spatial bottlenecks. In studying geographical values in combination view of geography, natural factor's operation and human group's operation consider simultaneously and integrated. As mentioned, geographical principles are effective in raising changes and conflicts among countries. To express more clearly, the effect of natural geographical factors and human geography not only aren't ineffective and neutral in countries' relation but also have undeniable and considerable effect to form tension and dispute among government and nations and raise some geographical crisis among them. In a whole and geographical view, the root and origin of tensions in political units is affected by three following categories:

- 1- Geo-economics "when a part or all government-nation's economic capabilities are based on geographical issues, geographical or geo-economics forms."
- 2- Geopolitics "when independent, territorial integrity, unity and national security and government-nation's main values adjoin to nation's policy of geographical space, geopolitical resources of conflict forms."
- 3- Geo-culture "this difference rises from competitions or neighbors 'cultural interests and recourses with each other.'" (Karimipour, 2001:19).

The Republic of Azerbaijan as the most important political unit of South Caucasus's geopolitical region is effected by conditions and geopolitical features of this region. Mentioned region is located between two Christian and Islamic civilizations and among three Iranian, Turkish and Russian cultures. Also this region is where there are more than 50 ethnic and linguistic groups and followers of Judaism, Islam and Christianity (Koulai, 2010:79). Huntington has expressed this region on the line of "Clash of Civilizations" in the book "Clash of Civilizations" (Huntington, 1996:21).

Ethnic and religious conflicts and contradictions, economic and political structures remained from legacy of the Soviet Union, political and social

instability, territorial disputes and claims, presence of political powers, economic weakness, legal regime of the Caspian Sea, Terrorism, drugs and enormous energy recourses are the most important cases and factors effective in instability of this region (Shahnazaryan, 2006: 17). Thus Caucasus and its internal political unites aren't exceptions of recourses creating "geo-economics, geopolitics and geo-cultural" tensions. On one hand, some of the inherent capabilities of the South Caucasus such as recourses having international importance (Petroleum and Gas) and unique communication situation (having crossroads) have predisposed presence of global and trans-regional powers in it and ultimately have complexes the region's geopolitical equations more. The Republic of Azerbaijan in addition to geographical capabilities and capacities also is affected by some of geopolitical bottlenecks. In a whole view, the Republic of Azerbaijan's main and strategic problems can be categorize in following categories by considering this case that among fourteen republics separated from Russia has seen the most tensions and conflicts that has effected its international security:

- 1- Two part being go the country (separation of Nakhjavan Autonomous Republic from main territory of Azerbaijan where has made it difficult to service this section especially after Karabakh conflict).
- 2- Occupying 20 percent of Azerbaijan's territory by Armenia(Maleki, 2005: 71).
- 3- Separating from the main united Turkey and ethnic support by Armenia's zone and Armenians by Turks' feud.
- 4- Presence of Tallish people in southeast of Iran's border and Lezgi in northeast in Russia's border "Dagestan" with separatist movements.
The concentration of population in the peninsula brine.
- 5- Geopolitical isolation (conceptual isolation and blockade feeling).
- 6- Inaccessibility to high Seas and landlocked position.

So this article is going to find effective and conflict geographical resources

in geopolitical relations among republic of Azerbaijan with other countries based on Pitter Haggett's model by real and objective examples. A model in which this outstanding English geographer has discussed stressful geographical factors and cases in the relations among countries in the form of hypothetical country named *hypothetica* and has studied its cases in detail.

2-Methodology

This article has a descriptive-analytical method and needed information has been achieved in two ways: first part of information have been collected based on library studies such as books, magazines, articles, internet websites and researches have been done about republic of Azerbaijan. Other parts of needed information also have been collected by interview with students who are studying in this country. Analysis method of information is qualitative.

3-Theoretical Formwork

3-1.Pitter Haggett's *hypothetica* model

Model of *Hypothetica* from Peter Hagget is an attempt to study geographical factors causing tension in relations between countries. This model involves a hypothetical country called "The *Hypothetica*" which has a set of specific conditions causing disputes with its neighbors. The hypothetical country is landlocked and has potential twelve points causing tension in relations with its neighbors (Hagget, 1983:477)(Hagget, 2001: 521). Hagget presented this model for the first time in 1972 in the first edition of his book "Geography: A Modern Synthesis". This model has been mentioned without any change in subsequent editions of the book in 1975 and 1995 and 1983. Also, in a new book by Hagget called "Geography: A Global Synthesis" which was published in 2001, has been mentioned (Hagget, 1972, 1975, 1983, 1995, 2001). In this model, Hagget has mentioned the following twelve geographic factors causing tension in relations between countries:

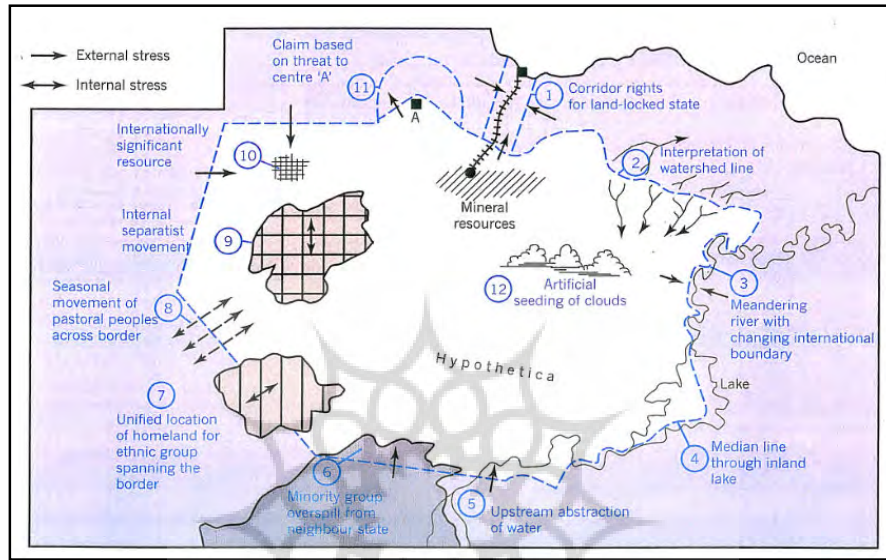
1. Right corridors for landlocked countries in order to access the sea through

the territory of neighboring country.

2. Disagreement over the division of waterline in mountainous borders
3. Repeatedly changing international fluvial border
4. Disagreement in the determining the border in joint lake and how to exploit its resources
5. Stealing upper side waters by countries located on top of it.
6. Spatial and territorial extension and spreading of an ethnic group to a neighboring country.
7. Establishment of racial or ethnic minority groups along two international borders.
8. Seasonal movement of nomads across two international borders
9. Ethnic separatist movement within a country.
10. Establishment of an important international resource next to the border that is claimed by neighbors. This resource may be an important strategic resource such as uranium or a cultural resource such as holy places.
11. The claim of a country over the territory of neighboring countries to maintain its superior and vital regional position and resources.
12. Legal conflicts over artificial fertilization of clouds to provide rain showers within the country and producing rain in the territory of neighboring country as a result of the movements of clouds (Hagget, 1972, 1975, 1983, 1995, 2001).

In figure (1), Peter Hagget's model of Hypothetica and twelve geographical factors causing tension are shown.

Figure1. Peter Hagget's "The Hypothetica" model (1972)



In his model, Hagget has mentioned geographical and geopolitical factors causing tension between countries, and compared to other theories, has put more emphasis on spatial and regional variables. However, Hagget's model lacks the variables related to environmental, ecological and geo-economic resources that cause tension. Hence, we cannot consider it as a comprehensive model (Hafeznia et al, 2014:15-16).

4-Finding

4-1.Research area

The republic of Azerbaijan is located in south Caucasus region (the end of southeast of Europe), southern slope of Caucasus's mountains and west coast of the Caspian Sea. There are differences in different resources about expressing its location after separation of republic of Azerbaijan from Soviet Union, Some parts of resources count this country as a part of Europe as before and some others count it as a part of Asia (Jafari, 2003: 65). Total

area of south Caucasus is 186100 square kilometers where Azerbaijan has first place of this area with 86600 square kilometers scope (46/5 percent of this region). This country's length is about 500 kilometers and its width is about 400 kilometers. This country is the eastern republic than republics of Armenia and Georgia where has occupied Caucasus Mountains' southern slope region (Amirahmadin, 2003: 2). (Map 1)

Map 1: Republic of Azerbaijan's geographical location
 (<http://www.nationsonline.org>)



According to the recourse, geographical tension number one in Haggett model, which is expressing landlocked situation and the country isn't adjoined to sea at none side in it, matches this research's adaptive study (republic of Azerbaijan) according to its relative geographical location.

4-2- Landlocked

Azerbaijan involves many problems about its borders and territorial situation. This country's borders had been permeable with their neighbors that have made it difficult to control it (Alkir, 2003: 386). Azerbaijan has a dry location despite having 825 kilometers maritime boundary and depends on Don-Volga Canal and consequently Russia due to not having direct access to the high seas. This dependence will be sustained in spite of Turkey and Nakhchivan's territorial discontinuity. However Baku has considered Iran and Georgia Ports to reduce dependence to Russia and vary building maritime communication routes. Although Georgia is a short way for Baku access to Black Sea but this country, where itself is a geopolitical complementary of Russia, may intensify Azerbaijan's dependence to Russia in a long time (Seidi, 2009: 84). So Iran and Persian Gulf's longer way are complementary corridors for Azerbaijan.

Although the Caspian Sea could moderate dry location of Azerbaijan and predispose relation with Caspian basin countries but it should be considered that the Caspian Sea, as it is clear from its name, isn't an international blue zone and only is considered as a way to connect countries around that basin, therefore it is a closed natural basin. However Republic of Azerbaijan can connect Black Sea via Caspian Sea and Don-Volga canal also Mediterranean Sea and Baltic Sea via Volga- Baltic and all oceans but these canals can't support maritime transport due to this country's economic and business spread with outside world also politically and economically crossing them need coordination of Russia and pay toll (Alexanderov, 2003: 53- 65).

4-2- Joint rivers and abducting the upper water

Another factor that Peter Hogget introduces as the stressful factor relates to a river where enters imaginary country via a neighboring country. How to divide this river's water and risk of abducting the upper water can be a stressful factor. International and edgy Aras River is a good example of this

case. We can mention following cases as removing factors of Aras River that leads stressful and negative hydro politic for Azerbaijan:

-joint water resources where contains inlet and outlet water resources; Aras River is one of the main inlet joint water resource. Co-operation projects such as Turkey's Ayghdr project and taking additional water of Armenia from Sardar Abad would cause imbalance in utilization and disorder in down countries utilization where Azerbaijan is one of its obvious examples by above countries (Turkey and Armenia) (Karimi, 2012: 3);

-lack of a legal structure registered in international societies which contain countries around Aras River and could adjust and approve its complete scheme and has control it.

-in recent years growing process of locating industrial projects where are Aras neighbors on one hand and increasing population around the river due to potentials and custom, economic, technical, fishing and agricultural purpose on the other hand increase utilization and usage rate of resources and its using branches more than before and have increased reasons of Azerbaijan conflict with this river's related countries (Karimi, 2012: 162).

4-3-Internal separatist movement

Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is a clear example of stressful factor as an insecurity factor in South Caucasus. There is an organized Armenian minority demanding independence from Azerbaijan in Karabakh (Dankos, 1991: 67).

Karabakh conflict is a steady and direct threat for Azerbaijan since forming Azerbaijan's country and government. Azerbaijan knows Karabakh conflict a red line for its politics in every situation. Although this region has a strategic importance (as the splicer of energy and transport connecting ways) but the international community has not used serious effort to solve this conflict; and this region's countries also don't like to solve this crisis because of benefits that this process has have for their counties (Demitry, 1993: 311-318).

Karabakh conflict has encountered Azerbaijan with insecurities and tensions as follow:

- 1- Ceasefire violations and permanent violence
- 2- imbalance in Azerbaijan and Armenia's power causes Russia's more presence and interference in solving above crisis.
- 3- creating economic costs; Karabakh has imposed many costs on Republic of Azerbaijan's economic. This country has lost rich and fertile mines of Karabakh and very close ground connection but indirect with Nakhchivan by losing 5/6 percent of its land; also war displaced increase difficult economic situation. Displacement not only has gone working and production possibility but also has changed them to consumers and Azerbaijan's unemployed Class (Bayat, 2011:386). Thus internal Separatist movement and Karabakh's demanding independence minority have such geopolitical burden that not only has unified that country's political, social, economic and territorial existence and also domestic and foreign policy with its neighbors but also with global powers. Creating different and opposite human groups spatially independence minority living in Karabakh have caused negative political divergence and regionalism.

4-4- Ethnic and linguistic minorities tended to another country

Religious ethnic groups in this country has emigrated it because of not only territorial expansion but during a historical process in the past where there weren't an independent country in this region yet. This case shows that the expansion of country doesn't affect ethnic expansion. Because it's not a long time from forming this country and it's ethnic so it hasn't had territorial expansion and ethnic and religious expansion in this country has been affected by another factors such as "historical emigration" factor.

Lezgis spatially Talesh are the most important ethnic groups of this country, after Armenians who moved out of Azerbaijan in different ways since the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia over Karabakh, that could encounter Baku's government to some bottlenecks on its

discriminatory acts about their rights. In other words, Republic of Azerbaijan itself has had an important role in creating this crisis and has persuaded minorities of Azerbaijan to access their human dignity. This approach has caused these minorities to appeal other countries and international organizations to obtain their rights (Amirahmadian, 2003: 343).

Spatial expansion of Lezgis and Tالش in Azerbaijan and their trend to Iran and Russia and regional and trans-regional dimension have created many problems for Azerbaijan geopolitically which in regional dimension is influenced by Iran

And Russia and in trans-regional dimension Council of Europe uses this ethnic and linguistic minorities' pressure against Baku. (European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance).

4-5-Important international source

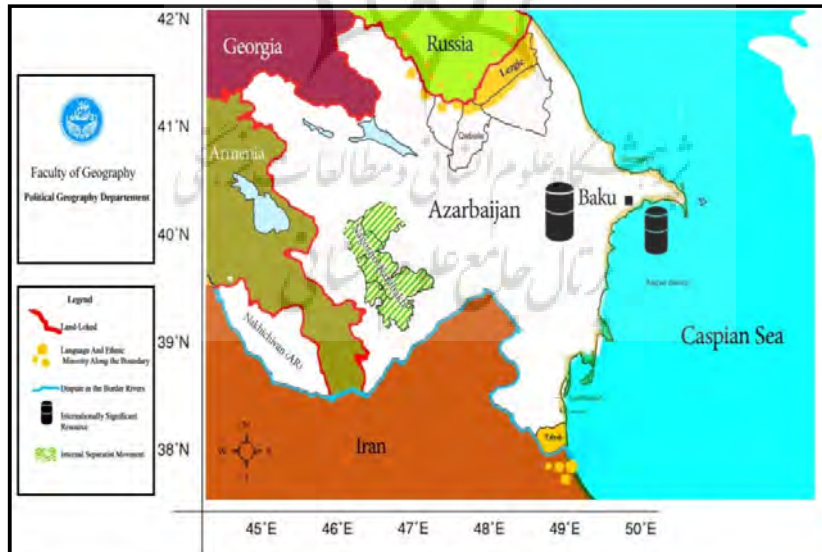
Republic of Azerbaijan has a long history in extraction and exportation of petroleum. This country considers as the hometown of Caspian Oil with trade extraction, where it started at nineteenth century. Azerbaijan was the biggest oil producer until 1900 and the first oil well, in the sea, was drilled in Azerbaijan on a wooden platform near Baku in 1924 (Effimoff, 2000: 157).

Republic of Azerbaijan as one of the Caspian region's countries, where oil had an important role in economic and social and policy development, has provided an opportunity to take effective steps by using energy diplomacy, strengthening economic basis to develop, creating economic benefits for international and regional important players involved in Karabakh conflict, increasing its role in south Caucasus region, strengthening the government's foundations and decreasing negative impacts of around countries on internal problems. Although this geographical benefit sometimes has negative aspect because of international and around powers' avarices and consequently creates some bottlenecks for this country such as:

- 1- Energy transmission based on this fact that this country is landlocked and needs other countries soil such as Iran, Russia, Georgia and Turkey to transmit energy;
- 2-conflict on Kepez, Çanakkale oilfields and Alborz;
- 3- not determining legal regime of the Caspian Sea after Soviet collapse and forming new republic around this oil domains:
- 4-oil resources have predisposed competition with regional and trans-regional powers. Totally, oil source energy on one hand has upgraded Azerbaijan's national and regional position and on the other hand this country due to having its economic and natural geography benefit always had been considering by regional and trans-regional powers.

As it is seen in map(2), among 12 resources of international tensions which has been mentioned in Hogget model, according to geographical evidences 5 stressful factors are confirmed and 7 remained factors aren't.

Map 2: sources of geographical international tensions among Azerbaijan and its neighbors according to Haggett model



In a detailed look to geographical stressful resources among Azerbaijan and its neighbors show that this country's geographical stressful resources is not limited and restricted to the factors which were mentioned in Haggett model. Thus there are other geographical principals and values that potentially and actual can predispose geopolitical tensions which Haggett has not mentioned them in Hypothetica, but these factors have undeniable role in Azerbaijan's geopolitical relations that some of them are as follow:

“1- Nakhchivan's exclave region; 2-conflict in maritime borders of the Caspian Sea; 3-stratgic point (Qabala); 4-oil pipes and energy transmit method; 5-occupied lands; 6- Disputed oilfields.” As follow these geographical resources effected Azerbaijan's geopolitical relations with other political units have been explored in detail:

4-5-1- Nakhchivan's exclave region

Nakhchivan's geography has a complex position like Cabinda's exclave region in Angola and Ras Almusandam in north part of Oman, where has been separated of its main body with United Arabic Emirates soil. Separating Nakhchivan from Azerbaijan and giving a semi-independent political identity to it as Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic is one of stressful examples of such a structure where has created many problems both for main and host region countries.

Nakhchivan's exclave region is known as the most vulnerable part of the republic of Azerbaijan due to not being Conterminous with main body of the country and having long and closed borders with its hostile enemy (Armenia) (Oğuz, 2010: 124).

This part of Azerbaijan suffers from geographical isolation due to disconnecting the main body of country and indirect connection with Baku. Indirect connection with the main body is a geographical and structural weakness in terms of access that, in fact, raising serious crisis and the risk of an expand war with neighbors can be changed to an essential weakness point. Sometimes a geographical bottleneck can be abused by neighboring

governments to obtain their benefits by threat and not providing these facilities and needs isolated part of country and encounter the country with geopolitical challenge to some extent (Ibid: 126). In addition to regional and trans-national problems, Nakhchivan itself may encounter Azerbaijan with many problems that are mentioned here:

- 1- establishing national unity dilemma; "as it is known from exclave position of Nakhchivan, exclave region is like a small country where demands all central government facilities in a small scale which this case causes undermining central government's power";
- 2- Establishing security dilemma; establishing security dilemma (political, economic, nutritional and etc.) in exclave region will be very hard if its neighboring countries don't have good relation with central government of exclave region (Kazemi, 2005: 245).

4-5-2- conflict on maritime boarders

Forming Caspian region with new political units on the world political map is an important event after Soviet collapse. In fact presence of this new region wasn't only a symbol on the world political map but created an important change in regional and trans-regional power's approach to it (Mirheyder, 2000: 56).

Not determining legal regime which is approved by countries in Caspian region, has made it difficult for Azerbaijan practically to use oil and gas resources in some cases. So that conflict rate on resources caused some oil companies to abdicate of investment on this country's oilfields with its neighbors. It is vital that Azerbaijan need these sources in other parts due to lack of oilfields. In addition environmental problems and moving Caspian region countries toward militarism should be mentioned too which can create and recreate some conflicts in this blue zone potentially and actually. Therefore determining legal regime of the Caspian Sea will make its neighboring countries to respect this sea's health in security and environmental view.

4-5-3- Strategic point (Qabala)

Qabala strategic point is located in an elevated mountain region with deep valleys near Qarachay and Gochlanchai rivers as position in which there are facilities and technological devices. Building Qiblah radar station began at 1978 and finished at 1984. Radar station was exploited at 1988. This ground station encompasses 210 Hectares. The radar station located in Qabala is the most important radar site in Republic of Azerbaijan (Amirahmadian, 2007: 80).

This station as a strategic point has a spatial position in the region where most of countries such as Israel and America like to use this station; also now negotiations are going on about presence of American experts and NATO in this station. Negotiations which actually have made Azerbaijan neighbors dissatisfied spatially Iran and Russia (Vahedi, 2006: 440). In this situation presence of Russia in this station apparently doesn't benefit this country but presence of Russia's rivals may have negative effects on this country in turbulent conditions of the region. According to the fact that Baku isn't able to use this radar system presence of a third country is essential to set up it. Western countries' presence like America can create some challenges for Iran and spatially Russia about west; because it makes Russia to have defensive manner against west. On the other hand eventual consequence of Israeli and American forces' presence in Qabala's radar station significantly could increase information overlooking of America and Israel against Iran's geographical space that this case certainly is opposite to Iran's benefits and goals.

4-5-4-oil pipes and energy transmitting approach

In recent years there have been a close conflict among north-south direction "Iran and Russia" with west-east direction "America and Turkey", in fact NATO direction, on energy transmitting way. America and Turkey are demanding to construct west-east pipe lines with participation of countries such as Georgia, Azerbaijan and Turkey; but Russia is demanding to control

and influence oil pipes and transmitting energy from north and will prevent transmitting energy to western markets by eastern neighbors due to its strategic benefits (Nersy, 1998: 65). Currently there are three pipe lines to export oil from Azerbaijan:

1. North path or Novorossiysk- Baku's pipe line;
- 2-west path or Supsa-Baku's pipe line; 3-Tbilisi-Ceyhan-Baku's pipe line (Amirahmdian & Gooderzi, 2010: 69- 73).

Until now Azerbaijan has not encountered energy transmission problem to its western customers, but oil pipes may predisposes political exploration. As an example we can mention not so long operations of Moscow in transmitting energy from north path. Russia may prevent to transmit energy to the customer countries due to do not having enough capacity via pipe when there would be conflict with Azerbaijan or European countries because it doesn't want to divide energy market with other countries and most of the times uses energy tool to achieve its goals. Turkey government also has limited Azerbaijan to transmit oil on its land. Turkey government has announced that oil tankers growing traffic has caused the Red Sea's pollution and many environmental problems and consequently has created limitations in Bosphorus and the Dardanelles straits.

4-5-5-occupied lands

Armenia's military attack to Azerbaijan and occupying 15% of this country except of Karabakh (5/6 %) has had many significant results and consequences in different political, security, economic, cultural and social dimensions for people. Some of these consequences is mention briefly as fallow:

1.Political consequences

Politically remaining karabakh conflict unsolvable during last years has influenced internal instability of governments and even changing them and trying to Coup up in Azerbaijan. As an example this conflict was the most important Ayaz Niyazi oglu Mutallibov's abdication factor in 1991. This

conflict also is the most important collapsing factor of Abulfaz Elchibey's government in 1993 and colonel Hussein ov's Coup in Azerbaijan history.

2-economic consequences

Economically this conflict has a negative effect on economic security of Azerbaijan; so that investment rate is negligible in this country despite of having potential talents and excellent conditions. Influenced in Karabakh conflict, Azerbaijan has lost Karabakh's rich mines and fertile pastures and this has imposed many costs on Azerbaijan's economic;

3-social consequences

Socially Karabakh conflict also effects region security; for example every war has harmful social effects spatially on women and children and Karabakh conflict isn't an exception too. Existence of a million displaced Azerbaijani and living in deplorable condition has predisposed growing different kinds of social insecurities such as spread of immoral actions, smuggling, drug use and etc. Also after war many citizens emigrates other countries from both countries that in this process active forces and thinkers and financiers are the most ones (Kazemi, 2005: 244-245). Although all political, economic and social consequences are important but it is more important that a part of Azerbaijan's space and territory have been chosen as the residence and habitant of natives and residents to live in it and make their lives which are considered as geographical values. Values which most of the countries are ready to fight and except human and material costs for it.

4-5-6-disputed oilfields

1- Alborz oilfield

Islamic Republic of Iran and Azerbaijan have joint petroleum source named Albors (Albors oil field is the biggest oilfield with 20 billion oil barrels), in central part of the Caspian Sea where there are ambiguities in some parts every country's portion is unclear due to the Caspian Sea's unclear legal regime, that Azerbaijan's unilateral exploitation of this oilfield has caused

conflicts between two countries. Tehran has not convinced that only Astara - Hoseingholi's southern region (13% portion based on costal length) belongs to it. According to this fact Iran has announced that every kind of exploration and development on oilfields is assigned as its right abuse until they complete their discussion on legal right and dividing Caspian Sea. Baku is against Iran's claim about the oil rich areas in southern part of Azerbaijan. It believes that Astara in west cost is located in Azerbaijan and Iran borders and Hoseingholi is located in the opposite of it in Iran and Turkmenistan borders. Azerbaijan believes that based on imaginary line Iran's portion of the Caspian Sea is 7 or 8 percent or at last 13 percent so Alborz oilfield Is in maritime zone of Azerbaijan and belongs to this country (Amirahmdian & Gooderzi, 2010: 158).

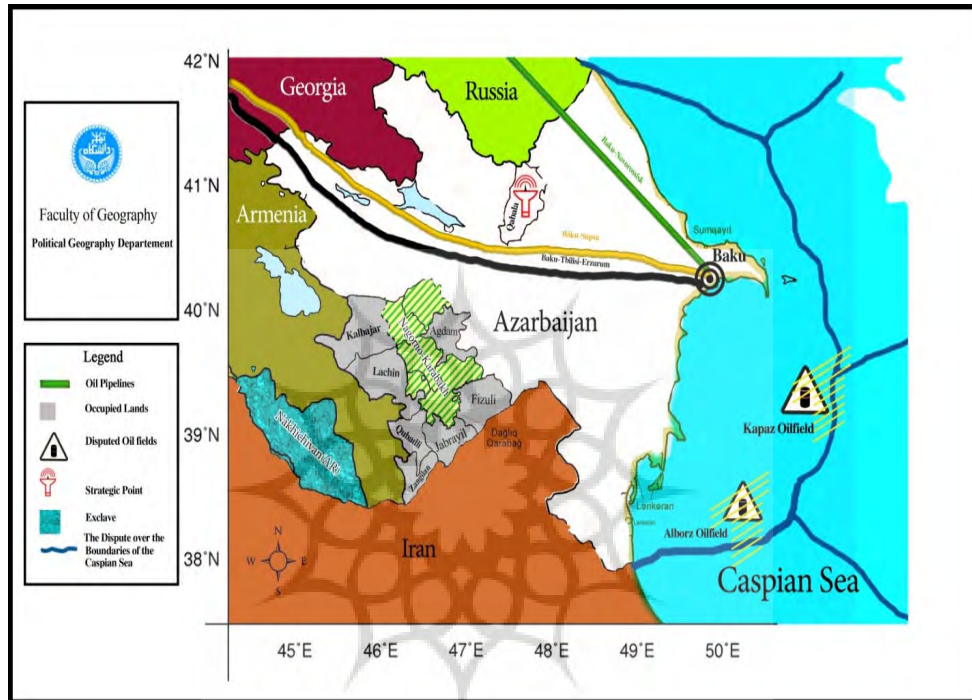
2-Kepez oilfield

Disagreement on determining legal regime of the Caspian Sea and unclear position of resources and also Turkmenistan claim on oil sources which were assigned according to "century contract" project are the most important diplomatic tension between Baku and Eshgh Abad. Turkmenistan actually has problem with Azerbaijan about dividing sea based on middle line in 1997 spatially Kepez oilfield despite of signing contract with it (Malishova, 2002: 112). So Turkmenistan wanted to solve this conflict by international organizations. Verses Azerbaijan declared that Turkmenistan claim is illegal and said that Eshgh Abad is going to keep its benefits.

According to above findings stressful function of some human and natural geographical factors in Azerbaijan's territory which have not been mentioned in Haggett model directly have had negative and positive reflections and direct and indirect effects on geopolitical problems and this country's foreign relations.

Map (3) shows sextuple mentioned factors as the factors which have not been mentioned in Haggett model.

Map3: international geographical tension resources among Azerbaijan and neighbors according to researchers' findings



5-Analyses and Conclusion

This research has studied geographical resources of Azerbaijan's international conflicts. Investigating exact geographical, political and geopolitical facts shows that a significant part of this country's international tensions and pressure have "geographical origin".

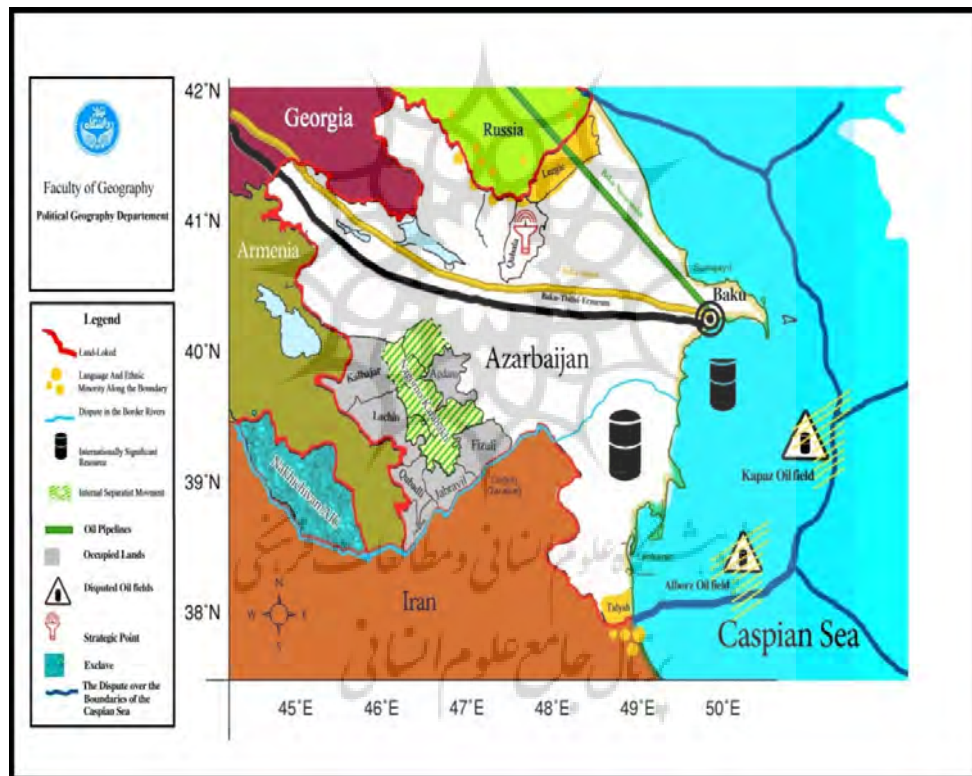
Geographical sources and factors have undeniable roles in geopolitical problems of political units. These factors are connected every country's political, economic, social and even environmental factors. Effective geographical resources in international tensions such as human and natural geographic factors form gradually and in a long time and have almost constant negative and positive effects. Geographical factors totally are not Azerbaijan's

insecurity factor but when they join other conditions can be stressful. This issue shows that we should try to eradicate other tension factors in Azerbaijan to decrease negative geographical factors to solve tensions in this country. In fact if we divide Azerbaijan tensions to stable and instable factors, geographical factors are stable that we are not able to do anything about it.

Haggett in his hypothetical model has specified twelve geographical conflict resources on a hypothetical country. This model's tension factors have been studied about Azerbaijan practically. From twelve factors of tension and conflict resources in Haggett model, five ones is confirmed about Azerbaijan; "1-landlocked; 2-Aras River flow where its upper enters from Turkey; 3-Lezgi and Talesh ethnic and linguistic minority along two side of boarder; 4-Armenian minority within Karabakh mountains where extremely demands independence; 5- important international oil source". In addition some of geographical tension factors which play role in Azerbaijan's geopolitical relations that aren't mentioned in Haggett model are studied by writers: "1-presence of Nahchivan's exclave region; 2-disagerment on the Caspian Sea maritime boareds; 3-Qabala's strategic point; 4-oil pipes and energy transmitting method via Azerbaijan; 5-about 15 percent occupied land; 6-Albors and Kepez oilfields". Some geographical conflict factors in Haggett mode like: "1- Interpretation of the watershed; 2-twisted rivers with various international boarders; 3- Maritime boarders in shipping rivers and middle line among two coasts; 4-Nomads' seasonal shift in two side of boarders; 5- claim based on center threat; 6- Artificial cloud fertility; 7- minority which have fled of neighboring country". Therefore twelve factors mentioned in Haggett model do not adapt real geographical tension available in this country totally. Of course adaptive geographical factors with Haggett model which has been shown in map (2) also sextuple effective geographical resources based on research findings raising tensions and international conflicts in map (4) have such extremely importance and sensitivity for this country that we can't analyze

Azerbaijan's geopolitical facts and problems without considering these geographical tension factors correctly. Map (4) which is a combined and final output of the article shows that international geographical tension resources among Azerbaijan and other adjacent and non adjacent political units based on Haggett model and writers findings.

Map4: international geographical tension resources among Azerbaijan and neighbors according to Haggett model and researchers' findings



6- Acknowledgment

The authors would like to express their appreciation to the Research Deputy of Tehran University, for providing the possibility of doing this research.

References

- Alexanderov, Mikhail. (2006). Russian Interests in the Southern Caucasus, Spectrum, NO. 1.
- Alkir, Olga. (2003). Faultlines of Conflict in Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus, Translated by: Mohammad Reza Golshanpazhouh, Tehran: National Geographical Organization Publication[in Persian].
- Amirahmadian, Bahram & Gooderzi, mahnaz. (2010). Caspin Sea: Russian Interests and Iran's Security, Tehran: Ghoomes Publishing company Ltd[in Persian].
- Amirahmadian, Bahram. (2003). Republic of Azerbaijan Country Study, Tehran: National Geographical Organization Publication[in Persian].
- Amirahmadian, Bahram. (2007). Missile Defense Shieled or New Cold War, Central Asia and Caucasus Journal, No. 60[in Persian].
- Bayat, Eyvez. (2011). Russian and Turkish Foreign Policy towards Karabakh Conflict, Tehran: Endishehye'no Publication's[in Persian].
- Cairns, Peter. (2002). The History of the Soviet Union from Beginning to End, Translated by: Ali Akbar Mehdian, Tehran: Amirkabir Publications[in Persian].
- Dankos C. K. Helen. (1991). Poverty of Nations or the End of the Soviet Empire, Translated by: Abbas Agahei, Tehran: Islamic Culture Publication[in Persian].
- Demitry, Forman. (1993). Karabakh Conflict Transformation, Translated by: Camellia Akbari, Tehran: Central Asia and Caucasus Journal, Second Year, No 4[in Persian].
- Dodds, Klaus. (2011). Geopolitics: A Very Short Introdution, Translated by: Zahra Pishgahifard & Mohammad Zohdigoharpour, Tehran: Zeytouneh Sabz Publication[in Persian].
- Effimoff, Igor. (2000). the Oil and Resource Base of the Caspian Region, Journal of Petroleum Science and Engineering, NO. 28.
- European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), Second Report on Azerbaijan, CRI(2007) 22, May 24, 2007 in: <http://hudoc.ecri.coe.int/XML/ECRI/ENGLISH>.
- George, Pierre. (1995). Geopolitical Minorities, Translated by: Sirous Sahami, Tehran: Vagefi Publication[in Persian].
- Hafeznia, Mohammad Reza, Ghorbaninejad, Rebaz, Zahra Ahmadipour, Abdolali ,Ghavam Tension and Conflict Theories between Countries: Review, Critique and Presenting a Theoretical Model,Geopolitics Quarterly, Volume: 9, No 4, Winter 2014,p.p:15- 16[in Persian].
- Haggett, Peter(1972). Geography: A Modern Syntheses. New York: Publisher: Harpercollins College Div.
- Haggett, Peter(1983). Geography: A Modern Syntheses. New York: Publisher: Harpercollins College Div.
- Haggett, Peter(2001). Geography: A Global Synthesis. Publisher: Prentice Hall.
- Huntington, Samuel. (1996). the Clash of Civilization: Remaking of World Order, NewYork: Touchston.

- Jafari, Abbas. (2003). *Atlase Gitashenasi*, Tehran: Gitashenasi Publications, [in Persian].
- Karimi, Bayram. (2012), *the Hydropoliticsof Aras Border River: Disputation or Cooperation*, Mashhad: Ferdosi University[in Persian].
- Karimpour, Yadullah. (2001). *an Introduction to Iran and its Neighbors (the Sources of Tension and Threat)*, Tehran: Academic Jihad Publications[in Persian].
- Kazemi, Ahmad. (2005). *Security in Southern Caucasus*, Tehran: International Studies & Reserch Institute[in Persian].
- Koulaei, Elaheh. (2010). *Islamic Republic of Iran and the Geopolitics of the Southern Caucasus*, *Geopolitics Journal*, Sixth year, NO. 1[in Persian].
- Maleki, Abbas. (2005). *Mediation in the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict and the Role of Iran*, Tehran: Publications of the Institute of International Studies of the Caspian Sea[in Persian].
- Malishova, Dina. (2002). *Multilateral Copetition in Caspian Sea*, Translated by: Bahram Amirahmadin, Tehran: Central Asia and Caucasus Journal, No 39.[in Persian].
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, (2011). *Compilation of the UN Documents on the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict*, Translated by: Saeed Bagheri, Tehran: Endishye'no Publication[in Persian].
- Mirheyder, Dorreh. (2000). *Basic Concepts in Political Geography*, Tehran: National Geographical Organization Publication[in Persian].
- Nersy, Ghorban. (1998). *Oil and Gas Pipelines from the Caspian Basin*, *Central Asia and Caucasus Journal*, NO. 25[in Persian].
- Seidi, Mozafar (2009). *Geopolitical Factors of Azerbaijan Republic and its Implications on Iran's Security*, *Central Asia and Caucasus Journal*, NO. 65[in Persian].
- Shahnazaryan, David. (2006). *the Southern Caucasus: Problems of Actability and Regional Security*, *Demokratizatsiya*, vol.14, NO.3.
- Şimşek, Oğuz & Anadolu Lisesi, Iğder. (2010). *Nahcivanin Jeopolitik ve Jeostrategjik nemi*, *Sosyal Bilimler Enstitünü Dergisi*, *Jornal of the Institute of Social Sceinces*, Sayı 6.
- Vaezi, Mahmud. (2009). *Geopolitical Changes and Crises in the Caucasus*, *Foregin Policy Department (Caucasus)*, 35[in Persian].
- Vahedi, Elyas., (2006). *Strategic Assessment of Azerbaijan: Economy - Military*, Tehran: National Geographical Organization Publication[in Persian].
- www.Nations online.org/oneworld/map/azerbaijan-political-map.htm.