A Geopolitical Approach to the City; with Emphasis on the Central Elements of Power and Competition

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Abstract

Many scholars believe that the city is a social innovation whose size, location, and internal organization are in terms of "power"; And many changes in the structure and role-playing of the city are due to the mobility of "citizens". The shape and appearance of the city, like the country, represents the pressure from the bottom up. Therefore, urban space processes have very low effects on the whole of politics, especially political development Competitiveness is one of the important issues that has been emphasized in urban literature in recent years and in this regard, different perspectives on the determinants of competitiveness have been presented. As a geographical phenomenon, the city has an effective role in power games and constitutes the most important spatial level of stress, action and competition in the present age. The present fundamental research with descriptive-analytical method express the fact that the necessary fields for their geopolitical study have been provided by creating a competitive environment and promoting the domestic and international competitiveness level of metropolises. Hence, an urban-scale geopolitics has made cities important actors in different geographical areas. The results of this study show that there is a relationship between the effectiveness of the roles of a place and the geographical area with its "power". That is, as the roles have more extensive and in other words the broader function, the power of geographic location increases, like global cities. Indeed, the phenomenon of the city is studied and investigated in various dimensions, with emphasis on the central elements of politics, power and competition.

Keywords: Power, Competition, Geopolitics, City, Urban Geopolitics.

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1. Introduction

In political geography, the city as a geopolitical and legal reality with a spatial, physical and natural concept that includes inequality of power relations (Badiee and Hosseini,2020:157).

Urban places, towns and cities, are of fun-damental importance – for the distribution of population within countries; in the organisation of economic production, distribution and exchange; in the structuring of social reproduction and cultural life; and in the allocation and exercise of power. Furthermore, in the course of the presentcentury the number of urban dwellers and level ofglobal urbanisation are destined to increase. Eventhose living beyond the administrative or functional boundaries of a town or city will have theirlifestyle influenced to some degree by a nearby, oreven distant, city (Pacione,2009:4).

Many scholars believe that the city is a social innovation whose size, location, and internal organization are in terms of "power"; And many changes in the structure and role-playing of the city are due to the mobility of "citizens". The shape and appearance of the city, like the country, represents the pressure from the bottom up. Therefore, urban space processes have very low effects on the whole of politics, especially political development (Kamran and et al,2018:95).

Urban competition is one of the most important aspects of urban geopolitics studies (Purcell,2003:4). There is a severe competition today to introduce different cities as a global city. Some of these cities include Seoul, Shanghai, Singapore, Dallas, Stockholm, Copenhagen, etc.

Thus, cities have been competing vigorously in various fields, each seeking to transform itself into a global city and ultimately a cosmopolis. This paper describes geopolitics, power and competition, urban geopolitics, and competing domains (political, cultural, economic, and environmental) that provide competition and sometimes conflict between cities. Because, the scope of geopolitical studies as the science of examining the effects of geographical processes and phenomena on political power up to the present time has largely focused on the macro-national and transnational scales, but developments in the mid-late twentieth century led to trends in the attention to the influence of spatial phenomena and processes on the intra-territorial functioning of political power. Thus, the geopolitical scope is responsible for a part of the spatial analysis of cities through overlapping parts of

economic, political issues, and international relations. The presence of cities in the international arena has created a new strategic role for cities, especially the highest-ranking cities (global cities and cosmopolises). Therefore, the city is one of the places to be studied in the geopolitical field because it includes multidimensional space. Since "cities" and especially "metropolises" are the focus of population and activity, thus in addition to providing numerous opportunities for development, they are also considered a major challenge at the micro-macro level and provide competition and action. In other words, competition between urban areas can be considered a geopolitical struggle. In fact, the city can be considered the most advanced form of mass life today and the most conscious form of mass violence (Berman,1996:175).

The purpose of this study is to examine the power and angles of power in the city. According to the aforementioned, the concept of "power" is the focus of the city's geopolitical studies, and "competitiveness" at all levels is a quality created through the formation of activities based on comparative advantages.

The importance of this article is that we describe geopolitics, power and competition, urban geopolitics and areas of competition (political, cultural, economic and environmental) that provide competition and sometimes conflict between cities. Because, the field of geopolitical studies as a science of studying the effects of geographical processes and phenomena on political power up to the present time has been mainly focused on large national and transnational scales, Spatial phenomena and processes became political power over the internal function of power.

2. Theoretical Foundations
2-1. Urban Power

Urban power, like other all-encompassing contemporary subjects of urban studies, is not very absent and is especially mentioned as a subset of political geography, urban politics and politics, urban political economy, urban political sociology, urban anthropology, and immigration studies. However, in the midst of these diverse mental endeavors, it is unexpectedly difficult to find articles or chapters on the issue of urban power to deal with (Parker,2011:4).

City power means a set of governing laws in various political, economic, socio-cultural, physical and knowledge dimensions that have taken on a

unified whole on a city scale during a historical process and the reciprocity between levels of power relations within the city. In fact, the formation of the concept of city power and similar concepts is influential in the process of policy-making, planning and implementation of urban development programs that its presence needs to be recognized and its effect on supporting or resisting them to be understood. Incomplete understanding of the city as a powerful and influential entity in urban development processes is the basic issue of this discourse that is tied to Tehran's case study. It is necessary for those in charge of urban development to recognize the power of the city as a set of laws in institutional, structural, managerial, behavioral and physical dimensions, as well as in the field of urban knowledge governing its activities and as a new component in decisions, programs. And consider their implementation. Understanding the impact of city power on urban development processes has given a new perspective to those involved in the urban management system in matters appropriate to the scope of their duties and powers, which can rely on it to use a different analysis of data and results (Nejadbahram and Jalili,2020:267). Governments speak, cities act. Simon Curtis, in The Power of Cities in International Relations, discusses the role of cities as places for a practical example of global politics or the role of urban congestion as centers of command and control in the global economy, and focuses on the importance of municipalities as actors on the world stage. Turns (Curtis,2017:1)

Power is also distributed unevenly withincities, where a power struggle is waged between a hostof formal and informal interest groups, each seekingto influence the nature and actions of the local state. Auseful distinction is between agents or interest groupsthat operate within the prevailing government structure, including both informal influences and formal 'top-down' public participation strategies, and moreradical 'bottom up' pressure groups or urban socialmovements (Pacione,2009:434).

2-2. Geopolitics, Power and Competition

Geopolitics is a part of geopolitical knowledge that studies the role of power originating from geographical elements in land management. These elements are applied in the field of practice and theory by political leaders, civil administrators (at various levels) and academic scholars. The term geopolitics as an ambiguous term was first introduced into contemporary political geography studies (1899), in the sense of analyzing the relationship

of geography and politics (Dodds and Atkinson,2000:3). Geopolitics is the immutable relationship between geography and strategic power. Geopolitics is the study of the effect of geography on the political, historical personality and institutions of countries, in particular their relationships with other countries and governments (Motaghi and et al.,2016:6). Geopolitics is an important branch of political geographical knowledge whose functional area is to recognize the effect of geographical phenomena on political power (Hafeznia,2006:13). In other words, the geopolitics include the ways of reading and writing international politics by the holders of power and thought and their influence on national and regional political decisions (Mirhaydar,1998:22). Geopolitics is a science that studies the relationship between the main geographical concepts, namely place, space, land, and policies, powers, and policies (Dara and Khaki,2018:193). Considering geopolitics and geographical policy as the complements, Mojtahedzadeh knows it as the science of studying the effects of the environment and environmental forms or phenomena on political decision-making, especially at the regional and political levels (Mojtahedzadeh,2002:128). Hafeznia regards geopolitics as the study of the interrelationships of "geography, power, and politics" and the actions resulting from their combination with each other (Hafeznia,2006:13). Cohen argues that geopolitics is the applied study of the relationship of geographic space with politics, that is, the interaction of spatial patterns, forms, and structures with political thought, institutions, and reflections (Cohen,1994:17). In general, it can be said that geopolitics is the study of political conflicts resulting from the unequal distribution of power occurring in space. In the traditional approach, geopolitics includes explaining governments' efforts to compete for territorial control. Based on this approach, geopolitics was a part of Western colonial knowledge that discussed the relationship of natural geography and land with politics. Geopolitics, until the second half of the twentieth century, generally served colonial and expansionist purposes and for this reason, geopolitical thought has been the subject of accusations of intellectual rationalization of two world wars, in particular the racist expansionism of Nazi Germany. With the onset of the Cold War, geopolitical competitions gained more ideological flavor, largely explained in the form of George Konan's barrier theory. With the end of the Cold War influenced by neoclassical economics, Marxism, feminism, and the postcolonial era and

postmodernist views, the traditional approach of geopolitical knowledge has weakened and a kind of plurality of ideas have emerged in the theoretical foundations of this branch of human geography (Flint, 2006:19). In fact, today the field of thought of geopolitical scholars has changed and have become fluid. For this reason, this discussion of geopolitical thought is called "the era of multidimensional thought". In other words, the postmodern geopolitical feature is its multidimensional nature. So that each new geopolitical tendency is focused on a part of the facts and events of the world. From the perspective of postmodernist views, geopolitics is not only the knowledge of the competing countries over territorial control, but is now the subject area of extendedgeopolitical knowledge and in terms of functional scale, in addition to the global regional and national scale, has been shifted to sub-state scales such as districts and cities (Hosseini,2018:291). So geopolitics is the art of applying politics and competition at different spatial levels to increase power and preserve the interests". In a collection of discussed theories, geopolitics is called the science of studying the relationships of geography, power, and politics, and the actions caused by their combination. According to the most recent definition of geopolitical science, geographic space becomes more important, and in addition to the effectiveness of geography on power and politics at large dimensions and levels, it also becomes important at micro-spatial levels. Therefore, understanding the opportunities and challenges of development geopolitics both at the transnational level and within states and cities is important for understanding social behavior and community institutions for gaining power in order to better manage space affairs and political management and, there is a kind of competition to increase power on this space scale. "Power" is the ability to lead and command as well as to provide operational practices that enable important things to be done (Stoker, 1996:220). Political geographers are interested in examining the unequal distribution of power and also the ways in which geographical factors affect the extent of a given power. According to Muir, power means anything that sustains and perpetuates human domination over another human (Muir,2000:270). Power has three essential dimensions: 1. population, 2. economy or industry, 3. military power. Power not only changes in terms of intensity and spatial concentration, but has also rise and fall in the temporal dimension. The concept of cycles of domination that has

been applied by Wallerstein and Taylor in political geography for the geographical concentration of power. According to which the hegemonic class is extremely powerful politically, economically, or culturally, and dominates the other classes and, it can be drawn into the spatial dimension of the city, and one or more cities which are the symbol of the hegemony class over other cities in the world that has power ((Muir,2000:274-277). Power is instrumental in nature and is produced by combining various components, including geographical values and elements, which is used by political actors to maintain loyalty and excellence in competition and conflict with other actors in the space hierarchy.

3. Research Method

This is a fundamental and theoretical research and the data analysis method is descriptive-analytical based on qualitative methodology. The method of data collection is documentary and library. It is tried to establish a semantic and contextual relationship between this model and the text of the paper, while expressing the relationship between power and competition in the city. In this regard, in order to achieve a clear and accurate conclusion based on rational inference, it has been attempted to explain the geopolitics of the city, especially from the perspective of renowned political geographers. Therefore, this research seeks to reach a generalized conclusion about the geopolitics of the city, power and competition in the city by using the main variables such as the phenomenon of the city, power and competition.

4. Discussion and Findings
4-1 City and Power in Geopolitics

In general, since the beginning of geopolitics, power and competition to dominate the land and its resources have been the main basis of this knowledge (Ahmadi and et al,2017:55).

The politics is about the struggle for power in order to apply control over others, to achieve interests and to express or to obtain identities. Until recently, political geographers seemed to be uninformed about the nature of politics, and political geography texts had little attention to the political meaning. Political geographers have tended to view government as a unique source of power and define power as the ability to force others (Mirhaydar and mirahmadi,2018:33), but power manifests itself in the spatial hierarchy and affects the environment and the people around it in different ways. For

example, in the morphological construction of cities, social, political, economic, religious and military considerations play an important and significant role in addition to natural factors. Studies show that priests dominated the cities in ancient Egyptian cities, and given the geopolitical influence of this stratum of society, cities follow a certain morphology. In the Spartan cities, in contrast, the military had taken over the physical construction of the cities. In the cities of Athens, philosophers and thinkers took precedence over other urban decision-makers, and the city was unique in this respect. In Roman cities, legislators and staff, and merchants in Renaissance Italy, have been influential in the geopolitics of urban morphology and the quality of people's lives. In Europe after the Middle Ages, a period of cultural and social revolutions took place, and urban functions were influenced by national revolutions, cultural revolutions, and the great French and industrial revolutions. Each of these changes and revolutions imposed new functions on the city and overshadowed the quality of life of the people in the cities. Just as the Great French Revolution stopped the building of national feudalism and the supremacy of the church in urban affairs, after that, urban culture prevailed and became the center of government. Historical analysis of the role of power and dominance in the city, therefore, shows that at any time when the levers and components of power were provided to an individual or group, this had an impact on the internal construction of that city. Thus, in the modern world, power shapes citizens' everyday lives in different forms - from violence and violence to the laws, architecture and culture. New technologies, telecommunications, and information technology led to the decentralization and accumulation of economic activity. This spatial composition and global integration is a starting point that has led to the emergence of a new strategic role for major cities as well as a new type of cities(Sadeghi,2020:119).

Also, according to studies in large cities, several factors are involved in the construction of spatial patterns in the process of dealing with power holders:

1. Socioeconomic base. The socioeconomic base gives the city a sectional form, meaning that the city sections is formed on the basis of the amount of income and education of individuals.

2. Family base. The family status affects the regional formation more than the sectional one.

3. Ethnic-racial base gives cities cluster form. Each of these urban clusters belongs to one tribe or followers of one religion. Like cluster sections of people of different faiths in Middle Eastern cities, or black, Chinese, and Italian neighborhoods in American cities that are referred to as "ghettoes" in urban ecology.

4. Mosaic texture of the city. Each of these three patterns can help create a mosaic pattern of the city (individual pieces); in this case, each urban section will have family characteristics. Although homogeneity and uniformity within these sections, there are considerable differences in economic, ethnic, and family status with other urban sections. Thus, cities have a deep relationship with power structures (political, economic, and cultural) (Nazarpoor and Saedi,2015:137). Traditional studies of urban systems have been mostly based on components such as population size, geographical location, quality of physical development, economic foundations, etc. (Rafieyan and et al,2011:106). In recent decades, it has been widely accepted that geopolitics should focus its scope of analysis and studies on the sub-state levels of the city in particular (Painter,1995: 56). Cities as actors of the global economy and the focal point of developments at the local to global level have always been an important strategic goal for political power. For this reason, state and local government authorities have to consider the component of the city and its developments in the administration of their territory. Because cities have sociopolitical constructiob and built by individuals and groups that are biased in attributing certain attributes and privileges to their place of residence (Ahmadipour and et al,2018:120). According to Harvey, cities are geopolitical units that reflect the main lines of power and economic influence (Harvay,2008:238). In postmodern geopolitics, micro-studies are given serious attention. Therefore, studies of micro-geopolitical issues within the city are concerned with the mechanisms of government and local government and city management.

Due to the multifaceted, intertwined and topological nature of urban life order at the local to global functional levels and in urban forms and areas, different issues and problems attracted the attention of geopolitical scholars (Pourmusavi and et al,2011:33-35).

In general, there are three main issues concerning the relationship between geopolitics and the city, and especially in the context of urban geopolitics:

Figure (1): The three major urban geopolitical axes
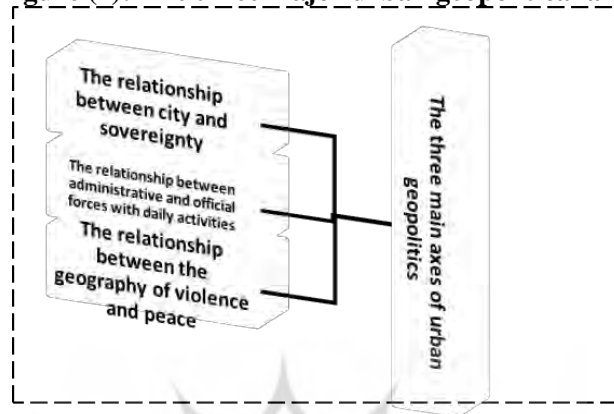
Political geographers can organize studies in each of these relationships by focusing on the contexts that lead to the explanation of the urban geopolitical framework.

- First, the focus is on understanding the complex relationships between government and other NGOs which can be observed in recent years in the city.

- Second focus of geographers and geopoliticians is on daily, informal, and unplanned daily life, which identifies the structure of people's relationships with governmental organizations and their public interest in non-governmental organizations while introducing the dynamics and mobility of the city.

- The third focus is on urban geopolitics, peace and its capacities, rather than solely focusing on war and conflict.

Therefore, the phenomenon of the city can be studied from a geopolitical perspective given the importance of the presence of the "cities" in the "geopolitical" games of today's world, and given the important role they play in the processes of declining and increasing power at national to transnational levels and, the geopolitical scenes of today's world can be explained and analyzed, with or without urban actors. Given that the concept of power is at the heart of geopolitical studies of the city, one of the elements of political influence in the city is its power and pattern of distribution. The pattern of power distribution in the city is influenced by the relationships of power-generating cores, such as government and non-governmental organizations, which are occupied by the central part of cities

and monopolized by the state and market. Bergess believes that modern cities find a pattern of concentric circles that, each of these circles has its own characteristics with respect to the distribution of power.

- First Power District: Central Business District; This is a place where land prices are very high and there are large shops, office buildings, banks and business centers. In addition, this district includes amenities, recreational and cultural services such as hotels, restaurants, theaters, cinemas, museums and the like. A large population enters and exits this district daily. This central core is the primary focus of urban settlements.

- Second Power District: Near the core; residents are slowly becoming newcomers to the city or low-income people looking for affordable housing. In this area there are places like anonymous inns and the like. Tilt is very common in this area.

- Third Power District: Workers' settlements including relatively inexpensive and small housing. Some factories are located here and its residents often work in the factory.

- Fourth Power District: Suburbs are the neighborhoods around the city. In some cases, suburban settlements are formed around the circles.

Therefore, power plays a key role in the study of urban geopolitics and in explaining the geopolitical weight-enhancing factors of the city as a powerful actor at various spatial levels with specific functions in creating competition and achieving development and environmental changes.

4-2 Geopolitical Definition of the City

December 2005, following some discontent in the French colonial suburbs, and particularly in the Muslim suburbs of Paris, which led to extreme urban riots and the threat of Sarkozy's government; the sensitivities of academic and academic circles to this issue and the political importance of different areas of a city in terms of security, competition, importance and power have been aroused. This led to political science and geography departments at the Universities of Sergei, Pentavas of France, at Berkeley University in California; USA, the French Institute of Geopolitics, following the preparation of a joint conference on "Urban Geopolitics". The focus of this gathering was mainly on the challenges of separating individuals, families and groups in the context of ethnic, religious and racial segregation in France and the United States and their role in political developments. Since then, it has been argued that the nature of geopolitics, and especially among

popular schools of thought that have explored the concept of geopolitics; only the "school of geopolitics" was able to begin to explain the concept of urban geopolitics. The geographical school that came into existence around the 1970s institutionalized some of the thinking expressed in several French-language written works. The birth of this stream of thought was traced back by Locset in 1976 and revised in Herodotus (Ibid, 301). Other geopoliticians have in turn contributed to the development of this geopolitical insight. The main criticism of the Herodotus school is the restriction of the attitudes of this approach about the behavior of social groups, parties, and individuals toward governmental structures. On the other hand, it can be deduced from the study of the Herodotus Magazine that Herodotus, in fact also considered as the podium of the Herodotus School, has been dealing with urban issues since (2001), rather than the national issues which is a kind of exacerbation in dealing with this issue that, all the problems and solutions have been concentrated in cities - without relationship with the periphery or other cities at different regional, national and international levels. In other words, the year (2003) can be the beginning and turning point of "urban geopolitics" in the world. Before this year, the geopolitical concept and its related concepts of power and competition had an international scale. In 2003, the academic system held international conferences on urban geopolitics in France of the European Union, Canada of North America and Gabon of Africa for the first time. The origin of the term "urban geopolitics" in Western political and geopolitical literature is Stephen Graham. He co-authored his famous book "Cities, War and Terrorism Towards an Urban Geopolitics" (2003), and for the first time considered cities and urban neighborhoods at the center of geopolitical studies. Following Graham's idea of urban geopolitics, the International Geopolitical Conference was held in the same year in collaboration with Universities of Omar Bango from Libreville, Metz University in France, and Ottawa University in Canada, hosted by France of the European Union. The strategic axes of this conference were on issues such as: - the dangers of urban life, - organizing urban areas, - controlling habitable spaces, - urban strife, - political competitions in the city, etc (Saiami and Ghaderi,2011:152-151). Indeed, urban geopolitics, on the one hand, consists of a set of competitions, ideas, and shared understandings of political factions, religious sects, or other social centers that bring social groups to life and direct and organize their worldview. On the other hand,

the concept of this survey shows how these perceptions provide citizens with decisions and competitions, changes and sometimes even protests in urban environments, and then are changed by inspiring from geopolitical conditions. Hence, there is a kind of geopolitics at the urban scale (Purcell, 2003:13). As a result, urban geopolitics, as a new science, is a new approach to emerging criticism geopolitics, which takes a different approach to the study of the relationships of "power, competition, and politics" between "urban space" actors and tries to show positive (effective, inclusive, democratic contribution and …) and negative outcomes (e.g., violence, chaos, war, terrorism, etc.) in urban relations. Thus, today, cosmopolises are appeared as emerging centers of power, competing with each other fiercely (Sassen,2006:16). Indeed, urban geopolitics, on the other hand, consists of a set of competitions, ideas, and shared perceptions of political factions, religious sects, or other social centers that bring social groups to life and directs and organizes their worldview. On the other hand, the concept of the survey shows how these perceptions provide the context for citizens for making decisions and competitions, changes and sometimes even protests in urban environments and then the geopolitical conditions change with the inspiration. Hence there is a geopolitics at the urban scale (Purcell,2003:13). Urban geopolitical theory has become stronger and more stable, given that the city today emerges as a central factor in the political arena more than ever. Hence, in 2005, for the first time two conferences on urban geopolitics were held. Urban geopolitics describes two main features of geopolitics:

1. On the one hand, urban geopolitics does not belong to a particular category, scale, or structure, and is a pervasive issue, and the competitions between cities is as universal as it exists across nations, and within national territories and within cities.

2. On the other hand, urban geopolitics can depict the analysis of competition within a city and even an urban area, between neighborhoods, streets, or between different parts of the same city.

For example, Holbert's work on the city of Quebec reveals the discrepancies between the up and down of the city. In his studies on Karachi, Bovin also targeted the strategy of separating minority neighborhoods (religious, ethnic, etc.) that some groups volunteered to do. Purcelle also emphasizes how disadvantaged social groups and urban margins can be influential and even decisive in the competition for power among political constituents.

Therefore, urban geopolitics is "an interdisciplinary, broad and diverse science and focuses on numerous topics such as city planning system, boundaries of development, competition and conflict between power holders, class actions and tensions, urban environment and citizenship, general culture of citizens, its population and structure, and many other issues that deal with power relations within a city, between citizens and social, political and religious groups with one another, or between citizens and social groups with authority". In fact, it is better to say that geopolitics with an urban approach is a city-coriented method of invetigating in-depth and comprehensive power relationships between individuals and groups with each other and with other sources of power in cities. The power where the friction between them has led to competition, and these competitions are changing the economic, socio-cultural, political, physical and even environmental structures in cities (Hosseini,2018:304).

Figure (2): Three Basic Features of Urban Geopolitics
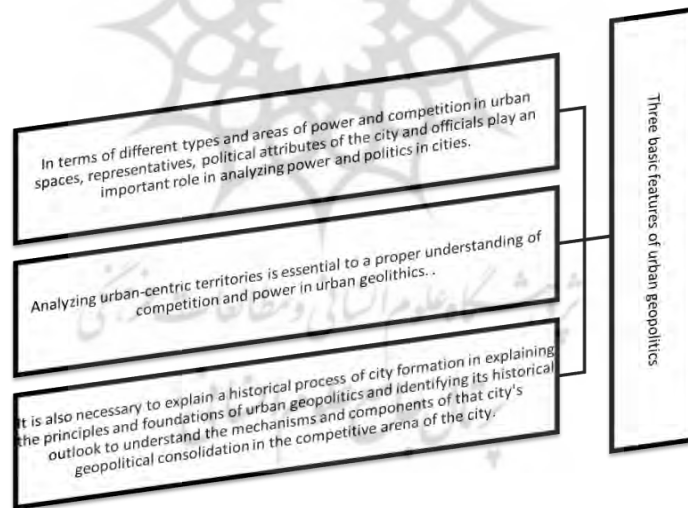
The result is that city power, regional and global competition, urban environmental values, urban conflict, policies related to city development, history, urban culture and many other factors form the "urban geopolitics". Urban geopolitics is a systematic study of the development, growth, form, design, construction, performance, and development of a city with respect to

the social, economic, and political structures of the city and within the framework of the analysis system of powers and levers of power in the city. Different places and geographical locations have different values depending on their location and characteristics. The combination of these values, which are largely influenced by geographical factors, empower one place or region, and places and regions usually use this power to develop their penetration and influence. It will also help to better understand how much power a place has and what functions and roles it can play in political, social, and cultural issues. In other words, there is a relationship between the effect of the roles of a location and the geographic area with its "amount of power". That is, the more functional or broader roles lead to the higher power of geographical location. Because the greater extension of these functions reflects their higher degree of effectiveness with other locations and regions. For example, global cities are such places with high performance, especially in economic and political terms (Friedman,1995: 22). Power at three levels is the interface between dominant coalitions, resources, and urban interests, which are:

- Command power: suppressing or subjugating opposing groups
- Coalition Power: Dominating politics and executive positions to ensure current contracting and other benefits for coalition members
- Power prevention: dominating private sector resources and thus ensuring their support for any development (Bonds,2011:270).

In general, power and its distribution is the most important element in creating competition and conflict, and many of the conflicts and efforts of actors at different spatial levels, including in cities, to increase power in different economic, cultural and political dimensions. National power in a geopolitical analysis is a presentation of the sum of the weight of the power-increasing components in the spatial structure and spatial domain of a country, and cities, especially large and metropolitan cities, form the subsystems of this spatial organization. This structural interaction in the country-city system shows that any economic, cultural, political and even historical empowerment of cities, including capitals, metropolises, middle-sized cities and even small towns on a local scale, will be clearly reflected in the promotion of national power and authority (Sayami and Khalilabadi, 2011:162) and will provide competition. "Competition" is a collective or individual conscious act that takes place through the triple functions of

creating information systems, creativity and discovering the best, and rational behavior in social and spatial terms at different scales. Competition is one of the most important processes in today's dynamic and competitive environment. Rapid and continuous change, resulting in fierce competition in various fields, is one of the most important features of today's world. Since competitiveness has provided the success, it has received much attention in recent years. Today, the issue of competitiveness and how to improve and enhance it is a central issue in global forums and meetings (Rahmanseresht,2011:76).

Competitiveness has been discussed around for more than three decades in different environments such as firms, companies, cities, regions, and nations, and this concept has been of great importance in examining the causes of the success or failure of these institutions. "Urban competitiveness" at the level of national governments and global interactions has become a vital component of the competitiveness of the national economy. There is a significant relationship between urban and national competitiveness. Based on the presented analysis, the Urban Competitiveness Index can be used as a guide to tailor urban policies. Competition and the terms derived from this concept, such as competitiveness or competitive advantage, are the subject of much debate about development and policy making. One of the most important elements in today's geopolitics is at the micro-macro-space level. So there would be no geopolitical essence if there were no competition and conflict between the different actors. Some geographers, such as Malmberg, believe that: countries (cities) must compete for resources, strategic positions or critical spaces, and groups such as Taylor believe that: geopolitics is the spatial analysis of the relationships and structures of power and global competition. In fact, economic competition results in political competition between governments and over time numerous power balances arise (Mirahmadi,2018:265), the three-layer structure of the center, the periphery and the semi-periphery, clearly expresses this competition and the distribution of power. In general, it is the emergence of a place competition that manifests itself in different ways in different regions and times, and one of these forms of competition is on the promotion of political levels in cities and regions (Kavyanirad,2016:22).

4-3 Geopolitics of the City and Competitive Domains in the City

Gradual change of nation-state structure, reduction of border limitation, the development of city-states, the formation of city diplomacy, the rule of world laws and institutions, the world language and citizens or the cosmopolitan, the development of a system of competitions, and so on in the division of international labor, development of the production network, increasing the role of productive services, reducing production costs, removing barriers and creating markets, developing a hierarchical network of interactions and exchanges, increasing consumption and free circulation of capital are among the most important dimensions and areas for creating urban competition, especially between cities. As a macro-social organization, the city deals with identity-making, value creation, branding and marketing of natural, social, cultural, political, economic, and artificial dimensions and phenomena. Geopolitical position makes the city as one of the strategic centers between countries (Talaei and Khosravani,2019:104). Cities strive for competitiveness to have a reputation called as an "urban brand". Branding has been created as a way to create a distinct identity for the product based on competitive differentiation from other products. The forms of social life have closely relationship with the occupied space, and the spatial distribution of the population is formed by the constant relation of competition and community within a spatial framework (Veber,1991: 38-40). Events in Egypt, Tunisia and Ukraine, focusing on settlement in key urban locations such as central squares, major cities, control of major city streets, and large parks show that urban geopolitics can study the new dimensions of urbanization and its dynamics, by focusing on explaining the pattern of competition in the city and the quality and how power relations are constructed with regard to the role of state and non-state actors. Thus, urban competition can occur in three dimensions: 1. competition in small cities to increase scope and function 2. competition in medium cities for centrality 3. competition in large cities to increase the influence domain. As mentioned earlier, the thinking roots of urban geopolitical rely on the axis of competition, power, and the role of the power-generating factors within the city. In urban geopolitics, the element of city power is not only a manifestation of competition within the inner fabric of the city, such as the friction of ethnic and racial groups, the economic power of different areas of economic bases, electoral competition, etc., and deals with concepts such as

inter-city competition at the district, regional, national, and even global levels. The modern city is full of contradictions for survival and obtaining scarce benefits. For example, Park believed that the city's social organization was due to the struggle and competition for scarce resources. Park sought to show the importance of the competition process within the city for obtaining scarce resources (Park,1915:557). The competitive domains creating urban geopolitics are divided into four major categories, which are presented in Figure (3).

Figure (3): Competitive Domains Involved in Urban Geopolitical Development
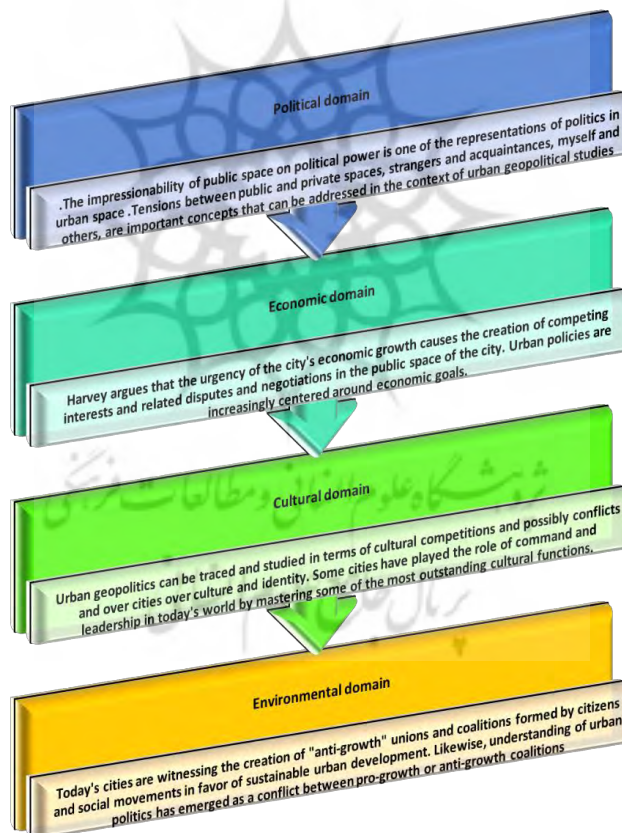
5. Conclusion

One of the most important elements in today's geopolitics is at the micro- to macro-space levels competition for power, in a way that if there were no

competition and conflict between the different actors, there would be no geopolitical essence. The city is one of the places to be explored in this area because of the multidimensional space. On the other hand, the concept of this survey shows how these perceptions provide the basis for citizens to make decisions and to compete, change and sometimes even protest in urban environments, and changes then by inspiring by geopolitical conditions. Hence, an urban-scale geopolitics has transformed cities into important actors in various geographical domains to increase their power. Power and its distribution is the most important element in creating competition and conflict, and many of the conflicts and efforts of actors at different spatial levels to increase power in different economic, cultural and political dimensions. The results of the study show that, as an important actor in today's geopolitical world, the city has embarked on positive and negative competition to expand its power at national to transnational levels. Competition in the city can cause conflict and in some cases create conditions for development and it is this element of competition that draws the city into geographical-political studies from a geopolitical perspective. Tensions between urban groups are neither new nor particularly confined to global processes. The city is an area where different groups seek to advance their interests and protect their status. Sometimes there are tensions and conflicts within groups. For example, residents who use public services and are also taxpayers have conflicting needs. As public service users, they demand a high level of accessible and reliable public service, but as taxpayers who pay for public services they like to limit the amount of tax they pay. Likewise, within business groups: The concern of large multinational corporates is probably not in line with the needs of family business owners, while the spatial concerns of free companies vary with companies that are particularly local. A city full of interests is competing and evolving as well as breaking down alliances. A series of tensions tear the city apart, and competitive domains are created in cities which are the most important causes of creating urban geopolitics and geopolitical studies in the city.

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