

The Role of Ethics in Economic Diplomacy and Its Impact on the Relations Between Iran and China in Recent Years

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Abstract

Introduction: Diverse and wide-ranging capacities have led to a special dynamic in bilateral relations between Iran and China in recent years. So that in different areas, these bilateral relations have been constantly expanding and deepening. From this point of view, the present article aimed to examine the role of ethics in economic diplomacy and its impact on the relations between Iran and China in recent years.

Material and Methods: The present study was conducted in a descriptive-analytical manner. The present study investigated the subject by studying, classifying and analyzing scientific articles in the relevant field that were published between 2005 and 2021 in the citation databases of Magiran, Science Direct, PubMed, and ISC.

Conclusions: Based on the studies, it was concluded that the role of ethics in economic diplomacy is considered important due to the interdependencies and mutual economic needs of the two countries, especially in recent years. The Islamic Republic of Iran for reasons such as the goals of the vision document, the need for energy markets, reducing and mitigating Western pressures, the need to have a relationship with China and its investment to achieve development, and reciprocally China due to development-oriented foreign policy. The growing need for energy and security in its supply, the need to launch a Silk Road strategy to access global markets, tends to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Keywords: *Ethics, Economic Diplomacy, Bilateral Relations*

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INTRODUCTION

The political or economic relations of countries are always in the direction of protecting their national interests. But the point is, how can ethics play a role in the international politics of countries, and where does it stand? In recent years, Iran and China have begun extensive relations in the national interest. To analyze the policy of Beijing and Tehran, one must pay attention to the political and economic elements in the national interests of the two countries. The Islamic Republic of Iran, by emphasizing its independent path from the two superpowers, has always tried to maintain its Islamic sovereignty and consolidate its positions in the world, which in this regard was constantly faced with many economic pressures. The combination of the war in Iraq and the turmoil of the post-revolutionary unrest, as well as internal migration, led to a severe economic downturn

in the 1980s. With the end of the Iraq war in August 1988 and the death of Imam Khomeini in June 1989, the people's dissatisfaction with the current situation became even more apparent. In 1989, some Iranian officials believed that a rapid and potential economic recovery was necessary for the health of the Islamic Revolution. A similar decision was subsequently made by Deng Xiaoping a decade ago on the outcome of the revolution led by the Chinese Communist Party. Therefore, in 1989, Tehran began a major initiative to modernize and rebuild Iran's economy. The Economic, Social, and Cultural Development Plan from 1989 to 1993 made China a major partner in post-war development, despite the slogans of the early years of the revolution based on neither Eastern nor Western policy. Therefore, the Islamic Republic realized that China has effective

capabilities to cooperate with Iran in various fields. But the question is, did ethics have a place in this economic diplomacy? From this point of view, the present article aimed to examine the role of ethics in economic diplomacy and its impact on the relations between Iran and China in recent years.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

In addition to illustrating what is, the researcher explains the reasons for how it is and why the situation of the problem and its dimensions. The researcher needs a strong argument to explain and justify the reasons. This support is provided by searching the literature and theoretical topics of research and compiling general propositions and theorems about it, which are usually formulated in the chapter on backgrounds and theoretical topics of research. Researchers logically relate the details of their research problem to the relevant general propositions and draws conclusions.

DISCUSSION

To enter the first discussion, it is necessary to get acquainted with the concept of ethics in diplomacy.

Ethics in International Relations

The concept of ethics in international relations and its place in relations between states has always been the subject of serious debate and debate between political thinkers and theorists of international relations [1].

There are two definitions of ethics in political literature; The first type, which originates from a Greek background, considers morality as a tool to control and guide carnal aspirations and selfishness in social life, which is based on a kind of social contract [2]. In the second approach, which originates from a religious obstacle based on the teachings of Christianity, morality is seen as a necessary effort and a sincere effort to purify the soul and purify the polluted nature of human beings in line with the divine will [3].

Some have defined morality under concepts such as good and bad or right or wrong actions [4]. Morality is the equivalent of the Greek words "ethic- (s)" and "ethos", which means the system or set of social practices and habits. From this perspective, it is a moral matter that conforms to the customs, norms and laws of society and the customs that govern society [4]. Some have considered patience to be right and managing things according to reason and tolerance as examples of morality and moral behavior [5]. Farabi also mentions the morality of actions and the morality of interactions among the attributes and characteristics of the utopia [6].

The Qur'an, Hadith and the tradition of the Prophet are full of verses, phrases and commands, all of which refer to the high and special position of morality and adherence to moral principles in society and social relations. In this regard, perhaps the most important and clear interpretation of the famous prophetic hadith is in which the Holy Prophet of Islam mentions the main purpose of his resurrection and prophecy to complete and complete the moral virtues [7]. Many Orientalists who have tried to justify and explain the emergence of Islam and the formation of the Islamic government by the Prophet in Mecca and Medina, ignoring this precious hadith, mention the main purpose of the Prophet in establishing government and gaining political power. Now, according to this hadith and many other evidences, political power and political sovereignty by the Prophet are the only means and means to create the necessary social conditions for the flourishing of moral virtues and the building of a society based on morality and ethics. The important point here is that the moralization of society and the ethics-orientation of interactions and interactions of individuals in society and communities or each other has never been limited to the Islamic society. From the Prophetic tradition it can be inferred that from the Islamic point of view, adopting an ethical approach and adhering to its functions and consequences is a fundamental principle in the political doctrine of Islam at both internal and external levels.

Economic Diplomacy

In recent decades, economic diplomacy has become an important tool in the relations between the two countries' foreign societies in order to take advantage of bilateral and multilateral opportunities, as well as the benefits of the global economy in the pursuit of national interests. Economic diplomacy in its general sense is the use of various economic tools to influence the behavior of foreign parties in order to ensure national interests at bilateral and multilateral levels. Economic diplomacy refers to the part of economic activities in the relations between two foreign societies of a country, which is based on the strategy of identifying and creating economic opportunities, especially in the export dimension, in order to take advantage of the opportunities and advantages of the global economy. Six different factors shape economic diplomacy: three systematic factors, two internal factors, and basic ideas. Systematic factors derived from the international system include: relative economic power, economic organizations and regimes, and markets; domestic factors also include interests and bargaining, institutions, and two-way games. Ideas and

persuasion are also important as the last factor in ethics in economic diplomacy [8].

The following factors increase the role of economic diplomacy in the new international economic system:

Internationalization of processes and strengthening the interdependence of two societies, two societies of the world economic system towards regional and global integration

Rapid expansion of the market economy, economic liberalization and its reactions through international trade and investment

Globalization of the global economy

Adopting advanced management methods, energy efficient and new technologies, foreign investment, ensures the growth of cooperation between countries and international organizations

Progress and innovation in the economies of countries.

In fact, economic diplomacy as the most important pillar of foreign policy is a tool that tries to advance the goals of governments and take on different dimensions in accordance with the capabilities and goals of foreign policy [9].

In general, economic diplomacy consists of three elements:

The use of political influence to promote or influence international trade and investment in order to improve the performance of markets or to address bankrupts and to reduce the costs and risks of cross-border transactions. This part of economic diplomacy typically covers trade policy, as well as many of the activities of non-governmental organizations under this heading.

Using economic assets and relations between the two societies in order to reduce the costs of war and strengthen the mutual benefits of cooperation and relations between the two societies with political stability, and increase economic security.

Ways to consolidate and unite the political space and the environment of political economy in order to facilitate and establish these goals. This part of economic diplomacy covers multilateral negotiations and its territory is transnational organizations and institutions such as the World Trade Organization, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the European Union, etc. [10].

Priorities and ethical principles of foreign policy of Iran and China

In order to better understand the issue, it is necessary to first briefly review the priorities and ethical principles of the foreign policy of the two countries.

Ethical principles and priorities of Chinese foreign policy:

The basic principles and goals of China's foreign policy are as follows:

Foreign policy must serve economic development

China must show that it is not moving in the direction of regional or global hegemony.

China must show that the development of China and the emergence of an advanced China serve peace, cooperation and regional and global coordination, and also contribute to the progress of other countries.

China relies on the win-win principle in economic activities and resolves economic and trade conflicts by resorting to the method of cooperation, equality and mutual benefit.

China, while emphasizing the right to sovereignty and stability, opposes any foreign interference in its internal affairs and national unity [11]. China's set of principles and strategies in the field of foreign policy also includes:

1) Mutual respect, 2) Respect to the rights of other countries, 3) Non-interference in the affairs of other countries, 4) Achieving a policy of mutual benefit in establishing relations with other countries, 5) Establishing peaceful coexistence with other countries [12].

China's approach to the Middle East until the 1970s was largely ideological, stemming from its confrontation with the Soviet Union and the United States. However, following the Cultural Revolution and the adoption of the open-door policy in the late 1970s, the foreign policy approach of this country also changed from ideological to economic issues and approaches [13]. In general, China in the Middle East has pursued a policy based on pragmatic efforts aimed at advancing domestic development and gaining money and energy through its relationship with the Middle East. Until he wants to implement and pursue a major strategic or political plan in the region [14]. As rapid economic growth continues, China's interests in the Middle East are expanding, which is why Chinese governments want a stable, undisputed, and predictable Middle East [14]. In general, it can be said that issues such as avoiding overt geopolitical competition with the United States, stability in energy transfers are among the principles of China's Middle East policy, and variables such as China's energy dependence on the Middle East, economy, and support for stability. The Middle East is one of the influential variables in China's Middle East policy [15].

Ethical principles and priorities of the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran

The system of the Islamic Republic of Iran has fixed principles on which the country's foreign policy strategy

is based. These fixed principles are: 1) The rule of denying the mustache, 2) The principle of neither East nor West, 3) The independence of the nation-state and the negation of the system of domination, 4) The principle of dignity, wisdom and expediency, the principle of respect for international treaties and treaties, 5) The principle of peaceful coexistence with non-combatant governments, 6) The principle of peaceful resolution of international disputes and arbitration [16]. Given what has been said, it may be possible to apply the following principles and principles to Iran's foreign policy in a relative and inductive way:

1) Preferring nations to governments in the relations between the two international communities, 2) Preferring movements over states in the relations between the two international communities, 3) Fighting Israel and comprehensive defense of the Palestinian Islamic Movement, 4) Opposition and struggle against the United States, 5) Disagreeing to the levels of power among countries, 6) Opposition to the veto system in the UN, 7) Belief in the separation of the relations between two foreign economic societies from the relations between the two political societies, 8) Emphasis and comprehensive implementation of political independence in planning and policy-making, 9) Preferring beliefs over Economic and commercial interests in the relations between the two societies, 10) Strategic distance from the great powers and their interests and policies, 11) Emphasis on political justice in the relations between the two societies between governments [16].

Standards and double standards in international relations

Despite the implicit emphasis of both countries on the issue of diplomatic ethics, we always see double standards at the international level. This is due to the adherence to the interest-based approach in diplomatic relations, which leads to a decrease in the importance of ethics in these relations. One of the most important and obvious effects of adopting a utilitarian approach in the international system will be the emergence, emergence and normalization of the adoption of dual policies and actions in the international system by the actors. In other words, because the ultimate goal here is profit, the ugliness of duplicitous and discriminatory behavior fades away and is easily ignored. In the ethics-oriented approach, the adoption of double policies and behaviors is condemned and rejected due to the essential and inherent conflict with the moral principles and principles. Completely ignoring ethics and ethical

principles in international interactions, or in the most optimistic case, second-hand ignoring ethical considerations in international relations is one of the negative consequences of adopting a utilitarian approach in international relations [17]. This will gradually lead to the diminishing of morality from international interactions and will have catastrophic consequences for the destiny of mankind.

Given this, the moralization of diplomatic relations always faces challenges. Experts in this field seek to answer the question of what causes and factors make international relations cannot be based on ethics and continue to live in ethics-oriented programs?

Challenges and obstacles of implementing an ethical approach in relations between Iran and China

The presented comparative analysis suggests that the attempt to "moralize" international relations in terms of reducing the harms of realism through utilitarianism is an undeniable necessity that has been addressed by a large number of thinkers in the field of international relations and foreign policy [18]. However, the necessities of this strategy cannot negate the problems and obstacles to its implementation. The most important of these obstacles and challenges are:

Security puzzle: Fear of harming national security is one of the biggest obstacles to achieving an ethical approach in international relations. Since the preservation of survival, preservation of the essence and continuity of life of nations has long been the most important concern and mission of governments, so this issue has been in the focus of governments and nations [19]. Getting caught up in moral dilemmas and restrictions has always been a nightmare for statesmen. Accordingly, throughout human history, there has always been a kind of conflict between survival and morality, which, of course, has always been a loser in this field of morality.

Lack of trust: Uncertainty about the other actors' adherence to ethics and fulfillment of the covenant, which leads to a kind of deep distrust between the parties to the interaction in the international system, is another leading challenge to the realization of the ethics-oriented approach. How do I know that if my government is committed to ethics and moral principles, other states will either adhere to these principles or remain faithful to their covenant if they declare their allegiance? The skepticism that exists in the minds of nations and governments in response to this question has discouraged them from pursuing an ethical approach [19]. **Fear of losing the game:** Fear of losing or losing in a close and breathtaking competition in international

political-economic and security relations has been another obstacle to adopting an ethical approach in international relations. Failure, or even the notion of defeat, in the turbulent battle for power on the international stage is a nightmare that has trapped the most courageous political leaders, forcing them to violate morality and ethics, at least at some point in the history of their rule.

Deep and historical doubts: Serious doubts about the practicality and possible realization of this approach, along with the bitter experience and continuous failures in the past, are other serious challenges in advancing the realization of an ethical approach in the international system. Is it really possible to feed nearly seven billion people? Provided them with housing, clothing and jobs? Do the available resources enable all the inhabitants of the earth to enjoy material prosperity? Is it possible to make all the people of the world happy in principle? Is it possible to blur the boundaries between rich and poor and distribute God-given wealth to the inhabitants of the earth justly, as is the case with an ethical approach? Is it possible to build a world in which human beings can enjoy a prosperous and happy life?

CONCLUSION

Finally, considering the above-mentioned issues, it can be concluded that the relationship between the two concepts of ethics and benefit with the conventional definitions provided by these two concepts is a relationship of contrast, conflict and contradiction. The prevailing perception and perception of thinkers and politicians of this conflicting relationship between the two concepts has led to the fact that they consider the existence and acceptance of one to negate the other. In other words, from their point of view, adherence to morality and ethical principles in international relations

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means ignoring the interests of the country, endangering the security and welfare of the nation, and endangering the survival of the country. The middle and, of course, hypocritical path taken by the vast majority of countries' political leaders is a minimal commitment to a set of moral principles, as long as it does not pose a threat to the country's interests.

This is clearly visible in the relations between Iran and China. Presenting solutions and suggestions regarding increasing the level of ethical relations between these two societies, especially in the economic field, is as follows:

- 1- Achieving stability in pursuing foreign policy goals in relation to friendly and non-hostile countries.
2. Avoiding stressful and costly policies in foreign policy.
- 3- Recognizing the moral priorities of both countries
- 4- Recognizing the coordinates of capabilities and limitations of friendly and target countries when formulating micro and macro political and diplomatic strategies.
- 5- Coordination of the ethics system in diplomacy with policy-making institutions and various economic sectors of the country

Ethical Consideration

Ethical issues (such as plagiarism, conscious satisfaction, misleading, making and or forging data, publishing or sending to two places, redundancy and etc.) have been fully considered by the writers.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests.

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