

## **Indian presence in Afghanistan through Iran: Economic and Security Impact**

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### **Abstract**

Economic exchanges have long exerted great influence on the relations between nations and nations in various political, social and cultural dimensions, and these effects are increasing in current international relations. Given that the countries of Iran and India are opponents of terrorist and takfiri groups in the region and the country of Afghanistan is one of the main headquarters of the terrorists in the region, it is one of the prerequisites for full and coherent use for security in the economic exchanges of the region.

Regarding what has been mentioned, the main question of the paper is about the effect of Indian presence in Afghanistan regarding security and economy? And the main hypothesis of this paper is that the presence of India in Afghanistan has increased the economic interactions between Iran, Afghanistan and India, and, in addition to the establishment of security cooperation, the internal context of creating insecurity in the region is reduced. The research method used in this article is descriptive-analytical and has used library studies to compare the results of economic exchanges on security creation.

First of all, interdependence views have been used to designate India's economic presence in Afghanistan; and the results of this paper can point to a rise in the economic ties between Iran, India and Afghanistan, leading to an increase in the interests of the three countries, a new balance, the more emphasize and importance of Asian markets Middle and more security in Afghanistan.

### **Keywords:**

Iran, India, Economic Interactions, Security, Afghanistan, Interdependence

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## **Introduction**

The connection between different aspects of life, including economics, politics, culture, security and society, is obviously evident throughout history. Economics is one of the most important and vital aspects of humanity alongside security; so that these days, the need for economic development is security and security without economic growth and economic development is not enough.

Security has several definitions and types that have attracted the attention of scientists. Bowzan knows when people consider peaceful life they respect each other's values, customs, customs and identities. The security that comes out of these peace and respect are known as social security, which is actually security from the bottom to the top, and must be accepted by the rulers.

At the second level of power, Nye think that the economic dimension is very important; at this level, economic power has been highlighted, and present along with the United States, Europe, Japan and China and in the management of world economic issues, and there is a multidimensional game in progress (Nye, 2004, 2-5)

Afghanistan is one of the major neighboring countries of Iran, which is geographically viewed important by major powers, including the United States, Russia and China. Afghanistan has been deprived of domestic security in recent years, and the central government has failed to provide stability and security for its people. Important factors resulting insecurity are terrorist groups and the involvement of global powers in this country.

By joining the Chabahar port to Afghanistan, the importance of the country has increasingly grown globally, more than before. One of the determined countries trying to have an economic presence in Afghanistan is India, which, by investing in the Chabahar port, seeks to expand its economic relations and presence in Afghanistan through Iran.

Nay and Cohen, within the framework of neoliberalism, have emphasized the role of actors in subnational, transnational and supra national, along with governments, discuss the plurality of actors in international relations. therefore, according to the role of new actors, including organizations, companies, individuals and networks, their assumptions are more consistent with the new developments in world of political economy and the role of non-state actors (Jervis, 1999: 53). In this regard, India's economic presence in Afghanistan affects three sub-national, national and international levels.

The project of the Chabahar port connection to Afghanistan for the first time was presented in the National Conference on the Development of Makren Coast and the Islamic Republic of Iran's Marine Authority on -28 to Feb. 30, 2012, by Yazdani and his colleagues. This design can be reviewed through a number of perspectives, which we will discuss below:

A) Afghanistan is one of the most important and influential countries in the security of West Asia, which, despite the existence of the government, is deprived of security in various fields. Lack of security in Afghanistan has affected many other countries in the region, including Iran, Pakistan and India, including the spread of insecurity by promoting terrorist groups.

In this regard, one of the most influential projects of India during the recent years has been the economic investment in Afghanistan to influence the security equations of the region and to make profits through the Chabahar port. Indian Foreign Minister of sailing Nityin Gaddeki and his Iranian counterpart Abbas Akhundi signed the Memorandum on the development of the Chabahar Port in the Gulf of Oman on Wednesday (April 17, 1999) (Tsunim, 18/8/96); in addition the Indian government issued a statement emphasizing that Indian companies will implement the Chabahar port development project.

B) The above consensus was reached when Iran and India have agreed in 2003 with the development of the Chabahar port in the Gulf

of Oman near the Iranian-Pakistani border, but this plan was faced with insignificant progress due to Western sanctions. And the main reason of the cooperation can be India's efforts to confront terrorist groups and economic growth, and its political and economic rivals, China and Pakistan, with a \$ 46 billion contract to expand energy cooperation.

In the world today, the most important part of life is security, and other activities find their meaning in the shadow of security and, in other words, countries that act as international actors, consider their security as their priority to fulfill their demands. Security and insecurity like the past have no limited impact and insecurity in a country can endanger global security.

C) In the same vein, one of the hotbeds and strikes, has been in western Asia, especially Afghanistan during the recent years. Given the collapse of the security breach of nations and the increasing attachment of security, especially to neighboring countries, the cooperation of other countries to ensure security is obvious. Afghanistan is one of the most insecure countries in recent years, whose presence has negatively affected the security of the countries of the region. Therefore, the economic cooperation between India and Afghanistan, which is carried out by Iran, could increase political security in the western region Asia will lead.

D) Among the reasons about importance of Afghanistan security for Iran, the strategic environment of Iran and Afghanistan can be highlighted. Peace and security in Afghanistan, the existence of US occupation policies, and in particular the hidden policies of some countries for transportation of narcotics and gangs of weapons and sabotage groups to Iran, have always threatened the security of the region. The most important political-security tensions in the relationship between Iran and Afghanistan can be found in the components of the activities of the slaughterers and drug traffickers inside and beyond the borders, the activities of terrorist groups that

commit negative political security, the presence of Afghan refugees and the consequences. Due to this presence, smuggling and violent crimes were searched.

E) The Indian nation can play a role as an active actor to encounter the subversive activities of terrorist groups and the use of the Central Asian consumer market. Other reason for the importance of Chabahar for India is its rivalry with China and hostility to Pakistan. India has been connected to Afghanistan through Chabahar and provided economic opportunities for itself from Central Asian countries. Indeed, the issue of internal security is a common challenge for Iran, India and Afghanistan, which focus on economic activity in the pursuit of political security.

According to what has been mentioned, the main question of the paper is that, what are the affects of Indian presence on Afghanistan's security and economy? In response to this central question, the main hypothesis is that the presence of India in Afghanistan has increased the economic interactions between Iran, Afghanistan and India, and through this way, in addition to enhancing security cooperation, the internal context will reduce insecurity in the region. The research method used in this article is descriptive-analytical and has used library studies to compare the results of economic exchanges on security creation.

## **1. Theoretical Framework**

### **1.1. Functionalism and interdependence:**

The two systems of politics and economics are widespread in their interaction with one another, and theories focus on priority of each other on the other has resulted to a side of reductionism (Gill and David, 1988). Along with the expansion of the global economy, there is growing tendency to create global defense and security cooperation arrangements and gradually the number of these security arrangements and institutions at the regional and international levels are increasing.

Factors such as the willingness of governments to avoid war and engagement, enormous costs, technological requirements and defenses, and internal defense responsibilities, resulted to strengthen multilateral and collective defense arrangements, and increase international military coordination and cooperation. (Mokhtari .1379: 319).

Since 1945, economic security has been considered alongside political interactions. Bari writes: At this point, "in the West, governments are called upon to create economic security for their people, and the government pursues the same goals." (Bozan .1378: 263). It should also be recalled that economic security in the interaction with political security implies that globalization has increased its scope.

Robert Gilpin, with a realistic look, looks at the security dimension of the economy, and especially the role and place of economic considerations in achieving the unity and convergence of national security. He emphasizes that divergence is an intrinsic act of governments in international relations that pursues the acquisition, preservation, or expansion of national independence, while economic considerations that underlie it, in spite of competing against one another, can be inferred from the above divergence and overcome the positive impacts on the security dimension of these countries (Steven R, 2002: 257)

A History of the Economic Transactions Impact on the Performance and Security of the government first stated by Functionalists in international relations. The group believed that economic cooperation led to increased dependence and political influence.

Functionalists point out that the development and expansion of cooperation in various fields is not confined to a specific geographic area and will be transmitted to other parts of the world through the characteristics of the international system. This gradually diminished



the importance of boundaries, and issues at the international level replaced the narrow-mindedness of nationalism.

The relative sample of functionalism can be seen in the economic relationship between Japan and the United States. In the economic relationship between Japan and the United States after World War II, America's compensation policy became an opportunity to rebuild Japan's economic zone.

Following the US need for Japan to enter the East Asian market, South East Asia's replacement market policy replaced China. Following Japan's "doctrine of Yoshida", relying on "economics" as the most important factor, Japan has been working with the United States for security, resulting in economic development and conflict prevention (Sadriani, 1387: 12)...

"The theory of interdependence" claims that the institutional and economic interdependence reduce the agents of incitement to conflict (Lampton, 2014: 3, 7, 122). Transnationality and interdependence are certainly no guarantees against war, "but a major force for peace (Christenen, 2015: 46). In the meantime, people like Cooper, with proposing World War I, believe that high economic dependence is not a guarantee of conflict prevention (Cooper, 2015: 57). Roach believes that mutual dependence of war costs increases it for all sides, but interdependence with imbalances also increases the likelihood of a military conflict (Copeland, 2015: 1, 14, 437; Roach, 2014).

Within the framework of the theory of dependency, the following points can be mentioned:

A) The most important factor in the evolution of the concept, foundations and structures of national security in the process of international economic developments is the evolution of the form and nature of the state and the emergence of new actors. By the way, the developments in the international political economy have been pushed toward the supreme and dominant organization of the nation-state and its role in providing national security; the government, along with the

market and the economy, also has helped expand the capitalist process in the international political economy system. Thus, the interaction of national and international economies with the strengthening of the state has led to changes in the political economy of the international (Oxford, 1999: 39)

B) Richard Cooper argues in his classic book on economic interdependence that international economic engagement increases and restricts the freedom of action of countries in proportion to their power. This engagement limits the use of resources more. This engagement will increase their freedom by allowing more economic use of limited resources, and restricting their freedom by placing each country in the matrix of restrictions.

C) Robert Cohen and Joseph Nay in their pioneering analysis emphasize that interdependence in the simplest definition means bilateral affiliation ... Our view implicitly suggests that interdependent communications always have costs because of the interdependence of autonomy limits. They emphasize that the general upheaval of bilateral dependence in recent decades - which is largely due to growing economic exchanges - can impose restrictions on states, including the use of military power.

Interdependence in world politics refers to a situation in which there is interaction between countries or actors in different countries has mutual influences. These influences often derive from international exchanges - the transfer of money, goods, individuals, and messages internationally (Big, 1375: 942). Business relations can serve as a means of showing determination to resolve disputes over global issues (Gartzke, Li & Boehmer, 2001; Gartzke, 2007; Morrow, 1999).

In the business world, governments can use policies such as import bans, tariff increases, tariff discriminations, withdrawal of quotas, or removal of quotas. With regard to capital, governments can, in a variety of ways, block assets or restrict exports and imports of capital



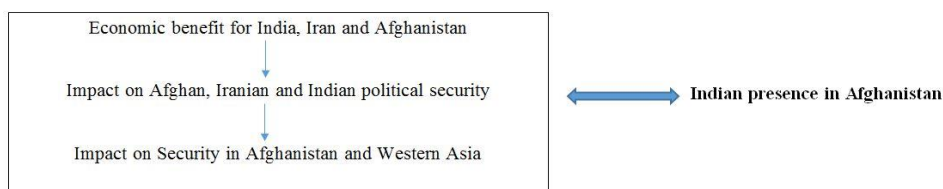
seeking to influence the target nation. (Brooks & Wolfards, 1392, 150)

D) According to the theory of the dependence of natural resources, the climate and the supply of human resources have been unevenly distributed among societies, each society should be trained in the production of its natural talents in order to enable international trade to achieve maximum production capability for certain items, raw materials and commodities and services, but the theory of affiliation claims that the world economy cannot be conceived of as a system composed of equal trading parties, because the supremacy of the military, economic and political power of the center (i.e. industrial societies), impose the inequality of the conditions of exchange on the margins (less industrialized societies that depend on the export of raw materials and manpower) more than before. Historically, colonialism was such that, by guaranteeing favorable conditions for the export of goods made by advanced societies and capitalism, faced the new industrialized countries of the Third World with barriers. Industrial societies, with the imposition of specific raw materials production into affiliated societies, retained the system of inequality of exchange and forced exporters of the raw materials to depend on the world market and to tolerate the instability (which exported them).

Dependency theory is generally based on four assumptions:

- 1) The economy and society in the vast majority of the developing world are fully affected by the fact that these countries have essentially merged into the global economy as producers of raw materials and consumers of industrial products;
- 2) This division of labor has been sustained by the economic and political power of the developed world;
- 3) This continuing integration in the global economy is causing serious internal economic distortions in the Third World;
- 4) The subsidiary effects of this economic dilemma also spread to the social and political realm (Naraqi, 1370, pp. 183-178).

Considering the above propositions, the conceptual model of this paper is as below:



**Figure 1.** Conceptual model of research

## **2. The Importance of Afghanistan for India**

Since one aspect of the discussion is Afghanistan, and trilateral cooperation between Iran, India and Afghanistan on the issue of economic and security in Afghanistan, first it is necessary to provide an account of the current state of Afghanistan's economy and security to clarified the authors point of view in this article.

### **1.2. The security situation in Afghanistan and the presence of India**

The scope of the impact of illicit drug trafficking on Afghanistan and countries in the transit and market of targeted drug trafficking countries has been of particular importance to Afghanistan's drug status in security studies. Countries such as Iran, because of their neighboring countries, are facing a lot of financial and human costs in dealing with this dilemma (Yazdani and Badakhshan. 1993: 118).

In the context of terrorism in Afghanistan, the events of September 11 and the US invasion of Afghanistan to destroy the bases of al-Qaeda and the Taliban put Afghanistan at the top of the geopolitical game called "New World Order." The reasons for the rise of terrorism in Afghanistan can be seen as fundamentalism and ruthless tyranny; the Taliban came to power with the slogan of peace and justice, but the killing of the people of Mazar-i-Sharif and Ya'awaleng reflected the religious contradictions of this group.

Today, in addition to Afghanistan, Pakistan is also considered to be a terrorist center; among them, some believe the reason for terrorism

in the region was the collapse of the Soviet Union, which could only be filled with ideological vacuum through fundamentalism and terrorism.

The extensive activities of the Taliban in the southern and southwestern regions of the Pakistani tribal regions have led to the expansion of the activities of drug traffickers on both sides of the border due to cultural affiliations and the lack of effective control of the two countries over their border areas. Taliban will provide part of its funding with this trade. Some sources have claimed in the past years the Afghan Taliban will receive "90-160 million dollars" a year from taxes on drug trafficking (Tahfi Ameri, 1391: 125)

One of the most important reasons for the presence of Americans in West Asia and Afghanistan is the New World Order. The geopolitical fields of the United States are divided according to the geostrategy of modern order into several regions, including the Christian West, the Islamic world centered on West Asia and the Middle East, Japan, China, orthodoxy, centered on Russia, Latin America, India, and Africa in which Southwest Asia and the Middle East have the most important position.

At the moment, political stability in Afghanistan depends on the presence of NATO and the US military. The conflict between Afghanistan and Pakistan over the border areas is still alive and emerging regional powers are pursuing their own interests in Afghanistan.

For the democratic control of Afghan forces over the past decade, billions of dollars in defense and security have been spent on the creation and training of a relatively balanced, tribal, professional and non-political army. Although there are many criticisms of how this process can be progressed, as well as the performance of the Afghan armed forces, what cannot be ignored is that these efforts have been effective in establishing the foundation and basic structure for democratic control of the armed forces.

Almost half of the Afghan populations now live in small and large cities. This, although is indicative of extramarital migration of conflict and insecurity, or the lack of development of rural areas, but the engagement of Afghans with urban life has partly led to the disappearance of the tribal system. This has automatically created the way for a middle class.

The activities of numerous civil society organizations and the media, along with human rights organizations, such as human rights organizations and women's and children's rights, freedom of expression, and efforts to pass modern laws, such as the right to information, have a tremendous impact on the structure of society. That they cannot be ignored in the analysis of the political future of Afghanistan.

In the geopolitical position of each country the geographic location, breadth, topography and shape of the country are considered among the stable factors in that the geopolitical position. Variables factors also include population, natural resources and the political and security system.

In the geopolitical context, the situation in Afghanistan is as follows: a) the China region: Afghanistan, China, Mongolia, Tibet; b) the sub continental part: India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka; c) the Iranian highland: Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan; d) Central Asia: Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan; Given this geopolitical position, Afghanistan, through its economic link with India through Iran, enables it to become a central country in the field of communications, economic and security benefits from those advantages. (Hafnahnah and Rahimi, 2011: 164) The Indian government is striving, based on its security, strategic and political interests, with a minimum military presence, while also having a major impact on the situation in Afghanistan, preventing the growth of instability in the country, as well as the increasingly penetration of Pakistan in Afghanistan. On the other hand, according

to their own political interests, the Indians do not tend to repeat the era of tyranny and dictatorship of the Taliban in Afghanistan. Indian analysts advised Indian authorities to open up friendship with tribal leaders in southern Afghanistan in 2011, where the Afghan Taliban's influence has fallen sharply, and by implementing civilian projects in the areas under the control of these Pashtun tribes, in order to pave the way for the elimination of militant groups like Haqqani Network Smooth.

According to these analysts, India has to make three fundamental changes to its political strategy: 1) By adopting regionally-oriented policies and prioritizing strategic provinces (such as Nimroz, Kabul, Ghandahar, Khost, Herat, Balkh and Nangarhar), followed strengthening its consulates across Afghanistan; 2) having relationship with public officials from Afghan provinces (from government governors to middle-level officials and even middle-ranking Taliban commanders in provinces); 3) Paying attention to small-scale development projects, along with large projects aimed at Meeting the needs of the local Afghan people (Talukdar, 2017).

Along with the triple changes, India needs to adopt new policies towards regional powers such as Iran, Pakistan, Russia and the Central Asian states. The most important new policies that Indian experts believe is that the regional affairs are working to advance New Delhi's goals in Afghanistan include: The proposal to establish a forum of multilateral organizations (NATO and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization) and efforts to reduce tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan (especially over the Durand line).

As you can see, Indian presence in Afghanistan as a country with benefits will increase security in the country. This will be achieved by India's need for security of economic goods and trade with Afghanistan, so that Afghanistan can take advantage of India's military power to provide security and prosperity.

## **2.2. The economy of Afghanistan and Indian presence**

Natural resources are the basis of economic power and indirectly affect the military powers of the countries (obedience .376: 30). The economy of Afghanistan is one of the poorest countries in the world based on traditional practices in animal husbandry and agriculture. Most of the country's products are produced domestic and non-systematic, and the capital and business are the missing economic link in the country. This factor has been one of the main reasons for Afghanistan becoming the most important source of poppy cultivation and the spread of poverty and insecurity in this country.

Afghanistan is considered as a rich country in terms of mineral resources, but most of it remains virgin and intact. Experts from the Pentagon and the Geological Survey of America, after nearly five years of review, announced in June 2010 that Afghanistan has underground deposits of copper, iron, niobium, lithium and gold worth over \$ 1 trillion. As extraction of these mines takes years, even Shahrani (the Minister of Mines of Afghanistan) claimed that 70 percent of Afghanistan's reserves are still intact. The most important mineral deposits in Afghanistan include natural gas, coal, iron ore, oil, copper, uranium, ruby, lead, and aluminum (Aliabadi., 2007: 372: 60). Considering that the receipt of impost is the most important factor in increasing the domestic income of Afghanistan over the past nine years and according to the Ministry of Finance, 50% of the domestic income of Afghanistan in 2010 was received from impost (Cultural Institute of Studies and International Research Abrar Contemporary. 2011: 277).

One of the effects of reforming the Afghanistan tariff is the increase in government revenues from Herat and Nimroz provinces during the first six months of 2010. According to the Afghan Ministry of Finance, Herat's domestic income increased by 36.5 percent to around 7 billion AFN during this period, 88 percent of which was through tariff and 12 percent through taxes. The highest tariff revenue



was paid by the province Import of fuel, vehicles, food and sanitary items, clothing and construction materials.

In 2008, Hamid Karzai's government implemented or modified the following strategies to reduce or eliminate barriers to growing exports from Afghanistan.

Equip or build airports and rail network: According to the plan announced by the Ministry of Transport and Transition of the country has been started. According to a plan announced by the Afghan Ministry of Transport and Aviation, three airports in the major cities of Afghanistan are equipped in accordance with international standards, and reconstruction and modernization of at least 22 other airports throughout the country have also been considered.

As a key element of the Central Asian Transit Project Renovation network, Afghanistan has a major role in the New Silk Road Project (NSR), which can turn Afghanistan into a medium for export of goods and energy from Central Asia, the Middle East and Russia to India, which need to develop their own rail networks. With direct pressure and support of Washington, Pakistan, after a long escape, was forced to set up a new transit deal with Afghanistan in mid-2010, according to which Afghan businessmen crossed the Pakistani soil without any payment, and for selling their goods traveled to India and Pakistan. However, Islamabad has still fled from the treaty and has not opposed it.

According to the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, half of the \$ 400 million worth of exports to the rest of the world is due to the export of dried fruits and carpets to India. The Kabul government seems to focus on another aspect of gas issue, that is, Afghanistan participation in the transition of it, so that the Afghan president, after years of negotiating and sending a commitment to engage seriously in the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan gas pipeline project, India (TAPI), that has 917 kilometers distance from Afghanistan, eventually signed an agreement on the construction of

the pipeline in Ashgabat in late 2010 (December 2010). Afghan sources claim that the project (TAPI) will cost some \$ 200 million annually to the Karzai government.

According to officials from the Ministry of Mines of Afghanistan, 23 volunteers have been qualified to extract \$ 350 billion of Hajjiqa mine from 2012, and these Indian companies (fifteen companies), Iran (two companies), Turkish, Chinese, English, Americans , Canadian and Australian (each, 1 company.) will attend in the auction held in August 2011.

In February 2010, the minister of mines in Afghanistan a news conference with US Deputy Secretary of Defense Dean of the United States in charge of economic affairs, Paul Burbali, told the result of a review by American experts suggests that 30 percent of Afghanistan's soil contains reserves worth \$ 3 trillion.

The successive meetings of Russian and Indian leaders with the Afghan president in January and February 2011, the achievements of which include signing an agreement on economic cooperation between Moscow and Kabul, quadrupling announcement of trade volume between Russia and Afghanistan, which has reached about 500 Millions of dollars, the announcement of an increase in Indian aid to Afghanistan from Manmohan Singh (India's prime minister) in the future, and the promise of Singh on encouraging Indian investors to invest in Afghanistan, clearly showed that Kabul was partly trying to show other influential governments in Afghanistan (such as Pakistan, Iran, the United States and NATO) that Afghans have other partners who can rely on them in difficult moments.

Among the most important issues in the economic situation in Afghanistan, is membership in several regional and transregional organizations. Afghanistan has relation from the north with the countries of the Central Asian Economic Cooperation, from the South and East with the countries of the South Asian Cooperation Organization (SARC), from the north and east with the countries of

the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and from the West with ECO member countries. On the other hand, the presence of India in Afghanistan has led to the development of trade between the two countries, and India's economic cooperation with Afghanistan can expand trade with other related countries, including Asia.

### **3.2. The role of Chabahar for India's presence in Afghanistan**

Chabahar is considered the key of Indian presence in Afghanistan. For India the Chabahar port is as the outlet of the Indian Ocean in the Great Northern Transit Corridor, and will provide Delhi's access to Central Asia, Russia, and ultimately to European markets, and will make Indian trade with Central Asian countries not to be depended the soil of Pakistan in order to carry their goods (Rahmani and Hosseini, 1391: 197). The main goals of India for the presence and investment in Iran can be: meeting their domestic needs, competing with China, expanding their presence in Central Asia and accelerating the process of becoming a Strategic Navy (Azamy et al., 1995: 4). Chabahar also allows India, the fourth largest energy consumer in the world, to store Iran's crude oil reserves with more than 150 billion barrels and 1.187 trillion cubic feet of gas, with additional energy resources in Central Asia, including Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan (foreignpolicy.com, 2016).

India's relationship with Afghanistan has been made through the Chabahar port, which is positioned at the heart of the highway in the Central Asian region, and where its blue routes can be seen as vital vessels of the region heart. In fact, this port is the closest access to free waters for the surrounded countries in dry lands of the Central Asian region (Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan), and makes it more significant for transition and transaction capabilities of Chabahar and its port.



Direct access to free waters and placed outside the Persian Gulf, and its vulnerability to crises, has made Chabahar Port as a reliable and cost-effective international road link for countries such as Afghanistan, India, and other Central Asian countries. (SHUKLA, 2017).

India will have to consider the Islamic Republic of Iran as one of Afghanistan's strong and effective neighbors and one of the strategic negotiators of this country and try to develop the route of transit of goods through Iran's Chabahar to Zaranj (the capital of Afghanistan's northern province), because Transshipment of goods and supplies to NATO forces through Iran are far more cost-effective than transferring these items through Central Asia.

### **3. The motivations of cooperation between Iran, Afghanistan and India**

The main reasons for India-Iran cooperation for economic presence in Afghanistan are as follows:

The most important strategic goal of India in Afghanistan is to prevent Pakistani strategic influence in Afghanistan so that Afghanistan cannot be turned into Pakistan's strategic depth.

Afghanistan is also the third side of the Hartland-John, with India considering its membership in BRICS (the five emerging countries in terms of economic power) and the geopolitical position of Afghanistan to dominate China, Iran and Russia. For Iran, presence in Afghanistan is part of a culture of identity and civilization that does not tend to disturb its rivals. In this regard, in relation to West Asia, the argument of Afghanistan reflects the proportions of its national interests with India, Iran and Pakistan, which has an important impact on Afghanistan's relations with Western Asia.

After the Islamic Revolution, Iran has always tried to raise Afghanistan as an Islamic country in the region. Supporting Afghan jihadi parties and forming an alliance of Shiite Islamic parties in Iran reflects Iran's desire for politics in Afghanistan. Unlike Pakistan, Iran has no vital interests in Afghanistan, but Afghanistan's stability ensures the security of the eastern borders of the country.

Iran along with Russia and India are key factors in the failure of Pakistan's policy in Afghanistan. After the Taliban-backed Pakistani arsenal Iran had condemned the tragedy of the group, and has consistently followed its support for Shiites, Tajiks and other anti-Taliban groups. These challenges culminated in the testimony of Iranian diplomats in Mazar-i-Sharif and the order of the military exercises by ISAN at the eastern borders.

Afghanistan's importance is not limited to Iran, India and Pakistan in the region. Among the other activists in the developments in Afghanistan are the Gulf states who have added their influence after the Islamic Revolution. Due to rivalry with Iran and the assertion of the Islamic world, Saudi Arabia has led to the transformation of Afghanistan and the protection of the Taliban in Afghanistan. The Emirates was also encouraged to support the Taliban in Afghanistan due to territorial disagreements with Iran and the Gulf Triple Island project (Taneja, 2017).

Among the important motivations of Afghanistan to work with Iran and India, in addition to economic issues, is the withdrawal of regional and global isolation. Drawing the Afghan political borders draws our attention to a landlocked country that is confronted with a series of national tensions and International.

#### **4. Opportunities and challenges of India's economic presence in Afghanistan**

##### **1.4. India's Economic presence opportunities in Afghanistan**

Afghanistan and India are strategic friends and allies, which, given the region's political and security situation, and puts joint opportunities and threats against the two countries. The opportunities for this friendship and strategic alliance are that Afghanistan has many opportunities for economic growth and development, and India is one of the emerging and dynamic economies of the world.

India's economic presence in Afghanistan can lead to economic growth and development for the three countries of Iran, India and Afghanistan directly and in other related countries in the area of economic cooperation. Tying economic and political interests can contribute to the security and stability of Afghanistan and the region, and it is in the interest of the whole world and the region to face terrorism and peace.

Creating regional convergence is another important opportunity for India's economic presence in Afghanistan. With the removal of tariff barriers between Afghanistan and India, hoping for a regional convergence in Central Asia and West Asia, hoping for regional convergence in Central Asia and West Asia, given the experience of regional convergence, including the European Union and Pan-Americas.

The cooperation of India, Iran and Afghanistan could lead to the control of the cultivation and production of drugs in Afghanistan. This will be the cause of the inability and decline in the revenue streams of



the outbreak, the Taliban and the extremes that are in the interest of the security interests of India and Iran.

India's strategic and political cooperation with Iran in Afghanistan could reduce Pakistani influence in Afghanistan and help expand cooperation and convergence between Iran and India in other fields in Afghanistan.

The expansion and improvement of Chabahar's port capacity is of fundamental Indian interest, which can serve both the interests of Iran and the interests of India. India's relationship with Iran will also help Delhi reach the markets for consumption of goods and energy sources in the Central Asian region and Afghanistan (Bhattacharjee, 2017).

India has no direct access to Central Asia. On the other hand, the development of the Chabahar port has been confronted by China's activation of the Pakistani Gwadar port, and, in addition to preventing the domination of Pakistan and China over Central Asian routes, could help reduce Pakistan's economic and political role in Afghanistan and make this role more balanced. And for the interests of Iran and India.

#### **2.4. The Challenges of India's Presence in Afghanistan**

India's economic presence in Afghanistan does not necessarily have positive economic, political or security outcomes for the countries of India, Iran and Afghanistan. This approach has the following problems:

The inability of the central government to exercise power in various parts of the country has increased the activities of opposition groups in the country's political process, including the Taliban in different regions. Currently, drugs, in addition to the causative agent of insecurity in the social and security dimension, are considered as one of the sources of income for ethnic, political and opposition groups (Mohammadi and Ghanezi, 2006, p. 101).

A recent report by the World Bank on the development of major trade, business and investment indicators in 180 countries shows that investment in Afghanistan has declined due to various factors over the

past three years. According to the report, Afghanistan has ranked 168 in 2016 from among countries in the region, including Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iraq, in 2016, up from 160 in 2010 and 167 in 2010 (THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE, 2017).

In recent years, some Indian commercial and political centers in Afghanistan have been targeted by deadly suicide attacks and it certainly turns accusing finger towards Pakistan; Because it is Pakistan that dominates the active terrorist groups in the country and can make them move towards its interests.

The Indian sea lane to Chabahar has always been spotlighted for pirates, which could result damage to each of the shipments. On the other hand, during recent years Sistan and Baluchestan province has always been the target of terrorist groups such as Jaish al-Adl, which neglecting this issue can lead to pecuniary loss and disconnection of economic cooperation.

The presence of American military equipment in Afghanistan is another important challenge. The United States needs 28,000 vehicles and 20,000 ships to withdraw its military equipment from Afghanistan and providing these ships and vehicles requires 6 billion dollars, in which case the United States will face a major economic challenge. Also, the presence of military equipment in Afghanistan will led to the efforts of terrorist groups and the Taliban to seize them.

Along with the above issues, last year Ashraf Ghani announced: For the next four years, a clear plan for reform and reinforcement of the Afghan security and defense forces is prepared that will lead Afghanistan to stability, prosperity and improvement, and its purpose is to change the program of using forces. Considering the votes of the above-mentioned thinkers such as Cohen and Nay, Oxford, Cooper, and the theory of natural resource dependence, it can be concluded that the economic relationship between India, Iran and Afghanistan

has caused a growing economic interdependence of these countries, which is effective in setting security in Afghanistan and the region.

From the functionalist point of view, which consider dependence and influence on other dimensions of security and politics as result of the economic relationship between countries, India's economic presence in Afghanistan through Iran can lead to this goal. Liberal theory emphasizes the capacity of international institutions, internal policy and economic interdependence in influencing on international security behavior. In these opinions, the role of the state is also strategic and considering the cooperation and the demand of Iran, India and Afghanistan for economic and security cooperation it would be effective in Afghanistan and Western Asia. As mentioned above, along with the ideas of interdependence and functionalism, it is important to take into account the opportunities and challenges facing India's economic presence in Afghanistan. Considering the main assumption of this paper that "India's economic presence in Afghanistan will increase the economic interactions between Iran, Afghanistan and India."; In the leading paper, addressing theories of functionalism, interdependence and some examples of economic relations between the US and Japan after World War II has been explained.

### **Conclusion**

Considering the geopolitical position of Afghanistan, India's economic presence can contribute to strengthening the solidarity of multilateral cooperation and security in the West Asian region. Regarding the benefits to the Arab Gulf states, this can lead to overwhelming economic benefits for Western Asian countries. Briefly, with the restraint of Afghanistan in preventing terrorist acts and providing security in this country, it would be possible to provide greater security in the countries of the region and west Asia.

Relying on the experience of other countries in terms of functionalism and contemplated thoughts, the three countries of India, Afghanistan, and Iran are our preferred option in the context of the future impact of India's economic presence in Afghanistan in enhancing security in West Asia. If this issue is achieved, the benefits of this cooperation can be dealt with benefits for the Central Asian countries. The success rate of economic issues and political stability in Afghanistan leads to bring other countries in the world closer to Central Asia.

Although Afghanistan is still far from developing a strong national identity among all ethnic groups, the creation of the middle class in the community is considered to be the mainstay of national identity, which economic cooperation with India and Iran can help it. India's economic presence in Afghanistan has led to entrance of a strong actor in the equations of the West Asian region. The actor's interests are in the security and economic prosperity of Afghanistan; it increases hostility and new challenges to the interests of countries and groups that are in favor of instability. India is one of the major importers of Afghanistan's export products, which seeks to boost exchanges through Chabahar's port development. More tensions in economic interests will lead to greater political security in Afghanistan for more benefits. This process, with regard to Iran as an influential actor, has been strengthened, and has contributed to strengthening security in West Asia. In the long run, economic cooperation between Iran, India and Afghanistan will create economic solidarity in the West Asian region. Considering Central Asia as an excellent economic market, there will be more dependence on the West Asian region in terms of economic and, political security. In order to achieve faster and better India's economic presence in Afghanistan for impact on security in Afghanistan and Western Asia, the following suggestions are presented:

- Facilitate economic exchanges through leaving special customs and economic privileges in the form of special agreements and ...
- Military and security cooperation to provide more security in order to have safe business
- Creating a suitable platform for investing in other countries in the region and the world by sharing them in profit
- Creating attraction for more investment and the use of all indigenous capacities
- Setting up of the national program for the economic development of the eastern part of the country using India's economic presence in Afghanistan
- Encouraging the entry of countries in the region, such as Iraq and Turkey, to expedite economic and political exploitation
- Establishing international regimes related to the three countries of the Islamic Republic of Iran, India and Afghanistan

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