

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE COMPASSIONATE, THE MERCIFUL

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ABSTRACTS

Discourse

Cultural Engineering; from Theory to Practice

Dr Hassan Rohani

It is not a long time that the term of "cultural engineering" has entered the literature of humanities – especially social and cultural studies. The present article while defining culture and the concept of "cultural engineering," mentions the consequences of the unsound cultural activities in the past. The author describes how following the emphasis made on the necessity of "cultural engineering" by Supreme Leader in 2002 cultural studies have entered a new phase becoming an extensive interdisciplinary field.

Having explained cultural policies and their impact on cultural engineering, the present article studies the nature of cultural engineering by adopting a phenomenological approach. The author argues that for the formulation of the principles governing cultural engineering, we should have a "national theory of culture". Finally, the author addresses the process of cultural engineering and enumerates the people who should take charge of it. The starting point of discussion is the views expressed by the Supreme Leader in cultural engineering. The article shows that how this should be done with tolerance and based on "development" and "compassion".

Keywords: cultural engineering, national theory of culture, cultural management, cultural policy, theory of cultural development.

Research

A New Experience in Turkey: Confrontation of Discourses

Dr. Mahmood Vaezi

At the present time, Turkey contains many factors who are involving in various historical, cultural, political and even philosophical spheres and are influential at the national, regional and international levels. Therefore, understanding the new developments in this country is not possible only through relying upon analyses based on one variable. The present article addresses different stages, various resources as well as relations based on which the foreign policy of an Islamist government is forming. Of course, it is too soon to speak of the main features of such a foreign policy, but, it is clear that expanding relations with the Islamic world and making efforts for reviving some aspects of Ottoman rule would have a high position in it. Therefore, the sources of this new foreign policy are a combination of Turkish Islamism and a kind of traditional Turkish nationalism.

Priorities of Iranian Foreign Policy (1989 – 1996)

Seyed Reza Mousavinia

The article seeks to offer a basic framework for the understanding of Iranian foreign policy from 1989 until 1996. The author claims that the change in the structure of the international system from bipolar to univocal has made Iran to transform its foreign policy behavior from offensive policy to balance making against U.S. Changing international system had security implications for the Islamic Republic of Iran in its sub-regions and in its

confrontation with the U.S. so the priority of Iran's Foreign Policy was seeking security on the basis of economic growth.

KeyWords: foreign policy, vital security, international system, balance making, offensive, pressures, threats.

The Crisis of Hostage Taking and the Sanctions against Iran

Ebrahim Oloumi

Iran-US relations, after Islamic Revolution, have faced a number of ups and downs. Occupation of the US Embassy in Tehran followed by US sanctions against Iran can be considered the first serious confrontation between the two countries after the fall of Shah.

This article tries to study the measures taken and sanctions imposed by the US against Iran after occupation of its Embassy in Tehran. The focus of this article is on the period between November 4, 1979 (start of crisis) and June 20, 1981 (release of hostages). The main question is: what factors caused the imposition of US sanctions against Iran at that period of time? The key assumption in this article is that the occupation of US Embassy and taking its members hostage has been the main reason for the imposition of sanctions against Iran. This study will first examine the US aims and pretexts to impose sanctions and then the crisis of hostage taking and the US measures. against Iran.

Keywords: sanction, hostage taking crisis, blocking Iran's properties, US financial institutions, Algerian Declarations.

An American Outlook to US – Iran Relations

Afsaneh Ahadi

The lack of political and diplomatic relations between Iran and the U.S. for near three decades has complicated their differences, so that only through the removal of domestic obstacles in both countries and the flexibility of the two sides, there would be some hope for improving the relations. On the other hand, regional issues including existing problems in Iraq and Afghanistan have created a situation in which there is some overlap between the interests of the two sides. The U.S. attack on Iraq and its occupation ensued a crisis which, according to some experts, could not be solved without the cooperation of regional countries. Iran as a neighboring country which has also much influence in Iraq's domestic affairs can help restore stability in this country. As Iraq's internal situation aggravated leading this country on the verge of a civil war, some analysts and even American officials emphasized Iran's role as a stabilizing factor in Iraq. In this regard, foreign analysts believe that Iran – US negotiations over Iraq can reduce tensions between the two countries.

This article tries to study some long – standing obstacles to resuming Iran – US relation existing in the U.S. political circles.

The Political Process of UAE's Claims on the Three Islands

Abbas Najafi Firoozjaei

There are many territorial disputes among the eight countries bordering the Persian Gulf, but, UAE's claims on the three islands of Abu Mousa, Greater and Lesser Tunbs have transformed into one of the most

controversial disputes. The reasons for this, are UAE's insistence on these claims, irresponsible support of Arab countries especially PGCC countries – and finally, intrigue by extra – regional powers. The issue of sovereignty over the three islands has different legal and political aspects.

The present article studies the political dimensions of this issue since 1971. It shows that how UAE portrays an unreal claim as an international dispute.

Capacities and Limitations of Iran – India Relations

Ommolbanin Tohidi

The developments in relations between Iran and India, especially since the new millennium have been influenced by various factors. These factors have expanded and deepened their bilateral relations in some fields and have limited them in other ones.

The most important grounds for cooperation between Iran and India are found in economic, energy, cultural, security, defense and not necessarily in political fields.

On the other hand, the third countries act as the main variable limiting the relations between the two countries. The U.S. and Israel as the two enemies of Iran, have put pressure on other countries to limit their relations with Iran. Paying attention to Iran – India relations during the recent years shows that these variables have had negative effect on the level of relations.

Discursive Structure of the New Stage in Iran – Russia Relations

Mahmood Shoori

A series of events and changes during the last two decades of the 20th century led to fundamental transformations in the discursive sphere in Iran – Russia relations. The new stage of change in discursive sphere in their relations began with the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, continued with qualitative changes in the global situation and culminated with the collapse of the Soviet Union. In the other words, during a 15 year period, internal discourses in Iran underwent fundamental changes, the same thing occurred in Russia as well, and also, global discourses experienced basic transformations. The result of these changes has been so far the possibility of prevailing a discourse based on common interests in relations between the two countries.

Strategy of Iran's Containment: Regional Dimensions and Challenges

Ali Akbar Asadi

Iran's containment after the emergence of Islamic revolution has been always one of the main axes of the U.S. policy in the Middle East, but the current U.S. Strategy to contain and control Iran at the regional level is the result of developments and trends in the Middle East during the recent years. Among the developments contributing to the current strategy of Iran's containment, we can mention situation in Iraq and enhancement of Shias' position there, developments in the Western zone of the Middle East including Hezbollah's power projection and Hamas' victory in

Palestine resulting in the enhancement of Iran's regional position. The main dimensions, of the current containment strategy are strengthening bilateral military – security arrangements with Persian Gulf countries, establishing Israeli – Arab regional coalition and intensifying economic – political pressures against Iran. But this strategy faces some regional challenges and obstacles which are discussed in the present article.

A Study of U.S. Confrontation Model against Iran from 1979 to 2008

Ebrahim Motaghi

One of the indices in the behavior of Iran and U.S. foreign policy can be analyzed in the framework of "mutual confrontation". Generally, there are different and contradictory attitudes in U.S. and Iran's diplomatic and strategic perceptions. The Islamic revolution transformed the notion of "xenophobia" in Iranian foreign policy into "anti-Americanism". Since then, we witness the intensification of perceptive – and attitudinal – conflicts between Iran and the U.S.

The present article tries to study ideological and historical factors as the attitudinal signs of confrontation. The author enumerates issues such as the U.S. support of Iraq; U.S. opposition to Iran's regional role; U.S. accusations against Iran regarding creating instability in the region, supporting terrorism and producing weapons of mass destruction as the instances of critical approach taken by the U.S. against Iran.

The Role of Globalization in Promotion of Religious Fundamentalism: the Case Study of Al-Qaeda

Maryam Javan Shahraki

The religious traditions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam are all today undergoing a transformation known generically as 'fundamentalist'. Although this term is impossible any longer to define precisely, and although there are obvious differences between the movements to which the label is attached, numerous common features, including the original defining feature of fundamentalism-namely the idea of the inerrancy of a sacred text-remain. Together, these considerations justify an interpretation of contemporary religious transformations in a common framework of analysis, especially when account is taken of their global character.

This paper develops such an interpretation by focusing on two aspects of the globalism of fundamentalist movements-their transnational reach and the role played by globalism in their imaginary projections across time and space (David Lehmann 1998). It also describes how globalization not only influence transnational fundamentalist terrorism as an extreme expression of protest against the modernity and globalization but also itself could simultaneously be considered as an hypothesis of this process(Modernity & Globalization) .

Finally, the core idea of the paper is that the increasing fundamentalist movements specially in it's Islamic form, first should be seen as an interpretation for unifying the social values, which appeal to blind violence to be seen under the shadow of the globalization waves.

The connections between globalization and fundamentalist terrorism that appeared in academic literature since the attacks of the September 11, 2001,with the emphasis on the technological advances, loosening barriers

and growing vulnerability of the integrated world ,causes the possibility to see terrorists as “global actors”, which along with other actors of the global economy and politics shape the future developments in the world.

The terrorist form of protest exhibits an extreme form of self described marginality. Terrorism seems to be the only expression of protest when the enemy is considered overwhelmingly powerful ,the struggle, as Hoffmann said, must however, not be lost.

Fundamental terrorists view themselves as being engaged in a cosmic war enforced on them by the enemy. Terrorist assaults are, therefore ,symbolic acts of violence against symbols of enemy’s power to demonstrate temporarily the enemy’s weakness.

This essay seeks not only to identify the most important studies in the field but to show what a critical role globalization plays in increasingly rise of fundamental terrorism as a reaction to the crisis of meaning and integration in the world.

Keyword: globalization – fundamentalism- fundamental terrorism - modernity

The Impact of Globalization on the Employment of Muslim Women

Parvin Dadandish

Globalization is one of the most controversial issues in the contemporary world. Thinkers from different countries each speak about it in a different manner, and there is no consensus about it. Differences on globalization begin often with its definition. In this article , the author defines globalization in terms of deterritorialization or supraterritoriality.

The impact of globalization on employment has triggered many pro & against arguments which have been mostly revolved around job security.

This article tries to explain the globalization and its impact on the employment of Muslim women. Drawing upon Islamic teachings, the author presents some recommendations for improving the status of Muslim women in the labor market.

Keywords: globalization, women, Islam, employment.

Globalization of Developmentalism (Experiences of the East Asia)

Seyed Masoud Mousavi Shafae, Ph.D.

In recent decades, development strategies have always been transforming based on principles, norms and characteristics of international system; accordingly, concept and strategies of development have been changed after collapse of the Soviet Union. In this paper, the author tries to explain that development in our current world deeply relates to powerful trends of globalization. So development strategies, in line with globalization process, have been transformed from import substitution, autarky, independence, isolationism, etc. to market-oriented strategies. In this context, economic development of the East Asian countries in the past three decades is generally considered as a successful model of market-oriented development in the globalization context.

KeyWords : development, globalization, east asia, autarky, interdependency market, import substitution, export promotion.

Exploring Coloured Revolutions

Amir Mohammad Soori

The recent coloured revolutions indicate the weaknesses and failure of such moves. To make a revolution victorious and to establish democracy, we need some prerequisites which are not found in the coloured revolutions. The main element in every revolution is the will of people and elites for bringing about fundamental changes in values and policies governing the society, but in the case of the coloured revolutions, the main reason was the U.S. financial and moral assistance. Of course, there was some dissatisfaction among people, but the demonstrations were mainly motivated by the U.S. Also, after these revolutions, we have not witnessed any serious changes in the foundations of the society. On the other hand, establishing democracy requires some well – known conditions such as strengthening free market economy and civil society. This process takes much time and we cannot inject democracy from outside into a country.

Middle East: A Reflection of the Clash of Identities

Mahmood Dehgani

The question of identity is posed in a society whose identity is in crisis. In the present situation of the Middle East fraught with many political, social economic and cultural crises, the question of identity seems to be completely a relevant one. Clash of identities in the region stems from its specific social and cultural structure and its ethnic and racial diversity with no solution in the prospect. The historical process of regional developments and the manner in which the nation – states were formed are

among the factors which have been influential in identity clash in the Middle East.

Russian Foreign policy: Topics and Motivations

Dr Davood Kiani

The Russian foreign policy towards the Middle East in the second round of Putin's presidency has been very active and dynamic. This article tries to identify the causes of this dynamism. The author believes that many security, political and economic factors have led Moscow to play a more active role in the affairs related to this region. The article argues that despite the effects of these factors, security variables are more effective in the formulation of Middle Eastern policies adopted by Moscow. Traditional territorial vulnerability, presence of a significant Muslim community, and finally existence of separatist and religious fundamentalist groups within Russia, all have led it adopting a balanced approach to all the regional countries to prevent the deepening of identity, ethnic and racial cleavages within its borders and in its near abroad. Also remarkable increase in energy revenues along with the weaknesses of the U.S. Middle Eastern diplomacy due to its failure in Iraq and Afghanistan are among the most important external factors of a more dynamic Middle Eastern policy adopted by Moscow.

Keywords: Russia's Middle Eastern policy, diplomatic dynamism, security approach, influence, balance, arms sale.

The U.S Foreign Policy and Economic Reforms in Egypt and Saudi Arabia

Shani Hormozi

The Middle East as a region with huge energy resources and high potential for dispute always has a special place in the U.S. policy – making. The September 11 event made clear more than ever that the U.S. interests and security depended on the stability in the Middle East. Therefore, after the policy of the promotion of democracy, the U.S. proposed a plan for economic reform in the region. These policies aim at converging the region with the world order as desired by the U.S. This article tries to explore the economic reforms conducted in Egypt and Saudi Arabia inspired by the U.S. Middle Eastern polices and their implications.

Keywords: economic reforms, Egypt, Saudi Arabia

Future of Asian Security Environment: Determining Variables

Mohsen Shariatinia

The author explains the determining variables involving in the future of Asian security environment. These variables include a wide range of issues such as fast development, domestic changes and more importantly the emergence of China and India as two major powers.

Keywords: security environment, change, emergence of new powers.

Nuclear Energy and Nuclear Disarmament on the Geo-strategic Chessboard

Nasser Saghafi-Ameri

There are two dominant trends related to nuclear technology that are somehow intertwined. On the one hand, demand for nuclear energy is rising worldwide due to overall increase in energy consumption. On the other hand, multiplying nuclear facilities around the world increases the risk of proliferation; thus, there are concerns expressed for more rigid nuclear safeguards to prevent further possible nuclear proliferation. The fear is that if current undertakings for non proliferation are not considerate of the rights of non nuclear weapon states it might further erode the credibility of the present non proliferation treaty. Thus, the impending question is how to balance these two trends, namely increasing demand for nuclear energy and application of non proliferation norms in conjunction with nuclear disarmament. In the view of this author, Japan's nuclear standard offers an ideal model for a civilian nuclear fuel cycle program in a Non-Nuclear-Weapon State.

While the case of Iran's nuclear energy program is in focus and challenged by the US and some other countries on the basis of non proliferation considerations; in fact the issue presents an opportunity to revisit the real challenges to the non proliferation regime and for consideration of a comprehensive nuclear disarmament. An unbiased and a constructive approach to Iran's nuclear program not only could bring about a solution to the present problem, but more importantly, it could serve as a model and guideline for harmonizing a growing demand for nuclear energy with the need for a more effective application of nuclear non proliferation norms.

Lisbon Treaty: Another Step Towards European Unity

Piروز Izadi

The process of European integration has faced many ups and downs. Since its inception, when the idea of European unity got close to its operational stage, designing necessary institutions and mechanisms was placed on the top agenda of pioneer countries. As the process of European integration expanded and deepened, the need for reforms in structures and institutions was increasingly felt. In fact, each stage of expansion and deepening required some specific institutional reforms. Implementing these reforms at every stage faced challenges resulted from differences between countries over the concept of integration in the framework of the European Union.

While reviewing the formative stages of the European Union, the present article tries to study the proposed institutional reforms stipulated in the Lisbon Treaty formulated following the failure of European Constitution project. These reforms aim at making the structure of EU more efficient and more democratic. Finally, the consequences of the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty for the future of the EU are discussed.

Keywords: European Union (EU), regional integration, Lisbon Treaty, European unity.

International Cooperation and the Development of Energy Sector (Oil, Gas) of the Islamic Republic of Iran: Studying Russia's Experience

Abdolkarim Pahlevani /Javad Heyraninia

Energy, particularly oil, as a strategic and determining field has a prominent place in the national security of the I.R.I from economic and political point of view. It can play a key role in enhancing Iran's international and regional position. World experiences suggest that the level of interaction with the world system has a determining effect on the industrial development, economic growth rate and competitiveness of national economies. The development of oil industry, due to its dependency on the outside world, is only possible through international cooperation. During the past years, political tensions between Iran and some rich countries have prevented Iran from effectively exploiting the advantages of international cooperation and interactions and this has deprived the I.R.I of its potentials in the energy sector in order to enhance Iran's international position. In this framework, the main question is that whether international cooperation which is vital for oil industry development can be realized in a politically tense atmosphere.

Keywords: oil industry, development, international cooperation, foreign policy.

Critique

A Critique of the Global Governance Theory

Seyyed Javad Tahhain

Since the 1990s, a new wave of integrating democracy into the international relations has begun (theory of democratic peace, democratization, new order...).

One of the main theories propounded by David Held is cosmopolitan democracy. It tries to apply inherently national democratic processes to existing mechanisms in the international organizations or even international relations. This article addresses the question that whether it is possible to make such a claim.

Translation

The Middle East; an Arena for Confrontation between Hegemonic and Anti-hegemonic Discourses

Dal Seung Yu, Associate Professor

The Middle East is one of the most instable regions of the world. Durable conflicts in Iraq, Palestine and Afghanistan are witnesses of the mentioned claim. Instability in the Middle East has different roots. The author believes that one of the most important factors of the instability in the region is a contradiction between two trends in the Middle East; The US imperial strategy from on hand, and Islamic reactions to the US in form of fundamentalism, from other hand. This paper will survey roots and aspects of this contradiction .

Key Words: Hegemony, Identity, Islamic Revival, Modernization Crisis, Holy War, Islamic Fundamentalism, Secularism Crisis