Full Length Research

The Analysis of I.R.Iran and Saudi Arabia Approach in Syria (Within framework of Game Theory)

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The Syria possesses geopolitical, geostrategic, and geoeconomic importance and for this reason it is deemed as the cross point for opposite forces with the maximum crisis and tension. Also regional and transregional superpowers pay special attention to this country. The strategic situation of Syria is crucially important for Iran in terms of prestige in resistance movement, national security issues, and competition with Saudi Arabia, and expansion of influence in the Middle East. The present research has studied Iranian diplomatic approach in Syria by means of descriptive and analytical method within framework of Game Theory. The question paper is: What is the significance of Syria for the Iran? What is the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Syria after Bashar al-Assad, to be able to maintain its position in the region? It is believed that Iran intends to exit from the existing geopolitical constraints and to expand influence in the Middle East and continuity of its strategic depth using strategic opportunities in Syria and in any case it would not like to lose such a position in Syria.

Keywords: Iran, Middle East, Syria, Regional policy, Game Theory

INTRODUCTION

In addition to its general strategic importance caused by the status in resistance movement and in relationship and alliance with Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI) in regional and world calculations, Syria has achieved dubbed importance in regional policy of Iran. With respect to history of Iran- Syria strategic relations and traditional competition of Iran and Saudi Arabia, it seems in Syrian crisis Saudi Arabia tends to take policies to control Iran in Middle East region. The traditional rivals of Iran try to create crisis in order to fight against Islamic resistance movement in particular and to control IRI as well as Islamic vigilance at western Asian and northern African regions so that Iran has been placed in a game with sum of zero versus its traditional rivals in Syrian crisis.

Iran will lose its strategic ally following to change in political governing regime in Syria and strategic depth of Islamic Republic will be threatened. There are some evidences for this point about break of expanding relation between three Shiite countries of Iran, Syria, and Iraq as the major front of *tug of war* in Syria thereby US may achieve its geopolitical goals by overthrowing of governments as Iranian allies and Saudi Arabia also obtains its objective- i.e. reducing influence of Shiites and Iran in this region. Therefore, Saudi Arabia is one of the regional governments as rival for Iran in Syrian crisis. One can analyze the competitive game between these two countries within framework of game theory and in rule of algebraic zero sums. Analysts argue that relations

among Saudi Arabia and Iran have formed new dimensions in religious and ideological conflicts, competition for political and geostrategic interests, and permanent competition to achieve regional hegemony during recent years (Paul &Duijne, 2009:3). Therefore, both of these countries are assumed as strategic rivals in the Middle East so that either of them that lose something in the Middle East;this means the opposite side has achieved it. Some examples of this trend are leadership in Muslim world and Big Brother in the region, and superiority of political- ideological pattern. Saudi Arabia has taken policy of supporting and patronage of political and military oppositions against Bashar Al- Assad regarding Syrian issue On the other hand, in contrast to opposite forces against Bashar Al- Assad, Iran has supported from Syrian government and introduced Syrian Revolutionaries as stimulated by Saudi Arabia, west, and Turkey. The present research is tended to analyze Iranian regional political approach in Syria within the framework of game theory and to examine the outcome of competitive game among Iran and Saudi Arabia in this country. Iran looks for exit from geopolitical constraints, expanding of strategic depth and developing influence in Middle East by means of strategic opportunities in Syria and in any way it would not like to lose its position in Syria. The question may be raised is that with respect to important points of Syria what policy should be taken by IRI for (possible) post-Assad Syria so that to be able to preserve its position in the region and not to lose regional game versus Saudi Arabia or any other strategic opponent. With respect to strategic principles of preference of movements toward governments in Iranian diplomacy, the minimum measure that Iran can take in respective Syria is to keep sovereignty of dominance of a strong political party such as Lebanon Hezbollah in Syria.

THEORETICAL BASIS

As the theoretical basis in this study, game theory is a field of applied mathematics that has been developed on platform of economics and it studies strategic behavior among rational factors. The strategic behavior emerges when utility of any factor not only depends on the selected strategy by that factor, but also on the strategy taken by other players (Abdoli, 2007: 19). As usual, game theory includes two objectives: Mathematical formulation of perfect rules that identify what the rational behavior is in some types of social situations and distinction between general features of such a behavior based on those rules. Applications of game theory may be divided into two major groups: Analytical uses and application for problem- solving since this theory is both deemed as a method for thinking about conflict and decision-making and also a device to discover optimal strategies or clarification of decision-making problems (Abdoli, 2007: 29).

Game theory discusses about competitive situations in which two or more smart opponents compete with each other with opposite interests. In this competition, players are exposed to several choices and any player tries to optimize his outcome (Arab, 1999: 163). Iran and Saudi Arabia are deemed as major players in Middle East region and they possess opposite interests as well. It seems that the game theory can explain and interpret quality of this game between these two countries. Such a situation is currently visible in attitude of Saudi Arabia and Iran toward Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen. Arabia's reaction to Iran's achievement in Iraq may be seen in Syria and Lebanon and also reactions of these two countries in Yemen, Lebanon, and Bahrain may confirm this statement. On several occasions, Saudi Arabia has acknowledged that it lost this game to Iran in the field of Iraq and it has extremely criticized American policies toward this status as well and even it has been prepared to become ally for Israel against Iran.

CONCEPTS OF GAME THEORY

In game theory, any player looks for a position to minimize the maximum payoff that should be tolerated inevitably (Haghighat, 2006: 183-184). This is called minimax player. In contrast to this player, we observe maximizing player that is a player in a game with two players with the fixed sum that tries to maximize the minimum payoff of a strategy for oneself (Maximizing of minimized payoff) (Seifzadeh, 1997: 195).

Payoff matrix is one of the other existing concepts in game theory that is called to rectangular arrangement of various game outcomes. The rows of this rectangle are correspondent to our strategies and its columns are correspondent to strategies of opponent (Ventsel, 1993: 12).

- **Nash equilibrium**: The players select their strategies logically and rationally in any game by a hybrid strategy and they look for maximum outcome in game. At least one strategy may be selected to achieve the optimum outcome for any player and if the player selects another strategy rather than it will not achieve better outcome. This point is call equilibrium of strategy (Marsh and Stoker, 1999: 135). In other words, it is a pair of strategy for A and B if they leave it and take another strategy it will not increase the outcome and loss for A and B (Little, 1994: 85).
- **Theory of moves**: Steven Brams has found a generalization technique for game theory that is called move-move theory or theory of moves in which way of reaction by any player will be developed by strategy of other opponent (Brams, 1998: 34) and immediate effects of moves by the opponent in player's mind i.e. counter-moves or reactions to these moves and counter-counter

moves; namely the effect of outcomes on strategies (Brams, 2001: 8). Instead of taking strategies by both of players in theory of move in payoff matrix, players start from an outcome in matrix and make decision to move or not to move through the game (Brams, 1994: 4). Namely, game and its governing rules are the results of moves and counter-moves.

Iran and Saudi Arabia transform or change their strategies versus each other in an operational environment within this game in Middle East area although their competition dated back to the past. In history of foreign relations among these two countries and even in Nixon's detente strategy and at the peak point of good relations during terms of presidency of Hashemi Rafsanjani, two countries looked competitively at each other and combatant strategy has been taken by either of them based specific condition and move from the opposite side. For instance, whereas Saudi Arabia has failed against Iran in Iraq, Syria, Bahrain, Lebanon, and Yemen thus it seeks for compensation. Even Saudi Arabia looks for leaving its own goals and interests in Syria provided Iran leaves Yemen (Jahannews, 2015: dciypa5rt1apr2). But Iran tends to achieve better position for Shiites in Yemen in addition to its interests in Syria so that to enhance status of Ansar-Allah group in Yemen similar to Hezbollah in Lebanon. Iran has so far supported from Bashar-Al-Assad but in possible post-Assad political climate in Syria Iran should follow at least Lebanon pattern so that not to lose its own strategic position in political game at eastern Mediterranean region. In other world, Iran should avoid from entering into the maximum loss against its position in Syria. Here we can say Iran has a minimax player's position in Syria. The Syrian areas are crucially important for Iran in terms of political, economic, and strategic aspects. Thus, IRI relations with Syria should be taken into account from this perspective.

GEOPOLITICAL AND STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF SYRIA FOR IRAN

Syria is a country that was capital for Islamic Empire for a time. The ethnic groups in this country are as follows: of Arabs (90%), Kurd (9%), Armenian Assyrian and Turkmen (1%). The religious groups are classified in this country as follows:

> Sunnite Muslims (74%), Alawi (12%), Christians (11%), and Doruzi (3%). Syria had approximately 20'581'290 population with area of 185'170km² in 2008. This country became dependent from France in 1946 and described with anti-Zionism policy in international scene (ZoghiBarani et al, 2011: 200).

The neighbors of Syria include Turkey at north, Iraq at east and southeast, Jordan at south, Israel at southwest and Lebanon at west and it consists of important ports of Lattika, Tartous, and Baniyas beside Mediterranean Sea. Thus it is important because of several aspects: Due to demographic texture, geographical situation, and professionally important in Arab world and its proximity to Palestine and Israel. Among Arab states, Syria has been located within first layers of important nations in Arab world and in Jihadi resistance field and occurrence of any event in this country may be followed by different consequences in other strata (Zoghi Barani et al, 2011: 201).

Geographic situation of Syria on the eastern beaches of Mediterranean Sea with 186km seashore is deemed as important in terms of geostrategic and geoeconomic aspect that is crucially significant for transference of energy from Iran and Iraq. Playing role by Syria in political equations in Lebanon and struggle of this country with Israel are considered as some cases that may show Syria as important strategically (Nerguizian, 2012: 84). Syria is the only Arab state that has not concluded peace accord with Israel but also it has good and strategic relations with Iran and thereby it has formed Islamic resistance cores against Israel.

Iran will lose its access to this region if any problem occurs in regime of Bashar Al-Assad and the other forces come to power instead of him particularly if the affiliated forces opposition against Iran i.e. dependent forces on US and Saudi Arabia come to power in Syria. Of course, it may have another Hezbollah group in Syria similar to Lebanon in the future. Thus, accordingly Iran should support from Bashar Al-Assad in Syria as possible but eventually it should prepare a supporting point at the margin of Mediterranean Sea and Syrian regions and take appropriate strategy in possible post-Assad Syria in order not to lose in this field.

IRAN- SYRIA RELATIONS

Iraq and Israeli regime were strategic enemies of Iran and Syria after Islamic Revolution of Iran. Thus, they tried to have warm and intimate relations with Islamist groups and supporting them such as Hamas and Hezbollah and after exertion of pressures by US, Damascus and Tehran announced that they have been allied together and they would form a joint faction against foreign threats. Furthermore, measures of west and Arab states had no impact in making Arabic Syria away from Persian Iran (GharayaghZandi, 2009: 157).

Some of Syrian measures to support from Iran during Imposed Iraqi War included calling imposed war as a mistake, opposition to creating Arab coalition against Iran, cutting Iraqi oil pipeline in 1982, making effort to prevent Russia from Iraq and encouraging UAE and

Oman to establish relations with Iran. Syrian government assumed Islamic Republic of Iran as a factor that converted Iran from an Israeli ally into supporting from Arabs. At the same time, Iran granted noticeable commercial and economic privileges to Syria (GharayaghZandi; 2009: 155-157). Moreover, Syria allowed Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) troop to be stationed in Syrian land and close to Lebanese border through which Lebanon Hezbollah to be directly supported by Iran.

Of course, Syria has not sacrificed its relations and ties in Arab world for Iran during three past decades and always supported from stances of Arabs in their conflicts with Iran. Beside its relationship with Iran, Syria could acquire financial aid from Arabs and upgrade its value among Arabs and play mediator's role in conflict among Iran and Arabs and at the same time it also played similar role in west-Iran conflict (Hunter, 2013: 377).

Iran is assumed as the most major supporters for Bashar Al-Assad during Civil War in Syria. Following to start of crisis, Iran- Syrian military and security relations have been increased more (Aftab Site, Nejat: 2014).

In addition, the economic relations are at optimal level among two countries as well (See also Hunter: 2013: 373). Additionally, for several years Syria has been benefitted from receiving free oil and under market price from Iran. Of Iran- Syria military relations, one can refer to sending military weapons from Syria to Iran during Iraqi Imposed War (Simbor & Ghasemian, 2014: 154), Syrian permission to presence of Qods troops in Beqaa region in Lebanon and allowing them for activity in attraction of Shiite youth that were the pioneers to form Hezbollah and military resistance (Simbor & Ghasemian, 2014:161). Iran has given an advanced radar system to Syria and military maritime cooperation has been developed in Mediterranean Sea (wsj, Levinson: 2010). Despite of this background it seems that Iran-Syria relations are strategic and they should be continued at any period. Based on Iranian outlook toward strategic position in Syrian regions, it is believed that with respect to ideological differences among Iran and Israel after Islamic Revolution, Syria has been substituted with Israel in Mediterranean strategy of Iran. In order to exit from this deadlock and problems in HormozStrait, Iran has to inevitably transfer its energy through land path toward Mediterranean region. Accordingly, it needs to strategic and geoeconomic position in Syrian regions and Iraq. Some of strategies taken by Iran in Syria are to create militia groups and military- security training for public troops and encouragement of Hezbollah to defend from Syria, exacerbation of Arabs' dislike to US and Israel versus Syrian crisis, employing of passive offense tactic in Syria to strengthen defensive stances in this country and alliance and proximity to China and Russia (to improve opposition side against US in the Middle East region) (Simbor&Ghasemian, 2014: 173-174). Creation of

militia troops in Syria based on Iranian Basiji Model makes it possible for Iran to continue its influence and power in this country during the alternative regime for government of Bashar Al-Assad (Repetition of Lebanese Hezbollah model in Syria).

Another strategy of Iran is military presence in Syria and taking initiative from western and Arab countries as their excuse for struggle against ISIS and terrorism but in fact it is done to prevent from reduction of power and or possible fall of federal government in Syria. Although Iran opposes any precondition that leads to overthrowing of Bashar Al-Assad from power and also Revolutionary Leader has also announced that Iran will prevent from disintegration of Iraq and Syria anyway, it seems by taking this strategy, the problem of Iran will be also resolve after Bashar Al-Assad.

Iran has been directly influenced by Syrian crisis so that Syrian crisis has been turned into the problem of National Iranian Security. Therefore, it has taken comprehensive support from government of Bashar Al-Assad and regulated its regional diplomacy in this regard. Inter alia, as the only strategic ally for Iran, Syria may play very crucial role in Iranian security policy. The current crisis in Syria may lead to structural transformation in security system at Middle East and cause further intervention by superpowers in this region. Change in power structure in Syria and overthrowing of Assad may change current positions among the countries in this region and coming to power by anti-Iranian groups in Syrian government may lead to further isolation of Iran in security environment at this region. These are some issues that determine viability of Bashar Al-Assad as important point and his fall as red line for Iran.

To verify Iranian geostrategic attitude to Syria, we may look at friend-finding trend before and after Islamic Revolution of Iran and also attaching importance for their coalition after this date:

> The Iranian allies were mainly Israel at eastern Mediterranean region and Saudi Arabia in Persian Gulf Region before Islamic Revolution in 1979AD. In Pahlavi period, Iran assumed Arabs-Israel problem as Arab problem and based on classification pattern of Middle East into Arab and non-Arab states, it looked for cultural coalition between non-Arab units in this region i.e. Israel and Turkey and it formed coalition only with Saudi Arabia under US supervision in Persian Gulf Region. After Islamic Revolution, Iran- Israel relation in the Middle East was replaced with Iran- Syria relation (GharayaghZandi, 2009: 152). Accordingly, Iranian attitude toward eastern Mediterranean is a geostrategic outlook. Namely, whenever Iran looked at Mediterranean margin has expected for some exploitations from this region. If Iran

had close relation with Israel before the revolution and then ithas been far away Israel based on revolutionary and ideological considerations after revolution and placed beside Syria; it is tended to something more than ideological considerations as in their statements the Iranian political officials have also referredto strategic depth and removing of security threats from physical borders.

Furthermore by looking at differences among Iran and Syria in terms of political and ideological dimensions one can perceive that importance of two countries to each other is beyond ideological goals as well. Is it possible Syria as an Arab country that claims for Arabic nationalistic leadership with Baath political system and socialistic tendencies and eventually secular orientation has supported Iran as a non- Arab country in Iraqi imposed war or based on Iraqi statement a rival for Saudi Arabia and enemy for the Arabs and remained beside a religious and Islamic system? It is not reasonable unless Syria has looked strategically at this coalition.

Many different conflicting policies among Iran and Syria could not yet separate these countries apart from each other. For example, during holding of Madrid Summit that had been prepared by US for Arab- Israeli peace in 1992 and it was led to Oslo Peace Conference and entering Syria into this conference did not tarnish coalition among Iran and Syria. Similarly, Syrian cooperation with US in invasion to Iraq (2003), round of talks under title of road map and Israeli- Syrian negotiations, and also severe measure of Hafez Assad against Islamic Brotherhood in Syria did not change Iran- Syria relations (Gharayagh Zandi, 2009: 152).

On the other hand, superpowers have been always sensitive to Middle East region because of its strategic situation, huge energy resources, and presence of Israel and their other allies including Saudi Arabia and consequence of world intervention and local submission was emerging of public resistance movements and revisionist regimes. As some of victims of colonialism and unfair exploitation, Iran and Syria have taken anti-imperialistic tendency and revisionist diplomacy. Therefore it is natural for them to be place together with prevailing anti-hegemony strategies and disagree with status quo in order to prevent from their orientation to the margin in the Middle East regional policies in addition to avoid from American hegemony in this region and thereby they could create the needed barriers against globalization of hegemony of superpowers in the Middle East region.

Iran looks at Syria as a strategic gate to Arab world, a fortification against US and Israel, and most importantly relationship with Hezbollah.

Of course, the joint security stances and issues among Syria and Iran have influenced in their strategic alliance of these issues one can refer to problem of Kurd, importance of Syrian Alawi people for Iran (Gharayagh Zandi, 2009: 202), solidarity of resistance axis, and supporting from Hezbollah. The Alawi regime is less risky than Sunnite regime in Syria for Iran. The presence of Alawi regime in Syria may reduce Persian/ Shiite and Arab/ Sunnite that is exacerbated by Sunnites and Arabs. Furthermore, Iran can also prevent from influence of Saudi Arabia because of Alawi regime in Syria. According attitude of Saudi Arabia, fall of Bashar Al-Assad means removal of Iran's ally in the region and Iran will be undermined by ousting of governing regime in Syria. This is a factor that prepares the ground for Saudi Arabia to achieve leadership of Sunnite coalition as adherent and ally with the west and thereby it can intensify Sunnite/ Shiite gap and consolidate Anti- Iranian coalition.

Syria assumes Lebanon as the obstructive region and Iran as fighting front against Israel. Syria (as Iran's ally) provides and guarantees presence of Iran in Lebanon. As this has led to emerging of Hezbollah, intensification of Islamic Movement in occupied Palestine, and pressure on Israel and continuity of these trends was assumed as successful in terms of exportation of revolution (Akhavan Kazemi & Veisi, 2012: 175). Surely, it is very difficult to analyze way of Iranian contributions to Hezbollah and Hamas irrespective of Syrian role. The risk of instability of Syria for Iran at least includes losing some of potentials for its influence in Arabs- Israeli conflicts, war-seeking Palestinians, and their Shiite allies in Lebanon, and particularly Hezbollah group (Nerguizian, 2012: 84). Leaving out Bashar Al- Assad from political scene of this country will be directly reflected on regional developments in such a way that position of Hezbollah and thus Hamas will be subject to risk and threat and influence of Iran is reduced in the region and Iranian security problems will become further and more complicated.

ANALYSIS OF REASONS FOR INTERVENTION OF SAUDI ARABIA IN SYRIAN CRISIS

Saudi Arabia is one of the players in Syrian crisis that is assumed as rival for Iran and expansion of Iranian influence in Syria is considered as losing game for that country. Overthrowing of Baath regime in Iraq, Egypt, Tunisia, and Yemen as well as crisis in Bahrain and change in equilibrium at Middle East toward Iran were some of developments that extremely impacted on surrounding environment and range of influence of Saudi Arabia and caused Saudi Arabia to take certain stance against Iran and extend its traditional competition with Iran that was already based on ideological and geopolitical conflicts in Persian Gulf region to the Middle East area.

Iran and Saudi Arabia are involved in dispute and

competition in many cases including leadership in Islamic world, differences among Shiite and Sunnite, pattern of political system and inference from Islam in the fields of politics and government, and role of regional power etc. and their relations are influenced by these differences. Furthermore, Saudi Arabia supports from policy of preserving of status quo within framework of coalition with the west and Iran takes revolutionary policy and in conflict with the west.

Syria is one of the competitive fields among Iran and Syria. By March 2011 when the anti-governmental protests started in Syria, we witness intensive action by Saudi Arabia versus regime of Bashar Al- Assad that was supported and strategic ally with Iran after Islamic Revolution. In fact, after emerging of severe gap and dispute among these two countries following to assassination of Rafiq Hariri former Lebanese Prime Minister and puppet of Saudi Arabia in 2005 so that Saudi kingdom changes their strategy versus Syria and initially took the policy for isolation of Syria (benedettaberti , Berti, 2012). But after Doha Agreement in May 2008 that was led to establishment of national unity government in Lebanon, as the main scene for attempts of Arabia for undermining of Syria and status and influence of Iran, Saudi Arabia lost Syria. For this reason, Saudi's behavior was changed to Syria in another form. After 2008, Saudi Arabia has made efforts to create difference and gap among Tehran and Damascus relations. Thus it has taken the following policies:

- Supporting from political actors in the region that have strategic goals similar to Saudi Arabia and with the western allies of this country

-Protection from vulnerable security of Arabia Peninsula in particular and Persian Gulf in general against domestic and foreign threats with no need to US military support

- Campaign against influence of Iran in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, and Bahrain
- And at last insuring from reduced differences and interventions in Arab world (Kamrava, 2013: 6)

Therefore the reasons for intervention in Syrian crises by Arabia may be summarized as follows:

1.   Equilibrium and diversity with power and influence of Iran in the region

Starting revolts against Bashar Al-Assad in Syria prepared an opportunity for Saudi Arabia thereby to resume its old policy i.e. undermining of influence and power of Iran in the Middle East again. Saudi Arabia looks at Syria through window of regional competitions with Iran. Arabia sees domain of this threat wider after

Islamic vigilance and assumes proximity of resistance group and particularly Syria to Iran as disruption of regional equilibrium and isolation of Saudi policies. Therefore, it supports conflicting groups in Syria (Porsemani political site, Karami, 2012).

- ***Prevention from Syrian influence in vital field of Saudi Arabia and competition with Syria for leadership of Arab world***

Damascus stances against Israel have caused this country to play role as the paramount factor in fighting against policies of this regime in the region. After retreatment of Egypt and Jordan from fighting, Syria as has played role as the most original fighting cornerstone for liberation of Palestine in Arab world and this trend is always at the opposite point of policies of Saudi Arabia that assumes it as leader of Arab world. Based on this issue, Syrian collapse may play up the role of Saudi Arabia as prominent in subject of Palestine in addition to reducing support from resistance group in this region (Porsemani political site, Karami, 2012).

Saudis have always endangered Syria for supporting from resistance groups as their policies under current conditions and accused them that they have expanded resistance in the region and assumed it as a risk for interests and future of conservative kingdoms. After death of Hafez Assad and coming to power by Bashar Al-Assad the Saudis have not taken any favorable attitude toward Syria since Bashar Al-Assad act much more independently from Arab regional policies. For this reason, Saudi Arabia had no pleasant outlook to Syrian regime since period of Hafez Assad and such circumstances have provided good opportunity for Arabia the Arab conservative policies to be placed at superior position with collapse of Syria (Kurd Press, :Karami, 2011).

- ***Control of Shia Crescent***

Coming to power by Shiites in Iraq and other countries of Middle East was crucially important for Saudi Arabia in terms of regional interest and objectives. This issue means disturbance of equilibrium of regional power against interest of this country and in favor of Iran. Through supporting from Syrian rebels and playing active role in controlling and guiding of Syrian crisis, Saudi Arabia tries to enhance its own status in this country and by influence among Sunnite population and particularly Salafists to help them to take power in this country thereby to compensate for its loss in Iraq.

- ***Expansion of reference leadership of Saudi Arabia and Salafism doctrine***

One of the other reasons for Saudi Arabia in intervention

in Syria and strengthening the opposition front against Bashar Al-Assad is to present successive order pattern in the region replaced by Salafism doctrine. This signifies ideological diversity and is referred to minority of governing Alawi versus Majority of Sunnite. The financial and supports and weapons which are proposed to the rebels in Syria by Riyadh are totally assumed as attempts for strengthen Sunnites and causing them to come to power in order to show their accompaniment with Arabia in gap of power. A present, Riyadhhas counted on contribution of Islamic Brotherhood movement and its allies. The Islamic Brotherhood is deemed as the best organized group that may fill the power gap in this country in long run (Porsemani political site, Karami, 2012).

5- Prevention from import of revolution into Saudi Arabia and crisis management is one of the other reasons for involvement in Middle East crises (Barzegar, 2012:3). In other words, if Saudi Arabia supports from Al Khalifa in Bahrain and invades to Al-Houthi in Yemen, and equips the opposition groups with arms against Bashar Al-Assad in Syria etc. this is because of this fact it is afraid of expansion and importing of revolution of Islamic vigilance type in their own country.

The subject of ensuring from entry of overthrowing revolutionary doctrines in Saudi Arabia is so serious that this country is ready to leave the measure in Syria in order to survive Saudi regime and their kingdom and to be given up to accept a political solution for Syria to guarantee their own government (Javane- Irani (Iranian Youth) political services, 2015).

With respect to the aforementioned issues, it can be implied that Syrian crisis is not assumed as a security issue for Saudi Arabia and Saudi leaders have taken measure in support of Syrian rebels in order to reduce influence of Iran and to increase their own influence and to play active role as leader of Muslim world. In the case of overthrowing of Bashar Al-Assad and taking power by pro-Arabia Sunnites, the strategic alliance may be weaken among Iran and Syria and the resistance groups in Lebanon and Palestine will be also less supported by Iran and Syria and therefore an opportunity will be provided for Saudi Arabia to revive its influence in this region and this region will be more subject to Arab conservative policies front more than ever. Of course, prevention from importing revolution into Arabia land has been the permanent concern for this country versus Islamic Revolution of Iran that has been intensified following to new wave of Arab spring/ Islamic vigilance. Saudi Arabia will try to consider interests for Sunnite of this region in Syria in their future and to employ a Sunnite political organization in Syria and to restrict influence of Iran as traditional supporter for Syria.

CONCLUSION

Iran- Syria relations are of strategic type and Iran tries to continue its friendly relationship with Syria. In addition, supporting from Assad's family in Syria may be also assumed as a compensation for a friendly effort for Iran. With respect to this issue, Syrian crisis is deemed as a priority in regional policies of Iran. In Iranian's political computations, establishing ties with Syria is beyond a conducted coalition between governments since it is assumed as an essential and multidimensional partnership in which the pivotal point is enmity with Israel and supporting from Palestinian ideal. In addition, Syria may release Iran from strategic bottleneck under necessary conditions. Iranian support from Syria is based on strategic requirements. From this perspective, we have never witnessed any divergence or stop in relations among Tehran and Damascus.

One can observe the importance of Syria for Iran as type of relationship between these two countries during recent years after revolution. Iran was not present in Iraq before recent developments in Middle East since the stubborn rival in this country i.e. Saddam and his Number One enemy (i.e. US) attended in that country. Also, Iran was not the first player in Afghanistan. And similarly, Yemen was not considered as a part of strategic map of Iran several years ago. Despite of all these issues, Syria has never been excluded from strategic alliance with Iran. The geopolitical and geostrategic importance of Syria is so high for Iran that Islamic Republic of Iran has determined red line for Syria and type of behavior of western and neighbor countries regarding Syrian affairs. Moreover, Syria is the transit route to transfer Iran's contribution to Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Following to exit Bashar Al-Assad from power in Syria it may leave out one of the key tools to tackle with Israel by control of Iran. With respect to Syria-Iran relation with such historic background and geopolitical importance of Syria for Iran, Iran could not and does not intend to compromise with the west and other regional countries such as Turkey over Syria for any reason. Surely, change in political equations and overthrowing of Bashar Al-Assad in Syrian crisis will be against interests of Iran and in favor of Saudi Arabia and its western allies.

Alternately, some factors such as tackling with influence of Iran, control of Shia Crescent, spreading religious reference leadership of Sunnite- Salafist, competition with Syria in leadership of Arab world and prevention from Syrian influence in vital scene on Saudi Arabia and different attitudes of Saudi Arabia and Syria in trend of resistance and problem of Arabs and Israel, and eventually leading of opposition groups outside their land and making effort to obstruct importing revolutionary doctrines to this county have compelled Saudi Arabia for intervention in Syrian crisis. Saudi Arabia is trying to support from opposition groups against Bashar Al-

Assadin order to achieve their objectives and to cause Sunnite groups to come to power and finally it has been satisfied Muslim Brotherhood to take power in Syria despite of this fact that this group has been so far assumed as terrorists in Saudi Arabia.

There are several possible choices occur in Syrian developments: 1) Survival of current regime and execution of reforms in the course of national interests; 2) Taking power buy liberals and pro-western groups; 3) Coming to power by Salafist radicals; 4) taking power by a government in coordination with conservative movements including Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and Tunisia; 5) Disintegration of Syria; and 6) entering in Civil War for national unity.

Inter alia, ousting of Bashar Al-Assad in Syria and taking power by a Salafist government is deemed as winning of Saudi Arabia and losing of Iran and resuming of Bashar Al-Assad and Alawi government in Syria denotes winning for Iran and loss for Saudi Arabia. If Iran can create troop similar to Hezbollah in Syria, taking power by liberals in Syria may be relatively followed by winning this game with positive sum. External war in Syria denotes losing the initiative for action by Iran and it means losing of Iran while it will be in favor of Saudi Arabia since it is followed by interests for Arabia confederates. Also disintegration of Syria will be assumed as benefit for Saudi Arabia and loss for Iran.

In Syrian crisis Islamic Republic of Iran should look for minimization of the maximum payoff (loss) that Iran has to tolerate it inevitably. Therefore it is assumed as minimax player for which based on the aforesaid strategic reasons it is required to preserve its strategic relations with Syria at eastern Mediterranean region and particularly with respect to position of Iran in Iraq and Lebanon. On the other hand, in any case Iran could not comprehensively support Bashar Al-Assad all the times. Therefore it necessitates keeping its position in future Syrian political regime by playing role of a minimax player in new round of talks to solve Syrian crisis and prevention from incurrence of maximum loss for this country in the region. More simply, Iran should notice not to act in such a way that if political regime was changed in Syria the outcome of Iran should be zero-sum versus its opponents. If Iran likes not to respect the interests of others in Syria and intends the game outcome to be zero for other opponents it is possible for Iran to be subject to loss as well due to a change and occurrence of other form of game. Perhaps it is due to this fact that Iranian president expresses that they should also listen to comments of opposition group against Bashar Al-Assad as well.

Today there is an attitude in Iran based on which Syrian developments are interpreted following to vigilance of Arab world and Arab spring while there is no belief in Islamic vigilance in Syria and if it is supposed this trend is due to Islamic vigilance and or if opposition groups against Bashar Al-Assad are considered as rebels and terrorists then taking power by a liberal government or even opposite to Iran is deemed as one of the possible alternatives for post-Bashar Al-Assad career. Thus, the best choice for Iran is using pseudo-governmental forces that share in political power that will be provided by this strategy.

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