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## **GEOPOLITICAL AND MILITARY-POLITICAL ASPECTS OF SECURING THE ARABIAN MONARCHIES**

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**Abstract:** This article examines the aspects of geopolitical and military-political security in Arabian Monarchies and factors influencing in the processes of maintaining security in those countries. During the research historical and comparative analysis were applied and factors influencing geopolitical and military-political security of Arabian Monarchies were classified.

**Keywords:** Geopolitics, Security, Arabian Monarchies, energy resources, Persian Gulf.

Due to the presence of large reserves of hydrocarbon resources and the geostrategic position of the region, the Arabian monarchies are active players in the geopolitical processes that are dynamically developing in the Persian Gulf and the world as a whole. Today, this region is largely home to the political, economic and, most importantly, energy interests of global actors in international relations.

The Strait of Hormuz is of great strategic importance in this regard. The possibility of political influence on the situation in the Strait of Hormuz region creates opportunities, a mechanism for regulating economic relations between the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean<sup>1</sup>.

In connection with systemic, tectonic changes in world politics and its energy component, the problems of ensuring comprehensive security in the Gulf region,

<sup>1</sup> Makhmudov, Fuzail "Energy Priorities of Domestic and Foreign Policy of the Arab Monarchies of the Gulf" GSJ: Volume 8, Issue 4, April 2020, Online: ISSN 2320-9186 P9

against the background of almost complete dependence of monarchies on energy exports, are becoming particularly acute.

Almost all countries in the region, and this fact should be emphasized, are justifiably concerned about the safety of oil fields and specialized logistics. International terrorist groups operating there pose a real threat to industry facilities in Arab countries.

The situation in the region is adding to the growing interests of external players – the US, EU, Russia, China, Japan, India, each of which tries to promote these interests, an increasingly tough economic and political, including military-political means.

The strategic and energy significance of the monarchies became the basis for their inclusion in the official state document of the United States of America's zone of interests.

In addition to the above-mentioned problems of ensuring security in the region, there are territorial disputes between the countries of the region. Among the most acute disputes that need to be resolved are those between Qatar and Bahrain, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Iraq, Oman and Saudi Arabia. According to the complexity index, the most complicated is the dispute between Iran and the UAE over the Islands of Greater Tumb, Lesser Tumb, and Abu Musa.

The growing arms race and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, in particular the unpredictability of the development of the situation with Iran's nuclear program, have a direct impact on the complication of the situation in the region.

Any geopolitical upheaval has a direct impact on the socio-political and economic stability of not only the monarchies, but the entire Middle East. The achieved more or less stable internal state of monarchies does not represent a model of effective socio-political governance and is based mainly on internal subsidies. An example is Libya.

This research specifies and justifies the systemic reasons and factors that hinder the creation of a consolidated system of regional security, and makes a forecast of the development of these factors:

**Political factors.** In the short and long term the divergence of interests of external players will remain rigid and the reversal of their policies will occur within this paradigm;

**Economic factors.** The multi-vector energy orientation of the foreign policy courses of monarchies will continue until tectonic, fundamental changes in the energy structure of the world economy (replacing some types of energy with others, etc.). These changes can become a motivator for bringing the energy policies of the region's countries closer together and creating common mechanisms for regulating the production, transit, and pricing of petroleum products;

**Cultural and ideological factor.** The fragmentation and inconsistency of Islamic trends will continue to be a factor in the long-term growth of internal contradictions in the region. The aggravation of this factor predicted by some experts may change the paradigm of international relations, including in the energy sector, not only in the Gulf region And the Middle East, but also in the world as a whole.

The Republic of Uzbekistan is located in strategic proximity to the Persian Gulf. Improving the situation in this region can open up strategically important prospects for Uzbekistan: access to seaports (Bandar Abbas, Chahbahar); accessible transport corridors; world markets; joining forces to fight terrorism and religious extremism together, etc.

In the course of forming and implementing the country's foreign policy priorities, it is important to take into account the above-mentioned difficult security trends, including in the energy sector, that are developing in the Persian Gulf region and the Middle East as a whole<sup>2</sup>.

One of the important factors influencing the formation and implementation of energy, foreign policy strategies Gulf countries is inextricable interconnectedness of interregional and intraregional relations in which social, political, military-political, energy issues developing in the Gulf countries, at the same time are problems of macro-region and are global in nature.

<sup>2</sup> Makhmudov, Fuzail "Energy Priorities of Domestic and Foreign Policy of the Arab Monarchies of the Gulf" GSJ: Volume 8, Issue 4, April 2020, Online: ISSN 2320-9186 P10

This interconnectedness and interdependence requires consideration by the Gulf States as they shape their foreign policy priorities. Thus, the end of the second decade of the XXI century is complicated by the crises in Syria, Libya, Yemen, and the aggravation of the Iranian-Saudi and Palestinian-Israeli contradictions<sup>3</sup>. These processes certainly create problems for the Gulf countries, which, however, are looking for ways to solve these problems with an eye to the policies of the countries of the macro region and extra-regional centers of power.

Almost all regional States have serious problems with the effectiveness of state governance mechanisms, the rule of law, and security, burdened with such manifestations as corruption and the costs of “tribal capitalism”.

These problems in the field of governance affect and significantly limit the ability of these countries to set ambitious goals in the field of foreign policy, formation and implementation of energy strategies.

The absence of a common regional security paradigm in the Persian Gulf and the Middle East is a serious factor limiting the ability to form energy strategies and defend national interests in the macro-region and global economic and energy markets. The Arab uprisings of 2011, as well as the Syrian crisis, showed that the previous regional political guidelines and mechanisms for their implementation do not work in the current conditions and are not adapted to current realities. At the same time, in the struggle for the formation of a fundamentally new course of regional development, no new national idea has acquired the status of a regional one<sup>4</sup>.

In the absence of comprehensive political institutions and a vibrant civil society, each individual country in the region seeks to advance its national interests. This process is compounded by the ongoing conflict between Sunnis and Shiites, States and non-state actors. The religious factor still remains the defining and key factor in regional disputes.

The Persian Gulf and the Middle East remain largely unstructured and inhomogeneous, which, in General, not only makes it difficult to promote energy

<sup>3</sup> Laura El-Katiri and Bassam Fattouh «A Brief Political Economy of Energy Subsidies in the Middle East and North Africa» <https://journals.openedition.org/poldev/2267> Date of access 08.05.2019

<sup>4</sup> EIA (U.S. Energy Information Administration). 2017. Country Analysis Brief: Saudi Arabia. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Energy Information Administration ———. 2018. “Electric Power Monthly.” Last modified December 26, 2018. [https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm\\_table\\_grapher.php?t=epmt\\_5\\_6\\_a](https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm_table_grapher.php?t=epmt_5_6_a). Date of access: 18.05.2019

projects of Gulf States and non-regional actors, but also complicates the international agenda. The following conclusions made during the research:

Firstly, almost all consumers of Middle Eastern oil are developed countries with a high standard of living of the population that requires maintaining this level at the proper level. The result of high production rates in these countries was a proportional increase in energy consumption. If only a few of them – France and Japan – were able to ensure their energy independence, the rest are still active consumers of hydrocarbons. This circumstance directly leads to the use by these countries of various means (diplomacy, military presence, artificial incitement of instability in exporting countries, etc.) aimed at promoting their energy interests, as well as ensuring uninterrupted supply of petroleum products<sup>5</sup>.

Secondly, the relative political and economic instability of oil exporting countries is a motivator for the interest of the oil States themselves in the production and export of hydrocarbons, which creates a favorable atmosphere for long-term prospects<sup>6</sup>.

Thirdly, Technological aspects and the relative scarcity of the energy potential of the alternative energy sector naturally Orient importing countries to create conditions for obtaining cheap and mobile hydrocarbon raw materials. In this case, this is also the basis of the modern international institutional and legal framework for creating a comprehensive mechanism for ensuring energy security of the entire international community.

The volatile situation on the world energy markets and the divergent interests of the main players in the oil field of the Middle East, the Gulf monarchies are interested in creating a clear, regulated mechanism for protecting and promoting their interests and energy security. However, the current interpretation of the concept of

<sup>5</sup> Fattouh, B. and L. El-Katiri (2012b) Energy Subsidies in the Arab World, Arab Human Development Report Research Paper, (New York: UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States) <http://www.arab-hdr.org/publications/other/ahdrps/Energy%20Subsidies-Bassam%20Fattouh-Final.pdf> Date of access: 18.05.2019

<sup>6</sup> Gordon, Deborah, Adam Brandt, Joule Bergerson, and Jonathan Koomey. 2015. Know Your Oil: Creating a Global Oil-Climate Index. Washington, D.C.: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

“energy security” – a controversial set of terms and definitions adopted in the West does not reflect the totality of problems in the energy sector of the Gulf countries<sup>7</sup>.

Taking into account the experience of Arab monarchies in ensuring energy security, it seems appropriate to develop and adopt a national strategy for ensuring energy security of Uzbekistan, which provides, in particular, ways to diversify energy policy.

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