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Strategies to Promote the Regional Power of Iran based on the Role of Military Geopolitical Factors in Yemen

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Abstract

Improving the regional power of the I.R of Iran, which is located in one of the strategic geopolitical regions of the world, is a required and necessary matter in order to provide the ground for the realization of the high goals of the system and the Islamic revolution. Geopolitical factors are the same factors of power which are considered as important components in acquiring and promoting the power of countries, and considering the extent of these components, the authors in this study paid attention to the military geopolitical component of power in order to achieve the purpose of the research, which is "providing strategies to promote the regional power of Iran based on the role of Yemen's military geopolitical factors. The research is an applied one and its approach is mixed with descriptive-analytical method. The data was collected via library and field methods (interviews and questionnaires), qualitative information was obtained through content analysis with the help of "MAXQDA" software and quantitative information was obtained using the analysis software; later quantitative data were analyzed. The validity of the questionnaire was calculated by content validity and reliability with Cronbach's alpha. The population of the statistical community comprises 45 people and sampling is done by non-random method equal to 40 people. Finally, from the findings of the research, strategies such as the development of military diplomacy and the improvement of the level of joint military cooperation with Yemen, the development and strengthening of military assistance and support for Yemen's Ansarullah in accordance with the environmental conditions, strengthening the non-governmental resilience and deterrence power, showing the role of military power in fulfilling the strategic achievements of Iran in the domestic, regional and international environment, and having full information about the consequences of actions, has been extracted.

Key words: strategy, power, regional power, geopolitics, military geopolitical factors of I.R of Iran and Yemen.

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Introduction

Power, which is also referred to as the national power of countries in the international relations of governments, is a relative concept that is used by political leaders in both domestic and foreign territories. When a political unit has the ability to influence other surrounding countries in a specific geographical area, it is said to have regional power, and the amount of this power is determined based on the affectability of the countries in the region from the influencing country.

I.R of Iran is ,among other countries in the Southwest Asia ,of special importance due to various geopolitical reasons including: sitting in the inner crescent of the Earth's axis or heart region, which includes the edges of Eurasia and North Africa; lying part of it in the "Heartland" area; the only country where land and sea powers meet without mediation; Having and dominating the world's main energy sources; the only herald of justice and peace on a global scale, etc. (Afshordi, 2018). Considering that after the occurrence of the Islamic Revolution, I.R of Iran's call for the right has put other nations and governments on a path similar to this revolution, these events, from the point of view of the Dominion System, have led to an increase in the sphere of influence of I.R of Iran in the region. For this reason, the Dominion System has manipulated various ways such as the formation of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, the war imposed by the Baathist regime of Iraq against Iran, terror, sanctions in various dimensions of military, economic, etc. in their agenda. Also, for various reasons such as fighting terrorism, creating global security, Iranophobia and Islamophobia, they are looking for a more significant presence in the region and in this way, they consider Iran as a big obstacle to achieve their goals and try to limit Iran and its role in the regional equations of Southwest Asia, which has a great impact on global developments; they are always seeking to reduce this sphere of influence or regional power to the extent that one of the reasons for America's withdrawal from the JCPOA has been mentioned as I.R of Iran's regional power which shows America's concern about this prominent and precious situation of the I.R of Iran.

In view of the existence of a high level of security threats against I.R of Iran, it is necessary for Iran, while maintaining its sphere of influence in the region of Southwest Asia, to take necessary measures in order to promote regional power with the aim of reducing the level of threats, guaranteeing national interests and goals and also improving the

deterrence, and take full advantage of all the upcoming opportunities in order to achieve the predetermined goals. In order to improve his regional power, I.R of Iran needs to make the most of the effective regional conditions and take full advantage of all the opportunities, and either turn threats into opportunities or curb them to maintain his current status in the region.

The current situation of Yemen in terms of time and place has provided a suitable opportunity in order to promote the regional power of I.R of Iran in the form of a comprehensive targeted plan based on the recognition of environmental factors and taking into account the weaknesses and strengths (resulting from the analysis of Iran's internal environment) and opportunities and threats (arising from the analysis of Iran's external environment). Since the efforts made in the field of promoting the regional power of I.R of Iran, taking advantage of the created opportunities and avoiding the existing threats, has not been developed in a scientific, organized and systematic manner and sometimes, due to the lack of coherence and dispersion, it lacks the necessary and appropriate effect, therefore it has been the main concern of the authors and led to the formation of the research problem under the title of "Strategies to promote the regional power of I.R of Iran based on the role of Yemen's military geopolitical factors?", in order to provide an answer to the main purpose of the research, i.e, "providing strategies to promote the regional power of Iran based on the role of Yemen's military geopolitical factors".

The importance and necessity of research

A large number of powers that seek to secure their interests in the region of Southwest Asia consider Iran as the only obstacle to the realization of their goals and have tried in various ways such as creating a high level of security threats, along with guaranteeing their continuous presence in the region and making it appear legal, to overshadow the regional power of I.R of Iran and seek to eliminate it through gradually reducing it.

According to the existing conditions, the importance of controlling regional and extra-regional rivals and enemies is a high priority for I.R of Iran. For this purpose, taking into consideration the prevailing temporal and spatial conditions along with continuous environmental monitoring, the possibility of improving the regional power of I.R of Iran in the form of a systematic and scientific method should be provided in order to have

the national interests and goals realized and a suitable level of deterrence created for Iran.

It is obvious that the lack of accurate identification of environmental factors (inhibitors (weaknesses and threats) and promoters (strengths and opportunities)), which are the main reason for making decisions and adopting strategies to achieve goals, has affected the components of power and after that, instead of witnessing the growth and promotion of the regional power of I.R of Iran, we will witness the decline of the position of Iran in the regional power structure of Southwest Asia.

Background research

1- "Fazlullah Nozari" (2013) in his doctoral dissertation entitled "Determining the geopolitical factors of the Oman Sea basin and its effect on the formulation of the defense-security strategy of the I.R of Iran" has come to the conclusion that the most important effective geopolitical factors of the Sea of Oman are the internal environment including the geopolitical position of the coasts of Iran in the Sea of Oman as well as the strategic and geostrategic position of Iran in the Strait of Hormuz and the coasts of the Sea of Oman, and the external environment including the role of the United States as one of the main transregional players in the Sea of Oman which has become the focus of attention and geopolitical interests of regional and extra-regional actors and powers.(Nozari,2013)

2- "Ali Asghar Beik Bolandi" (2016) in his doctoral thesis entitled "The influence of geopolitical factors of the Caspian Sea on the formulation of the defense strategy of the I.R of Iran" extracted 36 environmental factors, including 24 factors as the strengths and 12 factors as the weaknesses in the domestic environment, 70 factors, including 19 factors as the opportunities, 37 factors as the significant threats and 14 non-significant factors in the external environment, as the geopolitical factors of the Caspian Sea that are effective in formulating the defense strategy of I.R of Iran. (Beik Bolandi, 2016)

3- "Majid Rouhi Dehbaneh and Sajjad Moradi Kellardeh" (2015) in a research entitled "The role of increasing Iran's regional power in the policy-making of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council: 2005-2015" in response to the question "what role the Iranian component has played in determining and directing the policies of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council during 2005-2015 in the last decade?" has concluded that with the developments in West Asia in these years, which the members of the Council have considered as an increase in the penetration factor and regional power of I.R of Iran, and the

defense strategy based on deterrence in the form of an interconnected security strategy, increased capability of Iran's military and nuclear developments have led the council to change its internal structure, change the balance of power and pursue the policy of unity and coalition at the regional level and increase relations with the West, especially the United States.(Rouhi Dehbaneh and Moradi Kellardeh,2015)

Research question

What are the regional power enhancement strategies of I.R of Iran based on the role of Yemeni military geopolitical factors?

Research Goal

Presentation of strategies to promote the regional power of Iran based on the role of military geopolitical factors in Yemen.

Research Methodology

The research is an applied one using descriptive-analytical method with a mixed approach. The statistical population of this research is selected from the high-ranking and senior-level officials of the state, experts and military elites related to geopolitical issues and concepts of regional power, who enjoy characteristics such as familiarity with geopolitical concepts and issues, strategy and issues of the Southwest Asia region and the country of Yemen, and have at least a doctorate degree and minimum 5 years of service experience in related strategic jobs or at least the position of brigadier general. From this population of 45 people, the sample size according to Cochran formula is 40 people. In this research, library method (studying sources, note-taking, checking documents and internet portals) and field method (interviews and questionnaires) have been used to collect information. In order to determine the validity of the questions, the external control method has been used, and the proposed questions were evaluated and revised in several stages to eliminate any ambiguity and inadequacy. To determine the reliability of the questionnaire questions, "Cronbach's alpha" was used, and it was calculated as 0.91, which indicates a high level of reliability in the questionnaire questions. To analyze the data, first, the information collected from the study of sources and interviews was analyzed via content analysis, and the military geopolitical factors of Iran and Yemen were identified. In the next step, the extracted factors were designated and coded. Next, the importance coefficient was

determined along with the weighted score of each factor based on the results of which the strategic position was determined. In the continuation of the analysis process, the amount of resources needed for each of the four environmental factors were specified and the strategies for enhancing the regional power of Iran based on the role of military geopolitical factors in Yemen were determined using the "Kurt Lewin"⁵ field analysis method. The status of the field of study and service history of the sample community are stated in the tables (I) and (II).

Table 1. Field of study of the sample community

Field of study	Frequency	Frequency percentage
political science	11	27.5%
Geography and related trends	8	20%
Strategic Management	21	52.5%
total	40	100%

Table II: Service history of the sample community

Service history (in years)	Frequency	Frequency percentage
Over 35	13	32.5%
30-35	19	47.5%
25-30	8	20%
Total	40	100%

5. Force field analysis is a powerful strategic tool for understanding what is needed for change. "Kurt Lewin" for the first time in June 1947 investigated factors affecting productivity based on force field analysis. This theory uses the analytical thinking method to identify the factors that cause the problem and solve it. Force field analysis suggests the confrontation of two opposing pressure factions, one of which is trying to improve the existing situation (the driving force) and the other is trying to make the existing situation worse (the restraining force). If the result of the forces entering a system (motivator and inhibitor) is zero, that system will remain in equilibrium. If the amount and size of the driving force increases, the system will be in a state of growth and development, and if the amount and size of the restraining force increases, the system will go towards collapse (Lewin, 1951).

Literature and theoretical foundations of research

Strategy

Strategy is one of the main factors in the success of any organization (Mousa khani and Monshizadeh Naein, 2005:273). In view of 'Alimohammad Ahmadvand' (2007), the strategy is defined as the "focusing of key competencies on basic demands, based on fundamental requirements". He considers the strategy as the basis for focusing efforts and attention as well as the appropriate mobilization of available resources in the direction of "fulfillment of desired benefits" (Ahmadvand, 2007:60) which includes two basic components of "goal" and "achievement path". (Ahmadvand et al., 2010:107). Strategy is the science and technology of development and application of the nation's political, economic, cultural and military powers during peace and war and in order to provide maximum support for national policies increasing the probability of victory and decreasing the probability of defeat" (Zahedi, 2015:64).

Power

When power is looked at in the form of a society, it is considered the result of the abilities and capacities of that society and has a geopolitical meaning (Zarghani, 2009:107). The result of the potential and actual capabilities of a nation stemmed from all the existing capacities of that country constitutes the national power. (Collins, 2004:503) The power is a single entity called the nation employed by elites of the nation or the political leaders through exercising their will to achieve national goals and interests. (Hafeznia, 2014:253)

Regional power

Regional power is a special type of government division, of which national power is the main criterion (Ghanbarloo, 46:2009). In international relations, the power is referred to as the regional power when it is powerful within a geographical region. The countries which make appropriate use of their power within a region or area of the world have superior regional power. (Buzzan, 2004:72; Buzzan & Waver, 2003:55; Ghanbarloo, 2009:54). Structure of a regional power is a hierarchical system determined based on the geopolitical weight of the countries in each region. The government with the highest weight is considered the first power of the region the influence of which in the region's affairs will be provided for. (Hafeznia & kaviani, 2004:18)

Geopolitics

‘Ezzatullah Ezzati’ considers geopolitics to be the influence of geographical factors on politics. (Ezzati, 2011:1-3) Geopolitics, from Hepple's point of view, is the art and process of global competition. (Hepple, 1986:25) ‘Mikhail Pacione’ considers geopolitics to be the application of the knowledge and techniques of political geography in international relations (Pacione, 1985:52). Geopolitics is the competitive relations among big powers and powerful states to dominate the weaker states. (Husain, 1993:82) ‘Patrick O'Sullivan’ says that geopolitics is the “geographical study of relations between rulers and power managers, including "national rulers and transnational bodies” (O'Sullivan, 1986:2). Mirhaider (1998) defines geopolitics as "The ways of reading and writing international politics by those who have power and thought and their influence on political decisions at the national and regional level" (Mirhaider, 2017:22), and ‘Mohammed Reza Hafez niya’ defines it as "the science of studying the interrelationships of geography, power and politics and the actions resulting from their combination with each other". (Hafez niya, 2004:9-20; Hafez niya, 2004:26)

Military geopolitical factors

Military power is the basic condition for the survival of states in times of peace and war, and it enables states to pursue their effective deterrence policies (Beik Bolandi, 2015:53). Providing national security is what some say is equivalent to military power (Nozari, 2012:70). Military power includes a set of armed forces along with other elements of national power and the ability of the rulers of a country to use these forces to support defense-security goals and policies of a country (Chegini, 2005:307). Military factors have indicators and criteria determined according to the results obtained from the strategic understanding of the environment, that is, identifying the nature, intensity and scope of threats and Knowledge of the capabilities and intentions of foreign enemies and knowledge of the capabilities and limitations of internal resources in order to protect national interests. (Beik Bolandi, 2016:52-53)

Military Geopolitical Factors of I.R of Iran

The Armed Forces of the I.R Iran include the Army, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the Police Force and the Ministry of Defense, and the "responsibility of the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces" rests with

the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution (Kamali,2014:176). In the armed forces of I.R of Iran, the human force is trained through the teachings derived from the rules of Islam and Qur'an and is characterized as God-seeking and Islam-centered, guardianship-oriented, knowing the enemy and fighting the enemy, popular and self-confident. The I.R of Iran, with its independent, powerful, popular and revolutionary ruling system, and dedicated and efficient armed forces that have been educated and trained in high-quality universities and military centers, as well as the valuable experience of eight years of holy defense, having a people's mobilization of tens of millions of people loyal to the regime and having indigenous military industries and technology capable of producing the equipment and weapons needed by the armed forces, has sufficient military power to defend the Islamic Republic of Iran.(Bolhasani, 2013: 156)

Military Geopolitical Factors of Yemen

After the army of Saudi Arabia, the Yemeni military is the largest army in the Arabian Peninsula, which is led directly by the president of that country. The military forces of Yemen before President "Mansour Hadi" included four major forces: land, air, sea and the presidential guard, the most of facilities of which were at the disposal of the presidential guard who were trained under the supervision of American advisers, and were more powerful than the other forces. Along with the Yemeni army, the militia forces of this country are also present in the Yemeni military arena. Except for this part of the Yemeni armed forces, which are organized, Yemen's tribal structure, which considers weapons to be the most important tool for solving ethnic differences and revenge, has led to every person in Yemen carrying a weapon (a group of authors , 2017: 254). The training of Yemeni military forces goes back to the Ottoman era, and at one time Iraq also trained these forces. Until the 1970s, the Soviet Union was the source of arms and training for the Yemeni military forces, and it led to the development of the country's army. After the Yemeni revolution, this country turned towards the West in the military field and, along with sending students, established schools, a military academy, and a command and headquarters university. With the start of the war of the Arab coalition against Yemen, the army of this country was divided into 3 separate parts. A part of this army, which formed the presidential guard forces, joined "Ansarullah" with 3 divisions and supported the popular forces due to opposition to Mansour Hadi's policies in relation to Saudi Arabia. In addition to the presidential guard forces, "Ansarullah" was able to add people's committees including 100 thousand people to the body of these forces and give them double power,

and formations including rapid intervention forces, sniper and engineering units were formed. Even now, most of the weapons and military equipment, including Yemen's strategic missiles, are in the hands of these forces. Another part of the army, which supported Mansour Hadi, formed the new national army of Yemen and, together with the Basij militias and other forces recruited from Eritrea and Somalia, were trained and supported by the Saudi and Emirati forces. Muslim Brotherhood, along with the southern resistance forces, Salafis and some tribal sheikhs also form another part of Mansour Hadi's forces, which have advanced weapons and equipment including tanks, missiles, armored vehicles, artillery and they have received the Patriot missile system from Saudi Arabia. They form the main part of the pro-Mansour Hadi forces in the western front of Yemen. The southern resistance movement, which was formed with the talent of 40,000 people after the Saudi invasion of Yemen, takes orders from the Emirates and the commanders of the southern front. Another group that has supported Mansour Hadi is the Salafists, who receive a lot of support from Saudi Arabia and the UAE. This group is divided into two separate groups, one part of which is subordinate to Saudi Arabia and Mansour Hadi in the form of the presidential forces, and the other part is subordinate to the UAE, which is called "Al-Hazm Al-Amni". The third part of the forces, which are mostly the rest of the Yemeni army, are neutral forces that do not participate in the war. (Al-Shujaa, 2013:238)

The opinion of experts on the topic of research

In order to complete the information about the purpose of the research, interviews were conducted with 10 experts and elites related to the issue which led to extraction of the geopolitical factors of the military field of the I.R of Iran and Yemen based on the issues raised by the interviewees. The results are given in tables (3) and (4).

Table III. Military Geopolitical Factors of I.R of Iran extracted from interviews with experts

The Interviewee	Object	Factor
Heshmatollah Falahat Pisheh	Iran's ability to be effective in the economic, security and military, social, cultural and managerial needs of the Yemeni people.	I.R of Iran's management power in the military and security scenes, as well as the ability to carry out operations deep in the enemy's territory
Mustafa Shamsai	The presence of Iran's strategic naval force, whose mission area includes the territory of Yemen.	
Mohammadreza Hafeznia	I.R of Iran's long-range missile power.	
Hossein SheikholeIslam	The resistance with the military technology that I.R of Iran has given to them is ahead of the arrogance.	Iran's ability to produce all kinds of tactical, operational and strategic military equipment using local technology
Mohammad Hossein Soltani Fard	Iran's technical and electronic facilities in the military, cyber and satellite fields are a strong point for supporting Yemen.	
Hossein Amirabdollahian	Regarding the military factor, Iran's advisory assistance to Yemen has made the Yemeni forces able to stand against the Arab coalition.	The growth of military science and knowledge and the experience of I.R of Iran's advisory assistance
Ahmad Mohammadzadeh	Our armed forces can help the Yemeni army in tactics, doctrine and strategy.	
Mustafa Shamsai	In the field of military power, we are facing a kind of lack of attention in the national arena.	lack of correct understanding in the domestic environment regarding the country's need for military power
Saadullah Zarei	In the field of military power, the national understanding of the need to increase the regional power of Iran has a lot of problems.	

Table IV. Yemeni military geopolitical factors extracted from interviews with experts

The Interviewee	Object	Factor
Hossein Amirabdollahian	Ansarullah has become a great capacity in Yemen, and this capacity is defined and interpreted as military knowledge.	Ansarullah's experience and strength in managing operational scenes
Ahmad Mohammadzadeh	The Yemeni army has the experience of non-classical wars and guerrilla operations and heterogeneous (asymmetric) war patterns.	
Mohammad Akhbari	The Yemeni army has a problem with	Yemen is in need of

	training, it has a problem with military knowledge.	equipment, weapons, training, technology and military infrastructure
Saadullah Zarei	In the military field, Yemen has a problem with military equipment and infrastructure.	
Hossein Sheikh Al-Islam	We have witnessed the presence of spies in the forces of Ansarullah, which has made things difficult for them.	The existence of espionage and intelligence penetration among Ansarullah
Ahmed Gholampour	Existence of espionage platform and information penetration among some of Ansarullah's allies.	

The theoretical framework of research

The theoretical framework of this research is considered in order to analyze the military geopolitical environment of Iran and Yemen, as well as to determine the role and ranking of environmental factors based on the SWOT scientific method, and in the final stage, the regional power promotion strategies of the Iran are extracted based on Kurt Lewin's field analysis. For this purpose, the theoretical framework of the research is as follows:

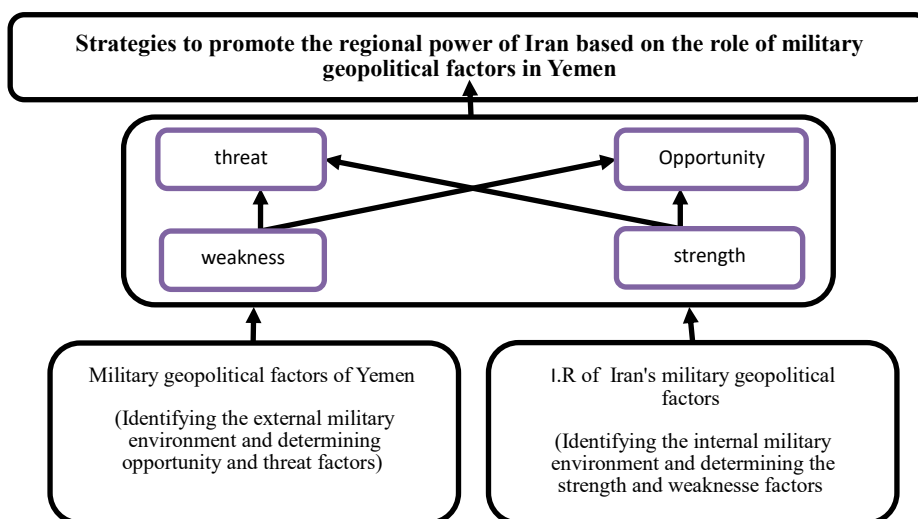


Figure I. The theoretical framework of the research

Research findings and their analysis

In this section, 6 factors were extracted from the study of sources and 7 factors from interviews with experts. In the continuation, by summarizing and sharing the factors extracted above, the final number of 10 factors was obtained, which was divided into the population in order to judge the sample population in the form of a researcher-made questionnaire, and the obtained results were analyzed as follows.

Determining the matrix of internal and external factors

In order to establish the matrix of internal and external factors, first the role of environmental factors (internal and external) was determined by means of a questionnaire (according to table IV) where the sample community judged the obtained factors and accordingly Internal factors (strengths and weaknesses) and external factors (opportunities and threats) have been identified and coded.

Table V. Determining the role of environmental factors and coding factors based on their role

Item	Agent	Does the agent belong to I.R of Iran?		Does the factor have a determining effect?		Is the agent under the control of I.R of Iran?		The type of effect of the agent on the realization of the goal		Agent code
		Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Positive	negative	
1	I.R of Iran's management power in the military and security scenes, having various military experiences and the ability to carry out operations deep in the enemy's territory	√		√		√		√		S1
2	Iran's benefit from military industries and infrastructure and the ability to produce all kinds of military equipment using local technology	√		√		√		√		S2

3	The growth of military science and knowledge and the experience of I.R of Iran's advisory assistance	√		√		√		√		S3
4	Ansarullah's experience and power in stage management		√	√			√	√		O1
5	The Yemeni armed forces do not have indigenous weapons, industries, infrastructure and military technology		√	√			√	√		O2
6	The participation of Yemeni people's forces in defense		√	√			√	√		O3
7	Iran's possession of a guardianship-oriented, popular and anti-enemy armed force	√		√		√		√		S4
8	The presence of armed citizens, terrorist and extremist groups in Yemen		√	√			√		√	T1
9	Lack of proper understanding in the internal environment of Iran regarding the country's need for military power	√		√		√			√	W1
10	Existence of espionage platform and information penetration among Ansarullah		√	√			√		√	T2

In order to analyze the internal and external environment, the average of the existing situation, which represents the importance coefficient of each factor, along with the weighted score of that factor, for each of the factors (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) was calculated separately and finally, the total weighted score of weaknesses/threats was subtracted from the total weighted score of strengths/opportunities the results of which are listed in tables (VI) and (VII).

Table VI. IFE matrix (internal factors)

Environment	Agent No.	Agents	Average	Weight	Normal weight
Strengths	S1	I.R of Iran's management power in the military and security scenes, having various military experiences, as well as the ability to carry out operations deep in the enemy's territory	4.866	0.21	1
	S2	I.R of Iran's benefit from military industries and infrastructures and the ability to produce all kinds of tactical, operational and strategic military equipment using local technology	4.666	0.20	0.93
	S3	The growth of military science and knowledge and the experience of I.R of Iran's advisory assistance	4.655	0.20	0.93
	S4	I.R of Iran's possession of a guardianship-oriented, popular and anti-enemy armed force	4.5	0.19	0.85
	The sum of the normal weighted scores of strengths				
Weaknesses	W1	Lack of proper understanding in the internal environment of Iran regarding the country's need for military power;	4.4	0.19	0.836
	The total sum of normal weighted scores of weaknesses		23.087	1	0.836
The difference between the total normal weighted scores of weaknesses and strengths $3.71-0.836=2.874$					2.874

Table VII. EFE matrix (external factors)

Environment	Agent No.	Agents	Average	Weight	Normal Weight
Opportunities	O1	Ansarullah's experience and power in managing operational scenes	3.659	0.17	0.62
	O2	The Yemeni armed forces do not have indigenous weapons, industries, infrastructure and military technology	4.002	0.19	0.76
	O3	The participation of the Yemeni people's forces in defense	3.869	0.18	0.70
The total sum of the normal weighted scores of the opportunities					2.08
Threats	T1	The presence of armed citizens, terrorist and extremist groups in Yemen	4.879	0.23	1.12
	T2	Existence of espionage platform and information penetration among Ansarullah	4.860	0.23	1.12
	The total sum of normal weighted scores of threats		21.269	1	2.24
The difference of the sum of normal weighted scores of threats and opportunities $2.08-2.24=-0.16$					0.16

Determining the strategic position

In order to be able to formulate promotion strategies of the regional power of Iran based on the role of military geopolitical factors of Yemen, the results obtained from the matrix of internal and external factors were implemented on the axis of coordinates as described in figure (II) to determine the current situation in the research field.

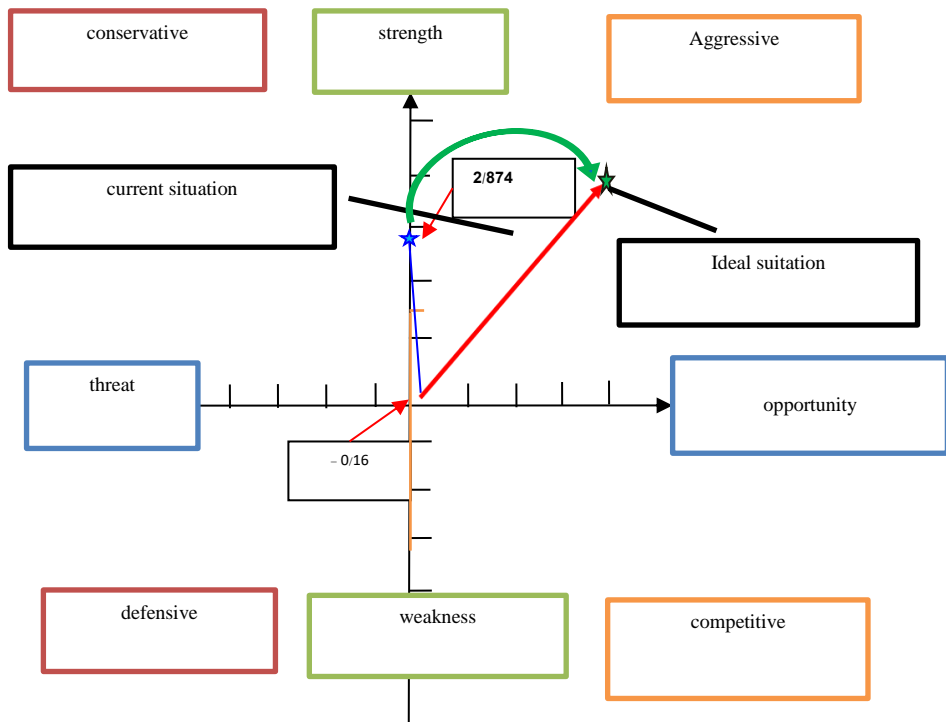


Figure II. Strategic position

Determining the weights of the four internal and external environment factors in order to allocate resources

Table VIII. Allocation of resources based on internal and external factors

		Subtract from 5	The percentage of required facilities
The sum of strengths and weaknesses	2.87	$5-2.874=2.126$	29.18%
The Sum of opportunities and threats	-0/16	$5-(-0/16)=5/16$	8270.%
Total		7.286	100%

Table IX. Allocation of resources based on strength, weakness, opportunity and threat factors

					The percentage of required facilities
strengths	3.71	Subtract from 5	1.29	%60	%30
weaknesses	0.836	Subtract from 5	0.836-	- %40	%20
=weaknesses -strengths			2.126		
opportunities	2.08	Subtract from 5	2.92	%57	28.5%
threats	2.24	Subtract from 5	.24-2	- %43	.5%21
=threats -opportunities			5.16		%100

The results obtained from the tables (VIII) and (IX) show that in order to promote the regional power of Iran based on the role of military geopolitical factors in Yemen, 30% of the existing resources should be used to reinforce the strengths, 20% of available resources to eliminate weaknesses, 28.5% of available resources to take advantage of opportunities, and 21.5% of available resources to repel threats.

Strategies to promote the regional power of Iran based on the role of military geopolitical factors in Yemen

In order to determine the promotion strategies of regional power of Iran based on the role of military geopolitical factors in Yemen, Kurt Lewin's field analysis method⁶ was used along with considering the results obtained from the tables of internal and external factors, and the percentage of allocation of available resources to the factors.

⁶ In Kurt Lewin's field analysis, we will witness the improvement of the system when the results of the promoting factors (strengths and opportunities) are greater than the results of the inhibiting factors (weaknesses and threats). (Lewin, 1951)

Table X. Environmental factors that determine each of the primary strategies

Weaknesses W		Strengths S		Evaluation matrix of internal factors matrix of Evaluation external factors
WO strategies	W1 O1	SO threats	S1 S2 S3 O2 S1 S4 O1 O3	opportunities O
WT strategies	W1 T2	ST strategies	S1 S2 S3 T1 T2	threats T

Based on table (X), the strategies have been calculated as follows:

Table XI. Primary strategies

SO strategies	S1 S2 S3 O2	Developing military diplomacy and raising the level of joint military cooperation with Yemen
	S1 S4 O1 O3	Strengthening the resilience and deterrent power of non-governmental organization of the people
ST strategies	S1 S2 S3 T1 T2	Development and strengthening of military support for Yemen's Ansarullah in accordance with environmental requirements
WO strategies	W1 O1	Showing the role of military power in the fulfillment of the strategic achievements of Iran in the domestic, regional and international environment
WT strategies	W1 T2	Having full information about the consequences of actions.

Investigating the evaluation of strategies in relation to environmental factors

In order to evaluate the strategies, another questionnaire was distributed about the impact of each strategy on the environmental factors (internal and external) the results of which are as given in table (12).

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Conclusion

Summary

All experts agree on the importance of military forces in guaranteeing and securing political goals. Although the approach to achieving goals in the current world has moved from hard power to semi-hard or soft power, it is the presence of these military forces in Yemen that has been able to prevent the occupation of this country by the Saudi Arabia-led Arab coalition; the presence of powerful and authoritative armed forces, despite the various repeated efforts of the dominion system, has been effective in ensuring the stable security of Iran in the region of Southwest Asia and creating deterrence. Therefore, the role of the armed forces in any country is a required and necessary matter in order to provide the ground for the realization of stable security and to continue the all-round development of that country. According to the requirements specified in Islamic teachings and culture for the use of military forces, these forces in Muslim countries must be formed in accordance with Islamic principles and foundations so that they can protect the interests, ideals, goals and Islamic values and Muslim nations as well. The formation of the Yemeni military and people's forces by placing the ideas of resistance at the forefront to confront the dominion system and arrogance and achieve independence, and form the sixth link of the chain of resistance in the region by requesting and receiving the advisory assistance of Iran is indicative of the fact that the grounds for its acceptance and further cooperation between the military forces of the two countries are in place. The I.R of Iran should also be the top of the resistance pyramid and prepare the conditions for deepening his armed forces presence, especially the Navy, in order to develop naval power in the form of a legal regime acceptable to the country of Yemen and run more effective military forces as the axis of resistance. Paying close attention to this basic and important point that Iran's enemies and rivals in the region (Saudi Arabia and the Zionist regime) and outside the region (America supporting the Zionist regime and guaranteeing the security of this occupying regime) are always looking for an opportunity to weaken and even dissolve the chain of Islamic resistance, is a necessity that if it is overlooked, there will be a high possibility for the Yemen to move toward and depend on the rivals and enemies leading to their penetration into the Yemeni armed forces which may result in increased possibility of instability due to the intrusion of foreigners.

According to the analysis carried out from the summarized materials regarding the research question that "What are the strategies for promoting the regional power of Iran based on the role of Yemen's military geopolitical factors?", the strategies were extracted as follows:

- (1) developing military diplomacy and raising the level of joint military cooperation with Yemen;
- (2) strengthening the resilience and deterrence power of the non-governmental organization of the people;
- (3) developing and strengthening military support for Ansarullah in Yemen in accordance with environmental requirements;
- (4) showing the role of military power in the fulfilling the strategic achievements of Iran in the domestic, regional and international environment;
- (5) having full information about the consequences of actions.

Suggestions

- (1) In order for the actions to be legal, the Supreme National Security Council should review and approve the action plan prepared by other authorities related to the issue.
- (2) After the approval of the Supreme National Security Council and ratification of the approved plans, the Islamic consultative Council should approve and notify the requirements and the budget to the relevant authorities in accordance with the level of measures considered.
- (3) Considering that Bab la-Mandab strait is specified as the scope of the Iranian Navy mission, therefore it is necessary for this force to have a stronger presence in this area.
- (4) The General Staff of the Armed Forces and the Ministry of Defense and Support of the Armed Forces should have tactics and preliminary measures in place for the continuous presence of the military units of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Yemen and the establishment of military bases in this country for the purpose of low-cost access closer and closer to the Zionist regime than the southern region of the occupied territories, as well as creating a coastal base for the Iranian Navy, which is present in the region.

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