

# CHARACTERISTICS OF THE IRANIAN FOREIGN POLICY WITH COUNTRIES OF THE CENTRAL ASIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE MODERN WORLD SYSTEM

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Nowadays modern policy of the Islamic republic of Iran is getting more realistic and pragmatic, and this new foreign policy approach can be called «Achaemenid Phenomenon». An ideologically driven foreign policy of the Islamic republic – the formal tool of the Islamic revolutionary expansion - is transforming in a new and more perfect type of interregional integration where Iran poses itself as an important leader and the core state in the interregional system of the states which consists of the former soviet republics and the Middle East. Once a symbol of the Persian hegemony, the formation of the new Achaemenid Empire is now getting through major regional projects.) Chariots Cyrus the Great don't conquer vast territories of Bactria and Sogdiana; Iranian businessmen, who are opening a vast amount (great number компанийжеможнопосчитать, ониисчисляемые) of the companies in the central Asia, railway projects and gas pipes projects have become the main factors of the significant initiations of the Iranian foreign policy . Among them is a Persian concept of Iran – Afghanistan – Tajikistan. Reportedly to some experts this posture is similar, some extend, to Pan-Turkish concept of Turkey – Azerbaijan. However, a substantial content – analysis depicts that this old concept of the Pan-Turkism (In case of Azerbaijan and Turkey, this concept is called oguzianizm and presupposes that the unification of the Turkic people of oguzian branch is based on imperialistic motivations, whereas a so-called Pan-Iranian concept supposes creation of the economic and cultural basis for further initiation of the Iranian confederation<sup>1</sup>. At the joint Farsi-speaking summits the leader of the core state of Iranian civilization (Iran) has not once declared that Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan must consolidate in the face of danger which come from American

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<sup>1</sup> A. Evstratov. The Persian concept of the future. Disponível em: <<http://www.centrasia.ru/newsA.php?st=1348660800>>.

and European influence in the Central Asia. Railway construction from Iran through Afghanistan and Tajikistan, water pipe from Dushanbe to Iran prove the fact that Pan-Iranian concept is not utopia<sup>2</sup>. This approach towards Tajikistan and Afghanistan can be relatively called «the Great Bactria approach» the ancient name for the territory which includes Afghanistan and Tajikistan

In the context of Russian influence in Tajikistan and the presence of NATO in Afghanistan, a new actor entering the struggle has become Turkey which tries to spread influence in Turkish Central Asia. Turkish Central Asia, especially Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, is interested in the development of cooperation with Iran due to its historic and geopolitical location. Iran is one of the fundamental investors of the Turkmenistan's economy. Thanks to Iran, thousands of industrial projects have been realized in this republic since 1991, and in March 2008 a joint anti-terror agreement was signed. This approach toward Turkmenistan can be called the approach of the Great Parthia the ancient name of the Turkmenistan's territory), but due to the Western and Turkish influence and partial dependence on the CIS Turkmenistan rejected other projects including railway construction of (Meshhad-Seraghs-Tejen-Tedzhen. The president of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov tries to operate in the other way. For him IRI has become the transit territory vice Uzbekistan has become the transit territory for Iranian goods on the way to the CIS. Such Iranian approach to Uzbekistan can be relatively called the approach of Sogdiana (in ancient time the territory of Uzbekistan). But Iranian influence in Uzbekistan is not considerable as influence in Tajikistan because Turkic republics of the central (Central) Asia have inclination for enhanced cooperation with Turkey and not a constructive dialogue with Iran. If IRI enforced positions in the Central Asia, it would mean the end of the neo osmanism and a new geopolitical situation which would pose new obstacles to military plans of encircling Iran from the North. The interests of China, Russia and Iran have already clashed there. China has become the second after Russia military supplier for Iran and proposed to Iran to buy an analogue of the Air Defense system S-300<sup>3</sup>. Also it should be taken into account that IRI is the main oil supplier for China. Strengthening the role in the post-soviet countries makes Russia seek military presence in the

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<sup>2</sup> A. Evstratov. The Persian concept of the future. Disponivel em: <<http://www.centrasia.ru/newsA.php?st=1348660800>>.

<sup>3</sup> China will supply S – 300 to Iran. Disponivel em : <[http://www.trud.ru/article/06-10-2010/251605\\_s-300\\_iranu\\_postavit\\_kitaj.html](http://www.trud.ru/article/06-10-2010/251605_s-300_iranu_postavit_kitaj.html)>.

region. In October 2012, Russia and Tajikistan signed an agreement which extends the terms for the Russian military base up to 2042. It is necessary to save Russian military influence in the Central Asia, as in case of leaving withdrawal the Central Asian vector will be used to pressure Moscow and can be converted into a battle ground for the countries of NATO, IRI and actors of the Asia-Pacific Region.

Unipolar system of the ideas initiatives supposes maintenance of consultative dialogue and constructivism in order to settle down the problems. IRI tries to follow this principle forming relations with the Central Asia. The bases of their relations are rooted in their common history and geopolitical issues. However, in the discriminating and anarchic world PAX – Americana only one hegemonic – imperialistic thesis which has revealed in different concepts and doctrines: «Open Sky doctrine», «Special interests zone», «Truman's doctrine». It is impossible to predict the fatal outcome, as the hegemonies are cyclic and as a result there is a possibility for a group of countries, even the Middle East, to become a new hegemon.