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Key factors and effective driving forces shaping the geometry of the modern order in the region of Southwest Asia until the horizon of 2029

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Abstract

The region of Southwest Asia has experienced significant developments and changes in recent decades of the 21st century. These developments have brought about new dynamics, which hold the potential for shaping a new order in the region. This emerging new order in the region of Southwest Asia is influenced by various actors who play a crucial role in its formation. This research adopts a future-oriented approach and aims to identify the key factors and driving forces that are shaping the modern order in Southwest Asia until the year 1407. The research methodology employed is a mixed exploratory approach with an applied focus. To ensure a comprehensive analysis, the research intentionally incorporates the insights of 17 experts specialized in the fields of national security and international relations. After conducting library studies and interviews in the form of brainstorming sessions, a total of 47 main factors were identified.

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tified and categorized into two dimensions. The first dimension consists of the main factors that have shaped the order in the Southwest Asia region in the past, while the second dimension comprises the current factors driving the new order in the same region. Additionally, 19 driving forces that are shaping the new regional order in Southwest Asia until the year 1407 were identified.

To validate the significance of the main factors, specific tests using SPSS software were conducted, including the single-sample t-test and Kendall's coefficient of agreement. Moreover, Micmac software and interaction analysis matrix were utilized to determine the most influential driving forces among the identified 19 factors. These driving forces include the Great Deal of the Century, the Russian-Ukrainian war, the New Silk Road, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the attempt to eliminate Iran from the Zangzor Pass, and the expansion of the ideology of resistance. With the defeat of the Ottoman Empire in the First World War, the victorious countries made the decision to partition and incorporate Ottoman territories into their own lands. This plan took on an official character when the foreign ministers of England and France, as the two colonial powers, signed the Sykes-Picot Agreement. This agreement established the political and geopolitical conditions for dividing the borders of the Ottoman Empire among various Arab countries and present-day Turkey. Under this agreement, the Arab Middle East region was divided among France, England, and Russia. Eastern parts of Turkey were annexed by Russia, while France colonized parts of Turkey, Syria, and Lebanon. Meanwhile, England acquired significant portions of Iraq and Palestine. France and England aimed to convert their respective Middle Eastern possessions into numerous influential territories (Kuehn, 2021).

After the First World War, the victorious Western powers partitioned and divided the Ottoman Empire, leading to the formation of the present-day West Asia. However, this region has been plagued by tensions and challenges, with Western interventionist forces playing a significant role in these instabilities. As a strategically important region, West Asia has always been a subject of competing interests and conflicts. The root of these tensions can be traced back to the two world wars and the subsequent developments. Crucially, decisions were made by Western powers without considering the perspectives and interests of West Asian countries. Following the Allied victory in the war, these countries decided to divide and partition the Ottoman Empire, which was often referred to as the "sick man of Europe", in accordance with their own interests. The Sykes-Picot Agreement, the Sour Agreement, the Balfour Declaration, and the exchange of letters between McMahon and Sharif Hussein clearly illustrate the colonial objectives of this plan. Unfortunately, these agreements brought

about instability and insecurity to the region, with lasting ramifications that continue to be felt even decades later. During the Cold War, Southwest Asia held great significance in international relations, particularly for the United States. The region's abundant oil reserves and the Soviet Union's attempts to establish influence in Southwest Asia were the primary reasons for its importance to the United States. The countries in the Southwest Asian region were divided into two blocs: Saudi Arabia and Iran aligned with the Western bloc and America, while Syria, Egypt, and Iraq aligned with the Eastern bloc. The Soviet Union pursued its foreign policy objectives by supporting communist movements, which further fueled tensions between the two superpowers. This arrangement not only intensified the rivalry between the regional countries but also turned them into pawns for the agendas and ideals of the superpowers. The Islamic revolution in Iran had a profound impact on the region and even globally, leading to significant changes and consequences in the years following the revolution. This revolution created various currents that influenced the Southwest Asian region and, at times, the entire world. In this research, taking a future-oriented approach, we aim to identify and explain the key factors and driving forces that shape the current geopolitical landscape in Southwest Asia up until the year 1407. Our goal is to find answers to three crucial questions:

1. What are the primary factors and historical driving forces that have shaped the existing order in Southwest Asia?
2. What are the main factors and current driving forces shaping the new order in Southwest Asia?
3. What main factors and driving forces have played an effective role in shaping the geometry of the new order in the region of Southwest Asia until the horizon of 1407?

In this study, we adopted a future-oriented approach to identify and explain three categories of driving forces. The first category encompasses the historical driving forces that have influenced the order in the Southwest Asia region. These driving forces consist of 24 main factors. Moving on to the second category, we explored the current driving forces that are shaping the new order in Southwest Asia. This section of the research identified 23 main factors as the driving forces. Lastly, the third category focuses on the driving forces that are expected to shape the future order in the Southwest Asia region until the year 1407. This category includes 19 driving forces that are considered to be highly influential in determining the new order's geometry. Regarding the third category, the most influential driving forces were identified using the Mimak futurology software and the interaction analysis matrix. These driving forces include

six key factors: America's Great Deal of the Century, the war between Russia and Ukraine, the establishment of the New Silk Road, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, and the attempt to remove Iran from Zangzor as a means of spreading the ideology of resistance. Recognizing the significance of driving forces and main factors in the scenario writing process, the following suggestions can be made:

- Future research should explore the future scenarios of the modern order geometry in the Southwest Asia region, presenting it as a valuable topic.
- Considering the identification and categorization of the three driving force categories in this study, their application and utilization can enhance the strategic depth of the Islamic Republic of Iran in regions like Latin America and North Africa.
- The findings and implications of this research have the potential to prevent erroneous analysis and misguided directions.

Key words: Geometry of the New World Order, Southwest Asia Region, Interaction Analysis, Key Factors, Driving Forces.