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THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF THE CASPIAN SEA

This article analyzes the importance of the Caspian Sea in the region. Until recently, although the Caspian Sea and the Caspian Sea region were taken into account in geopolitical and strategic layouts, it was not enough clearly. It was believed that the Caspian Sea is a closed inland body of water that has no connection with the oceans, and in the balance of forces in its basin has been changed. They also considered the development of discussions and negotiations in order to determine the status of the Caspian Sea, and the share of each country in the Caspian region. This article analyzes the relations between the countries of the Caspian region, since in this region the interests of many states intersect, not only located in this region, but also many thousands of kilometers away. The military-political situation taking shape here, the proximity of areas of unresolved conflicts, manifestations of terrorist activity, drug trafficking and illegal migration, determine its strategic importance. The article is based on the use of the interdisciplinary nature of the subject and on the works of Kazakh and foreign authors.

Key words: Caspian Sea, Features of the Caspian Sea, Geographical factors in the Caspian Sea, strategic factors in the Caspian Sea.

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Каспий теңізінің стратегиялық маңыздылығы

Бұл мақалада Каспий теңізінің аймақтағы маңыздылығы талданады. Соңғы кезге дейін Каспий теңізі мен Каспий теңізі аймағының геосаяси және стратегиялық орналасуы даулы мәселенің бірі болып келді. Каспий теңізі мұхиттармен ешқандай байланысы жоқ жабық ішкі су айдыны және оның бассейніндегі күштер тепе-теңдігі тұрақты сақталған. Мақалада Каспий теңізінің құқықтық мәртебесін және Каспий аймағындағы әр елдің үлесін анықтау мақсатында пікірталастар мен келіссөздерді дамыту ұзақ жылдар бойы шешімін таппай келген мәселелерге шолу жасалған. Сонымен қатар, бұл мақалада Каспий маңы елдері арасындағы қатынастарға талдау жасалады, өйткені тек осы аймақта орналасқан мемлекеттердің мүдделері ғана емес, сонымен бірге мыңдаған шақырым жерде орналасқан басқа да алпауыт мемлекеттердің геосаяси мүдделері тоғысқан теңіз екені сөзсіз. Мұнда қалыптасқан әскери-саяси жағдай, шешілмеген қақтығыстардың, террористік әрекеттің көріністерінің, есірткі бизнесінің және заңсыз көші-қонның жақындығы оның стратегиялық маңыздылығын одан әрі айқындай түседі. Осыған орай, осы мәселедегі көпжақты келіссөздердің даму заңдылықтары қарастырылып, теңіздің құқықтық мәртебесі зерделенеді. Мақала пәнаралық байланыста зерттеліп, қазақстандық және шетелдік авторлардың еңбектеріне негізделген.

Түйін сөздер: Каспий теңізі, Каспий теңізінің ерекшеліктері, Каспий теңізіндегі географиялық факторлар, Каспий теңізіндегі стратегиялық факторлар.

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Стратегическая важность Каспийского моря

В этой статье анализируется значимость Каспийского моря в регионе. До недавнего времени в геополитических и стратегических раскладах Каспийское море и регион Каспийского моря, хоть и учитывались, но явно недостаточно. Считалось, что Каспийское море – это замкнутый внутренний водоем, не имеющий связи с мировым океаном, и от изменения баланса сил в его бассейне мало что меняется. Также были рассмотрены ход развития дискуссий и переговоров в целях определения статуса Каспийского моря, и доля каждой страны прикаспийского региона. В данной статье анализируются отношения между странами прикаспийского региона, так как в этом районе пересекаются интересы многих государств, расположенных не только в этом регионе, но и на многие тысячи километров. Складывающаяся здесь военно-политическая обстановка, близость зон неурегулированных конфликтов, проявления террористической активности, наркотрафик и незаконная миграция определяют его стратегическое значение. Статья основана на использовании междисциплинарного характера предмета и на работах казахстанских и зарубежных авторов.

Ключевые слова: Каспийское море, особенности Каспийского моря, географические факторы в Каспийском море, стратегические факторы в Каспийском море.

Introduction

Central Asian countries are so important that they are described as “Brzezinski” because they are considered the key to world domination. The United States is looking to neighbouring areas for control over its resources, Turkey and Israel, where the two countries seek to control the Caspian Sea for the Central Asian countries by various means and political, economic and military instruments. (Aladaileh, 2010)

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, there was a political vacuum in the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus, and also led to the disintegration of the republics formed by the emergence of new republics in the international arena, which contributed to the establishment of regional competition countries on these countries because of their oil resources and natural gas in addition, the Caspian Sea is the centres of attraction and conflict. The Caspian Sea is rich in resources and energy resources, which are acquired by the countries of the world today because of their importance to the economies of these countries and their growth, About 50 billion barrels of oil and 300 billion cubic meters of natural gas, with the largest fields, which Kashagan in Kazakhstan 13 billion barrels of oil. (World Channel, 2019)

It also has the largest gathering of caviar in the world, with environmentalists condemning the intensive fishing of these fish. The Caspian Sea is shared by five countries of varying proportions, highlighting the Caspian region as one of the areas

of political and economic competition, especially in the post-Cold War period in the Central Asian region

Given the Caspian Sea’s characteristics that make it a target for many countries, this study tends to identify the characteristics of the Caspian Sea and highlight the factors that contribute to its importance geographically and strategically.

Problem and questions of study

The Caspian Sea is located in the Asian continent, in the west, which is a closed sea surrounded by land from all sides. It is also called the largest lake in the world. It is also characterized by its great wealth of oil wealth and natural gas. Among all the countries that seek to share it because of its importance, especially for the Central Asian countries, where the sea enjoys an oil field; which is the second field in terms of space in the world.

Given the advantages of the Caspian Sea, the Central Asian countries seek to benefit from it. Hence, the study’s problem is to show the importance of the Caspian Sea to Central Asian countries by answering the following questions:

What are the geographical and strategic factors in the Caspian Sea?

What are the features of the Caspian Sea?

Features of the Caspian Sea.

The Caspian Sea is a large water surface that is about 28 m below sea level and is located on the

western edge of Asia. It is located at the point of Eastern Europe, through the Caucasus region, which separates it from the Black Sea by 700 km. The average length of this sea is about 1200 km, whereas its rate of width is approximately 300 km, and the depth ranges between several meters in the north and about 1025 m in the south, and its salt water by 1/3 of the salinity of the seas and open oceans (European Conference of Ministers of Transport, 2002). The Caspian Sea is a closed sea, not connected to any other sea or ocean, so it differed about its description of a sea or a lake, although some consider it the largest lake in the world with an area of about 371 km². It is divided into the following countries: Russia from the northwest, Azerbaijan from the west, Kazakhstan from the north and east, Turkmenistan to the east also, followed by Iran to the south of the border of about 500 km of the total length of its beaches of more than 5000 km. This sea feeds on the rainwater and the rivers in which it flows, the most important of which are the Volga and Urals rivers in the north and several other rivers in the east, west and south, which are characterized by continuous low water levels due to the scarcity of rivers that feed it. The names that were given to this sea varied in number of ages and different covenants and according to the name of the name, but it was associated with the name of the peoples and tribes that lived around it (Ebel & Menon, 2000). It is sometimes the sea of Persians, or Mazandran, or Sea beads, Turkmen or Cossacks or others. The ancient Arabs called it the Sea of Qazvin relative to some Persian tribes that lived on its southern shores and eastern Caspian and from there quoted the name of the months between them now, and this sea is known today by the name of this name or «Caspian Sea».

Furthermore, the Caspian region is rich in energy resources: oil, gas and other energy sources, but for humans, caviar or fish eggs, according to the latest estimates: Oil has been discovered in the Caspian region for centuries. However, Azerbaijan, the riparian country, was discovered in oil from 1846 until the beginning of the twentieth century. Baku's oil fields in Azerbaijan provided more than half of the world's production. The latest estimates indicate that there are more than 250 billion barrels of recoverable oil from the sea basin, adding about 200 billion barrels of potential reserves (Shams-Ud-Din, 2000). On the other, the reserves of the Caspian region are estimated at about 232 trillion cubic feet of gas. The sea occupies the fourth place after Russia, Iran and Qatar with the size of its reserve of this material, which with crude oil is a magnet for many major countries and oil companies seeking to extract

it. And investment and extension of pipelines to transport it abroad, which is a point of conflict and disagreement between countries and other countries, importers or investors, especially Russia and China, Turkey, Iran, Europe and the United States of America (Ebel & Menon, 2000).

Geographical and strategic factors in the Caspian Sea

Nonetheless, the abundance of resources and wealth that this sea contains is a struggle for sharing among the countries bordering it. This dispute emerged shortly after the fall of the Soviet Union and the independence of its states, especially Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, the countries bordering it with the Russian Federation and of course Iran, which was previously shared with the Soviet Union in certain proportions (Ebel & Menon, 2000). With the growing importance of the Caspian Basin as an area of political and economic weight, the global political and commercial competition among the major powers has increased to find a foothold to control these resources and wealth.

Since the 1990s, the United States has sought to acquire this region to find alternative sources of energy for Gulf oil or to reduce reliance on it. It seeks to find a place of influence and influence in the Central Asian countries by helping them extract and transfer these resources (European Conference of Ministers of Transport, 2002). These countries control the production of energy and their prices in the face of the Organization of the Organization of "OPEC" oil, and it cuts the way for economically rising China and hungry for each point of oil, or gas to develop its rise. It also prevents Iran from extending its influence to the Central Asian countries and interrupting its contact with Russia. However, it is noteworthy that three countries in the Caspian Basin have no ports on the other seas, namely, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan. Only Russia and Iran have other outlets, so the three countries need oil and gas pipelines to deliver their output abroad (Shams-Ud-Din, 2000).

Before the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the dispute over the Caspian Sea was confined to Moscow and Tehran, but cooperation existed between them on the regulation of navigation, transit, fishing and exploitation of the sea resources under the Soviet Union of 1940. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, The Caspian Sea, which has a maximum length of 1200 km and a maximum width of 300 km with a depth of 1023 meters, lies not only in its strategic and security location, but also in its vast wealth of Nuff Gas. For this reason, it was not strange that the five parties competed for it and en-

tered into difficult negotiations for five summit-level conferences over the past 22 years. The most recent was the conference hosted by the Aktau in Republic of Kazakhstan in August in 2018.

The Aktau Conference began with a controversy over the name of Caspian, that is, Sea or Lake, because the name itself has certain legal conditions under the law of the sea. The description of the lake allows all the neighboring states to share their wealth with each other, while if it is described by the sea, every country that benefits will benefit only from the wealth that lies within its share of economic water. In addition, because the five countries agreed that Caspian Bahr, Kazakhstan emerged as a bigger victor because the Tengir field, the second largest oil field in the world, with huge amounts of natural gas, lies within its economic waters. There were, of course, heated debates about how to exploit the seabed and the rights of each party to navigation and fishing, sea seabed, and security issues such as the removal of all unarmed marine forces from military use and so forth. In the end, the participants reached understandings that included not using the territory of any Caspian country to harm the security of other partner countries, and agreeing on the joint use of the Caspian water surface with the division of the bottom and bottom layers into adjacent contiguous sections in accordance with international law. In spite of these initial understandings, the observers are very skeptical about their success, and overcome the deep differences between their parties. Perhaps the biggest proof that the Otkau agreement has achieved little is Iranian President Hassan Rowhani's statement that «the Caspian Sea countries have been able to reach solutions to issues related to the sea by 30 percent after more than 20 years of negotiations and still Other issues are stuck, and solutions should be found through dialogue and negotiations.» (Balma, 2014)

As long as we mention Iran, its leaders and officials have always had tough positions on the issue of the Caspian Sea. At one point, they demanded that it can be divided equally between Iran and the rest of the countries bordering it. Then they retreated and demanded the sea. Under the latest understandings, their share could be reduced to 13 percent. It could also lead to increased competition between Iran and other countries over the supply of gas and oil pipelines. Caspian bottom. In other words, at the Otkau conference, Tehran abandoned what it called its historical rights in the Caspian, and renounced its insistence that Caspian was a lake, not a sea. All this, so as not to hinder the policies and plans of its Russian ally, which bet on the success of the Otkau Confer-

ence and emerge from it as a dominant power, thus enhancing the influence of its President Vladimir Putin internally and externally. However, in an attempt by the ruling junta in Tehran to emerge victorious, Hassan Rowhani came out in the Iranian media to focus on the sole thing of successfully transforming the Caspian basin into a safe zone free of any foreign military presence. The Iranians, aware of the erosion of their worn-out jurisprudential system, have repelled a spiritual rhetoric and expressed anger at the agreement. They even compared it to the 1828 «unfair» agreement between Iran, the Shahshahia, and Tsarist Russia around the sea itself. (Pomfret, 2016)

Although China is not a Caspian country, it was closely monitoring the outcome of the Otkau Conference. Beijing was said to have looked at the countries that are grouped as a subsidiary group of the Shanghai Organization, especially that Russia and Kazakhstan are founding countries of the Organization; Azerbaijan is an observer, Membership. It is also said that the concerns of the Chinese come from a project known as the «Silk Road», in which a large and resource-rich country such as Kazakhstan occupies a central position. The Caspian Sea has long been a cause of disagreement among its neighbors, especially with regard to the sharing of the vast natural resources of the world's largest closed sea, but the «historic» agreement signed by the states on Sunday seeks to end the conflict. The agreement, signed by Russia, Iran, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, will be in dispute for more than 20 years. The Treaty regulates the rules and principles governing navigation, fishing quotas, subdivision and subsoil, its natural environment and the movement of military forces, as well as the oil, gas and other resources of the sea. (Samuel, 2012)

The sea area is 360 thousand square kilometers, the largest closed sea in the world, and the length of the Caspian Sea 1200 km width of up to 300 kilometers, and a maximum depth of 1023 meters. It is visited by the cities of Astrakhan in Russia, Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, Estara and Bandaranzli in Iran, Akato in Kazakhstan and Turkmenbashi in Turkmenistan. The Caspian Sea is constantly shrinking due to evaporation and the low level of rivers flowing into the Volga. In less than half a century, its water level has been reduced by two meters and its area has shrunk from 424,000 to 360,000 square kilometers. The waters of the Volga River, which comes from Russia, are the main source of seawater, from the Caspian River, the Terek River from Russia, the Atrak River, and the Urals River

from Kazakhstan and the Kura River from Azerbaijan. (Tamirisa & Duenwald, 2018)

Results

The summit of the Caspian Sea countries, which includes the leaders of the countries bordering the sea, was held Sunday, 12 August 2018, with the aim of reaching agreements on cooperation in the exploitation of the resources of this sea. The summit is a unique event because it is related to the signing of the Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea, which has been suspended for nearly 20 years. The first of which was in April 2002 in the city of Ashgabat, capital of Turkmenistan, followed by the October 2007 Summit in Tehran, the third in November 2010 in Baku, Azerbaijan, and the fourth in September 2014 in Russian Astrakhan. The Caspian Sea is the largest closed lake in the world, with an area of 371,000 square kilometers. It is about 1030 km long and is located in western Asia. It is bordered to the north by Russia, to the west by Azerbaijan, to the south by Iran, to the east by Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan. The oil field of Tengiz is the second largest field in the world in terms of area, after Al-Ghawar field in Saudi Arabia, and contains a group of islands; some of which Populated and some are empty of them. It has a number of rivers with 30% of its water coming from Iran and 50% from Russia. However, the sea suffers from low water levels due to evaporation. According to the International Energy Agency, the Caspian oil reserves are estimated at 15-40 billion barrels, representing 1.5% to 4% of the world's reserves. The natural gas reserves in the region represent about 6.7 to 9.2 trillion cubic meters, along with 8 trillion Others are likely to be present, which makes it about 6% to 7% of the world's gas reserves. (Pomfret, 2016)

With the beginning of the 1990s, a growing debate about the importance of Central Asia as a global energy supplier existed based on data from some international research centers that estimate the oil and natural gas reserves in the Caspian Sea to converge with those in the Arabian Gulf. These countries had to face of enormous challenges related to the equitable use of the wealth of the sea and do not infringe on each other's right, and then increased the problem with the collapse of the Soviet Union behind the three countries overlooking the sea, namely Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan. A number of regional and international actors are competing in this region, led by Russia, which lost its hegemony over the Caspian Sea after the collapse of the Soviet Union, despite the importance of the region for its rich energy resources and the importance of Central Asia and the Caucasus for Russian

national security. Russian fears increased after the events of September 11 and the US occupation of Afghanistan that the Americans are trying to control the energy sources in the region. Russia's economic recovery as President Putin came to power thanks to the use of oil and gas exports on the one hand, and the re-export of energy shipments from the Caspian and the Caucasus on the other, was a source of concern to Moscow once again for its desire to preserve this situation. This relates to the fact that the country is the main corridor of energy coming from Central Asia and the Caucasus, and given the project of the southern gas pipeline, which is the export of gas from the field, "Shah Deniz" in Azerbaijan to Europe under the auspices of British and American. This confirmed concerns that Washington is competing with Moscow on this vital region of the world. (Malcolm, 2017)

Washington's interest in the region dates back to 1993, when a group of American oil companies signed contracts with the governments of Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan to take advantage of the oil on their land, and developed with the successive US administrations. Rather, this was a shift in goal, in addition to controlling one of the most important oil sources in the world. It also took care of the military presence to secure its political and economic interests, especially the defiance of the influence of China, Russia and Iran in the region. The countries concerned began to search for a new agreement on the legal status of the region in 1996; a working group of deputy foreign ministers of the five countries was formed and high-level attempts and meetings were followed until they reached the present agreement signed in the Kazakh city of Aktau. Which has been ongoing for successive years since the mid-1990s.

Conclusion

The Kremlin in a statement confirmed this that the treaty was the result of working for years with experts and negotiators in order to arrive at a satisfactory formula that would allow the fair use of the various parties. Meanwhile, all parties agreed on the draft document at the meeting of the foreign ministers of the countries of the region on 4 and 5 December 2017. The Convention states that the main area of the sea surface is available for all to use, and that the underground and underground layers between the parties concerned are divided into adjacent sections in accordance with the principles of international law. Shipping, fishing, scientific research and pipelines are also carried out by agreement. Including any measures related to the protection of the

maritime security of the Area. In the same context, the agreement stressed the absence of non-regional forces at sea and stressed increased cooperation in the fight against terrorism and the coordination of military action. The consensus was the basis upon which the decision on vital issues would be taken and the interests of Member States would not be over-

looked. On the other hand, it is mentioned that there is a determination to revive the economic relations between the Caspian Sea countries, as evidenced by some of the articles of the treaty. To activate this, it is intended to hold a series of international agreements among the countries of the region in the fields of transport, trade and economic cooperation.

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