



## Review Article

# A Brief Look at the Geopolitical Situation of Islamic Countries: Emphasis on the Role of Natural Resources

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## ABSTRACT

The Islamic world is formed from a very large territory that constitutes the most important strategic and lucrative regions and points of the world, starting from the Mediterranean Sea and encompassing most of the geography of African countries, to western, southwestern, central Asia, south and southeast Asia. The political unity of the Islamic world has been weakened after the eleventh century CE and political power has been dismantled by Muslims and with the disintegration of the Osmani Turkic Empire, the political and geopolitical power of the Islamic world has been degraded. Although the most important and valuable natural resources including oil and gas are located in the territory of Islamic countries, the most important strategic areas such as the Persian Gulf, the Suez Canal, the Straits of Dardaniel, Basforce and Bab al-Mandab, the Oman Sea, the Red Sea, the Strait of Gibraltar are located in the territory of Islamic countries, if the Islamic world has political unity, it will use its natural and situational resources properly. The greatest power will become globally, but the geopolitical situation of Islamic countries is still fragile, there is economic multiplicity between Islamic countries and Western countries are directly and indirectly sovereign over the greater number of these countries and benefit from their resources, The aim of this study was to briefly investigate the geopolitical situation of Islamic countries with emphasis on its natural resources. The research method of this subject is library and internet which is the result of research information and awareness about the geopolitical situation of Islamic countries with emphasis on the role of natural resources.

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## Introduction

The fact that geopolitics is a new science and forms part of the study of political geography and has played an important role in major developments in the world since the late twentieth century, so geopolitics discusses the science of studying the relationships of cooperation or competition between powers based on the possibilities that their geographical environment provides them, or the possibilities that can be taken from the geographical environment. Or geopolitics is the study of the effect of geographical factors on political decision-making of

power holders, such as evaluating the role of complications and geographical positions and natural resources in planning for the advancement of political objectives of powers. When Islam was formed with the advent of prophet Muhammad in the seventh century CE, it expanded rapidly and spread from the west to the Atlantic and from the east to the Pacific ocean, and now, the vast collection of geography of the Islamic world covers a land of 11,000 kilometers and a width of 5,000 kilometers, with a very diverse combination. The political unity of the Islamic world continued until the

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eleventh century CE, but from the eleventh century onwards, the political unity of the Islamic world gradually weakened and as a result the territorial unity was broken, and this stage was the beginning of the geopolitical tragedy of the Islamic world, which played a major role in creating these gaps: the creation and emergence of cultural and historical differences among Muslims, the intervention of the Turki tribes of Central Asia (Osmani Turks), and The intervention of colonial countries, the weakness of political rulers and rulers, etc. can be mentioned. They cast deep differences among Muslims, as there were about four empires at the time, the largest of which was the Muslim Empire led by the Osmani Turks, whose European countries, especially Britain and its allies, were afraid of the power and power of Muslims, which resulted in the convergence of Britain and France, the great territory of the Islamic world, occupying, disintegrating and disintegrating, which had a very negative impact on the cradle of the Islamic world and its geopolitical values. The Islamic world is considered as one of the geopolitical and geostrategic supplements of the two powers of the world. The Islamic world has a large and vast territory starting from the Suez Canal, which includes most African countries, Middle East, West Asia, Central Asia, South and Southeast Asia, which are concentrated, But the center of the Islamic world includes the Arab Peninsula, which has a large economic, political, strategic and natural resources center, which includes the Red Sea, Arab and Persian Gulf regions, which actually plays the role of the Islamic world's knot, which includes strategic military and sea zones, which are called the center and hub of the Islamic world. The Arabian Peninsula, as an operational bridge, is located among the three largest continents in the world called Hartland Eurasia.

Oil is the blood of the modal industry and the Persian Gulf region is the heart that flows this blood. Oil-rich countries are the center of the Islamic world, headed by four countries: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iran and Iraq. Early on, Arab countries wanted to pursue a strategy for oil prices and use their income to buy military weapons against Israel, Because the United States required itself to defend the territorial integrity of the occupying Israeli regime, and Arab countries failed to do so, the increase in oil prices in the center of the Islamic world led to economic and welfare growth in the countries of the region and, on the other hand, had a negative impact on U.S. oil production.

The result is that if oil exporting countries lose more than this initiative, this energy-consuming material will act in the ruling of a nine-booster, on the contrary, in

fragmenting them, which will result in a more fragile central part of the Muslim world. Oil exporting countries should demand the entry of advanced technology into their countries in return for oil prices, otherwise oil geopolitics will cause disintegration and division and create political, military and social crises in the region (the center of the Islamic world).

Of course, two major factors in the West's excessive attention to the Persian Gulf oil field are understandable:

A: The existence of huge oil fields that contain more than 65.5% of the world's known oil reserves.

(b) The increasing need of industrialized countries that complement each other's strategies in general.

Therefore, we can predict a world that is increasingly dependent on the Persian Gulf region for its energy resources and economic performance, in which case South West Asia (Middle East) will become the confluence of rival forces in the world and an exploding barrel of gunpowder, if a major dispute occurs in this region, the Middle East (the center of the Islamic world) will likely fall into its vortex, just as "If World War III happens one day, it will be over middle east oil reserves," the British oil analyst said.

### Research Background

A brief look at the geopolitical situation of Islamic countries with emphasis on the role of its natural resources has not yet been conducted in this field of scientific and comprehensive research. This is the first time that an investigation has been conducted into the title. Similar research conducted by others is as follows:

Ezzati (2015) in his book geopolitics in the twentieth century has mentioned on the geopolitical situation of the Islamic world, but they have not mentioned in a detailed and comprehensive way and only has mentioned the geopolitical discussion of Islamic countries very briefly.

Yazdam Fam (2018): in Strategic Regions of the World, which introduces all strategic and strategic regions of the world, also mentions the strategic regions of the Islamic world, but it is not enough and it has been mentioned very briefly and transiently, it has not addressed the strategic location, natural resources and geopolitical situation of Islamic countries properly.

Valldani (2015) in Challenges and Conflicts in the Middle East, has mentioned all the problems in the Middle East and studied and analyzed, but the geopolitical situation and its natural resources have not been discussed and the territory of Islamic countries has not been introduced.

The research that I have conducted has discussed the problems and gaps of the above research, different sources have been used, the situational value and importance and geopolitical situation of Islamic countries have been investigated and the geopolitical and political situation as well as the introduction and role of its natural resources have been discussed.

### Materials and Methods

The use of methods was constrictive and analytical. Data collection was also done by library method as well as using internet resources. This study was conducted to briefly investigate the geopolitical situation of Islamic countries with emphasis on the role of its natural resources, which natural, human and situational factors have been considered.

### Results and Discussion

Geopolitics is derived from two Latin words, the word Geo Geo, meaning "earth" or "spheric world" or "earth knowledge", and its political term is politics, political factors, order, etc. This word in modern English is consistent with the concept of the word Globe, Therefore, geopolitics discusses the study of cooperation relations or competition between powers based on the facilities that the geographical environment provides or the possibilities that can be taken from the geographical environment in this regard. Geopolitics can be seen as the art of balancing power with competitors at regional and global levels in order to ensure security to protect and expand national interests at regional and global levels, The main topic of geopolitics is the study of universal policies, making the authority and capacity of these policies available to natural resources, geographical situations and environmental facilities, which is studied by geopolitics. Therefore, this geographical or geopolitical policy is to study the relationships of cooperation or competition between powers based on the facilities that the geographical and natural environment and geographical situations have ([Pishgahi Fard, 2007: 427](#)).

From the perspective of theoretical studies, it should be noted that political and geopolitical geography are two complementary subjects of the same knowledge that study the role of political power in the geographical environment. While political geography studies the impact of human beings on the environment, geopolitics is a study of the influence of geographical factors on political decision-making of power holders; Geopolitics as the knowledge of competition and expansion of the sphere of influence of politically composed governments and groups seeks to gain the power to seize the tools,

levers and geographical opportunities that give them power and provide the possibility of dominance over the rival, they compete to seize opportunities and capabilities in the geographical space and try to expand their influence in geographical spaces and Increase their will and, on the contrary, drive competitors out of the contested space. From this geopolitical point of view, he studies competitive patterns of competitive opportunities and tools, competition motivations, location and space functions in shaping competition processes and their impact on power ups and downs ([Mojtahedzadah, 2016: 95](#)).

### A Look at the History of the Islamic World

The religion of Islam was formed with the advent of the Prophet Muhammad ibn Abdullah (pbuh) in the seventh century CE. The starting point of Islam's movement was in fact a land that until then has been the bedrock of great events and conflicts in history, this peninsula land is located in the southwest of the Asian continent and today it is called the Middle East. Islam expanded rapidly and advanced from the west to the Atlantic and from the east to the Pacific ocean, and now the vast geography of the Islamic world has covered a land of 11,000 kilometers and a width of 5,000 kilometers, with a very diverse combination. The political unity of the Islamic world continued until the eleventh century CE, but from the eleventh century onwards, political unity gradually weakened and as a result, territorial unity was discrete, and this was the beginning of the geopolitical tragedy of the Islamic world, because the lack of unity among Muslims caused gaps and these gaps gradually became linked to geographical factors and caused the political units located in them to an acceptable extent. Apart from other units to continue their lives, the factors ineffective in creating these gaps were:

1. Cultural and historical differences that had formed themselves in the guise of different religions in order to survive in this way and in fact created a link between nationality and religion.
2. The intervention of the Turkic tribes of Central Asia (Osmani Turks) who succeeded in taking political-military leadership out of the hands of the Arabs through their military actions and power.
3. The great geographical expansion of the Islamic world after the Middle Ages in the sub-Saharan, India, Indonesia and the Philippines gradually overcame Islamic values over Constantinople, very different cultures that were completely distinct from the basic geography of Islam. Of course, from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries onwards, these old factors were

added to other geopolitical differences caused by the actions of colonial states, including the presence of the British in India, which led to the conquest and development of the Great Mongol Empire (the Babur Royal Dynasty, a survivor of Timur, Conquest by Sultan Muhammad Fateh in 1453 led to the transfer of the center of the Caliphate from Baghdad to Istanbul, and the vast lands under the Osmani Empire were ruled by power for nearly five centuries under the banner of people of Central Asian origin, the extent of the empire's territory was so great that the Osmani sultans could not properly rule their lands, As a result, local governments were waiting for each to withdraw their citizenship from the central government. Therefore, apparent justifications in religious thoughts and disregard for the orders of Osmani sultans were being formed in different ways. In this situation, the Russians invaded Central Asia and called it Turkestan, which was later divided into five republics based on the geopolitics of existing nationalities, after which World War I (1914-1918) began; The basis of the British strategy in the war was that the four great empires of the world, headed by the Osmani Empire, should be dismantled. After World War I, the territories of the Osmani Empire were divided between France and England, and the fragmentation of the cradle of the Islamic world had such an impact on the geopolitics of the Islamic world that its harmful and divisive effects remained ([Ezzati, 2015: 166-168](#)).

### **The Position of the Islamic World in Geopolitical Theories**

All geopolitical theories of the world are based on the existence of two important axes: water and land, and this continuation of the war between water and land is a problem that has started from a long time to come, and the only change in it is due to the widening of their geographical realm, in a way that in different geopolitical theories and even the last ones designed by Cohen, The Islamic world is considered as one of the geopolitical and geostrategic supplements of the two powers of the world and this itself raises the multi-integration of the Islamic world in a strategic view ([Yazdan Fam, 2018: 45](#)). Therefore, the geopolitical problem will show up first and foremost. A look at the map of the world introduces us to the fact that if the Islamic world understands its true place in the world according to its geographical location, it can be considered the core of a great world power, in addition to not complementing great powers, In this regard, for the first time in 1954, The Pyjords, the geopolitical grouping he did, made it clear that the Islamic world was the third geopolitical power on earth, so recognizing the geopolitical factors. Politico can largely guide us in

moving towards the real, in this geopolitical survey, first of all, it is necessary to introduce the geopolitical realm of the Islamic world and then for each territory according to the factors Its specific geopolitical builder will be able to provide solutions, Due to the myriad limitations of both the geopolitical territory of the west and east of the Islamic world, considering its geographical location, it can become a global power with at least geopolitical limitations and pave the way for its development([Ezzati, 2015: 168-169](#)).

### **Division of the Islamic World**

There are various theories about the division of the Islamic world, the most common of which is the view of Islamologists based on history, from the viewpoint of Islamologists, the geographical realm of the Islamic world includes a central part as the hub of the Islamic world from which this religion started and developed and expanded, and the second part of those regions and geography around it. Although it is a problem to set a specific boundary between these two territories, the best and most specific factor that can help us in this regard is geographical factors. Of course, it seems that whatever size we rely on natural factors in this demarcation, we can better find reasonable and practical solutions to solve its geopolitical problems, which is why in this part of the quasi-island complex of Southwest Asia because of its comprehensive unity as the best territory of the center of the Islamic world and the lands in which islam has spread in any way And its Muslims are in the majority, and it is suggested that such division shall not be without problems, and this problem will mostly include the surrounding lands ([Ezzati, 2015: 169-170](#)).

Therefore, it is necessary to achieve another division that answers the problems of these geopolitical collections throughout the Islamic world, otherwise if we rely on the same divisions that others have given us while we are in the heart of this collection and touch the problems closely, the situation will be the same as it is, while no one but the human beings responsible for this The geographical territory cannot provide a solution consistent with the geopolitical position governing these countries; Although the cleanness between the center and the surroundings within the Islamic world is not only of pure historical value and many geopolitical arguments are followed, it is necessary to consider the theorem in a different way to solve the geopolitical problems of the Islamic world ([Yazdan Fam, 2018: 45-46](#)).

### **Dividing the Islamic World by Geographical Intersection**

Due to the geographical expansion of the Islamic world

and the developments that are taking place every day, the former geopolitical theories with the classification of water, land and air can no longer be essentially the strategies of world power, because it seems that the heart of the Islamic world, which is also at its geographical center, is in the ruling of Hartland Eurasia, because today Hartland has its previous concept that Makinder Leaning - it's lost. Currently, Russia is present in the oceans when it is with the naval power of the United States of America and only faces the problem of concentration of forces.

Therefore, if the territory of the Islamic world is divided into three geographical regions of the west, east and center, so that determining the geographical boundaries of each one relies on the factors of the natural and geographical environment and then by determining the right of precedence among these regions, geopolitical factors and its structures will be analyzed, we will be presented with solutions to achieve the unity of the Islamic world ([Ezzati, 2015: 170-171](#)).

### **The Three Specialties of the Islamic World**

In this western division, the Islamic world starts from the Suez Canal and will span the Muslim countries of the African continent, one of the geopolitical advantages of this region is territorial unity. The north of the region, as the most sensitive part of the region, is influenced by the geopolitics of the Mediterranean, which is separate from other territories and can not have a strategic link with Southwest Asia (center of the Islamic world) ([Hafeznia and Zarghani, 2012: 143](#)).

The center of the Islamic world includes the southwestern Peninsula of Asia, which determines the eastern border of Iran, and its other borders rely on the eastern Mediterranean waters of the Red Sea, the Arabian Sea, the Oman Sea and the Persian Gulf, which actually plays the role of the Islamic world's knot, which is both a strategic military and sea point, which is called the center and pole of the Islamic world. If we can find a solution to the geopolitical problems of the center of the Islamic world, then the west and east of it, especially the east of the Islamic world, will have no problems, because the blind knot is the riddle of this region, where everything is seemingly linked to a regular but deeply irregular and inconsistent combination, in a way that the collection of congruent affairs together pretends to be. For more than 24 centuries (i.e. centuries before Islam), this part of the world has been a great geopolitical scene. But from the eleventh century onwards, this geography has been constantly changing its shape and other sacks, because in this section, Islam has been divided into different sects and is exported to new religions every day in a new form

and combination ([Jafari, 2015: 34](#)).

The east of the Islamic world starts from the eastern borders of Iran and covers all Muslims in Central Asia, West and North India, Bangladesh and Muslims in Southeast and East Asia. The most obvious of this geographical realm is that the majority of the world's population is inhabited here, Here, religions have maintained their integrity, with the attitude of the above mentioned subjects if we want to categorize the geopolitical realm of the Islamic world in terms of the right of precedence, the center of the Islamic world is ranked first, the West of the Islamic world is ranked second and the east is ranked third. The general result of this division and expression of views is the unity of the Islamic world twice. That various anomalies and disparities have caused the Islamic world to be fragmented and fragmented, replaced by belief solidarity, a return to spirituality and a link to history, and the principled use of infinite resources of nature (especially oil) and understanding geographical location in this vast realm, it can be hoped that Islam, in light of the gravity of its school and originality, was able to stand up to the blocks of the West and East and how to determine. the expressive, Of course, there is no doubt that if the existing obstacles are overcome, the Islamic world can play a very effective and decisive role in the fate of the world in the future ([Mojtahedzadeh, 2016: 16](#)).

### **Geopolitical Study of the Center of the Islamic World**

The center of the Islamic world, with its description, is a geographical complex located in the form of a peninsula in South-West Asia ([Yazdan Fam, 2018: 52](#)). Today, the World Island of Eurasia is a vast defense territory that, due to its strategic characteristics, includes North and Northeast Africa, Therefore, the central part (Arabian Peninsula) of the Islamic world is located in the rule of an operational bridge between the three continents of the world, which is the continents of Asia, Europe and Africa, although this role is not new, but today it is very important and the world's great natural resources are located in this geography and on the other hand it is located in the center of three strategic fronts and therefore it is Hartland (heart of the land) Eurasia calls, Although it is located in a small geographical area, it is the point of more than six important strategic centers of the world, some of which are the existential factors of the country, the existence of two geographical straits such as Bosphorus and Dardanel, which is a major global competition on it, in the same way the Suez and Bab al-Mandeb channels, which have played a valuable and significant role in the short distance between the east and

west worlds, The Strait of Hormuz and the location and resources of the Persian Gulf is one of the other geopolitical characteristics of the central region of the Islamic world, from which it can have excessive economic, political, military and ... To achieve this, these positions are in a way that is involved in the takeover of those major world powers. The existence of all these natural resources and human characteristics has made all the territories of the peninsula a single strategic front for Westerners, but the Easterners are also trying to take on these important strategic and strategic fronts, which are aligned with their diplomatic efforts and activities, which are the center of the front, which is the center of the Islamic world. In addition to the mentioned factors and situations, the existence of huge oil resources, which are exclusive, has been placed on a large scale in this part of the Islamic world – adding to the importance of this region, and therefore the geopolitical oil has received more attention in this region, because the geopolitical axis of the Center of the Islamic World is based on oil geopolitics ([Ezzati, 2015: 175-176](#)).

### **Islamic world and oil geopolitics**

Oil is the blood of the modal industry and the Persian Gulf region is a heart that flows this blood like a telephony and the sea routes around the Persian Gulf are the arteries through which this vital blood passes. Oil-rich countries are the center of the Islamic world, headed by four countries: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iran and Iraq. Earlier, the number of countries (especially Arab countries) wanted to develop a strategy for oil prices and use its income to buy military weapons against Israel, as the United States required itself to defend the territorial integrity of the Israeli occupation regime, and Arab countries failed to do so, and the United States, with its military and economic power, turned the Israeli regime into the largest economic power. And to this day, it defends all its crimes. The fact that the increase in oil prices in the center of the Islamic world has caused the economic and welfare level of the countries of this region and on the other hand has had a negative impact on U.S. oil production, while the United States was the world's leading country to discover, extract and supply oil reserves to the world, but when oil and gas resources in the central countries of the Islamic world, especially the Persian Gulf region, became the world's largest oil resources. ([Shirazi, 2014; pp. 15-27](#)).

The result is that if the oil exporting countries of the Islamic world lose more than this initiative, this energy-consuming material will act in the ruling of a booster in their fragmentation, which will become more fragile in the central part of the Islamic world. In short, if

the price of a barrel of oil increases, it is still not the real price, so oil exporting countries should demand the entry of advanced technology into their countries against the price of oil, otherwise the geopolitical oil will cause disintegration and division and create political, military crises in the region (the center of the Islamic world) (*ibid.*, 28).

### **Oil Strategy and the Islamic World**

Since in the geographical realm of the Islamic world, its central part has special characteristics, the centerpiece of the world's oil strategy is located in this region. This importance is due to many reasons that originate from geostrategic thoughts and therefore the Persian Gulf region acts like a regional shaheen scale, so it will be seen that in any development, the Persian Gulf region is chosen as the scene of operations and scenarios are implemented there in different forms one after the other ([Hafeznia and Zarghani, 2012: 149](#)).

What led to the emergence of the oil strategy was in fact due to the change in oil prices, so paying attention to oil prices and the income of oil companies at different times can be to a large extent a guide in studying the principles of oil strategy. In the early 1950s and 1960s, the income per barrel of oil extracted was divided into seventy percent for companies and 30 percent for producing countries, which finally changed after the 1960s with the establishment of OPEC without changing prices, dividing income by fifty percent for companies and 50 percent for producing countries. But in 1970-1971, after the Libyan coup d'etat and Tehran's contract, these divisions changed, resulting in a 30 percent division for companies and 70 percent for oil-producing countries, with a final plan a year later, which is given ninety-five percent for oil-producing countries and five percent for oil extraction companies (western world extractor companies). This plan leads the Western world, especially the United States, to this region and leads to the Arab companies and rulers who are turning the game to their advantage to this day. As a result of the Iraq-Iran war, the United States is setting its strategy in this region as follows:

1. Access to Persian Gulf oil and freedom of ship traffic;
2. Preventing former Soviet expansionism in the Persian Gulf;
3. Maintaining trade, economic and diplomatic relations with the countries of the region.

Of course, two major factors in the West's excessive attention to the Persian Gulf oil field are understandable:

A: The existence of huge oil fields that contain more than 65.5% of the world's known oil reserves.

B: The increasing need of industrialized countries that complement each other's strategies in general. The Fact that the United States had no need to negate imports until the mid-1960s, but then every day its needs for oil resources increased until it imported more than 12 million barrels of oil daily in the current situation, so the United States has repeatedly referred to the Persian Gulf as its vital region ([Hafeznia, 2006: 129](#)).

### Conclusion

The countries of the Islamic world have a very complex and complex geopolitical situation and include a very large geographical territory, areas located in the territory of Islamic countries are one of the most profitable regions on earth and have rich natural resources and constitute the most important strategic regions of the world.

The political unity of the Islamic world has been weakened after the eleventh century CE and political power has been dismantled by Muslims and with the disintegration and disintegration of the Osmani Turkic Empire, the political and geopolitical power of the Islamic world has been degraded, which is the beginning of the geopolitical tragedy of the Islamic world, which has played an effective role in creating these gaps, including the creation and emergence of cultural and historical differences between Muslims, the intervention of the Turkic tribes of Central Asia (Osmani Turks). By exercising their military power, they will remove the political-military leadership from the Arabs. The intervention of colonial countries and the appointment of a number of weak rulers and rulers away from Islamic insight and motivation by colonialism, the vast Muslim territory and the weakness of its leadership and dozens of other factors have led to it. The Islamic world is considered as one of the geopolitical and geostrategic supplements of the two powers of the world and this itself raises the multi-division of the Islamic world in a strategic view.

The Islamic world is a large and vast territory that started from the Suez Canal, with most African countries, Middle East, West Asia, Central Asia, South and Southeast Asia concentrated, but the center of the Islamic world includes the Arab Peninsula, which has a large economic, political, strategic and natural resources center. Which includes the Red and Arab Sea regions as well as the Persian Gulf and ... This central area actually plays the role of the Islamic world's knot, which is both a strategic military and naval point, which is called the center and hub of the Islamic world. The Arabian

Peninsula, as an operational bridge, is located among the three largest continents in the world, called Hartland (heart of the land) of Eurasia.

Oil is the blood of the modal industry and the Persian Gulf region is the heart that flows this blood. Oil-rich countries, the center of the Islamic world, led by four countries: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iran and Iraq, if Islamic countries have a united hand and use their natural resources to help other weak and backward Islamic countries and strengthen their infrastructure economic system, Develop large educational and educational centers and use their strategic points well to their advantage and have a single economic, military, political, cultural and monetary system, thus becoming the world's largest political and geopolitical power, with no political or military rivals found in front of it, and the honors and lost power of Muslims will be restored again.

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