

A Comparative Analysis of Integration Theory and Disintegration Approach in Understanding the Anatomy of the Persian Gulf Region

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Abstract

The objective of this study was to analyze the anatomical characteristics of the Persian Gulf through the lens of integration theory and the disintegration approach. The descriptive and analytical approaches were used in this study as the research method, which primarily drew on library sources. The prevailing trend in the Persian Gulf region is based on a notable prevalence of integration as opposed to disintegration. The region exhibits variations, yet it benefits from shared factors that have facilitated integration. These factors encompass religious similarities, a shared sense of neighborliness, belonging to the Persian Gulf, as well as a reliance on the Strait of Hormuz. However, the factors contributing to disintegration in the Persian Gulf region encompass ideological attitudes, ethnic disparities, and territorial conflicts, including territorial and border disputes, as well as a deficiency in collective trust and others. The process of enhancing integration in the Persian Gulf region and establishing regional security will yield several outcomes and implications, including the resolution of territorial and border disputes, the withdrawal of external powers from the region, the bolstering of regional countries' influence in determining oil and gas prices, and the reduction of military expenditures. In a broad sense, endeavors aimed at achieving economic and cultural integration are commonly observed. In addition to substantial engagements with the nations within the region, the act of fostering an environment and effectively handling the strain posed by external powers can potentially contribute to the development of security integration in the forthcoming period. In a broad sense, the pursuit of economic and cultural integration, coupled with extensive interaction with neighboring nations while mitigating propaganda and managing tension-making, has the potential to foster security integration in the future.

Keywords: Persian Gulf Anatomy, Integration theory, Disintegration approach, Extra-regional powers

Introduction

To address security threats, governments have implemented a range of strategies and solutions, such as forming alliances, establishing coalitions, engaging in bilateral or multilateral cooperation, and fostering integration among political entities within a given region. Additionally, governments seek to secure support from external powers beyond their immediate region through cooperation and collaboration. Without a doubt, the presence of a shared threat and a mutual comprehension of common threats and interests are crucial factors in fostering unity and cooperation among governments. These elements objectively and tangibly demonstrate the security of converging nations. The Islamic Republic of Iran, despite its territorial location and political system, and other features is subject to the obligation of ensuring security. Its distinctive geopolitical position in the heart of West Asia and the Persian Gulf grants it a significant role in safeguarding energy security in the region.

The Persian Gulf ranked as the third largest gulf globally, is a maritime passage situated alongside the Sea of Oman. It is encompassed by two landmasses, namely Iran and the Arabian Peninsula. Spanning approximately 237,473 square kilometers, it shares borders with Iran, Oman, Kuwait, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Bahrain. The Persian Gulf holds significant strategic importance

as a prominent communication hub spanning three continents. It serves as a vital source of energy, particularly in terms of oil and gas reserves. Additionally, it represents a sensitive water area on a global scale. The geopolitical, geo-economic, and geostrategic significance of the Middle East region, specifically the Persian Gulf region, is widely recognized. The historical focus of colonial governments on this particular region, both in previous centuries and more notably in recent times, serves as evidence supporting the assertion that exerting control and influence over the Persian Gulf region is a strategic approach towards global domination.

The Persian Gulf region possesses significant geostrategic advantages due to its location along major routes connecting Europe, the Indian subcontinent, and Central Asia. Besides, the region's geopolitics are shaped by the presence of both independent governments and extra-regional actors. Furthermore, the geoeconomic significance of the Persian Gulf region is underscored by its vast reserves of oil and gas, estimated to exceed 700 billion oil barrels which account for approximately 65% of the global oil reserves (Emami, 2005: 239). This region serves as a focal point for conflicts and crises worldwide, with its implications for security and insecurity extending beyond its immediate region. It is not an overstatement to assert that the security of the Persian Gulf is intricately linked to international security. The prevailing dynamics in the region include heightened tension, feelings of insecurity, mistrust, intense competition, and deep-seated enmity. These factors are further exacerbated by the involvement of external powers, conflicts arising from border disputes and historical and heredity claims, as well as a perceived sense of danger emanating from neighboring countries. Other distinctive characteristics of this region include dealing with the dangers posed by the governments of the region based on the logic of power, attempting to create a balance of power to maintain regional order, the occurrence of the cycle of insecurity, the vicious cycle of the weapons race, etc. The aforementioned characteristics have contributed to the emergence of a "security enigma" within this particular region, leading to its characterization as an anarchic and strife-ridden region. The outcome of this situation is the lack of stability in security arrangements and the inability to establish a comprehensive security model that includes all relevant actors in this domain.

The different viewpoints of nations in the Persian Gulf region regarding the formulation of security arrangements pose a significant challenge to fostering collaborative efforts aimed at establishing a security system. Iran asserts that the security of the Persian Gulf is intricately linked to the countries within the region and expresses opposition to the involvement of external actors. Conversely, Arab nations prioritize the establishment of a regional security system that includes the participation of external powers. Regarding the aforementioned, the primary objective of the current study is to examine the anatomical characteristics of the Persian Gulf through the lens of the integration theory and the disintegration approach.

Integration Theory

Integration encompasses both a procedural aspect and an outcome. The objective of attaining the ultimate state within the present circumstances, wherein activists attain integration, is to establish a political community. The related process or processes serve as the means or mechanisms by which socio-political goals are attained¹. Hence, the concept of integration ought to be regarded primarily as a process, characterized by a deliberate effort to enhance collaboration among governments and a gradual transfer of authority to transnational institutions. Integration represents a progression towards the assimilation of values, ultimately facilitating the establishment of a global civil society and novel political structures. An advanced stage of integration refers to a state wherein governments exhibit federal characteristics on a global level, thereby facilitating the establishment of global governance².

¹ Ivater, Gr. and Notham, J., (2001), *The Encyclopedia of International Relations*, Translated by Homyra Moshirzadeh and Hossein Sharifi, Tehran, Mezan Publishing, p. 384.

² Ghavam, A.A. (2004), p. 83.

One notable benefit of this theory lies in its proposition of peaceful and pragmatic methods for transitioning from a state of disorder to a rational and equitable global system³. Ultimately, this culminates in the consolidation of various autonomous political entities, resulting in the establishment of a novel political entity. This entity is anticipated to take the shape of a regional organization, wherein its members engage in collaborative efforts within specific domains. The federal system, characterized by supranational powers, entails a central authority, while the formation of a non-federal society involves the consolidation of units possessing superior power.

Integration aims to mitigate divisive elements and nationalist tendencies, including national loyalty, nationalist emotions, attachment to national resources, geographical boundaries, and even exclusive territorial claims of countries within a given region. This is done to prioritize collective and shared objectives. Conversely, it is imperative to facilitate technical, economic, commercial, ideological, and cultural collaboration, as well as the promotion of peace and tranquility within a specific region or globally⁴.

Integration is commonly regarded by scholars as an outcome stemming from two fundamental mechanisms: consensus and coercion. Therefore, the desirable integration entails a voluntary relinquishment of absolute authority by political entities, to pursue shared objectives and adhere to a supranational governing body⁵. Various definitions of integration, although they may vary in certain aspects, share a common characteristic of transitioning from national boundaries to encompass transnational and regional entities. The phenomenon under consideration involves the gradual erosion of national borders, resulting in the facilitation of the movement of goods, capital, and technology. Additionally, participating states strive to establish a unified economic policy. Integration can also manifest in political domains as a means to attain a shared policy or establish a coalition system among participating members⁶.

Several scholars who view integration as a gradual and time-dependent process include Leon Lindbergh, Ernest Haas, Johan Galtung, and others. In contrast to Etzioni and the federalists, the proponents of this perspective perceive integration as a conclusive stage or condition, wherein it represents the outcome resulting from the interactions among multiple political entities. According to Etzioni, political integration represents a definitive state, while political unity is a progressive phenomenon that ultimately transitions into political integration. Some other scholars have posited two distinct dimensions of integration: negative integration, which pertains to the elimination of discriminatory practices and tariffs, and positive integration, which entails the establishment of a unified market⁷.

Disintegration Approach

Disintegration refers to the process of losing cohesion, continuity, and unity, resulting in fragmentation and the division of a whole into scattered particles and separate components. When examining the phenomenon of disintegration, it becomes apparent that similar to the multifaceted factors and motivations that contribute to the development, cooperation, and establishment of unity and integration among different nations, various factors play a role in disintegration and the creation of conflicts between governments. The factors and variables of disintegration encompass human and psychological factors, social factors, political units, the international system, and international social

³ Deutsch, K. et.al (1996), *Theories of International Relations*, Translated by Vahid Bozorgi, vol. 2, Tehran, Jihad Dahanighi Publishing House, p. 913.

⁴ Mohammadi, Y., (1991), *Integration and evolution course*, Misbah, p. 46.

⁵ Ghavam, A.A. (2005), *Principles of Foreign Policy and International Policy*, Tehran, Samt Publications, p. 246.

⁶ Javid, A.A., (2007), *Economic integration and security of the Middle East*, Marefat, 16th year, vol. 115, p. 102.

⁷ Doherty, J.& Faltzgraf, R., (1993), *Conflicting Theories in International Relations*, vol. 2, Translated by Alireza Tayeb and Vahid Bozorgi, Tehran, Qoms Publication, p. 669.

variables. In essence, disintegration refers to the act of individuals or entities becoming detached from one another and diverging from a shared objective, instead gravitating towards specific objectives⁸.

Numerous factors contribute to the exacerbation of disintegration and the creation of distance between political entities within a given region, and even on an international scale, thereby impeding their ability to engage in effective cooperation. The disintegration factors observed within a given geographical region are contingent upon the influence exerted by external powers, border disputes, economic concerns, and other related factors. Particularly when nations exhibit a greater inclination towards trans-regional tendencies rather than regional cooperation within a specific geographic area, to safeguard their national interests and enhance their security and economic indicators. The process of disintegration is likely to result in a decrease in collaborative efforts with neighboring entities. Because countries within the same region have not tended to integrate and establish a unified organization or union, it is evident that several factors, including the influence of major powers, the resurgence of ethnic identity, and economic disparities, have contributed to a lack of enthusiasm for regional cooperation. In this particular scenario, it can be stated that these countries have exhibited disintegration. The presence of such an event may be attributed to the same factors that contribute to regional integration. However, due to geographical boundaries and political divisions, these factors have a positive impact only when there are shared interests and objectives among homogeneous societies. Conversely, if a nation perceives itself as being involuntarily entangled in an unequal and unpredictable political alliance, it may evoke strong nationalist sentiments, leading to an exacerbation of disintegration⁹.

The Concept of Security at the National, Regional, and International Levels

In contemporary times, the notion of national security encompasses a comprehensive and multifaceted framework and diverse domains such as military, environmental, economic, and societal spheres, etc. Consequently, the effective provision and assurance of national security to attain overarching national objectives necessitate a strategic blueprint that incorporates the collaborative efforts of each aforementioned domain. Hence, the functional configurations of the aforementioned domains must be structured in a manner that facilitates their interplay, ultimately leading to the objective of generating and delivering national security. This ensures the effective realization of the functions associated with national security promptly¹⁰.

The concept of security in the realm of international relations pertains to the attainment of peace and stability within the global community. Security primarily encompasses a psychological state characterized by a sense of tranquility and assurance resulting from the absence of fear. Historically, the notion of international security predominantly revolved around military security. However, the contemporary understanding of international security encompasses a broader spectrum, incorporating political, military, economic, and social dimensions.

When analyzing the military aspect of national security, there has been a shift in focus away from solely prioritizing the direct physical safeguarding of a state's territory and its population. In the context of national perspectives on military security, there has been a notable shift in focus from traditional warfare, with its emphasis on combat readiness and achieving military victories, towards non-traditional conflicts of lesser intensity in many countries¹¹.

Political security refers to the provision of peace and reassurance required by a nation's government for its citizens within its territorial boundaries. This entails addressing a range of external threats and

⁸ Hafeznia, M.R. (2006), *Principles and Concepts of Geopolitics*, Mashhad, Papli Publications (Amirkabir Research Institute), p. 373.

⁹ Cantori, L. and Steven, L. (1970), p.17 – 20.

¹⁰ Roshandel, J., (1995), *National Security and International System*, Tehran, Samt Publications, pp. 3-6.

¹¹ Mandel, R., (2008), *The Changing Face of National Security*, Tehran, Strategic Studies Research Institute, p. 72.

ensuring the safeguarding of citizens' political rights, particularly their participation in shaping their social and political future.

There is a prevailing belief that cultural security is a constituent element of national security, occupying a significant position within its framework. Cultural security holds significant importance within the realm of national security. It encompasses the notion that a society's culture is shaped by rational, realistic, constructive, dynamic, and logical elements, adhering to sound scientific principles. On the other hand, the culture and cultural productions of society must reveal a consistent upward trajectory in growth, while simultaneously remaining shielded from potential threats¹².

Legal security pertains to the presence of security within the legal framework. Legal security can be understood as a constituent element within a defined framework of rights that pertains to the concept of security. From this perspective, it is imperative to implement legal measures to ensure the protection of security rights or entitlements.

Economic security refers to the maintenance of relationships among the fundamental elements of human sustenance, namely the primary means of production and distribution of labor and income within a society. Its objective is to ensure that individuals' essential needs are met and that they do not experience a sense of vulnerability due to the absence or potential scarcity of these necessities. Consequently, economic security aims to safeguard individuals' peace of mind and overall well-being¹³.

Characteristics of the Persian Gulf Region

The political systems in the Persian Gulf region vary among the countries. Saudi Arabia and Oman are characterized by a monarchical form of governance, while Iran and Iraq operate as republics. On the other hand, Kuwait, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates are governed as emirates. Except for the Islamic Republic of Iran, where citizens actively participate in shaping the nation's fate and governance through electoral processes, popular engagement and involvement in governmental administration are not widely prioritized in other countries within the region. The official prohibition of the formation of political parties and organizations is observed in the countries within this region. Currently, among the countries in the region, Kuwait stands as the closest to meeting democratic standards. In Iraq, the Baath Party has maintained its position of power since 1968, making it the sole ruling party. The strategic significance of the Persian Gulf is primarily attributed to its abundant reserves of oil and gas. Approximately 66% of the global oil reserves are situated within this particular geographic area.

The nations situated along the Persian Gulf possess a distinct and significant role within the contemporary global economy and international affairs due to their substantial foreign currency earnings derived from oil production, consequently leading to considerable wealth accumulation. Historically, the majority of nations within the region relied on a traditional economic model centered around agricultural practices, animal husbandry, and fishing. However, with the advent of oil exploration and subsequent revenue generation from oil resources, these countries experienced a significant increase in their gross domestic product (GDP) and per capita income levels. However, it should be noted that due to the lack of a production and industrial focus in these countries, they were unable to undergo the necessary stages of economic development and were consequently unable to initiate fundamental measures in the realm of industrialization.

The Geopolitical Importance of the Persian Gulf

The Persian Gulf region is characterized by the presence of three dominant entities: Iran in the northern part, Saudi Arabia in the southern part, and Iraq in the northwest. This division of power within the

¹² Tahami, S.M., (2011), National Security, Defense and Security Policy Doctrine, Vol. 1, Tehran, National Defense University, p. 89.

¹³ Khosravi, M., (2015), Security in the Qur'an (an explanatory interpretive approach), Tehran, National Defense University, p. 43.

Persian Gulf has resulted in the emergence of a fragmented and disjointed structure within the region. According to the renowned English geographer Halford Mackinder (1861-1947), the Persian Gulf is regarded as a border with a crescent shape, representing the Heartland region or the central core of the planet. According to Jean-Jacques Schreiber, the author of the book titled "Global Struggle," the acquisition of control over the Persian Gulf is regarded as a preliminary step towards achieving global dominance. Von Lohazen's analysis includes the assertion that a key policy pursued by the United States during the 20th century involved exerting dominance over the Persian Gulf region. This strategic objective was seen as a means to secure access to affordable oil resources, exert influence over the economic well-being of Europe and Japan, and establish control over China. According to Nasser Homayun, a prominent scholar, and researcher specializing in Persian Gulf affairs, the global significance of the Persian Gulf and its evolving political and economic strategies, primarily driven by its abundant oil reserves, has garnered considerable attention from the international community and global stakeholders. According to Bijan Assadi, a professor at the university, the Persian Gulf holds significant importance due to its distinct characteristics, making it a strategic and geopolitical region on a global scale. Undoubtedly, the geopolitical and strategic significance of the subject matter is not a novel concern, but rather a matter that has been recognized for centuries and coveted by influential entities of the era.

The Cultural and Ideological Importance of the Persian Gulf

Due to the significant political and religious advancements originating from this particular region, the global community and international actors have displayed notable interest in this region. Given that the Persian Gulf serves as the heart or central focal point of this region, this attention is progressively expanding in scope. The Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman have emerged as the focal point of global strategic importance in the 21st century. Islam is widely regarded as a formidable ideological contender to liberal democracy, emerging in response to Western culture and civilization.

Within the Muslim world, there is an emerging defensive theory that exhibits a heightened religious inclination. This theory rejects the perceived detrimental impact of Western influence, while concurrently advocating for the revitalization and modernization of the historically dormant Muslim civilization. Islam vehemently opposes foreign governance, deeming it to be philosophically corrupt, economically detrimental, and politically imperialistic. Hence, the advancements occurring in this particular region are poised to exert a significant influence on the Islamic world. Consequently, it is not surprising that Western nations exhibit sensitivity toward the unfolding events in the region and consistently respond accordingly.

Formation of Integration in the Persian Gulf Region

The pursuit of regional integration in the Persian Gulf region gained momentum following England's withdrawal, prompted by security concerns and perceived limitations in effectively managing internal and intra-regional challenges. To address the security challenges faced by these diminutive nations, England suggested the establishment of a federation comprising the southern countries of the Persian Gulf. This suggestion was initially met with enthusiasm by the seven United Emirates, Bahrain, and Qatar. Subsequently, Qatar and Bahrain, diverged from the aforementioned group of emirates due to divergent factors, while the remaining seven emirates have persistently maintained their political existence up to the present day.

This suggestion also proved unsuccessful in achieving the integration of the Persian Gulf region. Various suggestions were put forth, including one by Iran, yet they were not accepted by other nations in the region. The United States subsequently conveyed apprehension regarding the presence of a power vacuum within the Persian Gulf region. Conversely, both the United States and Europe had anticipated the potential involvement of the Soviet Union in the Persian Gulf region. The United States put forth a proposal for a two-pillar security framework involving Iran and Saudi Arabia in the region, which was subsequently accepted and agreed upon by both nations.

From 1976 to 1980, Oman and Kuwait put forth various regional integration proposals, yet these initiatives failed to garner acceptance from the countries within the region. The triumph of the Islamic revolution in Iran and the subsequent defeat of America in the Vietnam War prompted renewed efforts toward regional integration among the nations in the Persian Gulf region. The ideological underpinnings of the Iranian Islamic revolution, characterized by the prevalence of Islamic and Shiite principles within the nation, as well as the strained diplomatic ties between the United States and Iran, can be identified as additional factors contributing to the integration in the Persian Gulf region. In 1981, during the meeting held in Riyadh, the participants initiated the necessary steps for the formation of the Persian Gulf Council. The primary focal point of this collaboration entailed the sharing of information on security matters, the establishment of air defense networks, the establishment of a prompt response unit, and the augmentation of commercial and economic cooperation¹⁴.

Integration Factors in the Persian Gulf Region

The establishment of common territory not only fosters a sense of shared security among nations but also engenders various additional consequences. The proximity between entities has the potential to foster numerous collaborative endeavors. There exist shared intellectual and cultural characteristics between the southern provinces of Iran and the countries situated along the Persian Gulf. The establishment of deep cultural connections has been facilitated among the populations residing on both sides of the Persian Gulf. The close geographical proximity between Iran and the countries of the Persian Gulf has heightened the residents' inclination toward fostering a stable relationship¹⁵.

Conversely, the religion of Islam and its derived values play a significant role in fostering integration among the nations in the Persian Gulf region. Furthermore, the collaborative efforts among the nations of the Persian Gulf to effectively manage the production, pricing, and exportation of oil create a conducive environment for fostering solidarity among these countries. To ensure the economic and political security of the Persian Gulf countries, it is imperative for the oil exporting nations in this region to collectively adopt a unified and all-encompassing oil policy with a long-term perspective. The establishment of cooperative efforts in the oil and gas sector among the countries in the Persian Gulf region holds significant potential for enhancing financial exchange, technology transfer, and information sharing across various sectors of the industry. Furthermore, the creation of a collaborative oil market can contribute to improved resource efficiency and greater stability in the global oil market in the long term.

One of the most significant geopolitical ideologies that exerted a profound influence on global affairs during the early 20th century was characterized by its extensive geographical reach, encompassing a majority of the world. The Middle East and Persian Gulf region garnered significant attention from politicians and academics due to the prominence of the Heartland and Rimland theories. Within the realm of geopolitical theories, the Persian Gulf occupies a position of considerable prominence and strategic significance, exerting a notable influence on the global economic system under its abundant reserves and resources of oil and gas.

Factors of Disintegration in the Persian Gulf Region

The resolution of border disputes between countries is widely regarded as a significant indicator of regional cooperation in the Persian Gulf. The Persian Gulf geopolitical region is characterized by intricate territorial and border disputes. Moreover, these disputes have resulted in two armed conflicts between Iraq and Iran, as well as Iraq and Kuwait years ago. Historically, territorial and boundary disputes have consistently engendered political conflicts among nations. The border and territorial disputes among these nations play a significant role in the disintegration of the region. The presence of

¹⁴ Motaghi, A., (1996), Security indicators and challenges in the Persian Gulf, Strategy Journal, No. 10, p. 135.

¹⁵ Shah Dousti, H. (2014), Opportunities and Challenges of Regional Integration in the Persian Gulf, Human Geography Research, 46, p. 743.

these divergences poses challenges to collaborative efforts, consensus-building, and the achievement of agreement on matters related to the region.

Despite all eight countries in the Persian Gulf region sharing a common Muslim faith, there exists a significant religious divide between the two predominant sects of Shia and Sunni Islam. Iran stands as the sole nation in the region with an official Shiite religion, while Iraq and Bahrain exhibit a combination of both sects. In both Iraq and Bahrain, there exists a demographic composition characterized by a Shia majority and a Sunni minority. Notably, in the latter nation, the Sunni minority holds political power despite being numerically inferior. The escalation of religious disparities in the Persian Gulf region, which has attained its pinnacle in recent years, has resulted in an unfavorable state of affairs for the region. This factor is regarded as one of the contributing factors to the insecurity and disintegration experienced within the Persian Gulf region.

The security of the Persian Gulf region is contingent upon perceptions and beliefs rather than objective realities. The security dynamics in this region are influenced by a combination of tangible and intangible (social) factors, which in turn shape governments' perceptions of their national interests and ultimately determine the structure of governance. The behavior of governments in the Persian Gulf is significantly shaped by their perception of the prevailing circumstances and the favorable position of their surrounding world¹⁶. The absence of a comprehensive delineation of regional interests and interdependencies has emerged as a significant obstacle in achieving a viable resolution to the crises in the Persian Gulf region.

Thus far, the nations within the region have incurred significant financial costs due to the disintegration resulting from an atmosphere characterized by mistrust and suspicion. However, these countries possess substantial potential for regional integration, which can be realized through engaging in negotiations, fostering interaction, and reaching agreements on the shared elements that have often been overlooked¹⁷.

The discernible patterns that govern and mold the micro and macro-political dynamics of Iran's domestic and international affairs diverge from the patterns and ideologies that structure the political landscape and foreign relations of the nations situated in the southern Persian Gulf region. The revolutionaries have embraced and internalized various norms, such as anti-imperialist ideologies, the policy of exporting the revolution, and the support for liberating movements with a focus on legal guardianship (Velayat-e-Faghih). The prevailing atmosphere was fundamentally incongruous with the prevailing patterns observed in the countries of the Persian Gulf region, thereby instilling a sense of apprehension among the member states of the Persian Gulf Council.

Conclusion

The Persian Gulf region, characterized by shared environmental characteristics, has presented favorable circumstances for the bordering countries to engage in collaborative efforts aimed at establishing a regional economic alliance. The region under consideration holds significant global significance, primarily due to its substantial oil and gas reserves, as well as its extensive trade connections with various economic entities. Given these circumstances, the Persian Gulf countries must seize this exceptional opportunity and establish a collective alliance.

When examining the dynamics of integration and disintegration in the Persian Gulf region, it becomes apparent that integration holds a prominent position, outweighing the forces of disintegration. The region exhibits variations, yet it is characterized by shared factors that have facilitated integration. These factors encompass religious similarities, a collective sense of neighborliness, and a shared sense of belonging for the Persian Gulf, as well as an interdependence on the Strait of Hormuz. The factors

¹⁶ Mousavi, S.H. (2007), Security Model in the Persian Gulf, Experiences and Obstacles, Strategic Studies Journal, No. 4, p. 849.

¹⁷ Ramezani, R, 1999, The United State and Iran: The patterns of influence, Prager, New York, p. 33.

contributing to the disintegration in the Persian Gulf region include ideological attitudes, ethnic disparities, territorial conflicts such as territorial and border disputes, lack of collective trust among the involved parties, etc.

Regional integration is widely regarded as a favorable approach by experts due to its potential to facilitate enhanced interactions and communication among a select group of political actors. This increased engagement is believed to contribute to the promotion of peace and prosperity within the region. The probability of disintegration and integration within a region can be classified into two broad categories. The first category pertains to inter-regional causes, which are associated with countries within the geographical region. The second category encompasses variables that are influenced by factors external to the region. To effectively explain these two concepts, it is crucial to determine the dimensions and fields of integration and disintegration that hold greater explanatory value. Inter-regional factors, such as religious, historical, and social factors, etc., serve as indicators of integration, while economic and political factors within inter-regional competitions, etc. serve as indicators of disintegration.

In the context of globalization and evolving patterns of interaction and communication, the notion of security, traditionally confined to military contexts, has experienced modifications and adaptations. Alongside this conceptual shift, security has come to encompass domains such as politics, economics, society, and the military. Consequently, the preservation of governmental independence and national sovereignty has been recognized as a fundamental cornerstone of international security.

Finally, it is worthy to emphasize that the efforts aimed at fostering economic and cultural integration, as well as promoting extensive interactions with regional countries, while simultaneously mitigating propaganda and managing tension-making caused by external powers, have the potential to facilitate the development of security integration in the future.

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