

Reorganization of Effective Geographical Factors on National Power

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Abstract

The group of human beings produce the nation, and founded the states and political organizations have the power. All physical and spiritual capabilities existed in the particular political and geographical territory can be called 'national power'. National power has different sources and bases which are considered to be the elements of 'national power'. The issue of national power has been attracting the attention of geographers, geopolitical specialists, and global communication experts. Each group has introduced the elements for the 'national power'. This academic and research article will help to recognize the effects of geographical factors on 'national power'. In addition to this, the purpose of this research is to identify the elements and sources of 'national power'. We have investigated for those geographical factors that are highly effecting 'national power'. The methodology of data collection for this particular research is library research. Many great, international and most reliable resources have been used and cited in this academic article and research. The result of this research states that besides the other crucial factors for national power, geographical factors are also playing very vital role in national power. Such geographical factors and their effects can be used to measure and get to know the power of the countries or states. The importance of this research is knowing how the countries get benefit from the existence of geographical facilities and features in national and global power.

KEY WORDS

Geography, power, National power, Geopolitics and Geographical effects

INTRODUCTION

The factor helping a player in giving the authority and controlling the other players, aims and priorities is called power. Power shows the authority and control of someone by which the player will be able to dominate aims and priorities of other players. Player's maybe countries, governments, nations and either other organizations to work for the specific goals and to prevent the effects of other groups (Kamran & others, 2011:6). The stability and constancy of every country has link to their national power. The weak national power of a country throw in danger national profits. National power doesn't come just with strong forces and powerful weapons but it is possible with multilateral promotion. So, it is important to keep the balance in every social, political, civilized and economic sections. We can say that power is not just political factor but it is the arrangement of physical and spiritual sources of a country (Haidari & Haidari Bani, 2014:61). According to the concept of geopolitics, the national power reflects the features, the properties of nations and people (Kamran & others, 2011:6). Countries are forced to have power for some purposes like Independency, territorial integrity, national security, the prosperity of people, increasing the trust of people, and all of the related things that have link with national

profits. A country needs to use two ways to achieve these goals for changing and keeping the present status. Also a state will keep its status as a strategy or sometime they will give priority to change it. But in both conditions, it gets benefits from different forms of power (weyaar & Badloon, 2018:99). One factor cannot be known and recognize as the national power, since the 'national power' has several origins which are causing and making 'national power'. Or the national power of a country has been recognizing with various effects active in different zones. One of these circles is the geographical effects on 'national power'. The national power sources and factors exist in every country. Geographical structure and features of a country playing importance role than the other factors. Because geography is essential to analysis and recognition of the 'national power' (Kamran & others, 2011:6).

We cannot rest on just one effect for recognizing the national power of a country, such as; the extent of Brazil, large population of Pakistan, and industrial products of Belgic cannot be known as the fundamental factors for their 'national power'. Large population causes a problem for countries with poverty because the lack of food and the purposes of people make the governments inconstant (Kamran & others, 2011:9) All the factors cause make the 'national power' stranger. There isn't a specific definition for 'national power'. The issue of 'national power' has been attracting the attention of geographers, geopolitical specialists, and global communication experts and each group of these experts have suggested the constituents and elements for 'national power'. In this research, we have investigated the geographical factors which are greatly affecting the 'national power'. Various of studies have been conducted about the elements affecting the 'national power'. The results of these studies introduce sources and effects for 'national power'. But none of the research is conducted to explore the effects of geographical factors on 'national power'. This research article will fill that gap. In this research, we have compared various ideas of experts with each other. In this research article, reliable foreign and interior books, articles and resources are cited. The aim of this research is to introduce the 'national power', effects of 'national power' and especially the impacts of geographical factors on 'national power'. The question of this research is get to know the significance of 'national power'. Researchers and scholars have stated that there are different factors for 'national power', as well as geographical impact has effect on 'national power'. All in all, in addition to certain factors affecting the 'national power', geographical impact has incredible effect on the 'national power' of the countries as well. So we cannot ignore the fact that geographical factors is highly influencing the nationwide power.

Research Findings

Scholars' Views on the Elements and Resources of National Power. As mentioned above, since the subject of national power has become considerable among geographers, and geopolitics specialists, the issues of political geography political science, and international relations have also become considerable among strategists, politicians and even militaries. Each of them has tried to present a list of factors affecting the 'national power'. But problem has not been solved on desirable way. We will have a general look at some of the opinions of international relations and political geography experts who have presented different views on the factors of 'national power'. Montisko believes that national unity is the factor that produces national power.

Kohan pointed out ten factors. Generally, some scholars have considered the following necessary factors for national power. (Haidari & Haidari Bani, 2014:66).

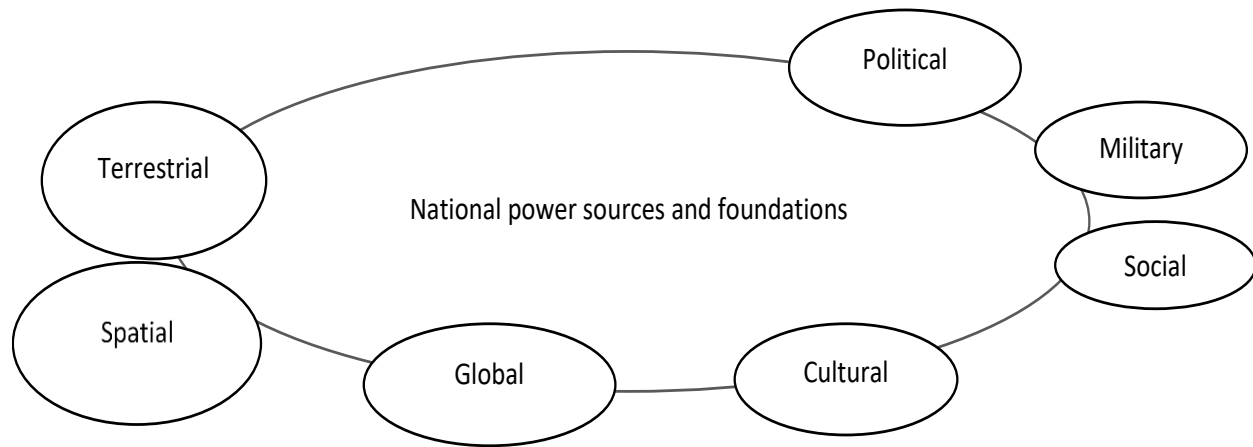


Figure2: sources and foundations of national power ((Haidari & Haidari Bani, 2014:66))

Jalil Roshandal mentioned the factors of national power as following:

- Geographical factors: water, and air
- Human factors: population, extension, raw materials, population status.
- Cultural factors: cultural heritage and ideology
- Governmental structure, governmental political form, effectiveness of government. (Mayal Afshar, 2012:117).

Hens.G. morgenta divided the fundamental elements of national power into eight parts:

- ❖ Geographical location
- ❖ Population
- ❖ Industrial capacity
- ❖ Natural resources
- ❖ National spirit
- ❖ National characteristics
- ❖ Military readiness
- ❖ Quality of diplomacy (Kazemi,2011:67)

The factors of Power building during twentieth century, especially during cold war, are shown as following:

- Geographical and logical conditions: borders structure and quality, soil condition, expansion, high and depths, water and air in the country.
- Military readiness; all the power of a country is equal to its military power. So, any country with strong military is in control.

- Population size: believing that the most powerful countries of the world have more people. It showed that every country with large population has more power.
- Self-sufficient in natural resources, nutrients and raw materials,
- Racial resemblance
- Ideology (Rezai & Sarimi, 2020 :17)

It should be noted that based on the above view, some factors which were specified to power, had its shortcomings. For instance, the war among German, British and French in 1940 and also wars between Israel and Arabs showed that number were very low but the quality was very high.

Saif zada, in his book named (different views in international relations) mentioned the following factors of power; Geographical factors, national resources, population, quality of government, national spirit and quality of leadership (Kamran and others, 2011: 9).

Hade Azami has mentioned some factors of national power in his doctoral dissertation: economic, territorial, governmental, scientific, social, cultural and military (Zarqani, 2011:172). These factors has been clearly shown in table 2.

Sayed Abbass Nabawi has generally classified the resources of power into three parts in his book named (philosophy of power). First, natural resources and what nature has given to human being for power. Second, human resources that are within human and human society are used for production of power. Third is the extension of natural resources that are effective for the production political power and social power of human and nature (Kamran and others, 2011:10).

Table1: list of factors and variable effective in measuring national power (Azami, 2006: 122)

Number	Factor Name	Variable
1	Economic	annual net profit, trade equality, railroads, asphalted ways, profit from tourism, employment rate, number of ships, international resources GDP size
2	Terrestrial	population per square kilometer, relative crowdedness precipitation annual size, topography, relative location, number of port and airports, size of potential gas resources, hydropower size, generation size, strategic mines, watery boundaries length, and water annual size
3	Governmental	population of capital as a whole, compared to other countries, number asylum seekers inside country, number of coups, elections, national unity of the basis of ethnic, religious and ideological
4	Scientific and Technological	Number of universities, number of students, in part of development and research, number of researchers, number of scientific journals and articles, internally amount of gross consumption in production and researcher, enrich of uranium, and number of scholastic and scientific books.
5	Social	population size, life expectancy, mortality and birth rate, the amount of people access to health services, the number of people who have access to doctors and hospitals, annual health budget,

		amount of people who have access to clean water, number of maternal mortality during childbirth, the countries in the list of developing countries, and the number of literate people above fifteen
6	Cultural	number of newspapers published, number of newspapers per thousand people, Number of tourist destinations, recognized by UNESCO, number of radios of radios per Thousand people, access to internet from every thousand people, computer training from every 1000 people, number of tale visions per 1000 people, Number of phones per 1000 people, and GDP amount of education spent
7	Military	number of troops, number of troops relative to all people, military budget, defense budget, access to nuclear, number of combat readiness, number of helicopters, number of naval swimmer, number of air forced, number of
8	International	Participation in international organizations and conventions, the number of callings from out of country, number of flights, number of tourists arriving, and number of per 100 passengers who departed over the course of year

Mayal Afshar divided the major sources of national power into two categories; intangible resources and tangible resources

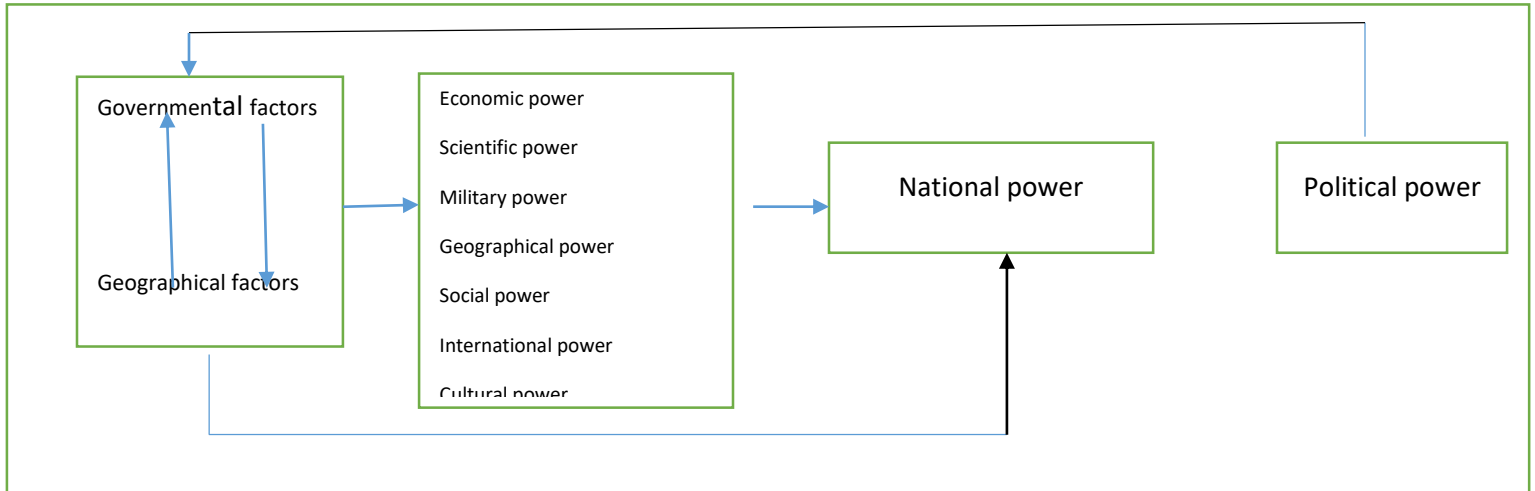
- ❖ Tangible resources: geography, land area, national and economic resources, military power, and population.
- ❖ Intangible resources: national government’s leadership and quality, special wills to achieve national goals, spirit of discipline, competence ability and quality, potential unity for the state. And level of political awareness among people (Mayal Afshar, 2012: 113).

The following are some factors that affect the national power in part of national security and international system; geographical features, number of people and characteristics, military power, industrial capacity, national characters, features of government, and quality of diplomacy(Weyar & Badloon 2018:73-74)

Ibrahim Tahari has pointed out the hard and soft factors of ‘national power’

- Power and military capacity
- Economic development and capacity
- Industry and technology
- Land expansion, geographical location, climate, topography, political borders, and geographical status
- Natural resources
- Quality of population and developed human strength (Taheri, 2016: 162)

Figure2: interrelationships between power and politics (Zarqani, 2010: 139)



The Value of Geography as Factor of National Power. Without any doubt, the most stable factor of national power is its geography.

Geographical factors such as; extension, shape, location, geographical condition, settlement, water resources, vegetation cover, climate and so on have direct relation with national power.

Geographical features (land) has been several time mentioned as power and exploitation for human beings in the Holy Quran. In addition, mountains, roads, and rivers are introduced as divine blessing of Almighty Allah in Quran. (Azami, 2006: 190). The sources and foundations of power are consisted of various factors. Some factors and resources of power exist in each country's geography. Among all those factors for national power, geographical features have special role in elements of power, such as; economic, political and military. Most of the scholars and researchers have agreed upon the role of geography on national power (Weyar & Badloon 2018:78) Kohan said that geography is like a bedrock for national power. (Kamran and others, 2011: 10) Some scholars say that geographical location is a key element of national power for a country. Some have even gone further and said that every country's politics is determined by its geography. According to their opinions, political vision of each country can be affected by political economic, geographical location, politics, and military. According to the opinion of Kohan, geography is the way to accurately assess the political realities of each country (Kamran and others, 2011: 10) Political events always take place in certain geographical areas, and there is no doubt that geographical factors such as; soil development, location, climatic conditions and natural resources can affect the 'national power'. These factors include other factors such as: economic power, level of industrial development and human resources quality can cause a country weakness or strengths in front of other countries (Weyar & Badloon 2018:78) There is no doubt that the stabilizing factor of power for nation is geography and its geographical factors such as; extension, shape, location, geographical status, water resources, vegetation cover and climate are directly related to power. (Kamran and others, 2011: 10)

Effective Geographical Factors on National Power

1. Country Shape

The factor that plays an important role in the political destiny of a country is the geometric shape of the country. The goal of the geometric shape is the distance towards the center of a country's diameter. The main effect of geometric shape is on the exercise of central government power across the country. (Ezati, 2011:91) The geometric shapes of the country are collected, long, tailed, fragmented, and surrounded by other countries. (Azami, 2006:130) The short and assembled countries have a positive value in terms of governance, control and national unity. (Kamran, & others, 2011:13)

2. Unevenness

Elevation and height is another natural factor that plays an important role in the political destiny of a country. (Ezati, 2011:90) If the height of the country coincides with the political lines, it creates special conditions for defense. (Azami, 2006:130-131) In other words, natural disasters can revitalize a country's security position as a political line. (Kamran & others, 2011:14) High altitudes can also boost a country's domestic economy through water released from ice. (Azami, 2006:130-131) Landslides cause slowing of ground motion and limitations in communication networks, which has a direct impact on the economic and productive aspects. (Ezati, 2011:90)

3. Population

General power depends on the population. The quality and structure of the population is influential in the intellectual unity and increase of national power. Undoubtedly, the population depends on the power of a country, although this relationship is relative but never a country become powerful by small population. (Azami, 2006:129) Countries with low populations, no matter how much they develop, cannot keep up with the great powers. (Weyar & Badloon, 2018:82) Also, a large population alone cannot be the main guarantor or supporter of a country's power. Its value also depends on other factors. There is also the possibility that in the future, as in the past, a larger population will be considered important for strengthening military power. (Azami, 2006:129)

Population contributes to 'national power' from three perspectives:

- A: A source of professional military strength
- B: The source of the power of labor production and wealth
- C: Storage of combat force in preparation for battle (Weyar & Badloon, 2018:82)

4. Raw Materials and Natural Resources

The true value of each country depends on the size and nature of its natural resources. Utilization of a country's wealth depends on its country. A country may have abundant natural resources but cannot use them properly. (Ezati, 2011:95). The available natural resources determine the extent of a state power. The greater a state's natural resources are, the greater its power is. (Khwakh, 2012: 75) With strong national and natural resources, it is possible for other states to be attached

to it as needed, or to better prevent foreign invasions in times of war. (Dawri, 2018:52) Raw materials and minerals are valuable in two ways. The first is that the enrichment of the country through raw materials leads to an increase in the living standards of the people and this plays an important role in maintaining domestic security and stability. Second, many raw materials and minerals, such as iron ore, coal, oil, and uranium, contribute to the armed forces. (Weyar & Badloon, 2018:81). Without the use of knowledgeable and professional people in extracting vast and abundant natural resources, it will never be considered a factor of development and progress. (Ezati, 2011:96)

5. Location

Geographical location and its characteristics play a major role in determining 'national power'. (Dawari, 2018:51) The location of a country among other countries is another factor that has a great impact on the situation of that country. (Weyar & Badloon, 2018:79-80). Geographical location depends on the foreign policy of each country, the relationship between geographical location and foreign policy is so important that this issue has been pointed out in geopolitical studies. (Kamran & others, 2011:11) Location mathematically (length and breadth) as well as relative term (distance and proximity to water, proximity to a unitary state or situation of neighbors, proximity to canals or international strategic straits) Worth it. Each position has its own strengths and weaknesses (Azami, 2006:130). In general, each country's participation and activities in international affairs are largely dependent on its geographical location, relations with neighboring countries (strong and weak), as well as relations with the world's major powers. (Ezati, 2011:77).

6. Expansion and Breadth

In general, greater expansion has a positive effect on the power of countries (Kamran & others, 2011: 12) the expansion is expected to be in line with the country's population distribution, because if the expansion is large and the population is small, the country's defense will be in jeopardy (Ezati, 2011:78). The development of a country does not guarantee its own power, but other factors, such as the level of development of national technology, can be a contributing factor to 'national power'. (Weyar & Badloon, 2018:81) The vast space facilitates the exploitation of economic resources and minerals. The military wide space creates strategic depth, and creates security margins for the country. (Kamran & others, 2011: 12). The vastness of a state is due to the fact that it has a wide variety of water, air and abundant natural resources is considered a power factor (Dawri, 2018:51)

7. Border lines

The borders of a country also have a positive and negative effect on the 'national power' of the country. Countries that have maritime borders and surrounded by seas are less at risk than countries that have open borders. This location reduces the threat to them. The presence of natural barriers on a country's borders benefits its security location and the absence of these barriers facilitates the work of development seekers. (Weyar & Badloon, 2018:80-81) Borders, whether land or water, play an important role in determining the national power of many countries. Landlocked countries have more restrictions on gaining power, unable to bring their mountainous and remote areas under

central control. Hence the geographical and strategic location of state power impact on implementers. The best example can be Afghanistan, where it is difficult to exercise power due to its unique geographical and strategic location. (Dawari, 2018:51).

8: Water and Air

Water and air are important geographical factors that have a profound effect on a country's power.

Countries located in hot, dry and cold regions face severe difficulties in producing agricultural products. Historically, many civilizations and major political powers have emerged and developed in temperate regions (Weyar & Badloon, 2018:79-80). Appropriate and desirable weather has a positive effect on a country's 'national power', this effect can be seen first in the development of foodstuffs and secondly in the destruction and devastation caused by climate problems, thirdly the national resource consumption facilities, creating living conditions for human beings. (Kamran & others, 2011:13) Nevertheless, water and climate conditions and their impact on food production still play an important role in the power of countries. The best example of this is the situation in the United States rather than in the Soviet Union. One of the reasons for the Soviet Union's problems and collapse was its unequal conditions in food production, one of the reasons for America's success. Early cold weather sometimes destroyed a large portion of Soviet agricultural products, and when these unfavorable climatic conditions combined with other production deficiencies, the Soviets weakened against the United States. (Weyar & Badloon, 2018:79-80)

Discussion

Power is the lifeblood of a country and a nation. The national power of a country uses all the material and spiritual capabilities of that country for its own purposes. The sources and foundations of power are made up of different factors, some factors and sources of power of each country exists in their geography. The most important of all is the geographical features on the power builder's elements such as economic, political and military have a special role to play. All the commentators who have mentioned the national power sources, referring geography as the bed of national power, such as: geographical location and its characteristics play a major role in determining the national power. Locations are sources of power and the economic situation helps the country to prevail over its opponents. Social status also helps to gain power and influence upon others. Religious position is also a source of power and influence. Leaders of various religious communities have always exercised power and influence. According to some scholars, geographical location is a key element of national power for a country, some have gone a step further and said that the politics of each country depends on the geography of that country. According to sources, factors and elements of national power, various scientists have given their opinions such as geographers, political science, international relations, geopoliticians, strategists and other scholars. Each group has mentioned the factors of national power based on their point of view. In total, we can mention the following factors:

A: Geographical location: which includes strategic, geopolitical communications and climatic location

B: Width, shape of the country, quality of atmosphere, topography, unevenness

C: Water, soil, tree covering, other vital and food resources of life

D: Underground Resources, Energy Resources, Mineral (Strategic and Non-Strategic) Resources

According to this study, we conclude that the subject of national power is worthy of the attention of various scholars. Every scholar has his own opinion on this subject and beside definitions, the subject of national power has attracted the attention of geographers, geopolitical experts, political geographers, political scientists, and international relations, strategists and politicians.

Each group has introduced different elements for national power. In this research study, various books and articles have been used to compare the opinions of different theologians. The results of the research show that among other factors, geographical factors such as: shape of countries, unevenness (high depths), population, raw materials and natural resources, location, extent, borders, water, air and so on are the main influencing factors.

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