

Consequences and Opportunities arising from the Decline of US Military Hegemony on I.R.Iran's National Security

Davood Ramezani Taklimi¹, Fouad Izadi², Abbas Jafarinia³, Mohsen Moradian⁴

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Abstract

The waning dominance of America is a consequence of profound internal political schisms within the nation. The primary goal of this research is to determine the repercussions and potential advantages of the American military's waning dominance, as well as its effects on Iran's political, economic, and military aspects of national security. We conducted this practical research using a field-case methodology. The instruments used to gather information and data are a combination of library resources and field research. The sample size consists of 37 individuals. The research findings indicate that the order of precedence for the four components associated with the repercussions, with a confidence level of 91% and a margin of error of 9%, is as follows: political, military, economic, and socio-cultural. Out of the 12 opportunities that arose from the weakening of American military dominance, the research identified eight as significant and impactful on the political, economic, and military aspects of the I.R.Iran. These opportunities have a 95% confidence level and a 5% margin of error. "Improving the global standing of non-governmental entities can boost the reputation and influence of the I.R.Iran." The design and engineering of the new Middle Eastern order, which involves the participation of all countries, aims to increase the population growth rate, preserve human capital and elites, and establish Iran's regional power superiority over the United States. However, these factors did not have a significant impact on the political, economic, and military dimensions of the I.R.Iran.

Key words: Consequence, Opportunity, Hegemony, America, National Security

1. PhD student of national security, National Defense University, corresponding author. davood1973ramezani@gmail.com

2. Assistant Professor, Faculty of World Studies, University of Tehran. f.izadi@ut.ac.ir

3. Assistant Professor of Strategic Defense Sciences, Higher National Defense University. a.jafarinia@gmail.com

4. Assistant Professor of Strategic Security Sciences, Higher National Defense University. mohsenmoradian@hotmail.com

Introduction

Firstly, it is important to clarify that in this study, the term "decline" does not refer to a complete collapse or disintegration, as seen in the case of the Soviet Union. Rather, it denotes a "diminishment of power" and involves comparing the military capabilities of the United States over the last few decades. Americans constantly face the apprehension that their worldwide dominance is merely a gateway to possibilities rather than a secure and enduring position. Consequently, they have made numerous attempts to widen this disparity by bolstering their military might to a level that surpasses any potential challengers. However, they have encountered a dual obstacle known as the "proliferation of nuclear weapons" and "terrorism." The country's reaction to these issues involved the development of a "preventive intervention" philosophy, which provoked the ire of the international community and encountered resistance. It is evident that the decline in American military dominance and the shift of power from Western countries to Eastern countries present unique advantages for the I.R.Iran. The I.R.Iran has recently led the establishment of a regional naval alliance. Additionally, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have withdrawn from the American alliance and joined this new alliance. They have also been strengthening their relations with neighboring countries. This change marks the end of the United States' previous "Iranophobia" policy in the region.

The research has highlighted the threats posed by the United States in the region and globally and, importantly, determined the means for addressing these concerns. The research was motivated by the absence of effective and applicable solutions, as well as the disregard for future prospects regarding the decline of American military dominance. This has led to a potential resurgence of America's previous hegemonic position, which could impact Iran's national security. A multitude of political, economic, and military repercussions will ensue. Hence, it is imperative for the authorities to give due consideration to this research and its discoveries in order to identify the requisite measures pertaining to the prospects arising from the waning of American dominance. The access of emerging regional powers to advanced technologies, such as the development of long-range ballistic missiles and hypersonic missiles, the rise of cyber warfare, and the miniaturization of equipment (including

mini and micro weapons), as well as the use of remote weapons and unmanned equipment on land, air, and sea, all point to the weakening and decline of American military dominance in the face of these emerging threats. What will be the repercussions for the national security of the I.R.Iran, and how will this deterioration impact the political, economic, and military dimensions of its national security? The primary goal of this research is to examine the repercussions and potential advantages of the waning of American military dominance and its effects on Iran's national security in terms of politics, economy, and military. This research is of an exploratory nature and does not aim to establish the relationship between the variables under investigation or to substantiate the subject matter. As a result, it does not involve formulating a hypothesis. The research question aligns with the objective.

Theoretical framework

Literature Review

1. Despite being relatively minor, the decrease in American dominance has major repercussions on international peace and security, according to Ahoei (2016) in a paper titled "The Decline of American Hegemony: The Meaning of Power Transfer in the Global System and Policy Requirements." This decline in American dominance is not always pleasant to witness. Great power surveillance and deterrence lead to a variety of security challenges, some stemming from the US retreating from areas previously engulfed in border conflicts, civil wars, and arms competitions; additionally, the conflict over crucial resources has reached its conclusion.

2. In "The Decline of American Hegemony in the Intellectual System of the Supreme Leader (Madazleh Al-Ali)," Moradi and Hazinia (1402) conclude that while the Supreme Leader believes that America's soft and smart power is declining in a number of areas, the country's physical power is also declining. Furthermore, the country has a long history of meddling in other nations' internal affairs, primarily in the name of establishing democracy. Currently, America's global power and authority are eroding.

3. In their paper titled "The Decline of the Hegemony of the United States of America and the New World Order," Saidi-Rad and Halal Khor (1402) concluded that the United States of America is losing its hegemony and that the global order is shifting to a more multipolar one. The study's conclusions demonstrate that the fall of American hegemony is comparable to the decline of British hegemony, and the rise of China as a new hegemon is comparable to the consolidation of American hegemony. However, China will attain this superiority without the need for World War II or the spread of capitalism; in the absence of a global conflict to destabilize other powers, other nations like Russia, Germany, India, and others will gain relative global power and obstruct the development of a unipolar system or China's absolute hegemony.

4. In their article "Political decline of America in the new global geometry from the perspective of the supreme leader (Madazlah al-Ali)," Motaghiannejad and Fateminia (1402) conclude that the majority of experts believe that America is declining relative and gradually, and that the Supreme Leader also believes in this kind of decline because they have cited literature in their speeches that compares America's decline to that of a termite. They further suggest that we should take this decline into account when making our calculations and creating a new global geometry.

This research distinguishes itself from other articles and books on the decline of American hegemony by focusing specifically on the military dimension. It argues that the decline in other dimensions of American hegemony has influenced a shift towards a more militaristic approach in the United States. However, the decline in other dimensions has also contributed to this approach's decline. Past research has observed the repercussions of the waning of American dominance on various regions of the world, not limited to the military sector, but in a broad and comprehensive manner. While we can independently analyze the distinct and important factor of the United States' military decline, it is critical to also examine its impact on countries like the I.R.Iran, which possess unique national, regional, and international characteristics.

Concepts and Variables Definition

The term decline refers to the diminishing of power during the stage of power maturity. It describes the relationship between a government's power and that of other governments at the stage of power growth. (Organski, 1355: 467) Questioning authority leads to a fall, and others can readily oppose it with their military, political, economic, and cultural influence. (Khani, 2018: 26) According to Robert Gilpin's theory of hegemonic stability, decline refers to the hegemon's proportional decrease in strength, resulting in the weakening of desired international institutions and norms established by the superpower. The theories of "hegemonic succession" suggest that the rise in power of competitors capable of leading the global system causes the loss of the dominant power and a decrease in its relative strength (Hulme & Gartzke, 2021: 542). In this study, decline refers to a relative decrease in a superpower's ability to exert leadership in the international system. We expect this decline to continue in the near future, as the superpower will no longer be able to regain its dominance and unilaterally expand international regimes. Indeed, a decrease in this research signifies a reduction in global and regional standing, as well as a loss of international influence and prestige. As the primary focus of this study, America has had distinctive attributes in the past as a dominant global power. However, it has since relinquished some of those attributes and is no longer capable of safeguarding itself or its allies against regional or global challenges in its position as an unrivaled force.

Military hegemony refers to the hegemon's use of military capabilities to establish and maintain dominance. Currently, the majority of literary sources characterize America's approach to establishing its system as military hegemony. This information is based on Michael Krause's work from 2006. Eikenberry, highlighting the importance of satisfaction, argues that military dominance plays a crucial role in a superpower's capacity to establish and uphold the desired global order through the use of legitimate international institutions and laws (Ikenberry, 2012: 38). In this research, military hegemony is defined as the exercise of dominance and control by the world's military superpower over other nations, particularly in the West Asia region.

National security refers to the strategic objectives and priorities that governments aim to accomplish. Governments protect and preserve

national interests, dividing them into two interrelated aspects: internal and external. National security encompasses various dimensions, including political, economic, military, and social factors. The source cited is Moradian (2013), on page 64. In this research, national security refers to the strategy and circumstances that safeguard the national interests of the I.R.Iran from the dangers and dominant military acts of the United States while promoting stability and preserving national values. Given the multifaceted nature of national security, which encompasses economic, cultural, political, military, environmental, biological, cyber, space, virtual space, and more, as well as the impossibility of quantifying the impact of the decline of American military dominance on all aspects of Iran's national security, the researcher has chosen to focus solely on the political, economic, and military dimensions.

Declining US military dominance and the scope of Iran's national security relationship

After the Islamic Revolution's victory, the emergence of Iran as a revolutionary government, and the hegemony of America following the end of the Cold War, we are witnessing the confrontation and friction between this country and the I.R.Iran as a revolutionary government. When the hegemon's government possesses greater authority and legitimacy, it tends to utilize persuasion and rewards. However, as its ability to persuade diminishes and its power resources decline, it increasingly resorts to force, threats, and coercion. (Cox, 2009) In the last years of the eight-year forced war, America engaged in direct military engagement with the I.R.Iran. In its dealings with revolutionary governments, the hegemonic authority appears to employ a "pressure diplomacy" technique. Diplomacy is a strategic approach in which a government places the restricted, selected, discontinuous, and controlled use of force on the agenda in order to persuade the opposing party of the threat of force (Moradi, 1398:125). In this regard, the experience of Iran-US nuclear negotiations, which ultimately resulted in the JCPOA, is worth noting. The hostage crisis, the Afghanistan crisis after September 11, and the fate of Iraq after Saddam Hussein all highlight the relevance of negotiation and diplomacy strategy in US foreign policy against Iran (Zarif, 2017: 5-26). Financial and commercial penalties are one of the hegemonic authority's other tools for dealing with the revolutionary

government. Financial sanctions are more difficult and costly than commercial sanctions. The most severe sort of financial sanction is the freezing of the target country's assets, which halts economic activities by cutting off the cash flow directly and indirectly. In this regard, it is possible to mention America's unfriendly sanctions against the I.R.Iran over the last four decades (Bayat, 1391: 940–941). Finally, hegemonic regimes use war tools against the challenged government on a variety of levels, including cyber, intelligence, and direct military attack. In June 2010, the malware known as "Stuxnet" targeted the nuclear facilities of the I.R.Iran in Natanz. Sources claim that the United States and Israel developed Stuxnet to counter Iran's nuclear development (Business Insider, 2016). America aims to undermine the I.R.Iran's image in the world system while also establishing an international consensus on how to deal with this country. Iranophobia and concerted efforts to portray Islam as a religion of terror, violence, intimidation, and suffocation have been on the agenda for several years. Over the last forty years, American hegemony has employed a variety of strategies to deal with the I.R.Iran, depending on the specific conditions. These strategies encompass a range of tactics such as military threats, economic sanctions, infiltration and networking, psychological warfare, inciting public opinion, cyber warfare, Islamophobia, and Iranophobia, among others. Based on America's past experiences dealing with challenged governments and soft power components in the context of soft subversion, the primary drivers are as follows:

1-Economic sanctions: Throughout history, dominant countries have used sanctions as a significant strategy to exert pressure on countries that question the established global order. To clarify, when a direct military invasion is not feasible, sanctions serve as a crucial tool of non-military warfare to exert pressure and weaken the resilience of the targeted regime.

2-The goal of a soft war is to influence the target country's public opinion. Soft war refers to a collection of tactics, tools, and methods used to alter and manipulate the public sentiment of the targeted nation.

3-Social chaos: Typically, the goal of altering and manipulating public sentiment in the targeted nation is to create political-social disorder and overall political instability.

4-Diplomacy and negotiation: Diplomacy and negotiation, namely the use of coercive diplomacy, are crucial methods employed by dominant nations to alter the behavioral patterns of challenging countries. Coercive diplomacy, as an alternative to conflict, employs civilian strategies to dissuade the target country from pursuing its objectives through persuasion.

These four drivers represent America's primary approach and strategy in dealing with the I.R.Iran, specifically in the context of soft war and hybrid conflict. As a result, various scenarios, including political, economic, military-security, and social-cultural aspects, shape American approaches to dealing with the I.R.Iran.

Therefore, we can assert that once America prioritizes the execution of these policies and tactics, their significance is likely to persist into the future. The four key aspects of these methods—political, economic, military-security, and social-cultural—create unpredictability in the imagined scenarios of the American threat against the I.R.Iran.

Conceptual Model of Research

The key elements contributing to the loss of American military predominance are characterized as internal and external influences. We identified a total of 19 external factors and 16 internal factors that contributed to the decline of American military hegemony, after considering the theoretical basis and expert opinions. The figure below illustrates how these factors have both positive and negative impacts on the military, economic, political, and social aspects of national security in the I.R.Iran. The figure below demonstrates how we can achieve this by either reducing the military dominance of the United States or enhancing the regional influence of the I.R.Iran.

Research conceptual model in word

US Decline in military hegemony

A- Internal factors

1. Military

- Power struggle to gain a hegemonic military position
- Nuclear weapons of other countries
- Terrorism
- The entry of China and Russia in the field of military competition with US
- Successive wars

2- Socio-Cultural

- Weakening the US soft power in the international system
- The role of key trends

3- Political

- Unilateralism and endless conflicts
- Weakening the power of unity and coalition building
- Not accompanying members of the US coalition
- Competitive risks of the US alliance
- The rise of China and the end of the unipolar era
- US inability to predict military threat situations
- Change in global power distribution process
- Increasing the obligations of the US from its supporting sources

4- Economical

- The shadow of the US declining on the minds of Europeans
- Formation of the BRICS group
- Increasing regional costs
- Reducing the power of Group Seven

B. External factors

1- Military

- Distancing the location of the war from American soil
- Decreasing military efficiency of the army over time
- Militarized disputes between governments
- Violent use of military force
- Insufficient increase in military budget
- Attention to quantitative aspects of hegemonic power in US
- Technology growth among American competitors

2- Socio-Cultural

- Middle class crisis
- Increase in poverty and unemployment
- The impact of social problems

3- Political

- Loss of spirit of reconciliation in government
- US lack of seriousness in its decisions

4- Economic

- Weakening of Economic power
- US debt crisis
- Severe budget deficit
- People's negative attitude towards defense investment

C- National Security of Iran

1- Military

- Possible replacement of Iran with China as a regional power in West Asia
- Strengthening offensive culture instead of defensive culture in Iran
- Iran becoming a geopolitical challenge and the main threat to US
- Increasing the power of Iran's risk against US threats
- The formation of the resistance front
- Increasing Iran's military capabilities
- Iran becoming a nuclear power

- Achieving the position of global cyber power

2- Socio - cultural

- Intensification of differences in the historical mindset and identity structures and the operational image of the strategic culture of Iran and US
- Strengthening the sense of exceptionalism of the Islamic Republic of Iran influenced by the two identity sources of Shiite Islam and Iranian nationalism
- The trivialization of the liberal ideas of American human rights and democracy by Iranian national identities
- Finding a more practical approach in Iran's domestic culture

3- Political

- Changing the method of controlling civil wars outside Iran through financial and intelligence military support to state and non-state actors
- Expansion of Iran's regional networks
- Finding the upper hand in the equations of the West Asian region

4- Economic

- Improving the position and role of Iran in the global energy market
- Learning the sanctions control methods from Iran
- Making sanctions ineffective by using unusual methods

D- Final Result

- Transforming IRAN to a “Promoting Power” besides having the “power of Progressing”
- Finding the Superiority of IRAN regarding to US in achieving the regional power

Methodology

This research is applied research. It investigates and analyzes the implications and prospects of the decline of American military dominance on the I.R.Iran's national security. Authorities can utilize the findings of this research to identify and prioritize American military threats. Furthermore, we might classify the findings as "applicative-developmental" due to their potential impact on advancing research in this domain. This study has focused on a particular matter, namely the effects and possibilities arising from the weakening of American military dominance on the I.R.Iran's national security. Note that this research's findings are specific to this example and may not apply to other scenarios. Therefore, we refer to the employed research methodology as "case-based."

The research's temporal scope spanned from the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, tragedy to the year 2030. From a spatial perspective, it encompasses the entire globe. The statistical population for this study comprises military and country specialists and elites who hold a minimum of a master's degree and have a minimum of three years of experience as commanders or managers in the military, political, economic, and cultural sectors associated with the United States. The study has a statistical population of 37 individuals. We do not conduct sampling due to the small size of the statistical population, instead administering a survey to all 55 individuals. We gathered data for this research using both field and documentary approaches, and then analyzed it using SPSS software. The field approach involved preparing a questionnaire consisting of 18 closed questions. We classified and evaluated these questions quantitatively using the t-test and a 95% confidence interval. We assessed the data using the five-level Likert spectrum. The independent variable in this study is "consequences and opportunities," whereas the dependent variable is the "political, economic, military, and social dimensions of national security."

Discussion

What are the effects of the decline of American military dominance on the political, economic, and military aspects of the I.R.Iran?

Comprehensive field and statistical research examined the repercussions of waning American military dominance on the political, economic, and military aspects of the I.R.Iran. Expert analysis and t-test evaluation summarize these findings as follows:

Table I: The consequences of the decline of American military hegemony on the political, economic and military dimensions of the I.R.Iran

No .	Criterion	Component	Mean	T-value	DF
1	Economic	Improving Iran's global market position	3.62	2.65	20
2		Learn sanctions control from Iran	3.62	2.77	20
3		Making punishments ineffective via unique approaches	3.52	1.92	20
4	Political	Identifying Iran's dominant position in the geopolitical dynamics of the West Asian region	3.76	3.20	20
5		Expansion of Iran's regional networks	3.95	4.07	20
6		Modifying the approach to managing civil wars outside the I.R.Iran by providing military, financial, and intelligence assistance to both governmental and non-governmental entities	3.86	4.60	20
7	Social and Cultural	Finding an applicable approach in Iran's internal culture	3.57	3.01	20
8		Irrespective of liberal ideas, human rights and American democracy by Iranian-national identities.	3.24	1.16	20
9		Enhancing Iran's exceptionalism through Shia Islam and Iranian nationalism	3.38	1.79	20
10		Intensification of historical mindset, identity structures, and operational strategic culture disparities between Iran and America	3.33	1.67	20
11	Military	Potential substitution of Iran with China as a dominant force in the West Asian region	3.19	0.72	20
12		Strengthening offensive culture instead of defensive culture in Iran	3.05	0.24	20
13		Iran's rise as America's top geopolitical threat	3.48	1.75	20

No .	Criterion	Component	Mean	T-value	DF
14		Rising Iranian risk power versus American threats	3.71	3.25	20
15		The establishment of the resistance front	4.10	6.04	20
16		Enhancing Iran's military prowess	4.14	5.43	20
17		Iran's ascent to nuclear power status	4.05	4.14	20
18		Attaining the status of a worldwide cyber superpower	3.76	2.96	20

The table above indicates that, based on the expert community's opinion, out of the 18 cases resulting from the decline of American military dominance, 11 consequences have been identified as effective, influential, and significant in the political, economic, and military aspects of the I.R.Iran. These findings have a confidence level of 95% and a margin of error of 5%. Using unconventional methods renders sanctions ineffective, downplays liberal ideals, undermines human rights and American democracy from the perspective of national-Iranian identities, and strengthens the sense of exceptionalism within the I.R.Iran, influenced by two identity sources: Shia Islam and Iranian nationalism. Additionally, these consequences exacerbate the divergence in historical mindsets and identity structures, as well as the operational aspects of Iran and America's strategic cultures. The potential substitution of Iran with China as a dominant force in West Asia, the shift towards an offensive culture rather than a defensive one in Iran, and the emergence of Iran as a geopolitical challenge and the primary threat to America have not had a significant impact on the political, economic, and military aspects of the I.R.Iran.

Evaluating the impact of the diminishing American military dominance on the political, economic, and military aspects of the I.R.Iran

The experts ranked the components and repercussions of the collapse of American military hegemony. The Friedman test determined the relative importance of each component and its related consequences.

Table II: Ranking of the consequences of the components

No.	Components	Mean of Ranking
1	Political	2.81
2	Military	2.69
3	Economic	2.60
4	Social and Cultural	1.90

What opportunities arise from the decrease in American military dominance, and how does it affect the political, economic, and military aspects of the I.R.Iran?

The decline of American military hegemony presents opportunities for the I.R.Iran in the political, economic, and military domains. The expert community of data analysts has identified these opportunities through field studies and statistical analysis, specifically using the t-test method.

Table III: Political, economic, and military opportunities from American military hegemony's fall in Iran

No.	Components	Item	Mean	T-value	DF	Sig.
1	Economic	Active neighbor policy strengthens relations with neighboring countries.	4.19	5.56	20	0.00
2		More attention to energy and water diplomacy	3.52	2.33	20	0.03
3	Political	Using diplomacy and foreign policy to turn Iran's "influence" into a "role" and then a "presence" to provide value to the country.	4.00	4.83	20	0.00
4		The decline of American hegemonic power and the formation of new international orders	4.10	5.32	20	0.00
5		The growing tensions between the West and America, Russia, and China, and our chance to take their advantages	4.05	4.14	20	0.00
6		Increasing the prominence and influence of non-governmental actors in the international system can boost the I.R.Iran.	3.52	1.99	20	0.06
7		Creating an indigenous Middle Eastern order with all countries' participation	3.38	1.50	20	0.15
8	Social and Cultural	Soft power development complements military power strengthening to boost Iran's regional and global standing.	3.71	2.43	20	0.02
9		The requirement to maintain elites and human capital while raising the rate of population expansion	3.38	1.50	20	0.15

No.	Components	Item	Mean	T-value	DF	Sig.
10	Military	The predominance of Iran over the United States in acquiring regional power	3.24	0.93	20	0.37
11		Iran is emerging as a dominant force, possessing both the capability of leading and the ability to make advances.	3.52	2.06	20	0.05
12		Consider the significance of "artificial intelligence" as a crucial element of power.	3.71	2.75	20	0.01

Expert consensus, as indicated in the table above, has deemed 8 of the 12 opportunities resulting from the decline of American military dominance as effective, influential, and significant for the political, economic, and military aspects of the I.R.Iran. These opportunities include enhancing the position of non-governmental actors in the international system, which can contribute to elevating Iran's standing and role in the global arena, as well as devising and implementing a new indigenous Middle Eastern order that involves all nations' participation. Additionally, we found the need to increase the population growth rate and preserve human capital and elites, as well as Iran's superior regional power compared to the United States in terms of political, economic, and military dimensions, to be ineffective and lacking in significance.

An analysis of the potential advantages arising from the weakening of American military dominance and its effects on the political, economic, and military aspects of the I.R.Iran:

This section discusses the ranking of components and opportunities stemming from the fall of American military hegemony, based on expert opinions and utilizing the Friedman test.

Table IV: Ranking of the consequences of the components

No.	Components	Mean
1	Economic	2.93
2	Political	2.64
3	Social and Cultural	2.36
4	Military	2.07

Conclusion

The study reveals the following key findings from the research:

- ✓ We expect internal factors within the United States to solely influence future changes in the national security of the I.R.Iran. This will result in a decline in the military dominance of the United States. Conversely, external factors from the United States will have no impact on the process of changing the I.R.Iran's national security.
- ✓ Based on the calculated coefficient, we estimate that the "internal factors of the United States affecting the decline of this country's military hegemony" will influence the "national security of the I.R.Iran," resulting in a 0.721 unit change. This implies that a one-unit change in "US domestic factors influencing the decline of this nation's military dominance" will result in a 0.721-unit change in the "National Security of the I.R.Iran".
- ✓ Experts' opinions align with the calculated significance level of 0.848 for the independent variable "America's external factors affecting the decline of this country's military hegemony". This indicates that the significance level of the influence of "foreign factors of the United States affecting the decline of this country's military hegemony" on "the national security of the I.R.Iran" will be 0.152. According to experts, there is a 15.2% probability that "foreign factors of the United States affecting the decline of the military hegemony of this country" will impact the "national security of the I.R.Iran".

The following chart and table, based on expert opinions and the results of the Friedman test, along with a comparison of average ratings, indicate the priority order of the four components related to the results. The confidence factor is 91%, with a margin of error of 9%. The order is as follows:

- Political
- Defense
- Economic
- Social and cultural

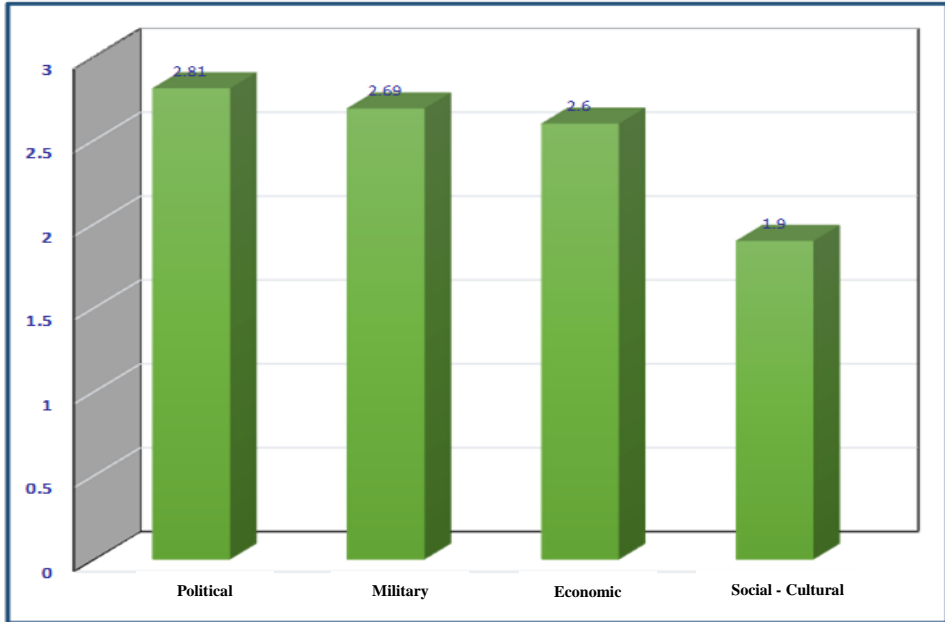


Chart I: Ranking of the consequences of the components

Table V: Ranking of outcomes

No.	Component	Average rank
1	Increasing Iran's military capabilities	13.19
2	The formation of the resistance front	12.64
3	Iran's transformation into a nuclear power	12.05
4	Expansion of Iran's regional networks	11.79
5	Supporting government and non-government actors with military, financial, and informational aid to change civil war control beyond Iran. Supporting government and non-government actors with military, financial, and informational aid to change civil war control beyond Iran.	11.07
6	Iran's upper hand in the equations of the West Asian region	10.33
7	The increasing influence of Iran in countering American threats	10.29
8	Reaching the position of global cyber power	10.12
9	Learning Iran's sanctions control strategies	9.33

No.	Component	Average rank
10	Improving Iran's global market position	9.26
11	Finding an applicable approach in Iran's internal culture	8.83
12	Making sanctions ineffective via unique approaches	8.76
13	Iran's rise as America's top geopolitical threat	8.62
14	Strengthening Iran's exceptionalism based on Shia Islam and Iranian nationalism	7.98
15	Intensification of historical mindset, identity structures, and operational strategic culture disparities between Iran and America	7.19
16	Possible replacement of Iran with China as a regional power in West Asia	7.07
17	Ignoring liberal ideas, human rights and American democracy by Iranian national identities	6.81
18	Strengthening offensive culture instead of defensive culture in Iran	5.67

The chart and table below, compiled based on expert opinions, the Friedman test results, and a comparison of average ratings, indicate the priority order of the four components related to opportunities, with a 90% confidence factor and a 10% error.

- economic
- Political
- Social and cultural
- Military

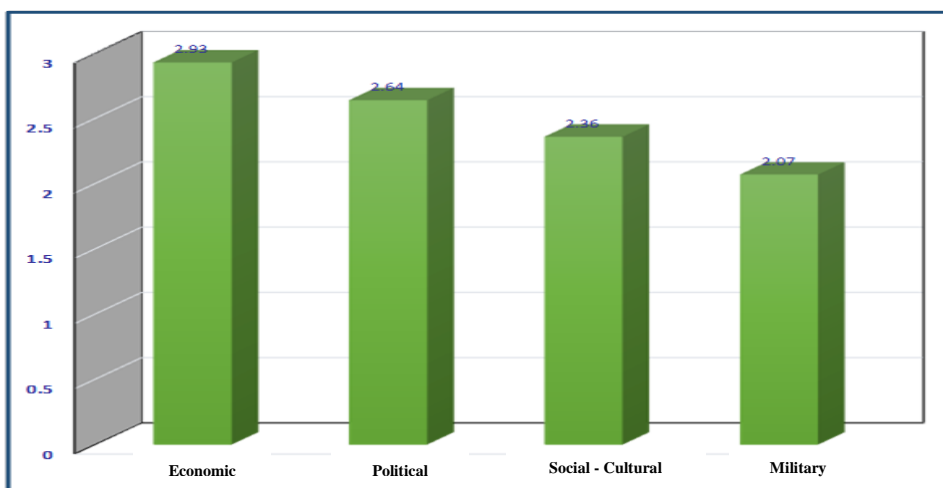


Chart II: Ranking of the opportunities of the components

Table VI: Ranking opportunities

No.	Component	M rank
1	Strengthening relations with neighboring countries within the framework of active neighborhood policy	8.74
2	American dominance declining and new world orders emerging	8.19
3	Transforming Iran's "influence" into a "role" and ultimately a "presence" through diplomacy and foreign policy to give value to the country.	7.93
4	The growing tensions between the West and America, Russia, and China, and our chance to take advantages on them	7.83
5	The I.R.Iran develops soft power alongside military power to bolster its regional and global standing.	6.62
6	Attention to "artificial intelligence" as a key power factor	6.45
7	More attention to energy and water diplomacy	5.88
8	Iranian "leading" and "progress" power	5.71
9	Increasing the prominence and influence of non-governmental actors in the international system can boost the I.R.Iran.	5.57
10	Creating an indigenous Middle Eastern order with all countries' participation	5.50
11	Increase population growth and preserve elites and human capital	5.00
12	Iran's superiority over America in gaining regional power	4.57

Suggestions for further research

1-In the realm of politics, one significant outcome of America's military decline is that the current government of the I.R.Iran is making efforts to end the country's political isolation. The government is achieving this by prioritizing the strengthening of political ties with neighboring countries and resolving international conflicts with influential regional and global powers. The current administration is properly addressing and resolving many longstanding challenges that previous administrations left unresolved. It is critical to pursue practical solutions in order to safeguard the national interests of the country. Hence, the primary and crucial recommendation is to actively pursue the total and definitive cessation of the country's political isolation.

2-It is advisable to strengthen the resistance front and expand the I.R.Iran's strategic reach in the military domain. Implementing this suggestion will compel the American armed forces to withdraw from the West Asia region with greater urgency and efficiency, thereby enhancing national security and safeguarding the country's interests.

3-From an economic perspective, a comprehensive proposal to render sanctions ineffective involves enhancing scientific capabilities and maintaining a technological advantage. This strategy can lead to numerous successes in political, cultural, military, social, and other domains, while also countering the tactic of paralyzing the country through sanctions or all-encompassing pressure.

4-In the realm of social, to enhance the standing of the I.R.Iran in regional and global contexts, it is imperative to bolster the country's soft power in conjunction with fortifying its military might. Furthermore, it is critical to devise and construct a new indigenous Middle Eastern framework that encourages all nations to participate. Lastly, it is imperative to enhance diplomatic ties with adjacent nations as part of an active policy towards neighboring countries. We emphasize that we should carefully consider the role of "artificial intelligence" as a crucial element of power. Additionally, we suggest prioritizing energy and water diplomacy, focusing on increasing the population growth rate, and preserving human capital and elites.

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