Review and predicting the future insights facing Iran, according to historical macro trends

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Abstract

Predicting future trends in Iran is very difficult which also fail to be realized in most of cases due to high acceleration of international developments and conflict of major powers in the region. Unlike many other regions of the developing world, Iran is one of the most stable and safest regions of the world. Although nearly three decades have passed since the end of the Cold War, the regional conflicts, particularly the Arab-Israeli conflict have not ended yet. So unlike other developing regions, because of oil reserves and access of Islamic Republic of Iran to peaceful nuclear energy and also the growth of Islamic fundamentalism as a threat to the interests of the West, especially the United States have created a situation that it is predicted that the decline process of U.S.A’s influence in the region has begun and probably, U.S.A will not be the only trans-regional factor affecting the region in the next decade. The same issue has provided a chance for greater Iran’s role in the region as a replacement for the power of the U.S.A. Moving toward more democratic governments in the Arab world, which in many cases is accompanied with the empowerment of the Shiites and realization of their rights, will continue with greater acceleration in the coming years. Democratization in the Arab World reduces tensions between Iran and the Arabic states for establishing better relations with them. Empowerment of Shiites will also provide Iran with greater maneuverability in this atmosphere.

Keywords: Iran, the future of Iran, U.S.A, the Middle East.
Introduction
What are the challenges of the "new millennium" for Iran and Iranians? What changes these challenges will create in the cultural, social, political, economic and security formations of Iran? Which changes cause opportunities and which changes are causing threats? Given the facts which have heavily influenced the national and transnational environment of Iran with their presence, what chances and opportunities are provided for the community of the people and the community of Iranian elites to protect the benefits, interests and security? Would Iran harness the opportunities resulted from this phenomenon for realization of its interests like some countries or would it put itself at its risk, like some others? In other words, will Iran be able to create regulatory systems and social, political, cultural and economic infrastructures necessary for rational encounter and focused on fulfillment of its national interests and political institutions necessary to meet the new demands of its own citizens or it has not the ability to perform these actions and eventually will endeavor to resist the changes or does it substantially choose to join to rapid technical innovations or integrated global economy or not? In this paper we try to answer the above questions (Colbert, Held: 2009).

Iran is located in the Middle East and Middle East is situated in the region that links the three continents of Europe, Asia and Africa and has a unique geopolitical importance. The Middle East is the cradle of civilization, the birthplace of three major monotheistic religions, an intersection for movement and trade, the origin of the vast empires, the source of 60% of the world's oil, the source of political and ideological ferment and the location of the worst lasting struggles after the Second World War (Beverly, Milton:2010). It is very difficult to predict future trends in Iran in which due to the very high acceleration of international developments and conflicts of major powers in the region, the expectations also fail to be realized in most cases. According to Homeroom Katoozian, it can be said about the Middle East that in an unpredictable region like the Middle East, the knowledge of a prophet is needed to predict the future with some degrees of certainty and he may even be deceived him by the events (Josef Waterbury:2011).

Review of the literature
Iran is one of the most instable regions of the world in terms of economic fluctuations. So unlike other developing regions, due to the presence of oil reserves as well as growth of Islamic fundamentalism and also achieving peaceful nuclear energy which constitute a threat to the interests of the West, especially the United States, a security atmosphere is still dominant in this region of the world. But a challenge that will be faced by Iran in the coming decade in The Middle East is that the economic growth in countries adopting the free market economy system and integration into the global economy have managed to introduce themselves as economic emerging powers. However, the continuation of governmental economic policies and sole reliance on oil revenues while sufficient foreign investment to increase the level of oil production in Iran is not possible due to sanctions imposed by United States against the Iranian oil and gas industries can lead to isolation of Iran in the region. Surely in the next decade the international community, especially the United States will seek a sustainable solution to end the long-lasting Arab-Israeli conflict. In this case, the Islamic Republic of Iran will be in a position that should have a clear policy regarding the solution of the conflict to end it (James bill, 2000).

Unfortunately, in the present circumstances, the Iranian economy does not seem to keep pace with the globalization process. Certainly, numerous and diverse causes and factors have played a role in this inconsistency, but generally the most important causes and factors can be
summarized in the following cases: A significant part of the Iranian economy is under the
dominance of the public sector. This structure has surrounded the economic activities in a set
of vast and complex rules and has reduced the potential of endogenous developments and
managerial innovations which is the source of innovations. The Iranian economy revolves
around a pre-designed circuit and based on pre-defined rules. Thus, the global economic
community which is in the hands of the private sector now, is hardly capable of appropriate
interaction with these kinds of the government-based economies. It is true that according to
Article 44 of the constitution, most of the large companies have been privatized, but despite
this kind of privatization, their control has remained in the hands of the government and on the
other hand, for political reasons, Iran has been sanctioned by great superpowers and these
sanctions can be a threat and on the other hand is also a good opportunity for progress. Being
self-occupied in a closed circuit economy and being institution-oriented instead of being
market-driven and having attitudes regardless of trans boundary or outer-organizational
events show the sovereignty of traditional economic behaviors. In such circumstances,
dogmatic and non-evolutionary thinking penetrates the economy and refuses the conformity
and harmony with the global melodies. In case of the dominance of economists on the
society, traditional behaviors quickly fade and objective reasoning behavior based on the
identification of risk and efficiency and tolerance of abnormal conditions become most
common. Generally, traditional economy, the symbol of which can be seen in traditional
markets, does not fall within Trans boundary standards and finds the continuation of activity
in the minimum of global communications. This situation is intertwined with the Iranian
economy and getting away from it requires a relatively long scheduling program. Alignment
with global economy depends on accurate recognition and recognizing conventional models
in the international economy. In economies that are mainly engaged in regulation of
economic communications within the system, globalism thinking and presence in
international arenas find less chance to emerge. The lack of comprehensive economic
thinking and management is a fundamental weakness in alignment with the process of
globalization. Sick economies with a variety of chronic diseases indicate the lack of strong
economic surgeons and thoughts. Poor economic management confrontation against universal
intellectuals is due to revealing weaknesses in greater arenas. Therefore, the unbalanced
structure in which a sector is abnormally greater than the usual and conventional sectors and
other sectors of economy have remained poor and weak, has led Iranian economy to
encounter serious constraints in alignment with the global economy. One problem with
Iranian economy is the lacking the appropriate and compatible legal context. These
regulations are about the fields of commercial regime of goods, commercial regime of
services, public and private ownership policies, the macroeconomic structure, the rules and
application technique of equipment's for defending the trade laws, the rules pertaining to
general purchase orders, competition rules, the structure and rules of the finance section,
telecommunications, transport, energy and agriculture, the structure of rules and regulations
of intellectual property rights and laws and regulations of investment. Non-efficiency of
strategies of economic liberalization, and especially the liberalization of financial markets;
inefficacy of policies and decisions that have been adopted to overcome obstacles ahead of
global trade; serious weaknesses in computerizing the economy and movement from
materials trade to trade of information; weaknesses in investment and technology are other
reasons which can be addressed in this context (Gasman, 2010).
At the sub-national level, the most important issue of Iran’s today and tomorrow is
undoubtedly the issue of ethnicity. Ethnic disparities in Iran today show themselves in
various arenas. Despite the efforts made in recent years for land preparation, including drawing the main outlines of the regions based on capabilities assessment and priorities, regional poverties elimination, empowerment of regional management, land preparation for establishment of population and activity across the territories as well as strengthening economic ties and the social-cultural solidarity of all Iranian people and ethnic groups settled in different areas and avoiding the continuation of economic marginalization of marginal areas and the need for their integration into the national economy, these inequalities continue to survive as a "difficulty". For example, findings and statistics in the economic sector suggests that the Kurdistan province has had a meager share in national economy and no significant change is found in this area in recent years (Nazis, 2012).

We have also witnessed different manifestations of such difficulties in Azerbaijan and Azeri people, Khuzestan and Arab people. One of the prominent manifestations of this phenomenon can be found in ethnic movements of these regions. Expert examination and opinion polls of the institute for cultural studies of Khuzestan showed that the main factor of movements which occurred in 2005 in Khuzestan province were the sense of economic deprivation and elimination of discrimination resulting from unequal distribution of employment opportunities, investment, implementation of national projects as well as respect to ethnic cultures and values.

Undoubtedly, the foreign security environment of Iran has also undergone deep and extensive changes after the agreement between Iran and 5+1 countries. Signing this contract entails a return to geopolitical conditions. In the process of this return, initiatives such as the great Eurasia and Greater Middle East will be considered on the imperialist agenda of great powers such as U.S.A and Iran is considered as the main and major obstacle for realizing these objectives. U.S.A knows well that if it wants to proceed with the Greater Middle East Project, first it should solve its problem with Islamism and is also aware that the key to solving Islamism is in the hands of Iran.

Therefore, in order to solve the problem of Iran, during the past 15 years, U.S.A considered a series of measures on the agenda of his government, the most important of which can be summarized in the following cases: Unilateral U.S. pressures on Iran has had continued since the beginning of Islamic revolution to the present. Among the most hostile U.S. actions against Iran are the laws that it has imposed and enforced for applying economic pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran. The most outstanding practical examples of U.S. measures are blocking all the assets of the Iranian central bank and the Iranian government within the United States, banning U.S. exports to Iran, banning the imports from Iran and travel restrictions to Iran for the U.S. citizens or their financial transactions with Iran. On this basis are the bans on arms sales to Iran, banning on importing Iranian goods to the U.S. the sanctions on any entity which helps Iran in the field of weapons of mass destruction and a destabilizing number of advanced conventional weapons. The ban on any kind of U.S. trade and investment in Iran, sanctions against business firms trading with Iran, sanctions against any kind of international bank or financial institutions, the punishment of individuals and entities involved in the transfer or supplying equipment and technology to Iran since January 1st 1999 are the other topics of these measures. Freezing the assets of the developers of weapons of mass destruction and their supporters and their financial isolation as false labels for justifying the sanctions against eight Iranian and non-Iranian companies included in this list, are the other attempts of the U.S government against Iran. U.S.A has had its unilateral pressures against Iran during the past three decades and not only they decreased but their intensity and depth have increased which is indicative of increased pressures against Iran.
Moreover, not only the U.S. hostility against Iran is not limited to economic issues (and specifically economic sanctions), but also covers a wide range of pressures, such as mass media propaganda, military threats, supporting sabotage and overthrow, cultural invasion, (cultural attack) and diplomatic pressures. Under the current circumstances, many European countries also believe that Iran will become a global and regional major security challenge in the coming years.

Materials and Methods
The research method in compilation of the present paper was direct reference to library resources and articles published in this field at national and international levels. Such that while using different sources, first the materials that somehow were related to the future of Iran and the Middle East were studied carefully and then the usable contents were recorded and then the notes were analyzed and finally after several displacements and editing the selected contents, this study took the current form.

Discussion and conclusions
From the above discussions, it can be concluded that a future full of vulnerabilities, threats and opportunities is waiting for humanity and Iranian community. It is expected that numerous social, economic and cultural issues such as the poverty, inflation, bribery and embezzlement, misconducts, and social and organizational chaos, loss of unity and social integration, reducing religious commitment and depletion of mosques, luxury, discouragement, mistrust, air pollution, environmental degradation, waste and wastefulness, drug shortages, drug abuse, favoritism, reduced production on the one hand, and deepening and intensification and density of political issues on the other hand effect on the future of Iranian people and society. No doubt, it is not the destined destiny of Iranian people and he can (and should) block the path of these damages and threats with appropriate and timely policies and decisions in his halfway and impose his will upon the future.

We mentioned that "the future is a mystery wrapped in those things that we've been accustomed to." Hobbes once said: "Nobody can have a picture of the future in his mind; because today is not the future. At the same time, we develop our future based on our impressions and images of our past." Based on a free impression of Ilia Periogoojin’s suggestion, we cannot predict the future, but we can help to shape it; because the future is the nature of things that have currently not documented. The future does not depend just on us, however a large scope lies within the hands of each of us and has shaped by a range of human actions.

Therefore looking at future, no matter how difficult that may be, is necessary, tempting and attractive. It is essential; because there are so many risks involved that even a little effort (for the future) is better than the lack of effort and activity and it is tempting and attractive; Because as human beings, we are curious and fascinated by engaged in feelings and challenges. The future only belongs to those who recognized this necessity on time and temptation and attraction of its "knowledge" and "construction" have engaged them to itself. History will forget those who do not attend to its changes and transformations and they will be captured in the warps and wefts of its dogmatism.

Therefore, according to Paul Valid, "The future is the same as building" But it should be noted that unlike the past where the facts and events have already occurred, the future is devoid of any kind of accidental accidents. This means that the future nature cannot be a subject of scientific knowledge. Hence the futurists are trying to pursue the future through
following its signs left in the "past" and "present". In other words, the futurist believes that "the future" is hidden within "the past" and "present".

However, as mentioned in the above lines, tracking the future in the past and present does not mean that the history is a single-line, evolutionary and constant matter. In other words, we cannot define future naturally along our past and present. But we can pause and think on the past and present to gain further experimental and theoretical means to harness the indomitable spirit of the future.
References