Introduction
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Japan with a population of 128 million and a total area of 380,000 sq km is one of the most densely populated among the major countries of the world. Energy security is a major foreign policy concern for this second largest economy. Although Japanese energy consumption is among the highest in the world, the country lacks significant domestic energy resources and most imports include substantial amount of crude oil, natural gas and other energy resources, including uranium for its nuclear power plants.

The high dependence on imported energy exposes Japan’s economy to disruptions in international energy markets. Japan’s reliance on the import of fuel and energy was felt more than ever after the Second World War when Japan tried to join the rank of the powerful industrialized countries. The occurrence of intermittent oil crises in the world and fluctuations in the oil supply or the prices of this strategic commodity in effect endangered the industrial policies of Japan. As a result, the Japanese policymakers tried to find a long term adjustments and solution to this problem.

Some of the measures taken in this regard included:

- Reduction of dependence on the imported energy by adopting austerity measures and reducing the energy consumption of the machines,
- Adopting oil storage policies,
- Using alternative energy sources,
- Diversifying the sources of oil supply,
- Adopting the diplomacy of resources to boost relations with the oil suppliers,
- Increasing exports and investments in oil exporting countries,
- And accompanied by international coalitions to protect regional and international security to save the routes of energy transformation.

These policies were evaluated from a kind of “dependency on great powers” model to a kind of “mutual interdependence with oil exporting countries” and then to a “participatory model” for fighting against destabilizing elements and factors in the world arena to maintain its energy security.

Nevertheless, now in the early years of the 21st century it seems that there is no considerable reduction in the dependence of Japan on the imported energy and raw
materials. Japan is now among the world’s top countries regarding its dependence on imported energy.

The main object of this thesis is to study the foreign policies and strategies of Japan in various stages for achieving energy efficiency and security and the impact of international system on those policies and strategies.

While studying the points mentioned above, the energy policies of one of the main oil purchasers of the world will be articulated, it will also clarify the ways for establishment of relations between Japan and the oil exporter countries - such as Iran. Also the Japanese experiments of energy security can be useful for many developing countries that their industrialization is based on energy importing.

Although energy issues are economic in nature, the international markets, international policies and diplomatic relations among the main international actors influence them. More than any other commodity, today oil as a strategic commodity has become political and is in a direct interaction with international system. This vital fuel, which is at times used as a political instrument, enjoys a special place in the economic policies of the producing countries and the security-economic strategies of the consuming countries.

This research is an attempt to elaborate the performance of Japan’s foreign policy both at regional and international levels in its attempt to maintain its energy security after the first oil shock in 1973 in a theoretical framework. Also Japan-Iran relationship will be discussed as a case study in this research.

**Review Literature**

A review literature of Japan’s foreign policy studies with an emphasis on energy security shows that there are four approaches.

a. One of them emphasizes the role of domestic politics and the social and cultural characters of Japanese politicians and institutes on the foreign policy making process.

- Dennis T. Yasutomo (1995) in his book, *The New Multilateralism in Japan’s Foreign Policy* analyses the importance of multilateral institutions for understanding Japanese diplomacy. This study is, therefore, an exploration of the behavioral and attitudinal roots of Japan’s twenty-first century foreign policy using ODA and
international organization policies as case studies with emphasis on Japan’s multilateralism policy toward the former Soviet Union 1989-1993. Although this book written, the mid 1990s, the author only points out the structural realism theories that belong to 1970s.

- Richard L. Grant (1997) in his edited book, *The Process of Japanese Foreign Policy; Focus on Asia* surveys developments in Japanese foreign policy in the light of internal factors. Kent Calder describes the institutions and organizations, both inside and outside government, which shape Japan’s diplomacy, while Masahide Shibusawa gives an overview of Japan’s historical interaction on the international stage and the legacy that colors contemporary Japanese foreign policy today. Finally, the attitudes of the Japanese public to the outside world and to international engagement are assessed, somewhat provocatively, by Jean-Pierre Lehmann.

- Bern Edstrom (1999) in his book, *Japan’s Evolving Foreign Policy Doctrine; from Yoshida to Miyazawa* noted Japan’s postwar foreign policy. In this study, foreign policy is seen to be inaugurated on 28 April 1952 and extends until 1993 when the one party dominance and rule of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) ended. The author tried to analyze the role of Japanese politicians and their policies – with emphasis on Yoshida doctrine – on the Japan’s foreign policy making.

- Akiko Fukushima (1999) in her book, *Japanese Foreign Policy; the Emerging Logic of Multilateralism* points out that in a new multipolar world, Japan is exploring ways to play a greater global role by implementing foreign policy with an emphasis on multilateralism to help maintain international peace and security. He urges that by emerging international relations amid regional conflicts in the post – Cold War era, Japan with its constitutionally sanctioned denunciation of war, is in a position to take on a real political leadership role in multilateral cooperation efforts to serve as the key to harmoniously link the scattered pieces of the magnificent global puzzle. So for analyzing Japan’s foreign policy from free rider to navigator, he focuses on the multilateralism in Japanese modern history.

b. Another approach; tells us that the basis of Japan’s foreign policy in the field of energy security is rooted in its economic and mercantilist policies.

- Rajaram Panda (1994) in his book, *Japan and the Third World: Political and Economic Interactions, 1980s-1990s* examines some aspects of Japan’s political and economic interactions with the third world. The focus of the book is on Japan’s historical involvement in the three regions of the third world: South, South East and
South West Asia. Panda points out that Japan's long-term objective is to integrate the economies of as many countries as possible in the entire Asian continent. Japan is doing this by inter-locking the economies of many countries by fostering trade, aid and investment and thereby developing inter-dependence among nations. He also notes that as the largest aid giver to the third world, Japan's future political and economic roles will be watched with considerable interests.


e. The third approach has focused on the effects of foreign factors on the Japan's foreign policy. This approach is categorized into two parts. One is based on the role of the United States and Japan relationships after the Second World War and the impact of this relation on energy security in Japan's foreign policy.

- Michael Jonathan Green (2003) in his book, *Japan's Reluctant Realism: Foreign Policy Challenges in an Era of Uncertain Power* notes that his book goes through the loose changes of Japanese foreign policy in the decade since the end of the Cold War. It recognizes that the bilateral relationship with the United States is the indispensable core of Japan's position in the world. However, the case studies in this book examine not U.S.-Japan bilateral trade and security negotiations per se, but rather how the United States and Japan interact in relations with peninsula, Russia and Central Asia, Southeast Asia, the international financial institutions, and international forums.

- Ulrike Schaede and William Grimes (2003) in their edited book, *Japan's Managed Globalization; Adapting to the Twenty-first Century* argue that rather than assuming a passive, compliant stance, Japan is trying to manage the effects of globalization with policies that are proactive and occasionally aggressive, and that result in permeable insulation to continue protection of domestic interests. They attend to the interactions between Japan-U.S. relationships and the process of globalization by analyzing case studies.

d. The other approach tries to analyze Japan's foreign relations with different countries (including oil producing countries), various regions and organizations during different periods from a historical perspective.

- William R. Nester (1992) in his book, *Japan and the Third World; Patterns, Power, Prospects* presents an overview of Japan's foreign policy, and concentrating on Japan's specific trade, investment and aid policies respectively. Also a separate
chapter addresses Japan’s diplomacy toward Middle East region. In this chapter the
author classifies a historical analysis about Japan’s political and economic
diplomacies in the Middle East during 1946-1973. But he does not pay enough
attention to the factors that were to cause transformations in this diplomacy during the
following decades.

Policy Today* seek to present a comprehensive picture of Japan’s foreign policy that
draws on, and where necessary critiques, earlier assessments, and expands analysis
with attention to policy developments particularly through the 1990s. They include
analysis of specific regional and bilateral relationships that they recognize as essential
for a comprehensive picture of the policy landscape. They also attend to the “official
development assistance- (ODA)” as one of the Japan’s foreign policy instruments.

- Only Glenn D. Hook, Julie Gilson, Christopher W. Hughes and Hugo Dobson
(2001) in their book, *Japan's International Relations; Politics, Economics and
Security* observe Japan’s Foreign Policy from an international political aspect and use
some theories such as realism, liberalism and constructivism. After presenting a
theoretical structure, they focus on the Japan’s bilateral relations with different
countries and regions in this structure.

In regard to Japan’s foreign policy in this aspect, general treaties deal with Japanese -
United States and other bilateral relations and specific issues and issue areas with
hardly any attention paid to the basic principles underlying foreign policy.
Indeed, from a theoretical point of view, there are only a few books that pay enough
attention to the structure of international system and its impact on Japan as an
important political unit.

With this respect, some of the most important books related to international relations
theories such as Robert O. Keohane and Joseph S. Nye’s book (1975), *Power and
Interdependence*, which has created a new area study for foreign relations between
developed and developing countries and also Kenneth N. Waltz’s book (1979),
*Theory of International Relations*, that emphasized on the neo-realism approach will
be used in theoretical chapter of this research.
Alexander Wendt’s book (1999) that called *Social Theory of International Politics*, is
another important resource for analyzing Japan’ foreign policy after the collapse of
USSR in the theoretical chapter of this research.
On the other hand, the main resources for other chapters are mostly primary resources that published by Middle Eastern section of Japan’s foreign ministry and the secondary data published by other researchers including academies and think tanks.

**Research Questions**

Research in the social science almost invariably involves the investigation of relationships between variables. This research is seeking to study the impact of independent variables up on dependent variables. In this study, theories are the dependent variables and empirical experiences are the independent variables. So, this research is to explain the relations between theoretical realities and empirical experiences on the foreign policymaking process in Japan to maintain its energy security. The main question of this research is:

Which models and approaches are the bases of Japan’s foreign policymaking about the issue of energy security after the first oil shock at the mid of 1970s?

Also the questions below will be answered:

- What are the events and elements that have impacted the transformation of approaches in Japan’s foreign policy regarding energy security?
- How has Japan’s foreign policy with respect to energy security transformed in different period?
- What are the main doctrines of Japan's foreign policy that help to improve these evolution processes?
- Where is the place of Iran – as one of the most important world energy producers – in Japan’s foreign policy for energy security?

**Hypothesis**

With respect to these questions, the major hypotheses are:

1. Japan’s approach in the realm of foreign policy making of energy security after the first oil shock at the mid of 1970s has been transformed in the framework of the
evolution of international systems from an increased dependency and reliance on multinational oil companies and major state powers to a model of mutual interdependency between Japan and the oil producing countries.

2. And after the collapse of USSR, Japan's foreign policy regarding energy security has been changed to a constructive participatory pattern which is a part of the process of globalizing values and identities.

3. With respect to constructive participatory pattern; Iran's stability and security is becoming increasingly important in Japan's foreign policy for energy security.

To prove these hypotheses international political theories will be used, especially neo-realism (with emphasis on Kenneth N. Waltz approach), interdependency theories of Robert O. Keohane and Joseph S. Nye and also constructivist theories from the Alexander Wendt's point of view.

It would be helpful to analyze the transformation, evolution and changes in the structure of international systems and their influences on the political units.

The next step is to analyze Japan’s regional and international strategies for energy security based on these theoretical structures during different periods mentioned before. Also, Japan-Iran relationships during those periods will be covered as a case study.

**Research Methods**

To understand the world, systems and processes and their effects on the foreign policies of different countries, we need to have a theoretical research that is empirically grounded. Then, deductive reasoning that is a form of reasoning in which, standing from certain general premises, a particular conclusion is reached will be used.

Avoiding using inductive methods is for the reason that a theory can be tested by experience but there is no way from experience to the setting up of a theory. To claim that it is possible to arrive at a theory inductively is to claim that we can understand phenomena before the means for their explanation are contrived.

The study will be based on primary and secondary data published by public and private research institutes and organizations both in Japan and Iran. The information
will also be obtained from articles, journals and books published on related issues. The primary information will be obtained from the corporate, government and non-governmental offices.

Also, this will be a multidisciplinary study, which uses different area studies such as foreign policy, energy economy, history, security issues, international politics and geopolitics.

And finally, the methodology of this study will be based on a mix of analytical methods and theoretical perspectives.