THESIS ABSTRACT

This research attempts to study principles and reasons for formation of crises and conflicts which had great influences in lack of development in ECO region including the case of development in tourism. It also tries to observe attitudes and roles of different foreign powers in this backwardness and lack of development. Eventually, through studying and analyzing the current situation, it tries to suggest solutions to overcome the problems and for improving development of Tourism.

In order to meet its objectives, this research has been divided into seven chapters. On this basis, in the first chapter which includes “Introduction” of research, the main structure of thesis is discussed. According to this theoretical introduction and considering the subject of research, it was decided to mention the background of tourist industry, definition of tourism and also introduction of different branches of tourism.

The third chapter deals with the region that is studied. This region which today covers ten countries namely Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Iran, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Kirgizstan and Kazakhstan includes a very important part of the world which is significant in many different aspects. Existence of great sources of energy, strategic location, high population, vast territory, various climates and existence of different nations, etc. are elements that attract any specialist. Chapter four of this study deals with studying political structure of countries in ECO region. Hence, it was necessary to have a look at theories of formation of government and their governing methods from earlier periods until now. These theories and governing methods are products and results of natural and political geography in any region and governments of any region contain one or some features of these theories. Countries of ECO region are also followers of these principles.

The fifth chapter deals with another element which had remarkable influence in backwardness of the region. This section studies culture and is divided into two parts. In the first part progress of religion in ECO region is discussed.
In the second part of this section, nationalism and its influence has been discussed. Mainly, nationalism is looked upon as a positive element. Perhaps we could say that it is true in mono ethnic societies but in the case of ECO region with its different ethnic nations and non-developed level of people’s thoughts and their radical understandings of nationalism, this has turned into a destructive force.

The external elements and their influences have been discussed in the sixth chapter. This chapter is divided into several parts. First, political, economic and military capacities and potentials of this region are mentioned. We must say that crude oil, natural gas and the way of transferring them to global markets are among the greatest potentials of ECO region which attract everybody’s attention, although it is impossible to ignore other factors such as strategic location and existence of radical religious movements. At the end of this part, views of global players have been mentioned.

The present research, in general, tries to introduce and analyze, in a realistic mode, the historical changes that have happened in the ECO region. Although these changes have happened in the past, re-analyzing them with the aim of identifying areas, in order to present appropriate solutions for preventing the process of non-development in the region including that of tourism, is of great importance.