

The Role of Conflict of Interest between Iran and Azerbaijan in their Convergence and Divergence in 2000 - 2017

Ali Panahi hasan Barough*,

In many cases, international bias and the behavior of the foreign policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan indicated a divergence towards Iran and a tendency to transcendental powers. More generally, during the examination of the foreign behavior of this country and its foreign relations, the point that is clearly raised is the divergent aspects of the external behavior of the Republic of Azerbaijan towards its neighbors, especially Iran, Turkmenistan, and also the implied resistance to Russia's activities and interests. This study aimed to provide a better analysis of relationships and an understanding of the role of various factors, in particular national interests, in the policy bias of Iran and Azerbaijan by using the analysis of the opportunities and challenges of the relationship between the two countries and its implications, has attempted to investigate the commonalities and differences in the national interests of Iran and Azerbaijan during the period of 2002-2019 and determine the framework for explaining the divergence intensification in their relations. The methodology of the current study was to identify the factors influencing divergence expansion in Iran-Azerbaijan interrelationship, the use of historical records and statistical documentation along with the analysis of the ups and downs and the political, security, economic, cultural and environmental challenges. The results indicated that conflicting policies in the fields of politics, security, economics, culture and the environment and the actions taken on these policies have played a very important role in the divergence of the two countries. Therefore, it was concluded that despite the maritime and land boundary between Iran and Azerbaijan, as well as the cultural and religious, ethnic and linguistic shared, the relations between the two countries were weak. The findings also demonstrated that Azerbaijan due to its geopolitical position and the perceived challenges and threats of its surroundings, has tended

more the outside of the region and toward countries and blocs that have traditionally been in serious controversy with the powers of the Caspian region, Russia and Iran.

Keywords : International bias, political challenges, foreign policy, convergence, divergence

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