


Future Scenarios for the Effects of Emerging Movements on the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Fifth Decade

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Abstract

Purpose: In the present study, the subject of scenarios of the effect of emerging movements on the Islamic Republic of Iran in the fifth decade of the Islamic Revolution was studied with the aim to Identify future studies about the most important emerging movements in Iranian society and the effects of these movements that will be happened in the fifth decade of the Islamic Revolution in form of the scenarios.

Method: Semi-structured interviews with elites as well as the new scenario method (critical uncertainties) were used to achieve the goals by document analysis research method.

Findings: two cases of drivers (Democracy Movement and New Lifestyle Movement) which were more important according to the elites, were selected by recognition of the drivers and the existing uncertainties which four scenarios were proposed.

Conclusion: according to the uncertainties in relation to each of the drivers that two scenarios refers to making important and fundamental changes by drivers and two scenarios refers to the control of the consequences of these drivers by the system of the Islamic Republic.

Keywords: Emerging Movements, Scenario, Islamic Revolution, Islamic Republic.

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Introduction

The emergence of social movements are the important challenges during the rise of social media. These social movements are formed, organized and engaged in activism in the context of social media. The most emergence of social movements has been happening for everyday life and lifestyle. In a few words, the most-important feature of the emergence of social movements are leaderless, non-ideological, and lacking in clear organizational structures. On the basis of some experts' opinion, these movements have been mentioned as Postmodernism (Rahbari, 2013), the survey on the emergence of social movements in Iranian society faces complexities with the accumulation of motions, many of which are known as new motions or even as classic ones. In short, by not achieving the tags over the years, it continues to flow under the skin of Iranian society. Also, relationship between classic and modern movements with social media and the emerging movements have made a special form on the emergence of the movements, in which the demands of modern or classical movements emerge in a frame and by using tools.

Social movements are among the important feature challenges of the Islamic revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran, which can play an important role in its evolution. Therefore, recognition of the emergence of social movements and the designing of scenarios of its possible effects on the Islamic Republic of Iran in the fifth decade of revolution can be operational in how to face, control and manage these movements.

The current study is based on the emergence of social movements and grasping of the movements' impacts on the future of Islamic Republic of Iran. Therefore, the basic question of the current research is the impacts of these movements in the Fifth decade of Islamic revolution on Islamic Republic of Iran.

Methodology

The methodology in the current research can be explained based on the six-main layers of Research Onion Model assignment. The Onion model includes different interrelated processing steps (Saunders *et al.* 2009).

The approach taken in using the research onion framework in the first stage, research philosophy and ontology, is placed under sense-making and interpretive research. According to Onion model, in the second stage either inductive or deductive can be used which the inductive approach is applied by gathering detailed data and making relationship between the information to reach effective and general result. In the strategy step which is the third stage, our study is descriptive and case study. The fourth step refers to the type of data which are qualitative, quantitative or both together. Generally, the gathered data of the current research are all qualitative ones. Also, the fifth stage has been dependent on to the time frame with future prospective. The last step explains gathering data approach which we collected data using two assessment methods, including first class documents and valuable secondary sources as well as semi-structured interviews with elites and experts. Finally, scenarios are designed using Peter Schwartz's scenario planning.

Findings

The most important of the emergence of social movements in Iranian society includes: democracy movement, women's movement, new lifestyle movement and movement for seeking justice (Poroli, 1401). According to the opinions of the interviewed elites, Democracy and new lifestyle based on higher "importance" and "uncertainty" indicators have been recognized as more important influencing factor in shaping the future and impacting on the Islamic Republic of Iran in the fifth decade of the Islamic Revolution.

According to the engines and the current uncertainties, four scenarios in relation to the impacts of the emergence movements on the Islamic Republic of Iran in the fifth decade of the Islamic revolution was achieved.

The first scenario: changing the structure and governance style as a result of the democracy movement

Based on this scenario, the pro-democracy movement expands the scope of activism by taking action in portions of cyberspace and will promote the plans and actions more. Also, by this method will increase the range of its impacts on the political orientations and actions of the sector and eventually will lead to affect a significant number of people in the community. Considering that this movement arose out of the society and represents a part of the society because it is inclusive and popular. So, it has a high power and influence and eventually it will force the Islamic Republic to reform in the view of this movement. Giving in to the demands of the pro-democracy movement is equal to distancing oneself from the beliefs, the religion and ideology of the Islamic revolution and will be close to the style of Western democracy.

The second scenario: control and management of the demands and consequences of the democracy movement by the Islamic Republic

Based on this scenario, the demands and actions of the democracy movement on the part of the Islamic Republic system will be managed in a favorable way. Also, it's necessary to carry out reforms in the superficial layers of the system to increase the efficiency and participation of the people in political and social affairs that these actions will take place on the basis of this scenario and the demands of the Democracy movement that does not conflict with values and beliefs will be accepted. In this scenario it is assumed that the system of the Islamic Republic will put reform at the top of its agenda.

The third scenario: the change of Iran's social and cultural system due to the movement of new lifestyles.

The movement of new lifestyles will put important changes on Iran's cultural and social system. According to this scenario, it will change not only in the superficial layers but also in its deep and fundamental layers. Given that most of the sources of inspiration in the movement of new lifestyles, they are Western and especially American; this scenario is based on westernization and distance from the ideal of the Islamic revolution refers to the return to the true and historical identity of the Iranian nation. Based on this scenario, the republican Islamic system will be unable to realize the cultural goals of the Islamic revolution and its cultural programs will be against the increasing trend of globalization.

Fourth scenario: Inability to make important and fundamental changes by the movement of new lifestyles.

In this scenario, considering the rich Iranian Islamic culture as a great culture with religious and deep value roots, the basic assumption is that the movement of new lifestyles, the ability to create change and transform in deep layers.

Fundamentally, it does not have this culture, and its cultural influence does not go beyond the superficial layers of Iranian Islamic culture. Based on this scenario, as the Iranian Islamic culture throughout history, despite the superficial influence, the invading cultures has absorbed and digested in itself and it will do the same in the face of western culture.

Conclusion

The purpose of this research was researching the impacts of the emergence of social movements on the Islamic Republic of Iran in the fifth decade of the revolution, Islamic and presenting scenarios regarding its future. Among the four emergence movements including pro-democracy, women, new lifestyles and seeking justice, democratic and new lifestyles movements from the point of view of the elites has the significant impact. So, these movements are more influential on the future of the Islamic Republic and the Islamic Revolution. Hence, these two movements as the main factors were considered in developing the scenarios and by identifying the uncertainties of four scenarios to answer the questions of this research.

The first scenario that observes the democratization movement is the change in the structure and manner of governance as a result of the movement. It also considers democratization for the developments of the next decade. The second scenario according to the existing uncertainties in relation to how the confrontation of the Islamic Republic with the pro-democracy movement, on the control and management of the demands and consequences of the pro-democracy movement that is indicated by the republican system. The third scenario is related to the movement of new lifestyles, changing the social system and Iran's culture. This scenario is considered possible as a result of the movement of new leaders of life, and the fourth leader is based on the existence of cultural elements.

The confusion and depth that exists in Iranian society is due to the inability to make important and fundamental changes through the movement of new leaders.

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