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A Political-Economic Perspective on The Impact of Energy Resources on the International System*

Enerji Kaynaklarının Uluslararası Sistem Üzerindeki Etkisine Politik-Ekonomik Bir Bakış

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze the impact of energy resources on the international system from a political-economic perspective. The core research problem focuses on understanding the multifaceted effects of energy resources on economic growth, security, and international relations. The study examines the role of energy trade in shaping economic balances and explores how fluctuations in energy prices influence production costs and international trade dynamics. Furthermore, it highlights the central position of energy supply security in national security policies and emphasizes the strategic importance of protecting energy infrastructure.Methodologically, the study employs literature review and comparative analysis to investigate the interrelations among energy, security, economy, and politics. The findings reveal that geopolitical competition in energy-rich regions escalates tensions in international relations, while energy diplomacy directs foreign policy and fosters the establishment of strategic alliances and international cooperation. Additionally, energy policies contribute to countries consolidating their power in the international arena and gaining economic advantages.The study underscores that energy policies are one of the most critical issues facing the modern world at both national and global levels. The protection of energy resources, securing energy transmission, and nations' efforts to gain economic leverage through energy shape the dynamics of the international system. In this context, analyzing the political-economic impacts of energy resources offers valuable insights for the design of future energy policies.

Keywords: International System, Energy, Security, Politics, Economics.

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Özet

Bu çalışma, enerji kaynaklarının uluslararası sistem üzerindeki etkilerini politik-ekonomik bir perspektiften incelemeyi amaçlamaktadır. Enerji kaynaklarının ekonomik büyüme, güvenlik ve uluslararası ilişkiler üzerindeki çok yönlü etkilerini anlamak, çalışmanın temel problematiğini oluşturmaktadır. Çalışmada, enerji ticaretinin ekonomik dengeler üzerindeki rolü, enerji fiyatlarındaki dalgalanmaların üretim maliyetlerine ve uluslararası ticaret dengelerine etkisi detaylı bir şekilde ele alınmıştır. Ayrıca, enerji arz güvenliğinin ulusal güvenlik politikalarındaki merkezi konumu ve enerji altyapısının korunmasının stratejik önemi vurgulanmıştır. Metodolojik olarak, literatür taraması ve karşılaştırmalı analiz yöntemleri kullanılarak enerji, güvenlik, ekonomi ve politika arasındaki ilişkiler incelenmiştir. Çalışmada enerji zengini bölgelerdeki jeopolitik rekabetin uluslararası ilişkilerdeki gerilimleri artırdığı ve enerji diplomasisinin ülkelerin dış politikalarını yönlendirdiği bulgularına ulaşılmıştır. Ayrıca, enerji politikalarının stratejik ittifakların kurulmasına ve uluslararası iş birliğinin güçlenmesine katkıda bulunduğu tespit edilmiştir. Çalışma, enerji politikalarının hem ulusal hem de küresel düzeyde modern dünyanın karşılaştığı en önemli meselelerden biri olduğunu ortaya koymaktadır. Enerji kaynaklarının korunması, enerji iletiminin güvenliğinin sağlanması ve bu süreçte ülkelerin ekonomik avantaj kazanma çabaları, uluslararası sistemin dinamiklerini şekillendiren başlıca unsurlar olarak öne çıkmaktadır. Bu bağlamda, enerji kaynaklarının politik-ekonomik etkilerinin analiz edilmesi, gelecekteki enerji politikalarının tasarlanmasına yönelik önemli katkılar sunmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Uluslararası Sistem, Enerji, Güvenlik, Politika, Ekonomi.

Introduction

Energy resources have long been a cornerstone of global economic and political dynamics, profoundly influencing the contours of international relations and power structures. From the dawn of the industrial revolution to the modern era, the control, distribution, and consumption of energy resources such as oil, natural gas, and coal have played pivotal roles in shaping the geopolitical landscape. The strategic importance of these resources extends beyond their economic value, affecting national security, foreign policy, and international trade. Countries rich in energy resources often wield significant geopolitical power, while energy-dependent nations must navigate complex alliances and rivalries to secure their energy needs.

The industrial revolution marked the beginning of a new era in which energy resources became central to economic development and military power. Coal, and later oil, fueled the engines of industrialization, transforming economies and societies. The ability to harness these resources effectively became synonymous with economic prosperity and military might. As a result, countries with abundant energy resources gained significant leverage in the international arena, while those lacking these resources were compelled to develop strategies to secure their energy supply.

The 20th century saw the rise of oil as the dominant energy resource, with its influence permeating every aspect of international politics. The discovery of vast oil reserves in the Middle East, North America, and other regions reshaped the geopolitical landscape. Control over these reserves became a critical objective for major powers, leading to a series of political maneuvers, alliances, and conflicts. The strategic importance of oil was underscored by its role in both World Wars, where access to oil resources was crucial for military success.

The post-World War II era witnessed the formalization of energy politics through the establishment of institutions and agreements aimed at regulating the global energy market. The creation of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in 1960 marked a significant development in the global oil industry. OPEC's ability to influence oil prices and production levels demonstrated the collective power of oil-producing nations and highlighted the interconnectedness of global energy markets. The oil embargo of 1973, orchestrated by OPEC, further emphasized the geopolitical significance of energy resources, as it led to a global energy crisis with far-reaching economic and political repercussions.

The Cold War period saw energy resources becoming a central element in the rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union. Both superpowers sought to secure their energy supplies while denying their adversaries access to critical resources. This period was marked by a series of geopolitical maneuvers, including the United States' support for regimes in oil-rich regions and the Soviet Union's efforts to control energy resources in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 brought about a new era in global energy politics, with the emergence of newly independent states in the energy-rich Caspian region and the liberalization of energy markets in Eastern Europe.

In recent decades, the global energy paradigm has been undergoing significant transformations. The rise of renewable energy sources, technological advancements, and increasing environmental awareness have begun to alter the traditional dynamics of energy politics. The transition towards a more sustainable energy future presents new challenges and opportunities for international actors. The increasing prominence of climate change on the global agenda has prompted a shift towards

cleaner energy sources, such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power. This transition is driven by the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate the impacts of climate change, and achieve energy security.

The growing adoption of renewable energy sources is reshaping the geopolitical landscape in several ways. First, it is reducing the reliance on fossil fuels and the associated geopolitical risks. Countries that have historically been dependent on oil and gas imports are now exploring alternative sources of energy to enhance their energy security. This shift is also reducing the influence of traditional energy exporters, such as OPEC member states, as the global demand for oil and gas declines. Second, the transition to renewable energy is creating new economic opportunities and technological innovations. Countries that invest in renewable energy technologies are positioning themselves as leaders in the emerging green economy, attracting investments and fostering economic growth.

However, the transition to renewable energy is not without its challenges. The development and deployment of renewable energy technologies require significant investments, infrastructure, and policy support. Countries must navigate complex regulatory frameworks, market dynamics, and technological barriers to achieve their renewable energy goals. Additionally, the intermittency and variability of renewable energy sources pose challenges for grid stability and energy storage. Addressing these challenges requires international cooperation, innovation, and strategic planning.

The geopolitical implications of the energy transition are profound, as new power centers may emerge, and existing energy-dependent alliances may be reshaped. Countries that lead in renewable energy technologies and investments are likely to gain significant geopolitical influence, while those that lag behind may face economic and strategic disadvantages. The shift towards a more diversified energy mix is also creating new opportunities for regional cooperation and integration. For example, cross-border energy projects, such as interconnecting electricity grids and developing regional energy markets, are fostering collaboration and enhancing energy security.

Moreover, the political-economic impact of energy resources will continue to be a critical factor in international relations. Nations will need to navigate the complexities of energy diplomacy, balancing their economic interests with environmental commitments and geopolitical strategies. The future of global energy politics will be defined by how effectively countries manage these interdependencies and adapt to the changing energy landscape.

Energy resources remain a fundamental element of the international system, influencing economic stability, national security, and geopolitical power. Understanding the political-economic dynamics of energy resources is essential for comprehending the broader trends shaping global politics. As the

world moves towards a more sustainable energy future, the ability of nations to adapt to these changes will determine their strategic positioning and influence in the international arena. The ongoing evolution of energy politics underscores the need for a nuanced and comprehensive approach to addressing the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Political-Economic Situation Of Energy Resources In Historical Context

Energy resources have gained more importance in the world market in parallel with the increase in globalization and the shaping of the global division of labor in line with globalization. When the economic situation in the international system is examined, the importance of resources is seen. In the new world order, the economic position in energy resources, as in all kinds of commodities, is directly reflected in international politics. The acceleration of the colonial race due to the increasing need for resources after the industrial revolution, colonialism reaching different dimensions due to the increased need for labor, energy directing international alliances, international issues regarding the control of energy basins, etc. These are some of the early examples of this (Şengöz,2019).

The impact of energy resources on global relations and global order is generally evaluated in terms of dependency. The competition of developed countries dependent on energy resources to meet their needs also determines the position of energy resources in the international political system. As Volkan Ediger underlines in his study on energy addiction; Especially in the period after the industrial revolution, the relationship between world leadership and ownership of energy resources has become clearer. While England stood out as the superpower of the period in the 19th century due to its coal resources, the USA, which pioneered the discovery and use of oil as an energy source, became a superpower due to its oil resources, especially after 1945 (Ediger, 2007, p.32). Although having energy resources is not the only factor in this transition process, it stands out as the dominant factor due to its benefits.

Many of the conflicts that have emerged at the international or regional level since the early 1900s have arisen for energy-political reasons. Although energy-politics does not stand out as the first reason for most of these conflicts, it is one of the main reasons or an important factor that comes into the equation in the continuation of the processes. Energy-political crises that have occurred since the 1900s and resulted in conflict can be listed as follows: World War I, World War II, Korean Crisis, Cuban Crisis, Palestine Issue, Congo Crisis, Vietnam War, Cyprus Issue, Arab-Israeli War, Soviet - Afghan War, US-Afghan War, First Gulf War, Second Gulf War, Iranian Regime Change, Caucasus Events, Iran-Iraq War, East Timor Issue, Suez Crisis, US invasion of Iraq, Syrian Crisis, Russia's Attempt to invade Ukraine (Olçar, 2010, p.99). Energy-politics plays an important role in all of these crises that reach the level of war or hot conflict. The role of energy-politics in these crises emphasizes

the importance of the energy phenomenon in world politics. Energy resources, which are generally evaluated from their economic aspects, are in a strategic position that should also be evaluated in terms of their political impact in the international system.

All crises involving energy resources directly or indirectly have affected world politics in various dimensions. One of the most important economic reasons for World War I was the possession of rich coal deposits in the Alsace-Lorraine Region. The region, which was under the control of France until 1871 during World War I, came under the control of Germany after the Battle of Sedan in 1871. The fact that Germany, which has achieved its political integrity, supports this with the industrial production brought by a large energy source stands out as a situation that conflicts with the interests of other European powers. These countries were on opposing fronts with Germany in World War I, both because France wanted to take back the region and because England wanted to establish hegemony over the energy resources in the region. Later, other countries joined various sides in line with their interests, leading to a worldwide conflict (Acun, 1949, p.145). This conflict caused new balances of power to be formed around the world and some empires disappeared from the stage of history and were replaced by their successors. Although having energy resources is an important reason for war, the need for energy resources has increased even more in the post-war period in order to remove the debris caused by the war and to redevelop. The economic crises and political polarization that emerged in this context were important factors that paved the way for World War II.

The race to own energy resources was revived immediately after the war, despite the devastating effects of World War I, and was especially sparked by the coming to power of the German National Socialist Workers' Party (Nazi) led by Adolf Hitler in Germany, which was the losing side, and the industrial development program they put forward. On the other hand, Japan's invasion of Manchuria in order to possess energy resources and its confrontation with China can be described as the footsteps of a new global crisis caused by the desire to possess energy resources. These developments and industrial developments that emerged in the early 1930s increased the need for energy resources and continued as new resources such as oil began to replace coal due to their high efficiency. The increasing need for resources and other reasons led to the outbreak of World War II. At the very beginning of the war, Germany occupied the Alsace-Lorainne region, which had rich coal deposits, which it had lost in World War I, and during the war, its attacks or attack plans to seize regions with rich energy resources under the control of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) and Iran, which had energy resources. It reveals how much the race for success affects the war (Yergin, 1955, p. 383).

The race between the USA and the USSR, which emerged as two great powers and two separate poles after the world wars, was not limited to energy resources only; It has become an ongoing race in politics, economy, security and even social life. Of course, in this race, many crises have occurred in the name of owning or managing energy resources. These crises sometimes occurred at the point of energy supply security, sometimes demand security and sometimes transit security. The struggle for direct possession of the resource in the world wars has now become more strategic during the Cold War, and the struggle to own the resource, prevent access to the resource, reduce the resource, etc. It has started to show its impact in many areas such as. The fact that the struggle has reached such a strategic dimension and is reflected in this way today are indicators of when the phenomenon of energy security began to take shape with clear lines in the international political and economic arena.

The Korean War is the first example of how crises in history can be related to energy, not only in trying to possess energy resources but also in the form of moves aimed at preventing rivals from accessing energy. The Korean War is an important crisis that occurred at the beginning of the Cold War period, with the aim of surrounding each other and cutting off the connection paths of the poles that emerged after World War II. Many economic and political reasons lie behind this war. However, one of the most striking reasons for the war is the interruption of access to energy resources. Korea is of great importance to the world energy market not because of its energy resources but because of its location. One of the main reasons for the war in Korea, which is geographically located right on the oil and gas transportation route of the USSR, was the aim of cutting off the territorial connection of the USSR with the outside world due to America's Containment policy (İnat et al., 2007, p.193). Similarly, Cuba is a region where the strategies of the poles are concentrated due to its geographical proximity to the USA and political proximity to the USSR. Therefore, the Cuban crisis, similar to Korea, is a crisis of the USA aimed at surrounding the USSR and cutting off energy flow routes. As a matter of fact, in the period until 1991, commercial relations in the form of the exchange of oil and agricultural products were established and developed between Cuba and the USSR (Kocaoğlu, 1996, p.128).

The Korean and Cuban crises involve important energy-political strategies during the Cold War. The crises experienced in these two regions had an extremely negative impact on the USSR's energy trade under the conditions of the period. The geography where direct conflicts and disagreements between the two poles regarding energy resources and energy security occurred during the Cold War period is the "Middle East". Especially after World War II, the richness of the energy resources in the region and the political atmosphere that attracted the super powers to dominate the region made the region a center of attraction for conflicts over energy resources. Because the Middle East is a geography where many reckonings other than energy continue, due to being the starting point of the first

civilizations and heavenly religions, its ancient history, traditional structure and demography. Since the main actors of the period were aware of this situation, they tried to design the Middle East in a way that would provide optimum benefit, especially in the period after World War II.

Kocaoğlu focused on the strategies of the great powers in the Middle East in his study, in which he examined in detail the strategic importance of energy resources and the conflicts caused by the ongoing struggle for these resources. Kocaoğlu made important claims on this subject in his study. According to him, while the problem between Israel and Palestine appears in the literature as a struggle for existence on both sides, the establishment of Israel and the emergence of conflicts with Palestine are America's need for a satellite state that will guard the energy resources in the Middle East and strengthen its strategy (Kocaoğlu, 1994, p.43). In short, energy stands out as one of the biggest factors in the background of the Palestine problem. The anti-Israeli sentiment that has developed in the Middle East, the crises that have occurred as a result of this, and the ties of these crises with energy resources reveal this situation.

Israel has played an important role in reshaping the energy equation in the Middle East geography. Disagreements and conflicts with the Arab geography resulted in wars and these wars had important consequences for the parties. The biggest consequence of the Israeli-Arab conflict in terms of energy was the 1973 OAPEC (Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries) oil crisis. The crisis that occurred on October 15, 1973, when the Arab countries imposed an oil embargo on the West after the USA and other western powers helped Israel in the Yom Kippur War with the Arabs, had a great impact not only on the West but also on the whole world. OPEC's (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) indirect participation in this embargo by increasing prices has increased the global effects of the crisis to irreparable levels. This crisis, which caused economic stagnation until the 1980s, perhaps for the first time realized the importance of alternative energy sources or alternative supply centers for the world market. The capital contribution of the crisis in question to the Arab world and other OPEC countries has been at an undeniable level, but it has also contributed to the West's aggressive and invasive attitude towards them in terms of international politics and security, increasing occupation and instability (Örki, 2019).

The OPEC oil crisis has opened a new page in relations between the Western World and the Middle East. Due to the regional and global energy-political situation of the period, its reflections on the future were in the form of wars fought or made to be made for energy resources. The Middle East has become the center of regime changes, occupations and social unrest after the 1970s. The Islamic Revolution in Iran, which took place in 1979, was the manifestation of anti-Western sentiment in the Middle East in the form of state propaganda, and this revolution deeply affected the world energy

market because Iran was an actor with rich oil fields. Although the price increases in oil, one of the products with the largest share in the Iranian economy, kept the economy alive for a while, the subsequent and still ongoing embargoes left Iran in a difficult situation (Gündoğan, 2011). After the Islamic Revolution in Iran, wars occurred one after another in the Middle East geography, almost all of these wars emerged for energy-political reasons.

Important regions that have become ancient centers of international conflict and tension due to their energy resources are generally located in the Middle East. One of the most important of these regions is Cyprus. Cyprus was discovered in B.C. due to its geopolitical and geostrategic importance. From 10000's until today; It has been the focus of attention of all civilizations due to the advantages it provides in military, political and economic fields (Solsten, 1995, p.5).

Cyprus came to the fore due to its energy resources, among other areas, in the middle of the Cold War. The oil exploration agreement, first signed between the Greek Cypriot Administration and Egypt in 1979, brought the already existing conflict over Cyprus to the energy dimension. In response to this behavior of the Greek administration, the then TRNC leader Rauf Denktaş warned that this initiative of the Greeks in the Mediterranean could result in war, and the tension was reduced with the UN initiative. However, in the early 2000s, energy resources in the Eastern Mediterranean basin came to the agenda again, and therefore, the issue of accepting the island as a whole to the European Union (EU) within the scope of the Annan plan came to the agenda. At this time, the Greek administration determined exclusive economic zones in the region by making various agreements with Egypt, Israel, Lebanon and Syria (Örnek and Mızrak, 2016, p.14-19).

Turkiye did not remain indifferent to all these developments and took serious steps to protect its economic rights in the region by taking the necessary political and diplomatic actions (Ayata, 2017a). The note given to Lebanon led Lebanon to delay ratifying the agreement; However, Israel and Egypt continued to act together with the Greek Cypriot Administration of Southern Cyprus (GCASC). From the early 2000s to 2011, many agreements were made and energy exploration activities in the Mediterranean basin continued limited to exclusive economic zones. However, the last straw was when the Greek Cypriot Administration granted an oil and natural gas exploration license to the US energy company Noble Energy in the Aphrodite Region, which was unilaterally declared by the Greek Cypriot Administration in 2011. Thereupon, the Turkish side announced that ships belonging to the Turkish Petroleum Corporation (TPAO) would start operating in the Mediterranean accompanied by warships, and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) gave TPAO an exploration license in the Cyprus sea area (Örnek and Mızrak, 2016, p.14 -19).

All of these developments, which fuel the Cyprus problem, stem from the uneasiness of Western states regarding energy supply security. It is seen that EU countries, which continue their search for alternative sources of natural gas due to their dependence on Russia, support their partners, the Greek Cypriot Administration of Southern Cyprus, by directing their companies to the region. However, Turkiye's determined stance in the region and the level it has reached in energy exploration activities make things difficult for the Greek Cypriot Administration. Disputes in the region endanger energy supply security and invite energy crises. Russia's use of its resources as if they were a strategic weapon in every political tension and problems in supply security have the potential to drag Europe into greater crises. Europe is currently experiencing a crisis caused by disruptions in energy supply due to the Russia-Ukraine war, which started in 2021 and has not ended yet. In order to end this crisis and prevent new crises, it is essential for Europe and other energy-dependent countries to start using alternative resources as soon as possible. At this point, it is necessary and important from a regional perspective to start using the energy resources in Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean basin as soon as possible. Effective use of these resources and their contribution to the economy is only possible by resolving political crises as soon as possible and ensuring an environment of regional stability and trust (Stavris, 2012, p.94).

The Cyprus issue has become an international issue rather than just an issue between Turks and Greeks due to its energy resources. In fact, it is possible to say that the Eastern Mediterranean basin has become an increasingly tense area of struggle in terms of energy-politics due to its energy potential and the diversity of actors. At this point, it is possible to make various inferences based on Israel's situation in the region, which was also included in Kocaoğlu's (1996) ideas. Israel, which is an important actor in America's strategic implementation in the Middle East, carries out a kind of balance policy in line with its interests by maintaining its distance from the parties in the Mediterranean energy equation. This situation is also evident from the statements of Israeli Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz regarding the energy presence in the Mediterranean in 2016. Steinitz stated that Turkiye is of great importance for Israel's economic interests, especially as it is located on the transit route in terms of energy exports, but on the other hand, Israel's exclusive economic zone agreements with the Greek Cypriot Administration of Southern Cyprus and joint exploration efforts continue (Erdil, 2016, p.1). In short, the Cyprus issue, just like the Palestine-Israel issue, has many strategic equations related to energy in its background.

The 21st century, like the 20th century, has been a dynamic period in terms of energy and politics, and this dynamism continues. The need for energy, which was one of the triggers of World War I, also paved the way for international conflicts and wars at the beginning of the 21st century. The most striking of the initial conflicts was the US invasion of Iraq. Although the potential danger posed by

the Saddam Regime was cited as the reason for the war, its energy resources and the desire to control the Persian Gulf played a major role in the invasion of Iraq. Because the whole world witnessed how Iraq used these two assets in the 1990s. This situation also justifies the thesis that America invaded to eliminate an actor it sees as a potential danger. Iraq, which Bush occupied within the scope of his preventive war doctrine, is actually a part of his long-term energy strategy in the Middle East. Russia and China's calculations regarding oil in Iraq are also important behind-the-scenes reasons for the US invasion. Because Russia's role in the world oil supply; China is also highly dependent on Iraqi oil as it plans to strengthen OPEC as its influence declines further. In other words, the US invasion of Iraq means both domination of the oil fields and a significant intimidation to competitors. The invasion of Iraq, the first energy-political incident of the 21st century, has become an incident that significantly threatens international security due to the regional and global security problems it caused (Pamir, 2003, p.17-27).

The invasion of Iraq, which is considered as a part of America's 'Greater Middle East Project'; It has produced many consequences in terms of social, economic and international security. While the biggest economic consequence was the fluctuation in oil prices, the implementation of the BOP in terms of international security stood out as a disturbing situation for America's global competitors. BOP disturbed important actors in the global energy market, especially Russia, and countries that are highly dependent on Middle Eastern oil, especially China (Ayanoğlu, 2013).

Developments in the Middle East have threatened the world energy market in terms of security many times and continue to do so. The Middle East geography, which is especially rich in terms of oil resources, will continue to maintain its strategic importance for the world energy market if dependence on oil continues. Although the actors in the international system have focused on policies to reduce oil dependence for environmental and economic reasons, it cannot be said that there has been a significant decrease in dependence yet.

The 21st century is a century that has started to be active in terms of energy, as well as a century in which the international energy market has started to use other resources that can be alternatives to oil. Natural gas comes first among these resources. Natural gas use, which started to increase significantly since the early 2000s, increased by almost 50% in the first twenty years. This is a result of the fact that natural gas can be used as an energy source in many different areas as a result of technological developments.

With the increase in the use of natural gas in the world energy market, the strategic importance of natural gas has also increased. Countries have now begun to use natural gas resources for strategic purposes, just like oil, and have developed policies in this direction. One of the most important actors

that behave in this way is Russia, which can even be said to be one of the leading states that use natural gas resources as an element of strategic power. Russia has not refrained from using natural gas, which has a regional monopoly in terms of supply security due to its reserves, as an important foreign policy element in the 21st century. With the election of Yushchenko as president in Ukraine, supported by the EU and ADB in 2005, efforts to reduce Russia's influence on Ukraine, interpreted as the "Orange Revolution", forced Russia to play the energy card, an important strategic card, against Ukraine. he pushed. Later, this crisis deepened due to Ukraine's desire and statements about joining NATO. Because Russia sees Ukraine's NATO membership, or even the possibility of becoming a member, as a threat to its own national security. Due to this perception and Ukraine's policies in the process, the years between 2006 and 2009 were years when energy supply crises occurred in the Russia-Ukraine-EU triangle and global energy security was disrupted (Çetinkaya and Öztürk, 2019, p.407-410).

Russia tested whether it could use natural gas as a strategic element between 2006 and 2009, and did not refrain from acting according to the results of this test in the following years. Energy security problems that started in 2006 have continued until today. Natural gas, which was used only as a warning element in 2006, has now become a full-fledged strategic weapon that Russia uses against the EU in and through Ukraine. This situation has become a critical phenomenon that negatively affects both global and regional energy security, and not only that, but also causes conflicts and polarization within the international system. The war that Russia started against Ukraine due to political and security concerns has changed dimensions due to the use of natural gas as a strategic weapon, causing a regional energy security crisis across Europe and a global energy security crisis in the long term due to its global short-term consequences. The fact that the war continues and there are no signs of its end stands out as the most important evidence that this crisis will gradually deepen.

As a result, energy use, which started to increase with the industrial revolution, increased the economic value of energy resources, and the increased economic value was reflected in politics and even military security. The process that started with coal has now developed to the point of hydrogen. This development trend has provided significant advantages to humanity at many points. However, there are no fully alternative sources of energy such as oil and natural gas yet. Therefore, the strategic importance of oil and natural gas, far from decreasing, is increasing day by day in some events and regions. In short, all energy resources, especially oil and natural gas; reserves are concentrated in certain geographies, insufficient production or not yet discovered, etc. For reasons such as these, it will remain on the agenda of international politics at an important level for a long time. As stated before, energy resources will continue their constructive role on the international system as long as energy is needed.

The Effect Of Energy Supply-Demand Balance On The International System

Market balance is an important element for today's international system. Achieving this balance is directly related to sustainability in economic sectors. Market balance occurs in sectors where supply and demand meet each other. Dr. Deepashree technically explained balances of the market as follows;

Market equilibrium refers to a situation in which the quantity demanded and the quantity supplied of a good are equal. In other words, market equilibrium is a state of zero excess demand and zero excess supply. The market is a place where buyers and sellers meet. When these buyers and sellers agree on what the price and quantity will be and there is no incentive to change the price or quantity, the market is in equilibrium. In short, market equilibrium is the point where supply and demand are equal (Deepashree,2016, p.12-9).

Salish makes a brief statement that "if the quantity demanded at the market price equals the quantity supplied, the market is in equilibrium." He adds, “The price at which the quantity demanded equals the quantity supplied is called the equilibrium price or market clearing price, and the corresponding quantity is the equilibrium quantity” (Salish,2020, p.1). As can be understood from these two definitions, it is necessary and important for supply and demand to be equal in order for the market to be balanced and orderly. In addition, price is an important element in ensuring market balance. For permanent market equilibrium, supply and demand must be equal, while the price is expected to be constant. However, it is not possible for the price to remain constant.

Increasing or decreasing prices due to various factors is a normal situation that can be encountered at any time. While the price is not determined solely by supply and demand, the market balance may change if one of the factors other than price that affects supply and demand changes. Changing the market balance occurs in three ways;

1. Changes in demand while supply is constant.
2. Changes in supply while demand is constant.
3. Simultaneous changes in supply and demand (Sari, 2019, p.147).

The criteria that are decisive for any sector within the international economic system are valid for the international energy sector. In other words, in order for market balance to occur, energy supply and demand must be equal. At this point, it can be said that sectoral balances are more sensitive and strategic than other sectors due to the use of energy resources as strategic elements or the place and importance of these resources in the world market. Of course, in the energy sector, the supply and demand of resources determine the market balance and price balance. However, factors such as

geographical distribution of energy resources, sectoral use of resources, resource diversity and high level of demand have the potential to deeply affect supply and demand situations. On the other hand, today, energy supply and demand are evolving more rapidly than before, from being price-centered to being politics and security-centered, as in other sectors. This maximizes the impact of energy on the international system.

From an economic perspective, energy resources stand out as important values for the geographies in which they are located, as they are a source of fast and high financial income and can be extremely strategic according to need. This value makes the energy sector a sector where the consequences of monopolization can be severe. For both supply and demand authorities, monopolization can lead to destruction in the energy sector, as well as having the potential to cause total economic destruction due to the location of resources in other sectors. Abuse of this potential for political or economic purposes will have negative consequences for the future of the international system.

The balance between the supply and demand of energy resources, or the balance of the global energy market, is of great importance for the international system. The way to make this balance sustainable is to ensure energy security. The phenomenon of energy security; In the context of supply, demand and transition security, market balance in the energy sector can be built sustainably, provided that it is achieved through the concepts of availability, affordability, accessibility and acceptability, which are accepted as the starting point of contemporary energy security studies. (Karataş, 2020, p.27)

Market balance in the energy sector is not only based on supply-demand equality, but also by taking into account the concepts of availability, affordability, accessibility and acceptability. Although energy supply and demand are equal, factors such as future concerns about the availability of energy resources, price demands of supply and demand authorities, various costs of transporting energy resources, and the acceptability of the commercial relationship between supply and demand authorities in terms of both rules and norms. They also stand out as determining factors in terms of balance in the global energy market. It is possible to say that one or more of the mentioned elements had an impact on all energy crises experienced in the past. For this reason, while the balance in the energy market is formed differently on the basis of supply and demand, it is also formed differently on the basis of the 4 basic concepts mentioned. At this point, it becomes clear that energy security directly affects market balance.

The issue of energy security stands out as one of the sensitive points in the security dimension of the system due to the place and importance of energy resources in the international system. Considered in the literature as the beginning of energy security; The concepts of availability, affordability, accessibility and acceptability are important in drawing a road map and creating a strategy in terms

of energy security. These concepts have a great share in energy-based economic growth (Kartal,2022). The fact that these concepts also affect the critical role of energy supply in terms of energy security, depending on the situation, affects the impact of energy supply security on the international system in various ways.

The concept of energy supply security refers to access to an existing energy source rather than consuming potential resources. "Due to the unequal distribution of fossil fuels in the world, especially the availability of renewable energy sources is a critical issue for energy supply security (Erdal, 2015, p.154). As Erdal mentioned in his study, the scope of the concept of energy supply security is not limited to the existence or use of resources, this concept also includes access to resources. This is an important proof that energy supply security covers all 4 concepts. Because, in order to talk about energy supply security, there must first be the existence of any energy source. It is also a prerequisite for the existing resource to be affordable, accessible and acceptable for it to enter the market. In a resource equation where any of these conditions are missing, a healthy energy security picture cannot be said to occur or various problems may occur in the supply of the resource in question to the market.

It is possible to observe that there are some disruptions or deficiencies in the context of 4 concepts in all energy crises in history and in current crises. It is possible to see similar traces in the energy crisis experienced in 1973 and in the energy crisis caused by the Russia-Ukraine War that is ongoing today. The main reason for the turmoil in the market caused by OPEC's energy embargo on the West due to the Yom Kippur War in 1973 and the energy restrictions imposed on the West as a result of Russia's war against Ukraine due to its pro-Western policies; These are problems of acceptability. In both cases, these problems were reflected in energy access and affordability over time, causing total turmoil in the energy market (Sevim, 2012, p.4384).

In addition to energy supply, another dimension that affects the international system is energy demand. Energy demands of countries are increasing day by day due to increasing economic activities and population growth. This situation, which brings with it the difficulty of meeting the increasing energy demand with existing resources, makes it even more important to turn to both alternative sources and alternative strategies in energy. Because it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain balance in the energy market with existing resources. The increasing demand for energy day by day causes the prices of resources to increase accordingly (Esen and Bayrak, 2015). Increasing energy prices cause an increase in the energy deficit in countries with insufficient energy resources but high production potential. Developing country economies are greatly affected by this situation and results such as decreasing development trends occur (Demir, 2014). Market balance in the energy market

should be examined not only in terms of supply-demand balance, but also in terms of the growth effects of pricing on developing or underdeveloped countries.

The energy supply-demand balance stands out as a balance with a high level of sensitivity, as it is an important element that affects the international system in many different ways and causes various changes within the system. However, this balance is not a balance that can only be achieved by energy supply and demand being equal or close to each other. The supply-demand balance in the energy market is likely to be affected by many factors. Supply of energy resources; It is a concept that is easily affected by political, military and sociological problems. Although the availability of resources is not sufficient to supply them to the market, the dynamism of the supply-demand balance in the energy market is more and multi-factorial than in other sectors, since the resource demand has a structure that can constantly change according to alternatives and developments. This situation can cause many negativities for the international system.

The international system is an environment extremely prone to chaos and turmoil, where predictions are inadequate in terms of many factors. Although the members of the system seem to cooperate to solve common problems in line with liberal values, they can display extremely realistic behavior when interests are at stake. Energy is a sector where such behavior is at its highest. Since there is not enough foresight in this sector regarding both resource use and resource availability, actors have to be constantly on guard. This situation, caused by the accumulation of energy resources in certain geographies and the dependence on these resources, is not unusual for the international system. In the energy market, which has witnessed many events such as various price fluctuations, supply restrictions and embargoes during periods when energy dependency reached its peak, it is likely that such situations will be experienced in the near future, just as they are now, or even more severely. This situation is one of the important problems created by the failure to maintain supply-demand balance in the international system.

Although energy use increased with the industrial revolution, its founding effect in the international system began to be felt, especially in the second half of the 20th century. Although there was awareness of how important the supply-demand balance was, the supply crisis in 1973 proved what problems monopolization in the energy market could create in the supply-demand cycle. The extent to which industrially developed but resource-insufficient countries, such as Japan, were affected by the 1973 crisis has virtually shown the international system that energy resources are the basic requirement for sustainable growth and development. The energy crisis that occurred as a result of the current Russia-Ukraine war is one of the proofs of this situation in the 21st century.

Conclusion

The intersection of energy resources and international politics is a critical area of study that reveals the intricate linkages between economic interests and geopolitical strategies. Throughout history, the quest for energy security has driven state behavior, shaping alliances, conflicts, and global power dynamics. The control and distribution of energy resources have not only determined economic prosperity but also defined the strategic priorities of nations.

The political-economic perspective on the impact of energy resources on the international system highlights several key themes. First, energy resources are a major determinant of national security and economic stability. Countries with abundant energy resources often enjoy economic growth, political leverage, and strategic autonomy. Conversely, energy-dependent nations must navigate complex geopolitical landscapes to secure their energy needs, often resulting in alliances, conflicts, and diplomatic efforts to ensure a stable energy supply.

Second, the geopolitical significance of energy resources is evident in the strategic behavior of states. Throughout history, major powers have sought to control or influence key energy regions to enhance their strategic positions. The Middle East, with its vast oil reserves, has been a focal point of global energy politics, attracting the attention of major powers and shaping regional dynamics. Similarly, the emergence of new energy frontiers, such as the Arctic and the Caspian Sea, continues to influence geopolitical strategies and alliances.

Third, the transition towards renewable energy sources is reshaping the traditional dynamics of energy politics. The shift from fossil fuels to cleaner energy sources is driven by the need to address climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and achieve energy security. This transition presents both opportunities and challenges for international actors. Countries that invest in renewable energy technologies and infrastructure are likely to gain economic and geopolitical advantages, while those that rely on traditional energy sources may face economic and strategic disadvantages.

The transition to renewable energy also creates new opportunities for regional cooperation and integration. Cross-border energy projects, such as interconnected electricity grids and regional energy markets, are fostering collaboration and enhancing energy security. These initiatives promote energy diversification, reduce dependency on fossil fuels, and create resilient energy systems. Additionally, the development of renewable energy technologies and innovations is driving economic growth, job creation, and technological advancements.

However, the transition to renewable energy is not without its challenges. The development and deployment of renewable energy technologies require significant investments, infrastructure, and

policy support. Countries must navigate complex regulatory frameworks, market dynamics, and technological barriers to achieve their renewable energy goals. The intermittency and variability of renewable energy sources pose challenges for grid stability and energy storage. Addressing these challenges requires international cooperation, innovation, and strategic planning.

The geopolitical implications of the energy transition are profound. As countries reduce their reliance on fossil fuels, the traditional energy exporters may lose their geopolitical influence. This shift may lead to new power centers, with countries that lead in renewable energy technologies and investments gaining significant geopolitical influence. The transition towards a more diversified energy mix is also creating new opportunities for regional cooperation and integration. For example, cross-border energy projects, such as interconnecting electricity grids and developing regional energy markets, are fostering collaboration and enhancing energy security.

In the context of international relations, energy diplomacy plays a crucial role in managing the complexities of energy politics. Countries must balance their economic interests with environmental commitments and geopolitical strategies. Energy diplomacy involves negotiating energy agreements, securing energy supplies, and promoting sustainable energy practices. It requires a nuanced understanding of the political-economic dynamics of energy resources and the ability to navigate the interconnectedness of global energy markets.

The future of global energy politics will be defined by how effectively countries manage these interdependencies and adapt to the changing energy landscape. The ability to innovate, invest in renewable energy technologies, and collaborate on regional and global energy initiatives will determine the strategic positioning and influence of nations in the international arena.

In conclusion, energy resources remain a fundamental element of the international system, influencing economic stability, national security, and geopolitical power. Understanding the political-economic dynamics of energy resources is essential for comprehending the broader trends shaping global politics. As the world moves towards a more sustainable energy future, the ability of nations to adapt to these changes will determine their strategic positioning and influence in the international arena. The ongoing evolution of energy politics underscores the need for a nuanced and comprehensive approach to addressing the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

The political-economic perspective on the impact of energy resources on the international system reveals the complex interplay between economic interests, geopolitical strategies, and technological innovations. It highlights the critical role of energy.

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