

STUDIES IN ENGLISH

**The impact of natural phenomena on
the state**

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Abstract

The study titled “The Impact of Natural Phenomena on the State” deals with the importance of these phenomena in geopolitical studies on the state in making a set of decisions, and building a set of information that forms the basis for the state’s decisions on the levels of politics, economics, and demographic growth of the state’s population, where the analytical approach was used (The power analysis approach (being the approach that helps to analyze the relationship of the country’s geography and geographical elements to the extent of the impact of natural phenomena on the country’s geography, and one of the most important findings of the study is that these natural phenomena play an important role in the importance of the national decision and perhaps in the international decision.

Keywords: (Environmental imperative, Natural law, Sphere of life, Cycle, Crossroad, unified field)

المخلص

تتناول الدراسة الموسومة بـ "تأثير الظواهر الطبيعية على الدولة" أهمية هذه الظواهر في دراسات الجغرافيا السياسية على الدولة في اتخاذ جملة من القرارات ، وبناء مجموعة من المعلومات التي تشكل أساسا لقرارات الدولة على صعيد السياسة ، الاقتصاد والنمو الديمغرافي لسكان الدولة ، حيث تم استخدام المنهج التحليلي (منهج تحليل القوة) كونه المنهج الذي يساعد على تحليل علاقة جغرافيا الدولة والعناصر الجغرافية بمدى تأثير الظواهر الطبيعية في جغرافية الدولة ، ومن أهم النتائج التي توصلت إليها الدراسة ، أنّ هذه الظواهر الطبيعية تلعب دورا مهما في أهمية القرار الوطني وربما في القرار الدولي .

الكلمات المفتاحية: (الحتم البيئي، القانون الطبيعي، مجال الحياة، الدورة، تقاطع الطرق، الحقل الموحد)

Introduction:

Any society that is keen to establish an entity for itself and its members, in order to spread security and stability among the members of society, and to regulate the relations of these individuals also among themselves on the one hand, and on the other hand to regulate the relationship between the members of society itself and their rulers, and there is no doubt that this society lives on a patch of land called "The homeland," and this piece of land, whether large or small, needs to regulate the relationship with its neighbors so that the members of society who live on it avoid clashing or disagreeing with those who reside on another geographical unit from the neighbors. Therefore, relationships are established between these political units. It is formed within the framework of the state. It can either be a positive or negative relationship. Hence, specialists in political geography have turned to studying the natural phenomena of this land, the extent of their impact on the individuals of society and their countries, and the suffering and problems they face as a result of their living in a specific geographical area, and their ability to

determine The form of the relationship with others, who live on the surface of the Earth like them, within the framework of international relations.

Thus politics met geography, and the state's power to influence became dependent on the form and size of the relationship with others, and on multiple geographical factors and natural phenomena that make it - the state - an important player in international relations, and on this basis some researchers, past and present, have addressed this interconnected relationship between phenomena. Nature and the state, whether this relationship is internal or external, and theories and hypotheses emerged that explain the role and impact of natural phenomena on states, and these were transformed from simple concepts into foundations that, over centuries and a long time, show the impact of various natural phenomena on the state's ability and status, and let us not forget that the researchers who They studied the impact of natural phenomena on the state. It was not an abstract science. Rather, there were motives to control the largest geographical area, in order to amplify the power of the state to which they belong. These were certainly colonial motives rather than objective research motives. Later, political geography became an independent science with its own tools. And its terminology, which is considered an important basis for research and study.

Thus, political geography has become an important branch in the modern sciences related to politics and geopolitics, not to mention the influence of other branches in this field. Some believe that the reason for the delay in the emergence of this science is that it focused in the past on the man-made state, and that this science is not characterized by a state of stability, as the state may expand geographically or diminish, and the state may have a cesarean section through forced separation, and therefore it is exposed to weakness or strength. When studying political geography, it is necessary to be exposed to

some theories or hypotheses, as researchers call them, which study the impact of natural phenomena on the state, and their impact on the state's internal and foreign policy:

Study problem and questions:

The problem of the study lies in the extent to which geographical factors play in the political decision through employing these factors in the foreign policy movement, and this requires several questions in order to answer them, and these questions are:

- What are the geographical environmental components of any country?
- How is the political decision based on geographical reality?
- Does the geographical factor have an impact on foreign policy?

The importance of studying:

The importance of the study stems from the fact that the geographical location of any country helps the administrative, political and military decision maker in developing economic, social, political and military policies for their countries to achieve popular goals, aspirations and aspirations, in addition to political geography dealing with vital and strategic issues of concern to countries, such as conflicts. The political borders and their drawing between countries, in addition to everything related to the geographical location of the elements of space, the shape of the state, climate, and economic activities, all of which are elements that determine the state's political activities, and its relations with geographically neighboring countries and with the centers of global power.

Study objectives:

This study aims to:

- 1 - Explaining the components of the geographical environment and their impact on foreign policy.
- 2 - Identify the ability of the state's decision to absorb the geographical factor.

Study methodology:

We will follow the analytical approach (the power analysis approach), because it is the approach that analyzes the relationship of the geographical location and geographical elements to the state's power, and the relationship of the strength or weakness of the geographical location becomes clear to the extent it allows the decision maker, the space it gives him and the alternatives it provides for maneuver when making any decision related to it. The foreign policy of the state, and this approach deals with the natural environment of the geographical location, economic resources, and the population in terms of number, their growth rates, and their distribution over the geography of this location, and studying the importance and relationship of geographical reality in internal and external relations. We will also follow the behavioral approach to political decision-making, and how to prepare and implement policy. External, because this approach relates to the behavior of people, including the decision maker, regarding their awareness of the importance or lack of importance of the geopolitical location.

1- Environmental Imperative phenomena:

This theory is based on the fact that the solutions lie in the variation in geographic environmental conditions, especially in the variation in climatic

characteristics, terrain, geographical location, and soil. The essence of this theory is that human behavior, national characteristics, and capabilities for intellectual production, achieving political creativity, and economic progress are largely linked. The environment in which it lives, especially the climate. (1)

Among the most important representatives of this is Herodotus BC, who was concerned with the close factors between geography, social classes, and political systems, just as Aristotle was concerned with being a maritime port for the state, the Roman Astrabo with a good climate, and Bodin in the sixteenth century with the influence of human characteristics on the geographical environment, as well as Montesquieu in the eighteenth century. Ten, who explained the effect of human behavior on soil and climate, while Ellsworth Huntington considered that civilization, comes from the accumulation of a gradual surplus of human energy, and this results from the effect of the ideal climate on the human body. Markham agreed in his research on climate and the energies of peoples with Huntington (2).

2- The phenomena of the natural law of the state:

This law depends on the size of the state or what its area should be. Nature is what controls the state, and the state must be consistent with the law of nature. Among the most important researchers in this theory are Samuel Adams, who called for the annexation of Canada to the United States, and the Indian leader Nehru, who denounced the separation of Pakistan. Regarding India, the essence of this theory is that God created the earth to be a shelter for humans, and they must choose methods of work that are consistent with what nature dictates as much as possible. (3)

The state has natural borders that it must not expand beyond what nature has determined, otherwise it must bear consequences that lead to its development or contraction. Therefore, there is an appropriate size for the state determined by nature, and the political system of each continent is the work of nature to some extent.

3-Sphere of life phenomena and state membership:

This theory focuses on the idea of state expansion. In order for the state to survive, it must have a field or place in which it can live and expand if it requires it. Therefore, the German researcher Henry von Trotsky says, “The state is power.”

This theory states: The state is not bound by moral restrictions like individuals, and therefore it is possible to expand through war to preserve its life, and the field of life includes expansion in space, and this concept was linked to the idea of Nazi expansion even though it appeared before it, and that the German race is the most advanced of the races, and Ratzel is considered The state is an organic entity that has life and occupies a place in the world and needs a field in which to expand. It is born, reaches the cycle of maturity, and finally grows old. ⁽⁴⁾

4- Cycle phenomena:

This theory or hypothesis is based on the principle of major changes in geography, and minor changes. The countries that desire political change are called the non-proprietary countries, and the countries that are satisfied with what they have are called the possessing countries. Among the most famous researchers in it is the American geographer Samuel Van Valkenburg, who saw that the possessing countries...

The rich demand more than they possess, and the non-owning countries that do not have resources want to become rich or possessing countries. Therefore, the researcher tried to come up with an analysis of the relations between countries and the changes that occur on the borders and the possession of colonies. He also tried to find out the emergence of countries and learn about their behavior. And its internal organization. He evaluated his analyzes of international relations and the development of states on the basis of the “concept of the cycle,” where he distinguished four stages that the state goes through:

- 1- Boyhood.
- 2- Adolescence.
- 3- Maturity.
- 4- Old age.

Geographers have used the concept of the cycle to explain developments that talk about the phenomena of physical geography. Ibn Khaldun, who divided the growth of the state into phases, was also considered one of the founders of this theory. He saw that the phases of the state are:

- 1- The first phase: victory and seizure of the kingdom.
- 2- The second phase: tyranny and monopoly rule.
- 3- The third phase: emptiness and ages.
- 4- The fourth stage: contentment and peace.
- 5- The fifth stage: extravagance, waste, aging, and extinction. ⁽⁵⁾

5- Crossroads phenomena:

The French Researcher J. Gottman 1951 explained international relations, and in 1952 he presented a proposal in which he explained how the political and social development of the state and the people takes place. His hypothesis is based on the following: -

What distinguishes a political region from others is not the environment with its mountains and valleys, the language, or specific skills, but rather the strong belief that is based on a religious foundation and a social point of view, or a type of political memory involved, and often all of these factors are required, as I consider the factors of stability. For any politically organized territory or society, certain values or sacred symbols include the national flag. Historical memories and religion. The economic and social system, and the heroes of history, these values are complex in nature and considered a source of pride for their adherents. They are mental and psychological conditions deeply rooted in people's thinking, and this is a force that aims for stability and resists change.⁽⁶⁾

As for the factors of movement and the related ease of access and its impact on the occurrence of relations between countries, they are limited and limited to areas characterized by accessibility. Areas that humans cannot reach have no political importance and do not cause a political problem, for example the oceans and the frozen continents to the north and south. It did not have a political impact until after the advancement of technology and access to it.

Therefore, existing international relations develop through movement between regions through trade, means of transportation, and various types of exchange methods between them.

6-Unified field phenomena:

This theory, whose prominent figure is Stephen Jones 1954, is based on the fact that the political organization of regions and the emergence of states can be explained as the result of an activity or process consisting of sequential steps or episodes consisting of five stages: the political idea - the decision - the movement - the field - an organized region. Politically, he considered that the idea and the state are two ends of these five stages ⁽⁷⁾.

These rings are similar to basins and lakes, connected to each other and influencing and interacting with each other. For him, the idea means more than one idea. The state may be a revolution, a constitutional reform, a social idea, or just an ambition that cannot be expressed in an emotional way.

The decision: The idea must produce a final decision, and the decision leads to action, taking action, or creating a movement, but some decisions generate a movement and some change or change the movement. Movement here is a group of actions taken, such as conveying an idea, military movements, or striking an area with weapons. The movement may be intelligence, radio, or human migration.

As for the field, it is: every movement needs a field or place in which it occurs or an area in which it affects. For example, preparing materials for the purpose of military aid from one region to another results in a field in the place to which it is sent, and every field has a temporal and spatial existence, that is, a temporal and spatial dimension.

A politically organized region is: any politically organized region, whether it is an independent state or part of it, or an administrative region, and all regions share one characteristic, which is borders, as each of them has recognized borders.

This human being is affected by his surroundings, and one of the most important things that actually affect him is the geographical environment. The natural terrain, as well as the climate and water resources, and everything that is part of the natural phenomena affects the behavior of the human element represented by the human being. Therefore, the effect of these phenomena has changed from hypothesis to almost reality. Scientific research, and therefore we see that many human groups settled in a certain region are adapted to this region, and thus they reflect the behavior of the nature of the region in which they live. The desert, for example, reflects the behavior of its inhabitants, and coastal areas as well, and this appears through the disparity between people in complexion and body size or its roughness and the pattern of mental thinking, and thus the effect of natural phenomena on its inhabitants is something that may rise to scientific truth.

Conclusion:

As for some theories of the impact of natural phenomena on the state, in our opinion, some of them are somewhat exaggerated, such as the unified field theory. It is a mistake to believe that every political idea can be born in a political area, because many ideas began and did not reach a decision, and the decision itself may not be reached. It amounts to an exaggeration that may not make this theory workable.

Finally, it can be said that all of these theories, especially the modern ones, came against the background of an expansionist colonial principle and nothing more, such as the vital field theory. The goal in many of them is not an objective study of the impact of natural phenomena on the state, but rather it is control in a colonial era, the goal of which was to justify reaching The resources of weak peoples to be exploited and exhausted, in order to accumulate capital after the industrial revolution.

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