



Stages Of Formation And Geopolitical Characteristics Of World Energy Policy

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Abstract: This article analyzes the stages of formation and development of energy policy, as well as its geopolitical role in international relations. The evolution of the world energy system is considered in the context of historical processes - from the colonial period to the conditions of modern global energy instability. Based on the theories of such scientists as S.Zhiznin, A.Arbatov, M.Massarat, the author highlights the geopolitical essence of energy policy, energy crises, and their impact on international economic cooperation. The article analyzes the role of OPEC, the International Energy Agency, and major transnational corporations in the global energy market, as well as the strategic importance of renewable energy sources in the 21st century. The research results justify the need to consider energy policy as an integral part of national security and economic stability.

Introduction: Energy policy, energy security, global energy market, energy crisis, oil and gas resources, strategic resources, renewable energy sources, alternative energy, transnational corporations, economic stability, energy strategy, global instability, energy diversification, environmental sustainability.

Introduction

In the 21st century, energy issues are becoming one of the global problems, acquiring not only economic, but also geopolitical character. Energy resources are one of the basic factors of the world economic system, and their availability or scarcity directly affects the political position, economic stability, and security of states in the international arena. Today, processes related to energy resources are becoming the main factor in the adoption of strategic decisions in world politics. The geopolitical dimension of energy policy is one of the important indicators determining the balance of power between states.

The process of formation of the world energy system

has a long history. In the late 18th – early 19th centuries, as a result of the development of the coal industry and the industrial revolution, energy issues became an integral part of state policy. In the 20th century, as oil and gas resources became the main sources of energy, the struggle for control over their distribution and export intensified. Especially during the Second World War and the period after it, the energy factor came to the center of international political and economic decisions.

The global energy crisis of the 1970s, the political influence of the OPEC organization, and the formation of the concept of energy security brought the process to a new level. Since then, the supply of energy resources, prices, and transport routes have become a strategic competitive arena in international relations.

Today, the global energy system is undergoing a transition to alternative and renewable energy sources. Sources such as solar, wind, hydro, and nuclear energy are considered as environmentally safe and economically sustainable alternatives to traditional hydrocarbon resources. At the same time, ensuring energy security, strengthening the policy of diversification, and developing international cooperation have become a strategic necessity for all countries.

Therefore, the study of energy policy today has important scientific and practical significance not only from the point of view of ensuring economic stability, but also national security, ecological balance, and international geopolitical stability.

METHODOLOGY

Scientific research on energy policy and its geopolitical aspects has been widely studied at the international level, and various theoretical approaches have been formed in this regard. Analysis of the literature that forms the theoretical basis of the research shows that the role of energy resources in state policy and their influence on international relations in each period is determined by specific political, economic, and security factors.

In his works, the Russian scientist S. Jiznin notes that as a result of the rapid development of the world energy system and the growing role of energy resources in international trade, the geopolitical dimension of energy has become a separate area of research. In his opinion, the geographical location of such resources as oil, gas, and coal, the possibilities of their transportation, and the market distance are the main factors of global competition.

American researchers M. Conant and F. Gould, evaluating ownership of energy resources as a key

component of state power, call the Middle East an "energy heartland." In their approach, energy policy is interpreted as a factor directly related to national interests, economic growth, and military strategy.

Also, A. Arbatov, analyzing the three-stage evolution of world energy policy shows that the political function of energy sources changed in each period. M. Massarat explains the periods of energy market development between 1861 – 1998 based on economic and technological changes.

European researcher Ya.Vutyanova proposes to analyze energy policy not in terms of time, but through functional changes in the global energy system. According to his proposal, energy resources are formed as a means of influence in global politics, determining the balance of power between states at each stage.

This article analyzes these theoretical approaches and aims to study energy policy from the perspective of national security and economic stability.

The research methodology used a systematic approach, methods of historical-analytical and comparative analysis. The systematic approach made it possible to study energy policy as a complex socio-economic system, to identify the interrelationship of its components – resource base, energy infrastructure, foreign policy interests, and international institutions.

With the help of the historical – analytical method, the stages of formation of energy policy and their influence on geopolitical processes were consistently studied. Comparative analysis served as the basis for a comparative study of the experience of energy policy of different countries (USA, Russia, the European Union, OPEC member states, and Asian countries).

When forming the research results, statistical data from international organizations - OPEC, the International Energy Agency, the UN, and analytical reports from leading scientific centers were used. Based on this, global trends in energy policy, the security paradigm, and the strategy for transitioning to renewable sources were analyzed.

RESULTS

At the present stage, energy problems have acquired a global character, and energy resources have begun to play an important role in world markets. The presence of strategic natural resources in states is one of the forces of their geopolitical influence. One of the main geopolitical problems of the 21st century, when the influence of geopolitical factors on international energy relations is increasing, is the struggle for oil and gas reserves. Regarding the geopolitical aspects of the energy sector, S. Jiznin notes that "the rapid development of the global energy sector at the end of

the 20th century, the significant expansion of international trade flows in energy resources and related services, contributed to the actualization of concepts about the geopolitical aspects of energy. Among them, one can distinguish the geographical location of large oil, gas, and coal fields, their remoteness from sales markets, as well as the possibilities of transporting these resources" [1].

American researchers M. Conant and F. Gould, speaking about the geopolitical nature of the problem of energy resource provision in developed countries, believe that "if energy is a vitally important issue for the world community, then is the Middle East not an "energy heartland," and is there any doubt about the importance of accessing it (the Middle East)?" Indeed, the analysis of changes occurring in the global commodity market is important for revealing the features and patterns underlying the state's energy policy and its dynamics. It gives us an opportunity to show the evolution of today's energy policy.

Scientists emphasize various forms of the formation of the energy sector. Russian researcher A. Arbatov divides the evolution of world energy policy into three main periods:

- The colonial period – the period when the main part of the resources was sent from the colonies to the countries of the metropolis, such as England, France, Holland, and Portugal, and an intensive system of raw material exchange was formed between them;
- The period of strengthening the role of the USA as a leading fuel exporter - mid-20th century, 1940 – 1950s;
- The period of migration of world oil production centers to the countries of the Middle East and North Africa – 1960 – 1970 [2].

The German researcher M. Massarat also divides the development of the world commodity market into three stages;

- 1861 – 1920;
- 1920 – 1970s;
- 1970 – 1998 [3].

The authors of the above periodization do not take into account the role of coal, which became the main source of energy in Europe at the end of the 18th - 19th centuries, as well as its geopolitical influence on relations between states. Meanwhile, the vital importance of resources for the state, the initial geopolitical struggle over energy, began precisely with the competition for coal reserves. Examples include the struggle between Germany and France for coal mines in Alsace, Lorraine, and Ruhr. Including an analysis of modern events in the global energy market,

Ya. Vutyanova proposes the following periodization of the practice of using energy resources as a means of geopolitical influence of the state:

- The period of formation of the global energy market;
- The era of unification of the global energy space;
- Period of the global energy crisis;
- Period of global energy instability;
- The period when energy became a powerful tool of influence in world politics [4].

The most important aspect of Ya. Vutyanova's periodization is that she shows the history of energy not only as a sequence of economic stages, but also as a process of energy transformation into a tool of geopolitical influence. That is, in this approach, energy is interpreted not as a means of production, but as a resource of international political power and strategic influence. Thus, each period of energy policy manifests itself as a geopolitical indicator explaining changes in the balance of power between states.

DISCUSSION

In our opinion, considering energy relations not in terms of time, not in terms of years, but as a means of influencing energy sources, as an area of strategic importance, will help us to correctly understand the situation and correctly assess the nature of energy policy.

The period of formation of the global energy market. Covering the late 18th – early 20th centuries, during which methods of coal mining were developed in England, and the creation of steam engines led to the industrial revolution in a number of countries. Industrial development due to the availability of raw materials has made England a leading country in the world.

As a result of the creation of internal combustion engines, the growth of industrial capital, and the exacerbation of international relations, the need for fuel resources increased. Oil replaced coal, becoming the most important factor not only for economic development, but also for demonstrating the power of the state. The main competition occurred between the largest manufacturers – the USA and Russia.

The era of integration of the global energy space. The beginning of the 20th century is defined as the period from the beginning of the 1970s. In 1928, seven of the largest international oil companies signed the so-called "Red Line Agreement" and established the International Oil Cartel for the joint development and exploitation of oil fields in the Middle East. This structure effectively imposed an embargo on oil supplies from the USSR, and

also applied various sanctions against “third world” countries that nationalized the property of Western investors. In contrast to the International Petroleum Cartel, in 1960, a number of Middle Eastern oil-producing countries joined the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) [5]. By establishing an official international organization, OPEC members [6] managed to raise the average world oil prices and increase revenues from oil sales, thereby initiating the regulation of interstate relations in the energy sector.

The events of the Second World War also had a great impact on the global energy sector. During the war, the governments of the USA, Great Britain, and the Netherlands imposed an embargo on the supply of oil and steel to the country in order to influence Japan [7]. The creation of nuclear weapons led to the confrontation between the USSR and the USA, the formation of a “bipolar” world, and the aggravation of the situation in the international arena. All decisions were made taking into account the positions of both systems. The USSR used oil exports as a means of influencing other countries, which, of course, negatively affected the interests of the USA.

Thus, since the beginning of the 20th century, energy resources have become not only a necessary factor in the country's economic development, but also an important aspect of international cooperation between states. The First and Second World Wars contributed to the intensification of the struggle for control over the main energy resource of that time - oil, and also influenced the creation of nuclear energy and nuclear weapons. By this stage, energy resources had become one of the main means of political influence.

A period of global energy crisis. Experts define this period as the 1970s – 1990s. In 1973, in response to Western countries’ support for Israel in the Arab-Israeli war, oil-exporting countries imposed an embargo on oil exports, attempting to exert political pressure on the world community. The establishment in 1974 of the International Energy Agency [8], a structure opposite to OPEC, for the purpose of protecting the interests of energy resource consumers, is also directly related to the above situation.

In order to prevent possible intervention by capitalist states in the countries of Eastern Europe, the USSR supplied oil to a number of countries through the “Druzhba” pipeline, natural gas through the “Soyuz” and “Bratstvo” pipelines.

In Iran in 1979 – 1980, oil prices rose significantly due to production cuts resulting from the revolution, leading to a second energy crisis. The second such

situation in the global energy market in a short decade has shown that the countries of the world need to further diversify the channels for obtaining energy sources.

At this stage, the US developed a technology for “blocking energy cooperation” against the USSR [9]. According to it, the export of technologies that could contribute to the development of the country's energy sector to the USSR was prohibited [10]. European countries were offered assistance in providing alternative energy sources, including nuclear energy, instead of natural gas and oil. Sanctions were imposed against European companies involved in pipeline projects [11]. Nevertheless, relations between resource suppliers and consumers continued.

At this stage, for the first time, the issue of energy security became a priority on the agenda of the world community. The events of the 1970s contributed to the formation of a global energy security model based on preventing and combating supply disruptions.

A period of global energy instability. Covers the period from 1990 to 2000. The Iraq-Kuwait war of 1990 – 1991 and the collapse of the USSR affected the existing geopolitical and economic relations. The Gulf states began to cooperate with the USA to ensure the stability of power. After the collapse of the Union, independent states began to try to use the transit status of energy resources. In addition, the US and EU countries have begun to express their desire to participate in energy relations in the post-Soviet space.

The decline in oil prices on the world market has led to a worsening of the economic situation in exporting countries, including the Russian Federation, which is the main player in the energy market of the Central Asian countries, and a decrease in its influence on the international arena.

A period when energy has become a powerful tool in world politics. The period covering the period from 2000 to the present is characterized by the strengthening of the role of OPEC members in international energy relations, the active role of government-supported companies of exporting countries, transnational corporations, in the global energy market. Also, the types of energy sources and their producers are most diversified, and the entry of new actors such as China and India as the largest consumers in the global energy market is characteristic of this period.

Processes in the countries of the Middle East and North Africa, which began in the 2010s, had a strong influence on the economic and political situation in the world. In Libya alone, one of the main oil suppliers to European countries, production fell from 1.6 million barrels to 200,000 barrels [12]. Combined with the reduction in

production in Syria, Libya, Yemen, Tunisia, and Sundane, the losses amounted to 2 million barrels per day [13]. As a result of the inability of Arab countries rich in energy resources to fully supply raw materials to world markets, the rise in product prices on the world market affected the economies of both exporting countries and importers. Also, the embargo on the sale of petroleum products by some countries, sanctions imposed on countries rich in energy resources, raised the problems of price increases and diversification on the agenda. In particular, we can mention the relations of the European Union countries with the Russian Federation, and the cooperation of the Russian Federation with the People's Republic of China and India in the field of energy resources.

Today, renewable energy sources play an active role in the energy sector. A number of countries are setting the transition to alternative energy as one of the main tasks in the industry. This is primarily related to energy sources derived from the sun, wind, and water, as well as the introduction of atomic energy into consumption.

In the first quarter of the 21st century, due to the growth of energy consumption in the world, the consistent increase in energy resource prices, and political instability in the exporting countries of the Middle East, hydrocarbon raw materials are becoming increasingly important as a scarce resource, and alternative energy is becoming important as the energy of the future. Accordingly, the states, in accordance with their energy strategy, have formed the most optimal model of interaction in the energy sector. We will dwell on this in the next part of the work.

CONCLUSION

The above analysis shows that energy policy has been formed in the modern system of international relations as a strategic sphere where economic, political, and geopolitical interests intersect. Energy resources are one of the main factors determining the economic stability, national security, and global political position of states. Historical experience shows that changes in energy sources in each period have reshaped the global balance of power, which has given rise to new forms of international economic cooperation and political competition.

If in the middle of the 20th century control over oil and gas resources defined a global political priority, then at the beginning of the 21st century the concept of energy security and renewable energy sources became a strategic direction of development. Instability in the Middle East, energy dependence between Russia and Europe, as well as the emergence of China and India as new large consumers are forming a new balance of

power in the global energy system.

According to the analysis of the article, the energy policy of states is developing in three main directions: firstly, ensuring energy security; secondly, diversifying resources; thirdly, developing alternative and renewable energy sources. These factors are a prerequisite for strengthening economic independence, ensuring environmental sustainability, and expanding international cooperation.

In conclusion, energy policy today is considered not only as an economic sphere, but also as an important component of the global security system. In addition to ensuring their national interests, states should contribute to international stability through the rational, efficient, and environmentally safe use of energy resources.

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