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**The role of the energy factor in strengthening the status of the state “Concepts
and theoretical foundations”**

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Abstract

The energy factor is one of the essential elements in enhancing a country's position on the international stage, as it is closely linked to the economic and geopolitical power of the state. Energy represents a crucial strategic element in global politics; countries that control or produce energy resources enhance their ability to influence international decisions, whether through economic leverage or military control. The concept of international standing is related to a country's ability to use these resources to achieve its goals in the international system, whether by influencing energy markets or through participation in international cooperation to ensure energy security. In political theories, the perspective on energy varies according to different schools of thought: realism views it as a tool for power and influence, while liberalism promotes the idea of cooperation and sharing in the management of energy resources. Meanwhile, Marxism focuses on the economic dominance resulting from control over energy, while constructivism highlights the social influences and national identities in managing these resources.

Keywords: Energy factor, international status, energy resources, renewable energy, political theories.

introduction

The energy factor is one of the most prominent strategic elements that directly affects a country's ability to maintain its political and economic standing in the international arena. The term "energy factor" refers to all resources and sources that contribute to meeting energy needs, including electricity, heat, and fuel, whether traditional (such as oil, gas, and coal) or renewable (such as solar energy, wind, and nuclear energy). This factor has long been associated with the growth of the state, both in providing energy for its citizens and in securing new sources of political and economic influence on the international level.

The importance of the study stems from its attempt to present the concepts related to the subject, along with the theoretical frameworks that have addressed it. Through this, the study aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. To attempt to identify the linguistic and conventional meanings of the concepts of energy factor and international status, as well as the concepts related to them.
2. To attempt to present various theoretical frameworks in the field of international relations that have addressed the subject.
3. To attempt to understand the relationship between the two previous concepts through those theoretical and cognitive frameworks.

Based on this, this research paper seeks to address the various concepts related to the energy factor and international status. Specifically, the study aims to understand the relationship between the elements of the energy factor and the international status of a state within its regional context, by analyzing the theoretical foundations of the role of the energy factor in enhancing that status.

In light of all the above, the study attempts to address the research problem centered around the following question:

How does the energy factor contribute to enhancing a state's position in its regional and international environment?

From this issue, the following hypothesis is adopted:

The energy factor contributes to enhancing a state's position in two ways: the first is the attempt to control energy resources, and the second is manifested in the search for an active or influential role in the international system.

The study followed a descriptive analytical approach, as it is suitable for the nature of the study, where we attempt to describe and analyze the various frameworks and theoretical foundations of different theoretical trends in international relations that consider the energy factor as one of the influential variables in a state's position.

In order to achieve the objectives of the study, the study was divided into the following sections:

The first TOPIC: The conceptual framework of the study

The first requirement: The concept of energy

The second requirement: The importance of energy in global politics:

Third Requirement: The concept of status in international politics

The second TOPIC: The Energy Factor in International Relations Perspectives.

The first requirement: The energy factor from the perspective of realist theory

The second requirement: The energy factor from the perspective of liberal theory

The third requirement: The energy factor from the perspective of Marxist theory.

Fourth requirement: The energy factor from the perspective of constructivist Theory.

The first TOPIC : The conceptual framework of the study

Energy is one of the decisive factors in shaping the position of countries in the international arena, as it directly affects the economy, politics, and security. Energy forms vary between traditional forms such as oil and gas, and renewable forms such as sun and wind, which opens new horizons to promote economic and environmental independence. Energy also reflects a country's strength in achieving self-sufficiency and its role in the global market. Studies show that countries that possess sufficient energy resources or rely on advanced technology in their production and management gain a greater strategic position. Therefore, understanding the relationship between energy and prestige helps in analyzing power dynamics and international competition.

The first requirement: The concept of energy.

Section I: Definition of energy:

Language: The definition and meaning of energy in the dictionary of collective meanings stated that energy: It is the ability, which is also: What man can do with difficulty, and energy is also mentioned in the sense: the ability to exert effort or do work with the intention of producing movement, heat or electric current. As stated in the Dictionary of All: An activity or ability to cause a physical or mental action. It is also used in the sense of: the ability that the body acquires through its movement as well as the ability of the body to perform work due to its movement^{second}¹

Section II; Energy in terminology

Energy is defined as the ability to do work or bring about change in a system, and is a fundamental concept in physics. Energy exists in a variety of forms, including mechanical energy resulting from movement or force, thermal energy resulting from the random movement of molecules, electrical energy resulting from the flow of electrons, as well as chemical energy stored in the bonds between atoms and molecules. It also includes nuclear energy resulting from nuclear reactions, and renewable energy such as solar, wind, and water energy that is derived from renewable natural sources. It is important to note that energy is neither created nor destroyed, but rather transforms from one form to another, which is one of the fundamental principles of modern physics. Understanding these different types of energy and how to use them effectively is critical in multiple fields, from technological industries to environmental and economic policies²

Energy in the general sense is the force capable of moving a still that may be latent and man transforms it from one form to another, and man's knowledge of

the importance of energy has evolved from the use of the machine until the discovery of oil and gas as two sources of energy³

Second requirement: The importance of energy in global politics:

The history of energy has gone through a number of stages, the importance of which has been highlighted in many researches. Neil White, in the introduction to his book “Energy is the Engine of Evolution”, stated: “It was a struggle to understand the conflict between society's growing demand for economic energy and the pursuit of sustainable development. The root cause of this conflict is the growing paradox that the use of fossil fuels stimulates economic growth while at the same time leading to local pollution and global climate change; it creates and affects prosperity at the same time, and if today's balance looks good, tomorrow's balance is in doubt.”⁴

Emphasizing the importance of energy, Goal 7 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015, calls for “ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy”. The focus on energy as one of the SDGs is emerging as a means to unlock new economic opportunities and jobs, improve the quality of education and health, and foster more sustainable, equitable, and inclusive societies. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to utilize all primary energy resources available to different societies around the world, emphasizing that these resources must be economically viable and have little or no impact on the environment.

The continuum of primary energy resources available to human societies includes fossil fuel resources including coal, oil, natural gas, and oil shale Renewable energy resources including solar, wind, bioenergy, geothermal, wave, and water resources, and nuclear energy resources

Section I: Fossil Energy Resources

Fossil fuel resources are widely distributed around the world, with proven reserves estimated at about 1732 billion barrels, distributed among 49 countries, in addition to many other countries with secondary reserves. Given the current rate of global oil production, which is about 94 million barrels per day, oil is expected to have a lifespan of about 50 years. However, this lifespan may be extended by additional years if new discoveries and the development of enhanced recovery techniques are taken into account.

As for coal, total global reserves exceed 1,074 billion tons, spread across more than 34 countries. Given the current rate of coal production, the life expectancy of this resource could exceed 139 years.

As for natural gas, global reserves are estimated to be around 188 trillion cubic meters in 2021, spread across 34 countries as well as several others with limited reserves. The lifespan of natural gas is expected to be around 48 years, but this lifespan can also be extended for longer periods when considering historical trends of discoveries⁵.

In their study, which won the OAPEC Scientific Research Award for 2022, researchers Mamoun Halabi and Faisal Al-Hamdan point out that the importance

of oil and gas in the Arab region is clearly demonstrated by the developments witnessed by all countries in the region, which were supported by the revenues from these resources. Thus, progress in the energy sector holds great significance for the future of the region, as its impact extends beyond the energy sector to broader areas. Many Arab countries still possess enormous oil and gas resources, some of which could last well beyond the current century⁶.

Oil accounts for a high percentage of global energy consumption, and the Middle East region contains the highest oil reserves in the world, and the use of oil has evolved in accordance with the economic and technological development of the modern world⁷.

Section II: Renewable Energy Resources

Renewable energy resources in the world are characterized by their wide spread in most countries, including hydropower, solar energy, wind energy, bioenergy, and geothermal energy. Remarkably, solar and wind energy are geographically widespread throughout the world. The attached maps illustrate the distribution of solar photovoltaic potential and horizontal irradiation of solar thermal potential and wind resources, and clearly highlight the concentration of this potential in the Arab region, as well as other regions around the world⁸.

Although statistics from international energy organizations indicate that renewable energy capacity is increasing globally, the percentage contribution of all renewable energy sources to total global energy demand is still low. As global energy demand continues to rise, experts expect renewable energy sources to continue to grow. While integrating these sources into meeting future global energy demand seems inevitable, realizing this will face many challenges⁹.

Third requirement: The concept of status in international politics

Section I: Definition of international status:

In the Arabic language, status is pronounced makana : Means a place such as: This topic is very important: It is very important, and it is very brave: That is, he is very brave. And in the great Quran : In Surah Yus, verse 67, it says: "If we had wished, we would have wiped them out in their place. That is, their position. It is possible: It is easy, facilitated, and possible, as stated in the terminology:

Market position: What determines a company's position in the market by comparing its sales volume with all other companies in a particular industry¹⁰.

Etymologically: International prestige refers to the position that a particular state occupies in the international system compared to other states. It is the sum total of the reputation and power that a state possesses in the international arena and is based on its ability to influence international relations and global decision-making. This includes a state's interaction with major powers, its role in international organizations, and the level of influence it has in the political, economic, military, and cultural spheres. As **Jonathan Renshon** points out in his introduction to *The Struggle for Status*, there is a broad consensus among political scientists, foreign policy scholars, and their colleagues about the critical importance of status in world affairs¹¹.

Section II: Factors affecting international prestige:

Economic power: Economic power is one of the main factors that determine a country's position in the international system. Countries with strong economies and multinational corporations are able to influence the international trade system, attract investments, and influence global financial policies¹². Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is one of the most prominent indicators used to measure a country's economic power. This element also includes the country's capacity for technological innovation and scientific research in various economic fields.

Military power: Military power is one of the main pillars that determine the status of a state, as it directly contributes to the extent to which a state is able to impose its will on the international arena. Military power is not limited to the size or military strength of the army, but also includes the ability to possess strategic weapons such as nuclear weapons and the state's ability to deploy its forces in conflict zones¹³.

Analyzing the critical importance of the military factor in France's prestige, François Scheer expresses: France's status as a great power has been maintained by remaining a military power¹⁴.

Political and diplomatic influence: Political and diplomatic power plays a large role in enhancing a state's international standing. The ability to lead political coalitions and actively participate in international organizations such as the United Nations, the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the G20 enhances a country's standing in the international system. Smart diplomacy and contributing to peaceful solutions to international crises are also indicators of political power.

Cultural influence and soft power: Soft power is the ability of a country to influence other countries through non-coercive means such as culture, education, media, and social policies. Countries that have a strong culture, whether through the film industry, art, or education, can significantly improve their international standing. This cultural influence is not only measured at the level of countries with large economies, but even small countries that can export their culture and values.

Innovation and technology: Countries that are leaders in innovation and technology have a special place on the international stage. The ability to develop advanced technology in areas such as renewable energy, aerospace, and medicine enhances a country's ability to compete and influence globally. In addition, countries that lead in areas such as artificial intelligence and renewable energy have strategic power to influence global decisions.

Section III: The concept of international status within the framework of political theories:

Geopolitical power theory: This theory focuses on the impact of geographical location and natural resources on a country's status. Countries that enjoy a strategic location, or that control vital energy sources such as oil and gas, are

considered to have a higher international status. This theory emphasizes the role of geography in shaping international politics.

International System Theory: International system theory examines a state's place within a complex, multipolar world order. Proponents of this theory suggest that international status is determined not only by a state's intrinsic power, but also by interactions with other major powers in the international system. According to this theory, a state's status is determined by the place it occupies within the larger global system.

Section IV: The importance of the state's place in the international system:

Impact on International Security: A state with high international standing can contribute significantly to ensuring the stability of the international system. For example, highly influential states can play a role in mediating regional or international conflicts and contribute to the design of global security policies.

Influencing global economic policy: International status affects the ability of countries to influence global economic policies such as trade, investment, and international finance. Countries that are large in economic stature may help define international trade rules and shape financial policies through international organizations such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

To summarize, international prestige is not just a set of economic or military factors, but rather the interplay of a number of factors ranging from hard power (military and economic) to soft power (cultural and political). Thus, understanding international prestige requires a comprehensive vision and an in-depth study of all the factors that influence it. The discussion of the international status of any state must also discuss the elements of power that the state possesses. This is supported by the traditional assumption that characterizes traditional studies of status, which focus on material determinants and capabilities as the main features of it¹⁵.

THE SECOND TOPIC :The Energy Factor in International Relations Perspectives.

Energy plays a pivotal role in shaping the dynamics of international relations. As a vital economic and strategic resource, energy influences states' policies and interactions on the global stage. Traditional energy sources, such as oil and gas, along with the emergence of renewable energy, have become central to debates about power, dependency, and cooperation. International relations theories have offered different perspectives on how energy shapes state behavior and global power structures.

First requirement: The energy factor from the perspective of Realism:

Section I: Energy as an Instrument of Hard Power:

From a realist perspective, energy is an essential source of enhancing a state's hard power, as it is directly related to economic and military capabilities. Countries with vast energy resources have greater potential to develop their infrastructure, boost their economy, and fund a strong military. For example, Russia and Saudi Arabia use oil and gas revenues to boost their defense investments and support their economies. This resource enables states to

improve their bargaining power in the international arena, as having energy is seen as a way to achieve self-sufficiency and reduce dependence on other powers. Realism focuses on how these resources can be used as a tool to secure national interests, making energy a cornerstone in determining a state's independence and maneuverability. In his article in Foreign Affairs titled "Hard Power, Soft Power, Energy Power. The New Instrument of Foreign Policy," Michael Clare introduced the concept of 'energy power' and defined it as the exploitation of a country's advantages in energy production and technology to advance its global interests¹⁶.

Section II: Energy resources as a cause of competition and conflict:

Realism highlights the intense competition between countries to control energy resources, as the international system is governed by the principle of survival of the fittest. Countries are constantly seeking to secure their energy supplies, which leads to conflicts over energy sources and production areas. For example, the conflict over oil in the Middle East shows how energy resources become a major cause of regional crises. An economic arms race is also evident when major powers, such as China and the United States, compete for control of global energy markets. This rivalry is often a catalyst for military conflicts, as energy forms the basis for economic growth that translates into the enhancement of a state's overall power. Many researchers believe that the increased turbulence in global energy markets and uncertainty has led Badalol to tighten its belt and look for ways to put its energy supply on a more secure footing¹⁷.

Section III: The geopolitical location of energy:

Realism holds that the geographical location associated with energy enhances the geopolitical influence of states. Countries that control strategic energy corridors, such as the Strait of Hormuz or the Suez Canal, become pivotal powers that influence global energy flows, for example, the Arab Gulf states have a strategic location that allows them to control the oil supplies on which the global economy depends.

In addition, energy-producing countries reinforce their geopolitical positions through strategic alliances, as is the case with Russia's partnerships with Europe thanks to gas exports.

Realism emphasizes that these positions are not only a source of revenue, but also a tool to exert influence over others and ensure national interests.

Section IV: Energy as a geopolitical weapon:

Realism highlights the use of energy as a geopolitical weapon that enhances the political influence of states. Energy-producing countries can use it as a pressure card to achieve political goals, whether by reducing supplies or raising prices. A prominent example of this is the 1973 Arab oil embargo, which led to a global energy crisis to pressure Western countries to support the Palestinian cause.

Russia is also a clear example of using energy as a geopolitical tool, using gas exports to control European policies, especially during crises.

Realism suggests that countries that possess this energy power are using it to enhance their international role, creating new balances in the global system.

Section V: Energy as a key factor in national security:

From a realistic perspective, energy is a key element in national security, as countries depend on energy supplies to meet their economic and military needs, and ensuring energy security is a priority for countries, as they seek to secure their resources through local exploration, investment in renewable energy, or building strategic alliances with exporting countries, as the United States, for example, relies on the development of shale gas to achieve energy independence and reduce its dependence on oil imports.

Realists consider that energy security does not stop at production, but also includes securing transportation lines and sea lanes. Any threat to these supplies is considered a direct threat to national security, which may prompt states to intervene militarily to ensure their continuity.

In short, energy is not just an economic resource, but a strategic tool used to enhance hard power, achieve geopolitical influence, and ensure national security. Realists believe that the competition for energy resources highlights the conflictual nature of the international system, as states seek to achieve their interests at the expense of others. This pivotal role of energy makes it an essential element in explaining the behavior of states in the context of international relations

Second requirement: The Energy Factor from a Liberal Theory Perspective

Section I: Energy as an element of interdependence:

Energy interdependence between countries constitutes one of these concepts, which has gained notable importance over the last couple of decades for policy-makers. For example, in the final presidential debate for the 2016 U.S. elections¹⁸, From the perspective of liberal theory, energy represents a factor that promotes interdependence between states, as it contributes to achieving economic integration and international cooperation, as energy-producing and consuming countries depend on each other, which enhances opportunities for stability and peace, as Europe's dependence on Russian natural gas, for example, shows that the economic interests of the two parties are mutually linked, which pushes them to avoid political escalation despite differences. Liberals believe that this dependence reduces the likelihood of conflict, because countries seek to protect their vital trade relations. According to this conceptualization, energy is not just a source of wealth, but a means of strengthening global interdependence through investment and trade flows in this sector.

. Section II: The importance of international institutions in regulating the energy sector:

Liberalism emphasizes the role of international institutions in promoting cooperation and regulation in the energy sector. Organizations such as OPEC and the International Energy Agency (IEA) seek to balance energy markets and

ensure price stability. These institutions demonstrate the importance of collective negotiation and coordination between countries to achieve common interests. For example, OPEC regulates oil production among member countries to avoid sharp fluctuations in prices. Therefore, liberals believe that the existence of these institutional frameworks reduces chaos in the international system and encourages countries to work together rather than compete hostilely, and international institutions are considered effective tools to achieve transparency, justice, and sustainability in the energy sector.

Section III: Energy as a component of development and peace¹⁹:

Liberalism argues that energy contributes to economic and social development, which enhances the chances of world peace. Countries that use energy revenues rationally can improve education, health, and infrastructure, reducing the causes of internal and external conflicts.

For example, Norway is an example of a country that has used oil revenues to achieve sustainable development. Liberalism emphasizes that balanced development reduces political and social tensions and contributes to the stability of the international system. Energy is a resource that can be used to strengthen the partnership between energy-rich and energy-consuming countries through the exchange of economic and technological benefits.

Section IV: Energy as a driver of economic partnerships:

Liberals believe that energy trade promotes economic partnerships between countries and opens the way for long-term cooperation. Joint projects in the energy sector, such as building pipelines or developing renewable energy, reflect this trend. For example, the Nord Stream gas pipeline project between Russia and Germany shows how energy can be a bridge for economic cooperation even between countries with opposing political interests. According to liberals, such partnerships improve diplomatic relations and promote regional stability. According to this vision, energy is not a source of competition, but a tool for building bridges of cooperation within the framework of common interests, thus contributing to the reduction of international conflicts.

Section V: Energy as a factor in driving the shift towards sustainability:

Liberalism emphasizes the importance of shifting towards sustainable energy sources as a means of promoting international cooperation. The challenges of climate change have prompted countries to seek collective solutions to develop renewable energy and reduce carbon emissions.

According to liberals, these challenges are an opportunity to strengthen the partnership between countries through technology exchange and joint investment in environmentally friendly projects, and international agreements such as the Paris Climate Agreement bring together energy producing and consuming countries to achieve sustainability goals. Clean energy is not only an environmental option from a liberal perspective, but also a tool to reshape international relations towards greater cooperation and innovation.

The liberal theory sees the energy factor not only as an economic resource, but also as a crucial factor in promoting cooperation and interdependence

between countries and global stability. The role of international institutions, development and peace are elements that make energy a means to promote an international order based on cooperation rather than conflict. Liberalism shows that energy, if managed wisely, can be a tool to improve relations between nations and build a more integrated and sustainable world.

Third requirement: The energy factor from the perspective of Marxist theory.

Section I: Energy as an instrument of imperialist control:

From the perspective of Marxist theory, energy resources are used as a means of imperialist control by the major capitalist powers. These powers exploit developing countries that possess energy resources, but lack the technological and financial capacity to invest them independently.

Developed countries such as the United States and Western Europe impose their hegemony over energy markets through multinational corporations and global financial institutions, which leads to the depletion of developing countries' resources. Western interventions in the Middle East have reflected an attempt to maintain Western hegemony over oil resources, as happened in Iraq and Libya. According to Marxist theory, this disparity reinforces the dependency of energy-producing countries and deepens the economic gap between the center and the periphery²⁰.

Section II: Energy as part of the capitalist global economic system:

Marxist theory argues that energy is integrated into the global economic system as part of the capitalist structure that relies on the exploitation of labor and natural resources. Capitalist countries exploit energy resources in the periphery to fuel their industries and increase their profits, while energy-producing countries are left in a state of dependency. This is illustrated by the fact that international oil companies make huge profits from the exploitation of oil in Africa and the Middle East, while the people of these regions are impoverished and do not benefit from the proceeds of their resources. Marxists interpret this as the result of the hegemony of global capital, which structures international relations to serve the interests of the global bourgeoisie at the expense of workers and developing countries.²¹

Section III: Energy as a means of perpetuating economic inequality:

Marxism argues that control of energy is used as a means to perpetuate economic disparity between rich and poor countries. The major industrialized countries control the technology and energy markets, while the producing countries are merely suppliers of raw materials at low prices, which leads to the depletion of the natural resources of the producing countries without real development. Many African oil-producing countries suffer from a deterioration in basic services and infrastructure despite their enormous wealth. From a Marxist perspective, this disparity reflects the hegemony of the global bourgeoisie, which controls the tools of production and exploits developing countries to maintain its own economic well-being.

Section IV: Energy as a cause of class and international conflicts:

From a Marxist perspective, energy is a major cause of class conflicts within countries and international conflicts between major powers. Domestically, energy revenues are concentrated in the hands of ruling elites and foreign companies, creating a social gap between the dominant bourgeoisie and the working classes. At the international level, competition for energy resources leads to wars and conflicts between major powers. In practice, the struggle between the United States and China for influence in Africa to secure energy resources exemplifies this trend. Marxists interpret these conflicts as a natural consequence of the capitalist system, which relies on the exploitation of resources and the expansion of influence to ensure the continuation of capital accumulation.

Section V: Energy as an obstacle to independent development:

Marxism considers that developing countries' dependence on energy exports hinders their attempts to achieve independent development. These countries often fall into the "Resource Curse", as they focus their economy on extracting and exporting energy without developing other sectors, which is why their economies remain fragile and dependent on fluctuations in oil and gas prices. In addition, economic policies are imposed on them by major powers and international institutions such as the International Monetary Fund, which limits their ability to exploit their resources to achieve real development. Therefore, we see that Venezuela is facing huge economic challenges due to its heavy dependence on oil, in light of international pressures and economic sanctions.

In sum, Marxist theory considers the energy factor as a central tool in perpetuating imperialist hegemony and exploiting developing countries, given that energy resources are not only a means of making profits, but they are also part of an unjust global economic system that perpetuates class and international inequality. Marxists argue that the exploitation of energy in the capitalist system leads to conflicts and instability, highlighting the need to restructure the global system to achieve economic justice and sustainable development.

Fourth requirement: The energy factor from the perspective of constructivist theory:**Section I: Energy as a source of international identity and status:**

From the perspective of constructivist theory, the energy factor is not only a material tool, but an element that contributes to the formation of the international identity and status of states, as the constructivist approach believes that countries that possess large energy resources use them to build a strong image of themselves in the international arena. Russia, for example, uses natural gas to enhance its image as a superpower in the global system, and the Gulf states use their oil wealth to build an identity as influential states in global politics and economics.

In terms of constructivism, these resources contribute to building internal and external perceptions of the state, affecting how states define themselves and how others define them.

Section II: Energy as a tool for reshaping international relations:

Constructivism believes that energy is not just an economic resource, but a tool to reshape international relations according to shared values and interests. Countries that depend on each other for energy trade are redefining their relations beyond traditional competition. EU-Russia relations are based on complex partnerships that go beyond mere buying and selling, to include security and foreign policy issues. The constructivist perspective sees these relationships as built on mutual perceptions of trust and common interests, promoting stability or leading to tensions if perceptions change.

Section III: Energy as a factor in shaping international norms:

Constructivists believe that energy is used to shape new norms and values in the international system, especially in light of the growing interest in sustainability and climate change issues. The trend towards reliance on renewable energy reflects the idea of becoming a green economy as a global standard, which reshapes global energy policy. Germany and Sweden, for example, are playing a leading role in promoting the use of clean energy, which changes how countries perceive the use of energy resources. Constructivism emphasizes that energy is not only a means of production, but also part of the global discourse on sustainable development and environmental responsibility²²

Section IV: Energy as a means of cultural and political influence:

From a constructivist perspective, energy can be used to enhance cultural and political influence, as countries that dominate energy markets contribute to spreading their values and interests across the world. According to this theoretical perspective, the Arab Gulf states invest in sectors such as education and culture using energy revenues to build soft influence that enhances their status. These investments are what reshape how others understand the state and its role in the global system, so energy is not only an economic resource, but also a means to influence the perceptions of others through cultural and political values and initiatives.

Section V: Energy as a Tool for Changing International Behavior

Constructivism asserts that states utilize energy to alter the behavior of other states by influencing their perceptions and interests. For instance, countries like Russia rely on energy as a geopolitical weapon to reshape the behavior of importing nations by imposing political and economic conditions. Conversely, there are countries advocating for a shift towards clean energy to reshape the behavior of other states by promoting values of environmental responsibility.

From a constructivist perspective, the use of energy to change state behavior is based on a mutual understanding of relationships and interests, which reshapes the international system in a way that transcends hard power to soft power and shared values.

Conclusion

The overall conclusion is that constructivist theory views energy as more than just an economic or strategic tool; it is a fundamental element in building national identities, shaping international relations, and changing global norms. Energy enables states to influence the perceptions and behaviors of others,

highlighting its importance in reshaping the international system. Additionally, constructivism emphasizes the role of discourses and values in understanding the use of energy, making it crucial in shaping global interactions.

It appears that the energy factor represents a fundamental pillar in enhancing a country's position on the international stage, both through its role as an economic tool and as a means of political and geopolitical influence. Energy is not merely a natural resource; it is a strategic element that intersects with various dimensions of national and international power, as energy-exporting countries control many of the keys to the global system. The availability of energy significantly contributes to strengthening national security and enhances countries' ability to achieve energy independence, reducing dependence on external sources, which in turn bolsters their political and economic standing.

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