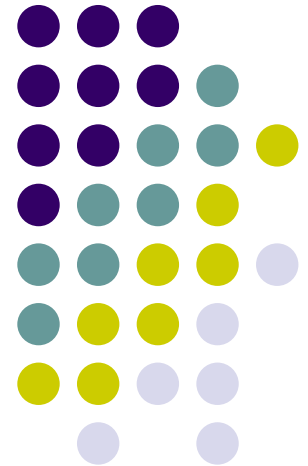


IRANIAN ENERGY POLICY IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS AND THE CASPIAN REGION



Sevak Sarukhanyan,
Reform Group Meeting 2009

Talking about Iranian regional energy policy we should take into account that:

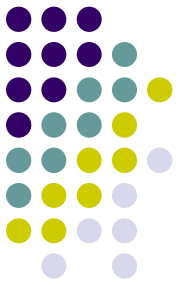


- Iran is the one of the biggest energy producers in the world,
- has a chance to become a real gas import alternative for Europe, understands its future special role for the EU energy security, almost uses it for political purposes,
- and is a country, which actively acts against US and its interests.

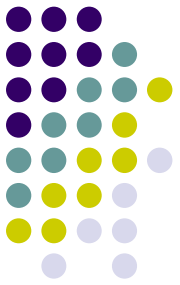
AS A RESULT in the South Caucasus the Caspian region we have an Iranian policy of



- Securing of its own energy leadership in the world, working against a new energy center creation, also creation problems for the Central Asia's and Azerbaijan's enter into European gas market,
- Acting against the US entrance into region, its positions and interests,
- creating its own infrastructure for the Caspian gas re-export to Europe,



- Getting ready for “Nabucco”



Two other options to be taken into account:



IRAN'S POLICY IS VERY PRAGMATIC, Tehran has many friends and no friends.

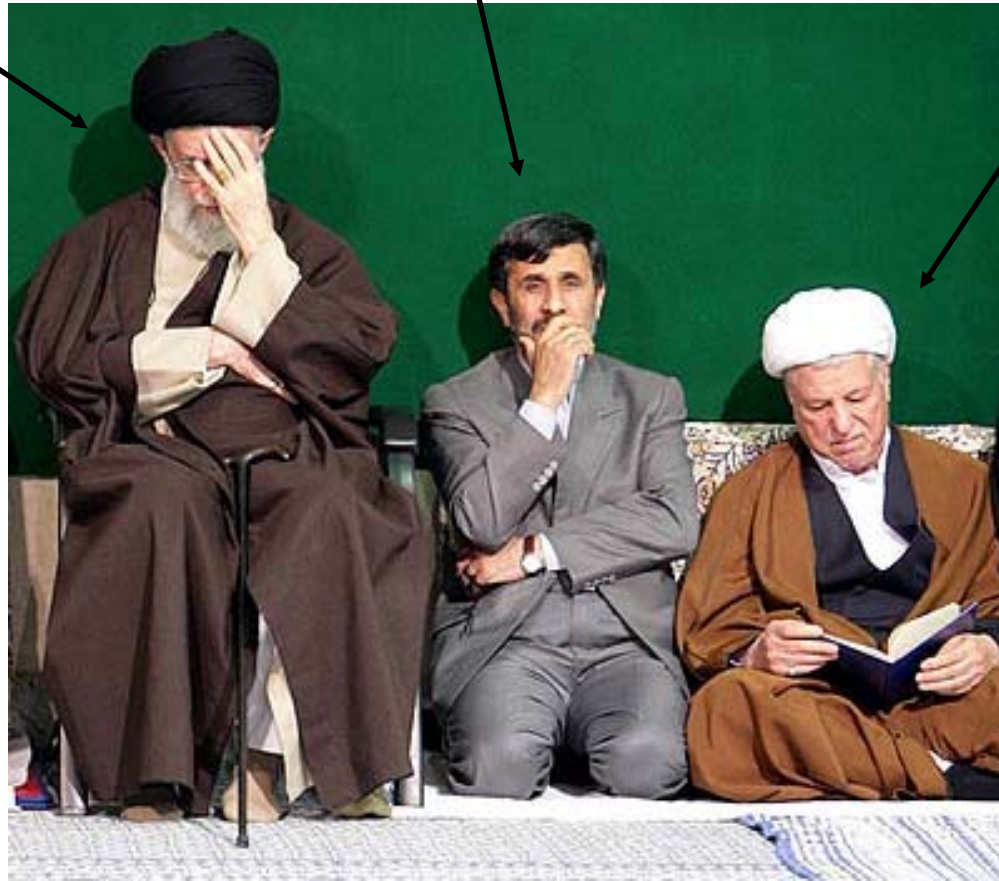
IRAN IS A MULTIPOWER STATE, HAS MANY CENTERS WITH THEIR OWN INTEREST ALMOST IN THE ENERGY SECTOR:



IS BASICALLY AGAINST THE FOREIGN INVESTMENTS

SEEKS A CONTROL OVER INOC AND IS NOT AGAINST THE FOREIGN INVESTMENTS and PRIVATIZATION

WANTS TO PRIVITIZE THE ENERGY SECTOR AND A DIALOGUE WITH THE WEST





مجتمع تجاری نارون

نارون

IRAN IS AN ASIAN COUNTRY

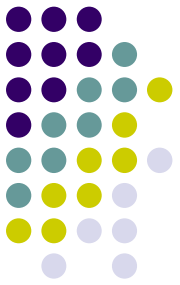
President Ahmadinejad

12/03/2006

But in a fact we have a Europe oriented energy policy



- Europe is the most reliable partner,
- Europe gives the best price in the world,
- China and India want long-term contracts with fixed prices,
- Iran's geographical position lets to link the Central Asia with Turkey and EU,
- Gas export is a political weapon and can be used for pressing International Community



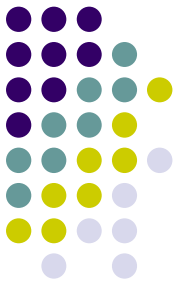
**These are the main factors
which form Iran's interests in
Caucasus and Caspian**

Regional Policy consists of two main elements

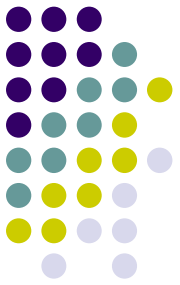


- Work against US-supported new energy projects realization like Baku-Ceyhan, Baku-Erzurum, Transcaspian pipeline (legal status issue is widely used, also bilateral ties).
- Create its own energy projects with regional countries (economic effectiveness sometimes doesn't play the central role)

HERE WE CAN MENTION



- Iran-Armenia gas-pipeline,
- Turkmenistan-Iran gas-pipeline,
- Neka-Rey pipeline,
- Investments in Armenia's, Tajikistan's, Georgia's, Kazakhstan's energy sectors,
- “Nabucco” blackmail



THE MAIN POSSIBLE CHANGES IN THE IRANIAN POLICY ARE CONNECTED WITH:

- POLITICAL SITUATION IN IRAN,
- FINANCIAL CRISES AND OIL REVENUES INCOMES,
- “NABUCCO” project,
- IRAN-US DIALOGUE,
- CASPIAN-RUSSIAN RELATIONS /Ashgabad-Moscow gas conflict,
for example, made Iran and Turkmenista become better friends/,
- WHETHER CHINA WILL BECOME A REAL PARTNER OF IRAN

The biggest South Pars gas-field



THANK YOU

