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The concept of power and its sources in international relations in light of recent developments

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Abstract
The concept of power is a central concept in the field of international relations, and it is one of the most complex and difficult concepts to study. It is difficult to accurately measure its elements and the material and non-material variables that are included in its composition, and most importantly, there are no fixed facts that constitute it, which reflects the dynamism of this concept. This world is a world distributed among countries that differ in their capabilities and influence. There are countries that appear strong in front of other countries, but are weak in front of a third country. The complexity has increased with the entry of technological development and artificial intelligence, which has changed its concept, and countries have begun to compete to obtain and possess the new variable that has entered, which is "artificial intelligence" and cyber space technology.

Keywords: Power, its sources, developments, relations, international

Introduction

The concept of power is one of the fundamental and central concepts in the field of international relations at the political and academic levels. It is one of the important terms that thinkers and specialists discuss and differ in describing. Contemporary political thought, especially Western thought, has addressed the change that has occurred in many of the commonly accepted concepts and constants. These changes have included several fields, including cultural, political, economic, legal, environmental, and others. The reason for this is due to the technological revolution and its multiple effects on the state and the emergence of new threats that affect it.

The prevailing trend in the global context today is the concern of individual nation-states for their existence, power, and influence in light of growing geopolitical tensions, as well as the impact of "power diffusion" among global non-state actors. States have opted for hard power tools within a framework of realist thinking. At the same time Scientists and specialists have begun to realize that the world needs a change in the old assumptions that prevailed, and a distinction to be made regarding "hard" power. Hard and soft Soft.

All perspectives and schools of thought view "power" Although it is the actual power ready for use, and using it is a difficult task; states use a set of mechanisms and tools to translate their sources of power and turn them into an effective force for influence, and they use two methods as old as international relations: "diplomacy and war". States rarely enter into negotiations as equal parties in power, as each party knows the extent of its own power and its sources and is aware of the power of its adversary and its sources, but the decisive factor in the end is linking the interest to the effectiveness of power and its effects, which will have the final say in drawing the map of international interactions.

Importance of the study

This study stems from the importance of the concept of power, as it is one of the central concepts in the field of international relations. Human interactions have been and will continue to be governed by two principles: "power and interest." Power leads to the achievement of interest, and interest dictates the extent of the need for power. Thus, the change in the concept of power after the developments that have taken place at all levels in our current era necessarily calls for a change in the nature of interactions between human societies based on the nature and type of new forms of power used in international relations.

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The problem addressed in the study

The problem of the study revolves around the power that has been affected by change after the recent developments, which created a new reality and was accompanied by the entry of several variables and the existence of a new reality of network relations between states and new non-state actors in global politics. From this problem, the procedural question is raised, which is has power in our current era been reduced to the framework of scientific and technological progress only?

Study hypothesis

In line with the research problem, a hypothesis was put forward which is that power is a fundamental pillar in international relations, which has undergone a major transformation in light of the large and rapid developments and their spread on all levels.

The approach taken

This study relied on the descriptive analytical approach to identify this phenomenon and describe political phenomena as a suitable tool, relying on collecting, classifying, and presenting information, data, and concepts in a scientifically organized manner in order to clarify, break down, study, and analyze this phenomenon in depth in order to reach the desired research goal.

Study structure

Based on the problem and hypothesis of the study, the research was divided into an introduction, a conclusion, and two main sections. The first section dealt with defining the concept of power and its theories in international relations, and it contains two requirements, while the second section dealt with the sources of power, and it also contains two requirements.

First topic
The concept of power and its theories in international relations

The concept of power is complex, and it is difficult to precisely define and measure the material and non-material elements and variables that constitute it for a given state. Most importantly, there are no fixed facts that define it, reflecting the dynamic nature of this concept. This world is divided among states with varying capabilities and influence. Some states appear powerful compared to others, yet weak compared to yet others. Numerous schools of thought have addressed the measurement of state power. The first school, whose proponents include Machiavelli, links state power to military strength. Machiavelli Nicolas, however, the second school adopted a different approach, linking the power of the state to elements represented by its geographical location in terms of land, sea, and climate, and its most important pioneers were Plato and Mackinder. Mackinder Spekman Spykman and Mahan the third school, however, focused on linking the power of the state to the form of its political system, and its most important pioneers were Aristotle and Alexis de Tocqueville. Alexis de Tocqueville. Accordingly, the study was divided into two sections; the first section dealt with the concept of power in international relations, and the second section dealt with...
The concept of power according to international relations theories.

First requirement: The concept of power in international relations

- The concept of power, like other concepts in the social sciences, is linked to the context in which it is related, and it is one of the determinants for understanding the behavior of states on the international stage. The development in international politics leads to a change in the meaning of power, its forms, and its constituent elements, and it is subject to transformations in power relations alone. The term power has been used in the political sense since 1701, when the political conflict intensified and the powerful state emerged in Europe.

- One of the most important elements of power is the existence of some kind of conflict. Hence, it can be said that the content and elements of power are renewed according to the potential and actual sources of threat and the existence of conflicting interests at the regional and international level. Studying the concept of power requires clarifying what this term means inside and outside the state and its effects. Power constitutes the essence of international relations, just as authority is the essence of national policy. The difference between power and authority is that the latter includes the former, but it is linked to a goal: achieving the unity of the group by means of the legitimate monopoly of the instruments of violence. The importance of power and its study stems from several reasons

- The importance of power has been a fundamental variable in the political behavior of states throughout history, and power has played a major role in triggering many international conflicts and in determining major outcomes such as the wars of Napoleon and Hitler. Therefore, we can say that power has played a decisive role in wars and conflicts; and major wars cause major shifts in the structure and distribution of power and the rules that govern international interactions.

- Power theories have established key concepts through which the foreign policy of states is made clear, most importantly "political power "and the concept of "balance of power, "which is necessary for possessing deterrence and hegemony.

- Power theory was clearer than others in its treatment of the realities of international politics. It explained many of the decisions and actions taken by states in their policies and management of international relations, and revealed a fundamental truth for states, which is that power in foreign relations is linked to the national interest of the state.

However, power in its material sense is (relative), and its assessment depends on two things

- **First:** The extent to which institutions are able to transform, organize and mobilize available sources of power, both material and non-material, whether those sources of power are hard or soft, into real capabilities and effective and tangible power that enables them to deal and compete in order to influence.

- **Second:** Two countries may be equal in possessing the same sources of power, but the ability of one and the inability of the other to employ one or some of its sources of power, This makes the state that is able to employ its sources of power relatively more effective than the other, even though the sources of power of the two states are equal. Here it is evident through its

policies and internal and external orientations and the way it manages its international relations, by identifying its allies and enemies.

Max Weber (1864-1920) stated that

"Power is a kind of coercive and compulsory practice by one individual over others". He also defined politics as "an attempt to share power or an attempt to influence the distribution of power, whether between states or between groups within a state. "Weber was interested in the exercise of power and justifying the legitimacy of its use, as he says: "The state successfully claims for itself a monopoly on legitimate physical violence". For him, the concept of legitimacy means the rules on which power is exercised and is acceptable, and it is a means of action exclusive to the state and distinctive to it.

And each of them is considered Hans Morgenthau Hans Morgenthau and Ador DH Carr Edward Hallett is considered one of the most important figures in laying the foundations of power theory. He explained his view of power as being essentially a single, indivisible unit, and divided political power into three types. Intertwined together, these are economic power, military power, and the power to control ideas and opinions (Power over Opinion). Any action a state takes in terms of power is linked, in one way or another, to war, which is its last resort. Hence, it has become clear that a state's foreign policy is linked to its overarching national strategy; in other words, its objectives are defined and coupled with its military strength compared to its rivals. It has also become clear that... The difficulty in measuring the strength of opinions and ideas in a country is because they are not subject to a specific and accurate unit of measurement. Rather, the official and unofficial directed media plays an active role in controlling the opinions of the people and harnessing them to serve the state's policy and strategy.

Hans Morgenthau defines it Hans Morgenthau defines international relations as "the control of man over the minds and actions of others, "with a clear reference to the two main elements of power: "potential and action. "He interprets international relations from a complex idea containing the interconnectedness of the duality of "power and national interest". He also believes that the essence of international relations is international politics, the substance of which is the struggle for power between sovereign states, and that power alone is capable of achieving the interest. Here, power refers to military power. In this context, Morgenthau believes that international politics is divided into three types: it aims to maintain power, increase it, or demonstrate it.

Political power in a society emerges through "authority "and "influence, "which is the relationship between those who exercise it and those over whom it is exercised, although it has a psychological character. Political power is the sum total of all powers within society because it possesses legitimacy. Which allows her to force others to obey her. It sets limits on power and establishes conditions for its exercise. It alone has the right to demand obedience from all its subjects living on its land, regardless of their religions, ethnicities, or social classes. Hence, we find that whoever possesses political power is fundamentally...to make the decision or the one who made it, and this was confirmed Lasswell Lasswell and Morton Kaplan He described political power as (participation in decision-making).

The prevailing meaning in the literature of political science, strategic studies and international relations is in defining this power, which is that there are two international actors, one of whom wants the other to do international behavior that he does not want to do on his own because that action causes him clear harm, so if this other actor changes his behavior in response to the will of the first actor. Here the result is that the first actor has influence, power and strength over the other actor"; that is, in the general sense of the concept of power "is the ability of the actor to achieve its goals by influencing others and implementing its will either through enticement or coercion "; so if influence is the ability of one party to bring about a change in the behavior of another party, and the change may be achieved through coercion by means of military threats or the threat of imposing economic sanctions or even by obtaining information through blackmail, while the desired change is done within a deal by rewarding the other party to change its new behavior by means of enticement by granting it privileges such as material, military, economic or political support, and the exercise of influence is at its most intense when an actor uses political discussion and dialogue to change the behavior of the second party in order to adopt a new behavior.

The field of international relations has seen a proliferation of schools of thought, and specialists have differed in defining the concept of power. This is due to the multifaceted nature of the concept, encompassing political, economic, social, cultural, technological, and other dimensions. The traditional understanding of power was confined to the realm of military strategy that is, a state's ability to achieve its objectives through the threat or actual use of force. However, Edward Hallett Carr introduced a new dimension to the concept of hard power, including military and economic power, a view later adopted by the Realist school. Later, after a long period of time; Realists believe that the power of a state is equal to the size of its military power. Realism, as a deeply rooted model, had a wide impact on the discussions and writings of specialists in international relations to understand political events and phenomena. Despite the existence of other theories (such as liberalism, Marxism, constructivism) and other subsequent theories that conflict with it, it is considered the foundational point for most of the theories that followed it, that is, it is an intellectual inspiration and a source for all other theories of international relations.

Power is simply the possession of tangible and intangible resources such as raw materials, economic and military resources, population, and other quantifiable and readily available assets. Capability, on the other hand, is something invisible and intangible; it refers to the potential for available resources or the ability to convert power into effective power. Power is generated by transforming the tangible and intangible resources available to a state into a source of pressure and influence in international relations, serving the state's national interests and contributing to the achievement of its national goals. Power is often ambiguous, unpredictable, and secretive because it is not clearly defined. Power, therefore, is a practical exercise the effective political utilization of these resources. This requires political will, intellectual competence, and a broad understanding of the political elite, which is crucial in determining the state's choices. Thus, the term "force "is a component of "power,

"leading us to the true meaning. The concept of power in its comprehensive sense (power).

Ultimately, both power and influence are central to determining the nature of the capabilities possessed by the major players in the global system. The concept of power is considered pivotal in international relations and is the primary variable in understanding the behavior of states within the international system. There is no consensus in the literature of international politics and international relations on a universally agreed-upon definition of power. Power is a construct imposed by the nature of the international system, which is characterized by anarchy and the absence of a supreme, organizing authority. This has compelled states to strive, through various means, to create sources and factors of power in order to activate them as the true guarantee of their national security, internal stability, and the achievement of their interests.

The second requirement: The concept of power according to international relations theories

According to the "Realism "school of thought, international society is interpreted within the framework of power relations between states, and that Power is not an unlikely tool in international relations, and states are engaged in a zero-sum game. It is therefore rational for states to focus on developing and maximizing power in order to defend themselves. Its existence is precarious, as it cannot trust the intentions of others towards it. If one state lays down its arms and the other party does not, it is unlikely to survive under the prevailing conditions of "international anarchy. "According to the "classical realism "school of thought, power... It is one of the central concepts it refers to the national interest that it seeks to achieve, which is the interest of "survival", "Survival and self-reliance/Self-preservation".

The interest of maximizing military power and the interest of maximizing economic power are intertwined. Consequently, the state's external behavior, or the state's implementation of its foreign policy and its interactions in international politics, is mostly governed by the concept of power. Hence, states strive to maintain available power, or achieve "hegemony, "or to project power, according to Morgenthau, who is considered one of the most prominent theorists in international politics. His book "Politics among Nations, "published in 1948, is considered one of the most important references in analyzing international politics within the framework of realist theory. His analysis was based on the premise that power is the fundamental and pivotal rule in international relations, and that the foundations of relations between states are based on "power, "which is always the immediate goal for classical realists.

of any country's foreign policy depends on the size of the elements of power it possesses and the extent of its rational (rational behavior) and effective employment of them in light of the great competition witnessed in the international environment, which determines the basis for calculating "benefits and losses" or "return and cost," and the changes it brings about in the external behaviors of countries and in light of international interactions (external variables). The international environment affects the general course of the state's policy, and the state's foreign policy is a reflection of its internal policy.

As for the new realists (Realism) Neo. Their concept of power differs from that of the classical realist school, as the state does not seek power in its external behavior but rather

"security "in light of the concept of conflict and the anarchic nature of global politics. This will lead to the use of power, but in a legitimate way, and thus power is a means and not an end, because the end is security. It assumed that the state should deal with the worst-case scenario, and this explains why states seek to maximize their sources of power, as explained by John H Herz, a thinker of neorealism. Herz John H. introduced the concept of the "Security Dilemma "in 1950 in his book "Political Realism and Political Idealism," stating that the feeling of insecurity stemming from fear and suspicion makes states compete over power and maximize it more and more in order to avoid attack, subjugation, or annihilation by another state, and to achieve more security, they must become strong.

The New Realist school split into two factions in 1991, and these divisions are

- **First: Offensive Realism:** As Jack Lewis Snyder first called it, aggressive realism, it is based on the premise that there is a constant threat to the security of the state, and therefore it is logical or rational to gain the greatest possible amount of offensive military power, and to strive to achieve security unilaterally, and to give up part of its independence in its external behavior in favor of influencing and thus controlling the rest of the international actors.

- **Second: Defensive Realism:** Which is often referred to as structural realism Structural realism. This is the opposite of offensive realism, and it focuses on maximizing a state's defensive capabilities over its offensive ones. It believes that states are not concerned with achieving influence or the impact is as much as it concerns the security and external independence of the state's behavior and adopts a defensive stance. Defense is the primary objective of foreign policy implementation, with survival as its main goal. Therefore, a state bases its foreign policy options on worst-case scenarios. Which may occur, even if there is no danger threatening it, and the reason is due to the absence of a hierarchical character of the international system, and the international system lacks a supreme authority to supervise it, and this leads it to seek more power to achieve its independence in its external behavior, and thus achieve its security.

Defensive realists view security as a readily available commodity, the nation- state as a rational and pragmatic actor, and international anarchy as not dangerous. They consider the security dilemma to stem from the misguided perceptions of leaders who aspire to expansion and war. Offensive realists, on the other hand, see security as a scarce commodity that states compete to obtain even the minimum of. Their ultimate goal, they argue, is for the state to be powerful and dominant in the international system. John Mearsheimer, through offensive realism, argues that the structures of the international system provide states with ample opportunities to seek power at the expense of their rivals, a view contrary to that of Kenneth Waltz. "Kenneth Neal said that the goal of the state is survival and influence. views conflicts and their prevention as things that cannot be explained by theory. "Balance of Power" alone, but there is a fundamental role and great importance of internal factors such as the nature of the political system, the forces active within the state, and other factors such as the internal

structure of states, their environment, values, identity, civil and cultural structures, and their joining international institutions that take upon themselves the resolution of international conflicts, which in turn affect the external behavior of the state in the international system. According to this school of thought, the state is not the sole actor in international security relations. This school agrees on the necessity of strengthening international institutions and granting them significant effectiveness in order to limit any shift in a state's political and military behavior that affects the prevailing order. Maintaining international peace and security is not a task that falls solely on the state; rather, it requires institutions and internationally agreed -upon political rules. Therefore, international institutions play a strategic and active role in creating and maintaining balances of common interests. Recent developments have paved the way for the presence of numerous non-state actors. They are no less important in the international system in international interactions (despite the importance of the state as a key actor in international relations), some are technological in nature and others are ideological in nature, causing security challenges for both the state and individuals.

As for "Constructivism Theory "It presents a unique and different perspective on power. In the view of the thinkers of this theory, they add to the sources of tangible and intangible power the power of ideas, values, language and culture. Through the power of different ideas, the identities of that state, its national feeling and interests are formulated. Joseph Nye divided power into "hard power" and "soft power. "Many agree with his "carrot and stick" approach (coercion and enticement). Soft power is viewed as a descriptive, not a normative, concept, and is neither idealistic nor liberal. Nye distinguished three types of soft power: first, "attraction, "which refers to capturing attention by persuading others to do what they do not want to do; second, "persuasion, "which is used to influence others' beliefs and shape perceptions without resorting to threats or force. Resort to Force, without them realizing you're doing that to them; and the third: Setting an "Agenda Setting" for "actions ". Determining the other priorities of the state in a way that serves or is consistent with the strategies and priorities that exercise soft power, but the problem lies in how to integrate soft power into the state's strategy, especially since it depends on "attraction, not payment. "The use of soft power and its success requires the state to have large economic resources and capital. It is difficult to apply it in countries that lack viable economic and political models, or are technologically and educationally degraded, or suffer from serious social problems. It often takes countries years to gain and strengthen their soft power to become an attractive model for others to emulate.

Solely on soft power dimensions cultural policies, diplomacy, and foreign aid without a supporting hard power behind them to ensure a secure environment for their use. This has led to the emergence of a new reality: "Smart Power", which, in its structure, is a combination of... between the two powers, hard and soft power, are more effective than the two powers individually. They came as a product within American intellectual institutions as a reaction to correct the strategic course to overcome the crisis of the failure of patterns of employing power and to achieve the desired goals, and in order to maintain and enhance global hegemony. Therefore, American decision-makers and think tanks adopted them, saying, "The United States cannot back down from the logic of power because by doing so it risks the basic element of its global hegemony".

We notice from in the concept of power, there is a gap between the effective power in international politics (practical power) and the conceptual concept of power. This may be due to the reality of power itself - it is a holistic phenomenon subject to a set of overlapping and interacting variables that are difficult to separate and study individually. An example of this is the effect of the economic variable on the efficiency of the political system, its capabilities, and diplomacy. Power is the basic factor whose practical standards and ranges of influence change. It is necessary to differentiate between what is studied theoretically and the arena of its actual application, and to work on harnessing all the components of the state to resolve the issue of national interest with decisions resulting from employing all the sources of effectiveness of the state internally to transform them into an effective external action.

Second topic
Sources of power and their development
The sources of power that enable a state to transform itself into actual power and achieve desired results on the international stage are characterized by advancements in information technology and the introduction of a new variable: artificial intelligence. This discussion is divided into two sections: the first addresses the sources of power, and the second examines the evolution of these sources.

First requirement: Sources of power
Sources of power are divided into two main categories:
- **The fixed (traditional) sources that can be measured:** These include a set of elements such as geographical location, topography, border shape, area, and the resources of the state's territory.
- **Variable (non-traditional) sources:** These are sources that depend on the state's available resources, as well as its capacity. The state and its capabilities to employ those resources, and thus influence others negatively or positively, then any state has data for its changing power that depends on the possibility of activating it in the short and medium term. Economic resources, military capabilities, state institutions, its infrastructure, technology, cultural effectiveness, and the moral state of the people are all considered. The overlap and intertwining of these elements together form the comprehensive power of the nation -state (National/Total-Power). These are changing sources of state power, and when these changing sources are invested effectively, they lead to building an effective foreign policy, which is also considered a constantly changing source.

Diagram No 1 illustrates the sources of power:
A diagram illustrating sources of power, prepared by the researcher
Kenneth Waltz was one of the thinkers of the New Realist school. Kenneth Neal He broadened the concept of power to include non-military elements, and attempted to link state power with the possession of other elements. The B represents (area, geographical location, material and natural resources, population, level of economic growth, military development, political stability, and administrative

efficiency), and the basic levels and tools presented by Kenneth Waltz in the analysis of international relations, which consist of the first level: Which emphasizes the role of individuals as an important factor, while the second level: Has focused on society in the national context, while the third level, is related to the global structure and the international system that is formed from a set of units, so the relationship between states and relevant transnational international actors must be taken into account.

As for the researcher and political analyst, Abram Fim Kenneth Organski AFK Organski views power as "the ability of one nation to control the behavior of another nation for its own purposes." He explained the transfer and transformation of power as a dynamic between nations, which is the source of major wars arising from two factors: First, "the difference in the size and growth rates of the power of members in the international system", and second, "the dissatisfaction of the rising state with its position in the international system". He proposed six components of power (population, political development, economic development, national values, natural resources, and the state's geography). Therefore, the concept of International Power Transition is linked to the contributions of... Organski Organski AFK is considered the founder of the "power transformation" theory. The Power Transition Theory, one of the theories explaining international competition for global dominance among superpowers, explains how the balance of power between states changes and the resulting impact on the stability of the international system. This theory was presented in his 1958 book, "World Politics. "He argues that the foundation of power lies in the real and immediate economic aspect; its availability implies an abundance of other elements. Secondly, this growing power influences the international system, particularly the dominant nation's position within it. This highlights the complex nature of power, characterized by its multiple and interconnected sources and its transformation from a latent force. "potential power "to "effective (real) power "Effective power, "and there is a difference between possessing actual power and possessing latent capabilities that have not yet been employed in a specific power. He calls for adopting a combination between degrees of power and degrees of conviction or satisfaction with the prevailing conditions, and based on this, Organski classifies countries into four categories

- Strong, contented nations.
- Powerful but unconvinced nations.
- Weak, complacent nations.
- Weak, unconvinced states.

Some international relations thinkers also agree on a set of elements that constitute power, which can be called the "structure of power. "One of the most prominent of these thinkers is Hans Morgenthau, who expressed the concept of "the comprehensive power of the state. "National/Total-Power, through nine elements, the first five of which relate to hard power and the last four to soft power, are

- The geographical factor.
- Natural resources.
- Industrial resources.
- Military preparedness.
- The population.
- National character.
- National morale.

- Quality of the ruling.
- The quality and efficiency of diplomacy.

Diagram No 2 illustrates the division of the elements of overall power

A diagram prepared by the researcher illustrates the elements of comprehensive state power.

The geographical distribution of wealth The map of the country and its diversity, such as oil, gas, water resources, agricultural lands, etc., in the event of their distribution and spread within the country, with the presence of an acceptable government. A system that is socially legitimate and fairly managed and distributed is considered a strength; however, if the opposite is true, it is considered a factor affecting the state's structure and weakening it. Furthermore, if it is concentrated in one region to the exclusion of others, it may cause...In an internal conflict, some may even demand secession, self-determination, autonomy, or insist on adopting a federal or confederal model.

The political capabilities of the state, by which we mean the ability to extract and mobilize its resources, are a role undertaken by the political elites who assume the position. In guiding social life it enables it to lead society and influence its course through its control over political decision-making. This is embodied in setting the state's priorities, strengthening its power, and enhancing it with available resources. This is the result of cognitive interactions among leaders, technocratic elites, and decision-makers in advancing it. The political capabilities of elites are difficult to measure when assessing the power of the state; rather, the state as a whole is considered. By political capabilities, we mean here

- Level of public freedoms (political pluralism).
- Political stability and the absence of violence.
- Voter turnout in the parliamentary elections.
- The extent of the government's acceptability, efficiency, and professionalism in its performance.
- The effectiveness of parliament (in representation and oversight).

Moral factors include three main elements

National will, strategic goals, and political capabilities. For example, a state may be militarily weak but morally (psychologically) stronger, enabling it to deter aggression. Not because it possesses military power, but because it can send a message to the adversary. And the illusion of it is difficult to estimate its strength and the strength of its response, and any adventure on its part will have dire and costly consequences and major repercussions, and here it serves as a means of deterrence to avoid clashing with it.

It also affects the area a state occupies, as a result of its political power; it can be imagined that it could be a superpower. In the international system, regardless of the size of its territory and freedom of movement within it, countries with small territory feel restricted and confined by the nature of their narrow area, and are unable to defend themselves. This creates a psychological burden on the decision-maker. The larger the territory of a country and the more control it has over it, the safer it is. A large territory provides it with significant strategic depth, guaranteeing protection in the event of military offensives and invasions. It can evacuate the territory and withdraw tactically, applying the principle of "selling land and buying time, "making it difficult to occupy and eliminate it. Conversely,

some view long borders as potentially a point of weakness because the vastness of the territory weakens communication with the wider parts of the country and control over them. On the other hand, it must protect its long borders, and this is financially costly for the country.

Previously, the population was considered one of the important sources of state power, as a large population meant abundant labor and a large number of military forces. However, in the present time and with the development that has taken place, possessing a developed economy, modern military technology, and advanced smart and unconventional weapons is extremely important in the battles of war in the twenty-first century and the accompanying geostrategic dimensions, which has weakened the quantitative (numerical) standard of population. The large number of military forces that are characterized with weak armament and deficiencies in its logistical and training capabilities, it cannot compete with small armies equipped with advanced equipment, possessing expertise and high-level combat capabilities. A large population can be a burden on the state and its economy. Food is perhaps the most important thing for any country to meet the needs of its citizens. If it lacks sufficient resources and a developed economy, this leads to a decline in the standard of living, negatively impacting the state's strength and becoming a source of vulnerability. Famines and poverty may lead to conflicts over resources, exacerbate ethnic tensions, fuel social, political, and economic unrest, and cause backwardness and environmental pollution. These countries depend on other nations, and food dependency is present. For example, Ethiopia cannot exercise power because this type of country is indebted to large, rich countries, has weak decision-making power, and is subject to foreign control. In general, a large population is considered a source of strength for a country if it continues to be combined with other internal factors of strength, such as social, cultural, and identity cohesion, awareness, and a high level of education and knowledge.

The social and demographic structure plays a role in shaping social cohesion in any country, in terms of its components (nationality, ethnicity, religious and sectarian groups, and tribal affiliations). However, this structure can also be a weakness and a double-edged sword if there is no spiritual, moral, and social cohesion among its people, forged in the crucible of national unity and a unifying national identity based on social justice and the rule of law. National character and national cohesion are thus crucial. It is considered a pillar of social cohesion. Consolidating national unity, security and political stability, and activating comprehensive and sustainable development, is therefore an important source for shaping political power in a positive direction. Therefore, many political thinkers add it as one of the elements of national power for the state.

The revolution in knowledge, technology, and innovation has added a new element to the system of hard power; countries strive to acquire advanced technology. Attention to scientific research and innovation, and the pursuit of excellence and distinction in these areas, are a natural consequence of the effectiveness of one of the sources of power in this era, where the lines between civilian and military affairs are blurring. Hence, Alvin Toffler says that possessing knowledge and technology is a source of power. Essential to power and influence, knowledge plays a doubly important role in acquiring wealth and military power.

Every country tries to understand its position in the power hierarchy relative to other countries; countries exert their power on International Arena Which is dominated by conflict and competition through two basic tools, namely "diplomacy and war "And on the basis of which the state determines its goals and decides to choose between this tool or that according to the data presented on the scene. The state that possesses the capabilities of power always wins in diplomacy and in war as well. In this context, former US President Ronald Reagan says, "Diplomacy is a conflict that results in a winner and a loser. "And the profit is based on the diplomacy of arms, according to the American point of view.

There is one common goal among countries, which is self-interest, and each country seeks to achieve its interests with only two tools, and no third: "diplomacy and war, "as we mentioned previously. Diplomacy precedes, accompanies, and follows war; it is the main tool in international relations, and through it, countries achieve their goals and impose their will through the easiest methods and at the lowest costs. And that diplomacy should be used with its methods and skills, which are based on the actual power (hard and soft) that the state possesses and brandishing it without getting involved in war, as it requires enormous expenses and depletion of its resources, and leaves losses and risks on both sides.

With the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction of all kinds and the eagerness of many countries to possess them, when diplomacy fails to compel the other party to submit to the state's will, it becomes necessary to demonstrate the state's power to prove its capability, command respect, and force the other party to submit to the will of the stronger party. Here, diplomacy continues... Its tasks are relentless, aimed at convincing the adversary of the necessity of surrender and submission to the stronger party. Diplomacy and war are complementary as instruments of power, and war is a means of persuading or coercing the other party to comply with the will of the state. Perhaps this complementarity explains several ongoing aspects of decision-making policy. The participation of diplomats and military personnel in national security councils and in shaping its policies, and the emergence of what is known as (military diplomacy or power diplomacy), as well as We see polarization Military personnel after the end of their duties in the army in the diplomatic corps and other forms of rapprochement and cooperation between diplomats and military personnel.

The second requirement: Development in sources of power

The transformation taking place on all levels is due to scientific and technological development. He highlighted new data in the concept of power as a relational concept by nature. Power is no longer measured on the basis of judging quantity and quality, but rather on the result resulting from it. Also, the centralization of power was confined to the hands of the state, but due to the development that has occurred and the dispersal of power in favor of other forces (parties, public opinion, civil society, etc.), these forces have become influential.

It has become customary among scholars and specialists in the field of international relations to recognize the existence of a hierarchy of power. Among nations, based on their strengths and capabilities, the available power upon which

they rely It consists of the following basic elements: Economic power, technological power, and military power have become the major determinants and the most reliable measure for classifying and ranking countries in the international system, classifying them as either "dominant" or "superpowers". "Super", "Great Powers", "Middle Powers", and "Small Powers". This classification was added after World War II. Power, even if it exists, means nothing except the results it achieves from possessing it. Power in politics is a tool and means of hegemony and control in international relations.

Military strength is considered one of the important pillars and indicators for measuring a state's power in peacetime, and one of the manifestations reflecting a state's true power in wartime. Military strength is traditionally measured by the size of the armies and the amount of national income spent on them; the greater the expenditure, the stronger the state's military, as well as its possession of a military industrial base. Weapons systems in modern times, this is an indicator of a state's ability to achieve self-reliance, which contributes to the nationalization of political decision-making and thus increases the state's power. Furthermore, attention to the technological factor is very important in modern military development, and countries have begun to compete to acquire it. An example of this is unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), or drones. The AI-powered drone has changed the nature of warfare. It has become an important factor for armies in the tasks they perform, from carrying out high-precision offensive operations to using it in espionage and intelligence work.

We find that the nature of war and its consequences have changed radically in our current era to such an extent that no one can be keen on applying past experiences. Major international transformations have contributed to the resort to force and the emergence of its effectiveness on the international stage. Among these transformations are

- Economic interdependence between countries has helped to reduce the use of military force and its negative impact on economic development and growth.
- Non-state actors, such as multinational corporations, non-governmental organizations, militias, and terrorist groups, who are now able to exercise various forms of power.
- The emergence of ethnic, national, and religious conflicts and the rise of sub-identities make it difficult to use hard power in its traditional, familiar framework.
- The countries realized that the clash and confrontation with the groups Irregular armed groups are tasked with asymmetric warfare, as seen in the American experience in Vietnam and Afghanistan, and with the emergence of effective weapons. And they are inexpensive, such as drones and missiles with micro-warheads. These weapons are characterized by high destructive power and do not require specialists or training courses.
- A shift in political issues with the emergence of issues that hard power cannot solve, such as organized crime, drug trafficking, illegal immigration, human trafficking, climate change, epidemics, and terrorism.

Power consists of a set of persuasive tools and methods of attraction, achieved through international reputation, moral and ethical authority, diplomatic weight, persuasive ability, an attractive culture, legitimacy, and strategic credibility. It is employed with great care to achieve desired foreign policy objectives and enhance influence without resorting to coercion and violence (hard power). A state's soft power rests on three main resources

- **Culture and civilization:** These are the values and practices that distinguish a country because of its elements of civilization, literature, art, and media, and which can attract individuals and peoples from other countries to it.
- **Local political values and ideals:** These contain elements common to other countries such as freedom, democracy, civil society, women's rights, freedom of the press, and the ability of the individual to criticize his government (when he applies them sincerely at home and abroad). When a country has a high culture and values that promote its policies and interests, and which others share, it increases the possibility of achieving the desired results because of the attractive relationships it creates.

Policy, which is an important component of soft power, is characterized by the extent to which a state's cohesion and diplomatic activity on the international stage is a factor that enhances soft power.

The tremendous technological advancements in information technology have also created a new form of power: "cyber power". Cyberspace, also known as cyberspace Cyberspace, which has begun to affect the international system and has entered as a new fifth field in international relations that transcends borders and is capable of possessing comprehensive power platforms, has made cyberspace a new field of conflict and is at its fiercest between competing countries to achieve political, diplomatic and military purposes, and it is known as cyberspace warfare, which has become the wars of the present and the future and refers to the actions taken by any nation-state through cyber-attacks to penetrate the computer systems or networks of another country, from governmental information systems or essential services, for the purpose of penetrating, spying on or damaging them, or manipulating and disabling them from working, which has created a new threat characterized by constant change and the expansion of its scope of influence.

A single state seeks to gain more power relative to its rivals in order to increase its security. This will lead to threats and increased insecurity for other states, resulting in a situation known as "The Security Dilemma. "Consequently, the confrontation and the game will have a zero- sum outcome, and here power gains can be achieved. This security dilemma can be mitigated through the mechanism of "balance of power." There are two ways in which power is balanced between states: Internal and external balance. Internal balance occurs when states increase their own capabilities through increased economic growth or increased military spending. External balance occurs when states form alliances with other states or enter into a strong opposing axis capable of confronting the challenge facing the states involved. The goal is to maintain the prevailing international status quo in power relations and deter aggression.

When the COVID-19 pandemic appeared in the entire world, the strength of the state in confronting this pandemic and biological epidemics, which threatened its people and its own health capabilities, was tested. In the crisis, countries began to rely on their own capabilities after the collapse of global health security and the World Health

Organization's inability to confront this pandemic. The striving countries worked to review their health reality and their own capabilities in providing health care and the necessary vaccines for their people. The race began between developed countries and multinational companies specializing in the manufacture of medicines and vaccines to invest in this field, which in turn could provide them with a large financial return in return for preserving the lives of their citizens and their ability to control the vaccines and to whom they give them.

In conclusion, we see that power is less interchangeable, and advantages gained in one field can complement another. A surplus of power in one area can be transferred to another. Military power can be channelled into economic and material interests, and some combine military and economic power into a single mechanism called "hard power." Undoubtedly, the loss of power deprives a state of its ability to negotiate on international issues and positions that affect it. Possessing actual power gives it the ability to choose appropriate solutions and the best position. Furthermore, the desire of states to maintain their national security and confront common challenges drives them to seek protection through power, whether internal or under the umbrella of collective security, be it regional or international. Alliances have become a fundamental pillar in strengthening interdependence. Interdependence Vulnerability "between countries in our current era.

In the Middle East region, many countries have adopted [this approach] in order to maintain their security and increase their power. It began to rush outwards in the form of regional and geographical blocs and alliances, and to seek protection from major powers, primarily the United States, through security agreements and partnerships with NATO, and to accept the consequences of this at the expense of its political freedom and sovereignty.

Conclusion

The concepts of power and hegemony are still the prevailing approach in the international field of relations. However, the concept of power, in its intellectual content, has gone beyond the common military meaning to a broader civilizational content that includes political, economic, social, and technological power, etc. But possessing any source of power, however numerous, does not acquire weight and influence merely by its existence. Rather, this weight and influence is linked to the ability to consciously intervene to transform the available sources of power into tangible capabilities and energy, an effective weapon, and an element of pressure and influence to bend the will of others towards submission to this power. The test of strength is direct engagement in the new arena governed by the forces of globalization and confronting new threats, and this has an impact on the power of the state. In fact, it changed the concept of power, so it was The spread of power from governments to new non-state international actors due to the information and technology revolution It gave them weight and status on the international stage, such as multinational corporations, non-governmental organizations, and terrorism. All of these compete with the state for power and also compete with the state for its functions. It also worked to redistribute the elements of power in the global system in a way that gives weight to economic, scientific, technological and informational power at the expense of traditional power that was in a leading position.

- Global competition to acquire scientific technology without international cooperation or regulation will pave the way for an arms race involving weapons of mass destruction and biological warfare, threatening life on planet Earth.
- Countries that possess modern technological technologies can exert soft power by spreading their culture and ideas to countries that lack them, thus threatening the national culture of those countries.
- Technology and knowledge increase the power of democratic states more than totalitarian states. Because citizens of democratic countries are accustomed to using it and keeping up with its development constantly, in contrast, the governments of democratic countries are not threatened by it when used by their citizens, and the state is not threatened by it.
- Technological development and artificial intelligence have enabled non-state actors (violent actors) to possess them, which threatens their own countries and other countries. In contrast, countries must surpass them and control their possession.

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