

# **IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPING AN INTEGRATED ENERGY SECURITY MODEL AMONG THE MUSLIM COUNTRIES**

**Oğuzhan Akyener**

Energy is one of the most important security issues for all countries. Even such that, from the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century, nearly all the global powers have never hesitated to horn in other smaller countries' interior balances. And in the concept of this intermeddling courses, they might have gone too far as organizing coups, chaos, riots, terrorist attacks, conflicts and wars. All these unethical and tyrannous acts have done due to a realistic and hoggish approach on energy security issues. In addition, unfortunately, nearly all the due brutal and cruel moves that have been done in the Islamic geography, because of Muslim world's weakness and owning more than %50 of the world's energy resources.

Unfortunately, while Energy can be used as a development argument for the Islamic world, it has become an element of confusion and destruction due to the selfish Western mind. Undoubtedly it is the duty of Muslim countries to change this fact or at least to work with this aim.

In this context, it is highly necessary to get out of the conflicting issues and to put aside the ethnic and religiously sectarian fragilities, to develop a cooperation and to establish multi-faceted unions. Energy is undoubtedly crucial to such a model of cooperation. Because a significant portion of the countries in the Islamic world come to the fore with their energy resources.

Previously, some joint ventures have been made and some acts have been taken in order to ensure integration in the energy area. However, the results were severe for the entrepreneurs concerned. Nevertheless, at least it is possible to regain awareness by regrouping.

In this study, first of all, the importance of creating integration and unity in the field of energy for the Islamic world will be mentioned with emphasis on historical examples. Afterwards, "what the common energy security approach means" and "how it will be strategically constructed" will tried to be explained.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Current international dynamics suggest that the world is standing at the edge of huge global changes. Energy has been referenced as the driving force in the world order for a couple of centuries. The rise of machines required energy and energy sources to accelerate technologic innovations and developments. The West started depleting their reserves and / or they sought for known reserves in other parts of the world such as Africa and Middle East. The final outcome of this urge to reach the vast energy reserves was the world wars. Empires fell as new states were born under the hegemony of the West, the conqueror of both world wars. Having acquired the control over areas with vast energy reserves, the West had designed a unipolar world order. The rest of the world had to play by their rules or face the subjugation. As a result, energy sources have become the key concerns for the governments for the last century.

Many countries have been trying to acquire, improve and develop new technologies to strive for freedom from the unipolar world order or each country has been trying to have its own place in that order to survive and maintain their freedom. International conflicts have signalled apparent changes in the global energy balance within the last decade. Questioning of the global energy dynamics has emerged from terrorism, alliances, power shifts and new energy routes or alternative routes. Indeed, the unipolar hegemony in key strategic sectors such as energy is to be reconfigured as new key players are on stage to acquire their shares and reshape the world order in their favour.

Turkey, with its growing economy and political stability backed by its own people and Muslims throughout the world, is to be recognized as one of the new key players that has the ability to easily gain highest reputation in global dynamics. Such reputation in the global dynamics can be leveraged and maintained by the civilization geography (Muslim World) that can be perceived as Turkish heritage accumulated in centuries through loyalty, governance, traditions, culture, justice, etc.

The vitality of energy and energy resources in Turkish civilization geography has to be adverted in a manner, where Turkey's evolvement process for being an integrated supreme power among the Muslim world should mesmerize the global political dynamics. The corroboration of how important the energy resources and issues for Muslim world are requires new powerful key strategies and political advancements in Turkey's global agenda. Turkey's elaborated preparations for such strategies and politics will prevail "The New World Order".

In this paper after shortly overviewing the importance of creating integration and unity in the field of energy for the Islamic world, "what the common energy security approach means" and "how it will be strategically constructed" will be explained.

## **ALTERING GLOBAL DYNAMICS**

The strategy that the West has been using to dominate the world is based on arbitrary measures over international dynamics. The countries that lost the world wars have been sanctioned both economically and politically. For instance, they bought certain traitors or placed their own spies in key bureaucratic positions in the newly established governments. Such puppets were especially chosen from the minorities, who would never gain governing power in any cases. In certain countries like Japan and Germany, they preferred rebuilding the country by special constitutions that subdued the government to grant privileges to the West's needs.

Technological development and the search for the new markets for the produced goods had increased the West's popularity. In addition, the term "Global" was born that initiated technology transfers and sharing throughout the world. Eastern countries, in addition to their economic developments, had substantiated their own technology that has begun to disturb the hegemony in global dynamics. Hence, alteration in the global dynamics has become unavoidable.

By means, the general tendency in the world manifests the rise of "The East" as Eastern countries are strengthening their hands in technology and economy, and the West is weakening or lingering in accordance. Global commercial, technological and financial estimations show certain signs that today's apparent world leader United States of America (USA), which used to be oriented by English intelligence (and now waging a war for their liberty within Pentagon)

will eventually yield the leadership in the commercial, financial and dominance areas to China, Russia, Turkey or whomever will be taking the lead.

It is known that many Western billionaires and as well as the UK's deep mind are in support of China in this trend. Additionally, there also seems political dissidences between Jewish billionaires, who happen to have high influence in some important Western countries.

Uncertainty among international politics is pressuring USA to take firm actions to innovate new strategies apart from the current customaries that struggles USA or withdraw from the global influence and leadership. In this concept, what USA has been trying to achieve is as follows:

- A. Having more controllable EU (politically and economically) by weakening the unity, initial act of Brexit,
- B. Using the terrorism card on Europe to have grants for more accessible European policies,
- C. Increasing the export volumes to the NATO members by the deterrence of its military capabilities,
- D. Militarily having more control over China by using the suddenly appearing nuclear conflicts in Korea,
- E. Elaborating Russia's growing activities in Middle East, Asia and Africa through the continuous negotiations without alienating Russians,
- F. Preparing the groundwork for a Sunni – Shia war in the Middle East by:
  - a) Trying to control or suppress both sides economically and politically,
  - b) Mesmerizing itself as the peace-maker and an antiterrorist country in the global public opinion even though itself is creating and managing the terrorist groups in every region of interest,
  - c) Manipulating the arms trade in its favour,
  - d) Getting more room and financing for new arms and develop new technologies by trading the old ones in regions with conflicts,
  - e) Spreading rumours that Muslims are barbarians and terrorists,
  - f) Interfering with the increasing Turkish, Russian and Chinese influence in the region,
  - g) Protecting Israel and Israel's interests in the region by any means such as covering up Israel's illegal actions (declaring Jerusalem as the capital is a great example),
  - h) Funding Kurdish tribes so that a Kurdish State could be established in the region, safeguarding drug routes and Great Israel's extension,
  - i) Restructuring its global strategies to interrupt increasing influence of Turkey over the Islamic world,
  - j) Trying to keep the advantages of controlling the energy resources in due regions,
  - k) Focusing on struggles against China's rise through its energy and military capabilities,
  - l) Insidiously, contributing the conflicts between Afghanistan – Pakistan, Pakistan – India, China – Hong Kong, China – Taiwan, China – Russia, China – Japan, North Korea - South Korea, Iran – Saudi Arabia, Saudi Arabia – Yemen and etc. to cause regional disputes and trouble each country to stabilize its influence.
  - m) Attempting to prevent China's Modern Silk Road Project, which will definitely end the West's hegemony in global trading and start a new era of the shining East.

Considering USA making think tanks and having to come up with new plans and strategies such as outlined above, there is enough evidence for the alteration in the dynamics of the world order. However, all changes that have been occurring suggest that the world might encounter new conflicts, more terrorism, chaos and perhaps another (cold) world war.

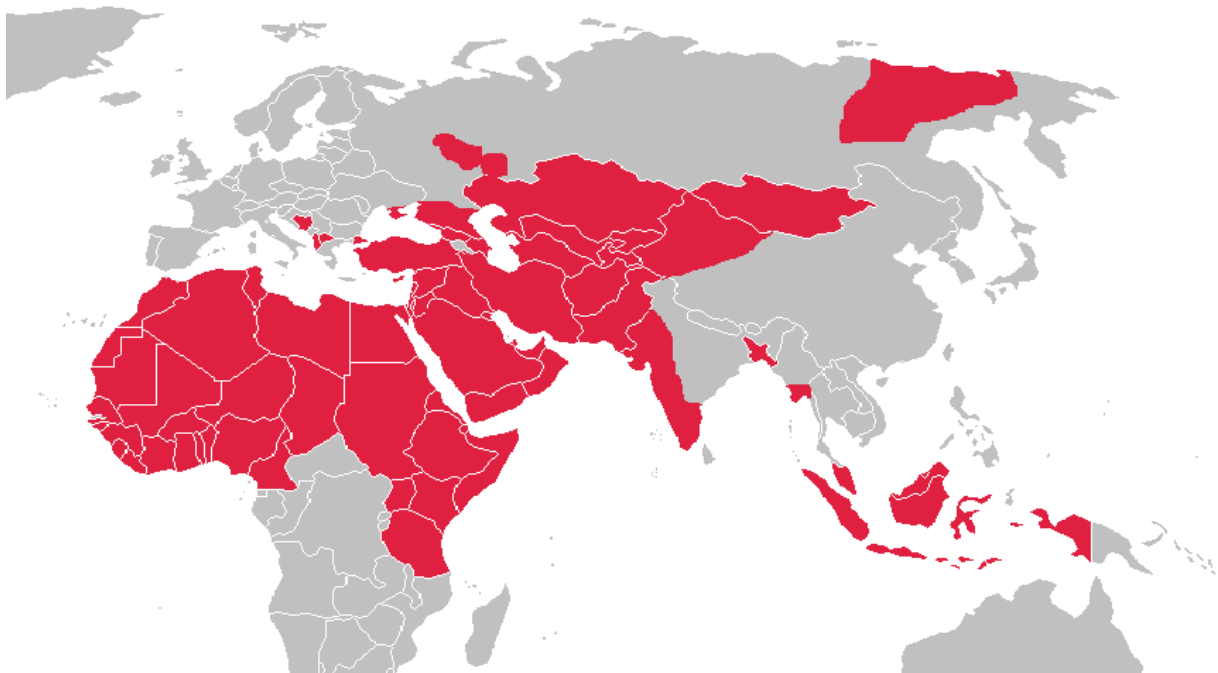
Turkey's civilization geography, which can also be called as the Islamic World (as given in the Map 1) holds more than half of the world's energy resources. This could be the key leverage for Turkey and the Islamic World to take serious steps toward uniting the Muslim populace and gather the other nations of the East under the roof of energy to end Catholic & Protestant supremacy in the world. Such an energy based unity can change the fate of the Muslim society and in the long term may help to save the humanity or give them a salvation chance from the possibly approaching apocalypse.

## **ISLAMIC WORLD and ENERGY**

Islamic World (where it contains the Turkish and Muslim societies), as can be seen in the map below, contains:

- % 65 of global oil production,
- % 55 of global gas production,
- % 56 of global proved oil reserves (with higher potential),
- % 63 of global proved gas reserves (with higher potential),
- % 40 of global proved uranium reserves (with higher potential).

In addition to these, there are plenty of coal reserves and renewable energy potential in this area.



Map1: Turkish Civilization Geography (Muslim World)

Evaluation of the energy sources in the geography is crucially essential. First, it makes sense to analyse the potentiality of the countries in the geography. The list of countries is the civilization geography with the highest (or most important) oil reserves are given in Table 1 and that for the gas bearing countries is given in Table 2.

Country	Proved Oil Resources (billion barrels)
Azerbaijan	7
Kazakhstan	30
Turkmenistan	0,6
Uzbekistan	0,6
Iraq	153
Kuwait	101,5
Oman	5,4
Qatar	25,2
Saudi Arabia	266,5
Syria	2,5
UAE	97,8
Bahrein	0,1
Yemen	3
Algeria	12,2
Chad	1,5
Egypt	3,5
Libya	48,4
Nigeria	37,1
Sudan	5
Tunisia	0,4
Brunei	1,1
Indonesia	3,3
Malaysia	3,6
Iran	155
Total	964,3
World Share %	56

Table 1: Important Oil Bearing Countries & Reserves in Turkish Civilization Geography

Country	Proved Gas Reserves (trillion cubic meter)
Azerbaijan	1,1
Kazakhstan	1
Turkmenistan	17,5
Uzbekistan	1,1
Bahrain	0,2
Iraq	3,7
Kuwait	1,8
Oman	0,7

Qatar	24,3
Saudi Arabia	8,4
Syria	0,3
UAE	6,1
Yemen	0,3
Algeria	4,5
Egypt	1,8
Libya	1,5
Nigeria	5,3
Bangladesh	0,2
Brunei	0,3
Indonesia	2,9
Malaysia	1,2
Pakistan	0,5
İran	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>124,7</b>
<b>World Share %</b>	<b>63</b>

Table 2: Important Gas Bearing Countries & Reserves in Turkish Civilization Geography

A quick look on the Table 1 and 2 indicates that:

- The sub-states or the societies located in Russia, China, and India are excluded from the map and calculations above.
- Although some of the Turkish and Muslim societies are excluded, Turkish civilization geography (or the Islamic World) still holds 964,3 billion barrels of proved crude oil reserves that is a %56 of the world's total share. Proved gas reserves are, on the other hand, 124.7 trillion bcm with a world share of %63.
- The above calculations reveal an unearthed fact that with an effective integration platform, Muslims could have potentially shaken the whole balances in the global dynamics (as can be referred with the 1973 OPEC crisis).

As a result of these issues, every Muslim can understand the importance of such an integrated platform and a unity on energy. Historical researches on the Middle East, Western colonialist policies, the fall of Ottoman Empire and the last Khalif, 1973 oil crises, the assassination of the King Faisal and Iraq-Iran War gives important clues about how the West's selfish oil hunger dragged the aggrieved societies into an impenetrable chaotic situation.

Off course, energy is important and vital for development. Islamic world has plenty of energy resources and also has the capacity to sustainably continue its supply in a peaceful manner, without wars, without conflicts and without other inhumane ways. Although this wording does not meet the demand of Western pragmatist minds, the humankind needs a more intimate and healthy ways to follow.

Muslim world has so much energy potential, but nearly many of those Islamic states could not guarantee to solve the risks on their own energy security issues (although they are energy exporters). So, this situation has to be changed with some new approaches.

History has many examples of superpowers to intervene in the internal affairs of the (oil or gas exporting) weaker states and to increase the inner chaos. From another sight, this also means that, having a plenty of resources may become a national security problem for undeveloped states.

Unfortunately, this is the situation for many of the Islamic countries. And what to do with in the respect of both energy security and national security issues is to be able to organize an energy integration platform among the Muslim countries.

## **WHAT CAN BE DONE?**

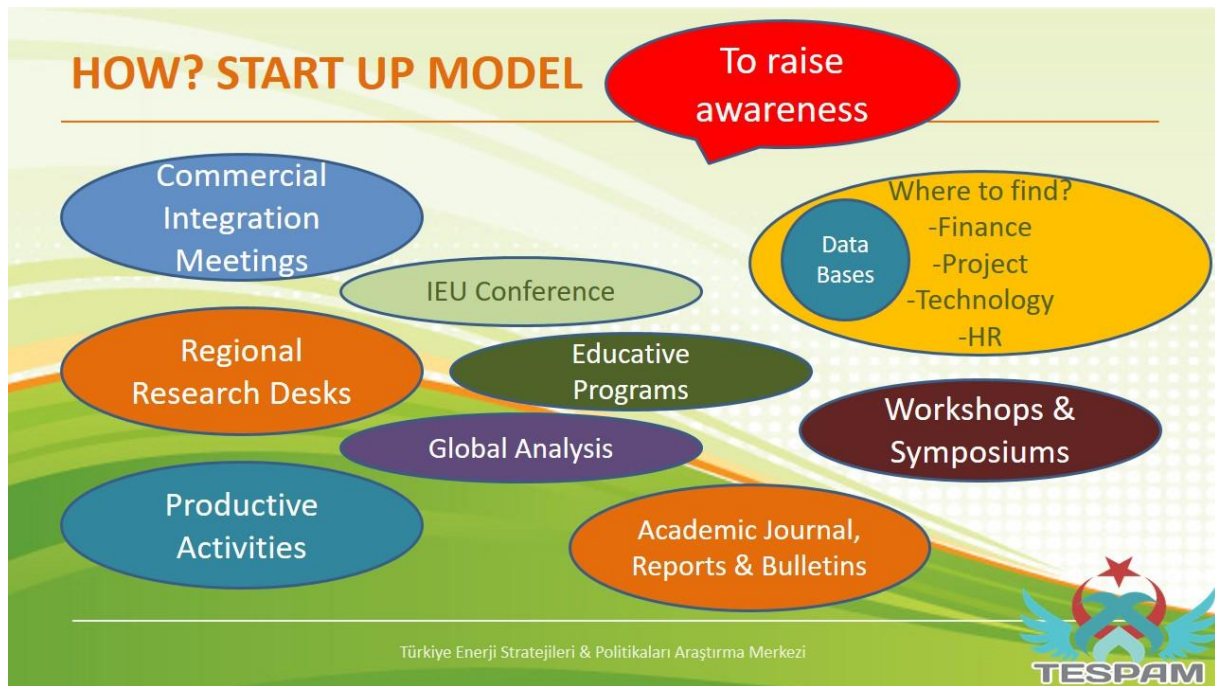
Although the importance of the Muslim countries to integrate and to increase the joint studies in energy area is very obvious, such a unity seems very difficult to be realized. Currently, we all know that, there are many international Islamic organizations and lots of meetings have being hold in order to be able to increase the number of joint studies among the Muslim countries. There are many efforts have being devoted but, unfortunately nearly all those joint studies, papers, reports, donations or strategies seems as not being able to find coherent solutions for the important problems of the Muslim world. This situation may be faced with due to social differences, ethnical or religious break points, education levels or commercial issues. On the other side, initial intensions and professional road maps are also important. From this view, although agglomerating the Muslim World for an energy unity idea is not easy, may be the initializing (start-up) target has to be only raising awareness.

In order to take attention of the Muslim World in such an act, within the coordination of TESPAM (Turkey Energy Strategies and Policies Research Centre) and ASSAM (Adaleti Savunanlar Stratejik Araştırmalar Merkezi), we are founding a civil energy integration platform and inviting all due interested partners to come together for further studies.

In this concept, (as can be seen in the figure below) we are planning to:

- Hold commercial integration meetings,
- Organize research desks for further academic studies, such as reports, bulletins, papers, articles, journals, projections and etc.
- Create some data bases,
- Apply education programs
- And make activities such as workshops, symposiums, conferences, panels and etc.

All these topics are planned for the initial stage of this vision. And their goal is planned to be only to raise awareness among the Muslim World.



Graph 1: Start-up Period for Islam Energy Union

As the second stage, while enough number of attendees and concerned organizations are gathered, then the steps below are planned to be hold under the coordination of a unified international organization. These steps are:

- Founding an integrated international «Islam Energy Union University» and more professionally continue to prepare academic and technologic studies
- Increase the range of international activities such as: papers, magazines, journals, conferences, panels, etc.
- Activate and improve the databases
- Found a study team for preparation of mutual legislation and legal infrastructures to increase the integration abilities
- Organize initialization meetings between the country presidents on this vision
- Prepare and finalize the long term strategy report
- Complete the approval of all the member countries on the due final strategy report
- Set up the initial organizational parts and due sub structures.

## RESULTS

Energy (mostly oil and gas, according to our estimations minimum up to 2100's) is one of the most strategic elements in global dynamics. History consists of many examples of selfish, unlawful, aggressive, inhuman and cruel acts of nations or states to have the control of energy



resources. In this regard, unfortunately, initially due to having plenty of energy resources but at the same time not having enough power to develop and protect them, many Muslim countries had to be exposed of these chaotic external interventions.

In this concept, there are many ideas put forward to reverse this problematic situation. However, unfortunately the Islamic world is too messy and in such a position of unable to move together. Although there are many Islamic integration platforms where some of which are internationally accepted organizations, the results of the due acts are the same. None of the acted meetings, agreements or declarations seems as not having to find effective and coherent solutions for the important problems of the Muslim world. There can be many reasons for this situation. Yet, these reasons initially have to be analysed academically and strategically. On the other side, off course for such works and for a more healthy integration environment, finance will be a vital element to continue.

Finance for such studies, projects and integration platforms can be provided with the donations of the member countries. Conversely, it is very difficult to put forward steps with only donations oriented finance in such international organizations. That's why some other issues have to be considered. At this point, we can understand the importance of energy!

Hence, while considering the most strategic argument of the Islamic world, energy is obviously will be in the first steps. Moreover, with energy integration while some huge organizations can be financed, all sides on the table gains with new opportunities. All kinds of social projects can be realized within such a system. While considering energy is the most important commercial item in this concept, economical integration also will positively – highly be effected with such a step.

That's why, while the Islamic world consists of:

- % 65 of global oil production,
- % 55 of global gas production,
- % 56 of global proved oil reserves (with higher potential),
- % 63 of global proved gas reserves (with higher potential),
- % 40 of global proved uranium reserves (with higher potential), then energy has to be accepted as the most coherent and important leverage point for such a vision.

By considering the importance of energy's role in the integration courses of the Islamic countries, TESPAM and ASSAM are trying to found a start-up platform to raise the awareness of the Muslim countries.

In this study, after mentioning the altering world order and the importance of energy for both the global powers and the Islamic countries, start-up studies for an energy integration platform among the Muslim countries was tried to be analysed.