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RESEARCH ARTICLE

THE EFFECTS OF SOCIAL SECURITY ON THE POLITICAL AUTHORITY OF SYSTEM

^{*},¹Mohsen Beyouk and ²Ayat-ol-allah Esmaeili

¹P.HD. of Political geography, Khatam-ol-Anbia (PBU) University, Tehran, Iran

²M.A. of Criminal Law and Criminology, Khatam-ol-Anbia (PBU) University, Tehran, Iran

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ABSTRACT

The social security is among the basic security requirements of any human system including the political system. All the elements and bases of the society need social security and would suffer from the loss of it, since it is the same as the spirit of the personal and social communications. The atmosphere based on the social security provides the ground for political, economic, scientific, and cultural advancements, psychologically and intellectually. It also affects the development and stability of political structures and relationships. Social security leads to the coherence, dynamism and strengthening of the community, and consolidates the political system against internal harms and external threats, especially in the changing conditions of the region and the world. Therefore, it greatly affects the power, acceptability, stability, and political development of the system. The current study aimed at evaluation of the effects of social security on the political authority of the system, by the use of descriptive-analytical, and library-based methods, in response to the question that what the effects of social security on the political authority are, with regards to the importance of the social security for the government. It was concluded that there is a direct relationship between the social security and political authority, i.e. the increase in the “social security” leads to the stability of the “political authority”, and the decrease in it would lead to the weakening of the system’s political authority, both internally and externally. Thus, the increase or decrease in the components of social security affects the increase or decrease in the coefficient of political authority.

Key words: Security, Social security, Authority, Political authority, Political system.

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INTRODUCTION

Human needs “security” and “sense of security” to meet his vital needs and fulfill his goals. The individual’s security may be preserved or threatened in various realms of life. Therefore, any person, whether real or legal, is specifically concerned with his security. A large part of activities and investment by the people, societies, and governments is allocated to the establishment, continuity, and increase in the security. The importance of security for the collective life of humans leads them to the field of social security because security is the basis of social life. Social security means the maintenance of the social system in a state in which, the society, family, individual, and government are immune against the social threats and harms, and they are sure about their lives’ healthiness. It is through establishment of the social security in the country that human’s confidence and hope is increased and the desire for progress and the effort to lead a healthy life will be initiated. With the developments in technology, the domain of the social security has passed beyond the welfare, health, and economic categories, and concepts such as the individual’s

existence, society, and their identity and personality were identified. Also, achievement to these concepts was prioritized for the social and political systems. Social security is the citizens’ immunity and vital values of the society, and provision of the necessary conditions for the activities of the various groups of the people. The political system is also a collection of institutions and organizations that are involved in policy-making and implementation of programs for the realization of the goals of society. Political authority is also based on the legitimacy and acceptability of the political system, according to which the government and its commands are accepted and supported by citizens and public opinion. Establishing security in social relationships creates a positive attitude among the citizens towards the political system, and provides a suitable platform for planning and decision-making, in order to promote the political authority of the system. Also, the social security, by creating a sustainable balance in the society, increases the authority of the political system. Thus, the establishment of comprehensive security in different areas of the country is considered to be among the functions of government, and social security is not excluded from this category. Regarding the effects of social security on the political authority of the countries, researching this filed is necessary, both theoretically and practically, since the scope of

***Corresponding author: Mohsen Beyouk,**

P.HD. of Political geography, Khatam-ol-Anbia (PBU) University, Tehran, Iran.

social security and political authority affects all aspects of society and politics, and with regards to the importance of social security in the survival and development of society and government, recognizing the impact of these dimensions on maintaining, consolidating and developing the authority of the political system is necessary. Regarding the necessity mentioned above, the current study aimed at evaluation of the impact of social security on political authority and, from a practical point of view, the role of the given security in preventing possible harm and threats to the political authority of the system. This study has sought to respond to the question that what the effects of social security are, on the system's political authority. In response to this question, it can be said that: there is a direct relationship between the social security and political authority, i.e. the increase in the "social security" leads to the stability of the "political authority", and the decrease in it would lead to the weakening of the system's political authority, both internally and externally.

Review of Related Literature

The social security and the political authority are the two main concepts of the study, also being the independent and dependent variables of it. Social security is the citizens' immunity to harassment, fear, threat and anxiety, and lack of threats to the vital values of society. Political authority is also the legitimate right of imperativeness between the authorities and the obedient, in a way that the right to do so is voluntary accepted by the obedient. The authority of the political system comes from the two components of the legitimacy or the acceptability, and efficiency of the system. The essence of the current study is conceptual and in the theoretical framework of social security and political authority, which are among the basic issues of political sociology.

1) Social Security

Security is the essence of human existence (Roshandel, 1374: 3) and is a vital element of society. Thus, each society reacts to abuses and abnormal actions, social damage, and various crimes (Boroujerdi & Dejbani, 2013). Security is derived from 'secure', meaning tranquility, reliability, safety, conscientiousness, and the opposite of fear and insecurity, and refers to the elimination of fear and calmness (Amid, 2000). Security is a multi-dimensional concept which emphasizes on the sense of physical and psychological safety (Mandel, 2009). In Patrick Morgan's point of view, the security is a type of conditions, just like health and dignity. Mcsweeney believes that security is a slippery and unstable word that has been used in diverse fields and for various purposes, by the individuals, corporations, governments, and academic experts, and in this context, a series of people, emotions, goals, events and instruments are meant (Keyvan Hasani, 2001). Therefore, defining the security in an operational manner is a difficult task (Mcsweeney, 1999). Thus, most sociologists have focused on terms such as power, authority, order and discipline, and control, instead of the concept of security (Bolandian, 2013). By focusing on the human security, social security would be manifested (Buzan, Olivier, and Pop Duwilde, 2008). From the eighties of the twentieth century, the concept of security included economic, social and environmental issues (Larni, 2004). The term 'social security' was first used by Barry Buzan, in his book "People, States and Panic" in 1991. Social security, in its technical term, was introduced in 1993 by Ole Waever and Lemaiter, under title of Copenhagen School.

The terms 'societal security' and 'societed security', and social security all imply the security of the society (Rabani Khurasgani and Qasemi, 2008). Some have considered the social security to be one of the dimensions of national security and its environmental and economic dimensions. Some believe it is equivalent to national security. From another point of view, social security is provision of the conditions and facilities based on which, different classes of people can do their social activities in a peaceful environment. Some believe that social security is preserving the lives, property, honor, and dignity of people and providing them with mental peace. The interpretation of some scholars of these words is the maintenance of the foundations of power and authority of rulers and statesmen, while others look for security in expanding the participation of the people and the emergence of civil institutions. Hence, some speak of revolutions in the concept of social security (Navidnia, 2007). Briefly, social security is the immunity of citizens of the community from harassment, fear, threat, anxiety, and a situation in which the vital values of society are threatened. According to article twenty-third of the Charter of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, everyone as a member of the community has the right of social security (Hashemianfar *et al.*, 2014). Social security involves all aspects of community life and human's life quality in the society. The main slogan of social security is "the value of man is his human identity". So his identity should be protected from the danger of threats and harms. All aspects of the individual, social, political, economic, cultural and moral life of man are within the realm of security. Thus, each of the divine and human schools, with their particular attitude towards the existence, the world, and human beings, pay close attention to security. But where is the suitable life for human? In the family, neighborhood, office and workplace; among relatives, friends, colleagues, ethnic, religious, political, occupational, artistic groups, etc., which are the subject of social security (Hashemian Fard, 2012).

2) Political Authority

The term authority in the Persian language is understood as finding power, having power, being able, and ability (Larijani and Abrestan, 2012), and literally, it means power, strength and ability (Dehkhoda, 1999). Authority, in political literature, refers to glory, firmness, domination, competence, zeal, power seeking, authority, reference, optionality, rationality, power of performing certain work, power based on satisfaction, and the like. Legitimate authority or domination is the relationship between power and authority among the owners of power and the obedient, in a way that the right to do so is voluntary accepted by the obedient. The authority of the political system comes from two components of the legitimacy or acceptance, and efficiency of system (Raufat, 1998-1999). Various definitions of power are given. Power is the ability to realize goals, and affect the behavior of others, and force them to obey by any means. Some consider the use of force as the only means of compelling others to obey and achieve goals, however some consider achievement to the goals without use of force. For example, the power of the armed bandit is completely different from that of the police. The authority, in the encyclopedia of social sciences, is the intrinsic or acquired ability of power application to a group. Authority is a manifestation of power and implies obedience to it. Political authority is an institutional power or legitimate right to influence and direct the behavior of others, and is based on three principles of legitimacy, satisfaction, and public support

(Hamisi and Khandaghabadi, 2011). Authority, in the Encyclopedia of Governance, is the right to command and rule in a hierarchical system. This hierarchy is tied to common beliefs and norms that make it fit and reasonable, and authority is the right or ability to adopt plans, prescriptions, and orders, without resorting to seduction, bargaining, or coercion. Authority is a force that comes from law, intellect, tradition, fascination, and self-determination, and its obvious characteristic is its absolute identification by those who are expected to obey from it (Hamisi and Khandaghabadi, 2011). Normative authority implies some kind of consent and discretion, which is a legitimate right to influence or direct the behaviors of others. Authority, like power, is the means of leading others, but it is not based on force or punishment, and it is associated with legitimacy and justification (Alem, 2000: 92). Having authority to do something means having the right to do so (Rafael, 2000).

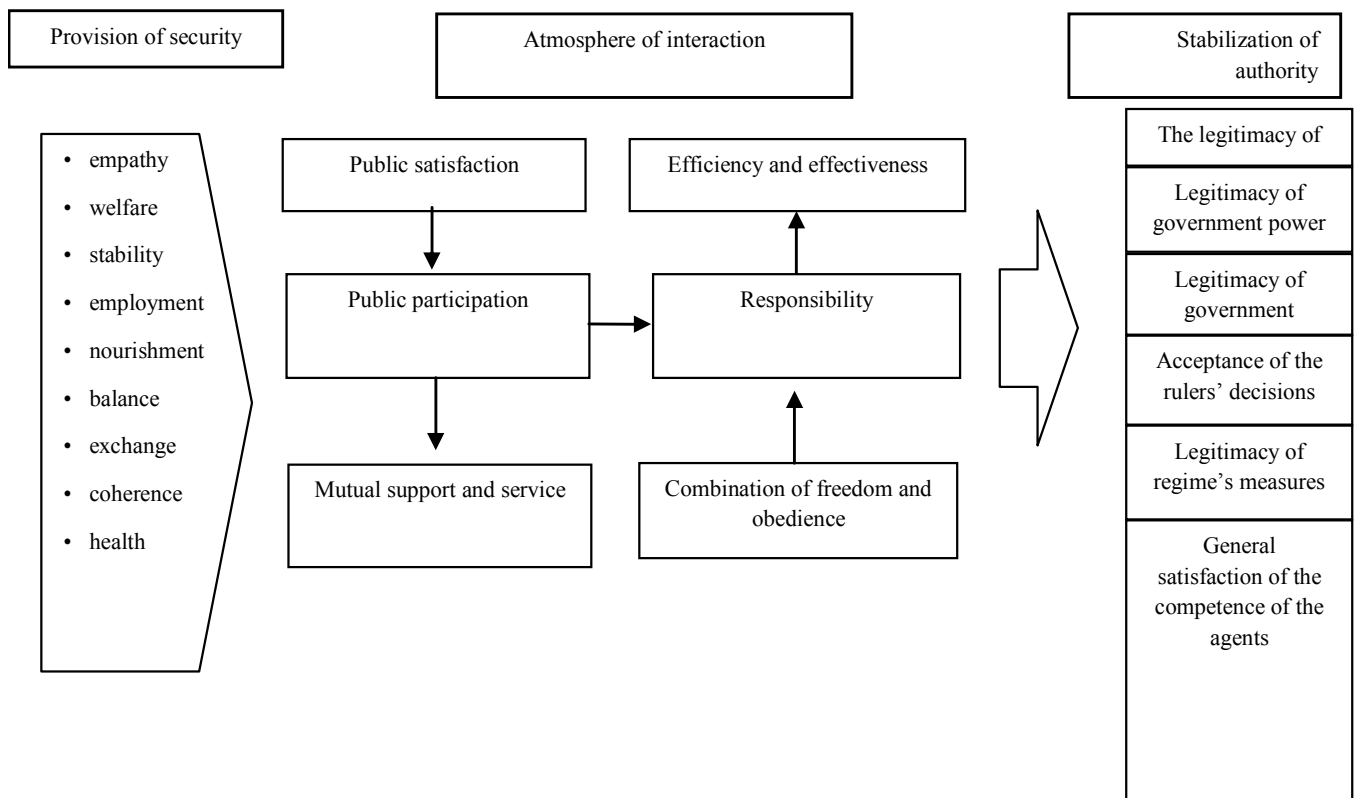
3) The Security of the Society and System's Political Authority

Authority can be analyzed at different individual, social and national levels and layers. The scope of authority is divided into two areas as internal and external. In the internal area, authority is a power that has been accepted by the community and has become dominant in the national realm, and has become an accepted power. In the external area, it is a set of abilities that are institutionalized at the transnational and international level, to bring vital benefits for the country (Hamisi and Khandaghabadi, 2011). The scope of social security depends on the image of the political system of the state, its structure and its purpose (Hasani Far, 2004). The principles governing the political relations between societies from the point of view of the Quran, in the field of foreign political authority, are justice, balance, mutual respect and the supremacy of Islam. These principles, in the field of internal authority, include unity, brotherhood, justice, dignity, independence, personal and financial security, and citizens' honor, religion and theology, and protecting the oppressed and wronged (Hamisi and Khandaghabadi, 2011). The purified political authority leads to the social growth and dignity, an authority based on the holy centers, that can fulfill the divine ideals, prevent social chaos, bring the society to a glorious glory, and organize the acts and thoughts of humans based on its scales. Such authority is placed in the hearts of the people, and calls them to obedient by an inner necessity. Political authority changes from a state of solidity to realization. Such authority brings progress to society (Navaei, 2003). The political system is a set of systematic arrangements that deal with the formulation and implementation of decisions in the whole society (Blundell, 1999). The political system seeks obedience from its obedient people, due to the legitimate right to exercise power (Almond *et al.*, 1998). The adherence of individuals to social contracts and the government adherence to its commitment to the people and, consequently, the establishment of a relationship based on satisfaction between the people and the state, ensures social security. Social security is based on the disciplined social system. The deepening of social security in society and the sustainability of the social system, require the internal acceptance of the patterns and commitment of members of society to them. Traditionally, security was synonymous with the absence of military threats, but at the moment it means lack of threat in political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental dimensions. The multilateral objective of a comprehensive security is a secure

society. Social components, on the one hand, make social relations and their functions, and on the other hand, regarding the status of the state in the community, helps with realizing the goals and implementation of the plans. Social security is one of the most important components of national security and, and the greater the role of this component, the more stable, less costly, and more progressive the national security will be (Karimaei, 2006). Social security is about protecting social attachment or "us" feelings. If mutual respect is preserved, the basis of sustainable "being us" and social life is preserved. The feeling of bonding, in and between social units, becomes firm and lasting when the individuals have the opportunity required to grow and achieve their own interests (Monazami Tabar, 2007).

In David Bitam's point of view, the power is legitimate when it meets three conditions: First, power is applied based on the rules and regulations. Second, these rules are justified in terms of the common beliefs of governors and governed. Third, the consent of the governed is expressed (Heywood, 2010). Security is categorized into two internal and external security groups. Internal security or mental security is the most important factor in the healthy life of any human being. In the internal security of a person, due to the lack of coercion and exercise of power from authorities, the person has the benefit of social trust and empathy, and the grounds for social participation in provision of security are met. By the external security or social security, the comfort and tranquility is meant that is created by the society, for its members (Tasdighi, 2011). Disorganization or social disorder is a failure and defeat in a social system. A society is disorganized when the construction of its bases and its roles are not organized, and the collective and individual goals of its members are less likely to be realized in such a situation, compared to an efficient social system (Millsenn *et al.*, 2010). Anomie refers to a moral vacuum, a suspension of rules, and lawlessness, and refers to a state of disorder and anomalies that disrupt the cultural and social order, and individuals are not able to interact on the basis of common rules, to meet their needs. Under anomie conditions, the state of balance of the society is disturbed and the society is faced with disturbances in norms (Mahbubi Manesh, 2003). Social capital is the set of norms or values that are shared by the members of the community (Fazel and Miri Ashtiani, 2008: 14) and, if this capital is decreased, the sustainability of society will be damaged.

The political authority that lacks effectiveness, would lead to an authority which is powerless and ineffective. If government rules are to be valid, they should be effective. However, this does not mean that the failure to arrest and condemn the lawbreakers, makes law invalid, but the legal system as a whole must be effective, and since it is not possible to assume that all people agree with legal authority or public obedience, legitimate authority must be accompanied by coercion (Rafael, 2000). No society will survive without efficient power, and no effective power will survive until it changes into authority, i.e. as long as the authority is not established at the community level, no efficient obedience will occur (Mahdavinejad, 2003). The weakness of the legitimacy and acceptability of a regime, besides creating a gap between society and government, and internal vulnerability, paves the way for external threats. The illegitimate and unacceptable government undermines its authority and power. Such a government would expand the mistrust in society. Power becomes legitimate and acceptable when it comes to obedience and order are consistent with



legitimacy and satisfaction, or it is considered to be as such. This is a prerequisite for the strength and continuity of power, because a power inherently involves inequality, and among human inequalities, no inequality needs justification as much as inequality derived from power and sovereignty does (Masoudnia, Moradi, and Mohammadi Far, 2010). One of the indicators of the capability of the political system is its ability to create security in its various dimensions (Jahan Bin, 2003: 95). In Durkheim's point of view, social security that is obtained by intimidation and threat, will remain as long as these tools govern the social security of that community, but if people accept it internally, it will be sustainable (Aghabakhshi & Afsfari Rad, 2001). The findings of the study are represented in the form of a conceptual model of the impact of social security on political authority Chart (1), according to which the provision of social security by strengthening the positive atmosphere of interaction between government and society stabilizes the political authority in the country.

DISCUSSION

Security means getting rid of threats, injuries, anxiety, panic and worry, or the presence of tranquility, confidence and comfort. It is focused on the continuity of social identity of the society in a changing social environment. The social security particular works, such as empathy, prosperity, stability, employment, balance, cohesion, and health in society, are focused on these topics that social security represents the ability of the community to care for social groups against injuries and threats, or the very reinforcement of social identities, and the adherence of individuals to social contracts and the government to its commitment towards the people, lead to a relationship based on the satisfaction of the people and the government, and thus ensures social security. The interactive atmosphere of government and society with the indicator of public satisfaction, realizes the public participation, mutual support and service, the combination of freedom and obedience, responsibility, and efficiency and

effectiveness, and the maintenance of social rights eliminates the damage and threats on the one hand, and leads to the optimal use of opportunities on the other hand, as a result of which, the political authority in the system is promoted. The legitimacy of the system's governance, the legitimacy of government power, the legitimacy of government approvals, the acceptance of the decisions of the rulers, the acceptance of the regime's measures, and the general satisfaction of the competence of the agents, are among the effects of social security on the consolidation of political authority of the systems.

Conclusion and Suggestions

Social security is met by performing the functional duties of community institutions. The social security in turn, provides the conditions and grounds for the functions of social institutions. Trust, confidence, cooperation, and collaboration are among the social security indicators. The mental, objective, psychological and moral dimensions of security are defined in the context of human security, and the concept of human security is related to the basic needs and fundamental rights of humans, and respecting and securing them. Political authority means competence, authority, rationality, and satisfaction-based power in the relationship between the people and rulers whose right to do so has been accepted by them. The authority of the political system depends on its acceptability and efficiency. Authority or legitimate power is a socialized political power whose existence and actions are assessed by the people of society, to see if they in accordance with preservation of their vital interests and values, and society. In authority, there is a close relationship between power and legitimacy. The higher legitimacy, the lower the costs of its application will be, and vice versa, the lower the legitimacy, the higher the costs of its preservation and application will be, and it may eventually lead to the overthrow of rulers or the change of political system. The weak legitimacy, besides creating a gap between society and government and

exacerbating internal vulnerability and external threats, brings about instability and dispersion, which leads to social insecurity, the decay of authority, and the transformation of authority into naked power. Governments, in order to maintain their stability and life, inevitably have to produce, maintain, and increase legitimacy and acceptance that are obtained in the context of social soft security. Social security and political authority are two basic components of the country's stability and dynamism. Therefore, social and political elites must interact with each other, in order to maximize the benefit from the capacity of these two components, for realization of the capabilities of society and government and strengthening the foundations of the social and political system. According to what was mentioned above, adherence to political systems to the following elements, is necessary in order to provide the social security for assurance of political authority:

- Establishing a healthy economy infrastructure;
- Creating a full employment platform;
- Considering the direct impact of social security on economic security;
- Increasing the social awareness of society;
- Strengthening cultural infrastructure based on cultural values of the system;
- Consolidating the bases of a healthy administrative system;
- Elaborating and implementing the sustainable laws;
- Creating hope for the future in the community member;
- Preventing and controlling the social, political, cultural, economic and ... crises;
- Optimizing and distributing the resources based on a justice-based model;
- Strengthening national unity and solidarity;
- Increasing the multilateral interaction between the government and society;
- Encouraging people to participate in cultural, social, economic and political processes;
- Promoting the spirit of belonging and commitment of members of a community to the values, structures and institutions of the system, society and government.

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