

WHAT SHOULD BE THE POSITION OF THE MARITIME POWER IN THE NATIONAL POWER?

Hasret ÇOMAK*

Özet

Milli Gücün fonksiyonel bir unsuru olan denizcilik gücü, işlevsel olarak milli gücün tüm unsurlarını etkilemektedir. Milli gücün tüm unsurlarına önemli katkılarda bulunan bu güçten, 21. Yüzyılda; siyasi, askeri ve ekonomik olarak yararlanmak devletlerin öncelikli hedefi olacaktır. Denizcilik gücü, mili gücün diğer unsurlarından farklı olarak, 21. Yüzyılda çok hızlı teknolojik gelişmelere açık bir güç niteliğindedir. Bu gelişme, ülkelerin milli güç unsurlarını tümüyle olumlu etkileyecek ve böylelikle uluslararası siyasi konjonktürde bir denge unsuru olarak varlığını sürekli arttıracaktır.

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"The national power" is the main source of the principles and policies of national security . In other words, the principles of national security bases largely upon the national power. National objectives can be determined with regard to the future as long as the national power is realised thoroughly and accurately.

Following dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, disintegration of the Soviet Union, a new era in European and World security has been introduced. As a result, momentous changes in the nature of regional and global security have taken place. In spite of all predicaments, tendency

* Associate Prof.Dr.

towards political structures showing consideration to democracy and human rights has increased, transition to free marked economy has gained impetus and generally speaking, globalisation in the world economy and politics has taken place.

Political and economic changes resulted from the deregulation process throughout the world have also created a bitter struggle for assuming the control of the bottoms and surfaces in addition to the airspace of the oceans and seas covering approximately % 71 of the earth.

Seamanship, which is usually considered to be unique to man, is a great power for a society supposing that it is adopted by people and organised by governments . Parallel to scientific, technical and social developments, seamanship has made marked advances and become a subject of universal interest

Today, the term "sea" signifies a THREE DIMENSIONAL medium extending from the fathomable depths to the surface, and from the surface to the space. Such changes has unavoidably replaced the meaning and content of this term. Therefore, sea can be considered as the biggest window of our world opening to the space and new dimensions.

As a result of the fact that the significance of export and import in the commercial volume of the world is gaining importance seas appear to be acquiring more and more prominence.

By the year 2000, seamanship has already been a crucial issue which has profound and beneficial effects on all countries in the world, including those that are not coastal.

The fact that even the countries which are not coastal strive to have merchant marines by using the harbours of other countries or sailing under different flags, can be interpreted as an important sign that these countries feel a need to activate "the potential at seas." in respect of their national interests.

The maritime power can be considered as the evaluation, employment, protection and development of the capabilities pertaining to sea and seamanship for national interests. Moreover, apart from the role of scientific technological, intellectual, emotional and physical efforts, the maritime power is the overall profitability of geographical, demographic, political, military and economic factors.

Formation of the maritime power of a nation is achieved through the application of potential structure and powers related to sea and

seamanship in accordance with national requirements and interests. It can also be developed with addition of new ones in time.

Formation of the maritime power of a nation usually depends on two principles :

Firstly, potential power sources and capabilities provided by geographical aspects in addition to human power (nation), which employs and directs them to derive benefits, arising from personal requirements or necessities and moves from the bottom to the top in other words, from individuals to the state.

Secondly, political, economic, military, geographical and demographic conditions that the state is in necessitate the formation of the maritime power, which can also be considered as the formation process from the top to the bottom or from the state to individuals.

These two formation models separated due to methodological reasons, in fact, are functioning together today. In other word, as a result of the necessity of the problems and requirements in their own levels, the state and individuals manifest an intense interest in seas and endeavour to benefit from them. In fact, these two motions seem to emerge and develop from opposite directions, that is to say; from the state to individuals and vice versa, achieve the formation and development of the maritime power in accordance with national interests.

The maritime power is an intricate system that embodies numerous material and emotional forces and transfers their overall profitability to the national power.

Being analysed as a system, the national power can methodologically be divided into three categories: if the maritime power be the main body, the sea power and the navy be sub-categories.

The sea power is the aggregation of naval and merchant marine capacity which guarantees the insurance of naval relations and interests in addition to the achievement of international influence at sea. Navy provides the military aspect of this power

Merchant ships, harbour installations, facilities for ship building, maintenance and repair. trade organisations, motivation and skills of seafarers as well as plans and developments in maritime policy are all covered by the sea power .

The sea power may provide assistance to rescue operations bringing both peace and war and secure fishing and oil-prospecting

activities, contribution to the national economy in co-operation with public and private sectors.

Being an indispensable part of the sea power, the Navy comprises; warships, aircraft, many different types of vehicles in addition to several commands, headquarters, installations and units for coast and harbour defence, bases, shipyards and other facilities for logistic and administrative support.

Turkey is intent to retain and develop its sea power in the 21st century with regard to Atatürk's; "Peace at home, peace in the world" principle. Therefore, great care will be taken to be admitted to new alliances and fulfil the engagements to the United Nations for regional and global peace.

Seas appear to be inextinguishable sources for different kinds of food, industrial raw materials and energy, the most important and also economically convenient means of transportation among different countries.

When considered only as an aspect of the sea power, the Navy acts as the protective system of it.

"Seamanship consciousness" can be defined as the interest of individuals in sea. A nation which lacks the sea power can never be expected to have a powerful navy. It should be remembered that for the purpose of determining the sea power apart from a firm naval strategy, the crucial factor in the formation of a powerful navy has always been "man".

The navy assumes different roles by defending the maritime power, supporting maritime policy and acting as a means of exercising naval strategy .

At war, the navy comprises the system of the maritime power as a whole. Accordingly, among the other aspects and elements of the maritime power, the navy undertakes the paramount importance in addition to priority. The very essence of this matter lies the fact that defensive service cannot be bought.

Assumption of an ideal the maritime power for a country has to be attained as an objective. Determination of objective policies and strategies among realistic, creative, contemporary and subsystems, implementation of plans and programmes and finally, application of them through effective and constructive methods should be executed.

In his book *The Influence of The Sea power Upon History*, Admiral Alfred Thayer MAHAN, 1840-1914, of the US Navy, argues that the maritime power of a country depends on 6 factors, namely:

- geographical position
- physical structure
- surface area
- population
- national character
- governmental aspects of a country

Among all these, governmental aspects take precedence as a result of the fact that today, governments play a leading role in the formation and development of the sea power. The degree of their influence displays a parallelism with the importance attached to the sea in all policies, strategies, plans and programmes.

The most important factor related to the maritime power is "raising the seamanship consciousness in both the state and the public." Then, it should be followed by scientific, technological and industrial developments.

Apart from conception of economy and trade by the state and the public, contemporaneity of the principles of national defence are the other essential factors related to this issue.

In addition to the character and traditions of a nation, which are public interest in the sea and seamanship, incitement of the state and national institutions related to this issue, and also the implementation of effective policies certainly take on a key role in the creation of maritime and the sea power.

Maritime relations and interests are closely and directly related to the maritime power. Maritime relations and interests denote not only the relations of the state and the public with the domains contributing to seamanship directly or indirectly but also the advantages gained from them. Moreover, being appropriate to the national power and objectives., maritime relations and interests can be considered as an intricate process carried out to determine the appropriate methods and policies for resolving the national problems

Maritime relations and interests can be specified as a skill to evaluate and practise the sea power with respect to available capabilities; besides, contribute to the national power. In addition to close and functional relations, there is a causal connection between the national power and maritime interest and relations.

The national power comprises the fulfillment of the national interests of the state and employment of the factors to attain the national objectives. In a way, the national power forms a chain extending to national interests (namely; the national power-national policy-national objective - national interests).

National interests can be designed as the objectives that have to be gained and protected in order to ensure the stability of the state and the welfare of the public. The most important difference from the national objectives is that national interests display continuity. As in the national power, national interests can also be regarded as a chain extending from the maritime power to maritime relations and interests (namely; the maritime power - maritime strategy - maritime relations and interests).

As the maritime power is an element of the national power, maritime relations and interests in addition to national interests, it appears as an undeniable fact that there is strong link between maritime interest and the national power including its components. When the concept of maritime relations and interest is analysed with regard to its connection with the maritime power, there appears to be a cause and effect relationship. It is possible to consider the maritime relations and interests as an ability to exercise the maritime power by employing all capabilities and practise it to attain the national interests.

The concept of maritime relations and interests is concerned with all components of the national power; besides, it provides a sort of guidance for the development of the national power. The aspects of the maritime power and maritime interests and relations are both observed in all elements of the national power and they assume an important function pertaining to this power.

It can easily be inferred that the maritime power of those who get into close contact with the sea and derive benefits from it will achieve improvements in the sea power. Besides, in societies where the maritime power has a firm basis maritime relations and interests are likely to develop much better.

In order to maintain the national interests; the national power may activate the existing potential in accordance with national objectives and employ the sources accordingly.

As a result, all sources and potential related to the seas and seamanship will be benefited. Furthermore, it will be possible to create and develop a the maritime power. These sources and potential values exist in all components of the national power. They affect the maritime power directly or indirectly and they contribute to it.

In order to benefit from the sea and seamanship the components of the national power should be employed according to suggested methods, in addition, all these effects and contributions should be utilised.

The profits gained as a result of the activities depending on such benefits will affect the elements of the national power and contribute to them. The efficiency achieved in consequence will directly be transferred to the national power.

It is quite obvious that the contributions of maritime relations and interests to the elements of the national power are numerous. However, these power components can be concretely and objectively defined as follows:

- Political
- Military
- Economic
- Demographic
- Geographical
- Scientific and technological
- Psycho-social and cultural

Changing world order has increased the importance of political systems which held democracy and human rights in high esteem. This approach, accelerated the transitions to free market economy and caused globalisation particularly in world economics and politics.

All these effects heightened by the new world order have attached even more importance to the position of the seas and oceans in the economic and political conjuncture of the world.

The fact that the maritime power, as a functional component of the national power, should be developed in order to benefit from the

sources and potential referring to seas and seamanship will assume a far more significant role in the agenda of the 21st century .

The maritime power, along with maritime relations and interests influence all elements of the national power; in the same way, they are influenced by those elements. Therefore, the authorities directing the national power are also responsible for the factors, which have an impact on maritime interests and relations directly or indirectly. Political authorities are supposed to show a firm determination to improve the existing potential with a realistic and objective approach and then to make use of it for achieving the maximum contribution to the national power.

In the 21st century, seamanship consciousness should be considered as a national duty and responsibility, which should be implemented in not only political authorities but also individuals. Because the maritime power is a functional component of the national power .

The maritime power, which is closely connected to all elements of the national power, acquires great importance with its contribution to the national interests and stability of a country .

In order to satisfy increasing demands for security and economy in the 21st century, nations seem to be somehow obliged to exercise a national strategy convenient to the seas and seamanship as well as raise a seamanship consciousness accordingly. In this context, they should;

- develop and examine their national objectives.
- update national and international maritime regulations accordance with changing conditions in today's world.
- introduce measures to achieve a close and effective relationship between international and national maritime regulations.
- make up an agenda for the deregulation of political authorities that fail to accomplish the formation of national maritime policies.
- update the educational systems to implement maritime consciousness
- modernise and increase the capacity of their merchant marines to increase the market share in transportation sector in the world.
- accelerate the construction of harbours and related infrastructure units.
- raise their educational standards required by the maritime power to the desired level and revise them by co-operating with international institutions.

- increase their capacities to benefit from all sources in the sea including natural resources at the sea bottom.
- create new sources to fill the financial needs of the maritime power .
- enact new adjustments to sea tourism in addition to yachting and adopt policies to offer strong incentives for them.

According to Admiral Mahan, "the biggest share of the inheritance of mankind has generally been taken and kept by those who establish sovereignty over the seas.." This approach will continue its importance in the 21st century too. The importance attributed to the maritime power will increase rapidly and keep its up-to-dateness.

Being a functional element of the national power, the maritime power, in fact, exercises influence over all components of the national power. As a result of this fact, employing the maritime power in accordance with political, economic and military points of view will be an indispensable objective of most nations.

As a result of different kinds of technologies created and developed by means of scientific research methods and their numerous applications in the 21st century, firm and efficient position of the maritime power in the national power will get even stronger. In the same way, intention to benefit from international waters will display a considerable increase. Consequently, it will lead to the improvement and even deregulation of the maritime power .

To sum up, making a noticeable difference from the other elements of the national power" the maritime power appears to be a significant factor having a great potential for development. Such a development will totally and positively affect the elements of the national power; thus, its significance in the international political conjuncture will continuously increase as a counterpoise.

