

Arap Ayaklanması'nın Libya'nın Enerji Güvenliği Üzerindeki Etkisi: Enerjiden Alternatiflere Giden Yol

The Impact Of The Arab Uprising On Libya's Energy Security: A Path From Non-Energy To Alternative

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Öz

Amaç: Bu makalenin amacı, Arap Ayaklanması gibi siyasi istikrarsızlıkların enerji geçiş merkezi sahibi olan Libya'nın enerji güvenliğinin nasıl etkilendiğini ve bu amaç doğrultusunda Doğu Akdeniz'e yönelim nedenlerini ortaya koymaktır.

Tasarım/Yöntem: Makale nitel araştırma yöntemi kullanılarak yazılmıştır. Ayrıca Arap Ayaklanması, Doğu Akdeniz ve Libya ile ilgili literatürdeki tezler ve makaleler incelenmiş ve tüm bu bilgiler analiz edilerek makale oluşturulmuştur.

Bulgular: Siyasi huzursuzluk, altyapı güvenliğini, üretimi, ihracatı, enerjiye yatırımları ve siyasi güveni etkileyerek enerji güvenliği üzerinde olumsuz bir etkiye sahiptir. Arap İsyanının getirdiği siyasi otorite boşluğu aktörler arasında rekabete yol açtığı ve bölgenin enerji güvenliğini olumsuz etkilediği için Libya, uluslararası arenada etkili görünmek ve enerji güvenliğini sağlamak için Doğu Akdeniz bölgesine yönelmiştir.

Sınırlılıklar: Araştırma, Arap Ayaklanmalarının başladığı 2011 yılından sonraki dönemdeki gelişmeleri incelemekle sınırlıdır. Bununla birlikte, Libya'nın enerji güvenliği ile ilgili daha geniş kapsamlı bir analiz için daha uzun bir zaman dilimi gerekebilir. Kısacası bir zaman kısıtlaması söz konusudur. Öte yandan Libya'daki siyasi ve güvenlik durumunun belirsizliği, özellikle hükümetin değişkenliği ve bölgedeki çatışmalar nedeniyle güvenilir ve kapsamlı verilere erişimi zorlaştırmıştır.

Özgünlük/Değer: Bu çalışmanın özgünlükleri, Arap Ayaklanmalarının Libya'nın enerji güvenliği üzerindeki etkilerini analiz ederken kullanılan metodoloji, veri kaynakları ve tartışma çerçevesinde kendini göstermektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Arap Ayaklanması, Enerji Güvenliği, Doğu Akdeniz, Kaddafi, Libya

Abstract

Purpose: The purpose of this article is to reveal how political instabilities such as the Arab Uprising have affected the energy security of Libya, which has an energy transition center, and the reasons for its orientation to the Eastern Mediterranean in line with this purpose.

Design/Methodology: The article was written using the qualitative research method. In addition, theses and articles in the literature on the Arab Uprising, the Eastern Mediterranean and Libya were examined and all this information was analyzed and the article was created.

Findings: Political unrest has a negative impact on energy security by affecting infrastructure security, production, exports, investments in energy and political confidence. Since the Decadence of political authority brought about by the Arab Revolt has led to competition among actors and negatively affected the energy security of the region, Libya has turned to the Eastern Mediterranean region to appear effective in the international arena and ensure energy security.

Limitations: The research is limited to examining the developments in the period after the beginning of the Arab Uprisings in 2011. However, a longer time frame may be required for a more comprehensive analysis of Libya's energy security. In short, there is a time limitation involved. On the other hand, the uncertainty of the political and security situation in Libya has made it difficult to access reliable and comprehensive data, especially due to the variability of the government and conflicts in the region.

Originality/Value: The originality of this article is manifested in the methodology, data sources and discussion framework used in analyzing the effects of the Arab Uprisings on Libya's energy security.

Keywords: Arab Uprising, Energy security, Eastern Mediterranean, Gaddafi, Libya

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Middle East has historically been of strategic importance due to its location at the intersection of Europe, Asia and Africa and its vast oil and natural gas reserves. However, Middle Eastern countries, which are generally rich in natural resources, have often been subject to external interventions due to their weak infrastructure, fragile economic structures and political instability, and have been at the center of both regional power struggles and global geopolitical competition (Güneş, 2022). Following the Arab Spring, Libya has become one of the most tangible instances of this dynamic. The Arab Spring, which started in Tunisia in late 2010 and quickly spread throughout North Africa and the Middle East, is a popular movement directed against very different structural problems such as authoritarian regimes, widespread corruption and socioeconomic inequalities. This popular movement spread to Libya in a very short time and armed conflict led to the overthrow of the country's autocratic leader Muammar Gaddafi (Düzsöz, 2021). The process had a significant impact on the regional geopolitical balances in addition to Libya's internal political structure. Because after the overthrow of the government, without a centralized government, Libya descended into a protracted period of instability when it was confronted by a variety of militarist organizations and political formations from outside parties with disparate agendas. The proliferation of these militarist groups has become even more complicated with the deepening of tribal divisions and the increasing effectiveness of radical elements (Gök, 2021:128). Given this, the Arab Spring transition in Libya has demonstrated how international actors can exploit internal dynamics to further their geopolitical ambitions. It has also strikingly revealed the vulnerabilities of states that are rich in natural resources but weak in institutional capacity in today's international system (Doğan, 2021). This article aims to analyze how the political instability that emerged after the 2011 Arab Spring, due to many reasons such as Libya being a region with abundant and low-cost natural resources, its strategic location, and the potential it offers to European energy supply security, has led Libya to become an area of fragility in the context of energy security due to the competition between regional and global powers and to be among the second group of states.

In short, Libya is an important location in terms of the Eastern Mediterranean's dominance of energy resources, its position as a transit point for land and sea routes, and its supply of energy. From this vantage point, it's critical to portray Libya's political and economic structure, the impact of the Arab Spring on Libya's energy resources, and the conflicts between regional and international actors over energy in Libya. What impact can political movements have on a nation's ability to secure its energy supply? The relationship between the independent variables of political movements and energy security will be clarified by structuring the research around the central question. Throughout the study;

What are the economic and political consequences of the concept of energy in national and international policy processes?

When did the energy security problem arise in Libya?

Who are the regional and global powers that are effective in energy security in Libya?

How can energy security be ensured in Libya?

Where did Libya turn to ensure energy security after the Arab Spring?

Why do political fragility and energy security go hand in hand? questions will be answered.

The main argument of the study is "The political authority vacuum that emerged in Libya with the Arab Revolt caused competition among the actors, negatively affecting the energy security of the region, and caused Libya to turn to the Eastern Mediterranean region in order to appear active in the international arena and to ensure its energy security. In addition, while creating the study, Qualitative research method was used. Because it is based on the analysis and interpretation of secondary sources, namely journals, articles and theses. The objective of this research is to elucidate the effects of the Arab Spring on Libya's energy security and to use neorealism theory to the analysis of the nation's political and economic structure, actors' behavior, and power struggles. There is no thorough examination that tackles this problem within the neorealist paradigm, despite the fact that there are several studies on the Arab Spring, Libya, and energy relations in the literature. Specifically, there is no comprehensive strategy that implies that suitable policies can lessen the vulnerabilities of nations with abundant natural

resources. The work in question makes a unique and significant contribution to the literature in this regard. I based my research article on the Possible Effects Of Regional Political Instability On Energy Supply Security: The Case Of The Arab Spring, prepared by Zehra DOĞAN (2021), who inspired me to determine the topic of my study. Within the scope of the study, I took advantage of the part in which Libya, which is important in terms of energy supply, explained how regional and global energy supply security is affected during the political instability process. Arap Baharı ve Türkiye: Siyasi Coğrafya Açısından Bir Değerlendirme written by Tařkın DENİZ (2014), which expressed geographical features of the area where the movement is experienced, energy the importance of Turkey in terms of its resources, the goals and roles of the actors. In The Context Of Internal And External Factors, which is discussed by Hakan KARAASLAN (2023) to convey how the fragile environment of Libya was shaped through internal and external factors after the Arab Spring. I benefited from the research article In this context, in order to reveal the impact of energy wars on resource-rich countries, I benefited from the article Analysis Of Energy Wars In Iraq, Syria And Libya From Historical Perspective, prepared by Cemal KAKIřIM (2020). I have benefited from Derya SÜRMELİOĞLU PARLAR's (2022) research article named Libya In Energy Competition In The East Mediterranean to convey how Libya is oriented towards the Eastern Mediterranean in order to ensure its energy security.

In the study, which consists of 5 chapters in total, firstly, after informing about the subject, purpose, importance, hypothesis and research questions, the neorealist theory will be explained in Chapter 2 in order to convey the power and interest struggles of the actors in Libya and their reflection on energy security³. In the second part, the historical framework that analyzes the pre- and post-Arab Spring will be presented to see the political and economic structure of the country and how Libya was affected as a result of the Arab Spring. When it comes to the 4th part of the study, there is the finding part that conveys the answers we have obtained against the research questions based on energy security of the study. In the 5th and last part of the study, the conclusion part is transferred and punctuated.

2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

According to the neorealist theory; there is no authority superior to the state in the international system. In cases where there is no authority gap, each state must ensure its own security and interests. The authority gap in Libya after 2011 has also caused competition over energy resources, making the country vulnerable to external interventions in the economic, military, political and security context (Hamata vd., 2020). In such a conjuncture, since each actor acts in line with their own interests and strives to increase energy security, they perceive another actor in the region as a threat, creating a risk of conflict and thus causing the region to become fragile (Güntay, 2020). This situation is a reflection of the concepts of anarchy and power struggle in the neorealist theory. In other words, external interventions, the desire to protect energy and geopolitical interests, the siege of ports and the control of production areas by militias are a result of this competition. Neorealist theory provides a powerful explanation for understanding this multi-actor energy and power struggle. As a result, this article aims to explain the energy security problem that emerged as a result of the political unrest caused by the Arab Uprising in Libya and the reflections of the conflict between the actors on energy security within the framework of neorealist theory (Pinar, 2014).

The structure of the system and the distribution of power are significant in interstate relations within the context of the international system's anarchic and hierarchical structure. Assuming that war will inevitably arise in such a system, governments' main objective is to protect their own national security and interests (Acar, 2022). Within the context of the analysis, Libya was among the nations that had significant effects from the Arab Spring. So why? Libya is significant from both a geoeconomic and geostrategic standpoint because of its abundant oil resources and location along the littoral of the Eastern Mediterranean. Because of this, regional and international countries are interested in gaining economic advantage and establishing political hegemony through the use of energy. In essence, as the neo-realist view underscores, states only seek to safeguard their national security and interests. Conflicts of interest were brought on by its location in the energy sector of the Libyan equation.

Controlling access to energy resources or altering the balance of power in the region may also be the goals of supporting or interfering in the wars in Libya in the Eastern Mediterranean. Because Libya's oil and natural gas deposits provide the vast majority of its income. Otherwise, the state's interests will be

in jeopardy. Libya cooperated with external powers to survive and maintain its sovereignty in the face of internal unrest and threats to its energy infrastructure. According to neorealism, this attitude is an attempt by the state to protect itself within unstable international relations. Thus, Libya will be able to safeguard its energy supplies, ensure its economic survival, and keep its position in the world energy market. The system dictates how states operate in their foreign policy relationships, and states behave rationally when they work strategically to improve their power potential. As a result, the Neorealist theory is a good hypothesis to comprehend how the Arab Spring impacted the security of Libya's energy supply. In the context of a chaotic and unpredictably global environment, it offers a valuable lens to emphasize the significance of power dynamics and vested interests in shaping state conduct.

2.1 Before The Arab Uprising

The historical perspective of the study will be examined in two parts as Libya before and after the Gaddafi era. Because, as mentioned in the previous sections, after the Arab Spring, Gaddafi's rule in Libya came to an end and energy security also came under threat (Düzsöz, 2021). Libya is armed with many failed policies such as its decentralized structure, corruption, liberalization and nepotism combined. Gaddafi, who took over the country following the 1969 revolution, attempted to impose his philosophy on the Libyan people by combining Islam with Socialism. He was not successful despite his admiration for Junal Abdulnasir's Arab Nationalism (Baltalı, 2019). Aside from ideology, he has taken political actions that have aided terrorist organizations in their fight against other states, putting them in a politically active position. In this situation, it has resulted in various embargoes imposed by Western powers on Libya. Gaddafi's political stance altered following this crisis, which lasted into the 2000s, and he adopted a policy away from terrorist organizations (Önder Kibar, 2021). In terms of economics, Gaddafi lived during a period of unprecedented affluence, doubling oil revenues with the exactivist development model he employed. However, in addition to all of this, the concessions he has made to Western states have caused problems in both domestic and foreign policy. As a result, the absence of strong and reliable institutions has resulted in a number of security issues, including competition from non-state actors. As a result of these failed liberal measures, there has been widespread corruption and an increase in the expense of living, as well as the establishment of a system that is diametrically opposed to the popular strata, the labor segment (Gürcan, 2020). Contrary to the economic liberalization move, it pursued a policy aimed at protecting its own regime by restricting the basic rights and freedoms of the people.

Consequently, before the Arab Spring, Libya's energy security was closely tied to the country's political stability under the regime of Muammar Gaddafi. Under Gaddafi's rule, Libya maintained strict control over its energy sector, with the state-owned National Oil Corporation (NOC) serving as the sole entity responsible for oil and gas production and exports. This centralized control allowed the government to direct revenues towards social programs and infrastructure projects, which helped to maintain political stability. However, Gaddafi's authoritarian rule also led to corruption and mismanagement within the energy sector, with revenues being siphoned off by the ruling elite and infrastructure deteriorating due to lack of investment. Additionally, the international community imposed sanctions on Libya in response to the regime's human rights abuses, further affecting the country's energy production and exports.

2.2 After The Arab Uprising

Libya, which was governed by Muammar Gaddafi with an anti-Western and authoritarian outlook, was particularly affected by the Arab Spring. The social movements that opposed the regime were founded on the ideals of democracy, equality, and freedom; yet, the forces of the Gaddafi regime utilized their unrestricted authority to stir up popular outrage during the protests. Resolution 1970, which contained a weapons embargo, an asset freeze, and a travel ban, was enacted by the UN Security Council in response to the abuses of human rights and international law in Libya. (United Nations Security Council, 2011). In addition, a no-fly zone over Libya was proclaimed under the decision number 1973. The purpose of this decision was to stop regional and global entities from influencing the region politically through the use of military force (Karaaslan, 2023: 232). The UN Security Council opened the door for international involvement for regime change even if the decisions were made to promote peace, stability, and compliance with the law.

The effects of the events in Libya have spread beyond local and regional boundaries, and NATO has already implemented the first response. Due to NATO's intervention, Tripoli was put under control, and the National Transitional Council assassinated Gaddafi, ending his 42-year rule (Karakaya and elik, 2021). Following Gaddafi, the National Security Council engaged in a power struggle by proclaiming that Libya was free, with the goal of unifying Libya under one government and acting as its sole representation. It ruled the nation as the National General Congress between 2012 and 2014. Despite having the potential to bring about stability and peace, Libya's conflicts, which stem from its tribal culture, continued. As a result, the legitimacy of the administration came under scrutiny, and new Muslim Brotherhood-centered formations that aimed to influence politics in the new era arose (řeker, 2022: 43). As it can be understood from here, the rivalry between different ideological groups has deepened.

General Khalifa Haftar, who receives support from the US, disbanded the National General Congress in 2014 and declared that the Transitional Military Council would rule Libya. Following the statement, Haftar participated in Benghazi against Islamic terrorist organizations and highlighted that it was best to fight against the Muslim Brotherhood and radical Islamic organizations (Kekilli, 2016). Khalifa Haftar sought to establish a House of Representatives in Tobruk and form a new government following the elections that were held in June 2014. In Tripoli, however, the Muslim Brotherhood and the Radical Islamist group have also come together. With the support of foreign powers, Libya has become a politically unsuccessful and fragile state. After Haftar joined the conflict, Libya split in two along the lines of the Khalifa Haftar-led Tobruk House of Representatives and the 2015-established Government of National Reconciliation (UMH), which the UN recognized as legitimate. (zkan, 2020). Under the leadership of Fayez El-Serraj, a reconciliation government was established in 2016, but both parliaments boycotted it since it didn't get enough support. The GNA made no progress with the tensions with Haftar while Serraj was in charge.

Emmanuel Macron, the president of France, and the UN special representative for political peace settlement discussions were present at the meeting in Paris in July 2017 where Serraj and Haftar were invited, but no agreement could be achieved. Elections were originally scheduled for 2018, however they were moved to 2019. Haftar launched numerous attacks during this process, and Serraj urged that the backing for Haftar should be terminated. A Memorandum of Understanding on Security and Military Cooperation with Turkey was signed in 2019 to advance diplomatic solutions (Kakıřım, 2020). Serraj signed the agreement's text after the TR and Russia requested a cease-fire in 2020. However, the choices made by the international actors varied in the declaration. The disarmament of Sirte and Jufra, the start of oil production, and the separation of non-national forces were all regarded as being within the purview of the truce. Elections for the presidential and parliamentary offices will be held in 2021 following the cease-fire. Members of the Presidential Council under the transitional government included Yunus el-Menfi, Abdlhamid Dibeybe, Musa El-Koni, and Abdullah Hseyin El Lafi (Karakaya and elik, 2021).

3. CONCLUSION

Within the context of the study, the political and economic impacts of the Arab Uprising on Libya are highlighted, particularly the risks to the energy security of nations like Libya that depend politically on an energy-based economy. In this study "What impact can political movements have on a nation's ability to secure its energy supply?" seeks an answer to the fundamental question. Our findings in this context are as follows:

Reduction in Production and Exports: The hostilities that followed the Arab Spring resulted in the targeting and closure of production facilities, which led to a reduction in production, which in turn led to a reduction in energy exports.

Infrastructure Security Issues: Energy security is now at risk since conflicting parties have turned into targets of oil facilities, storage spaces, and communication lines.

Interruptions in Energy Supply: The battles endured led to energy issues on the home market, resulting in power outages, and the drop in energy exports had an impact on the global market. Additionally, these cuts have upset the nations that rely on Libya for its energy supplies.

Uncertainty in Investments: Libya's energy investments were badly impacted by instability following the Arab Spring event, and in this uncertain atmosphere, investors were cautious when investing in energy projects. This condition has made it more difficult to grow energy capacity and, consequently, to ensure its security.

Energy Security and Foreign Relations: The political stability and differences in Libya have impacted oil transactions, energy corridors, and foreign policy plans. Political unrest following the Arab Spring put the nation's energy security at jeopardy. Oil production dropped after the civil war, and production and exports were frequently reduced. While this circumstance threatens the nation's energy security, it also results in significant losses in the country's oil income and economic issues. The following steps have been done for Libya's energy security policy under the umbrella of energy security:

Orientation to the Eastern Mediterranean: For domestic policy considerations, such as ensuring political stability and effectiveness and ensuring energy security, Libya has looked to the Eastern Mediterranean region. It aimed to strengthen its position by competing in the Eastern Mediterranean region because of the abundance of energy reserves and energy transit locations there (Parlar, 2022:96).

Cooperation with International Actors: Turkey and Libya competed in the Eastern Mediterranean with the assumption that both countries would win. By supplying jets, unmanned aerial vehicles, and military advisors to Libya, Turkey offers assistance. Both Turkey and Libya want access to energy resources, but Libya has created communication and collaboration specifically to guarantee its own stability.

Source Diversity:

Now let's explain our findings for the research sub-questions:

What are the economic and political consequences of the concept of energy in national and international policy processes?

Both locally and internationally, the Arab Uprising has had an effect on the security of Libya's energy supply. First of all, Libya's oil exports and production were harmed by the nation's economic unrest. Since Libya is a significant player in the world oil market, any disruption in the nation's oil output will result in changes in the price of energy around the world. Issues with energy security could lead to reductions in production and export capacity, which would be bad for Libya's economy. The cost of importing energy for other nations dependent on Libya can rise due to fluctuations in oil prices and supply disruptions, which can also cause economic instability.

Politically, the idea of energy, the demands of major oil-consuming nations for energy security, and Western countries' concerns about diversifying their energy supplies all increased after the Arab Uprising. As a result, Libya has been cut off from global markets as a result of the political and economic sanctions imposed on it. The management of energy resources, on the other hand, can be one of the main points of power struggles and might result in confrontations between various groups. Energy security issues may therefore have an impact on the political power dynamics in Libya because energy production and export are a significant source of state wealth.

Libya's energy policy are significantly influenced by the global demand for its energy supplies. Libya's foreign relations and its economic and political links with other nations can be shaped by its oil and gas exports. Energy security concerns may impact Libya's energy exports, resulting in changes in demand and price on global markets. Additionally, disputes between international parties vying for control of energy resources may flare up and affect regional or worldwide relations.

When did the Libyan energy problem arise?

The political upheaval and warfare that developed in Libya during the Arab Spring in 2011 are also a result of the country's energy crisis. Muammar Gaddafi was eventually overthrown and killed as a result of the fight he had with opposition parties seeking democratic reform. Following Gaddafi, an unstable time period with no centralized authority began. The energy industry was significantly impacted by this crisis. Because attacks on infrastructure, blockades of oil facilities, and fights between various armed factions vying for control of oil resources have all affected oil production, which is a key

factor in the Libyan economy. Increasing power struggles have led to frequent cuts in oil production and exports.

Who are the regional and global powers that are effective in energy security in Libya?

Regional Powers:

a. Egypt: Egypt has historically had a strong interest in stability and security in Libya due to its shared border and the potential impact of the Libyan conflict on its own security. Egypt has supported various factions in Libya, including the Libyan National Army (LNA) led by General Khalifa Haftar, to counter groups it perceives as threats to its national security.

b. Turkey: Turkey has been involved in the Libyan conflict, supporting the Government of National Accord (GNA) led by Prime Minister Fayez al-Sarraj. Turkey has provided military assistance, including troops and equipment, to the GNA and has signed agreements with them on maritime boundaries and military cooperation. Energy cooperation between Turkey and the GNA has also been established, including exploration and drilling activities in contested waters.

c. United Arab Emirates (UAE): The UAE has supported the LNA and its leader, General Haftar, providing military and financial assistance. The UAE sees Haftar as a potential ally against Islamist groups in Libya and supports his efforts to gain control over the country. The UAE's involvement is motivated by a desire to shape the political landscape in Libya and secure its own economic and security interests.

d. Russia: Russia has also been involved in the Libyan conflict, providing political support and military assistance to General Haftar and the LNA. Russia's involvement is driven by its desire to expand its influence in the Mediterranean region, secure access to energy resources, and counter Western influence.

Global Powers:

a. United States: Through diplomatic initiatives and backing for the political process overseen by the UN, the United States has contributed to the security of Libya's energy supply. The United States has helped to stabilize Libya, fight terrorism, and facilitate a peaceful political transition. It has also supported the GNA. The United States has also stated a desire to stop foreign parties from meddling too much in Libya, including Turkey and Russia.

b. European Union (EU): The EU has been actively involved in Libya's energy security, primarily through its support for the UN-led political process and efforts to restore stability in the country. The EU has provided financial and technical assistance to improve governance and security in Libya's energy sector and has worked to counter smuggling and illicit activities related to energy resources.

c. United Nations (UN): The UN has played a crucial role in mediating the Libyan conflict and facilitating political negotiations. The UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) has been working to broker ceasefires, facilitate dialogue, and promote a political settlement. The UN also monitors and helps address issues related to the management of Libya's energy resources, including revenue distribution and transparency.

Where did Libya turn to ensure energy security after the Arab Spring?

After the Arab Spring and the subsequent political upheaval in Libya, the country turned to various strategies and partnerships to ensure energy security. Here are some key developments:

Diversification of Export Markets: Libya sought to diversify its export markets to reduce dependence on a single buyer and mitigate the risks associated with political instability. Before the Arab Spring, Europe, particularly Italy, was the primary destination for Libyan oil exports. However, in the post-Arab Spring period, Libya explored new partnerships with countries in Asia, such as China and India, as well as African nations. By expanding its export markets, Libya aimed to ensure a stable demand for its energy resources.

Engagement with International Oil Companies: Libya continued to engage with international oil companies (IOCs) to enhance its energy sector capabilities and attract foreign investment. IOCs played a crucial role in the pre-Arab Spring era and continued to be important partners in the post-conflict period. Libyan authorities negotiated contracts and partnerships with major IOCs to develop and rehabilitate oil fields, improve production capacity, and leverage their expertise to enhance efficiency and security in the sector.

Collaboration with International Organizations: Libya sought assistance and collaboration from international organizations to strengthen its energy sector and improve governance. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank, and other international organizations provided technical expertise and support to enhance transparency, institutional capacity, and regulatory frameworks in the energy sector.

Engagement with Regional Actors: Libya engaged with regional actors to address energy security concerns and enhance cooperation. For example, Libya participated in regional forums such as the Arab League and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to discuss energy-related issues, coordinate policies, and promote stability in the region. Collaboration with neighboring countries, including Egypt and Tunisia, was also sought to address shared energy challenges and explore opportunities for regional energy integration.

Focus on Infrastructure Rehabilitation: The Libyan government prioritized the rehabilitation of energy infrastructure, including oil fields, pipelines, and export terminals, to restore and increase production capacity. Efforts were made to repair and secure damaged infrastructure, prevent theft and sabotage, and enhance overall operational efficiency. These infrastructure improvements were crucial for increasing oil production and ensuring reliable energy supply.

Why do political fragility and energy security go hand in hand?

Dependency on Energy Resources: Countries heavily reliant on energy resources, such as oil and gas, for their economic development and revenue generation are particularly vulnerable to political fragility.

Resource Control and Power Struggles: Energy resources are often concentrated in specific regions or controlled by certain groups or elites within a country. In politically fragile states, power struggles and conflicts may arise over control of these valuable resources. Competing factions or external actors may seek to gain control over energy infrastructure and revenue streams, exacerbating political instability and leading to armed conflicts.

Economic Impact and Public Dissatisfaction: Energy sector revenues are critical for funding public services, infrastructure development, and social welfare programs. Political fragility can undermine the effective management and governance of energy resources, leading to corruption, mismanagement, and lack of investment. This can result in economic downturns, high unemployment rates, and public dissatisfaction, further fueling political instability and social unrest.

External Interference and Geopolitical Rivalries: Politically fragile countries with significant energy resources often become the targets of external interference and geopolitical rivalries. Powerful countries or regional actors may seek to influence the political outcomes, control access to resources, or shape the energy market dynamics to serve their own strategic interests. These interventions can exacerbate existing political fragility and create additional challenges for energy security.

Vulnerability to Terrorism and Extremism: Political fragility provides a fertile ground for the rise of extremist groups and terrorist organizations, which can target energy infrastructure, disrupt operations, and create security risks. Attacks on energy installations, pipelines, and transportation routes can significantly impact energy production, supply, and the overall security environment, further exacerbating political instability.

Finally, How can energy security be ensured in Libya?

The findings of the question are as follows:

It is crucial to remember that achieving Libya's energy security is a difficult and protracted task that calls for ongoing dedication, teamwork, and thorough changes. An environment with a stable political climate, inclusive governance institutions, and active involvement from all important stakeholders should facilitate the implementation of these initiatives.

Political Stability and Conflict Resolution: It requires efforts to promote inclusive political dialogue, reconciliation, and the establishment of a unified and legitimate government. The involvement of key stakeholders, both domestic and international, in supporting peacebuilding processes can help create an environment conducive to energy security.

Strengthening Institutional Capacity: Building robust and transparent institutions is essential for effective governance of the energy sector. Enhancing institutional capacity includes improving legal frameworks, regulatory frameworks, and administrative capabilities to ensure fair and efficient management of energy resources.

Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Security: Investments should be made in the maintenance, repair, and protection of infrastructure, including measures to prevent theft, sabotage, and attacks. Collaboration with international partners can provide expertise and resources for infrastructure rehabilitation and security enhancement.

Diversification of Energy Sources and Markets: Encouraging the diversification of energy sources and markets can enhance resilience and reduce dependence on a single resource or buyer.

Regional Cooperation: Strengthening regional cooperation in the energy sector can enhance energy security in Libya.

International Support and Technical Assistance: Libya can benefit from international support and technical assistance in various areas, including capacity building, institutional development, and infrastructure investments. Engaging with international organizations, such as the United Nations, World Bank, and relevant regional organizations, can provide access to expertise, resources, and financial assistance to support energy security efforts.

As a result of the Arab Spring, Libya has been in a precarious position in terms of politics, the economy, and security because of Africa's vast oil deposits, previous administrative problems, and its proximity to the Eastern Mediterranean. Political instability increased as a result of the power vacuum that resulted from Gaddafi's ouster, the installation of the National Transitional Government, and the ensuing political power struggle. In this instance, it resulted in the impediment of political decision-making procedures and, together with the escalation of hostilities, made it easier for terrorist organizations and international actors to intervene in the region. The production activities of oil corporations operating in Libya were also halted as a result of disputes between the parties at the point of access to energy resources. Libya is an energy producer and exporter, and by fostering an atmosphere of instability and insecurity, regional actors have specifically damaged the oil and natural gas infrastructures of Libya. This has badly impacted the security of the energy supply. Therefore, reductions in production activities have created negative effects on economic growth. The decrease in energy exports caused fluctuations not only in regional but also in global energy markets. In order to guarantee the stability of the nation and supply energy resources, Libya has now turned to the Eastern Mediterranean region, a riparian zone. Thus, it sought to maintain energy security in a quick and affordable manner while utilizing abundant energy supplies. The GNA is one of the main players in the energy battle in Libya, and other notable players include Russia, the Egyptian government, the United Arab Emirates, and the Greek Cypriot Administration of Cyprus.

As a result, the economic and political effects of political instability on resource-rich countries such as Libya may have some consequences in terms of energy security. Political instability and internal conflicts reduce production capacity and disrupt energy exports due to the targeting of production facilities. Economic issues develop together with the declining energy income. The process of producing and distributing energy is challenging when there are interruptions in the energy supply. Avoiding investments in the energy industry in particular could halt the advancement of energy security. Additionally, political unrest can make the energy industry more politically dependent. If a nation gets

the majority of its energy from nations with unstable governments or politically turbulent regions, its energy security is put at danger. Additionally, changes in foreign policy and unpredictability in relations have an impact on energy supply chains through influencing the nation's foreign relations and energy policies. In conclusion, political movements and energy security are closely related. Political unrest has a negative impact on energy security through impacting infrastructure security, output, exports, investments in energy, and political reliance.

Libya turned to the Eastern Mediterranean region in order to appear effective in the international arena and to ensure energy security as the political authority vacuum brought on by the Arab Revolt led to competition among the actors and negatively impacted the region's energy security.

Etik Beyan: Bu çalışmada “Etik Kurul” izini alınmasını gerektiren bir yöntem kullanılmamıştır.

Ethics Statement: In this study, no method requiring the permission of the “Ethics Committee” was used.

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