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## Investigating the Geopolitical Location of Badakhshan and its Role in National Security

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# Investigating the Geopolitical Location of Badakhshan and its Role in National Security

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## Abstract

*'Geopolitical location' has been understood to be an important and influential element in the politics and national security. With a focus on geography, geopolitical attitudes have been formed. This article examines the geopolitical location of the Badakhshan province and its role in national security as a political unit. The fixed and changing geopolitical locations are emphasized with the subsets of each of the variables that affect the internal security of the region. The geopolitical location, which includes fixed and relative location, has had a great impact on Afghanistan's national power and, subsequently, on the national security of the Badakhshan Province, effecting significant change. This research is applied in terms of a survey. It was implemented in the form of a library-field study. The field of research is Badakhshan Province, which has 28 administrative units (districts). The methodology governing the research has a descriptive-analytical nature. The information has been collected through library studies. The geopolitical location of Badakhshan is one of the key influencing factors on national power, and this characteristic has made the political stability of this province an issue since the 20th century. However, turning this 'threat' into an opportunity provides the possibility of economic growth and prosperity and political stability of Badakhshan in the future.*

**Keywords:** geopolitics, Badakhshan, geographical location, and national security.

## Introduction

Geographically, Badakhshan is an entirely mountainous area, and the physical structure of the land comes from the youngest chain of mountains in Afghanistan, which was in the last geological period, the Cenozoic. Despite the tough terrain, the province holds approximately 53 per cent of Afghanistan's water resources. Likewise, the highest peak of the Hindu Kush Mountains is in Afghanistan, named Noushakh, which is located in this province. Continuous rainfall, successive heavy snows, and delectation in the higher elevation regions - namely the Pamir, Wakhan, Darvaz, Keshm, Tagab, and Ragh regions - formed many natural glaciers in this province.<sup>1</sup> Badakhshan is one of the largest and most populous provinces in northern Afghanistan. It has a natural border and trade route

<sup>1</sup> Ahmadi, Merharoon. *Physical Geography of Afghanistan*. Kabul: Publication of Nami, 2011, 5.

with Pakistan through Kotel "Shah Salim" and "Broughil" and from the border of Ashkashim to Kharuk, the capital of Badakhshan province of Tajikistan.<sup>2</sup>

There is no denying that Afghanistan is in a sensitive and essential geographical location that has shaped regional and international politics in the last many decades. For instance, it links East, South, West, and Central Asia. The country is in the sensitive and tense region of Central Asia with neighbouring countries such as Pakistan, Iran, China, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.<sup>3</sup> This geopolitical location can impact Afghanistan's national security and, subsequently, on Badakhshan, such as the effect of physical conditions on defence threats. However, this only affects the province's national security and security policies so much as it is influential in forming politics, government, and federal policies. In political-geographical theory, the geographical structure of the region where power is exercised has a particular importance and position. A country that has been the focus of competing powers due to its unique geographical structure can establish or disrupt the game and hold political-geographical importance. Therefore, paying attention to various geographical positions can strengthen the Badakhshan province against its competitors - other claimant countries - making the most of these positions by using the privileges afforded by the region's unique features.

On the other hand, Badakhshan is rich in natural resources in Afghanistan, which can be tempting for any economic power in the world. These factors affect Badakhshan's security and political conditions and any changes and developments in this province, for better or worse. Each point of the Badakhshan Province, according to its unique geopolitical position in the passage of history, has been the cause of the seeds of events and political developments of its time.<sup>4</sup> The geopolitical features of the province's borders are a suitable platform for security threats and challenges. Naturally, the geopolitical and geostrategic situation contributes to instability, insecurity and challenges in the security and defence institutions. This problem needs further scientific investigation to identify research-based solutions. As this article will demonstrate, it is possible to mitigate insecurity factors and increase security in the province by adopting appropriate and correct methods.<sup>5</sup>

The first crucial geographical feature of Badakhshan is its mountainous nature. Badakhshan's geopolitical location significantly affects its natural environment, livelihood landscape and more about political behaviour. In the areas where they exist, mountains play an essential role in the ecosystem's inhabitants - human and otherwise. Likewise, altitude plays a decisive role in regulating the climate locally while regulating and balancing the air, as the bed of catchment basins, by receiving rainfall. Rainfall is the leading supplier of freshwater needed by the residents of the areas for agricultural and other activities in the region. Thus, it has been argued that the geographical location of Badakhshan is one of the factors affecting its national power; each region's politics is determined by its geography. Natural passages are one of the geographical factors affecting Badakhshan's political events. Looking back through history, we see that the province hosts major political events during periods in which it is a 'transit state'. Meanwhile, one of the most famous mountain passes in the world is the Khyber Pass in

<sup>2</sup> Bamiani, Mohammad Ibrahim. *Badakhshan in the Mirror of Time*. Kabul: Saeed Publishing House, 2013.

<sup>3</sup> Mojtahedzadeh, Pirouz, Askari, Sohrab. *Political Geography and Geopolitics*. Publications of Payam Noor University, 2006, 19.

<sup>4</sup> Rasouli, Jagfar. "Afghanistan's Hydro politics Impact on: Cooperation or Confrontation with Neighbors". *Strategic Studies Quarterly* 7, no. 6, (2005): 154.

<sup>5</sup> Badakhshi, Mirza Seng Mohammad. *History of Badakhshan*, Kabul: Amiri Publication, 1988.

the Hindu Kush, which is more than 60 kilometres long and is more than 2000 meters above sea level. This winding and steep passage has always been the focus of the invaders in the great campaigns of history to the Indian subcontinent.<sup>6</sup>

The gathering of people and the formation of their villages, cities, and political and economic organizations indicate the geographical situation of the environment if we consider the need for livelihood as the primary factor in geographical areas. The secondary factor is the state of defence in the region, which can be seen by studying the historical records of the cities.<sup>7</sup> Therefore, the places that had the status of a fortress and were full of natural resources directed people's attention and attention towards them, and the initial foundations of communities were established there.<sup>8</sup> Badakhshan is 47,403 square kilometres and holds approximately 53% of Afghanistan's water resources. The highest peak of the Hindu Kush Mountains in Afghanistan, named Noshakh, is located in this province. Regarding geographical location, Badakhshan is located between 70 degrees, 4 minutes, and 36 seconds east by longitude and 36 degrees, 50 minutes, and 16 seconds North by Latitude. Badakhshan is from the north to the Amu Sea and the country of Tajikistan, from the south to the provinces of Nuristan, Punisher and part of Chitral.<sup>9</sup> The importance of the region can be understood by the fact that the land of Badakhshan has defended the invasion of India throughout the historical periods; many warriors, such as "Achaemenid emperors", "Iskander the Macedonian", "Mahmoud of Ghaznavi", "Timor Gorkani" and "Nader Shah Afshar", reached India from the maze of mountains and valleys of Afghanistan, especially from this province. One can argue that they know that the Silk Road itself is proof of this strategic situation of Badakhshan province.<sup>10</sup>

## **2. Methodology**

The most fundamental question of geography is about "place", and political geography, as a subset of geography, studies "politics caused by place". This article has the approach of political geography or geopolitics, which proves the interaction of "politics" and "geography". This interaction observes power, politics and security interweaving with place, space and territory.<sup>11</sup> Competition over how to control and manage land and resources is one of the most stable interests of human societies. The study of these conflicts over resources (power) and their solution methods is placed in the field of political geography.<sup>12</sup> In this context, this article seeks to explain how the geopolitical situation of Badakhshan is influential in formulating a strategy based on political geography approaches. The methodology governing the research has a descriptive-analytical nature. The information has been collected through library studies. Likewise, independent and dependent variables were also investigated in a descriptive-analytical way.

Dependent variable :The most essential need of any society is to ensure the security of that society. The international system is created with the evolution of the structure and nature of power resulting from the sum of these units. Countries are not at the same level

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<sup>6</sup> Azimi, Mohammad Azim. *An Entry on the Political Geography of Afghanistan*. Tehran: Publication of Khorasan, 2012.

<sup>7</sup> Kavianirad, Murad. "Hydro political relations between Iran and Afghanistan." *Strategic Studies Quarterly* 8, no. 28, (2005): 337-358.

<sup>8</sup> Azimi, "An Entry on the Political Geography of Afghanistan".

<sup>9</sup> Ahmadi, "Physical Geography of Afghanistan", 5.

<sup>10</sup> Moradi, Sahib Nazar. *Badakhshan in history*. Vol. 1, Kabul: Khayyam Publication, 2010.

<sup>11</sup> Blocksell, Mark. *Political Geography*. Translated by Mohammad Reza Hafeznia, Ataulah Abdi, Hossein Rabiei and Abbas Ahmadi. Tehran: Selection, 2019, 5.

<sup>12</sup> Hafeznia, Mohammadreza. *Principles and Concepts of Geopolitics*, Mashhad: Publication, 2011, 78.

regarding material and spiritual facilities, such as the location of the army market, natural resources, population, level of economic growth, internal cohesion, and political stability. For this reason, their ideas and expectations about the limits of their interests in the international community are different, and their tools and facilities are different in advancing those interests. Badakhshan province in the Pamir and Hindu Kush mountains has a long border with the Chitral tribal region of Pakistan. The battlefield in Badakhshan is experiencing unprecedented changes.

Independent variables: Based on the theory of feasibility, the independent variables used in this research are geopolitical location, geophysical structure and uneven condition of Badakhshan province, which have a direct impact on national security and political developments in the province. Badakhshan is the only province with a border with more than four Central and South Asian countries.

Geographical location refers to the set of geographical factors and conditions that create the whole natural environment of a geographical location with mutual effects. They are affected, somehow, as scholars argue that they have a role in national security. The geopolitical location of Badakhshan has a very significant impact on its national security; the remoteness of the geographical areas of this province plays a crucial role in providing security. The geopolitical location has caused political competition in Badakhshan. Fortunately for the province, the absolute position of Badakhshan has been effective in warding off external threats against the political life of this province. One can argue that there is a significant relationship between the geopolitical location of Badakhshan and its national security. The size of the land, the geometric shape and the cross-border location of Badakhshan play a role in political power, security threats and the formation of opposition groups in that province. The location of Badakhshan in the wake of Afghanistan, its pivotal position and transit position have played a key role in political developments, the political behaviour of politicians, the political relations of Badakhshan with neighbouring countries, and the relations between the power centres and geographical regions in Badakhshan have been less, It is affected by the geopolitical situation.

### 3. Research Background

Extensive research has already been carried out about the role of the geopolitical location of Badakhshan in national security, mainly how the local governments are formed and the occurrence of political events in the geographical location. However, many of those studies do not cover the subject of this paper in detail:

Ebadinejad et al. (2009), in the article titled (Relationship between geographical factors and social order and security) conclude that: "First, there is a significant relationship between geographical factors and order and security; Secondly, among the geographical factors, the factors of human geography are more important because, among the factors of human geography that express the relationship between population density and crime, it has the most relationship with the categories of order and security, and among the factors of natural geography that It shows the relationship between the characteristics of the location of the police stations, it is the most important".<sup>13</sup> Idrisi (1989) writes about the province of Badakhshan: "Badakhshan, as a borderland, had a special military and commercial importance for the Islamic world, and this caused the caliphate to accept its

<sup>13</sup> Ebadinejad Seyyed Ali; Zoqi, Leila Rafati, Seyyed Aziz and Qobadi, Abbas. "The Relationship Between Geographic Factors and Social Order and Security." *Scientific Research Quarterly of Social Order*, no.3, 2009.

formal citizenship." But buildings such as the fortress built by Harun's wife Zubaydah in Badakhshan show that there was citizenship of this extent at the end of the 2nd century. The name of Badakhshan is first mentioned in the Chinese sources of the 7th and 8th centuries, in which the Badakhshan region, a part of Takharistan, is mentioned".<sup>14</sup> "The history of Badakhshan can be traced in the Achaemenid period and after, especially in the knowledge related to the history of the West. Some, such as Tomashak, believe that the (mountainous province) mentioned by the Greeks was Badakhshan. In the Sasanian period, Badakhshan was one of the centres of the Heptali civilization, and Badakhshan was their capital. Likewise, some researchers such as Enoki believed that Badakhshan was the main origin of the Heptalians".<sup>15</sup>

#### **4. Theoretical Framework**

##### *4.1 Geographical Location*

Geographical location significantly affects a government's ability and power to persuade, reward, punish, bargain and wage war with other countries. This is because controlling and possessing strategic areas is a significant advantage for the political system. Located in the neighbourhood of small powers or adjacent to big powers are all consequences of geographical location.<sup>16</sup> Establishing a place on the earth's surface is called geographical location, which has two modes: public or relative and private or mathematical. The general location can be examined at a macro level, i.e., global, continental, or regional. If it examines the country's relative position from the angle of latitude and longitude, it can be divided into strategic and maritime locations. The dry location for countries has positive and negative effects, with the latter dominating. Countries with this type of situation experience a kind of 'suffocation', amplified when economic and security requirements make them dependent on their neighbours who do not have good relations with them. Therefore, this location always affects the country's commercial, economic, and political situation. Some studies have shown that if a country has this position, it will never have stability and security if it is a geostrategic complement to its neighbours. On the contrary, it will have relative security if it is not complementary to its neighbours. Afghanistan and Switzerland are good examples, respectively.<sup>17</sup> The land-locked positioning of Afghanistan in the centre of Asia means the country has no access to the open sea from any direction. The closest way for Afghanistan to access open waters is through its neighbours, Iran and Pakistan. Afghanistan benefits from the access to the Oman Sea and the Indian Ocean. The countries north of Afghanistan are among the landlocked countries. Thus, Afghanistan is a geostrategic complement to these countries as a means of gaining access to the southern waters through the continuity of the route in Iran and Pakistan.<sup>18</sup>

##### *4.2 Geopolitical location of Badakhshan*

'Geopolitics', in this context, refers to the effect of the region's geographic location on the policies of governments. A region with a strategic position is inevitably considered a part of military strategies. As such, the Badakhshan province also holds this potential as a land enclosed in the strategic geographical land of its neighbours. The geopolitical attractions of Badakhshan have long since attracted the attention of superpowers. The

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<sup>14</sup> Idrisi, Mohammad. *Nuzhat al-mushtaq*, Lebanon: Publication of Beirut, First volume, 1989, 57.

<sup>15</sup> Bamiani, Mohammad Ibrahim. "Badakhshan in the Mirror of Time".

<sup>16</sup> Amiri, Ali Dost. *Introduction to the Geopolitics of Afghanistan*. Kabul: Amiri Publication, 2004, 74.

<sup>17</sup> Ezzati, Ezzatullah. *Geopolitics in the 21st Century*. Tehran: Samt Publication, 2001.

<sup>18</sup> Rahimi, Sardar Mohammad. *Geopolitics of Afghanistan in the 20th Century; Developments, Approaches, Consequences*. Kabul: Wazha Publication, 2017, 99.

province's importance, which peaked in the 18th and 19th centuries due to intense competition between Russia and Britain, can be studied in Mahan's sea power theory. More succinctly, Geopolitics is the study of the impact of geographic factors on the political decision-making of those in power. This can be examined by evaluating the role of complications, geographical locations, and natural resources in planning related to advancing political goals.<sup>19</sup>

#### 4.3 The "Absolute Location" of Badakhshan

The geographical location of countries, both fixed and relative, such as the size and shape of the countries, affects their administrative and political issues. The mathematical location of a country on the earth means the distance or proximity of that country from the equator. The country's distance or proximity to the equator affects the country's climate and causes heat, cold, or air balance. A group of old and new scientists have insisted on the effect of weather on the education and mental-spiritual character of the inhabitants of the regions, and some have gone beyond them and considered it the only factor in building characters and civilizations.<sup>20</sup> The mathematical location is the distance and proximity from the earth's longitude and latitude lines, and each country's mathematical position is defined and known through the longitude and latitude of that country. Badakhshan is currently located south of the Amu Sea and east of Takhar province above the line of 70 degrees 15 minutes and 18 seconds of east longitude and 37 degrees 29 minutes and 50 seconds of north latitude from the Greenwich meridian.<sup>21</sup>

#### 4.4 Topography

The level of political unity and the ease of administration of any government depends, to an extent, on the topography of that country and the effects of topography on the transportation and communication routes. Beyond that, the natural environment affects the spatial distribution of people. If the population is concentrated in one area, it is easier to establish a correlation between them, but if it is widely dispersed, it may become vulnerable to regionalism. Discontinuity in the settlement pattern of a country can have a strong divergence effect. The presence of large population centres that are separated from each other by uninhabited areas or natural barriers may cause regional differences. Significantly, their interaction has been minimized due to the lack of complementary economic conditions.<sup>22</sup> One factor that served Afghanistan's freedom as an independent state is its uneven topography, argues Aziz in his studies.<sup>23</sup>

#### 4.5 Relative Position of Badakhshan Province

Just as it is necessary to know the absolute location of a studied area, it is equally necessary to know its relative position. In most cases, the latter is far more critical than the former. Badakhshan sits in the northeast corner of Afghanistan and is in contact with neighbouring countries and Central Asian cultures. Its eastern corner is bordered by China's Xinjiang, in the north by the Republic of Tajikistan, and Pakistan borders a part of its southeast border. This province is one of the mountainous provinces of Afghanistan; Tarajmir Peak, the highest peak of the eastern Hindu Kush, which is 7750 meters above

<sup>19</sup> Amiri, "Introduction to the Geopolitics of Afghanistan".

<sup>20</sup> Royan, Abdul Qadir and Amiri, Ziaulhaq. *Political Geography of the World*. Afghanistan, Kabul: Saeed Publication, 2018.

<sup>21</sup> Badakhshi, "History of Badakhshan".

<sup>22</sup> Royan, "Political Geography of the World".

<sup>23</sup> Panjshiri, Aziz Ahmed. *Afghanistan and the Silk Road*. Kabul: Saeed Publication, 1999, 9.

sea level, is located in this province. In addition to bordering three countries, Badakhshan Province also borders Takhar Province, a small part of Punisher Province, and Nuristan Province in the south.<sup>24</sup>

#### *4.6 Badakhshan's Buffer Between Two Great Powers*

Afghanistan is included in the group of trailing countries. The Wakhan Corridor of Badakhshan, the border region of Afghanistan with China, was created based on the political necessity of the late 19th century in the rivalry between Tsarist Russia and England and as a buffer zone between Tsarist Russia and British India.<sup>25</sup> As a macro concept, geopolitics deals with the influence of geographical elements on politics. Geographical elements, such as location, shape, space, etc., cause countries to make policies according to them and consider the above factors. Policy-making in the general sense of the word can include economic, security, cultural policies, etc. Among them, security policies affected by geographical location specifically identify geographical factors as primary factors.<sup>26</sup>

#### *4.7 National Security*

Various definitions have been given for national security. Some authors have taken security to mean the absence of military threats, and some emphasize the protection of the country against military attacks or subversive actions from abroad. The classical definition of security is A country's ability to repel external threats against its political life or national interest.<sup>27</sup> In this definition, the military aspect of security is emphasized. The government's efforts to increase military power and weapons are aimed at this. Increasing the military power means that external threats cannot prevent the country from pursuing its "purpose" to preserve life and promote national interests. One of the first to define national security was Walter Lippman, an American writer and researcher. Lippman says: "A nation has security when it can maintain its basic values if it avoids war, and if it can fight war".<sup>28</sup> Seeking security is one of the most essential human pulls and motivations; Lippman argues that this tension is inseparable from the essence of human existence. Preservation of essence and self-preservation is one of the most basic human desires. To fulfil their biological needs, humans enter into various relationships with each other and form a society. The essential need of any society, whether it is a clan, a tribe, a nation or a country, is to ensure the security of that society and its people. Security is a term that refers to the absence of threats to rare values, a situation in which the values that are vital from the point of view of the organization's decision for the survival and better living of the society are supported and strengthened. With the emergence of new variables, 'security' as a term must be redefined. The security environment is a spatial and conceptual framework that every country imagines based on its vital values and national interests. At different times, this framework is subject to variables such as the structure of the international system, technological developments, value system, national power, the ruling body's attitude to security threats, the

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<sup>24</sup> Arez, Gholam Jelani. *Geography of the Provinces of Afghanistan*. Kabul: Publication of Kabul University, 2009, 39.

<sup>25</sup> Gilford, Mary Louise. *The Land and People of Afghanistan*. (Translated by Khosrow Asadi)." Tehran: Rasa Cultural Services Institute Publication, 1988.

<sup>26</sup> Eftekhari, Asghar. Security organization of geographic space (introduction to security geography as a new scientific trend). *Military and Security Geography Magazine*, First Issue, Winter, 2002.

<sup>27</sup> Roshandel, Jalil. *National Security and International System*, Iran, Tehran: Samt Publication, 2011.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid*



distribution of human settlements, economic and communication infrastructures, and intra-national relations.<sup>29</sup>

## 5. Conclusion

Natural passages are one of the geographical factors affecting Badakhshan's political events. Geographical location over time is the bed for all political incidents and events. Plus, with the intervention of geographical factors, political and military currents have a specific meaning and are directed in a specific direction. Geographical location significantly affects a government's ability and powers to persuade, reward, punish, bargain, and wage war with other countries. Knowing the geopolitical situation of Badakhshan helps us understand the nature of its political developments in connection with the geopolitics of the international system. Thus, we can argue that geopolitical factors are tools that provide the fields of influence on political transformations. The geographical location of Badakhshan is one of the key factors affecting its national power, and the politics of each region is determined by its geography. The gathering of people and the formation of their villages, cities, and political and economic organizations indicate the geographical situation of the environment. Let's consider the need for livelihood as the first factor for gathering people in geographical areas. The second factor should be the state of defence and the state of defence and provision security in that area. Providing security has been different at different times.

Badakhshan is the only province with a border with more than four Central and South Asian countries. Unfortunately, from this vital port position until now, the same treasure of Lal and lazuli has not been used as necessary. The geostrategic position of Badakhshan during the 20th century has made the political stability of this province a problem, but turning this threat into an opportunity provides the possibility of economic growth and prosperity and political stability of Badakhshan in the future. Drawing innovative and realistic national policies in the light of relative stability in Badakhshan Province and completing the process of nation-building and state-building can provide conditions for the positive use of Badakhshan's strategic position. Badakhshan's geographical location and mountainous nature significantly affect its natural environment, livelihood landscape, and political behaviour. Documentary findings of the research show that the geopolitical location of Badakhshan is one of the factors affecting its national power; that region's geography determines each region's politics.

One geographical factor influencing Badakhshan's political events is its natural passages. Badakhshan has been a transit state with the most significant political events. The Wakhan Corridor and the base of the Brughil Mountain crossings in Badakhshan have a significant effect on national security. Badakhshan has various opportunities but faces threats from the perspective of geopolitical location. Based on this consideration, the political decision-makers of Badakhshan should strongly consider the factors influencing the geopolitics of Badakhshan in formulating the country's national strategies because that will allow this province to take appropriate economic, security and political exploitations from its strategic position in case of formulating a suitable national strategy. Thus, we can argue that consolidating regional stability and creating a bridge between Central and Southeast Asia are possibilities from which Badakhshan can benefit.

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<sup>29</sup> Kaviani Rad, Murad. National security from the perspective of political geography. *Strategic Studies Quarterly* 7, no. 26, (2005): 669-695.

The geopolitical location of Badakhshan will contribute negatively to the continuation of the period of crisis and insecurity in the country if there is a continued absence of a clear and appropriate strategy. The Badakhshan transit route and its connection with the common economic interests of the neighbouring countries will eliminate the threat of being landlocked. The 'comet' shape of Badakhshan in the northeastern part was obtained due to the colonial policies of the Great Game period and is considered a threat to the security of Badakhshan and Afghanistan. The formation of governments in Badakhshan has resulted in ups and downs. Providing bed security is considered necessary economically and socially. The border of Badakhshan with the countries of Tajikistan, China and Pakistan and their political interactions indicate that the geographical base of Badakhshan's border areas is ready to create security challenges. By examining the geopolitical situation of Badakhshan, it is possible to see the points that have been responsible for military, political, economic and cultural roles for a long time. Considering the geographical location of Badakhshan, its border with the countries of Tajikistan, China and Pakistan and the interactions between them, it appears that the geographical base of the border areas of Badakhshan is ready to create security challenges. The geographic background of Badakhshan has worked in favour of security challenges rather than providing security.

The geographical location has shown many effects on the national power of Afghanistan and, subsequently, on the national security of Badakhshan province, causing significant changes in the province. In the first step, this research can be helpful in the literature of political geography. In the next step, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Security Council of Afghanistan, and the Directorate of National Security of Badakhshan province can use the results of this research. The study of this issue in Badakhshan province is essential both from the point of view of adding to the geographical issues and from the practical point of view. Geographical location affects the national security and security policies of Badakhshan Province as much as it is influential in the formation of politics, government, and government policies.

Knowing the geopolitical situation of Badakhshan Province and its impact on national security by its security system officials can significantly help formulate security strategies and provide the grounds for stability and development in Badakhshan Province. Investigating the influencing factors on the geopolitics of Badakhshan provides us with opportunities and bottlenecks in Afghan political elites' foreign and domestic politics.

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