



Explaining of the Role of Geographical Explorations in Changing of the International Boundaries and the Political Map of the World

KEYWORDS

Boundary, Geographical Explorations, the Political Map of the World, Continents, the Age of Explorations.

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ABSTRACT *In the past periods, most of the geographical explorations were for territorial greed and the accumulation of wealth, and consequently after the occupation of the territories were changed the boundaries of the territories. And even on the political map of the world were drawn with the changes. Changing and evolution of international boundaries and then the change of the political map of the world, especially is very important in the age of explorations. Because geographical explorations with its expanding to the other continents and the occupation of several countries has been provided the cause of the boundary changes at the international level. In terms of nature and research method, the study is based on historical method and descriptive – analytic. Researchers in the field of boundary research should not focus only on aspects of the body of knowledge and function of the boundaries rather have to focus on aspects of philosophy and the factors that were caused the formation of boundaries and the change of the political map of the world. So the purpose of this research is to answer this question; have geographical explorations had a huge impact in international boundaries and political map of the world?*

Introduction

Geographical explorations as a pervasive phenomenon have been caused many changes over the boundary and the political map of the world in earlier times and the due to the impact of evolution of human societies. These changes have had a transformative impact on the components and variables of different societies and also some geographical explorations have been caused major influences in creating new boundaries or the loss of the old boundaries of countries, and even create new political units on the political map of world. Boundary is an agreement line that is marked on the ground for the delimitation of a political unit and boundaries are the most important diagnostic criteria and separation for apolitical formed unit from the other units. Today, Political boundaries specify the limit of sovereignty of apolitical unit, and in other words they show political geography of a country. But the interest of countries can be always achieved fully in their natural geography and political geography of the country cannot be accountable all the demands of a political unit. This has a main message for researchers and undertaking institutions in the field of related issues to geographical explorations and boundary, including geopoliticians and strategists to understand these changes and evolutions should not follow boundary issues only in geography and physical boundaries but also the philosophy of the boundaries should be explored in other spheres. It seems to be not well understood the process of evolution of this factor and it is necessary for them to be further investigation. So in this article we have tried to investigate existential philosophy of the boundaries through factor such as geographical explorations that creates and changes the boundaries and the political map of the world.

The Statement of Problem

It is impossible to ignore the reality of the boundary and the phenomenon is lasting and durable that many of the raised issues in the field of economic, social, cultural and security have the mutual relationship with it. So the boundaries were changed by geographical explorations. And different conflicts were created after the occupation of the

territories that its main reason has been in territorial greed and the accumulation of wealth. The change and transformation of the international boundaries and then the change of the political map of the world especially in the age of geographical explorations are very important. Because geographical explorations with expanding to other continents and the involvement of several countries the cause of the boundary changes has been provided at the international level. The importance of boundary is such that all countries make to reaction in the defense of their homeland security and perhaps years to maintain its territorial integrity have along conflict with other countries. Researchers in the field of boundary research should not focus only on aspects of the body of knowledge and function of the boundaries rather have to focus on aspects of philosophy and the factors that were caused the formation of boundaries and the change of the political map of the world. This purpose of this research is to answer this question have geographical explorations had a huge impact in international boundaries and political map of the world?

Research Questions

This study seeks to explore the two following questions:

- 1) Have geographical explorations had effect in changing of international boundaries and political map of the world?
- 2) Which continents have had the greatest effect in changing of international boundaries and the political map of the world?

Hypothesis

Boundaries were changed over time by geographical explorations and this subject has affected the stability of the phenomenon. By understanding the evolutions of geographical explorations can earn a deeper understanding of the issue of the boundary. So the research hypotheses will include the following questions:

- 1) It seems that geographical explorations have been the most changes in international boundaries and political map

of the world.

2) It seems that Asia and America continents have created the most changes in international boundaries and political map of the world.

Research Method

In terms of nature and research method, the study is based on historical method and descriptive - analytic. This study has been carried based on documentary methods, content analysis of documents related to the geographical explorations, library and Internet. Primarily necessary resources identified and collected and then taking notes and extracting of the important and needed information was done. And the final stage information in the field of the evolution of international boundaries due to the geographical explorations has been analyzed.

1-Theoretical Foundations of the Research

1-1 What is the Boundary?

Boundary is a word that was established and used gradually after the establishment of the nation – state (after the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648) in recent centuries. Boundary is a phenomenon that affects many aspects of human life and the phenomenon is that wide variety functions have in various areas of political, military, security, social, etc. Before the Westphalia system that identified territory was considered as one of the major components of countries discriminatory, the terms of frontier was used and was represented a separate area of influence of imperial powers, the regional and local powers... from each other. In fact,

frontier was considered as a region of contact and connection between two structures and political identity, independent military and separated. It was a geographical and territorial phenomenon that its range was greater than the width of the line and further it was a vague and in definite and variable region. While the concept of the boundary as a wide strip of the contact between two government-country was related to the world before the modern era (Kristof, 1959: 282). Today, a number of political geographers the concept of the boundary and the state that is related together were know the product of the peace treaty in 1648 (Glassner & de Blij, 1989: 5). Boundaries are the most important diagnostic criteria and separation for apolitical formed unit from the other units. Boundary lines are credit and contractual lines. The lines that separate a state from the neighboring state that known international boundary. This kind of boundaries plays a prominent role in shaping the relations of policy and economy among states. And among the kind of boundaries, international boundary for making the disputes and political conflict has more important. So the boundaries are the major issues and important of the political geography and geopolitics (Mirheidar, 2010: 161). Boundary lines are also the ultimate limit of the political will of the state and the contact area of two political system of the neighboring (Hafeznia, 2000: 134). The role of the boundary is to restrict movements and duties of states within the framework defined geography and this role has strategic role in national integration and homogenization and conversely decouples the nations (Karimpour, 2001: 561).

Basically, in the Empires and states of before the nation – state system existed and the last limit of the spread of the empires and states was called "Frontier". But in the modern concept of "country" state on behalf of the nation, controls territory that was delimited by the lines that

called boundary (Mirheidar, 2005: 162). So in political geography three concepts territory, boundary and sovereignty are closely related to shape the territory. And the sovereignty of the country and its independence is depends on the possession of territory, And the lines limit the territory is called boundary to determine the territory from the domestic point of view for strengthening the authority and is to identify the limit of the exercise of country power. And from an external point of view provides a defensive system against the invaders (Ziyaei Bigdely, 1984:134). The political geographers traditionally, boundaries know as a key to make and defend the countries territory. New national states were created in Western Europe and one of the most important factors to define them the boundary that had been drawn clearly. To define membership or citizenship and incorporation of belonging to a defensible territory. The states determine national lands using the boundaries. The boundaries that had been delineated clearly took the place of the vague and uncertain frontiers that once were common among people. The purpose of political geographers from the boundary is international boundary, therefore, the boundary that separates the two countries' national territories from each other (Gallaher, Etal, 2009: 198-201).

1-2 Types of Boundary:

Boundaries can be divided in two respects: one, how to create and the degree of conformity them with the scattering of ethnic and linguistic and other matching or not matching the natural complications. In terms of the creation and conformity them with ethno-linguistic groups, the role of the boundary line is separating the two sides of each country which hare divided into four categories:

- A) Antecedent: the best examples are the boundary line between Alaska and Canada and the boundary between Canada and the United States.
- B) Subsequent: the best example is the boundary line between India and Pakistan.
- C) Superimposed: such as the boundary between North and South Korea, India and Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir.
- D) Relict: such as the boundary between Italian Somalia and Britain Somalia with Ethiopia in Horn of Africa.

Also the boundary disputes can be divided into four types:

- 1) Disputes arising from the exact location of the boundary between Iraq and Iran for the Arvand river boundary.
- 2) Disputes over the territory which called the territorial disputes, Such as the conflict between Arabs and Israel over Jerusalem.
- 3) Disputes that occur as a result of the function of boundary.
- 4) Disputes arising from the common use of a specific source. Like the dispute between Syria and Turkey and Iraq on the division of Euphrates (Mirheidar, 2006: 172).

Of course, we should not consider the boundaries as the hinder of communication and human relations. While the boundaries separate the territory of the different sovereignty from each other, often good political, economic and cultural relations create between the governments of

neighboring create. As in ordinary life of the families the common wall is not a hinder for commuting and socializing, but is the friendship and cooperation, the boundary of the neighboring countries is a valuable geographical factor that plays a major role in strengthens relations of the parties (Motamednajad, 1995: 87).

1-3 Functions of the Boundary

Believing in military, economic, socio-cultural and political functions to the boundaries (Prescott, 1987:60), emphasizing the role of the boundary as a defensive, political, social and economic barrier (Dwivedi,1990: 141), regarding the roles of the quintuple separating, integration, making a difference, conflict and communication for international

boundary (Hafeznia, 2000: 191). Separating of the political territory and distinguishing the sovereignty of the nations (Motamednajad, 1995: 80), defining the limits of the country sovereignty (Bledsoe and Boczek, 1996: 187), the symbol of power and national independence (Plano and Olton, 1996: 145), the interdiction and deterrence function and preventing the entry and exit of each phenomenon that interferes in the exercise of the country sovereign power (Zarghany, 2007: 185) and... the functions that have been mentioned for the boundary. But in reality, a boundary takes many forms and has all types of functions. The boundary is used in many places and forms. The boundary is a line that defines here and there and so separates "us" from "them" and one place from another place. Boundary is a physical, tangible and material issue. For example, it can be called the construction offences and walls with the military operation in the United States-Mexico boundary, the boundary of North Korea with South Korea, the boundary between India and Pakistan. As these examples express the boundaries have the structure that control the commuting by law. And also in many cases are the in equality factor between those who are located on both sides of the boundary. For example, the walls that surround a society and separate it from its neighbors often emphasize on the wealth that live behind gates. Also a college campus was covered with walls around it, show the separation of the students from the neighbors (Gallaher, Etal, 2009: 198). Although the boundary has different and various functions in all areas and perhaps less can find the subject in areas of economy, social, cultural, military and politics that does not affect the concept of boundary, but the Presence of the two power and two different sovereignties on both sides the boundary will cause two different approaches and volition on both sides of the boundary. In today's world, as McLuhan says the world is "global village" (McLuhan, 1964; 4) boundaries play the role of the hedges which are not able to prevent the exchange and interaction of subjects related to issues of culture, political, social, artistic and... that have no physical nature and soft ware, and especially, issues related to the economic sphere only have limited role. In other words, the influence and the role of each actor can also be continued beyond its boundaries. But what flows on both sides of the boundary and when passing it suddenly dropped and even reaches zero are issues related to military and security domains. Because the military and security domains, the battle field is to be or not.

2- The Research Findings

2-1 Geographical Explorations

Since several periods have been passed the world, the current map of the world was perfected seemingly and at first glance, it seems that the countries on the map with its clear boundaries from their neighbors were created away

from any human efforts and struggles. Whereas there were territories and countries with certain frontiers and boundaries the past periods that there are not from them any works in the current map of the world. And there are also new countries that previously did not exist on the map. Thus, with little attention to the historical geography that is part of human geography can be achieved to the evolution of the boundaries and political map of the world. All of these changes and evolutions in the philosophy of creating of frontier and boundary have been achieved from the human actions in the field of politics, power and geography that have changed the political map of the world from the past periods until a few decades ago. So in explaining the philosophy of existence of the frontier and the boundary, a factor or several factors have been caused the changing and evolution of the boundaries in every period which will be discussed in the following to geographical exploration factor:

2-1-1 Geographical Explorations and the Evolution of International Boundaries

One of the events that changed the political map of the world for new centuries was geographical explorations. In greater part of the Middle Ages European people had not aware of the existence of other continents but the Crusades wars and the Europeans travel to distant territories such as Marco Polo's travel to China in the thirteenth century, this possibility was provided for travelers who travel to different places and become familiar with the people who they did not know. So the Europeans achieved the new information about the geography and the inventions of new navigation tools that were able to travel South Africa and the far east and America and they even sailing around the Earth. They formed colonies in many parts of the world and basically cold change configuration of political geography of the country, the region, and ultimately the political map of the region. And they created small and large countries. In fact, these countries were the same territories and countries that already had existence before the arrival of explorers were identified with defined boundaries and lived in the vicinity of each other. Geographical explorations (identification of new territories) in the evolution of geography in general and specifically were affected the political map of the world.

2-1-2 The Reasons and Motivations of Geographical Explorations

In general, the main factors that are created Geographical explorations are as follows:

- 1- European merchants wanted to find a way to reduce the transportation cost of Eastern countries' spices to Europe;
- 2- Adjacent Countries of the Atlantic Ocean (Portugal and Spain) wanted to remove trade monopoly of the east from Italian merchants;
- 3- Before the Renaissance, greater part of trade between Europe and Asia was done by Constantinople (Byzantium), however, the conquest of the city in 1453 by the Ottoman Empire, this trade route was insecure and unsafe to the Europeans and from this point of European merchants tried to find another way to the far east;
- 4- Ambitious kings of Europe wished adding the new territories to their possessions and achieved the glories for their countries;
- 5- Many Christians hoped to preach Christianity in the new

territories with the establishment of a colony (historybabol.blogfa.com).

2-1-3 The role of Explorations of Explorer countries in Changing and Evolution of International Boundaries

2-1-3-1 Spanish Explorations

When the Portuguese were finding the new territories and a navy way to India in Africa, Spaniards also were not reluctant to engage to explorations. Hence, were agreed by the journey of Christopher Columbus to find of a way in India through the west and his demands was provided for the journey. Christopher Columbus began his first historical journey with three ships and 120 mariners at the end of the sixteenth century and discovered many islands of Central America. He expanded the scope of his discoveries in his journeys and in his fourth journey went to the beach of "Panama". Since then, many people began to explore different areas of America, the most famous of these "Amerigo Vespucci" is one of the companions of Columbus who went to the regions of Venezuela and Brazil, and because of his famous autobiography that he had written about his new discovery, and this continent was called his name "Amerigo". Ferdinand de Magellan (famous sailor) could go around South America in the early sixteenth century and came from the west to the Pacific Ocean and discovered the islands of Philippines, Brunei and Molokai. And after becoming aware of the Portuguese circumstances that had come from the East and Southern Africa to these areas had been practically proved sphericity of the earth. By the late eighteenth century, many sailors around this ocean were employed to explore the various islands. When the Portuguese explored the coasts of Africa and Asia anxiously, the Spaniards paid attention to the west and pursued Columbus's efforts: Balboa, Panama Canal and the Pacific Ocean in 1513 were explored and other explorers explored Mexico, Florida and Rio de Laplata (Ghafary fard, 2008: 270-272).

Spaniards explorations in the sixteenth century until the late nineteenth century led to create colonialism, deformation of the political geography of the region countries, the evolution and development of cartography of the world map, and in general led to become political, cultural, and social changes. These changes had been drawn in different ways on the common maps of those periods and Spanish explorers could draw these unknown territories with changed frontiers and boundaries under colonial territories and ... (in the form of colonialism). In fact, we can say that Spaniards explorations have created many changes in South America (except Brazil), part of North America, Southeast Asia and South Africa, and especially in the form of political geography (in particular, changes and evolution of boundaries).

2-1-3-2 Portuguese Explorations

Portugal is the first European country that began the explorations. Because: firstly, due to its geographical suitable situation that is in the southwest of Europe. Secondly, its domestic peace and attention of Portuguese prince, Henry, is known as the sailor to exploration. Before him in 1420, the Portuguese explored the islands of the Madre, Assure and Rio de Oruro that the areas were uninhabited and desert and all thought that there was no village beyond of it. But in the year 1447 Portuguese arrived Rasal-Akhsar that was blacks housing and had plentiful and diverse plants paid to trade. They have also discovered Brazil, Madagascar, Malacca, Java, Brunei, Maluku Islands and Papua New Guinea. A few years later, one of the most courageous explorers "Ferdinand Magellan" that was a Portu-

guese claimed, if he would be shipping to the end of the southern coast of America, he would arrive China. Finally, he found a waterway to the Pacific Ocean through the southern tip of South America by supporting of Span. This Strait is called "Strait of Magellan" now. Portuguese who were seeking to continue the exploration work reached the coast of Guinea and Rasal-Akhsar islands in 1456, in the year 1471 the equator and in the year 1482 came to Congo. Since early in the fifteenth century the Portuguese government occupied the Azores, the Canaries, and Verde Islands located in the West Africa and brought his fleet to the mouth of the River Niger and the equator. Then, "Dias" famous Portuguese Sailor continued the discoveries sequence and came the southernmost point of Africa and explored Amydny promontory. Vasco de Gama continued the discoveries sequence of above and went around south of Africa with four ships and 240 sailors and discovered new areas on the east coast of Africa. Then, he came India through the sea and after gathering information from India returned to Portugal from the same way again after two years of journey. In fact, he was the first person to go around Africa and then, was discovered the Indian marine way.

Portuguese's discovery which is the leading countries in the era of geographical discoveries was caused frequent changes in the political map of the world. So that in the current American continent and the African territories were discovered until the time were not were unknown. New discovered water ways and territories were drawn along with their frontier and boundary changes on the map of the world. Then, by entering into the territories began to change in terms of cultural, social, and political situations. And in general, they changed the form of political geography of the territories that once were independent territories with the defined frontiers and boundaries and drew on the political map with specific topics during the colonial period.

2-1-3-3 French Explorations

After flowing the flood of gold and silver from Peru and Mexico to Spain amazed European eyes. Since Spain and Portugal had to share between themselves much of Central and South America, inevitably, other Europeans to seek new territories were in North America. French explorers pursued the coasts of North America in the decades of the sixteenth century and even a group of explorers went into the territory of America and wrapped to the south. In 1682 a French explorer (La Salle) came to the mouth of the Mississippi river. In fact, the French were deployed in Canada. Jacques Cartier went around Newfoundland in 1534 and continued the route of Gulf of San Lawrence to Quebec and Montreal of Canada. A large part of North America was recorded the name of France by these efforts.

Latin America was almost introduced as the "New World" to the people of that time with special titles by new drawn maps in the age of explorations with clear boundaries and ownership. France had main role in creation, and changing of boundaries in North America and the map of North America's territories have been made for the most of their discoveries.

2-1-3-4 England Explorations

England was the rival of Spain and was able to establish the world's most powerful navy. English merchants to encourage people to migrate to the New World, established commercial companies and any company was allowed from the King to migrate to certain areas of America.

These companies supplied equipments for immigrants to the New World, In contrast, the part of the products of immigrants and their products such as fur were given to the companies. John Cabot was allowed to find new territories by the king of England. He came to Breton promontory islands and the east coasts of North America took the capture of England. In 1552, he moved from England through the North Sea to the New World and finally came to Moscow.

2-1-3-5 The Results of the Explorations

The important results of explorations were to gain extensive information about the condition of the lands and the people that were unknown until that day. In addition, they were led to scientific (such as proof of a spherical earth, etc.), economic (such as the exchange of new animals and plants, entrance corn, potatoes, tomatoes, and other vegetable products to Europe, etc.) and political (such as the transmission of the center of civilization from the Mediterranean to Spain and Portugal) advances for the inhabitants of Europe and America and the other people of the world at that time. But because of other economic, political, and scientific results and the exploration of new territories and continents, it can also be added colonialism and colonization features to it.

Several European countries as a result of geographical explorations formed the colonial in Asia and North and South America from the fifteenth to the seventeenth century. They fought with each other several times to develop their possessions and indigenous peoples were brought as slaves to make them obedient. Countries that have attempted to establish a colony in the world, in fact, were the same of the explorer countries that including:

1- Portugal, one of the first countries that were leading the movement. Prince Henry that was named sailor Henry, was extremely interested in geography dispatched many groups to explore the African coasts. The Portuguese government discovered and captured Brazil, Madagascar, Malaga, Java, Brunei, Maluku Islands and Papua New Guinea. Portuguese took Muscat, Hormuz, Goa and Malacca by commander named Albuquerque and the first colonial empire was created.

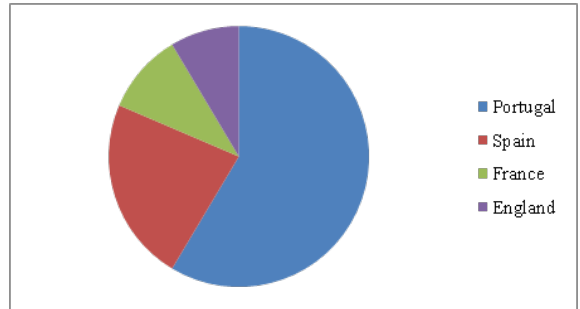
2- Spain formed the colonials across South America (except Brazil), North America and Southeast Asia, and South African.

3- France captured vast territories such as part of South America and India. But from 1689 to 1763 the British government removed them from the territory of France. France seized Guyana and several small islands of the Antilles (Martinique, Guadeloupe), and founded Quebec City. They also discovered the Mississippi and Louisiana and built the city of Montreal. France founded its first permanent colony in Quebec in 1608. French colonial efforts in Asia were led by the French East India Company that was established in 1664.

Although England entered colonial conflicts later than other countries but formed the largest colonies of the world. This country produced 13 colonies in North America and the same colonies were that rebelled in the late eighteenth century and created the United States. British began colonization the seventeenth century and captured Virginia in 1607. The British was more attentive the east. In 1600, Queen Elizabeth gave a "special permission" to a trading company was called the British East India Company. This

company established business centers in Madras, Mumbai, and Calcutta cities in India. British efforts in India due to decline Gorkanian Empire in India and India became Britain's colony (Ibid: 272-278).

(Figure No 1): The impact of Explorer Countries in the Changing of International Boundaries and Continents



(Designed by the Authors)

(Table No 1): The Changing of International Boundaries and Political Map by the Explorer Countries in the Era of Explorations

Conclusion	Exploration Date	Explored Areas	Explorer Name	Country
It was added to the territories of Spain and Portugal on the political map of the world and could defined new frontiers and boundaries for themselves and changed the political map of the world.	1410	Madag, Azores islands, and the east of Rio de Ocuze	Beltra Pineser Henry	Portugal
	1447-1456	Small, Madagascar, Malacca, Java, Brunei, Maluku Islands and Papua New Guinea and other islands	Prince Henry	
	1471-1482	Senal of Magellan, the equator, Congo	Ferdinand de Magellan	
	The early of the 18th century	Azores Islands, the Canaries, located in West Africa	Ferdinand de Magellan	
	1483	Senal of Gambia	Diaz	
The discovery of America continent and drawing it on the political map of the world with new defined territories and frontiers for Spain.	1492-1507	He was the first person who went around African continent and then was discovered Indian sea way	Vasco de Gama	Portugal
	The end of the sixteenth century	The exploration of many islands of central America and the east of "panama"	Christopher Columbus	
The creation of a new waterway to connect the two continents of Asia and America and discovered areas in the other parts of the world changing the map of the world.	1497-1500	Regions of Venezuela and Brazil and Latin America named his name	Christopher, Vespucchi	Spain
	1519-1521	He went around the south America and entered the South Ocean through the west way and explored the islands of the Philippines, Brunei and Malacca and proved the existence of the earth	Ferdinand de Magellan	
The exploration of new areas with certain limits and boundaries on the political map of the world.	1513-1691	Bahora, Panama Canal and the Pacific Ocean Mexico, Florida and Rio de Janeiro	Other Explorers	Spain
	1683	The mouth of the Mississippi	La Salle	
The discovery of the northern parts of America continent and developing of french territory on the map of the world and changing of the international boundaries.	1534	The way of Gulf van Lawrence to Quebec City and Montreal, in Canada (North America).	Jacque Cartier	France
	1497-1522	The islands of Brunei and the east coasts of North America, he moved from England to the New World through the North Sea and came to Mexico.	John Cabot	

(Designed by the Authors)

Conclusion

One of the major events changed the political map of the world for new centuries were geographical explorations. In many medieval periods, European people are not aware of the existence of other continents. Seafarers share is very significant in identifying unknown territories and water connection through the well-known ocean. The age of the discoveries which led to discover the "new world" was discovered by major countries as Portugal, Spain, France and England. These countries could change national and regional frontiers and boundaries in America, the west of

Africa, and the Far East on the political map of the world by sailors like Magellan, Vasco de Gama, Christopher Columbus and others. They made the great scientific, economic and political progresses for Europeans and other continents partly. So, in addition to the above, from the perspective of political geography the age of explorations created great changes in the configuration of the political geography of their territories. But today, we see their effects in drawing of the incorrect of the boundaries among the areas had common ethnicity, language ... and are separated from each other now. This changing of the configuration was continued until a few decades ago and many countries that were seen as independent political unit on the political map of the world now can be seen as several countries with different political systems and boundaries.

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