

# Resistance Economy, Turning the Sanction to Opportunity

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## Abstract

In recent years, the term Resistance economy is raised by the great Leader of Iran and then it is turned into the common concept of political economy issues. Various theorists presented their views by various approaches; some people investigated by economy literature, others by Islamic economy and evaluated the role of culture and politics in formation of resistive economy. Regarding Resistance economy, at first we should have a true understanding of national economy and global economy and the pressure of the global dominance system on Iran. After defining the concept of resistance economy, the present study evaluated its importance and goals and then the pathology of Iran economy and barriers and requirements of resistance economy fulfillment and the solutions of eliminating the barriers based on resistive economy were considered. Finally, some solutions are presented to develop resistance economy.

**Keywords:** Resistance economy, Iran Economy, importance, solution, opportunity.

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## Introduction

The economic-social crisis of the west on one hand and the Islamic awareness in strategic region of Middle East on the other hand, increased the problems of west. USA and its western supporters applied the last strategy, intelligent sanction as the combination of real sanction and soft war against Iran.

This type of sanction is debilitating and is followed outside resolution of Security Council by imposing oil sanctions, the central bank, shipping companies and oil tankers and some people and etc. This makes a gap between people and rulers and by social dissatisfaction and soft war and accuses Islamic Republic of Iran of inefficiency and

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irresponsibility and they abuse the lack of support of people attempting to impose sanction on Iran.

Among a group of entrepreneurs, our great leader referred to the necessity of selection of resistance economy to cope up with sanctions and said:

One of the most important tasks is economic sanction. Iran nation is the main target. Sanctions are considered to put the people under pressure. They try to make nation hopeless and say we are under the pressure because of the government, they try to make a gap between them. The main aim is such. They don't know our people, they are wrong. According to imperialism system, the great sin of Iran nation is to release themselves of dominance. They want to punish, due to the sin, why they released themselves of dominance. They don't know what to do and what they are doing. They impose economic sanction. We should create a real resistance economy in the country.

### **Determining resistance economy**

This term was raised for the first time in visit of entrepreneurs and the great leader in September 2010. The great leader introduced "resistance economy" as a concept of entrepreneurship and presented two reasons of "enemies' economic pressure" and "country preparation for progress" for basic needs of the country for entrepreneurship.

Various definitions are presented for resistance economy concept within this short time and each one has different attitudes. The great leader presented a complete definition of resistance economy and in a group of university students said:

"Resistance economy is the economy determining prosperity of the country under pressure, sanction and serious enmities.

Some people defined resistance economy as:

"Optimal allocation of resources, increasing the capacity of national production, improving business space via management of human, social and physical capitals to turn the threats into opportunity".

Resistance economy is "parallel economy", it means that as Islamic revolution based on its need to some institutions with revolution performance established some institutions as relief committee (komite Emdad), construction institution, corps and housing foundation, to fulfill the revolution goals, this project should continued. Islamic revolution needs resistance economy and resistive institution in economy as it can not meet the demands of official institutions. Thus, parallel institutions should be created for this special work. This doesn't mean negation of common institutions. Now we use both institutions of Islamic Revolution corps and army of Islamic Republic to defend the revolution. This model exists in the common ruling models in the world and in the countries in which there is more ruling capability and these countries have more policy making and public affairs management. For example, we can refer to the presence of state institutions, NGOs, charity and private enterprises in health or even in defense and security fields of western developed countries. The most important problem of this

model is that based on specific needs of Islamic Revolution and in execution, it is faced with new questions.

Regarding resistance economy, at first we should have true understanding of national economy and global economy and the pressure of the global imperialism, US and global Zionism on Iran. We should know the imperialism was hopeless by using military approaches, and attempted to target economy and affect public opinion to make Islamic government weak and hopeless. This true understanding of aggressiveness and economic enmity of west caused that our great leader mostly emphasized on economy and this is reflected in naming the years. Our current situation in economy is due to the US and its allies sanction and Zionism plays important role in this regard. Resistance economy can not be considered merely economic resistance and establishing security and stability in economy and stability to foreign economic shocks or economic autonomy is one of the main indices of resistance economy. In recent decades, the enemy tested all the tools of fighting against Islamic republic thought but the common tool is economic fighting and this is turned into the last strategy of enemy.

### **The importance and goals of resistance economy**

The main reason of economic problems is the lack of self-belief and thought dependence on West; the west is on the verge of collapse and made the destruction of nations on priority. Theoretical achievements and experience of 35 years showed that improving the life quality of people is neither achieved by capitalism liberal economy nor by centralized economy. The institutions and designed versions of capitalism economy institutions can not be consistent with the religious and national conditions and the benefits of the people of our country and this increases wealth and class gap. Emphasis on policies of World Bank and international fund and their recommendation starting from construction government is one of the problematic issues in economy of the country. After these recommendations, the thoughts of quasi-elites in capitalism economy literature created single discourse ruling eliminating any other person thought participation. The cliché solutions of this thought movement is based on old versions and they have harmful results for economy of people. Dependency on dollar, privatization instead of democratic-based and growth of brokerage markets are the results of this thought movement.

The importance of resistance economy is arising from the fact that attack of the enemies of Islamic revolution is mostly focused on economy to stop the progress trend of revolution in recent years, then via making economic life difficult for people, their trust is reduced to the ruling system and the Islamic republic of Iran is prepared to be collapsed.

Thus, recent sanctions are increased with the excuse of nuclear energy but it is planned to fight against the generalities of Islamic Republic system. These sanctions are not short-term for our country. Long-term solutions are required in economy and this solution is resistive economy raised by our great leader.

The goal of resistance economy is renovating national economy. The nature of this economy that is Iranian and Islamic should be defined better. By fulfilling autonomy

and freedom and Islamic republic, national policy is formed in revolution and our national defense is renovated in the imposed war. Today, our national economy should be renovated under sanction conditions. Today, the country development is not progressed with conservative models and imposed sanctions for our nation can be an opportunity that besides eliminating them by the experts, elites and people, national economy of Islamic Iran is also fulfilled. This way can be considered by trusting people, elites and researchers of society and we should consider the people capacities as valid researches to fulfill resistance economy.

### **The important points in resistance economy**

To recognize the fulfillment of resistance economy, at first we should find the problems of Iran economy and the barriers and requirements of fulfilling resistance economy.

4-1- We should prioritize activities in resistance economy. The activists in this field should share their achievements and information. The intelligent leadership to guide the activities of this field and identification and training of talented forces is required for scientific and operational activities in this regard. There should be a dynamic and intelligent system for this issue. Some institutions as national Security Council should be agile in getting help of other forces.

4-2- Activity in resistance economy needs evaluation of domestic and international economic space and collecting up to date statistics. To achieve these two goals, we need local indices to identify the resistance and vulnerability of our economy based on them and we should know how much our economy resists against pressures and how much pressure can be tolerated by this economic barrier? Western economy has its own index and we need local indices in accordance to our local issues, this is done well by Iranian youth.

4-3-The necessity of designing a definite model of life method is in accordance to resistive economy for all people namely the supporters of revolution and Islamic Republic of Iran system, those believing in the validity of resistance economy. It means that which definite model is presented for people to know that revolution requirements required which life style? At first, the government should be encouraged in management of affairs and encourage these people to life style in accordance to revolution by which we can emphasize on the life style in accordance to revolution requirements in society. In a trip to Khorasan Shomali, our great leader considers the life style and the principles. When we designed a life style based on three principles of “national self-confidence, Jihad morale and avoiding non-allowed food” and we can be hopeful of its efficiency. Considering religious spirituality plays important role in these three items. It is natural, military war is more tangible for people but soft war is like this. Thus, Jihad morale arising from religious teachings in life style is very important. In our traditions, if a person never has been in a battle field or he never had the intention to participate in Jihad, he will die as a hypocrite. This excitation of resistive life should be directed to the public field to eliminate indifference. This goal should be followed in formal and informal economic education in accordance to Islamic revolution and we should determine specific economic education system for economic resistance and economic

collective effort and then implement it. It is obvious that resistance economy is based on the spiritual capital of people and society. Resistance is vulnerable without spirituality and spiritual health. The important economic example in this regard is avoiding non-permitted food. Non-permitted food makes any method presented by life method in accordance to resistance economy as useless. When a person eats illegal food, he won't be prepared for any resistance. This food is like a dangerous virus making the performance system of people useless. Our main goal is that we should investigate illegal incomes and its amount in the economy of our country. Resistance economy is people economy. It is necessary that people enter this field to avoid economic rentier. If we provide the environment for the presence of true believers and creative people of Islamic Iran in economic field, we will have positive changes in this field.

4-4- Educational system of the country is in accordance with resistance economy. Educational system function educates the children, adolescents and youth of a country in accordance with its historical needs and conditions. Unfortunately, this is not occurred well. For example, we can refer to the US performance in making enemy. Ministry of defense of US published a book in 400 pages referring to the national security of US. Book readers are mostly the teachers of US high schools and they were asked to refer to these items besides their discussion. The America without security problem with neighbors and it makes crisis for others. By its educational system, it caused economic security and economic enemies are the main concerns of adolescents and the youth. This question is raised that how much our educational system makes the audiences hard working and does it have any ideal to educate the children of this region as hard worker?! We should think about this issue from the elementary school. We need the poem, story and caricatures to direct our children to this direction. Thus, considering educational system is very important in this regard.

4-5- Media and advertisement system is important to promote resistance economy teachings. The country needs coordinated advertisement system to present the teachings via formal and informal media in suitable methods to people. During the imposed war, some authorities were responsible and think about it. Thus, we should use the capacities of conferences, speech, internet, TV and Radio and even religious rituals to achieve this aim. We shouldn't use the western advertisement method and it is not consistent with this resistance and it has no solution. It is required to use our unique advertisement as imposed war advertisement and update and Islamic Iranian life style of 90s.

4-6- The rapid reaction of economic system to economic attacks as how we can react to the actions and attacks to our economic system and how much we can resist in this rapid reaction. If there is a crisis, how much we can decreases consumption? To what extent and when they can adapt themselves with the changes? Our strengths should be completed and our weaknesses should be eliminated.

4-7- People have crucial role in resistance economy. Resistance economy has public economy nature. Again, we refer to the definitions of discussion. If we start parallel establishment in resistance economy, it is not necessary this establishment is done by government and it is necessary people enter this field to avoid the entrance of foreigners to economy. The discussion of sanctions and money exchange problems are considered and NGOs and economic institutions can play important role. If we provide the

environment for the presence of believer and creative youth of Islamic Iran in economic field, we observe positive changes in this field. During the Second World War, famous economists of US planned in economic unit of ministry defense and how they can use the existing conditions of people capacities for war. Today, we need to consider our skills completely to find which skills to be used in this country. If they have some skills, which of their skills are on priority. To have successful economic jihad, we should determine the main actors of this economy not only as generally but also as partial. We can turn our division of people and authorities to specialized division including the university lecturers, teachers of religious institution, students, religious research institutions, teachers and housewives and all other classes.

4-8- The necessity of considering and support of government of economic activists. If the government supports the economic activists, farmers, workers and employees, he expects they help the country in adverse conditions. If the government releases them and don't give important to their problems, he won't be able to resist under adverse conditions.

4-9- Diplomacy system has crucial role in potential capacities in the economy of Iran. Resistance economy is meaningful in a dynamic network of global economy and discovering the capacity of this network is our duty. Economy globalization caused that economic resistance has new definitions and we need specific actors in global economy and acting in its various sectors. It is required to pursue using economic experiences of other countries in similar fields. Any country is faced with economic problems and if the diplomacy system of the country collects these experiences and gives to the economic activists and researchers, this issue is good for the economy of the country.

4-10- Turning resistance economy to common discourse in universities, scientific centers and religious communities. Talking about this issue and its different dimensions is important in the speed of moving to fulfilling resistive economy. This should be asked from researchers and elites in classrooms and scientific projects and it should be taken as serious from the economy lecturers or as they are patriots. All these items are introduction of resistive economy to start scientific discussions. The items of each section require the detailed road map should be continued with the following of responsible systems.

### **Resistance economy is a strategy to compensate weaknesses of Iran economy**

Due to strategic and internal weakness, the enemy can not disturb economic system of Islamic Republic of Iran but it emphasizes on the weaknesses and incomplete components of this system. One of the sectors in which resistance economy can enter and is one of the basic weaknesses of Iran as followings:

- Dependency to incomes of single-product economy and crude oil export. One of the components of resistance economy is reduction of dependency on oil.
- State-based economy. The main structure of Iran economy is the great state enterprises and companies. In these companies due to low productivity, low



innovation and corruption are very high. Other resistance economy components are people-based economy.

- The weakness of national production and the lack of self sufficiency in production of required strategic goods, supporting national production are other resistance economy components.
- Weakness of banking system, monetary and foreign exchange system in the country, reforming monetary-financial structure and the eliminating of exclusion of bank network of the country (following bank change plan based on Islamic banking).
- The lack of exact supervision on goods distribution cycle as wholesale and retail in the country, creating supervision-information infrastructures in the government for practical fulfillment of policies are other resistive economy plans.
- Consumption management, this issue is at first associated with the importance of internal production consumption from the internal consumer and on the other hand, balance and the lack of extravagancy. Thus, other resistance economy component is consumption management.

Resistance economy is not dedicated to sanction and war time and there is a long-term vision to Iran economy and as Iran economy under the thought of Islamic Republic of Iran is the target of enemies attack. Resistive economy is not a passive encounter to enemy attacks and it is an active design to reduce vulnerability and stability of country economy to foreign threats. In resistance economy, we can not stop progress trend and its speed is reduced and for continual progress, we can plan to be protected against enemy threats.

All the policies and strategies of a country like Iran should be designed as it is protected against the threats and can facilitate the achievement of goals. Islamic Republic of Iran is always under the threat of enemy and resist against them and they should have consistent economy and it is called resistance economy.

Based on the items, the following solutions are proposed for resistance economy development:

\*The starting point of resistance economy is policy making to reform consumption model. Consumption directs production and defines the direction of investment. The domestic production prosperity and reduction of import leading to the decline of domestic production units, economic autonomy, reduction of dependency to abroad, improving technology are formed at macro level and it should be as resistance economy doesn't mean imposing pressure to people.

\*Resisting against any benefit and opportunity taking of some opportunist people and applying effective supervision on market and attracting participation of syndicate and parties for the benefit of economic policies of resisting to sanction.

\*Turning the “threats” to opportunities in providing the goods and it means as by imposing sanction in some goods, forming national determination in technology, industry and commerce to create “self-sufficiency” and at least “self-sufficiency” in providing these items is the necessity of resistance economy. We shouldn’t exaggerate about the economic threats and pressures. But sanction is not “only a paper” and it shouldn’t be accepted.

\*Avoiding extravagancy of goods and storing the basic goods in big dimensions by governments and small intelligent warehouses by people (e.g. Switzerland during peace to provide food security of people).

\*Prioritization of agriculture sector and production of strategic items by using grounds, resources and internal capitals.

\*Reduction of oil-reliance via reduction of import and increasing non-oil export or oil-based strategic goods as petrochemical organization.

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