

Energy Diplomacy: Harmony Between National Interests And Global Security

G'aybullayev Oybek Qosim o'g'li

Doctoral student, Tashkent Institute of Chemical Technology, Uzbekistan

Received: 30 August 2025; **Accepted:** 24 September 2025; **Published:** 29 October 2025

Abstract: This article analyzes the formation, essence, and role of energy diplomacy in contemporary international relations. Safeguarding national interests and ensuring energy security in the energy sector have become priorities in state foreign policy today. The article elucidates the concept of diplomacy, its technological and institutional aspects, and examines energy diplomacy as an integral component of these processes. It is also emphasized that the global oil crises of the 1970s provided a strong impetus for the development of energy diplomacy, transforming energy resources into a foreign policy instrument. The study analyzes the scholarly perspectives of E.Ortaeva, S.Zhiznin, and M.Bogucharsky, substantiating their interpretation of energy diplomacy as a means of conducting foreign policy. Additionally, the article highlights the diplomatic aspects of competition between states and transnational corporations, control over hydrocarbon resources, and the transition to alternative energy sources. Consequently, energy diplomacy is interpreted as a complex system situated at the intersection of foreign policy, economic interests, and global security. The author evaluates energy diplomacy as one of the independent and strategic directions of economic diplomacy.

Keywords: Energy diplomacy, foreign policy, energy security, national interests, international relations, energy policy, oil and gas diplomacy, economic diplomacy, transnational corporations, energy resources, alternative energy, oil crisis, geopolitical interests, international cooperation, state interests, hydrocarbon resources, institutional aspects of energy policy.

Introduction: By the beginning of the 21st century, energy issues have become one of the most important strategic directions in international politics. The sustainable development of the world economy, the political independence of states, and national security largely depend on access to energy resources and the ability to use them effectively. Therefore, a need has arisen to analyze the political, economic, and diplomatic processes in the energy sector as a whole. As a result, the concept of "energy diplomacy" has emerged in scientific literature and has begun to be widely used as one of the important tools of state foreign policy.

The term "energy diplomacy" primarily refers to the activities of states in protecting their interests in the export or import of fuel and energy resources at the international level, ensuring energy security, and establishing sustainable cooperation in the context of global competition. This type of diplomacy gained

particular attention during the oil crises of the 1970s, demonstrating that energy resources had become not only an economic but also a geopolitical tool. Since that period, the energy factor has become an integral component of international politics.

In today's globalized environment, energy diplomacy is acquiring special significance not only in relations between states but also between transnational corporations, international organizations, and regional alliances. Control over energy sources, competition for their transportation routes and markets have become factors directly affecting international security. Therefore, each state strives to develop a strategy for protecting its energy interests in foreign policy, strengthening its position in international energy markets, and diplomatically supporting the activities of national companies.

This article is dedicated to analyzing the theoretical foundations of energy diplomacy, its role in the

diplomatic system, its functions, and its significance in the modern system of international relations. Additionally, it highlights the interconnection between energy diplomacy and economic diplomacy, its role in protecting national interests in the context of global competition, and its importance in ensuring energy security.

METHODOLOGY

Issues of energy diplomacy have emerged in recent decades as a distinct scientific field within the framework of international relations theory and practical politics. The development of this field is directly linked to the global oil crises of the second half of the 20th century, which dramatically increased the political significance of energy resources. During this period, numerous studies focusing on the problems of energy security and energy diplomacy emerged in Europe, the USA, Russia, China, and other countries.

In her research, E.Ortayeva emphasizes that the energy crisis of the 1970s demonstrated the decisive role of the energy factor in global politics, and it was during this period that energy diplomacy emerged as an independent field of diplomacy. S.Jiznin interprets foreign energy policy as the state's activity in protecting interests related to the production, transportation, and consumption of energy resources in the international arena. M.Bogucharskiy evaluates energy diplomacy as both a tool for conducting foreign policy and a mechanism for regulating international relations in the energy sector, emphasizing that it can ensure reliable energy supply to consumers, coordinate transportation routes, and facilitate cooperation in areas such as nuclear energy.

Furthermore, foreign researchers such as D. Yergin analyze the relationship between energy security, geopolitical competition, and diplomatic resources, assessing energy diplomacy as an integral part of "resource policy". Among Uzbek scholars, research on energy policy, the balance of interests in foreign policy, and economic diplomacy has become more active in recent years.

Methodologically, this research is based on the theory of international relations, geopolitical analysis, a systematic approach, and methods of comparative analysis. Using a systematic approach, energy diplomacy is studied as a structural element of the global energy system; geopolitical analysis serves to determine the balance of political power shaped through energy resources and their distribution. Through comparative analysis, the experiences of energy diplomacy in various countries are compared, and the possibility of developing an appropriate model for Uzbekistan is evaluated.

Thus, the theoretical foundation of this study comprises advanced scientific approaches to international energy policy, while its methodology is developed based on the principles of comprehensive analysis and comparative research.

RESULTS

As the protection of national interests and ensuring security in the energy sector became a priority in state foreign policy, the concept of "energy diplomacy" began to be used in scientific literature. Relations in the energy sector are developing along two parallel lines, characterized by international cooperation and fierce competition for resource utilization and sales. In essence, these two processes are inextricably linked.

Energy diplomacy is becoming one of the main instruments of independent and state foreign policy, regardless of whether a country imports or exports fuel and energy resources. This global trend became widespread in the second half of the last century following oil crises that arose due to various political reasons and led to global political consequences. These events demonstrated that energy resources could be not only strategic raw materials but also powerful tools for influencing foreign policy. The 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the US campaigns against Iraq in 1991 and 2003, and the intensification of separatist tendencies in oil and natural gas-rich countries of Africa, Asia, and Latin America confirm that the means and methods of struggling for control over energy resources are at the forefront of modern international relations development.

To understand the essence of energy diplomacy, it is first necessary to consider what diplomacy itself entails.

Diplomacy (from Greek "diploma" – to collect, gather) is the activity in the field of implementing a state's foreign policy and maintaining relations with foreign countries, comprising a set of non-military measures [2]. The main task and essence of diplomacy is the achievement of foreign policy goals by states through diplomatic methods and means. The term "diplomacy" can also be used as a synonym for the concept of "foreign policy". Additionally, in scientific literature, diplomacy is defined as "a set of peaceful means, methods, and legal forms for implementing a state's foreign activities, that is, the activities of a particular state aimed at achieving goals and objectives that align with its interests in international relations" [3]. It is also described as "the science of foreign relations" or "the art of conducting negotiations".

Diplomacy is a means of implementing state foreign policy, essentially a technologically and institutionally formalized activity. The technological aspect of

diplomacy refers to a set of non-military practical measures and methods applied, taking into account specific conditions and the nature of the tasks being addressed. The institutional aspect is used to indicate its official character and a certain, limited, and officially defined circle that can engage in this activity. Examples include heads of state and government, foreign ministers, diplomatic missions abroad, and delegations to international conferences. Since the mid-20th century, with the increasing role of non-state actors in the system of international relations, the role of intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, transnational corporations, and other public movements in diplomacy has been strengthened.

By the middle of the 20th century, based on political, military, and economic factors, the most important task of diplomacy became "creating conditions for preventing war and supporting efforts to change public opinion in favor of peace." This peacemaking nature of diplomacy indicates that it is always carried out by non-military means, serving as an alternative to direct confrontation between states.

In international practice, the following forms of diplomacy exist:

1. Bilateral diplomacy conducted on a permanent basis through a diplomatic mission of one state located in the territory of another state.
2. Diplomacy implemented through the dispatch of special missions.
3. Diplomacy carried out within the framework of international organizations through permanent missions and delegations sent to these organizations.

All the important features of diplomacy as a general concept are also reflected in the concept of energy diplomacy. In the practice of energy diplomacy, the foreign economic and foreign policy interests of states in the sphere of international relations are distinguished. Specifically, energy diplomacy deals with resolving unsettled situations and conflicts in the global energy sector, as well as seeking agreements on energy issues [4]. It encompasses the following aspects of the phenomenon being reflected: Firstly, the technological aspect of energy diplomacy, which includes specific tools used in this area of diplomatic activity. Secondly, the intrinsic connection between energy diplomacy and the foreign policy of states, with the special role of heads of state and government in managing this diplomacy, demonstrating its institutional nature. Thirdly, the participation in the implementation of energy diplomacy not only of heads of state and government but also of individuals who do not have the status of official diplomats. Fourthly, the non-military

nature of energy diplomacy, which nevertheless does not preclude its use for purposes that may involve military developments. Fifthly, the implementation of energy diplomacy not only within the framework of international law but also on a broader scale.

The increasing importance of energy diplomacy in cooperative relations is directly linked to the energy crises of the past century. On this matter, researcher E. Urtayeva notes, "The energy crisis of the mid-1970s largely contributed to the separation of energy diplomacy as a distinct field of diplomacy for several leading world powers, which clearly demonstrated the crucial significance of the energy factor in global politics" [5]. She emphasizes that it was during this period that energy diplomacy emerged as a separate branch from traditional diplomacy.

Energy diplomacy is considered an important technology of energy policy. It encompasses dialogue on energy issues with other countries, organizations, and associations to provide foreign policy support for implementing the state's energy strategy, diplomatic backing for the interests of the country's fuel and energy companies abroad, protection of state interests, and ensuring its energy security [6]. The definition implies that the main goal of energy diplomacy is to ensure energy security. Taking into account that some states advance their national interests in the international arena through transnational corporations, the activities aimed at protecting the interests of a country's fuel and energy companies abroad are also classified as energy diplomacy.

In international energy relations, the concepts of energy diplomacy and foreign energy policy are used interchangeably. Researcher S.Zhiznin explains: "Foreign energy policy is the sphere of state activity in international relations aimed at protecting interests related to the production, transportation, and consumption of energy resources. Its goals, objectives, and priorities are closely linked to foreign policy" [7]. This explanation of foreign energy policy aligns with the concept of energy diplomacy.

Russian scientist M.Bogucharskiy, in his research, defines energy diplomacy as "an instrument of foreign policy and a method of regulating international relations in the energy sector, encompassing a range of issues such as reliable supply to energy consumers, access to energy sources, routes for transporting hydrocarbon raw materials and electricity, as well as international aspects of nuclear energy" [8]. He emphasizes that its scope extends from consumer interests to delivery routes, including various sources, particularly nuclear energy. In our opinion, this

definition is presented from the perspective of states with diverse energy sources that also utilize nuclear energy, and therefore does not hold universal significance.

DISCUSSION

Despite the growing global desire to utilize alternative energy sources since the beginning of the 21st century, dependence on traditional energy sources like oil and natural gas persists in areas such as providing consumers with energy resources, accessing raw materials, and transporting hydrocarbons. Consequently, in academic circles, the term “oil and gas diplomacy” is sometimes used synonymously with “energy diplomacy” [9]. The specifics of international relations in the energy sector are currently determined by two opposing global processes. On one hand, competition in the world's oil and gas markets is intensifying. This is primarily explained by the profitability of this economic sector. It encourages new actors to enter energy relations and attempt to redistribute spheres of influence. On the other hand, the high level of monopolization and capital intensity in the energy sector leads to its placement under state control. As a result, states become involved in the struggle for energy resources and their sales markets.

The increasing competition in the global energy sector poses a potential threat to political stability in several regions of the world, requiring states to develop a common foreign policy direction and specific diplomatic methods.

The distinctive feature of the current situation in the global exchange of energy resources is that the main hydrocarbon resources are under the control of national state corporations, while the primary sales markets and energy raw material processing operations are under the control of transnational corporations. Consequently, large transnational corporations strive to expand their influence over resource bases, and in turn, state-owned companies possessing resources attempt to enter the processing sector and acquire stakes in the capital of transport and trade structures. The efforts of state-owned companies to expand their geographical presence face resistance from transnational corporations. Examples of these processes include the 2005 dispute between CNPC and Chevron over the acquisition of an American company (which was ultimately sold to Chevron), and the 2006 escalation of tensions between Gazprom and the United Kingdom regarding the sale of Scottish Power [10].

Typically, energy diplomacy is based on economic interests alongside geopolitical ones. On the one hand, these are the interests of state-owned companies

engaged in the extraction of energy resources, and on the other hand, the interests of transnational corporations with processing enterprises and distribution networks. Taking this into account, energy diplomacy can justifiably be characterized as one of the important areas of economic diplomacy. Along with trade-economic, monetary-financial, and investment directions, it is considered an independent branch of economic diplomacy.

CONCLUSION

The above analysis demonstrates that energy diplomacy is emerging as a new diplomatic direction of strategic importance in modern international relations. Today, energy resources have become an integral component of global politics, serving as a source of not only economic but also political and geopolitical power. Therefore, energy diplomacy is viewed in the foreign policy strategies of states as a means of protecting national interests, ensuring energy security, and strengthening their position in the international energy market.

According to research findings, the formation of energy diplomacy is closely linked to the oil crises that occurred in the second half of the 20th century. It was during this period that energy resources became a means of influence in global political processes. In recent years, this type of diplomacy has begun to occupy an important place not only in interstate relations but also in interactions between transnational corporations, regional organizations, and international alliances.

In the practice of energy diplomacy, economic and political interests are intertwined, manifesting as one of the important branches of economic diplomacy. As cooperation processes in the fields of energy resource extraction, transportation, and processing intensify global competition, the issue of ensuring energy security is becoming increasingly crucial for states. From this perspective, energy diplomacy is emerging as an integral part of national security policy.

The development of energy diplomacy is also of vital importance for Uzbekistan. The country's geostrategic position in the Central Asian region, its energy resources, and transit potential are significant factors in advancing its foreign policy interests. Therefore, developing an effective model of energy diplomacy for Uzbekistan, deepening integration with international energy markets, and protecting the interests of national companies are among the priority tasks today.

Overall, energy diplomacy is emerging as a crucial instrument in maintaining a balance of interests within the global energy system, expanding international cooperation, and supporting sustainable development.

REFERENCES

1. Haniya M. Oil, Power and Politics: US Interventions in Iraq from the Cold War to 9/11. Institute of Business Administration, Pakistan. – 2024. <https://ir.iba.edu.pk/sslace/305>
2. Shamsimuxamedov I. Diplomatiik terminlar izohli lug'ati / Izohli lug'at. – T.: "Donishmand ziyosi", 2021-yil. – 57 b.
3. Shamsimuxamedov I. Diplomatiik terminlar izohli lug'ati / Izohli lug'at. – T.: "Donishmand ziyosi", 2021-yil. – 58 b.
4. Вутянова Я.В. Энергетическая политика как фактор геополитического влияния России. : дисс. к.п.н. - Москва, 2013, с.20
5. Уртаева Э.Б. Понятие энергетической дипломатии и интересы России. // Политика и общество. 2011.- №4.-С8.
6. Вутянова Я.В. Энергетическая политика как фактор геополитического влияния России. : дисс. к.п.н. - Москва, 2013, с.20
7. Жизнин С.З. Формирование энергетической дипломатии России. // Электронный ресурс: http://www.mid.ru/bdornp/dip_vest.nsf/99b2ddc4f717c7
8. Богучарский М.Е. Энергетическая дипломатия Европейского Союза. Дисс.к.п.н., М., 2005.
9. Уртаева Э.Б. Особенности современного международно политического дискурса в сфере энергетического взаимодействия государств. — Дисс. ...канд. полит.наук. — М.: 2011. — С.21.
10. Terry Macalister, Nick Paton Walsh, Mark Milner. Russia's Gazprom considers bid for British Gas owner Centrica. Fri 3 Feb 2006. // Electron resource: <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2006/feb/03/russia>