



Membership in regional, international blocs

Strengthening international alliances in foreign relations, especially membership in regional common market organizations and free trade agreements, has always been one of the important objectives in the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic. Remarkable gains have been made to this end under president Raisi who, compared to his predecessors, further used Iran's unique geopolitical position and economic capabilities to secure Iran's share of regional and international trade.

One of these achievements was the finalization of Iran's membership in the two key economic blocs of BRICS and Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) along with several emerging non-Western powers. Though Iran for years was an

observer member of these blocs, if it was not for the major change in Iran's foreign policy under president Raisi who adopted the "Look to the East" policy, Iran's membership could not have been realized this quickly.

Russia and China, two great strategic allies in the transitioning global order, consider the Islamic Republic as the third member of their Eastern alliance due to the country's completely independent policy, strategic geopolitical position, military power, and extensive regional influence. The government of Raisi played a key role in this achievement.

Indeed, membership in SCO will provide unmatched opportunities for Iran's economic development and foreign trade. The bloc covers about 30 percent of the global GDP and about 40 percent of the world's

population, which translates into the total defeat of the West's sanctions that aimed to isolate Iran from global trade.

Joining the club of the emerging powers of BRICS, which many experts say will prospectively replace the G7, facilitates foreign trade, cuts trade costs and customs, transfers technology and knowledge, provides raw material, expands Iran's interactions with global markets, and eliminates various international payment problems by doing business with national currencies.

During president Raisi's tenure and thanks to the efforts of the late foreign minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, Iran managed to take a huge step toward membership in the Eurasian Economic Union. The organization, which accounts for about 2.4 percent of the global trade, also signed a free trade deal with Tehran.

Marketing, opening new trade gates

The economy was a priority to the foreign policy of the government of president Raisi, to the extent that during his 33-month presidency, he visited 28 foreign countries. In the meantime, although the government focused on expanding all-round economic relations with neighbors and countries in the region, president Raisi did not ignore other markets receptive to Iranian companies and goods, especially in developing countries.

To this end, after years of stagnation, Raisi's government revived Iran's trade and political standing



Martyr President