Chapter 2
From Concept to Policy: Discussing Energy Politics and Energy Crises

Emre Çıtak
Hitit University, Turkey

ABSTRACT

In this study, a detailed framework regarding energy and energy policies will be drawn in line with the general framework of the book. The meaning of energy; the importance, types, and usage of energy resources; the factors in the formation of energy policies; energy-related sectors; energy security; the place of energy security in government policies; the causes of energy crises; energy management; and energy diplomacy will be introduced, and a comprehensive discussion will take place. Thus, in the light of today's developments, the world of energy will be presented to the reader in different dimensions.

INTRODUCTION

The gradual increase in the need for energy resources in the continuation of social life and economic development has brought the importance of energy policies both in general government policies and in international relations. While traditional energy policies are handled in the context of accessing and transferring energy resources, it is expected that new energy policies will be formed with dimensions such as resource supply, security, infrastructure development, control of commercial dynamics, sustainability, efficiency and environmental awareness. While the success in the preparation and implementation of energy policies can bring serious gains to the states, otherwise they may face problems in case of energy crises. Therefore, approaches such as energy management and energy diplomacy are becoming more and more popular.

Intense relations are observed between the actors such as states and multinational companies in the energy field, sometimes through cooperation and sometimes through conflict. Undoubtedly, the reason for this situation is that traditional energy sources are exhaustible, they are only found in some parts of the world and their profitability is quite high. The conflict of individual policies and interests thus paves

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the way for the formation of crises. It is inevitable that the crises arising from energy conflicts will have global and long-term effects.

The increasing value of energy resources, usage areas and trade brings the social, national, regional and international dimensions of the issue to the fore. Continuation of energy flow, price stability, smooth trade, and development of relevant technologies and systems are very important. It is very important to evaluate energy, especially in terms of continuity, cost and sustainability. In this regard, while energy security and energy policies are handled in a more serious framework, problems occurring in energy-related processes and practices can cause crises on a global scale. For this reason, it will be very useful to develop a common understanding in order to seize the opportunities in the field of energy and to combat the problems.

In this study, a detailed framework regarding energy and energy policies will be drawn in line with the general framework of the book. The meaning of energy, the importance, types and usage of energy resources, the factors in the formation of energy policies, energy-related sectors, energy security, the place of energy security in government policies, the causes of energy crises, energy management and energy diplomacy will be introduced and a comprehensive discussion will take place. Thus, in the light of today's developments, the world of energy will be presented to the reader in different dimensions. After focusing specifically on energy security and energy crises, the study will come to end with a discussion on the understanding of global energy governance.

1. CONCEPTUAL APPROACH TO ENERGY

1.1. Energy

Dealing with the conceptual dimension of energy can be both easy and difficult. It is possible to define energy simply as "the ability to do work" and to encounter this definition in almost every source. The definition is correct, but it does not provide an understanding of all aspects of energy. This is where the difficult part of the subject begins. Energy is a concept that appeals to different disciplines and can take on different identities when viewed from any field such as physics, chemistry, biology, economics, health or physical education. For this reason, the aforementioned general definition creates an upper framework and together with the supporting terms, it becomes clear what energy really is. Energy should be taken from the aspect of political, economic, and social value that humanity needs to sustain its daily life. Beyond the basic definition, the comprehensive nature of energy emerges when it is considered from the perspectives of fields such as economics, sociology, politics, international relations, history, technology, environmental science, geology, business, security, and engineering, etc., and this is what this study aims to achieve.

The state of being able to perform work is a useful definition for drawing the general framework of energy. Energy can even be expressed in the context of the concept of "power". Before the word energy became widespread, the term "power" filled its place and is still used as an equivalent in some fields today. Power is seen as the most important factor and trigger necessary to accomplish a task. It is also possible to think of power as a measure of energy and can be used to measure the rate of doing work. The energy expended, produced, or transferred per unit time in the performance of a task can be defined as power (McElroy, 2010, pp. 78-79). When talking about energy or power, the key word is "work". Work refers to the physical or mental effort to get a result or produce a desired output (Priest, 2004, pp. 1-2).