

The role of regional conflict in destabilizing Iraqi national security; An analytical geopolitical study.

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Abstract.

The present study deals with local and regional variables affecting the security and stability of the Iraqi state. It identifies challenges and threats of national security. Relations among the influencing countries are highlighted. The US invasion in 2003 allowed regional countries to interfere in the internal and external affairs of Iraq as it is of great importance for these countries; Iran, Turkey, and the United States of America due to its geostrategic importance in the regional political scene and richness with natural resources such as oil and gas. Regional conflict imposed severe pressures on the political and security situation in Iraq, especially in cases of difference and contradiction of Interests between those parties. That was among many reasons that contributed to the destabilization of the Iraqi political situation because of quotas, sectarianism, disregard of national cohesion, and the absence of effective leadership that is capable of drawing features of preserving its sovereignty and enhancing opportunities of circumventing a single national identity. Therefore, The regional system in general should be reformulated regarding the new conditions imposed by the geostrategic conditions in the region, which have become a major challenge for the Arab region, its political future, and its existence.

Keywords. Conflict, regional, role, destabilization, national security.

Introduction.

Regional conflict affects all countries surrounding it. The present study addresses the impact of that regional conflict on the national security of Iraq. Regional conflict extends between states to lead to political instability in the countries that compete for being of regional importance. The present study is an attempt to identify causes of the phenomenon of instability in Iraq through direct intervention in its internal and external affairs.

This study seeks to identify the regional conflict and analyze the nature of internal and external challenges facing the Iraqi state in light of affecting all aspects of existence and stability as a sovereign state. The present study highlights international and regional forces affecting the security and stability of Iraq.

The significance of the present study.

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The present study is significant as it identifies and analyzes how regional conflict negatively affects the ongoing security and stability of Iraq, which requires an understanding and awareness of the situations that Iraq is going through, the nature of the risks surrounding it, and how to confront them and limit their negative impacts.

The Problem of the present study.

The present study is an attempt to track the regional conflict and clarify its goals and mechanisms. The following questions illustrate the problem of the present study:

1. What are the factors of destabilizing the Iraqi national security?
2. What is the extent of the impact of regional intervention on the security and stability of the Iraqi state?

The study is based on the assumption that interventions of regional and international powers are the main factor in the instability of Iraq since 2003. Those interventions take away all powers from the state itself and threaten its security in its existence as a state in its regional environment. In order to prove the validity of this hypothesis, the descriptive method and historical analysis were used To understand and address the subject of the study.

The objectives.

It seeks to prove the fact that the Iraqi state has a prominent role in its regional location that gave this country an advantage and a burden at the same time. The political geography of any country has a geopolitical importance in international political relations. The more its political role increases in International Relations; Its political position also escalates in its international and regional surroundings, which increases the burden that imposes some permanent tensions on the state. The Iraqi state has fallen into two predicaments; It has a prominent role in its environment. Some countries have agendas to play roles that intersect with what the Iraqi government aspires to because there are many differences in the Iraqi society, whether national, sectarian, political, and international political connections that make them acquire capabilities and resources that are outside the circles of measurements.

Iraq is one of the most prominent countries that occupied a regional and international role. This role imposed several consequences on Iraq. These consequences were reflected on the Iraqi internal affairs, whether politically, economically, socially, or security. On the other hand, the Iraqi national security faces external challenges which have affected the regional and international circle, especially after the American occupation of Iraq in 2003, the Arab Spring revolutions in 2011, as well as the Iranian nuclear file and the Gaza events. In light of these events and the repercussions and deteriorations in regional security, it is clear that the Iraqi national security is an important issue for the Iraqi state's policy in all internal and external dimensions.

According to the geopolitical specificity embodied in the regional situation in Iraq, its security concern remains a kind of exception in the degree of sensitivity to the surrounding conditions by taking measures and policies to ensure acceptable levels of a sense of security and stability, which enhances the requirements of cohesion, social solidarity, and preserving the self-entity of the state.

Hence, the present study is divided into four sections. Section one presents the theoretical and conceptual framework. Section two discusses the conflict and competition of regional and international powers. Section three identifies the mechanisms and goals of the conflicting and competing countries. Section four presents the conclusions and recommendations.

Section one.

The theoretical and conceptual framework.

The concept of national security;

Security is one of the pillars of the establishment of the state. It is traditionally related to the concept of the state that represents the main unit in the context of the global systemⁱ. This concept has emerged with the birth of the nation state in Europe after the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648, which changed the form of the international system. Every country demonstrated the desire to preserve its geography, population, national capabilities and great fear of its neighbors, which strengthens the concept of national securityⁱⁱ. This means that the concept of National security is not limited to protecting the homeland and the citizens against threats, but it also relates to the state's ability to exploit opportunities, enhance its power resources, overcome its weaknesses, and improve the quality of life and the quality of its level. On this basis, there are many areas and dimensions of national security at all levels; Political, military, Security, economic, social, environmental, and ideologicalⁱⁱⁱ.

The concept of instability.

it is a relative concept that is not determined according to one or a set of indicators. Samuel Huntington states that in terms of an equation, instability equals political demands divided by political institutions. This means that political instability increases as political demands increase. The capacity of political institutions to respond effectively has been weakened.

This definition is directly proportional to political demands and instability as political stability cannot be achieved through the use of violence or force that suppresses regime opponents because power can not eliminate political demands^{iv}.

The concept of destabilization.

The political system was described as being from God to servants. That was during the period of divine rule that was in Europe and in another stage of history. The matter developed due to religious revolutions. Political system became described as the father in relation to children. Therefore, it is said to be a patriarchy.

This term was replaced by big titles. Like democracy, civilization and citizenship. Its contents have not changed. What has changed is only the method. The content is still acceptable. This means that a successful state must interfere in all areas of life, reach the most distant citizen and provide him/her with his/her needs.

Therefore, this system has the ability to make the state penetrate positively to the farthest point of the citizen's life if the system is stable and vice versa.

This definition clarifies that political stability has certain political conditions and systems in how states are managed and promoted through legitimacy, inclusion, participation, penetration and destabilization of political stability^v.

Factors that contributed to the interference of countries in the internal affairs of Iraq:

1. The absence of actual and modern political participation.
2. The fundamentalist political groups of Islam challenge the legitimacy of the rule of women, based on the desire of these groups, to make Islam the only source of legislation, and not only one of its sources, with what this holds in the medium and long term.
3. The absence of clear criteria for fairness in income distribution.
4. The pervasive phenomenon of administrative corruption and job inflation in the state's administrative apparatus.
5. Social, cultural, economic and political dangers resulting from the large numbers of migrant workers^{vi}.

Section two.

The impact of conflict and competition among regional and international powers on the study area.

The regional and international conflict is due to the roots that have proven historical constants. Every country of regional powers in the Middle East seeks to impose its will and achieve its interests in the rest of the competing Middle Eastern

countries. This happened in the wake of the Arab Spring revolutions and the emergence of a multi-regional pattern of Middle Eastern powers that transcended to form a regional arrangement in a new form in terms of interactions and alliances in the balance of relative forces between the various Middle Eastern powers that have active forces on the ground like Iran, Turkey, and Israel.

The conflict within the region consists of several aspects presented as follows:

Countries maintain their national cohesion as well as their borders.

Preserving the national identity that belongs to all members of the Iraqi people, whether they are ideological, religious, or ethnic.

The presence of many international and regional alliances and the formation of regional and counterpoints.

The reasons that encouraged conflict in the region, both before and after the Arab Spring revolutions.

The ability to dominate within the regional context, and to have a form and identity of the active state.

Struggle for dominance and imposition of will in the countries of the Middle East in light of the balance of powers between them.

Multiple crises and pivotal problems in the Middle East such as the Yemeni, Iraqi, and Syrian crises^{vii}.

In light of those conflicts in the region, the researcher finds that the reason for Iran's interference in the region is the outbreak of the "Arab Spring" protests that allowed it to expand its influence in the region, especially after the US invasion of Iraq in 2003 that led to the collapse of this country and neutralized it as a regional power Centralization, which often contributed to achieving stability through a balance of powers. The impact of that was great as Iran managed for the first time in centuries to strive to impose its regional dominance in the form of an arc of influence that extends from western Afghanistan to the Mediterranean coast across Iraq, which created a state of instability that threatens the region And its presence in the form and image that prevailed since the First World War. The events in the study area in 2003 cleared the way for Iran to witness a rise in its strength after it was in a weak geostrategic position in general. The American occupation led to the dismantling of the Iraqi state and the dissolution of its army that had previously defeated it. This left A power vacuum that the Americans could not fill. Those developments opened the door wide for Iran to control Iraq to give way to an ambitious vision in Tehran of regional dominance through alliances over decades. The researcher sees that the Syrian-Iranian alliance has a very important role in the politics of the Middle East region. It has begun to take shape with the idea of a dominant Iranian regional project. It has opened new ways that enhance roads of Al-Qadima to the southwest of Mosul to the inside of the Syrian lands as part of an ambitious project to revive the Silk Road neighborhoods in cooperation with China for the purpose of reaching the eastern Mediterranean; Syrian coast under Russian control and protection^{viii}.

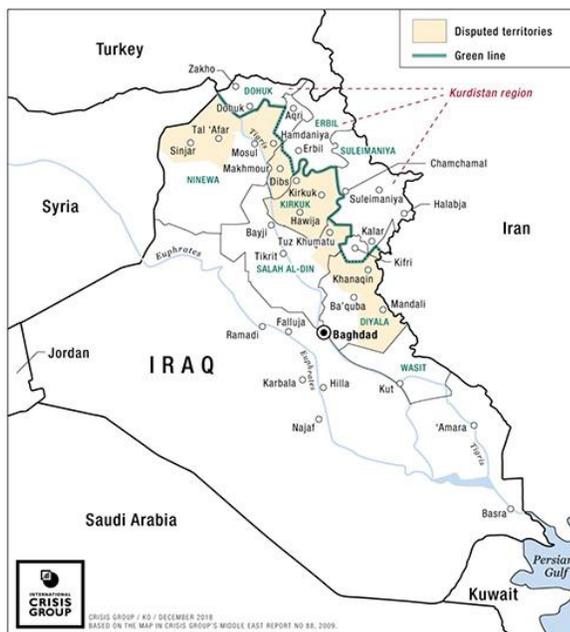
Therefore, the reason for Iran's pursuit of this region is to acquire the economic and geopolitical influence and sources of new energy discovered from oil and gas, which is estimated at (123) billion cubic meters of natural gas, and huge amounts of oil in southern and northern Syria, as well as the energy discovered off the Lebanese coast and known With nine blocks.

Turkey had a clear role in the study area and dreams of dominating and restoring its former Ottoman glories by its control of the Fertile Crescent as it takes from its alliance with the Kurdistan region a safe haven in achieving its control and domination. It sought to impose its influence in the region by preventing the Kurds from strengthening their power, especially In the areas adjacent to its borders, which Washington considers an essential ally in achieving its strategy to fight the Islamic State and provide them with weapons and training. Those Turkish accounts put them in a dilemma of friction with Russia and America at a time when the atmosphere of the Cold War between the two international poles has returned. There has become competition between them On the issue of the Kurds. There has been tension between Turkey and its American ally^{ix}.

As for Israel, its colonial goals and ambitions are not less dangerous than Turkey and Iran. It seeks to sow discord and fuel sectarian and separatist nationalist tendencies in the regional and international area in general, and in the study area in particular. Therefore, it supports most of the separatist movements because it will mainly be attributed to its own interests. This allows Israel to be able to achieve its own interest in controlling the resources and wealth of the region and complete the Theodore Herzl project. Thus, Israel can achieve its goals towards controlling the fertile agricultural areas in southern Syria, the Iraqi island, and Syria^x. Therefore, it supports the separation of Iraqi Kurdistan. There are a number of ongoing negotiations between regional and international countries coordinating the separation process, such as Turkey and Iraq because the Kurdish issue with respect to Turkey and some regional countries is a source of instability in the Middle East because any regional move by the Kurds and in any country will have repercussions. It is one of the issues occupying the mind of decision-makers in Turkey, Iran, and Israel^{xi}.

Conflict areas within the study area:

The conflict in the study area is due to its geopolitical position in the map of the Middle East, and to the wealth it possesses within it to achieve development and economic prosperity, as well as the wide belt of lands extending between the Iranian borders in the eastern center to the Syrian border in the northwest, and those cities which contributed to political instability because of the mixed ethnic composition of the population as represented by common threads, in which a mixture appears in the form of a mosaic inside which, there are people from different cultures, nationalities, sects, and economic challenges, As well as the presence of oil and gas that gave way to hostilities and tensions between local components within that mosaic of competition and access to the resources of those disputed areas. The most important areas are illustrated in Map (1).



Source: Middle East Report No. (194/144), Reviving the United Nations Mediation on the Disputed Internal Boundaries in Iraq, translated report from INTERNATIONAL CRISIS GROUP, December 2018, p. 7.

1. Kirkuk.

Kirkuk province is located on the border between the Arab majority part of Iraq, and the Kurdistan region of Iraq. This means that it is located in the southern front of Iraq. From the northern side, Erbil is adjacent to it, from the east, there is

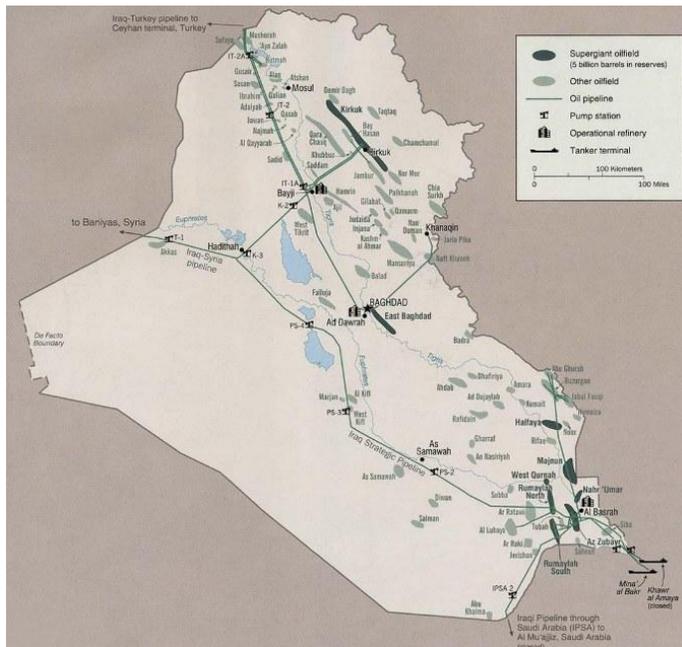
Sulaymaniyah, and from the southwestern side, there is Salah al-Din. Its area is about (9700) square kilometers. It occupies the thirteenth place in terms of area. Its population includes the Kurds and Turkmen, as well as a small group of Chaldeans and Assyrian Christians. Kirkuk was a city that includes a military garrison on an important Ottoman trade route, which explains the presence of the Turkmen population. That region formed a backside in the early years of the Republic of Iraq even after the discovery of oil^{xiii}.

It has a geostrategic, oil, cultural, and civilizational importance for the study area. There are many oil fields and wells of abundance and high quality. The Kirkuk field remained the lifeline during the war with Iran in the eighties of the twentieth century, as shown in Map (2). The southern oil fields, their infrastructure, and pipelines became inoperable. The systems led by the Ba'athists with a strong Arab nationalist ideology rose up With intense Arabization campaigns for Kirkuk to strengthen control over oil. Under Saddam Hussein, the matter reached the genocide of the Anfal campaign in 1988^{xiii}.

In the American invasion in 2003, this violence was reflected on the return of the Kurds and the migration of Kirkuk Arabs who were politically marginalized under American protection. The two main Kurdish parties; The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and the Kurdistan Democratic Party established their political and military domination, but they were unable to annex Kirkuk to the Kurdistan region with their intention Announced before that by a process stipulated in Article (140) of the Constitution.

In 2007, there was a referendum on the status of Kirkuk and other disputed areas. That year was the deadline set by the constitution. Iraq held elections at the province level. Kirkuk was lagging behind the process as the local parties were unable to agree on a formula that did not contain Election results to a de facto referendum on the status of Kirkuk^{xiv}.

Map (2) The geographical distribution of the oil fields in Iraq.



Source: Al-Arab International Newspaper in the Middle East, a broad Iraqi welcome to regain control of Kirkuk and the rest of the disputed areas, October 2017.

Khanaqin.

It is located near a political contact line between the Iranian and Iraqi borders. Khanaqin was disputed even during the rule of the Ottoman and Persian Empires. That region is located in Diyala province near the Iranian border. It includes the areas of Jalawla, Saadiyya, and QarahTabah. It is located between Tehran and Baghdad on the main path for trade and

pilgrimage. It is characterized by its very fertile soil due to the Diyala River. Its area is about (3789) square kilometers. The importance of Khanaqin is highlighted as being the main southern gateway to the Kurdistan Region with Iran as it is between the mountains region and the region of the sedimentary plains. The most important thing distinguishing it is oil as it is the second largest oil city. It was excavated for the first time in the beginning of the twentieth century in the Khanna oil field that extends on both sides of the border. As well as the presence of a Kurdish population, the presence of oil may be a reason for its importance since the emergence of the Kurdish national movement. In the Kurdish leaders' efforts to annex Khanaqin to the administrative astronomy of the Kurds. These reasons were enough to be overlooked by successive governments to adopt a policy of Arabization against the population of Khanaqin to limit them and neutralize their power.

In the beginning of the seventies of the twentieth century, denationalization and deportation of Filipino Shiite Kurds happened. In addition, Arabization policies pursued by Saddam's regime led to exert the pressure by the Kurdistan Regional Government after 2003 on Arabs to leave the city of Khanaqin to Saadiyya and Jalula. All these regions have a mixture of residents, but the city of Khanaqin is inhabited by Kurds who are divided into Sunnis and Shiites. Most of the population are Arabs, with large Turkmen and Kurdish minorities. The rebellion and reactions have been prevented since the establishment of effective rule since 2003, Especially in the areas where elected local councils are able to operate amid violence, assassination attempts, and threats^{xv}.

In 2014, the Islamic State took control over Saadia and Jalula, except the city of Khanaqin. After five months, the Peshmerga forces affiliated to the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan were expelled. The army retook the area and moved to another. The federal government is largely absent from all joints of the region, including the administrative level. The result of those actions was that many Kurds left due to ISIS control in the region. Security remained weak. Some services were lacked causing others to leave for fear of retaliation during the attempts of the Kurdish parties after 2003. Local Arab population were removed from the area. In the city of Khanaqin, the majority of Kurds population could enable the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan to stick to the security file. The ISIS attacks that started from the rural areas continued.

In 2017, the government took control over the disputed areas in the Khanaqin district easily and conveniently because the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan agreed to withdraw. Peshmerga forces easily coordinated with the Federal Army as the latter progressed. But, the demographic mixture allowed for harmful political practices by external players who took advantage of ethnic and sectarian differences. The Popular Mobilization Forces found support from the local Shiites who reject the rule of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and its efforts to annex Khanaqin to the Kurdistan region.

TuzKhurmato.

This district is located to the southeast of Kirkuk, 90 km from the south of the city. A quarterly river called AqAq is the only irrigation river for agricultural land in that region.

TuzKhurmato district - sometimes referred to as Tuz, which is located in Salah al-Din, north of Baghdad - suffered much more violence than other disputed areas in the period immediately following the control of the Iraqi army and PMF forces in the first of October In 2017. The reason may be that the region has suffered from violent ethnic and sectarian clashes since 2003 in which Kurds, Turkmen and Arabs participated ().

Since Toz is an important transportation center, it is located on the highway between Baghdad and Kirkuk, which is a Turkmen center in the first place. Its northern and eastern countryside is predominantly Kurdish, with Arab tribes to the south and west. In Amerli with a Turkmen majority in the city However, the villages of the region have an Arab majority. In SulaymanBey region, there is an Arab majority. The post-2003 elections have shown that Tuz district is very different as it does not have a single ethnic group with a majority^{xvi}.

During the period from (2003-2017), the Tuz region witnessed frequent clashes that led to the arrival of the Islamic State in 2014 to the southern and western parts of the district and attempts to get them out. To destroy the Arab and Turkoman villages under Iranian guidance. In return, the Peshmerga forces affiliated to the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) joined the PMF fighters to fight the Islamic State. The army and the Popular Mobilization Forces removed ISIS from the area in 2015. Yet, ISIS continued to threaten the areas to the west of TuzKhurmato to approach the outskirts of the city^{xvii}.

Section three.

Mechanisms and goals of the competing regional and international powers for the study area.

1. The United States of America.

The German academic Volker Bertz said that the United States was targeting the entire Middle East region as a goal during the occupation of Iraq. It was wrong to deal with it. The events that Iraq faced after that may be a reaction from the United States after the events of (September 11) with errors in the region, and in previous US policies toward the region that generated hatred for the United States. The United States had to work for a comprehensive transformation; Politically, socially, and intellectually regardless of the difference with this agreement. The issue of control of the Middle East was aimed at the process of change that took place after the events of 2003. Among the strategic goals of complete domination is the spread of democracy because this would be achieved if Iraq settled politically or the Arab-Israeli conflict was dissolved.

American thought is based on three main pillars:

1. Using military force.
2. The domination of economic interests.
3. Generalizing the values of consumption and liberal freedom.

American foreign policy has been strengthened in the past decades in various ways until it reached the stage of imperialism of the American empire. The United States of America chose Iraq as the easiest and weakest link in the region. Although regional and Arab conditions helped the United States to accelerate its political program to rehabilitate Iraq from what it is predetermined from direct proliferation and occupation approximately (5-10) years before going into the political process, it has succeeded in establishing the post-political phase of Iraq. This is evident in the three stages that Iraq witnessed^{xviii}.

The stage of changing the political system in April 2003, occupying Baghdad.

The stage of founding a weak political entity linked to the United States' survival capacity.

The stage of establishing the permanent American presence.

The United States started building some military and intelligence bases in separate parts of Iraq to be permanent spy stations on the study area. It started pressing neighboring countries to carry out reforms in ruling or economic and educational systems^{xix}.

Thus, the foreign policy objectives are clear in light of political weakness and the interests of the United States, which constitute a fundamental supporter of regional powers and the struggle for domination of international powers and their plans towards the Middle East region that aim to reshape the map in the Middle East region by dividing and fragmenting countries and introducing new systems such as democracy according to the Bernard Lewis Project in 1979, the original theorist of creative chaos policy^{xx}.

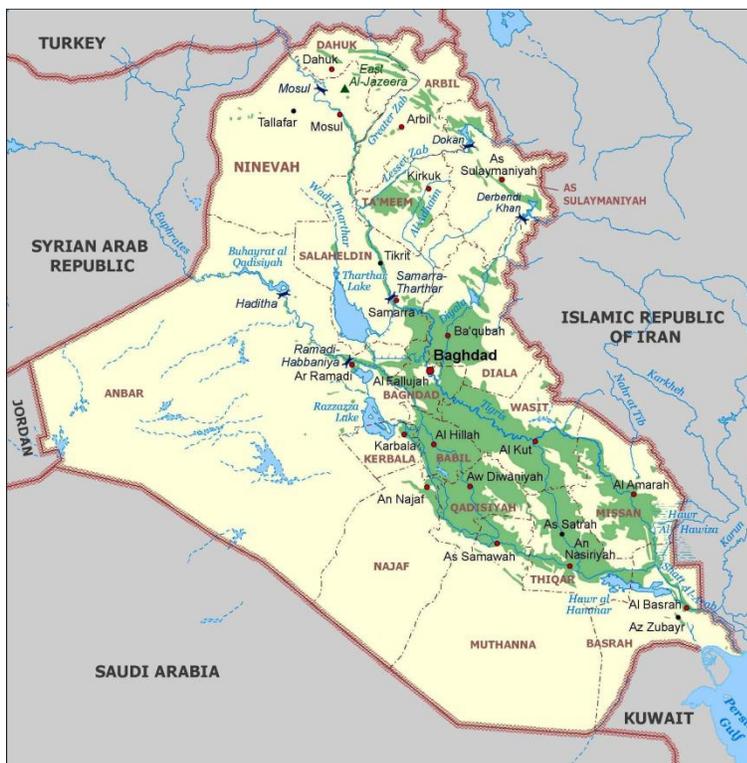
Iran

In the midst of the important geopolitical developments and changes witnessed in the study area in particular, that resulted from external military intervention that overthrew the power equations in Iran, Iran was able to neutralize and control Iraq through its tools, considering what happened as a victory at the strategic level after Iraq was a thorn in front of its expansionist ambitions. The study area is a strong economic road that secures its political expansion and security throughout the region by dominating several commercial paths as a strong intelligence cover. For example, the Shalamcheh and Shabib port in the south of the study area and the middle Euphrates port represented by the Mahran,

Badra and Jassan port, and the port of Zurbatiya towards the Syrian border, or what is known as the New Silk Road, as well as the northern port in the Kurdistan region^{xxi} because Iran is trying in various ways to block the international road project in western Iraq seeking to build its economic and security belt in the east of the study area as it is locked in a conflict With Turkey to secure the ascending road from Diyala to Tal Afar and from it to the Syrian depth. Turkey sees Tal Afar as its transportation complex that pushes Iran to support the Assad regime. It limits any demographic changes in its favor and shares the vision of Washington.

Iran has also worked in the last ten years to achieve about (35) major tributaries passing through Iraq, Map (3). So, 80% of the water sources in Iraq have been lost. This behavior is illegal in all political aspects.

Map (3) shows the Tigris and Euphrates, and the most important Iranian tributaries that pass through the study area.



Source: Hassan al-Janabi, Joint Water File between Iraq and Iran, Part Three, Shatt al-Arab and the Necessity of Achieving Water Peace, published article 2014 in the Proceedings of the First Economic Forum, Beirut, 2014.

At the same time, Tehran is seeking to build dams and tunnels and change the course of rivers and tributaries away from Iraq. Perhaps, the most prominent example is the change of the course of the Sirwan River in recent years after 2003,

which provides the Darbandikhan Lake and Dam with about (70%) of their water capacity. It operates the thermal power as one of the major Iranian water projects^{xxii}.

In the Kurdistan Region, Tehran is also trying to manipulate the water card in the framework of managing political crises in the region and developing an ambitious plan to build (14) dams and industrial lakes to store water in the long term and benefit in agricultural projects and services.

Turkey.

Turkish ambitions in the study area are mainly based on several geopolitical factors, including geographical proximity and weak resistance to external interference, the tremendous oil wealth that abounds in conflict areas, as well as the decline of the Iranian role due to the internal conditions witnessed by Tehran, beside the weakness of Tehran's allies And the foundations of the political system that they drive in the study area. All these factors provided an opportunity for Turkey to focus its influence in the study area due to what it expects from the relaxation of the Iranian grip on it during the coming period as a result of the extremely difficult circumstances that Tehran is experiencing, which are automatically reflected on the conditions of its allies. For more than 17 years, Iran has been guarding its influence in Iraq^{xxiii}.

Since 2003, Turkey has been seeking to draw a new map that enables it to achieve its expansionist goals in light of the state of weakness and the persistence of political disputes and conflicts in the study area, which opened the door to press successive Iraqi governments that were unable to secure borders and interests. It realized that the Iraqi arena is the best and most suitable site for chasing the Islamic State and turning Turkish lands to the main transit point for volunteers in the study area, as it sought to use force against opponents of the PKK and enter the regions of Syria and Iraq under the pretext of fighting terrorism, as it sought to support some The ethnic entities that live in the province of Kirkuk because of the enormous oil wealth they contain is what drives them to enter the conflict arena over the province that the Kurds of Iraq are demanding to annex to their region, as well as the presence of a pipeline linking Kirkuk to the Turkish port of Ceyhan. Turkey is keen to ensure the continued flow of oil through it after Isis controlled the region^{xxiv}.

Although Turkey has often colluded with the Kurds of Iraq in the matter of oil, it does not want Kirkuk to fall under their control. This means that they have a large and constituent component of their state that they have not abandoned the idea of seeking to establish in the region. On this basis, Turkey seeks to empower the people of Turkmen nationalism with the aim of taking them as a bridge and an entrance to penetrate the province in any way in light of what the leaders of that nationalism show in loyalty to Ankara, which often exceeds their loyalty to the Iraqi state itself.

Hence, the main goal of the Turkish intervention in the affairs of the study area is to acquire and control a part of the Iraqi geography to achieve Turkish political and economic ambitions. This confirms that the Iraqi state and the geo-political role of the study area have entered a new international and regional engagement. In light of the results of this engagement, it features the political and geographical map of Iraq and the Middle East region as a whole.

With the intervention of all these countries in Iraq, The American presence in Iraq hinders Turkey's ability to influence the course of events in that country. If the United States departed from Iraq before stability prevailed, Ankara might have more aspects and more options in Iraq to prevent some Developments under this possibility. The European Union and the harm associated with the accession process is the only obstacle in the way of its policies.

Conclusions

In light of the regional instability resulting from the destabilization of the Iraqi nationalism after 2003, Political instability in Iraq can be reduced through certain mechanisms and plans that the country must place in its future.

It is possible to conclude the following:

1. The regional conflict affects all neighboring countries. The present study specifically focuses on the future of Iraq and its presence as a country with specific borders on the global map.
2. The weakness of the political system in Iraq, the failure to confront and resolve the major powers that interfere with all their energies in the internal affairs of the state to take away resources and wealth; oil, water, and land, the problem of ethnic pluralism in Iraq, and the large number of sects lead to the presence of wars and civil conflicts constantly.

Accordingly, all these reasons lead to the existence of the phenomenon of political instability in Iraq. Those reasons are divided into internal; political, constitutional, economic, cultural, and social. The external reasons are regional and international. The researcher believes that the internal political system for the stability of Iraq is the basis for these interventions. Without these reasons, the external factors would not have had an opportunity to interfere in the internal Iraqi affairs.

Hence, some recommendations are made by the researcher:

1. Reforming the internal political system of the Iraqi state. The Iraqi political powers should leave quotas in state administration and move towards the method used in democratic countries; elections on the basis of competence, experience, and merit without circumventing the subsidiary identity.
2. Reforming or changing the political system in the state and replacing it with wiser and more leadership-oriented political systems to cross the country to an advanced stage in which it has political stability and preserves its national security in its existence as a state.
3. The Iraqi state should activate foreign policy and build determinants. It should interact in the regional environment with regard to its rights over its lands and wealth.
4. There should be a strong defensive army in Iraq to deal with any infringement happening as many major powers have infringed on its soil.

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