



2020

ANNUAL REPORT





بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



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## About the Center



# Idea and Introduction



The idea of establishing Strategic Fiker Center for Studies has resulted from the intellectual and cultural challenges facing the Arab world due to the weak intellectual supports and visions that contribute to raising awareness and civilizational continuity of the Arab peoples. The Center is an independent non-profit research institution that conducts scientific studies and research papers related to the Arab world according to the international standards and methodologies, in addition to providing consultations and surveys in several areas based on its vision.

In addition to professionalism, the Center is keen that its research includes the phases of an event (phenomenon), studies its historical motives and describes its reality in order to reach a comprehensive understanding of its future results.

Over the past years, the Center has shown prominent excellence in the field of forward-looking and this means that the analytical inputs are always accurate. This has also helped with the outreach and circulation of the Center's publications among the Arab elites and decision-makers, as well as both satellite and web media.





The Center's vision stems from the realization of its team of the importance of the intellectual awareness and its role in creating nations and civilizations. Therefore, its vision is as follows:  
**Raising the level of intellectual awareness in Arab societies**



## Vision

## Objectives

- 1 Contributing to spreading the cultural awareness
- 2 Measuring the public opinion towards specific issues regionally and internationally
- 3 Scientific rooting of emerging political issues
- 4 Keeping pace with the global and Arab changes by conducting researches and providing consultations



## Center Tools

”

In spite of the heavy burden for achieving the Center's objectives, especially those concerning raising the intellectual and civilizational awareness and the other challenges, the Center has set a number of tools that can achieve them. They include the following:

- Taking care of studies, researches, consultations and reports in accordance with the Center's vision.
- Contacting and coordinating with the Arab and international research centers and institutions.
- Adopting the diversity of thought in order to ensure the peaceful coexistence and the effective interaction.
- Organizing conferences, intellectual seminars and panel discussions.
- Supporting the promising young researchers.

“

## Research Interests



The research interests of the center vary on the basis of its objectives and departments; it carries out independent and rigorous analysis of multiple regional, international and Arab countries-specific issues. It is organized as the following:





## Research and Studies

The Center contributes to publishing studies and research papers through various publishing media:

- Political Studies.
- Specialized studies on intellectual trends and spectra.
- Studies related to civilization and development.
- Studies related to Islamic thought.

The Center seeks to provide consultations and solutions in its areas of specialization and interests to the governmental and non-governmental institutions by measuring the public opinion towards the intellectual issues, the political and social events and the cultural affairs. All this is carried out by skilled specialized team of researchers.

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page featuring overlapping rounded shapes in shades of blue and grey. The text "Consultations and Measuring Public Opinion" is written in a bold, brown font, slanted upwards, and positioned over the shapes.

**Consultations and  
Measuring Public Opinion**



## **Publishing**

The Center contributes to publishing studies and researches through various publishing media.



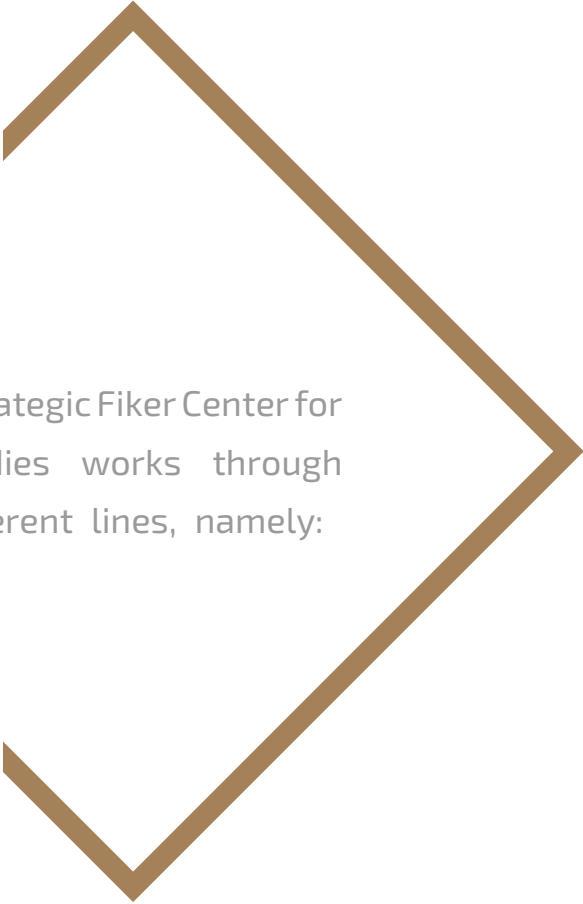
## **Center's Values**

- Impartiality, objectivity, application of scientific methodologies and academic integrity.
- Embracing transparency, openness and goodwill in dealing.
- Contacting and adopting the principle of dialogue.
- Seeking to achieve excellence through professionalism, creativity and innovation.
- Expanding gradually concerning the Center's areas of work and activities, as well as giving due care to specialization.



## Work Lines

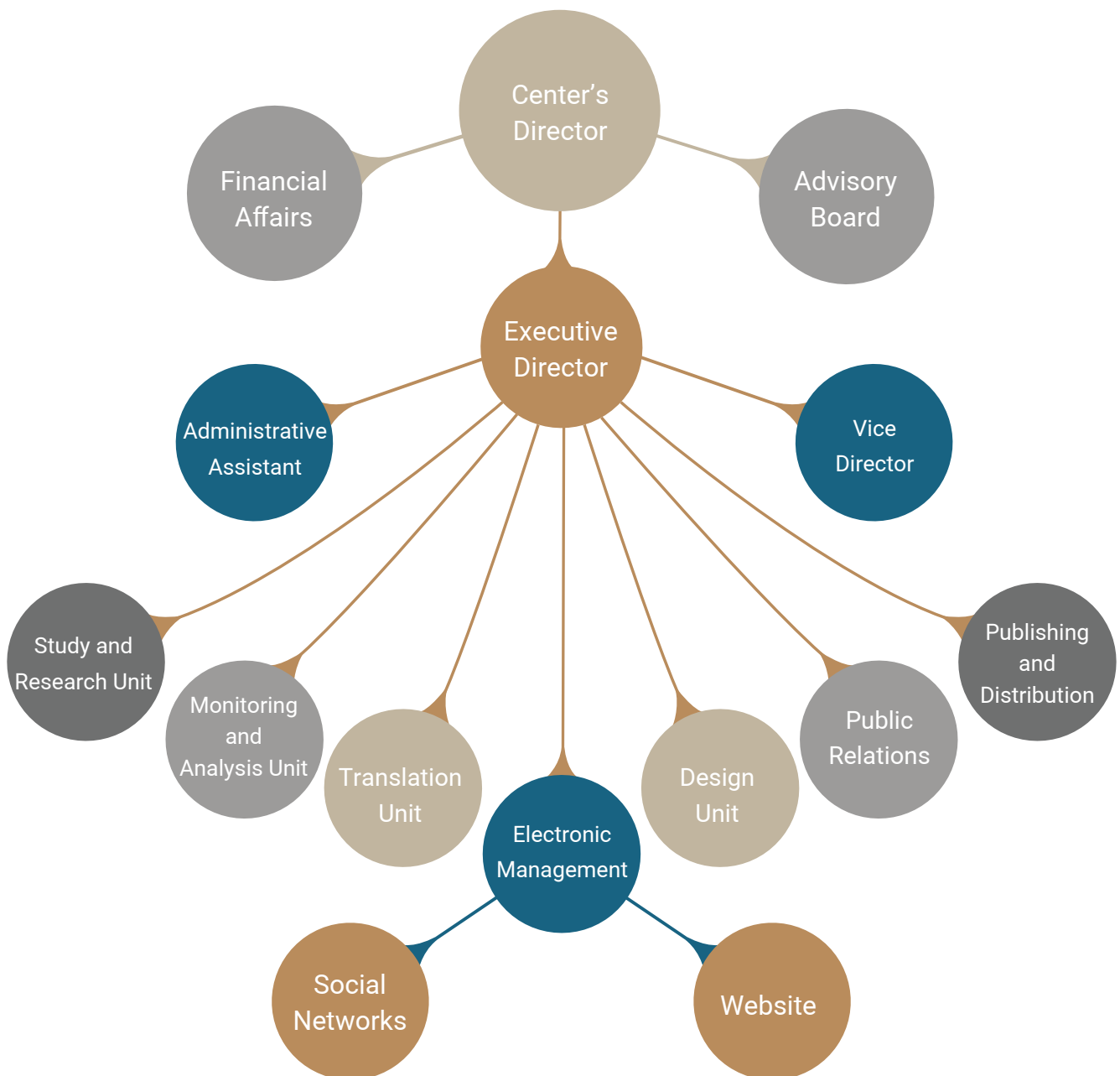




Strategic Fiker Center for  
Studies works through  
different lines, namely:

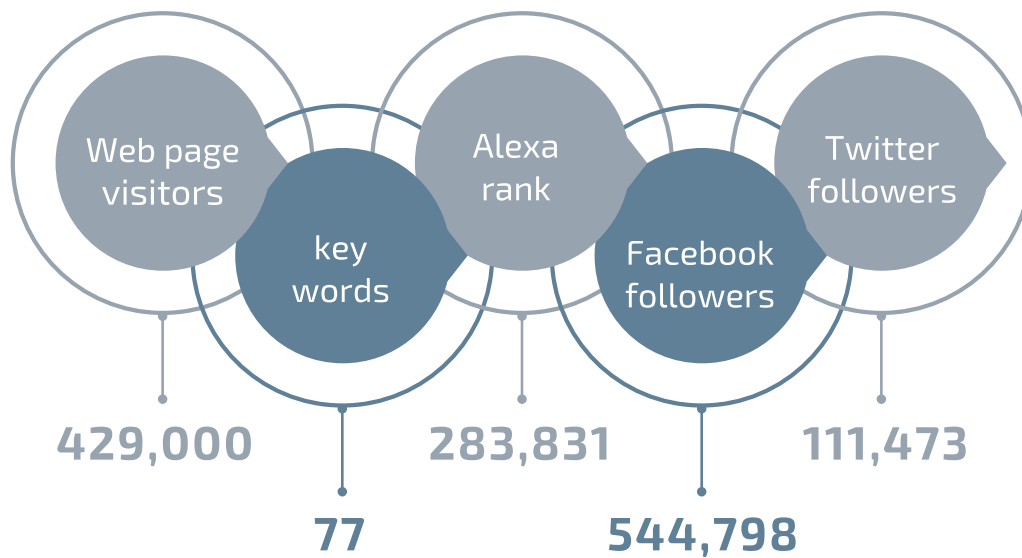
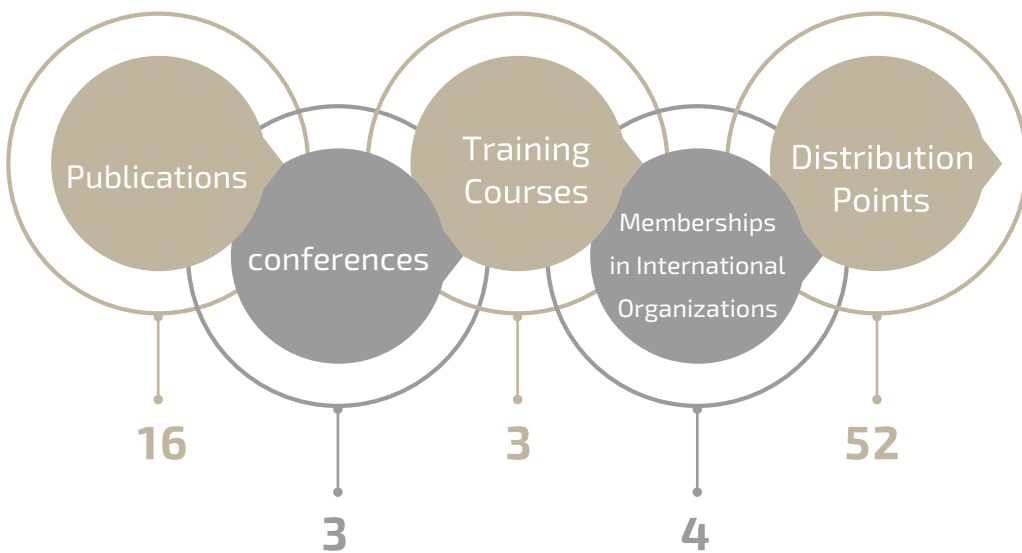
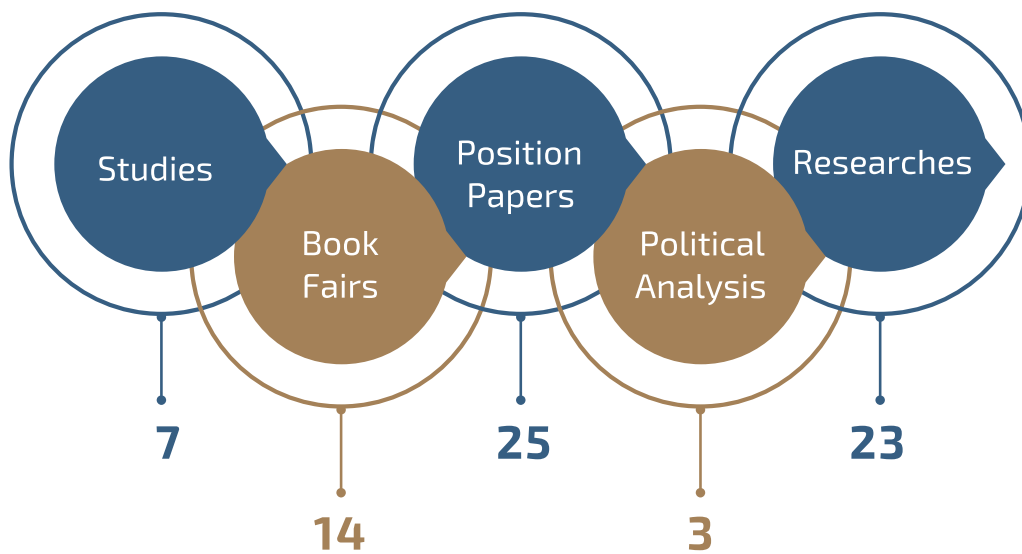


# Administrative Structure



# 2020 Work and Achievements







## Publications

The Strategic Fiker Center for Studies has published many research studies during the year 2020, The topics were chosen with great care; keen to add value and to meet a cognitive-scientific need in those thorny areas, given this the research team encountered many difficulties during the research phase, but with the testimony of the Scientific Arbitration Committees - specific additions were made.

The center succeeded in supplying the library with new materials rich in its topics and accurate in its methodology, and this has been proven through increased demand for publications of the Center, and the interaction of the visitors during the participations in the book exhibitions in 2020.

## Economic developments in Saudi Arabia

➤ This review deals with developments of the economic situation in Saudi Arabia, particularly in recent years, and the impact of this socially and culturally, and on the Saudi citizen. It also addressed the steps taken by the Saudi government towards economic diversification and on relying on other sources of income besides oil. These include investment in the manufacturing industry, retail trade, the communications and information technology sector, the construction sector, as well as others.

The study employed an extensive analysis of the magnitude of the decisions taken by Saudi Arabia to facilitate local and foreign investment, restructuring some administrative institutions; as well as decisions related to fiscal and financial policy. The study looked at the steps taken by the government to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of human resources in the Kingdom, with a vision to integrate them widely into the Saudi market, which is witnessing developments day by day.





## Coronavirus crisis

➤ This review provided an in-depth comprehensive reading of the implications of the coronavirus crisis and its outlook. It dealt with the role of societal, partisan and government actors in addressing the crisis; the methods of dealing with the crisis, extrapolating the implications of that on governance structures, in addition to deducing intellectual approaches and political and media discourse about the coronavirus. The study touched on China's diplomatic economy, before and after the crisis, and China's investment in its technological progress. It also provided a historical reading of the interaction policies of US decision-makers with the various major international crises / variables, concluding with the expected scenarios for the coronavirus crisis.

## Turkish Conservatives

➤ This review discussed the historical roots of the conflict between religiosity and Westernisation in Turkey and the approaches and tools of the conflict between the two currents; and addressed how Turkish society dealt with its various political, social and cultural components, its relationship to religiosity, and the reasons behind this. It examined popular religious entities, including groups, parties and institutions, including endowments amongst others, and their role in the religiosity of society, as well as their handling of the state and its role in the religiosity of society. After delving into the study of official institutions concerned with Islamic values in society, such as the Directorate of Religious Affairs, the Religious Endowment and others, as well as the relevant laws, the study concluded with an assessment of the future of the conservative trend in Turkey.





## Schools of imams and preachers

➤ The study dealt with the administrative, educational and financial system of the schools of imams and preachers, with an explanation of the intellectual and theoretical dimensions found in these schools. It further monitored the internal and external influences of these schools in Turkey, and their relationship to the formation of a philosophical intellectual view outside the scope of general Turkish society. The study illustrated the reciprocal relationship between Turkish society and the schools of imams and preachers, and the possibility of benefiting from experiences outside Turkey.

## Arab Gulf States;

Rises in global indices 2019 - 2020

➤ This review examines the Arab Gulf states in the most prominent global indicators for the year 2020-2019 by reviewing more than ten global indicators that are credible, objective and methodically accurate. The most prominent of these indices are the Bertelsmann Index, the Human Development Report, the Prosperity Index of the Legatum Foundation, the Global Innovation Index, as well as other 2019 indicators. To become acquainted with the various dimensions of the research topic, the author utilised the various mechanisms of information gathering and analyses employed by international institutions, which in turn contain high levels of global knowledge and financial hegemony. Moreover, the study sought to present the factors and policies that enabled most Gulf countries to be ranked first in the world, as well as extrapolate the challenges and obstacles therein. The study defined the conditions and criteria for evaluation in the various indicators of the selected country that are acknowledged confidently by decision-makers, research centres and world media. General conclusions were extrapolated on the position of the Gulf states in seven major areas (e.g., governance, transparency, economy), and manifestations of a qualitative shift were revealed and presented statistically, in addition to an overall and comparative presentation between the various Arab Gulf states.





## Bertelsmann Transformation Index

➤ The Bertelsmann Transformation Index atlas, which was translated into Arabic by the Strategic Fiker Center for Studies, deals with the transformation of strategies adopted by governments for governance, through a research methodology based on the collection of quantitative and qualitative data, and re-analysing them according to their historical development. The Bertelsmann Institute monitored data on transformation indicators in 129 countries from all continents in 2020, and the Strategic Fiker Center for Studies translated the country reports of the six Gulf countries.

## The art of judgment;

Refinement of Imam Mawardi Al-Shafi's book

'Tashil al-nazar wa-ta'jil al-zafar'

➤ The book Tashil al-nazar wa-ta'jil al-zafar is an advanced-level complex text with sobriety. It is from the socio-political analytical works, which quickly reach the depths of political experience, leaving the reader admiring the realist ideas that are suitable for our time, as if the author was a senior expert in political work.

However, Imam Al-Mawardi (1058-972) wrote it for his era, and therefore, some methodological defects can be identified. From extensive unnecessary extrapolations and long quotes and examples that the author employed, a process of refinement of this deep text had to be undertaken according to a methodologically balanced and succinct method to make it approachable and accessible to all.

This was named 'The Art of Governance' so that this simple title may appeal to the reader, and its content can be directly understood, as intended by Al-Mawardi.





## Challenges in controlling natural gas reserves;

Map of the eastern Mediterranean conflict

This study discusses the changes related to the global natural gas market, as well as the political balances resulting from the conflict over the areas of natural gas production and transportation. It also discusses the ongoing conflict in the eastern Mediterranean basin due to the dispute over the areas of border demarcation, and international interventions by some major countries to impose their influence upon this important region.

Tunisia is one of the most stable countries in the Arab Spring since the January 2011 revolution. This relative stability allowed it to enter into a new dynamic and helped it in the transitional process. Even though the multiparty system in the country suffered from a major bottleneck before the revolution, the political arena changed afterwards, and the restrictions on party pluralism have been lifted.

This review deals with the most prominent intellectual, political and sectarian trends in Tunisia, especially those that are active and have had a parliamentary presence since the revolution. In order to approach these components and reorganise them according to the relevant ideology, the study divided them according to the broad currents: leftist, nationalist, liberal and Islamic.



## **Intellectual and political trends in Tunisia and the challenge of democratic transition**





## Military bases in the Middle East;

Military role and the intertwining of interests

This study examines the issue of military bases in the Middle East region in general, and the Arab region in particular; what their roles and functions are; how they were differentiated and established within the political changes the region witnessed; what is the map of military presence of the various competing forces; and what are the competing forces.

When populations are afflicted by the grip of oppression and poverty, and dominated by tyranny and corruption, they begin to search for new means to avoid what can be avoided, and often the primary desire is within the framework of the ruling system itself, hoping to reform it from within. Such populations configure their demands in the form of press releases, comments and statements of opposition. It may escalate to the level of rallies, workers' strikes or collective resignations, and then develop into protests with demands, that may transcend further into fill-blown revolutions.

This study is limited to analysing protests that took place in 2019, and the end of 2018, that had legitimate demands and wanted to cause a change in the structure of the existing Arab regimes, namely the protests that took place in Sudan, Algeria, Iraq and Lebanon.



## Arab protests;

Between popular resolve and challenges  
of this stage





## IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation;

Foundation and  
experience 2020-1992

This study aims to provide a reading of IHH's experience, its evaluation, and contribute to developing the work of civil society organisations. It does this by focusing on institutional values and the necessity of merging between emergency relief projects and sustainable projects, whose outputs can provide innovative solutions to the problems faced by their societies.

In its three chapters, this study discusses the nature of conflicts in the southern and eastern governorates of the Republic of Yemen.

The first topic, following the introduction, deals with a map of the local actors, in terms of the geographical presence of the active forces, their political objectives, their strengths and weaknesses, and their external links.

The second topic, the essence of study, focuses on regional and international actors in the Yemeni arena, especially in the south and east of Yemen, where the study examines the objectives of those regional and international powers, what the appeal is for them, as well as the magnitude of their capabilities and quality of their tools in implementing their policies, achieving their interests and enhancing their influence. Furthermore, the study addresses the implications for the nature and level of the powers' relationship with local parties, the effectiveness of their influence on interactions, and their role in ongoing conflicts.

In the third topic, the study seeks to foresee the future.



## **South and East Yemen;**

A geography disputed by regional powers





## Future energy;

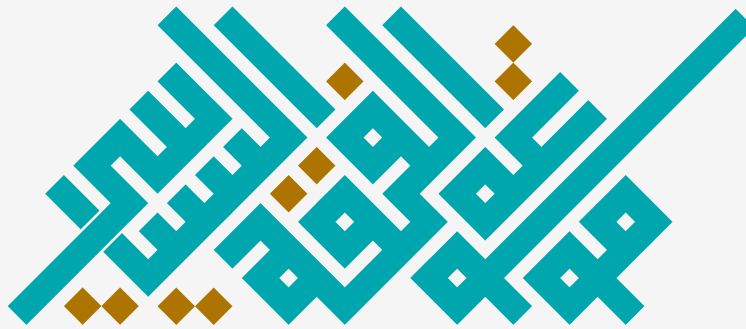
Business leaders in Saudi Arabia

This study monitors the development of the concept of entrepreneurship, analysing the reality of this field in Saudi Arabia, and discussing the most important challenges facing entrepreneurs. The importance of this study stems from the fact that it addresses an important development and economic dimension in light of the economic and social transformations in the Kingdom, especially with the first steps in promoting a culture of reducing the Saudi citizen's dependence on the state and living as a consumer, and moving to the idea of living as a productive citizen to increase sources of national income.



## Encyclopaedia of Islamic political jurisprudence

The Fiker Center launched the Encyclopaedia of Islamic Political Jurisprudence project. This project aims to have a contribution in modernising Islamic political heritage, broadening horizons for its development and linking it to contemporary generations and modern-day issues. This is in the endeavour to integrate Islamic political thought into political thought and philosophy, drawing attention to what the Islamic intellect produced in previous eras and the possibility of benefiting from it today. The project is supervised by a group of prominent scholars and thinkers.

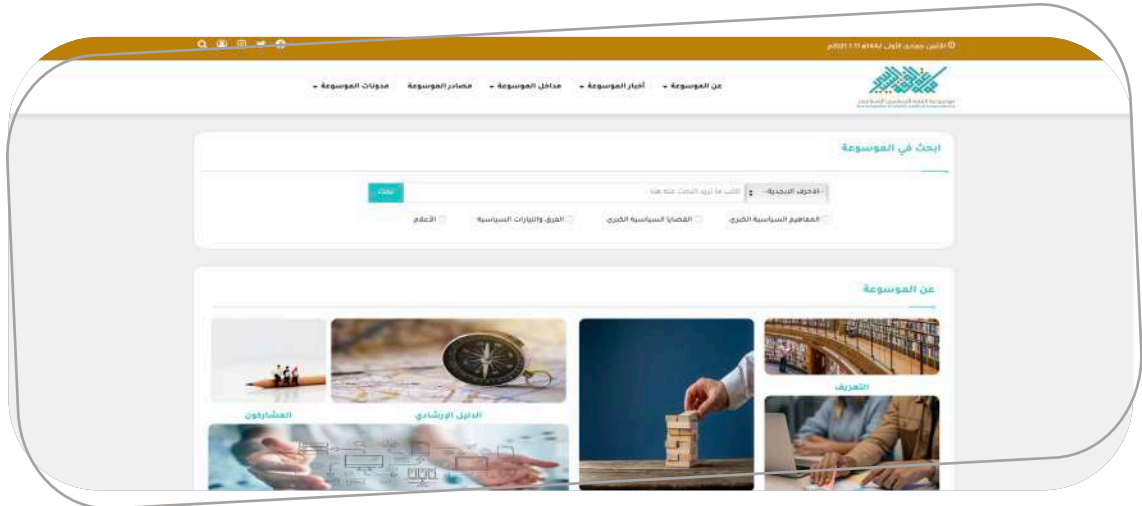


موسوعة الفقه السياسي الإسلامي  
Encyclopedia of Islamic political jurisprudence

## ▶ The first meeting to discuss the encyclopedia project



## ▶ Encyclopedia website





## Political Analyses

Strategic Fiker Center for Studies team managed to implement the procedures of the political papers included in the plan in the beginning of 2020. They are medium-sized research papers that deal with a certain topic or issue in a scientific way. These papers are considered a new and unique contribution to the field of knowledge that they examine. They include monitoring, analysis and expectation. They also conclude with providing the most important recommendations. In 2020, the Center issued eleven (14) political papers dealing with the following topics:

N	Title	Researcher
1	Intellectual and political trends in Tunisia and the challenge of democratic transition	Ali Jabali
2	Military bases in the Middle East; Military role and the intertwining of interests	Elham Al-Hadabi
3	IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation; Foundation and experience 2020-1992	Mutahir Al-Saffari
4	Future energy; Business leaders in Saudi Arabia	Ahmed Al-Sabbagh
5	Challenges in controlling natural gas reserves; Map of the eastern Mediterranean conflict	Ahmed Al-Sabbagh
6	A critical view of contemporary reality: A reading into the works of Noam Chomsky	Elham Al-Hadabi
7	The Palestinian Boycott Movement BDS; An analytical study of the civil movement model against the Israeli occupation	Siham Al Dreesi

N	Title	Researcher
8	Afghanistan's Taliban movement; The dilemma of war and prospects for peace	Ali Jabali
9	Macron and Islam in France	Salsabil Fou'ad
10	Public opinion polls post2011-; How do common Western and Arab mindsets represent the reality of the Arab region and its issues	Siham Al Dreesi
11	The Wagner Group and Russia; The syndrome of denial and employment	Mutahir Al-Saffari
12	Sultanate of Oman in the era of two sultans	Mutahir Al-Saffari
13	Slavoj Žižek, a rebellious philosopher	Ahmed Al-Sabbagh
14	Arab Gulf States; Rises in global indices, - 2019 2020	Siham Al Dreesi



## Position Papers

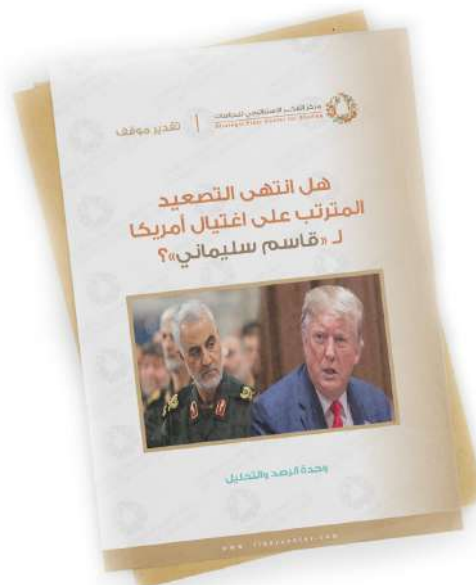
Through the position papers, the Center deals with the accelerated files and events in the Arab world and its surroundings in a dynamic way that keeps pace with the speed and size of the geopolitical changes and the internal conflicts. A position paper is considered a research paper that deals with an emergent event or an emerging phenomenon by monitoring its actors, analyzing its motives and In 2020, the Center issued twenty-five (25) position papers, with an average of two papers a month.



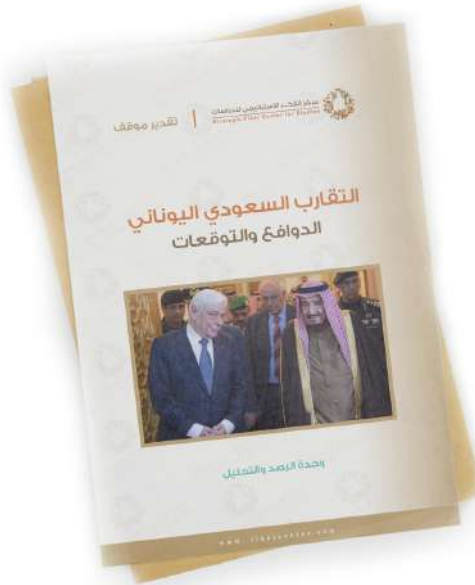
**Tunisia;** Will Elyes Fakhfakh succeed in forming a government and winning the confidence of Parliament?



**Has the escalation resulting from the US assassination of Qassem Soleimani ended?**



## The recent Saudi-Greek rapprochement; motives and expectations



## Saudi Arabia and China; the limits and prospects of partnership





## The future of the Turkish-Russian agreement in Idlib



## The effect of Coronavirus on the economic competition between China and the US



## Covid-19 pandemic; Prevalence and implications



## The effect of falling oil prices on top oil-producing countries





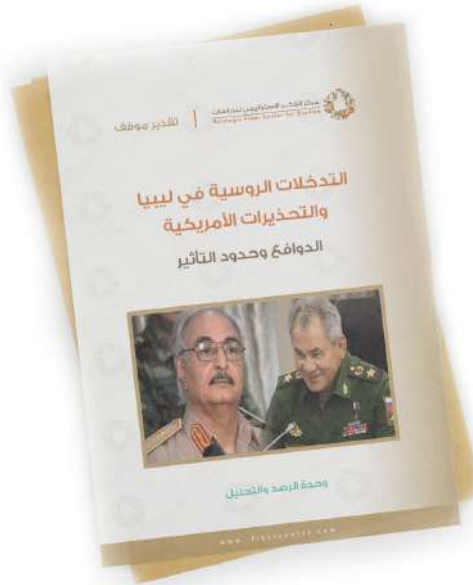
## Where will the Libyan scene head following the end of the Skhirat agreement?



## Political developments in Yemen after the Transitional council announced self-administration in Aden; Motivation and prospects



## Russian interventions in Libya and US threats; motives and limitations of influence



## US protests and the impact on President Trump

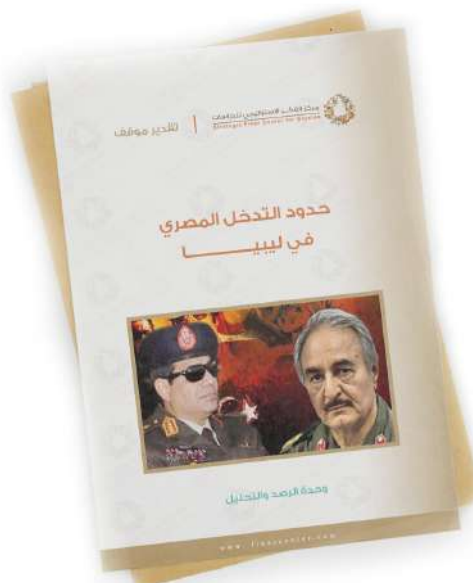




## Iran's bombings; Motives and prospects



## The limits of Egypt's intervention in Libya



## Beirut explosion and its repercussions on Lebanon



## Mali events; Motives and expectations





## Scopes and consequences of the Turkish-Greek dispute



## French advances in the region; Motives and dimensions



## Dimensions of the Azerbaijani-Armenian conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region



## Impact of US election results on the Arab region and its neighbourhood





## A reflection of Biden's victory on the Gulf



## The future of normalisation with Israel under Joe Biden



## The future of Iran in the Arab region under Biden



## Gulf reconciliation and its implications for the region





## The outbreak of the new Covid strain and its effect on the Gulf economy



## Geographical Distribution of Issues Addressed by the Center in 2020



- LIBYA
- TURKEY
- SAUDI ARABIA
- IRAQ
- YEMEN
- MALI
- IRAN
- RUSSIA
- UAE
- GULF
- TUNISIA
- USA
- CHINA
- FRANCE
- GREECE
- AZERBAIJAN
- ARMENIA
- EGYPT
- LEBANON



## Website

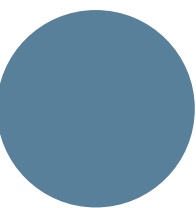
The Center's website is designed to suit the expansion of its work and cope with the modern specifications of websites in terms of speed of browsing, upgrading the protection and security, the rapid response to browsing and the updates related to technological development. The website has achieved a %150 increase in terms of visits compared to last year. The Center has also achieved progress concerning the search engines and it appears on The first page of the Google search engine through more than 80 keywords. The website enables its visitors to access to the Center's latest news, activities and publications, as well as research papers such as researches, political papers and position papers. The Center's website is one of the most useful websites of the Arab research centers. It enables its visitors to download researches, political papers and position papers for free in order to expand the circle of beneficiaries.



## Social Media

The Center runs two pages on Twitter and Facebook that post its publications for followers. The two pages contact them and answer their questions and inquiries daily through tweets ranging from 15 to 20 per day.

The Center's pages on the social media have made significant progress. The number of **Facebook** followers has increased from 370,000, at the end of 2019, to more than 544,000. The number of **Twitter** followers has increased from 70,000 to more than 111,000. Also, **Telegram** to 3,466 and **Instagram** to 968.



## Conferences





**The Fiker Center participated in its fourth annual conference under the title: 'Governance and political power in the Islamic world'**

The Fiker Center for Strategic Studies, represented by the researcher Ali Jabali, participated in the fourth annual conference organised by the Center for Islam and Global Affairs (CIGA) in Istanbul, from 12 to 18 December 2020, under the title: 'Governance and Political Power in the Islamic World; Discussing theories and policy analysis'.

At the conference, the researcher presented his paper, titled: 'The party process and its role in democratic transition: Tunisia as a model'. This paper dealt with the Tunisian political scene, and the most important intellectual currents and political parties there, with an outlook for the future of Tunisian democratic transformation.



## **The Fiker Center for Strategic Studies participated in managing the annual summit of research centres in the Middle East**

The Fiker Center for Strategic Studies participated in organising the annual summit of research centres in the Middle East and North Africa, which was held by the Pennsylvania Global Go To Think Tank, under the title: 'Methods and implications for confronting the new coronavirus'.

The director of the Center, Mr AbdulKarim Al-Hobeishi, and his deputy, Mr Adnan Al-Deraei, participated in the summit. The Center presented a research paper titled: 'Factors for achieving resurgence in the Arab region after Covid19-', presented by the Center's researcher, Siham Al-Dreesi.

## Other activities

- The Future of the UN, Policy Advice and Think Tanks: Shaping Our Future Together
- Participation in a conference on Covid-19
- H.R. McMaster on US Foreign Policy Lessons and Priorities
- Trade-Offs in the Global Economy
- COVID-19 A Wake Up Call for the West
- Forum Catalyzing global leadership to contain the impact of Covid-19
- Democracy and Authoritarianism in America Covid 19, organized by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Global Democracy Foundation, October 28
- the 2020 Global Leadership Awards
- the Europe Think Tank Digital Summit taking place
- Election 2020: Results and implications
- How the 2020 Election will Shape US Global Engagement
- Enabling the 21st Century Operator
- Anti-Apartheid, the Arab Spring, and the Path Forward.
- Election 2020: Implications for US foreign policy
- Virtual 2020 North America Think Tank Summit
- Pay, protections, and policies frontline essential workers still need
- Crisis in Ethiopia and its regional repercussions
- Virtual MENA Summit Planning Committee Members
- France and Islam: Identity, Politics, and Geopolitics



## Book Fairs

Strategic Fiker Center for Studies is always keen on participating in the international book fairs to contribute to raising awareness in the Arab societies. This participation represents the Center's vision aiming to communicate directly with its followers in different countries. In 2020, the Center participated in three international book fairs, namely:

Book Fair	Starting Date	Ending Date
Doha International Book Fair	09/01/2020	18/01/2020
Muscat International Book Fair	22/02/2020	03/03/2020
Sharjah International Book Fair	04/11/2020	14/11/2020



## E-Book

In response to the transformative effect of the Corona pandemic, an e-book project was approved for the centre's publications. The project was initiated to convert all publications into an EBUP format. The first phase ended, and the completed books have now been published in the following stores:

- Jarir Reader
- kobo
- Google Bookstore
- Neel wa Furat
- Amazon



## Points of Sale

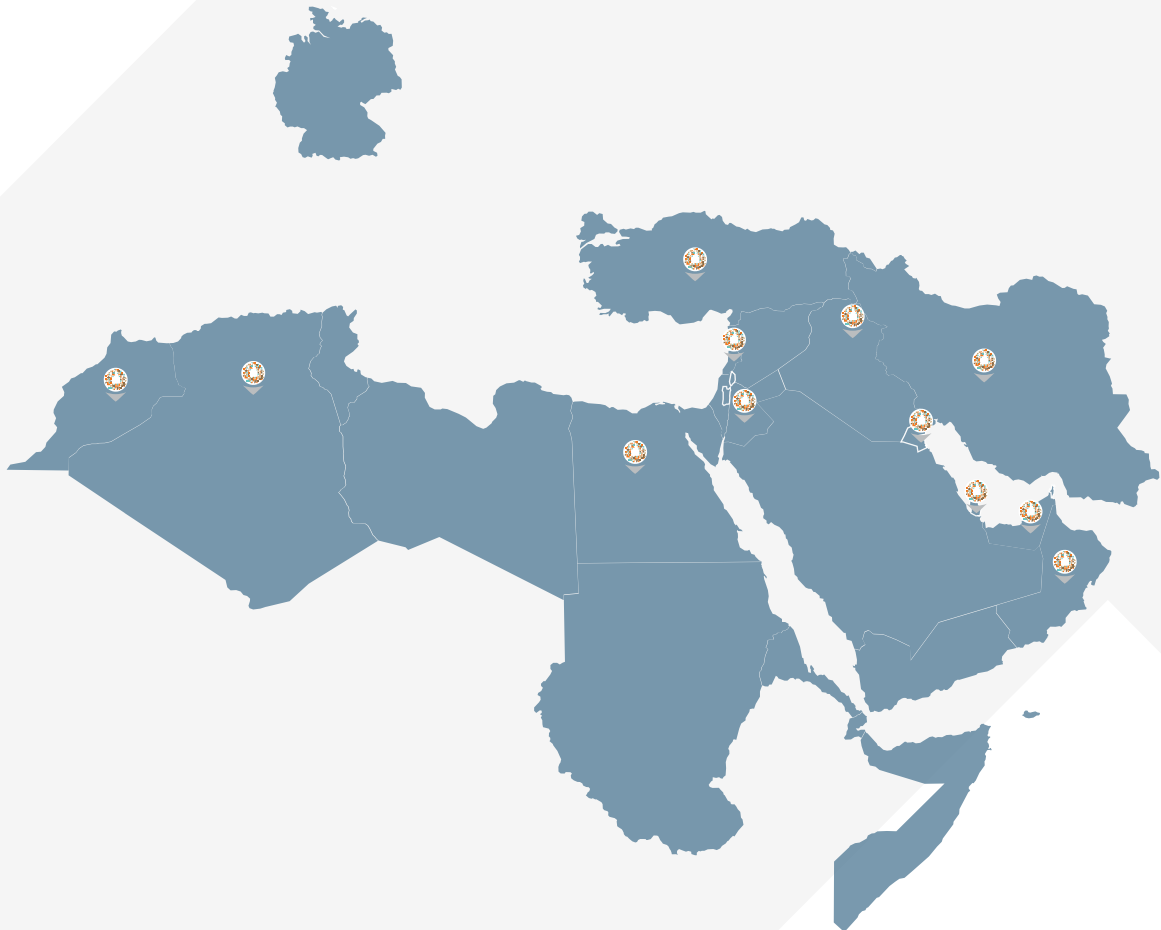
This year has witnessed an expansion at the level of points of sale and distribution of the Center's publications. During this year, 52 points of sale have been created and they are located in 14 countries. They are as follows:

Country	agent
Kuwait	Aafaq
	That ALSalasil
	imamzahby
	dariqraa
	dar almaane
United Arab Emirates	Emirates Publishing Company
	University Bookshop
	Dar alhikma'a
	Dar AlHekma Bookshop
Qatar	Dar althaqafa
	Kalemat
Sultanate of Oman	Al Ghasham
	Rawazin
	alwaraqoman
	al hidayah
	Lotusbookshop
	aldhamri
Jordan	Darkonoz almarefa
Morocco	Dar alamane
Egypt	Daralkalema
	alnobi
	Daralmaref
	Alrwad nashroon
Lebanon	dartaibadams
	Daralmahaja
	Dara Zain ALHUKUKIA
	aliman

Country		agent
Turkey	Istanbul	DARUL HAYR
		totilarabic
		usuller yayinevi
		dar albeirut
		Pages Bookstore
		Şami yayinvi
	Gaziantep	dar elasil
		print plus
	Rihaniyya	masall kl tapevl
Iraq - Erbil		Tafseer
		Dar adnan
Syria		rslan
Iran		Oz Library
Germany		Human Rights Educational Center
Algeria		dar alfiker
Websites		warqat
		jamalon
		faylasof
		almanhal
		neelwfurat
		jarirreader
		kindle amazon
		kobo
		google book
		goodreads
		kutup library
		booksitee
		safhat
		safahat publishers
		Bookde



## Points of Sale Map





## List of international organizations that the Center has renewed joining in 2020





## Training and Evaluation

In order to improve the performance and achieve the required quality, a number of specialized academics evaluated the Center's work for 2020. After completing the evaluation, a seminar was held with the researchers to discuss the observations. Training courses were also held for the Center's researchers, either through private training courses or in participation with other bodies. These training courses include the following:



➤ Methodologies of thinking and research



➤ Research writing and methodological writing



## Training courses

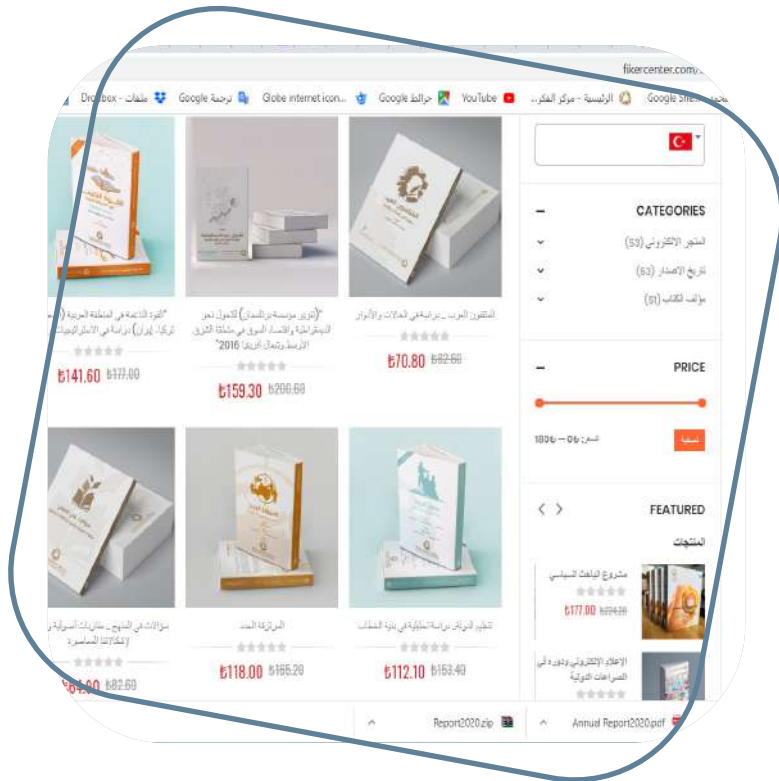


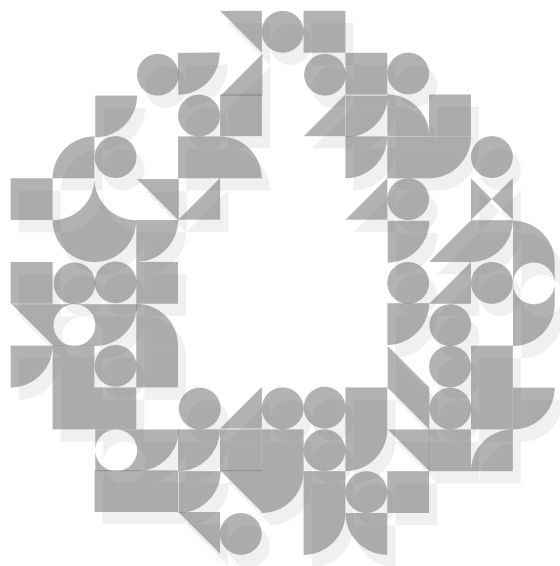
- Methodologies of thinking and research.
- Introductions to methodologies and thought.
- Introduction to the objectives method and methodology of thought within the Islamic framework.
- Research writing and methodological writing.
- Book presenting skills.
- Proofreading.



## Online store

During the year 2020, the Center's electronic store was launched to make it easy for those interested in obtaining the Center's publications by purchasing through the store directly online from anywhere in the world.







مركز الفكر الاستراتيجي للدراسات  
**Strategic Fiker Center for Studies**

+90 536 777 07 76  
+90 212 270 77 79  
Beşiktaş-Istanbul

info@fikercenter.com  
publish@fikercenter.com  
www.fikercenter.com

   fikercenter

