مركز الفكـر
الاستراتيجي
للــدراســات

ANNUAL
REPORT

2019

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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.
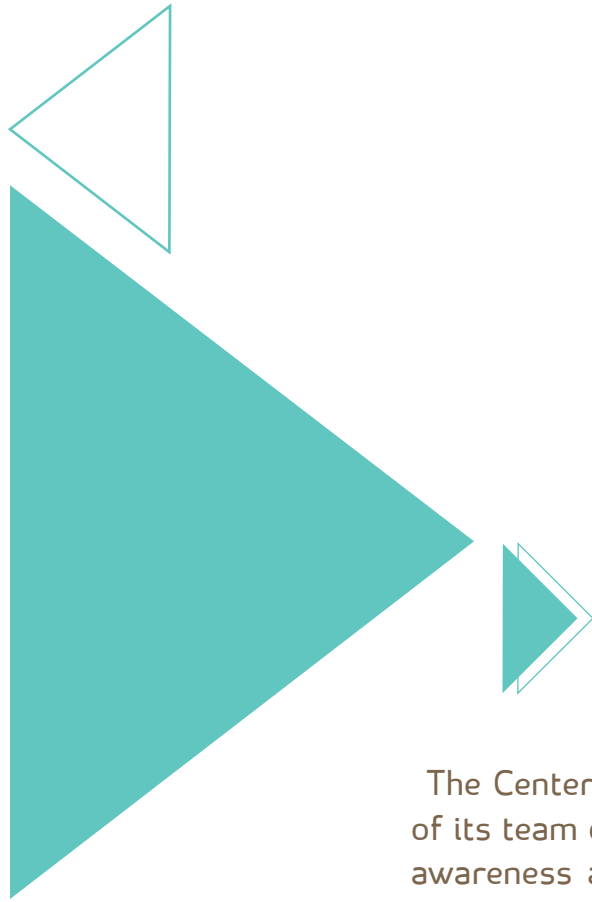
Vision

 The Center's vision stems from the realiza[tion] 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

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.

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Areas of Interest

The center's areas of work vary based on the variety of its objectives, divisions, activities, programs and fields, including:

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.

Consultations and Measuring Public Opinion

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.

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.
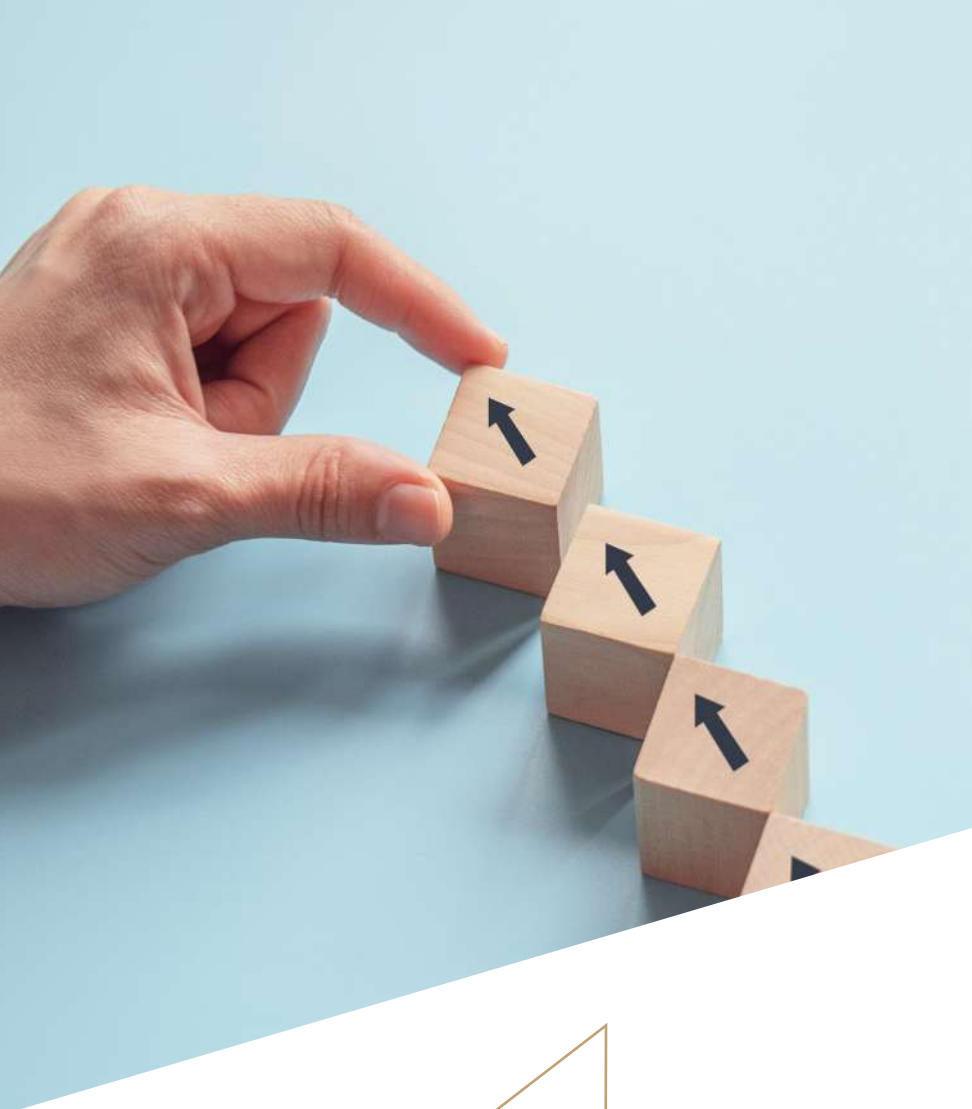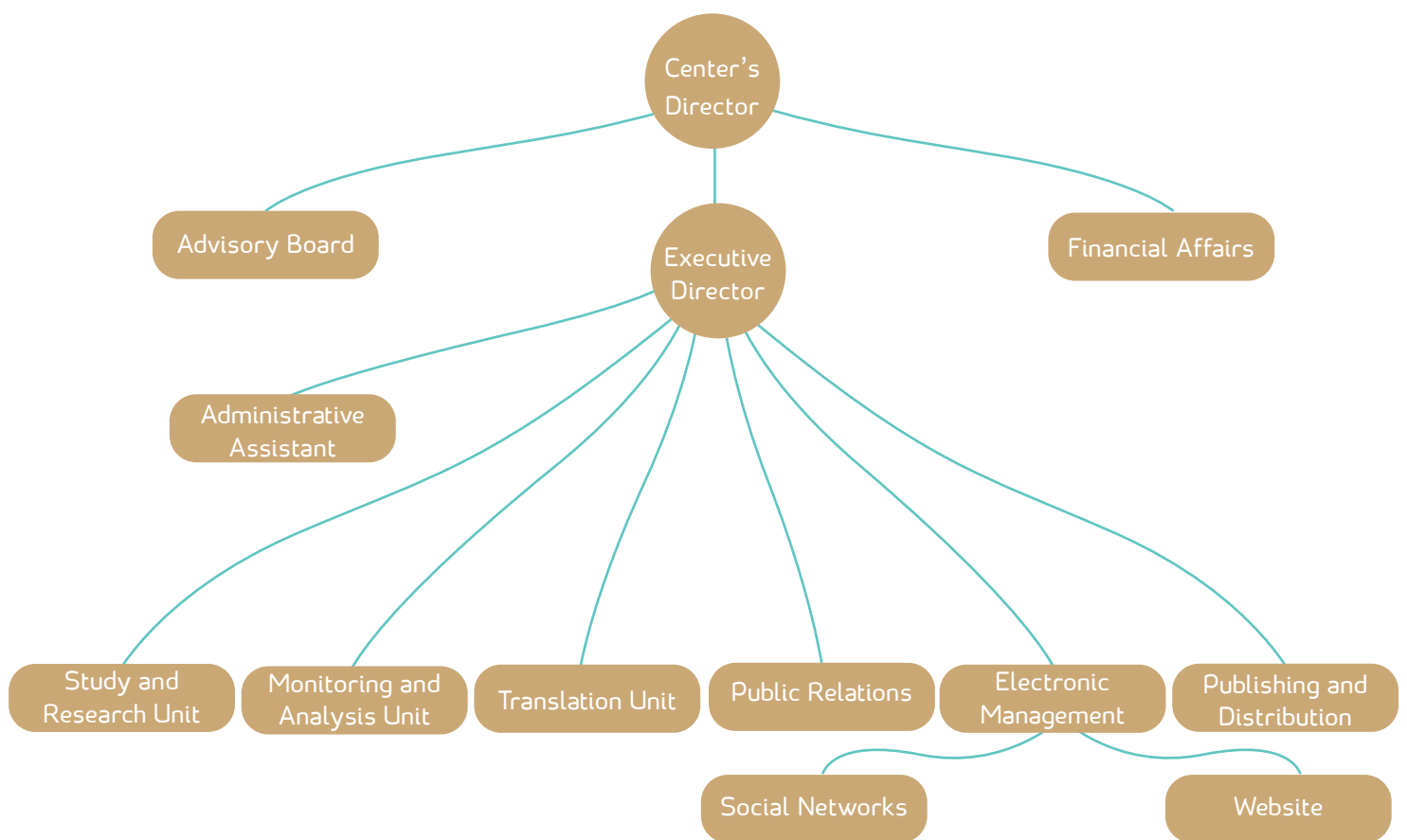
Work Lines

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

Studies	Researches	Political Analysis	Position Papers
01	02	03	04

Website	Social Media	Participation in Book Fairs	Publishing and Distribution

Partnerships and Memorandums of Understanding	Memberships in International Organizations	Public Relations	Evaluation and Training

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Administrative Structure

Center's Director

Advisory Board

Executive Director

Financial Affairs

Administrative Assistant

Study and Research Unit

Monitoring and Analysis Unit

Translation Unit

Public Relations

Electronic Management

Publishing and Distribution

Social Networks

Website

Work and Achievements 2019

6	Studies
12	Political Analysis
25	Position Papers
4	Researches
14	Translations

18	Publications
4	Book Fairs
3	Training Courses
37	Distribution Points
4	Partnerships and Memorandums of Understanding

336,000	Web page visitors
76	key words
86,000	Alexa rank
369590	Facebook followers
70717	Twitter followers

Publications

The Strategic Fiker Center for Studies has published many research studies during the year 2019, 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 2019.

Political Researcher Guidebook

The guidebook for politics Researcher is prepared by the Strategic Fiker Center for Studies in order to contribute to the culture of scientific research. It tends to provide a comprehensive reference which contains political research preparation techniques. Therefore, it is very useful for all researchers in the discipline of political sciences because it contains practical procedures and technical tools which are designed professionally. This guidebook consists of four main topics: methodology of preparing policy briefs, techniques of both the content analysis and discourse analysis, methodologies and techniques of writing research papers, and finally methodologies and techniques of political analysis. It is considered as the first guidebook not only in the field of political sciences, but also in the covering style of the content. It is written and edited by a number of professional political sciences academics.

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How Does the West think?
An Analytical Study in Western Research Centres

This study provides readings from within the Western research reality, i.e. the western experience of most of the variables related to the bulk of studies and publications, which reflect in its contents the new forms adopted by the international powers to adapt the research production to the mechanisms of soft power.

The study delves to other interconnected issues, such as: finance, the deep state, and political and ideological theories, the legitimization of Western hegemony over the Arab region, and other ‹hidden› agendas.

The study also seeks to provide the Arab audience (the reader / decision-maker / media ...) with a reading into the approaches of the internationally leading western research centres and their branches while analyzing the issues of the Arab region (the Arab Spring / Islamists / changing systems / democracy ...), through dismantling the objectives and backgrounds of these research centres and deciphering their agendas.

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The Religious Scene in Saudi Arabia … Starting points and Transformations

This study, prepared by Strategic Fiker Center for Studies, aims to provide a historical, conceptual and realistic approach to the religious scene in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, by explaining the religious importance of the Two Holy Mosques and the foundational religious roots of the Saudi State.

The study provides a reading of classic and contemporary approaches adopted by Wahhabism in relation to issues of management of political affairs and ruling, in addition to discussing the reality of Saudi religiosity and its characteristics, and clarifying the most important formal and informal actors of the religious scene in Saudi Arabia, and their relationship, in turn, with the Saudi system and society. The study looks into instance of interaction between the religious phenomenon and other forms of political, economic and cultural currents, in addition to the most prominent challenges facing religious exceptions in the Kingdom, whether those related to the political side, such as public and private freedoms and sectarian diversity, or related to the cultural aspect as a question of renewal, modernization and cultural interchangeability, or in relation to social issues, such as manifestations of fanaticism, sports fanaticism, the mentality of the tribe, and the situation of women, as well as to various external challenges.

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Arabs ... Self-Fragmentation

The study seeks to clarify the nature of the conflict, its backgrounds (intellectual, religious, political etc.), its forms, causes, and tools (internal and external), while presenting the major ongoing conflicts in the region.

The study discusses preventive approaches to avoid future waves of conflict, as well as the most important contexts governing the future of the conflict in the Arab region, especially with regard to the possible emergence of new factors that may contribute to the intensification of internal disputes in the Arab world.

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Political Parties and the Democratic Scene in Turkey (2002-2018)

The study proposes an explanation for the Turkish democratic process regarding obstacles which it faced during its course of construction, particularly the large number of military coups and the successive constitutional amendments. It provides a thorough analysis and introduces the different political actors in the Turkish society. Therefore, it discusses the foundation of these parties, their political perspectives and influential leaders. It simultaneously points out their weaknesses and strengths, reviewing with graphic evidences their electoral results during the different successive elections from 2002 till the early double (presidential/ parliamentary) elections of 2018. The study provides a kind of summary forecasting the future of political pluralism and the possible emergence of new parties and alliances after implementing the presidential system as a new state of transformation that could shift competition from the individual level of parties to the level of alliances among themselves.

25

Return of Mahathiria: Political Parties and Trends in Malaysia after Elections of 2018

The study argues for the need to rethink of the dynamics of the Malaysian political scene that conducted the 14th legislative general elections which took place on May 9, 2018. In particular, this election in Malaysia paved the way for the return of "Mahathir Mohammed" as the 'savior' and a decisive force for the general orientation of the electoral behavior. Given the factors that shaped the electoral outcome, this study proposes a further exploration of the main government approaches as historically occurred and projected by the party leaders in Malaysia over the past decades. The study of elections in Malaysia arguably seeks to illustrate the frameworks of the most prominent political parties and trends that influence the Malaysian political scene aftermath the elections of 2018. The focus is on a historical assessment of both of the party leaders and the quality of their leadership regarding the most important strengths and weaknesses.

The Experience of Shiite Rule in Iraq... Institutionalization and Militarization of Sectarianism

The study has a closer look on the experience of ruling of Shiite leaders in Iraq after 2003 by examining the focal points about the decision-making dynamics during 15 years of ruling. The study seeks to analyze the implications on the democratic transition, sectarian diversity and socio-economic problems. The aim of this study does not seek to evaluate the success or failure of the democratic transition in Iraq, but it aims to explore the political perspectives of Shiite leaders about ruling from 2003 till the election of 2018. In addition, this study confirms the link between the Iraq's Shiite experience of ruling and some other similar ruling powers as a new experience not only in the Iraqi context but also the Arab world. This predominant political situation reveals a multi-levels analysis of similar and different aspects with the Shiite political groups and militias ruling perspectives such as Hezbollah (Lebanon) and Houthis (Yemen).

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Scholarship Program in Saudi Arabia: Cultural and Scientific Impacts in the Saudi Society

This study provides an evaluation of the status and history of the scholarship program in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its impact on the sociocultural level as a result of sending the Saudi students abroad. The study reports an investigation into their contact with the academic, cultural and social reality which is completely different from the Saudi Arabian environment. The study aims to investigate the human resources size involving in the scholarship program. It considers the amount of the financial resources allocated for that program, arising from the effects, the shifts and reflection emerging from the labor market and the academic environment. There is also a specific focus on the involving obstacles facing the students abroad. This study is interested in identifying the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's relations and commitment with most countries that host these scholarship students.

Somalia ... between International Interventions and Internal Tensions

The study probed the problems associated with the crises that Somalia is suffering from nowadays, after more than 29 years since the outbreak of the civil war, which led to the disintegration of Somalia, and the collapse of the state due to various factors, including: the colonial legacy, the weakness of political leadership, politicization of the tribe, and conflicts on ruling the country and monopolizing wealth, in addition to the emergence of Islamic armed groups, which deepened the political crisis in Somalia.

The study focused on what can be referred to as the absence of a clear concept of the Somali state in the minds of Somalis, and discussed political, economic, social and security challenges facing the government of Somali President Farmajo, who has been confronting the repercussions of a broad crisis, which lasted for ٢٠ years and cast a shadow on the political and social scene of the countries of the Horn of Africa.

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Turkish Historical Drama: Analysis of the Contents and Foundations of Soft Power

This political study is designated to study the Turkish drama as one of the pillars of the soft power of the new Turkish Republic, which has strengthened its strategies and goals since the rule of the Justice and Development Party was established. Therefore, this paper adopted an analysis of the contents of the most prominent Turkish historical series, which are symbolic adjacent to the Ottoman past, with the aim of examining the similarities between its dramatic narratives, its historical facts and the political and social reality of Turkish society, in addition to discussing the extent of its influence on Turkish and Arab public opinion and its effectiveness in achieving the soft power policies.

This study has explored in depth the influence of the general political trend adopted by the leaders of the Turkish government to revive the Ottoman heritage, or what is known as the New Ottoman rule, in the narratives of historical drama, such as The Resurrection of Artgrel and Payitaht: Abdülhamid (The Last Emperor), with the symbolism embedded in both series about the rise of the Ottoman Caliphate and its demise.

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Saudis and Social Media... a World without Borders

Numerous studies have shown that Saudi Arabia ranks high among countries whose populations depend on the Internet, in addition to being the country with the largest number of tweets made by its nationals, and the same applies to YouTube.

This study has discussed the transformations that resulted from the widespread of Saudi bloggers, who joined social media platforms, specifically YouTube and Twitter, by utilizing the content analysis approach on the most famous and important accounts of Saudi bloggers on Twitter, as well as to famous YouTubers, in terms of their content, the most important issues they raise, and the type of followers they attract.

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The Red Sea: Will the Clash of Influence Turn into a Regional war?

The Red Sea region is witnessing a fierce competition, internationally and regionally, for the sake of securing a strategic position, at the economic and security levels, through the various agreements signed between regional powers and developing countries, situated on the banks of the region's sea, which represents an extension of an ongoing external interference in the geopolitical field of the region through its ancient and modern history.

The military build-up of the various international and regional powers on the banks of the Red Sea reflects its strategic importance, and while some international powers are present in the region to protect their strategic and economic interests, others are there to seize opportunities.

The study attempted to dissect the map of international competition and regional alliances and its dimensions, in light of the changes and turmoil taking place in the Red Sea countries, as well as the impact of this unrest on the security of those countries in particular, and on the security of the Red Sea region in general.

Parties and Political Practice in Indonesia

The study has monitored the features of the pluralist party system in Indonesia, while examining the traits of the political system since the fall of Suharto, the situation of party pluralism in the larger Islamic country, and the characteristics of inter-party relations between political parties and internally, as well as the contribution of each party in defining the general frameworks of the Indonesian political system.

The Aspirations of the Syrian Kurds … and Turkey's Pivotal Role

The study dealt with the emergence of the Syrian Kurds following the developments brought about by the protests against Bashar al-Assad regime since 2011. Accordingly, the study has shed light, first, on the general background of the Kurdish areas of Kurdish existence and history, and introduced the Kurdish political forces and armed factions, in addition to the most prominent actors among them (i.e. their strengths and weaknesses, and their relations with the Kurds in Turkey).

Afterwards, the study has examined the political demands of the Syrian Kurds, and the positions of the Syrian regime and the opposition vis à vis these demands, while demonstrating the impact of the rise of the Kurds in Syria on the interests of regional and international powers, their policies in the region, and their inter-relations. From another angle, the study has also examined how the international alliance led by the United States in its war on ISIS had empowered the Kurdish factions to control and manage the northeast regions of Syria, while providing them with a political cover.

The study has focused on the Turkish role in backing the aspirations of the Syrian Kurds, for many considerations, perhaps the most prominent of which is the nature of the interrelation between the Kurdish factions controlling northern Syria, and the Kurdistan Workers› Party (PKK), listed as a terrorist organization, which seeks to separate the regions of eastern Turkey and establish a Kurdish State.

The study was concluded with an attempt to explore the future of the Syrian Kurds project, and the extent of the Turkish influence on it.

Kuwaiti Democracy ... the Limits of Political Participation and Gain Possibilities

Kuwaiti democracy is referred to as an exception in the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council states, in terms of precedence, singularity and effectiveness, in a society which constitutes a mosaic of political, sectarian, and social ideological diversity despite its limited population. The ability of the different components of the Kuwaiti society to coexist until now has been described as admirable, as social groups in Kuwait have managed to spare the country sectarian conflicts and limit its regional repercussions, despite the intensity of turmoil taking place in the region, and the attempts made by the parties to the conflict to drag Kuwait into the war. Despite some reservations, the Kuwaiti experience represents a positive reflection of the country's political system and democracy and the ability to organize competition and peaceful rivalry between the different components.

The study is aimed to introduce the Kuwaiti democratic experience, reviewing its elements and political forces, explaining and evaluating the limits of political participation, including checks and balances, and presenting recommendations, which can be positively reflected on the management of public affairs by the Kuwaiti authorities and elites (either among the ruling party or in the opposition), and the rationalization of political practice, as a contribution to the process of developing and benefiting from the country's experience.

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The Algerian Party Experience, from Independence to the Overthrow of Bouteflika

The study discussed the party's action map in Algeria from independence until the recent revolution, and presented the determinants of the political process since the country's independence from the French colonizer. The study also examined the constitutional amendments, which regulated the partisan scene in Algeria, the most important Algerian political parties, their vision, political programs, and their leaders, who were in the spotlight of the political scene before the recent developments imposed by the last popular uprising, which broke out in February of 2019.

The Tribe and Society: A Reading in the Roles and Influences of the Contemporary Saudi Tribe

The tribes are one of the most important and largest social components within the Saudi society, undertaking major roles in more than one field. This study is designated to re-read this topic through four main axes; the first of which is to introduce the tribe in general and the Saudi tribe in particular, followed by the second axis which will revolve around studying the relationship between the Saudi tribe and society, including the positive or negative impact. The third axis will shed light on the most famous tribes and their strengths and weaknesses, through the activities each tribe exerts, and their ties to the Saudi social milieu, while the fourth axis will discuss the future of the tribe in Saudi Arabia in light of new changes.

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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 2019. 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 2019, the Center issued eleven (12) political papers dealing with the following topics:

N	Material	Researcher
1	Parties and Political Practice in Indonesia	Ahmed Al-Sabbagh
2	The Tribe and Society: A Reading in the Roles and Influences of the Contemporary Saudi Tribe	Ali Jabali
3	The Aspirations of the Syrian Kurds ... and Turkey's Pivotal Role	Mutahir Al-Saffari
4	Saudis and Social Media... a World without Borders	Ahmed Al-Sabbagh
5	Somalia ... between International Interventions and Internal Tensions	Ahmed Al-Sabbagh
6	Turkish Historical Drama: Analysis of the Contents and Foundations of Soft Power	Siham Al Dreesi

N	Material	Researcher
7	The Red Sea: Will the Clash of Influence Turn into a Regional war?	Elham Al-Hadabi
8	Sudan revolution .. between the establishment of democracy and the control of the military	Elham Al-Hadabi
9	South Yemen geographically disputed by regional and international powers	Mutahir Al-Saffari
10	The Algerian party experience, from independence to the overthrow of Bouteflika	Ahmed Al-Sabbagh
11	Arab protests between popular persistence and the challenges of the stage	Ali Jabali
12	Map of the conflict in the Eastern Mediterranean	Ahmed Al-Sabbagh

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 2019, the Center issued twenty-five (25) position papers, with an average of two papers a month.

Sudan protests, can topple the Bashir's regime?

Arab normalization with the Israeli entity, to where?

Will Turkey succeed in establishing a safe area in the east of the Euphrates?

Warsaw conference and the possibility of curbing Iranian influence

Popular Protests and the Dialectic of the Political Transition in Algeria

The Venezuelan crisis ... internal causes and external dimensions

The Indo-Pakistan crisis ..
The duality of war and peace

US Decision over Golan Heights:
Context, Objectives, and Implications

Turkey .. The effect of the last municipal elections on the track of the AKP

Algeria: Ability to cross in light of internal congestion and the outer race

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Prospects of Military Escalation in the Gulf Region
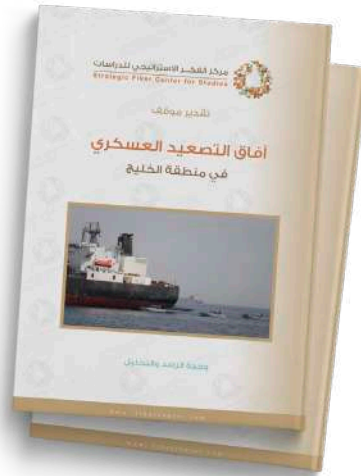
Anonymous attacks in the Gulf of Oman I Examining the motives and economic dimensions
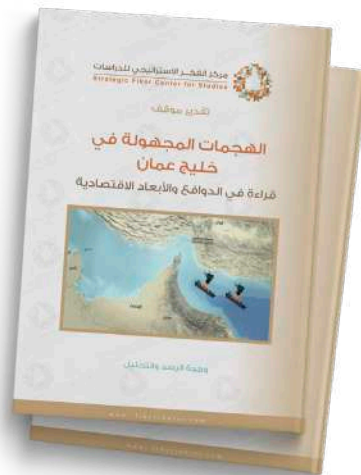
The future of the nuclear agreement in the aftermath of US-Iranian escalation

Yemeni government in the face of the Ally coup

Motives and consequences of military clashes between Hezbollah and Israel

UAE-Iranian Rapprochement: Limits and Implications of Understanding
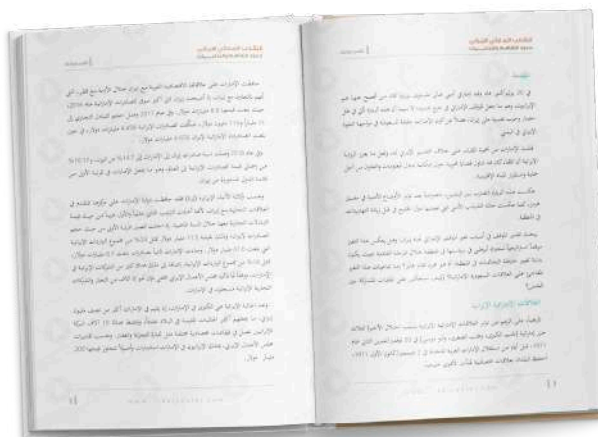
UAE's reduction of its forces
in Yemen Creation of peace or
generation of conflicts?
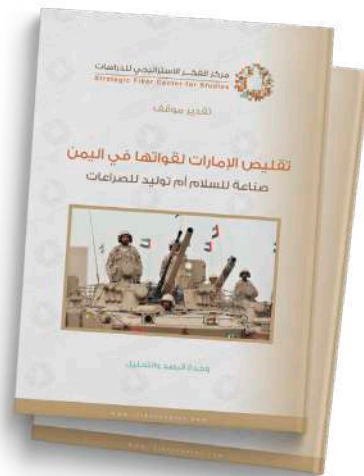
Do the results of Istanbul elections
lead to early elections?

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Lebanon .. Will Protests Succeed in Achieving Desired Goals?

Operation Peace Spring between power and diplomacy

Iraqi protests wavering between storm and calm
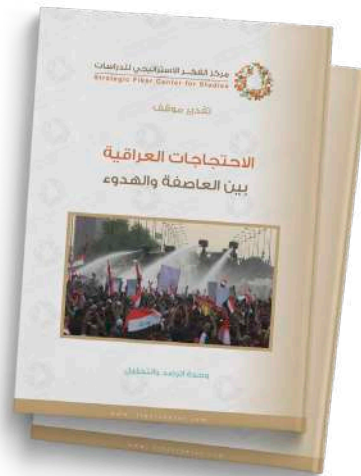
Contexts and Prospects of Iranian Protests
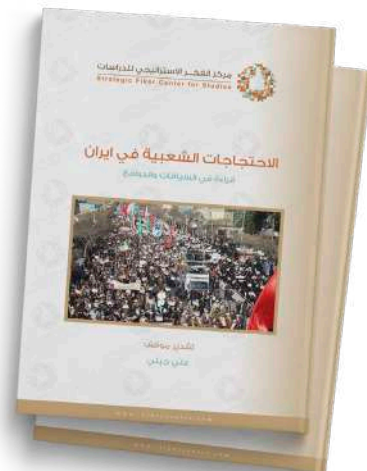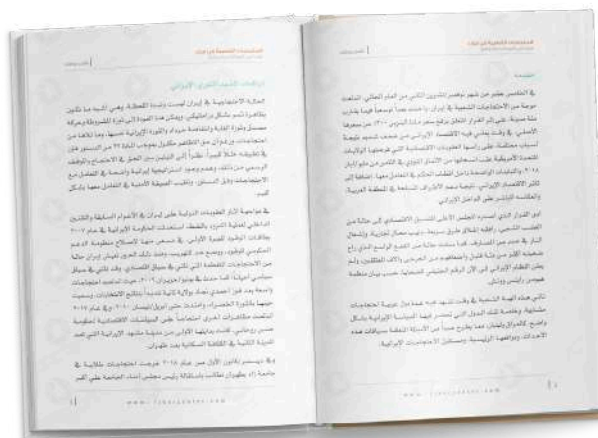
Will the Turkish-Libyan agreement redraw the map of influence in the Eastern Mediterranean?

The Libyan conflict in light of the Turkish-Libyan agreement .. to where?
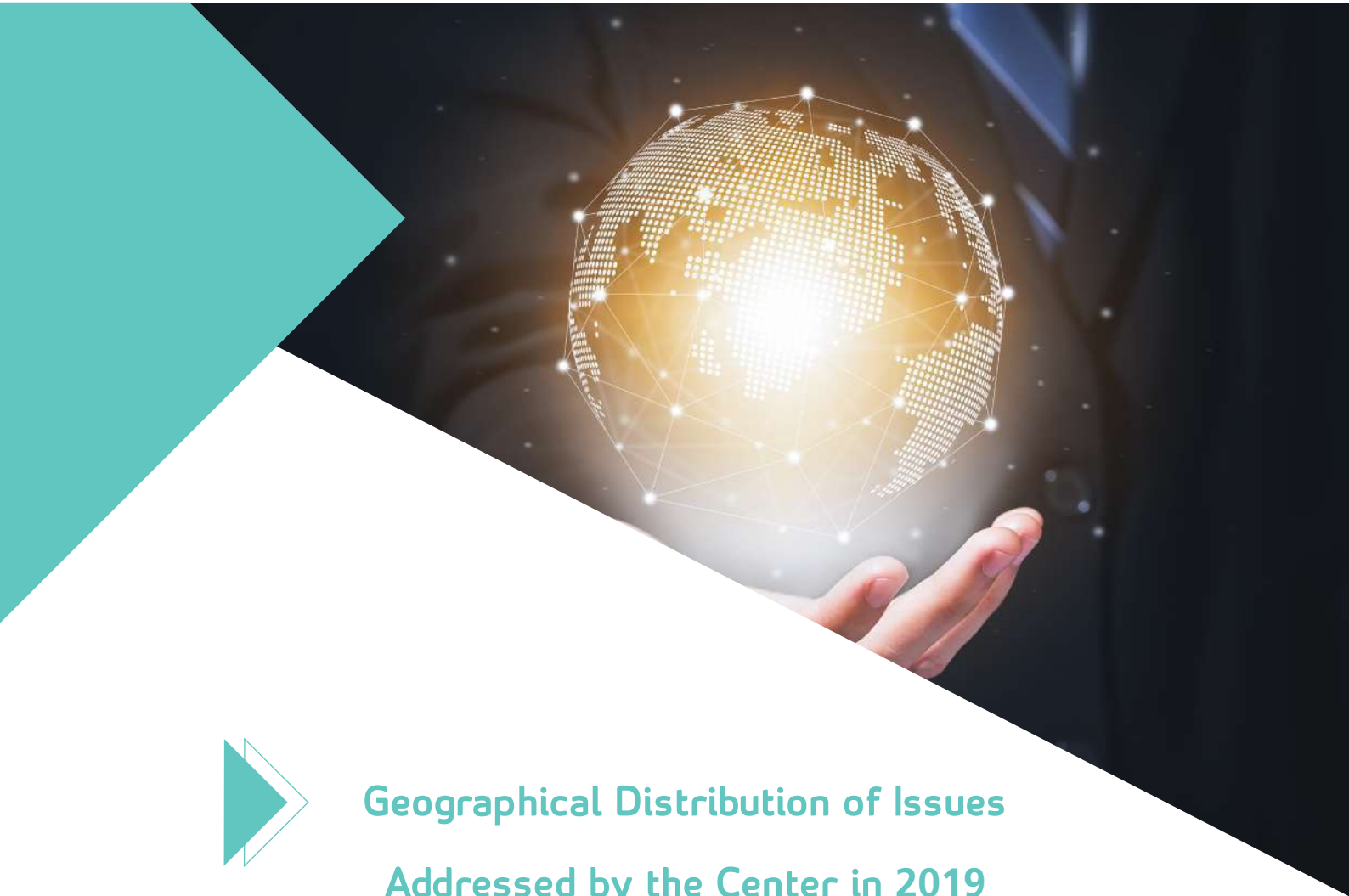
Geographical Distribution of Issues
Addressed by the Center in 2019

- Libya
- Turkey
- India
- Pakistan
- Malaysia

- Saudi Arabia
- Iraq
- Yemen
- Oman
- UAE
- Palestine
- Algeria

- Iran
- Russia
- USA
- Venezuela

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 260,000, at the end of 2018, to more than 370,000. The number of Twitter followers has increased from 40,000 to more than 70,000.

Participation in Conferences

Turkish Forum:

The center, represented by researcher Mutahar Al-Saffari, participated in the Turkish-Gulf Defense and Security Forum in its third session, and for the second year in a row, which was held in Istanbul between the period 8-6 November 2019, Al-Saffari presented a paper entitled: The Impact of the Conflict in Yemen on regional security equations.

Participation in Book Fairs

Strategic Fiker Center for Studiesis 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 2018, the Center participated in eight international book fairs, namely:

Book Fair	Ending Date	Starting Date
Muscat International Book Fair	2019/02/22	2019/03/02
Istanbul International Book Fair	2019/09/29	2019/10/06
Amman Book Fair - Jordan	2019/09/26	2019/10/05
Sharjah International Book Fair	2019/10/30	2019/11/09

Outreach and 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, 37 points of sale have been created and they are located in 14 countries. They are as follows:

Country	Agent
Kuwait	Afaq for Publishing and Distribution
	That Al Salasil Bookstore
United Arab Emirates	Emirates Publishing Company
	Sharjah University Library
Qatar	Dar Al Thaqafa
	Kalimat Bookstore
Sultanate of Oman	Dar Bait Al Ghasham
	Rawazin Bookstore
	Dar Al Wraq – Muscat
	Al Hedaya Bookstore – Salalah
	Lotus Bookstor – Muscat
Jordan	Kunouz Al-Ma'refa Publishers
Egypt	Dar Al Kalema
Lebanon	Dar Taiba Al Shamia
	Dar Al Mahaja
	Dar Zain

Country	Agent
Morocco	Dar Al Aman Bookstore
Turkey (Istanbul)	Dar Al Khayr Bookstore - Fatih
	Totil Bookstore - Taksim
	Dar Al Usool - Laleli
	Dar Al Beyruti - Laleli
	Pages Bookstore - Fatih
	Al Shami Bookstore
Iraq (Erbil)	Dar Al Tafseer Bookstore
Iran	Awz Bookstore
Germany	Educational Center for Human Rights
Algeria	Dar Fikr
Websites	Waraqat Website
	Jamalon Website
	faylasof Online Website
	Al Manhal Online Bookstore

Points of Sale Map
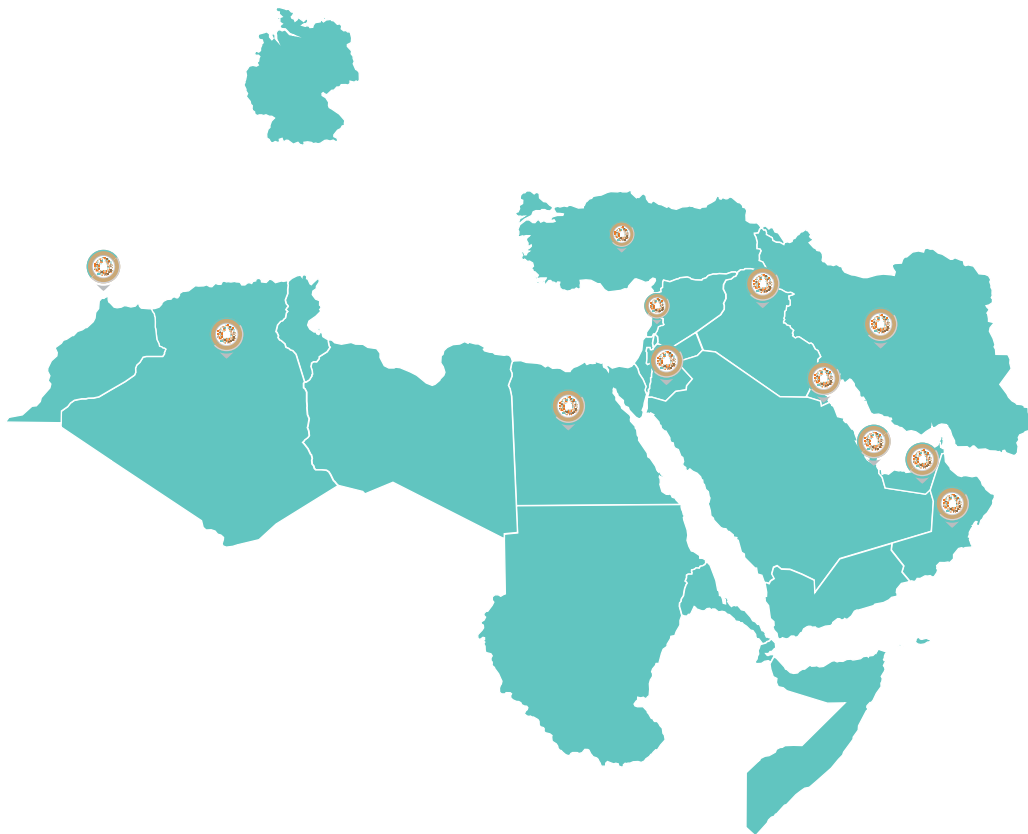
Memberships

The Center renewed its membership for the year 2019 in the following international research institutions:

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 2018. 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:

- **Political writing training**

- Research work and Research experiences.
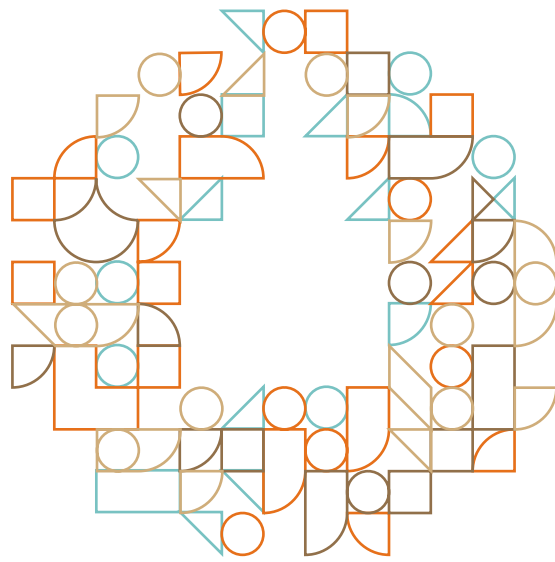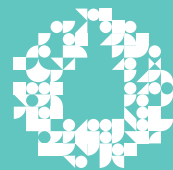
- Political analysis training.
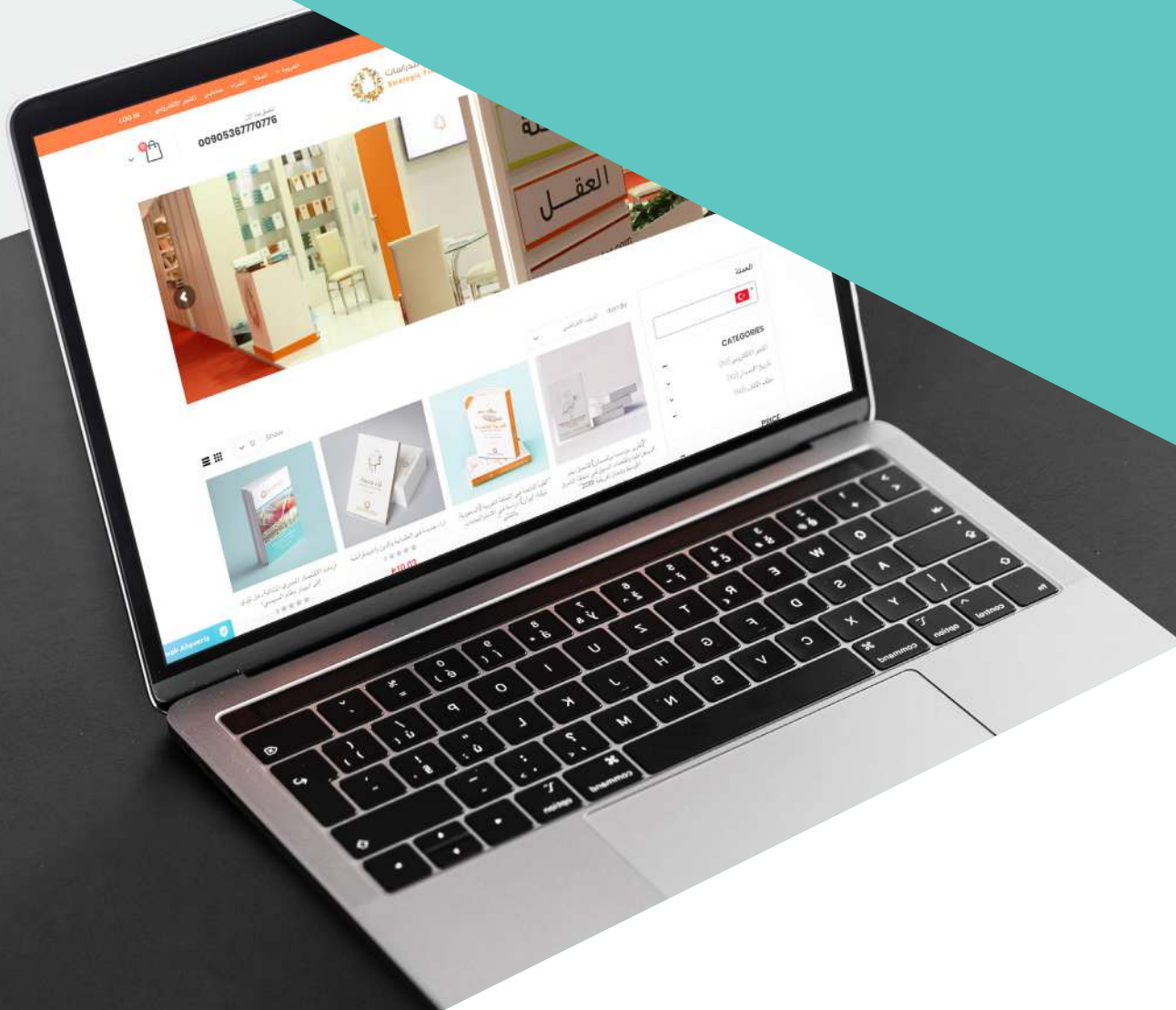
Online store

In the year 2019, the center launched its online store, so that those interested can reach the center's publications from anywhere in the world through direct purchase.

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