



مركز الفكر
الاستراتيجي
للدراسات

**Strategic
Fiker
Center for
Studie**





Founded in 2013, the Strategic Fiker Center for Studies is an independent non-profit think tank in the Arab region. It is known for excellence in research engagement to promoting the intellectual and political consciousness about the changing regional and global circumstances, and a specific commitment to these affairs through serious and sustained academic studies.

Vision

Our vision is to be recognized as the leading think tank for cultural, political and socio-economic affairs not only in the MENA region, but also internationally by demonstrating excellence and professionalism through studies.

Purposes

1. SFCS works to build consciousness of the Arab community on regional and international issues.
2. To promote objective and academic study research and discussion of current issues both foreign and domestic with particular attention to Arab Gulf countries.
3. To contribute to the raising of intellectual consciousness
4. To deepen the debate and research about regional and international and to influence public opinion about these issues.
5. To provide studies and articles about regional and international issues, to stimulate debate over public issues, and offer new and effective directions to research.



Missions

1. Focus in publications, consultations, workshops, policy reports and recommendations in the basis with the Center's vision.
2. Seek to collaborate with other Arab and international think tanks, organizations and research centers.
3. Focus to deal with the different intellectual and ideological spectrum in order to assure the essentials of peaceful co-existence and active participation.
4. Organize conferences, seminars and panel discussions.
5. Offer opportunities to talented young researchers and support their academic projects.





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:



1. Research and Studies:

The center focus in preparing research papers, books and articles in different fields compatible its specific vision.

- Political and strategic studies.
- Social and cultural studies.
- Multidisciplinary studies in the Intellectual movements and groups.
- Studies in Civilization and sustainable development.
- Islamic studies



2. Consultations and Measuring Public Opinion:

The center's reports, papers, books and other research studies are a vital resource for policy makers and other academic researchers. It is concerned with giving consultations and alternative reading or solutions in the fields of interests mentioned above. The center arranges consultations and measuring public opinion towards intellectual issues, political and social issues through a range of studies that highly-skilled and educated research team provide it.



3. Publishing:

The Center is engaged with publishing printed or electronic works (studies, research papers and up-to-date commentary on current issues) via some publishing companies.

The Center's Values

The center upholds the following key values and guiding principles:

1. High quality and objective research papers based on clear methodology and scientific accountability.
2. Commitment to values of transparency, inclusiveness and mutual respect in the workplace, with researchers and partners.
3. Appreciation of values of dialogue to communicate and to overcome misunderstanding
4. Engagement to create favorable workplace conditions for critical thought, innovation and supporting new ideas or approaches.
5. Widespread gradually the center's fields of studies, with a specific concern in some regional and international issues.





The mission of the Strategic Fiker Center for Studies is to deal the ongoing issues and changing circumstances in the Arab region through research and academic studies. The center's specialized departments have been dedicated to developing and producing more than 220 reviewed scientific work (analysis/ foresight..). The center offers significant scientific contributions through high-quality academic research, and with a focus on new fields of studies. This strategy has led to increasing readers' attention to our good quality books and research papers as well as the steady growing number of social media followers (more than 240 thousand Facebook followers/ 38 thousands twitter followers) thanks to excellent work have been made by our academic researchers.

The Center has four main units: the Monitoring and Analysis Unit, the Research and studies Unit, the Publishing and Distribution Unit and the Public Relations and media Unit. The Center has its own publishing company and more than 24 distribution points in 13 countries, and has participated in 12 international book fairs.

In addition, The Center has partnerships with five research centers and is a member in four international organizations. It is engaged with the encouraging young talent researchers to the extent the Center offers an annual research award for researchers in the Middle East and North Africa.



Center's Publication Guidebook

1. Political Publications

Iranian Strategy Towards the Arabian Gulf Region



This study deals with the nature of the Iranian political system and its structure, in addition to the influential forces affecting the Iranian foreign policy, in general, and towards the Arab Gulf countries in particular. It also reviews the conflicting points and differences among these forces and how this is reflected on the formula of Iranian interaction with the Gulf countries on the level of discourse and practice. The study addresses the constant strategic priorities of the Iranian system, as well as the impact of the regional and international changes on the Iranian strategy towards the Gulf countries and the relations between the two parties with an attempt to understand these changes after the occurrence of the (Arab Spring) that has resulted in a change in the entire regional equation and the understanding of the nature of current relations, in addition to recognizing the results of these relations and their expected paths and effects on the whole region.



Prepared by/ Najib Makkawi, Yahya Suhaib
and Tamer Badawi



Number of Pages
(344)

Liberalism in the Saudi Arabia Kingdom: Idea, Practices and Future Visions



This study deals with the concept of local and Arab liberalism , in general, and the liberal trend in Saudi Arabia, in particular, in terms of thought and practice. This is done by reviewing the history of this trend, its evolution, its intellectual content and how it is affected by the internal and external factors. The study also provides a new understanding about the ideas of some liberal literature in Saudi Arabia belonging to both of the loyalists and the oppositionist.

This study aims at restoring the status of the objective evaluation for the liberal project in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia and, hence, trying to understand the nature of the current period or the future scenario and its impact on the aspects of the whole project on the basis of ideas, writings and influence. It also provides practical methodological recommendations that support the state of the growing civilizational originality, including the rational opposition.



Prepared by/ Center's Study Unit



Number of Pages
(494)

Alawite State ... Al –Assad’s Last Option



This study provides a historical overview on the ruling family in Syria and the role of the Alawite sect that has made this family take over the reins of power, and then it reviews the events happened after March 2012 ,11, tackling the sectarian plan and the beginning of its implementation and the regional attitudes (Iran, Russia, Israel, and others) towards this plan. Finally, we conclude by talking about what is required to stop this sectarian plan.



Prepared by/ Ibrahim Hamami



Number of Pages
(110)

United States of America... Between Hard Power and Soft Power



This study sheds light on the reality of America's soft power and its relevance to the phenomenon of hegemony which the United States had and still has since the end of the Second World War. It reviews the concepts of the soft power, its applications and benefits of its experiences. It also monitors changes in the general international climate following the events of September 11th, the impact of these changes on the America's influence in the international arena and the view of the world's peoples about the role of America's power and its ethical and moral legitimacy.



Prepared by/ Rafiq Abdel Salam



Number of Pages
(100)

The Modern Mercenary



The study tries to find answers to certain questions about the military contractors, including: Why do powerful states like the United States of America decide to use private military forces after centuries of prohibiting them? Does the privatization of war lead to alerting the nature of military operations? If this is true, to what extent does it impact the strategic outputs? What are the results of the privatization of the military forces concerning the international relations? This study casts light on why and how this kind of the armies of military contractors have re-emerged recently.



Prepared by/ Sean McFate
Translated by/ Ibrahim Al-Bayli Mahrous
and Ahmed Makki Zidane



Number of Pages
(335)

Soft Power Models in the Arab Region (Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Iran) Study on Strategies and Impact



This study seeks to answer questions concerning the visions and strategies followed by (Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Iran) and their ability to use the diplomatic tools and potentials, including: How do these countries recognize the concept of soft power and its importance? What are the sources of soft power with which these three countries manage their interests in their areas of influence? To what extent have these three countries (Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Iran) used the soft power on the level of the foreign policy? What is the size of coordination and connection with the local institutions in the countries located in the areas of influence which are under study? What are the methods used by the soft power related to these countries' management for their interests in their areas of influence? What are the evidences, indicators and statistics that show such influence? Where do the points of strength and weakness lie regarding the use of the three countries' soft power (Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Iran)?



Prepared by/ Ahmed Hassan, Saad Al-Qahtani, Ateq Jarallah and Mutahir Al-Saffari



Number of Pages
(326)

Future of the Arab Region After the Arab Spring Uprisings



To better understand the evolving changing regional impacts of the Arab Spring uprisings, this study provides an overview of different political implications in the whole Arab region before, during and aftermath the so-called Arab Spring. This study attempts to examine and analyze the political and social conditions surrounding the contexts of these uprisings. Through exposure to multiple perspectives, this study offers a strategic and forward-looking reading of the changing scenarios in the region in the upcoming years. To explain precisely how these variables have transformed in the eve of these Arab protests, the study makes a specific focus on the regional alliances and lobbies. This analysis can serve as a case study of how current changing political circumstances lead to forthcoming scenarios for the whole Arab region. It identifies the backgrounds of key regional actors who have the potential to play pivotal political roles in the Arab Region in the forthcoming years.



Prepared by/ Mohammed Alkhair
Hamid Abdul Aziz



Number of Pages
(113)

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.



Prepared by/ Ahmed Al-Sabbagh,
Ateq Jarallah and Mutahir Al-Saffari



Number of Pages
(200)

2. Intellectual Publications



Arab Intellectuals: A Study on Models and Roles



The study discusses the Arab intellectual elites' roles before the Arab Spring with a deep review of the conceptual framework of concepts such as culture, intellectual person and elite. It focuses on the interrelationship among the intellectual person, the authority, the state and the society in the Arab world. This study seeks to make advances in defining the orientations of intellectuals and their roles in the Arab Spring. One of its purposes is to examine the factors of elites' decreasing influence and determine a better vision of the strategies that can revive their pivotal presence. In order to establish a comprehensive reading for the relationship between the intellectual elite and the Arab Spring uprisings, it is necessary to deal with the essential historical moments of these revolutionized changes with a special focus on the elite's influence in different case studies. Although this study points up the main theoretical framework, it is concerned with discussing some tools that may activate the roles of this intellectual elite within the scopes and current variables of the Arab Spring.



Prepared by/ Mohamed Abdel
Fattah Halikawi



Number of Pages
(162)

Civil Transformation in Saudi Arabia: Study on Constituents and Future of Change



This study examines the status-quo of Saudi civil society organizations and focuses on the mechanisms governing the existing foundations. In particular, it focuses on the extent to which these civil society organizations have coped with legislations, demanding roles and changing patterns within the Saudi society. The question of civil transformation in the Saudi case study has a major importance and this study aims to define a modern and evolving paradigm of these civil organizations. It discusses the Saudi civil society shifting process through a comparative approach with other Arab Gulf countries. This study also determines the missing roles in the Saudi civil society system and provides the potential to develop approaches inducing greater involvement of civil organizations in the Saudi society. One of the issues of this study has to do with the institutionalization of the Saudi society according to mechanisms that raise the central significance of people's role and its independence.



Prepared by/ Saad Al-Qahtani, Ateq Jarallah,
Siham Drissi and Ahmad Al-Jalad



Number of Pages
(302)

Approach of Civilizational Evolution



This study has taken into remarkable consideration the essential aspects for any experience of civilizational evolution, especially addressing the pivotal role of human being as an actor in this process of change. By analyzing the dynamics of this civilizational evolution, the study gravitates towards comparing the Islamic approach with the Western perceptions of human being. This study navigates through a complex critical comparison between two polar determinate ideas; the doctrine of soul and the doctrine of body within the process of civilizational evolution. Then, it introduces the Islamic discourse which incorporates the status quo logic, ideological orientation, renaissance vision, power, participation and democracy. This study also highlights the prevalent trends within the Islamic movement phenomenon and reconsiders its marginalized dimensions such as the religious legacy, the historical background and the renewal approach. The very definition of how Islamic movement might conceptualize democracy over time will be studied through the case of Moroccan political party called 'Unification and Reform Movement'.



Prepared by/ Mohamed Yatim



Number of Pages
(116)

Seeking a New Intellectual Vision: Questions about the Islamic Project



From different angles and theoretical perspective, this study discusses a series of issues regarding the Islamic project. It deals with both of the controversial questions such as nation, humanity and society and those concerning the central significance of the project itself such as approach, loyalty and structure.

This study is involved within the dynamic trajectories of both of the Arab world and international world concerning the political, cultural and social transformations. Throughout this study, many unexplored issues are addressed as being aware of the growing crises and obstacles because they require deep and critical analysis of their causes.



Prepared by/ Faisal Amin Bakali



Number of Pages
(102)

Questions about Approach: Radical and Intellectual Approaches to our Contemporary Problematics



This study brings into focus a number of questions connecting with the paradigm within the religious discourse. The matter of the relationship between the question of renewal and the critical thinking is addressed for the analysis of its intersection with the radical debate. Other questions are of major importance because they focus on secularism, conceptual framework, norms and practices, history, ethics, state and sectarianism. In broad terms, this study contributes to our understanding of other issues such as the question of context (Time/Place), in addition to the questions related to the examination of ways in which the Arab mindset has been affected by many variables: How is it conceptualized? How does it deal with it? How does it avoid its impacts? There are also other issues taken into consideration in this study. The questions about the process concerning the reformation of religious institutions such as judicial institution and the institution of Ijtihad and Fqih are deeply discussed.



Number of Pages
(194)

New Views about Secularism, Religion and Democracy



This study responds to a range of contemporary controversial debates about the questions of secularism, Islam and democracy. It deals with secularism from a theoretical perspective and discusses its complex intellectual conceptualizations, linguistic signifiers through tracing the emergence of both its most pivotal narratives and theorists of the modern times. More particularly, the study focuses on the extent to which secularism has become a diversified socio-historical phenomenon. Regardless of how the concept is defined, the core idea of this study is that the interrelationship between secularism and Islam is based on instances of convergence and divergence. Therefore, this examination contributes to our understanding of the process of secularization within Islam, and then discusses the substantive and procedural democracy with a focus on the relationship between secularism and democracy.



Prepared by/ Rafiq Abdel Salam



Number of Pages
(292)

In the Jurisprudence of Religion and Politics



This study examines the doctrine of Islamic Jurisprudence by outlining a series of issues discussed in relation with jurisprudence and politics. Many related questions are explained, in part, such as the principle of Islamic Jurisprudence (Usul Al-Fiqh), Jurisprudence of purposes (Fiqh Al-Maqasid) and Sunnah. This study addresses the influence of these doctrines on the social context, in general, and its link to politics in particular. This does imply, of course, that it deals with the questions of heritage and renewal and makes discussion about the status-quo of contemporary Islamists and their conceptual frameworks. It also tries to discuss the differences between the provisions of (religion) required for (the interests of hereafter) and the necessities of politics included within what is required for (the interests of life). They are elaborated through the general religious vision to the human being and society and controlled by its principles, ethics and general context.



Prepared by/ Saad Eddin Osmani



Number of Pages
(204)

Saudi Civil Society: Characteristics and Roles



The study profoundly focuses on the concept of the civil society and its different constituents with a focus on its journey from its historical context and knowledge framework in the West to the Arab World, and specifically the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This study discusses the reality of civil society and its constituents and main issues and the targets set by the persons in charge and the targets expected by its supporters. It is important to emphasize that this study stresses the reciprocal influence between the civil society and some of the political and religious frameworks whether they are formal or informal and internal or external, including the extent to which it is related to foreign powers and its relationship with the religious actors and the influential social forces in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Moreover, it tries to define the influences of the civil society activism on the Saudi society and its traditions and customs.



Prepared by/ Mamdouh Al-Sheikh
and Saad Al-Qahtani



Number of Pages
(157)

Saudi Demography ... Transformations and Future



The study develops a complete reading about the Saudi Arabian demographic map, attempting to illustrate an overview about the population in the Kingdom, their religious and sectarian diversity. It also shows the very important aspects of demographic transformations within the Saudi context in order to find out more about where they exist and their common aspects with the existing neighbors. It also takes into consideration, as its essential focusing points, defining its tribal areas and urban areas and showing each region's cultural and social features.

The study deals with some of the issues and problematics inevitably linked to the development of Saudi society and affected by its demography. In addition, it discusses many issues including citizenship, sectarianism, regional sensitivity, stateless people (Bedoon) and the ethnic minorities in the Kingdom such as Rohingya and others. It also attempts to highlight the pertinence of these issues within a comprehensive approach calling to invest such diversity and manage the plurality of this religious and cultural mixture in a good manner that guarantees its harmonious co-existence and development.



Prepared by/ Ali Jabali, Mutahar
Al- Saffari and Ahmed Al-Sabbagh



Number of Pages
(271)

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.



Prepared by/ Ali Jabali, Siham
Al- Drissi ve Ahmed Al-Sabbagh



Number of Pages
(280)

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.



Hazırlayan / Ali Jabali, Mutahar Al-Saffari and Ahmed Al-Sabbagh



Number of Pages
(325)

3. Trends



Saudi Shiites: Concept and Problematics



This study provides a detailed explanation of the Saudi Arabian Shiites in terms of its geography, history and culture and the interaction among these different dimensions. It analyzes both the nature of relationships between the Shiites and the Saudi state in its successive stages on one hand, and the Shiites and the Iranian government on the other hand.

In an effort to draw conclusions, this study focuses on presenting the public opinion trends, the perspective of news coverage of the Saudi Arabian Shiites' media towards the other Islamic trends. This study discusses the Shiite's media perception of different Saudi questions after 2011, highlighting its dynamics through a content analysis of selected press and media materials which were published during 2014.



Prepared by/ Mustafa Al-Habab, Mamdouh Al-Sheikh, Yahya Suhaib, Akram Khamis, Hussein Maaloum and Abdul Wahab Issa



Number of Pages
(318)

Daesh (ISIS): An Analytical Study on Discourse Structure



The study aims to understand the political and intellectual project of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS). It further highlights its approach through a profound reading of its media discourse through both qualitative and quantitative analysis of numerous materials published by ISIS in its intellectual and political literatures and different media, as well as analyzing the content of its network of media institutions. In addition, this study discusses the most important analytical approaches concerning the phenomenon of ISIS (Daesh) in the Arab and Western studies. This attempt illustrates the potential value of understanding with a focus on the Western academic approach towards this organization. It addresses questions such as the different views recommended in terms of confronting or containing ISIS. This is represented in the policy papers submitted to both the Western executive institutions and other apparatuses.



Prepared by/ Najla Makkawi,
Mohamed Mahmoud El Sayed and
Haytham Samir



Number of Pages
(306)

Turkish Justice and Development Party ... Study on Idea and Experience



This study examines the political style of the Turkish Justice and Development Party and its management tactics for the internal and external variables. This study strives to review and analyze the administrative structure of the party, its organizational constituents, communication channels and both of decision-making forces and mechanisms. It is important for this study to analyze the mechanisms of the Party's political style concerning challenges which have prevented the success of previous attempts during the last century.

The research team conducted a number of face-to-face interviews with some of the party leaders and decision-makers, as well as a content analysis of the party's discourse in order to answer the central question: How was this done? The core idea of this study is to evaluate the Party's experience far away from the exaggerated focus on numbers or the marginalized perspective of achievements and the strategic changes in Turkey.



Prepared by/ Mohamed Elhami,
Emad Kadoura, Yahia Suhaib and
Ateq Jarallah



Number of Pages
(332)

Iranian Armed Militias in the Arab Region



This study examines the most inevitable Iranian Shiite militias acting in the Arab geographical space. It defines them from the perspective of their origins, stages of emergence, ideological and doctrinal origins, organizational structure, military capabilities and their internal and external armament sources, specifically the Iranian Ones. Moreover, this study explores the most important battles which these armed militias involved in and assesses its political and social repercussions. The purpose of this study is to outline these countries agendas and policies to contain their dangers, eradicate the alignment of other Shiite movements towards violence and Iranian exploitation.

This study seeks to understand the transformations of Shiite constituents in the Arab region towards the stage of organized militias and draw the attention of the Gulf countries, where the Shiite minorities live, to prevent such scenario. This study discusses the Iranian state's use of Shiite proxies, explaining the role of Quds Force – a paramilitary unit of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards responsible for extraterritorial operations. Through this case, this study examines Iranian linkage to Shiite militias, their role in the proliferation of sectarian conflicts and their main leaders.



Prepared by/ Ateq Jarallah, Saad Al-Qahtani, Raed Al-Hamed and Siham Al-Drissi



Number of Pages
(284)

4. Exploratory Studies and Reports

How do Saudis think? ... Priorities and interests



This is an exploratory study that aims to illustrate the views of a number of Saudis about the daily living and social affairs. It concerns with how Saudis deal with their choices and manners of living. It also seeks to explore the Saudis mentalities and manners of thinking concerning a number of internal issues and their commitments to various social and political questions.

This study is conducted through a set of questions seeking to deal with the priorities and concerns which attract the attention of Saudis. The focus is about the Saudis' model of thinking about the local issues that they consider important within their society. It points out the most important International and Arab issues in which the Saudis are interested, as well as how and where they choose to spend their free time. In addition, this study reviews the Saudis' reading preferences. It also focuses on their choices to deal with the excess of their money, the investment fields and the types of jobs that they prefer.



Prepared by/ Center's Polling Unit



Number of Pages
(104)

Bertelsmann Stiftung Foundation Index Report



The transformation index (BTI) is a collection of separate country reports that evaluate the political changes within the Arab region, addressing the majority of the economic and social variables that have occurred since 2011. Bertelsmann Index, which is translated from English into Arabic, examines the transformation in the governments' decision-making strategies. In any case, Bertelsmann Stiftung's Transformation Index provides in-depth country reports that are based on research methodology which in turn combines the quantitative and qualitative data and analyzing it through its historical chronology. Bertelsmann Foundation assessed indicators of transformation in 129 countries from all continents during 2016. The Strategic Fiker Center for Studies puts a special emphasis on this transformation Index. It contributes this translation work of the detailed country reports for 10 countries from the Middle East and North Africa region, in which the state of transformation was evaluated in the period from February 2013 to January 2015.



Number of Pages (577)

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.



Prepared by/ Studies and
Research Unit



Number of parts
(4)

5. Studies

Religion and Russian Foreign Policy



The study analyzes the value of religion in the Russian foreign policy, focusing on the constructive factors behind this role and the church's manipulative activities outside Russia. This kind of religious diplomacy is interpreted and reconceptualized in order to mention the Russian agendas towards Syria. The study explores the dynamics of Russian Policy in Syria by analyzing the statements, data and news of the Russian Orthodox Church, as well as the Russian officials. It is also concerned with the role of Church which is not only restricted to the use of religion as a foreign policy tool, but also as an influential actor within a range of other moving dynamics within the Russian politics. Therefore, the study provides a summary of this relationship between the Church and Russian politics along three phases of the Russian history.



Prepared By/ Saleh bin
Mohammed Al-Khatlan



Number of Pages
(96)

Electronic Media and its Role in International Conflicts



The study deals with the era of advanced information technology and the new electronic revolution concerning the impact of new media on the public opinion. It also discusses both of the spread of this new media within the Arab world and the extent of its engagement with the electronic revolution. It emphasizes the practical role of media in the regional conflicts, determining the importance of social networking websites in the political diplomacy. Therefore, this study proves that the electronic media has turned to be a hegemonic soft power. It also explores the transformations that have occurred as a result of this spread of the digital media platforms whether by countries, large institutions or organizations and individuals.

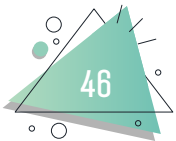


Prepared by/ Studies and Research Unit



Number of Pages (75)

6. Political Papers



Houthis: Military Position and Sources of Support



The study provides information on the Houthis group which is one of the main actors on the ongoing crisis in Yemen. It analyzes the organizational and conceptual frameworks of this movement by emphasizing their internal map which includes Houthis' ideologues, supporters, allies, followers and mercenaries. In addition, this study is concerned to answer the following questions: What is the nature of the relationship that links the Houthis group to both Iran and the former President Ali Abdullah Saleh? What is the real size of their military strength? The study examines their most important ideas and beliefs, as well as their strengths and weaknesses.



Prepared by/ Studies and
Research Unit



Number of Pages
(60)

Decision-Making Centers in Iran: Determinants and Directions



This study examines the historical background of Iran's decision-making think tanks. It points out the Iranian revolution leaders' commitment with these research centers. This study argues that the Khatami's presidency has enforced the role of these think tanks as Iranian decision-making actors. Therefore, this study identifies the think tanks and reviews their relationships with the decision-making process in Iran. Furthermore, this study explains such pivotal function through a deep analysis of some official think tanks including the Presidential Center of Studies, Majlis Research Center and Foreign Affairs Ministry Institute of Studies. The latter is composed of 9 research units which serve the Iranian official priorities concerning the study of the International issues. It also discusses the different orientations of foreign research centers.



Prepared by/ Mohamed
Mohsen Abou El Nour



Number of Pages
(60)

Deep State in Yemen



This study examines, in general, the essence of the deep state, with a specific focus on its leaders in the case study of Yemen. It discusses the Yemeni deep state relationship with both of the Gulf Council Countries initiative and the transitional justice. Therefore, this study aims to point out the Yemeni deep state techniques which are used to obstruct the government's activities and overthrow this government. The deep state actors have exploited the civil and military apparatuses which are still under their control. Then, this study examines the processes of the internal conflict in Yemen, its consequences and the regional and international situation towards it.



Prepared by/ Studies and
Research Unit



Number of Pages
(102)

Reality of Iraqi Sunnis and Their Future



The study discusses the Iraq's Sunni marginalization in all the political, social and economic fields after the US invasion in 2003. Altogether, the state quo of exclusion on the basis of identity politics within Iraq was legitimized by Shiite parties and groups and exacerbated with the total support of Iran that aimed to eliminate the Arab Sunnis. This fact enabled an environment conducive to bloody assassinations, ethnic cleansing, deportation, systematic crimes and the agendas for changing the popular culture through allowing curriculum modifications in schools and universities. Thus, this paved the way for a more effective articulation of set of Imamate religious convictions for young generation. In this way, this study points out the historical transformations resulted from the Arab, regional and international silence and the decline or the fragmentation of Iraq's Sunnis. It also focuses on the dramatic turnout for Sunni community with insurgence of Daesh (so-called ISIS) which widespread across the majority of Arab Sunni provinces in northern and western Iraq. These changes was intensified with the launch the so-called 'Popular Mobilization Forces' that empowered the Shiite militia that challenged the state jurisdiction and obeyed the Iranian Shiite agendas.



Prepared by/ Studies and
Research Unit



Number of Pages
(60)

Future of Yemen in the Aftermath of Houthi's Power Control in Sana'a



This study deals with the future of Yemen after the fall of Sana'a and a number of the state institutions and governates in the hands of the Houthis. It also traces the trajectory of evolutions that led Yemen to the current situation and investigates the factors that made it easy for the Houthis to control power, as well as the main role of the American policy for facilitating their expansion aiming at guaranteeing their confrontation with Al-Qaeda. This study also presents the governing factors according to which the future of Yemen will be determined as it designs four scenarios for that; the first scenario predicts that Yemen is going to the stability model of the two opposing poles, the second scenario is likely to result in a war that would lead to fragmentation, the third scenario tends to build consensus, though it is still temporary, and the fourth scenario estimates that what happened in Sana'a will be repeated in Aden and the other governates, so the Houthis will be able to control the country.



Prepared by/ Nasser
Mohammed Ali Al -Taweel



Number of pages
(70)

Saudi Interior Condition and Political Reform Opportunities



This study presents the history of political reform in Saudi Arabia (KSA) and how the Kingdom's political institutions have developed and the most important events in the history of the modern state that provided a suitable environment for change and reform and how the Saudi government dealt with that. The study also discusses the most important societal calls for reforms, the major reform demands and the reaction of the government towards that.

The study also talks about how the reform demands are influenced by the growing violence, as well as the current and influencing files in the domestic and foreign Saudi policy. Finally, the study reviews the current situation during the reign of King Salman and how the future of political reform will look like.



Prepared by/ Studies and
Research Unit



Number of pages
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Sunnis in Lebanon: Sectarian Regression and National Ascendancy



This study presents a historical overview on the sunni regression in Lebanon and discusses the reality of the Sunnis and their political power such as Future Movement (Tayyar Al-Mustaqbal) and the Islamic Group) Al-Jamaa(and their strengths and weaknesses. The study ends up with focusing on two fundamental factors to re-organize the Sunni house from inside. The first factor is related to building a political Sunni coalition as a support for any ideas that can take the Sunni sect away from terrorism and exclusion. The second factor is concerned with putting an end to deterioration in the conditions of the sect in Lebanon through a short-term plan and regaining the Lebanese and regional entity in the medium term.



Prepared by/ Shafik Shakir



Number of pages
(63)

Functional Sufism: Idea and Roles



This study seeks to dismantle the manifestations of practical and influential involvement of a variety of Sufi movements and their sheikhs supporting the projects and agendas that are directly related to the political scene despite their spiritual contents and apparent retreat from the public space in the time of post-modernism. Thus, these Sufi movements have been used as a fundamental actor to stabilize or upset the balance of power in the Islamic world, especially during the tense conflicts for capturing power. This is because of their deep impact on the souls of Muslims, their great integration in the social fabric and the connection of their rituals to the cultural heritage of the Muslim majority. In order to bring to light this pragmatic functional dimension of the Sufi movements, this study is divided into three major sections. The first section is a demographic introduction to Sufism. The second section focuses on the history of Sufi political thought. The third section deals with the political Sufism in the modern age.



Prepared by/ Siham Al Dreesi



Number of Pages
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Nationalism in Arab Region: Reality and Future



This study provides a general overview on the Arab Nationalism and its intellectual and ideological foundations. It also addresses the pragmatic reality of Nationalism and the periods of its decline and the rise of nationalist movements through inducing the references of the Arab Nationalist Movement and expecting its political future, as well as the emerged popular reluctance to its approaches, especially after the appearance of a number of alternatives such as Islamic political parties, terrorist organizations and the amplification of the national identity. This study also investigates the present of this nationalism and its future in light of the indications of the current geopolitical changes.



Prepared by/ Siham Al Dreesi



Number of Pages
(97)

Strategic Dimensions of the Russian Bear



This study discusses Putin's ambition to regain the Russian Empire, the potentials of the Russian power and the determinants of its domestic policy. It also presents the impact of the Russian ascendancy on the relations with Europe and USA and the Middle East region states and the future of their strategic interests, as well as the most important file in the region concerning the war in Syria. The study concludes with a forward-looking vision about resolving the conflict between Russia and the USA.



Prepared by/ Ahmed Hussein



Number of Pages
(90)

Successive Egyptian Economic Crises: Would They Lead to the Collapse of Sisi's Regime?



This study addresses the worsening conditions in Egypt due to the invisibility of Sisi's economic reform program, reviewing the economic developments after imposing an agenda of severe reforms on Egypt by the World Bank. The study also tries to discuss the issue of the continuous Gulf countries' support to Egypt. It concludes with trying to answer an important question about the impact of all these crises on the stability of Sisi's regime.



Prepared by/ Studies and
Researches Unit



Number of Pages
(62)

Right Wing in the West: Ascension and Influence



This study discusses the causes that led to the ascension of the right wing in the West, expansion map and the impact of this ascension on the interests of Arab and Islamic countries, as well as the minorities and Arab and Muslim communities in the Western countries. This study also discusses the impact of the amplification of the existence of the Western right on the balances of alliances in the Middle East.



Prepared by/ Studies and
Researches Unit



Number of Pages
(80)

National Anti-Corruption Commission: Supporting Measures Taken to Control Saudi Economy



This study shows the features of the Saudi economy during the reign of King Salman, the history of the Saudi National Anti-Corruption Commission (Nazaha), its foundation history and work regulation. It also evaluates the commission's work through the followed practices in its work regulation, its achievements and obstacles. It also studies the commission's role in the future of the Saudi government's performance and its achievements, including activating several mechanisms to receive complaints related to the corruption of a government institution and a private institution, promoting a range of initiatives related to boosting transparency and combating corruption, bribery and mediation, etc.



Prepared by/ Studies and Researches Unit



Number of Pages (63)

Popular Mobilization Forces: Backgrounds of Formation, Role and Future



This study reviews the circumstances that led to the events of Mosul in 2014 when ISIS controlled the city located in Nineveh Governorate and its other cities, in addition to a lot of other cities in Anbar, Salahuddin, Diyala and Kirkuk governorates. The growing spread of Daesh’s threat made the Grand Shiite cleric ‘Ali Al-Sistani’ to issue a religious edict (Fatwa) that is called the “defending jihad”. This fatwa paved the way for the popular mobilization forces formation. Therefore, this study focuses on this largest military organization from different perspectives as it provides deep understanding of its backgrounds, military functions and relations with the main Iraqi actors, USA and Iran. It reconsiders the Iranian role for supporting the formation of this Shiite military force, the nature of their linkage to each other and the growing role that can be played by the Popular Mobilization Forces in the future.



Prepared by/ Raed Al Hamed



Number of Pages
(63)

US Foreign Policy Orientations towards the Arab Region: Reviewing Donald Trump's Speeches Contents



This study seeks to determine the orientations of the current American White House Administration towards the Arab Region by identifying, understanding and evaluating the president Trumps' new perspectives of US foreign policy. In addition, this study analyzes the different dimensions and orientations of Trump's political discourse during the first few months of his existence in the White House. Besides, it reviews Trump's speeches about Arab Region in order to re-consider the basis of American foreign policy such as (Grand Strategy) and the concepts of the civilizational superiority. It concludes with analyzing and forecasting Trump's orientations towards the Arab Region which has started to develop positively thanks to the Saudi efforts.



Prepared by/ Siham Al Dreesi



Number of Pages
(99)

Regional Position of Sultanate of Oman: Political, Economic and Social Constituents



The study tries to analyze the constituents of Sultanate of Oman that have made this country to be a respective small regional and international power. This research paper focuses on three main elements. The first element deals with the historical background of the Sultanate of Oman with a focus on its strategic importance. The second one presents the political, economic and social factors that support its regional position. The final element is the soft foreign policies of the Omani leadership and its impact on the future of the state.



Prepared by/ Siham Al Dreesi



Number of Pages
(79)

Prospective Reading of Independence Question of Kurdistan Region: Challenges and Problematics



This study explains the Kurdistan Regional Government separation referendum as a further step towards independence from Iraq. It also provides an analysis about the impacts of such referendum on the other Kurdish actors in the region countries, forecasting the status quo of Kurdistan after the independence scenario. The study also discusses the international reactions concerning this referendum. Moreover, it briefly investigates the most important critical problems and internal crises that hinder the independence of Kurdistan.



Prepared by/ Studies and
Research Unit



Number of Pages
(81)

Moroccan Exceptionalism: Study on Specificity of Democratic Transition in Morocco



This study examines the instances of pragmatic interaction of the Moroccan Royal Institution and the rest of the influential political actors with the national and regional variables in the period after 2011. It analyzes the bases of the participatory governing experience in this Moroccan model with a particular focus on the current ruling period of 'Justice and Development Party' known with its moderate religious ideology. In the light of an evolutionary democratization process, this study examines the political actors' weakness and their ruling mistakes. It emphasizes the scope of the increasingly charismatic leadership of the King (Mohammed VI) domestically and internationally. It also focuses on the strength of both constitutional and symbolic authority in the political scene. Therefore, Moroccan democratic transition has quietly performed through a series of reforms which are demanded by the citizens, and then implemented by the Royal Institution in response to the wave of revolutions known as the Arab Spring.



Prepared by/ Siham Al Dreesi



Number of Pages
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The Dilemma of Political Transition in Libya



This research paper provides a more comprehensive analytical reading for the conflict dynamics in the Libyan crisis. It focuses on processes of confrontations among the different influential actors after February Uprising in 2011. It puts further interest on the armed conflicts that have transformed the Libyan Uprising into a civil war. As a result, Libya has become a sphere of an agent in which the international powers are fighting. The persisting disorder in Libya has led to a contention among the local Libyan actors. This also has resulted in a high level of political instability emerged from changing alliances. The intensification of the local actors' conflicts has been crystallized and affected by the diplomatic, financial and logistical involvement of foreign armed militias and powers in this Libyan crisis. So, this study explores the backgrounds and security implications of the Libyan crisis.



Prepared By/ Siham Al Dreesi



Number of Pages
(100)

Conflict of Influence in East Africa



This study reviews the essential features of the East Africa region, articulating the strategic importance of this region historically. It deals with the historical depth of the Arab-Islamic existence in the horn of Africa region. It also emphasizes the impacts of the European imperialistic heritage in the East African countries. Moreover, this study concerns with both the regional and International powers' strategies towards this region, with a particular focus on the dynamics of the conflict of hegemony. The study also focuses on analyzing and exploring the strategic intersections between the Gulf region and the East Africa countries.



Prepared By/ Siham Al Dreesi



Number of Pages
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Saudi Society's Image in Western Cultural Mindset



The study deals with a critical issue that can be reconceptualized as the deconstruction and analysis of the Western public opinion perceptions of Saudi Arabian society. This study has uncovered the image of Saudis in multiple Western cultural and intellectual writings. This research paper also investigates the profound and historical impacts of such intellectual writings on the Western mindset through the re-analysis of its stereotypical paradigms. This research also highlights the state of contradiction of the Western policy makers who are in limbo between the discourse of Oriental fantasy and the pragmatic calculations concerning the strategic hegemony of Saudi Arabia. This study presents three core ideas: the strategic power of Saudi Arabia, the status quo of confrontation between Islam and the West and its influence on Western minds, and finally the analysis of Western perceptions of Saudi Arabian society with specific concern on the American, German and Spanish cultural discourse.



Prepared By/ Siham Al Dreesi



Number of Pages
(97)

Kuwaiti Diplomacy: Elements and Roles



The study examines the Kuwait's foreign policy and its determinants, highlighting the institutions involved in making it. The study also investigates the role and implications determining the internal and external factors of this foreign policy. It discusses Kuwait's foreign policy towards complex issues in both of the regional and international agendas. The study profoundly focuses on the diplomacy of reconciliation and mediation in the Kuwaiti foreign affairs. Therefore, this research paper proposes to identify the various components, capabilities and roles of this diplomacy during the last period. The study also proposes a series of suggestions and concluding ideas that may participate in activating and strengthening Kuwait's future role.



Prepared By: Mutahir Al-Saffari



Number of Pages
(97)

New Tax Policies in Saudi Arabia: Motives and Implications



Bu çalışma, Suudi Arabistan Krallığı'nda yeni vergi uygulamaları politikasının benimsenmesinden kaynaklanan ekonomik ve sosyal yönleri tartışmakta, yeni vergi politikalarının etkisini ve Suudi vatandaşa karşı desteğin göreceli olarak serbestleştirilmesini ve en önemlisi harcama yapan yabancı işçilere potansiyel etkisini tartışmakta yeni vergi politikalarının uygulanmasının potansiyel etkisini konu almaktadır.



Prepared By/ Ahmed Al-Jallad



Number of Pages
(77)

Reading of Hezbollah's Strategies: Ideological Conflicts and Regional Alliances



The study reviews the emergence of the party and its associated political and social context. It examines the different factors contributed to the growing influence of this political party in southern Lebanon. It also investigates the political, military and religious integration of this party in the Lebanese context. It is obviously that Hezbollah has become one of the most prominent powers among Lebanese internal factions. This study discusses the repercussions of the party's intervention in the Arab and regional countries through focusing on their political and military interventions, as well as the strategic alliance with Iran. This kind of alliances reflects the Iranian support to this party from the first moments of its emergence.



Prepared By: Studies and Research Unit



Number of Pages (111)

Iranian Influence in Yemen: Gifted Opportunities



The study examines the Iranian influence in Yemen providing a deeper understanding of its strategies, tools and objectives. After defining the contextual backgrounds about the Yemeni crisis, the policies and mechanisms have a profound effect on the Iranian policy in Yemen. This study is committed to examine the prospects of the future results of the Iranian policy in Yemen. It also paves the way to re-consider Iran's influence in the Arab region and analyzes the status of conflict between the Iranian role and the neighboring regional countries and the international powers, including Saudi Arabia and Turkey.



Prepared By: Ateq Jarallah



Number of Pages
(75)

Palestine ... Deal of the Century: Opportunities and Challenges



The study examines and identifies ‘the deal of the century’ declared by US President Donald Trump aiming to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. It also reviews the Palestinian and international actors’ reactions to the American President’s initiative. It also deals with the assessment of challenges and the opportunities for achieving this deal. Finally, it forecasts the future of the so-called the deal of century.



Prepared By: Mutahir Al-Saffari



Number of Pages
(67)

Political and legal Dimensions of President Trump's Impeachment Scenario



This study examines the current proposed scenario to impeach President Trump according to the constitutional laws governing the option of impeachment. It seems vulnerable to focus on the power game between the White House Administration and the Congress which was historically elaborated with several other presidents. The study re-extrapolates the political dimensions of the impeachment scenario in light of the existing polarization between opponents and supporters of President Trump's policies. In addition, it is important to point out the internal and international variables which determine the network of alliances within the US Congress. The latter is legally concerned with making decisions of the presidential impeachment. The study addresses most of the specific charges against President Trump through an academic analysis for all the scenarios of American Presidents' removal from office that occurred in the contemporary political history of USA. Moreover, the study identifies the general reservations surrounding Trump's administration, and provides a deep interpretation of all reactions that are for or against impeachment.



Prepared By/ Siham Al Dreesi



Number of Pages
(94)

Ennahdha Movement: Problematics of Authority and Rein after Tunisian Revolution



This study examines the internal and external contexts and factors that contributed to the emergence of Ennahdha Movement in Tunisia. This study proposes a deep analysis of the evolution of ideology, project and political discourse. It is, of course, an attempt to discuss the Ennahdha Movement role for supporting the democratization process after the revolution and the challenges that it faced. This research paper also explains the backgrounds of its leaders with a focus on their relations with the successive Tunisian political regimes from Bourguiba to Ben Ali, reaching the period after revolution. Finally, this study examines the Ennahdha Movement for supporting the post-revolution democratization process in Tunisia and its challenges. This study reviews the strengths and weaknesses of this movement, especially the recent period following the Tunisian revolution.



Prepared By/ Ahmed Al-Sabbagh



Number of Pages
(94)

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.



Prepared By/ Ahmed Al-Sabbagh



Number of Pages
(80)

Return of Mahathir: 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 2018 ,9. 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.



Prepared By/ Siham Al Dreesi



Number of Pages
(100)

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).



Prepared by/ Studies and Research
Unit



Number of Pages
(91)

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.



Prepared By: Mutahir Al-Saffari



Number of Pages
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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 20 years and cast a shadow on the political and social scene of the countries of the Horn of Africa.



Prepared By/ Ahmed Al-Sabbagh



Number of Pages
(86)

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.



Prepared By/ Ahmed Al-Sabbagh



Number of Pages
(93)

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.



Prepared By/ Elham Al-Hadabi



Number of Pages
(86)

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.



Prepared By/ Mutahir Al-Saffari



Number of Pages
(143)

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.



Prepared By/ Siham Al Dreesi



Number of Pages
(91)

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.



Prepared By/ Ahmed Al-Sabbagh



Number of Pages
(91)

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.



Prepared By/ Ali Jabali



Number of Pages
(120)

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.



Prepared By: Mutahir Al-Saffari



Number of Pages
(126)

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.



Prepared By/ Ahmed Al-Sabbagh



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7. Position Papers



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مركز الفكر الاستراتيجي للدراسات

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