

Iraq's Role in Regional rivalry: A Reading of Opportunities and Challenges

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Abstract

Objectives: The study aims to evaluate Iraq's significant role on the Arab and regional stage, considering its historical and contemporary influence in political, military, and economic spheres. It also seeks to understand how Iraq's natural resources and strategic location contribute to its regional role and how this role can be leveraged to advance its objectives amid changing regional and international dynamics.

Methods: This study employed a descriptive analytical approach to analyze Iraq's regional variables, as well as a future-oriented approach for studies that aim to forecast reality and anticipate the future. The study examined Iraq's role in regional competition by exploring opportunities and challenges. Sources and references were collected and examined to draw conclusions.

Results: The findings indicate that Iraq's strength has significantly improved recently, with several new circumstances leading to increased interest in Iraq's position by other powers. Improved relations between Iraq and some regional powers have enhanced its role in certain regional issues due to its strategic location and natural resources. However, this influence is limited by various challenges that hinder Iraq's ability to fully achieve its diverse and irreplaceable interests.

Conclusions: Iraq's future position will be crucial in determining the impact of regional and international developments on the stability of the region, either positively or negatively. Consequently, the Iraqi government and political forces aim to play a fair and moderate role in the future to enhance stability and support development in the region. In summary, Iraq must establish political, economic, and security relations to leverage its regional influence and advance its internal goals.

Keywords: Competition, Regional Environment, Iraq's Regional Variables, Iraq's Regional Future

دور العراق في التنافس الإقليمي: قراءة في الفرص والتحديات

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ملخص

الأهداف: تهدف الدراسة إلى تقييم دور العراق المهم على الساحة العربية والإقليمية، نظرًا لتأثيره التاريخي والمعاصر في المجالات السياسية والعسكرية والاقتصادية. وتحاول الدراسة أيضًا فهم كيفية مساهمة موارد العراق الطبيعية وموقعه الاستراتيجي في دوره الإقليمي وكيف يمكن أن يستخدم هذا الدور لتعزيز أهدافه في مواجهة الديناميكيات الإقليمية والدولية المتغيرة.

المنهجيات: استخدمت هذه الدراسة منهجًا تحليليًا وصفيًا، يحلل المتغيرات الإقليمية للعراق، فضلًا عن منهج استشراف مستقبلي للدراسات المستقبلية التي تحاول استقراء الواقع واستشراف المستقبل من خلاله. وفي عرض موضوع الدراسة دور العراق في التنافس الإقليمي: قراءة في الفرص والتحديات، وجرى جمع المصادر والمراجع وفحصها من أجل الوصول إلى الاستنتاجات.

النتائج: تشير النتائج إلى أن قوة العراق تحسنت بشكل ملحوظ في الآونة الأخيرة؛ حيث أدى عدد من الظروف الجديدة إلى زيادة الاهتمام بمكانة العراق من قبل القوى الأخرى. وقد أدى تحسن علاقات العراق مع بعض القوى الإقليمية إلى تعزيز دوره في بعض القضايا الإقليمية بسبب موقعه الاستراتيجي وموارده الطبيعية. ومع ذلك، فإن تأثير القوة محدود بسبب التحديات المختلفة التي تعيق قدرة العراق على تحقيق مصالحه المتنوعة التي لا يمكن تعويضها.

الاستنتاجات: إن موقف العراق المستقبلي سيكون حاسمًا في تحديد مدى تأثير التطورات الإقليمية والدولية في استقرار المنطقة، إيجابًا أو سلبيًا. وبالتالي، تسعى الحكومة العراقية والقوى السياسية إلى لعب دور عادل ومعتدل في المستقبل، لتعزيز الاستقرار ودعم التنمية في المنطقة. خلاصة القول، يجب على العراق أن يقيم علاقات سياسية واقتصادية وأمنية من أجل الإفادة من نفوذه الإقليمي وتعزيز أهدافه الداخلية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: تنافس، البيئة الإقليمية، المتغيرات الإقليمية للعراق، مستقبل العراق الإقليمي.



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Introduction

Every country that comprises the international community and engages in international and regional relations possesses specific elements and tools, and their respective functions differ based on those elements and instruments. There are countries that play an influential and effective international role, while other countries play an influential and important regional role. For an international or regional role to be efficacious and impactful, it must be based on a set of conditions that give credibility and accomplish the role's goals. The state impacts the choices other states because of its capacity, and the state's capacity to impact isn't restricted to a particular power, there are variables that effect, somehow, the role of the state, and among these are variables political, economic, and security. Because Iraq is not a marginal country, you will find that it is present in each issue and has a position on every crisis. His role may occasionally diminish, but he is always present in public scene. Iraq has seen a discernible shift in its foreign policy toward good neighborliness and refraining from meddling in the internal affairs of other states, all of which are conducive to achieving security, stability, and prosperity. International relations are a complex area that incorporates cooperation, rivalry, and a variety of relationships between states. Artificial intelligence had a substantial influence on several fields, including international relations. States are increasingly using artificial intelligence approaches in their strategies and when making decisions related to politics, economy, and security. With an emphasis on how to use artificial intelligence's sophisticated capabilities to achieve strategic objectives that enhance Iraq's position in the international community, artificial intelligence can also serve as a driving force for Iraq to play a more influential and effective role in the region. In this study, through three topics, we try study the Iraq's environment, regional variables, and future of Iraq's role in the area.

Study Significance

Examining Iraq's role as an active regional force in the context of its area is what makes this study significant. In light of the lack of other regional powers, as well as its impact on the motion of current and future interactions, diagnosing role and its possibilities and challenges gives a realistic vision of the nature and dimensions of this role.

Study Problem

The fact that Iraq's involvement in regional rivalry results from different interests and goals of the participating nations poses a challenge to this study. This prompts us to formulate the following key study question: Can Iraq be a significant player in regional competition, and what challenges stand in the way of its return to the regional scene? and will Iraq continue to play this role and advance in the near future? or will this role decline? To answer this question. The present study aims to provide answers to the following questions:

1. What is the reality regional environment of Iraq?
2. What are the variables affect Iraq's role in the region?
3. What is the future of the role of regional Iraq considering the Current rivalry between various powers?

Study Hypothesis

The Study proceeds from the hypothesis: Iraq's role in the regional rivalry determined by the challenges it faces both domestically and regionally. One of the biggest obstacles Iraq has had to overcome is regional rivalry, which has a direct impact on the country's stability politically, economically, and security. Iraq has the chance to play a future role in the Region because of the effect this competition has had on efforts to build future.

Limitaions Temporal Study

An analysis of Iraq's role in regional rivalry from 2003 to the present, with a focus on current variables and potential future developments, will be included in the study, which focuses on the period from 2003, a year that saw a significant shift in the internal and external situation of Iraq following the American occupation.

Study Methodology

The descriptive approach instruments were utilized by the study to characterize Iraq's regional environment. In addition to the approach of analysis used to examine regional variables and demonstrate their effects on Iraq, the future forward-looking approach was also used to predict the future role of Iraq in the regional environment. In addition, several pertinent sources and references used to reach the results (Obeidat, T., et al. (1998)), (Qandilji, A. I. (1993)).

Previous Studies

Al-Tamimi, Zafar Abdul Matar (2019). "The Future Position of Iraq within the Middle Eastern Axis Strategy", Tikrit Journal of Political Science, Issue (3), Tikrit University.

The study emphasizes Iraq's important place as result of its advantageous location, which draws attention from across the world for a variety of reasons in the Middle East. Due to the interaction and entanglement of regional and global interests. Iraq has seen several transformations in its political history. Iraq's future standing is still being plan and formed in the corridors of the international political arena. In contrast, my study views Iraq as a component of a regional environment in which the necessity of Iraq's active and influential future role in regional competition drives the significance of its role within this context and the process of leveraging its internal and external capabilities to build this role.

Al-Zaidi, Mufid (2019). "Relations between Iraq and the Gulf Cooperation Council States Post-2014", Al-Mustansiriya Journal for Arab and International Studies, Volume (16), Issue (66), Al-Mustansiriya University.

The strategic, political, and economic significance of the Arab Gulf region, which is currently facing both internal and external challenges exacerbated because of the fallout of the "Arab Spring". Which threatened security and stability in several Arab countries, makes this study all the more important in terms of its contribution to the field of security and stability for Iraq and the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council. Together with the rising threats of terrorism and violence in the region and throughout the world, also affected the Arab Gulf area. While my study is distinctive in that it shows how Iraq's ability to enhance its external conduct patterns to leverage supportive variables and contain restricting variables while strategically activating all of its foreign policy tools to achieve goals. Iraq political, economy, and security performance have improved under the current administration, opening up new opportunities for individuals to assume roles that advance the country's interests.

Al-Tamimi, Nabil Jabbar Al-Ali (2022). "Economic Impacts of Iraq's Role in Regional Security: Capabilities and Limitation", Bayan Center for Studies and Planning.

According to this study, Iraq's GDP and population are below potential, particularly in comparison to Neighbouring Countries like Iran, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia. Iraq's economy is essentially reliant upon its oil incomes and products, which are by OPEC laws, which apparently - because of business rivalry - have not put Iraq in a position similar with its size, oil hold extent, and populace. Unlike this study, ours shows that Iraq's strategic location and plenty of natural resources make it a major economic player in the area. Iraq has large oil and gas reserves, and one of the key industries that promotes economic growth, and diversification is the investment industry. The role of the investment sector in growing Iraq's economy anticipated to increase in the future, despite current limitations and challenges that affect investment attractiveness. There are efforts to improve this environment targeted at attracting more investments, as well as current developments in Iraq.

➤ First Topic: The Reality of Iraq's Regional Environment

Iraq holds a strategic significance in the current global landscape, largely due to its unique position in the Middle East. Factors such as its strategic location, shared ethnic and religious ties with neighboring countries, and the ideological foundations that have shaped the modern Iraqi state contribute to its importance. The long-standing power dynamics between Iraq and its neighbors often lead to mutual influence, where each state can impact the others' internal and external policies. In international relations, a state's political significance grows in tandem with its strategic value. However, this prominence also subjects Iraq to constant scrutiny and pressure regarding its ability to fulfill the expectations placed upon it in the future (Habib, "The Regional Role of Iraq: A Future Study," 2011).

Since 1990, the regional landscape around Iraq has undergone significant changes in politics, security, and the economy. The region has seen a mix of conflict, cooperation, and balancing acts among the participating states. These developments have led to the fall of strong regional institutions and the rise of new regional powers. Political upheavals, intense disagreements among ruling regimes, and shifts in governance before and after 2003 have further destabilized Iraq's relations with its neighbors. The American occupation of Iraq exacerbated these tensions, leading to severe consequences for both Iraq and its regional environment (Hilal, 1986).

The region surrounding Iraq has experienced numerous conflicts, both internal and regional, some of which were further

complicated by the involvement of external powers. Historically, Iraq's regional relationships have been marked by continuous conflict, leading to security challenges, imbalances in regional roles, and uneven geographical development. These dynamics have not only fostered new roles for regional actors but have also led to increased internal interventions (Attwan K., 2007).

Despite the shared interests and historical ties among the nations surrounding Iraq, the region has been characterized more by rivalry and conflict than by cooperation. Political and security concerns have often prevented these states from working together effectively. As regional powers began to play more active roles within Iraq—sometimes through proxies, other times through direct intervention—regional competition became a significant factor. Iraq's position has been central in this competition, as its policies and actions often set the stage for broader regional dynamics of cooperation and conflict (Darwish, 2021).

Iraq aspires to strengthen its diplomatic ties with neighboring countries by fostering mutual respect and cooperation. The country seeks to protect and advance its national interests through an open and effective foreign policy, cultivating relationships with Arab, Islamic, and international communities. This strategy aims to contribute to regional stability, maintain national security, and avoid interference in the domestic affairs of other nations. By emphasizing shared historical, cultural, and geographic ties, Iraq hopes to promote regional and global cooperation. Diplomatic efforts are further supported by Iraq's participation in international forums, where the country advocates for its political, military, security, and economic interests (Kadhim M., 2019).

In this evolving landscape, artificial intelligence (AI) presents a promising tool for enhancing Iraq's diplomatic efforts. AI's ability to process vast amounts of data quickly and accurately, identify patterns, and predict future occurrences makes it a valuable asset. When integrated with human capabilities, AI can serve as a powerful instrument in Iraqi diplomacy, helping to navigate the complexities of regional and global relations (Abd, 2024).

Based on the aforementioned, variety of challenges define the reality of Iraq's regional environment. Here, the study will focus on some points that shed light on this reality (Al-Mahdawi, 2021):-

1. **Security and Stability:** Iraq faces security threats from terrorist groups such as ISIS is an abbreviation for the Islamic state in Iraq and the Levant. It is a terrorist organization adopts Salafi-jihadi thought and calls for the restoration of the caliphate and the application of Islamic law. It extends to the areas it controls from Syria to Iraq, and its leader is Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi (Kader, 2018). In addition, domestic stability in Iraq hindered by national and sectarian disputes. Consequently, this makes it more difficult for it to play a significant regional role.

2. **Environmental Challenges:** Due to several conflicts and inadequate environmental legislation, Iraq has severe environmental issues, including soil erosion, water and air pollution, and geographic pollution. The issues that most affect Iraq's capacity to sustain its growth and the strain it places on the regional system are environmental ones.

3. **Humanitarian Challenges:** Iraq is confronted with serious humanitarian challenges, including the internal population's forced exodus and the dearth of essential services. The settle for less make it hard for Iraq to carry out its part in the district.

4. **Trained Regional Relationships:** Trade, security cooperation, and political ties are the main factors influencing Iraq's relations with its neighbours. There is tremendous pressure on Iraq to assist the country in achieving its regional objectives as result of regional crises, many military and political difficulties, and economic cooperation.

5. **External Interventions:** External actions by regional and international powers also have a significant impact on Iraq. They make it far more difficult for Iraq to establish itself as a strong nation and to take the lead in the area.

➤ **Second Topic: Variables Influencing Iraq's Regional Role**

Iraq's stance ultimately determined by the objectives and policies that the American war regimes, both before and after 2003, imposed on that country. It characterized by the imposition of new objectives and paths intended to bring about advancements after the war. The change in Iraq marked the beginning of a new era that has resulted in significant events that have an impact on not only Iraq but also the surrounding area and beyond. At this stage, the regional variables are the most crucial. A number of regional variables have an impact on Iraq's role in the region. The most prominent of these variables are:

➤ **First Requirement: Political Variables**

The competition for influence in Iraq is expected to intensify due to the increasing number of actors and the growing complexity of variables at play. Iraq's regional policy is strategically shaped by the broader circumstances in the Middle East, influencing relationships, alliances, and the regional balance of power. These dynamics also impact Iraq's domestic political developments and, consequently, its foreign policy and regional interactions (Hussein, *Future Trends in Iraq's Regional Relations*, 2018).

Since 2003, sectarian and partisan balances have dominated Iraq's political landscape, contributing to the country's ongoing political and social conflicts. The American occupation, particularly the establishment of the Governing Council in July 2003, entrenched these sectarian divisions, exacerbating internal conflicts and weakening Iraq's regional and international role (Hussein, *Iraq, and Its Strategic Depth – Perception and Response*, 2021).

In response, Iraq is now seeking a new political direction to enhance its influence in the region. By leveraging its resources and adhering to principles of reciprocity and parity, Iraq aims to establish stable and secure regional partnerships. This approach reflects Iraq's desire to protect its interests and pursue constructive relations with neighboring countries, signaling a positive shift in its foreign policy aspirations (Abdul Hamid, Hassan Saad, 2020).

In today's world, artificial intelligence (AI) plays a crucial role in policy formulation and decision-making. AI's ability to predict risks and provide complex knowledge is transforming the mechanisms of power and decision-making in foreign policy. Efficient use of AI is essential for Iraq to stay aligned with global developments (Sami, 2023).

A key factor in Iraq's recent recovery has been the consistency of its foreign policy. In the past, political differences led to a fragmented and less cohesive foreign policy. However, Iraq is now seizing opportunities to strengthen ties with neighboring countries, particularly following significant victories against terrorism (Al-Mayali, 2023).

➤ **Second Requirement: Economic Variables**

Iraq's strategic position and abundance of natural resources make it an important economic player in the area. Iraq is one of the world's top producers and exporters of oil due to its vast natural gas and oil reserves. Due to its reliance on oil imports, Iraq has a crucial position in the world energy market.

Iraq's growth goals and projects, encompassing economic and social domains, discontinued after 2003, resulting in a discernible reduction in living standards. The security situation made the already crippled and impoverished Iraqi economy. This had a detrimental effect on political stability, which in turn affected the reality of development, which necessitates a minimum degree of political stability. Foreign investment also been hampered by the lack of political stability and security, which is crucial for resolving a number of the country's problems. Iraq's economic recovery depends on the amount of foreign investment; higher economic recovery and more investors implied by security and stability. On the other hand, should the security situation worsen, the economic situation will collapse. This is also true of the political situation, whose effects and ramifications cause investors to become fearful and withdraw their money from the country in search of a stable and safe haven (Kamel, Mustafa, 2020).

The infrastructural reconstruction of Iraq desperately needed after years of war and persecution. Opportunities to participate in development and rebuilding projects created by this demand for both domestic and foreign businesses. Iraq is an important market for commerce in the region; neighbours nations and the surrounding territories depend on it for the import and export of necessary resources. By taking part in regional initiatives like the Arab Economic Union and other regional and international organizations. Iraq seeks to strengthen its economic ties with neighbours and other countries. Iran is the second-most important country economically, particularly when it comes to commerce with Iraq, which accounted for 13% of trade in 2018. As of 2018, Turkey stood out as the main rival in Iraq's economic ties with its neighbours in the area, accounting for 22% of trade exchanges, given the economic openness Saudi Arabia seeks to attain after many visits from the Iraqi government to Riyadh, the administration's focus on diversifying investors may have negative impacts on Iran and Turkey. (Hamid, Ali Fares, 2020).

Saudi Arabia has made it plain that it is supporting the national economy of Iraqi and aim to compete with all investors, especially Turkey and Iran. Moreover, Saudi Arabia has suggested providing Iraq with electrical energy expanding the

tourist between the two countries will principally help Saudi Arabia (Al-Rubaie and Hashem, 2017).

➤ **Third Requirement: Security Variables**

One of the most important factors influencing Iraq's stability both internally and externally after 2003 is security. There are serious weaknesses in the Iraqi borders, especially when it comes to their ability to be controlled, which leaves them open to terrorist attacks. The emergence of terrorist threats, which pose a significant threat to Iraq's and the region's security, has exacerbated the situation. For example, ISIS classified as a terrorist organization in 2011 and commanded by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, initially appeared in Syria before moving to Iraq and eventually taking control of Mosul in 2014 with the help of other nations that support terrorism. Turkey been charged with providing support to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) since the group's inception and takeover of significant portions of both countries. Even though Turkey claimed to be fighting ISIS and supporting Iraq and Syria, it has been using terrorist groups to further its expansionist goals without appearing to be at odds with the global effort to combat terrorism. Turkey gave terrorists from all over the world permission to enter its territory, provided them with the necessary military and logistical support, and then sent them into Syria and Iraq (Muayad, 2022).

In reference to the security dossier, the Iraqi government has made it clear that it opposes any actions that jeopardize regional security and that it will not let any organization or political physique to utilize Iraqi territory as a means of posing a danger to its neighbours. Iraq will work with its neighbours to strengthen security measures, particularly in the north and along the border with Syria, in order to keep an eye on and stop any armed organizations or factions from entering the country (Al-Hariri, 2020). Threat analysis systems that make use of artificial intelligence can also identify unauthorized activities in the digital domain. These systems can monitor cyber security and detect potential cyberattacks on the data of presidents, political leaders, and diplomats (Abd, 2024)

As a result, in an effort to improve security and stability in the area, Iraq has signed a number of security agreements, the most significant of which are:

1. **Iraq-United States Strategic Partnership Agreement (2008):** Iraq and the United States signed a Strategic Partnership Agreement on May 21, 2008, with the goal of strengthening cooperation between the two countries, in multiple areas including security and defense
2. **Boundary Agreements with Neighbouring Countries:** Iraq has signed border agreements with Iran, Turkey, Kuwait, and all of its neighbours. These agreements seek to strengthen border security, collaboration, and security measures that have long been contributing to the facilitation of terrorist crossings.
3. **Iraq-Saudi Arabia Security Cooperation Agreement (2017):** The focus of the agreement between Saudi Arabia and Iraq on border control, intelligence sharing from the exchange of information concerning terrorists, and improved security cooperation. It is a calculated move to ensure the region's security.
4. **Iraq-Jordan Security Cooperation Agreement (2018):** This agreement calls for cooperation between Iraq and Jordan in the areas of intelligence sharing about new terrorist groups, military training joint, and development Intelligence capacity of new and more potent strength training.
5. **Iraq-United Arab Emirates Security Cooperation Agreement (2019):** Its goal is to improve information sharing and security cooperation in the areas of border security and counterterrorism.

➤ **Third Topic: The Future of Iraq's Regional Role**

A state understands its place in a regional system or realm by being true aware of it, not just in terms of its own capabilities but also in terms of the size, status, and potential and actual impact of other powers. Furthermore, it is important to take into account how these states affect its function, whether positively or negatively. A false impression of its standing and, by extension, its function, may have unexpected consequences that reduce or increase its function in accordance with its goals and objectives. In fact, Iraq has taken on a more prominent position in the regional environment. Hopes to emerge as a major regional force in the new millennium. (Dhunoon Al-Taie, 2018),(Abdel Aziz, B. (2015))

It is clear that Iraq's position in the area has gone through several, inconsistent phases, alternating between competition and conflict and reconciliation and concord. Iraq's position changed, going from being a prominent pole to the strongest

state, then to a weaker state and an arena in regional conflicts. (Kamil, Mustafa, 2020). Iraq's has experienced obstacles in the past, but this does not mean that it cannot overcome them and continue to play a significant role in the area. At present, Iraq plays a proactive role in the area, putting itself in the continuing balances that were not able decisively settled towards any party. (Kadhim, 2021)

Thus, seen those geopolitical balances, rivalry among regional powers, and internal Iraqi issues all play a significant part in shaping Iraq's future position in the area. Given the struggle that exists between the major powers at present, several possibilities for Iraq's future involvement in the region:

❖ **First Requirement: Scenc The Evolution of Iraq's Regional Role**

This scenario assumes a number of factors that will drive the development and improvement of Iraq's regional role, including varying degrees of effectiveness and support. A strong internal base and a political framework that encourages an outward orientation are necessary for a successful regional or international role to exist. This includes moving from a state of reflection and non-intervention neighbours areas, which, if considered, would allow it to impose its presence and conditions on other nations, to an effective role in its immediate geographic vicinity. Due to the advancements achieved in the sectors and elements of Iraqi force, this level will have a substantial influence on the country's future role; also, as these elements strengthen, so will Iraq's influence in the region. (Dhunoon Al-Taie, 2018)

The establishment of internal methods and principles—most notably, democracy—as well as the abolition of political quota systems and sectarianism, which undermine Iraq's political system by encouraging division and fragmentation, are necessary to bring about political stability in the country. Political groups in Iraq must be more accommodating to one another, get rid of disagreements, and promote trust amongst them. By investing in industries, tourism, and agriculture, it may diversify its economy and become less dependent on oil, therefore strengthening its position as a regional economic hub. In addition to Iraq's involvement in settling regional conflicts, supporting humanitarian operations, actively participating in regional and international organizations, and improving its regional image, this also enhances the trust of neighbours nations and international partners. Iraq's role and influence in the region have stabilized and grown as result of ongoing efforts to combat terrorism and extremism and to improve internal and regional security. (Ibrahim, 2023), (Al-Mashhadani, S. S. (2017))

Iraq and Saudi Arabia are experiencing an economic upswing as result of many circumstances that have compelled both nations to enhance their trade and economic relations. The need for the Kingdom to compete economically with Iran in Iraq, as per Saudi vision, and Saudi Arabia's desire to aggressively enter the Iraqi market to boost its economy and increase its foreign trade were the two most important of these factors. Iraq is a market that Saudi goods can expect to flourish in in the future. On the other hand, Iraq's desire to uphold a neutral foreign policy that is balanced was the primary driving force behind its efforts to fortify its economic ties with Saudi Arabia. Therefore, it is imperative to remain open to all surrounding states, even if they are at odds with one another. Iraq needs to allow the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia access to its markets, as to Iran allowed. Furthermore, Iraq urgently needs big Saudi businesses willing to contribute to the country's restoration. Ultimately. In the concluded, the growth in economic escalation between Saudi Arabia and Iraq would deepen political collaboration and build mutual dependency between the two nations, perhaps leading to an expansion and development of Iraq's involvement with the Gulf countries. (Kamil, Mustafa, 2020)

To sum up, this scenario has a lot of potential because it supported by a number of factors. Iraq's strategic location and abundant natural resources allow it to play a significant role in the region. Iraq's evolving regional role shaped by multiple factors, such as politics, economy, security. It expected that the country continue to grow in the future by implementing policies that support stability, development, and collaboration with neighbours nations and the international community.

❖ **Second Requirement: Scenc Decline of Iraq's Regional Role**

This scenario suggests a number of factors that may cause Iraq's regional significance to wane and recede. These factors, which promote decay and Retreat Occur on several levels. Iraq's present status been greatly influenced by its handling of regional conflicts with several parties at the same time, despite the international dimension's momentum in the country. The impact regional and international consensus to the need to create a new vision for Iraq's political predicament, presenting

it as an active participant in future regional stability, to change the geopolitical landscape of the area. (Hussein, Iraq, and its Neighbours: Objectives and Interests, 2011)

In spite of positive changes in Iraq's territorial role directions post-2003, they still fall short of what needed. Numerous clear failures to achieve the required level of performance for Iraq's new regional role been caused by significant issues. In addition to the ongoing disputes over constitutional powers between the central government and local governments, which severely limited Iraq's influence in the area. Furthermore, the competing political ideologies of the various Iraqi political groups in power with regard to the key factors influencing Iraq's foreign policy and characterizing the nature of its connections with other countries and regions adversely affected Iraq's regional position after 2003. Iraq's inability to come to a consensus on its foreign policy during this time resulted in a lack of a clear national vision for its role in the region. As a result, Iraq's influence with neighboring states was diminished, and it was unable to settle many outstanding issues, including opening up Arab countries to Iraq diplomatically and settling disagreements with them, all while persuading everyone that Iraq's newfound political experience would not have a negative impact on anyone. (Abdullah and Khalaf, 2019)

It is noteworthy because regional parties manipulate Iraq's domestic politics through powerful political forces, upending foreign policy narratives and affecting the impact's strength and effectiveness. No state holds significant political weight without economic and military capabilities that rival those of other regional states amid the regional arms race. This is due to conflicting roles and agendas, a fragile economy, and a lack of military strength required to achieve the necessary balance neighbours countries. The decline of Iraq's regional role also exacerbated by the presence of terrorist organizations in the region and the particular requirement for regional and Iraqi cooperation in the fight against terrorism and the prevention of its spread at the expense of regional security. (Kazim M., 2019)

In conclusion, the strategic void in the local area means that there is little probability of the decline scenario. Thus, Iraq's declining regional influence might result from the country's ongoing internal political strife and its deteriorating security. Iraq is unable to contribute to or engage in regional concerns in a meaningful way. Furthermore, Iraq's capability to engage in regional affairs may severely hampered by economic downturns, rising rates of unemployment and poverty, and changes in oil prices. Additionally, if problems are not successfully resolved and the internal situation not improved in addition to prudent management of foreign relations, foreign interventions in Iraq's internal affairs may impede the government's ability to make political decisions and eventually result in a decline in Iraq's regional role.

❖ **Third Requirement: Scenc Stabilization of Iraq's Regional Role**

In this scenario, a number of factors seen as stabilizing Iraq's regional position, with several spheres of influence playing a part in this stability. Iraq must perform the role of a regional balancer, mediating disputes between rival and conflicting parties in the area, in order to ensure future regional stability. Iraq continues to be an essential balancing factor for regional security, even though it is currently unable to perform this function. The equations governing Arab and regional security would be upset in the context of the area if it disappeared or weakened. (Fares, 2017)

Iraq therefore seeks to promote political discourse among all domestic political parties, cultivate tolerance and understanding among all political and sectarian groupings, and take serious and effective action against corruption by enforcing the law and improving the openness of the administration. Following the formation of the current Iraqi government under Mohammed Shia' Al-Sudani, which aims to promote constructive discussion and national unity, the situation is likely to gradually normalize. Promising a political alliance that surpasses limited associations with an exclusively Iraqi character, they establish the administration and reconstruct the nation on contemporary national premises. Additionally, Iraq can strengthen its regional role and achieve cooperation in a number of areas by stepping up security measures to counter extremism and terrorism, maintaining internal security, and safeguarding civilians and government institutions from security threats. It can also do this by forging strong and long-lasting relationships with neighboring nations and international organizations, working to diversify its sources of income and improve its economic infrastructure, including by boosting investments and supporting non-oil industries. Iraq can play a major role in fostering peace and prosperity in the region given its importance as a regional power, but doing so will need a strong commitment and extensive changes in a number of areas. (Al-Obaidi, 2022)

Based on an awareness and acknowledgment of the regional factors occurring throughout the area, Iraq should not wait to just influence by occurrences outside of its known geographical surroundings. This scenario aims to establish the foundations of political, security, and social stability among other things by making the most of the opportunities now and in the future, especially in light of victories against armed terrorist organizations like ISIS in 2016. This will pave the way for breaking out of the vicious cycle of ongoing conflicts in the region and establishing a new pattern of interrelations across multiple domains. Additionally, policies that will improve stability and cooperation with regional neighbours in the future adopted, and regional relations manage based on an equation that allows influential roles in regional events to overcome the plight of regional blocs and polarizations. (Kazim, Ahmed Adnan; 2020)

Conclusion

In light of all of the aforementioned, it can be concluded that Iraq is able to accomplish particular and noteworthy regional and international advantages due to the nature of the existing regional environment, which plays a role in the implementation of its regional strategy and its future extensions. Iraq takes advantage of the numerous inconsistencies present in the existing and anticipated future regional environment by implementing a system of balance and shared interests. Iraq is also actively utilizing its strengths and capabilities in a renewed, evolving, and strategic manner to pursue the goals of its foreign policy, particularly with regard to regional affairs. This done because Iraq recognizes the variables of the regional reality, particularly the transformations in its vital regional sphere. This helps to ensure a promising regional role as the most important factor for the stability and balance of the regional environment. It is noteworthy that Iraq has initiated concrete measures to create an extensive network of advanced interactions encompassing political, economic, and security facets, predicated on augmenting collaboration with neighboring regional nations.

Iraq's future capacity to prevent regional and international intrusions and attain total sovereignty over its decisions will determine how successful its position in the area will be going forward. Iraq should take little steps and take advantage of any chance to strengthen ties with neighboring countries, particularly those in the Arab and Gulf regions, as well as with other countries throughout the world, if it hopes to moderate this role.

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