Article Review: Studies of Political Systems and Their Reflections on the Current Situation in Iraq

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Abstract: It is evident to all the extent of the importance of studies in political systems as an academic specialization, in providing and enriching knowledge for the Iraqi politician, since these studies are derived from reality and are based on a purely academic methodology, documented through rigorous studies and precise scientific findings.

What grants the researcher in political affairs an appropriate intellectual framework is the ability to address unresolved issues in history that some attempt to calculate in isolation, without linking them to other related issues.

Today, we seek to identify common ground and to avoid being drawn into self-evident assumptions that occupy a wide space in the escalating political conflict, which in turn emerged within the divided Iraqi society after 2003.

This represents an imbalance in the balance of power and a sense of suspicion among other components, which the 2005 Constitution attempted to define indirectly. Methodology and historical determinism thus formed an intense cultural conflict between one side and another, and the political arena became engulfed in a fierce, unrelenting struggle. Political currents confronted one another, each according to its size, and political components emerged aligning themselves with their respective currents and blocs, while researchers found it difficult to identify logical alternatives capable of either mobilizing the street or calming its conflicts.

Therefore, we do not stand idly by in the face of overlapping arenas, nor do we allow conflicts—even virtual ones on the internet—to persist. We may record the strengths and weaknesses of one component or another.

The country became divided into two camps, with each side considering itself to be right. Ideas and cultures slipped into a state of permanent conflict, which became evident in elections where each component stood with its own, excluding others, recording record numbers in the lexicons of the unconscious. Collective reasoning operated in a rigid manner, attempting to secure a foothold in decisive issues, moreover, the masses were provoked by certain sectarian terms, which one side or another perceived as attempts to undermine it, with each interpreting them as directed against itself and its component. Consequently, the following terms were used in a way that allowed Iraqi politicians to exploit them in their daily dealings, investing them in the worst as follows;

Quota-based power sharing was first adopted, and then this term was refined into notions such as partnership, consensus, and balance. Yet, after all this, it entrenched the abhorrent concept of sectarianism. This emerged as a reaction to an authoritarian, totalitarian, and dictatorial regime that divided a single people and fragmented them according to sectarian and regional loyalties. What further compounded the problem was the system that came after 2003, which institutionalized this concept, immersed itself in it, and even took satisfaction in it. Accordingly, the presidencies were distributed on the basis of a sectarian constitutional custom: the President to be Kurdish, the Prime Minister Shiite, and the Speaker of Parliament Sunni, this arrangement extended to all positions within

the Iraqi state, reaching even service-level employees. This constitutional custom, although not written into the constitution, had previously been practiced in Lebanon and was later embodied in Iraq.

What becomes evident from all this is that any group that had been deprived and whose freedom had been suppressed began to exercise its freedom on a wider scale, Shiites, who had been deprived of practicing their rituals, reclaimed—under the new system of governance—their path toward freedom as a result of the sectarian repression they had endured. The Kurds likewise began to practice their national rituals and to express their national identity openly and explicitly.

Keywords: Political systems; Iraqi politicians; the current situation; the Iraqi Constitution; personalism.

Presentation of the Topic:

The findings produced by such studies deepen the understanding of scholars in this field as well as politicians, because they provide a realistic political picture upon which political performance can be based. This is consistent with what Raad Sadiq al-Haideri proposed in his study *The Political Project of Political Forces and Parties in Iraq after 2003*, in which he discusses the nature and composition of the relationship between the citizen and the official. He argues that the degree of attachment or distance in this relationship is determined by several factors, among the most important of which are the following.

It should not be overlooked that the political system in Iraq was established by the United States of America. Initially, the civil administrator Jay Garner was appointed in Iraq, and after six months he was replaced by Paul Bremer, who established the Iraqi Governing Council, the original idea was to form an advisory council to assist him; however, shortly thereafter this approach changed, and a group of individuals—numbering twenty-five—was appointed as members of the Governing Council, with a rotating presidency, subsequently, the National Assembly was formed, which voted on the Iraqi Constitution, during or following this period, sectarian war erupted between Sunnis and Shiites.

Achieving accomplishments and securing public satisfaction are two fundamental factors in establishing a direct relationship that governs survival or decline. Survival, continuity, and sustainability manifest in their finest forms and, in such a case, require greater effort and transparency. Decline, by contrast, refers to the existence of a wide gap between the citizen and the state, or what is loosely termed the "political system."

The researcher believes that studies of this kind possess significant scientific value and substantial benefit, this value is reflected in various forms and manifestations, providing broad spaces for constructive criticism, critical reassessment, and the extraction of certain components to be examined within different analytical frameworks.

In the study presented below,

The researcher discusses the work entitled **"The Crisis of Governance in Iraq after 2003"** by **Najlaa Mahdi Sharif**. In her study, she addresses the new constitution, the parliamentary system, and the mechanisms of the new governance structure, as well as sectarian quota-sharing and consensus, political sectarianism, the international and regional roles, and issues of leadership and personalization of power.

Accordingly, the Iraqi Constitution was drafted in 2005 with the support of Shiite religious authorities and certain political actors who believed that the constitution would guarantee the unity of the Iraqi people, meanwhile, other parties (Sunni) rejected the constitution and described it as the source of the country's problems. Based on this context, the constitution was approved by a Shiite majority, a Sunni minority, and a Kurdish majority.

Subsequently, the constitution was described by the very committee that drafted it as a "crippled constitution," while others characterized it as the best constitution in the Arab region.

When examining the constitutional provisions, it may indeed appear to be among the best in the Arab world; however, at the same time, it contains numerous flaws and latent pitfalls.

A careful and politically informed reading of the constitution reveals surprise at certain articles that contradict general principles. Examples include provisions that state "regulated by law," or that are elastic, vague, or ambiguous, carrying multiple meanings and being open to divergent interpretations.

We live in a country characterized by diversity in orientations and affiliations, which necessitates peaceful coexistence among its components without resorting to militias or the language of arms, what distinguishes the Iraqi mosaic from that of other countries is that, despite some shortcomings here and there, all ethnicities and sects have continued to coexist, the neutrality of the state and its non-sectarian character should have been a national obligation; however, the state often tends to favor certain sects, sometimes represented by parties within one sect or another.

From an institutional perspective, our current crisis can only be described as an existential one, as the conflict within institutions is based on detested quota-sharing, which has bequeathed successive leaderships to govern the country, moreover, political parties themselves lack internal democracy, as we have not heard of any instance in which a party conducted genuine elections for its leadership through nomination and voting processes.

In addition to this, such parties have begun to be inherited by their sons and families. In reality, democracy in Iraq does not believe in democratic mechanisms; rather, it believes only in reaching the seat of power, consequently, sub-identities have become far more important than the overarching national identity that should safeguard the interests of all the people. We have thus transformed into a state of components instead of a state of citizenship.

Furthermore, the dilemma of Iraq's foreign policy file and the intersection of regional interventions within it give the impression that the country is without sovereignty and lacks even the minimum foundations of it. The American forces opened the borders wide, and interference in the country's internal affairs followed, The Islamic Republic of Iran intervened and formed militias as it saw fit. Likewise, Turkey played a negative role by occupying large parts of Iraqi territory extending from Duhok to Bashiqa and even to Sinjar, claiming that this was based on an agreement with the former regime to pursue the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). Turkey established military bases, with troop numbers reaching up to 140,000 soldiers, and formed militias in Kirkuk as well as , there has been a "water war" against Iraq under the pretext that members of the PKK are affiliated with the Popular Mobilization Forces.

This is aside from the interference of Arab brothers in Iraqi affairs, such as Kuwait, which harbors ambitions toward Iraqi territory from Khor Abdullah onward and seeks to expand its influence. Moreover, Kuwait carries a historical complex reflected in the name of its state ("The State of Kuwait"), having added the word "state," which denotes a historical complex stemming from the fact that it is a state rather than an Iraqi province. Saudi Arabia is not exempt from negative interventions in the Iraqi file, nor is the United Arab Emirates, which exerts influence over tribal sheikhs, this is similarly the case with the State of Qatar, which hosts the Al-Sailiya and Al-Udeid bases. Bahrain also engages in courting certain actors within Iraq. Syria's position is no less distant, given its role in training terrorists and sending them into Iraq.

The people are the source of authority in all democracies around the world, and democracy has never been fragmented as it is in Iraq, elections are merely one of the mechanisms of democracy; unfortunately, even elections have been marred by fraud, the widespread use of money near polling centers in the most recent elections, and the burning of ballot boxes in Baghdad and some provinces in previous elections.

This extensive discussion of these important topics, which clearly and explicitly develop political thought and the study of political systems, is necessary in order to identify the realities and find appropriate solutions that correspond to the scale of the risks surrounding the country, which are continuously increasing.

Creating opportunities in public employment and in sensitive positions reduces excessive political interference by ensuring that the right person is placed in the right position, this, in turn, helps to halt the expansion of internal disputes, which themselves prevent external interventions, bridges relationships in line with the internal situation, and prevents the occurrence of divisions or conflicts.

Conclusion:

From the foregoing, it can be inferred that research on political systems plays a major role in shaping public policy and mobilizing public opinion, particularly the work presented by the researcher Raad Sadiq Al-Haidari, who played a pioneering role in curbing certain concepts alien to our societies and sought to prevent the descent of hybrid ideas into low levels whose purpose is regression rather than progress, doing so with a high degree of responsibility.

As for the researcher Najlaa Mahdi Sharif, she did not accept taken-for-granted assumptions, considering them secondary issues unrelated to truth. She also emphasizes the main frameworks in content production and immersion in existential and critical issues.

It is evident from the above that both studies have significant benefits, whether they agree or differ, as they constitute an entry point to the science of political systems and form an important reference among key sources at this stage or in subsequent ones.

Likewise, the study by (**Huda Mohammed Muthanna Al-Bahadli)** is considered of high value, as it addresses the role of governmental and non-governmental institutions in promoting human rights after 2003.

This serves as clear evidence of what has been discussed regarding the importance of research in political systems, since it is framed within historical contexts and presents a new, unconventional pattern for such research. Moreover, it serves the political process, as this study is produced by an institution of high standing—namely, a solid and peer-reviewed academic institution.

References:

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