



Armed groups and the lack of economic development in Iraq

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Introduction:

Security and political stability are one of the most important obstacles facing the process of achieving development and encouraging investment in any country. Thus, achieving security and political stability in the Iraqi political system should be the created a political environment based on real opposition and competition between political parties to gain power, not through the engaging of sectarian and ethnic discourse, which often leads to societal and sectarian fighting. So that, security and political stability is an important backing to development and investment projects.

The growth of the economic offices projects of Iraqi political parties and their empowerment of armed groups that carry weapons outside the framework of the state and represent the military wings of these parties, this would certainly undermine all development and investment projects and constitute an environment repellent to international development projects provided by many contributors countries or international organizations, by describing these activities – development – according to the armed groups, these are subversive projects aimed at hitting the culture of Iraqi society, so they adopted the violent method of kidnapping and killing Many foreign international activists, most recently German activist (Hila Mevis), as well as Iraqi civilian activists, most recently the killing of security and strategic expert(Hisham al-Hashimi).

Importance

The study argues the role of armed groups in Iraq in influencing economic development, as well as how political instability is a key element in strengthening and growing these groups.

The objective

The research aims to identify the role of the unstable security and political variable as a factor in Iraq's investment and economic development after 2003.

The problem

The key question is, do groups without states – armed groups – have an impact on the economic development process in Iraq? How does this affect investment?

the hypothesis

Armed groups have a negative impact on the development process as they contribute to creating an insecure environment for capital and businessmen.

methodology

To verify the research hypothesis and prove the validity of its objective. Descriptive approach and inference analysis have been adopted.

First:

the concept of economic development

Opening, we must get to know the concept of development and then deal with economic development. While development is all human efforts that are made for growth, progress, and the well-being of the individual and society through the development of plans, programs, and projects aimed at improving the lives of people economically and socially and in all sectors (i).

is also known as a practical method that removes and resists negativity and prevents the use of violence and destruction in the face of human energies to achieve the objectives of developing societies to achieve the negative effects into a positive force and equal material and moral energies aimed at achieving the progress of society(ii).

However, Economic development is a process aimed at moving the national economy from underdevelopment to growth, and this transition will lead to fundamental interpretations of production and the cultural level(iii).

Others defined it as a set of state measures and policies, which were to change the composition and structure of the state's national economy to achieve rapid increases in real average income over a given time and to be inclusive and beneficial to the citizens. (iv)

It is also known as, a process that seeks a new object not only on the human level but also at the level of individual, economic, social, and political relations, which individuals can reach to prosperity within society.

Second:

The security and political factor and its relationship to development in Iraq

Although, Iraq After 2003, has completed investment legislation, as well as easing restrictions on foreign investors, which making Iraq's economy and investment environment more competitive. However, these measures have been ineffective considering widespread financial and administrative corruption, as well as the control of armed groups and the so-called (economic offices of political parties). Therefore, the obstacles to investment in Iraq have increased.

Since the overall goal of development is to raise living standards and improve the quality of life, development policy requires a political system capable of absorbing, and will be based on sophisticated productive bases, capable of regulating economic activity efficiently and in institutional ways, and in a social framework in which interests are balanced and incomes and wealth are distributed fairly (v) .

In this sense, the weakness of the institutions in Iraq and the fragility of political stability, which the most important reasons that driving away foreign investment. The addition of neglecting large sectors of civil sectors such as investments in infrastructure, communications, and the human element, which are important factors for attracting foreign investment. We must not forget the emergence of political sectarianism, which has strengthened the role of armed groups and their position in the political process in Iraq. This has led to weak of economic growth and industry as it

has encouraged an insecure environment for those who want to invest in Iraq(vi) . That was prompted to massive crisis in the political and economic development in Iraq.

As a result of the confusion in the performance of successive governments in Iraq after 2003, as well as the emergence of illegal armed groups, which became the most important supports of corrupt government, their first task is to secure the rule even if it leads to the intimidation of citizens. This was obvious in the Iraqi demonstrations in October 2019. It has been found in many incidents that armed groups have used systematic violence as a method to suppression the October protests, as well as the systematic assassinations of a number of activists, most notably security expert Hisham al-Hashimi.

In fact, most of those parties have armed military offices outside the state, where the number of armed organizations reached about 40 armed factions, which led to the inflaming of mutual violence and the penetration of many of these groups of security agencies and the association of their employees ideologically, and this was the most important obstacle to the adoption of successful development and investment policies to ensure the decent living of members of Iraqi society^(vii) . This political and security instability creates a kind of social anxiety and popular discontent, among many segments of society, which reflects on productivity, despite the economic recession, the government finds that the government has dealt harshly with the problems of the economy and development, while what is required is a balanced approach with a focus on redeveloping the local economy, as well as rebuilding the internal security forces. The negative consequences of this type of political corruption may be exacerbated when it is established in the minds of society that violence is the effective way to

express public rights, and then society will become a battleground between organized and multiple forces of violence that only master the logic of weapons, whether within or outside the power structure.

Corruption in the governance institution consequence the widespread corruption, whether in the allocation of resources, or in the distribution of national product, which leads to a disruption of development and diminished investment opportunities in the country^(viii) .

Obviously, that the principle of justice in the distribution of wealth is linked to political stability, which refers to the state of peace and the absence of political violence.

As mentioned earlier, the absence of justice and the increased intensity of economic and social disparities lead to frustration, persecution at the individual level, social anger and public discontent at the collective level, prompting the public to protest against the regime and its leaders. In the face of this situation, governments must respect the principle of equity in distribution and work towards comprehensive development in line with the Un-approved sustainable development goals by creating mechanisms for investment cooperation with international organizations, as well as multinational companies, thus achieving the basic goal of development, which is to fight poverty and hunger and create an appropriate healthy environment. Otherwise, chaos and violence will prevail in society.^(ix)

The state should work to increase the rate of economic growth as this provides the development of its infrastructure. It should also ensure the investment area and protect the business environment from the intervention of armed groups, by encouraging the private sector, which plays a complementary role to the state's development policies, especially with its capabilities and capabilities, which achieve social goals that help integrate

specific groups, or achieve economic goals that facilitate the peace-building process.

Conclusion:

The security and political factor play an influential role in the development process in general and economic development, particularly the militia factor and armed group and their impact on the security investment environment. The failure of development and investment in Iraq would have a negative impact on all other sectors of life, depriving people of a decent life and well-being, as well as leading to further underdevelopment. Therefore, the Iraqi government must work decisively to provide a secure investment environment that contributes to the flow of capital to Iraq in order to invest in economic development projects that contribute to increasing income for individuals and the employment of the workforce, as well as to transfer scientific and technological progress and benefit from international expertise. The security and political situation are confused according to the interests and agendas of the countries to which they owe obedience and loyalty.



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