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A comparative study of the effects of globalization in the fields of economy, political structure and political culture of the UAE and Saudi Arabia

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Abstract

In this article, a comparative study of the impact of the globalization phenomenon on various aspects including economic dimensions, political structure and political culture in the countries of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates has been done. In fact, this article has sought to answer the question of what the effects of the phenomenon of globalization has have in different dimensions in the drawers of the UAE and Saudi Arabia? The obtained results show that globalization has not had a significant impact on the political structure of Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

One of the most important reasons for the lack of influence of the political structure of the UAE from globalization is the non-native population structure and the functional

legitimacy of the UAE government in the economic and welfare arena. Moreover, the economic growth and the development of the UAE can be considered more affected by globalization. This is the case in Saudi Arabia as well.

Although the phenomenon of globalization has been effective in economic growth, the use of appropriate economic policies, especially in the field of growth and the development of non-oil incomes have also been effective on the economic development of this country. Changes in the political culture of the UAE and Saudi Arabia, especially the UAE, are taking place at a faster pace under the influence of the phenomenon of globalization and with access to communication tools on a global scale.

Keywords: Globalization, Political Structure, Political Culture, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Economic Development

1. Introduction

Globalization is a complex concept that cannot be considered related to a specific period of history. Globalization, on the one hand, is an old phenomenon and on the other hand, it is a new phenomenon ^[1]. Therefore, globalization has been taken placed in the context of history and has provided a new context for studying and evaluating international relations and its history. Globalization is one of the most challenging topics in the field of international relations ^[2].

Regardless of the various definitions of globalization, this concept has undergone a relatively stable process at the end of the 20th century and has become a comprehensive and multidimensional phenomenon. To be more precise, it has evolved from political power to economic power. Recently, it has passed through the cultural arena ^[3]. Among the Arab countries of the Middle East, Saudi Arabia and the UAE have had relatively continuous political stability in recent years ^[4].

The stability in the political structure of these countries can be due to different reasons. These reasons are the construction of a rentier economy, the independent and strengthening of the government and their functional legitimacy in the economic field, the reproductive relationship between the patrimonial government, the tribal and subservient social and cultural structure, and the corrupted system. Corrupted system which is to support cultivation and is dependent on the foreign countries. However, globalization has affected many other aspects. Based on this, globalization as a pervasive phenomenon has casted a shadow on all the countries of the world, including the countries of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates ^[5].

The phenomenon of globalization can affect all areas of society and all its economic, cultural and political effects must be considered. Therefore, in this study, a comparative study of the impact of the globalization phenomenon on the economy, political structure and political culture in the UAE and Saudi Arabia has been done. The ultimate goal is to identify the changes which this phenomenon created in different dimensions in these countries, the impact of the globalization phenomenon is to be determined by these developments.

2. Comparative study of the effects of globalization in the UAE and Saudi Arabia from an economic point of view

In recent years, the countries of Saudi Arabia and the UAE have started a ruthless competition for influence in the Middle East and other regions of the world. This competition has transmitted from the East Asia to the African continent. The use of multiple tools for the development of regional influence has caused each of them to adopt different strategies in the optimal management of regional order.

On the one hand, Saudi Arabia with the ideology of Wahhabism and on the other hand, Abu Dhabi, with the means of development and economic influence, increased regional competition. Competitions which have fueled deep and hidden differences under the thin layer of unity and coalition. There are competitions between the UAE and Saudi Arabia in different dimensions of geopolitics, geoculture and geoeconomics.

In addition to geopolitical and geostrategic competition, these two countries also compete in the economic arena, especially regarding border disputes and regional issues. One of the important areas of conflict in the economic field is related to the energy sector. And the other one is related to the difference in the amount of oil extraction and production, which has caused competition in the energy market between the UAE and Saudi Arabia [6]. The investment of two countries in the field of transportation, especially in the aviation field has the aim of becoming a transportation hub in the region. This is considered one of the major areas of economic differences between the two countries.

Saudi Arabia is the largest economy in the Arab world due to its underground energy sources and has surpassed the UAE in this field. Furthermore, by purchasing airplanes, new equipment and technologies related to this field, Saudi Arabia has been able to achieve massive success in this field as well [7]. Nevertheless, in recent years, the UAE has been ahead of Saudi Arabia by attracting foreign investors and importing technological goods and services.

The economic ambitions of Al Nahyan and Al Saud can be seen in the cities of Masdar and Neom, which are the center and the symbol of two aforementioned countries' competition in economic innovation. In this field, the UAE is looking for the development of its own city, Masdar, and Saudi Arabia's plan to operationalize the construction of this city has been remained on the paper. Therefore, in the field of energy and air transportation, Saudi Arabia has won the economic competition, while in the field of becoming a commercial hub, the performance of the UAE has been more successful.

Factors such as oil, security and successful integration in the world's economy can be considered as the most important influencing factors in the economic growth and development of the UAE [8]. The studies carried out indicate that although oil and security have had a significant impact on the economic development of the UAE, none of them on its own or even together are the main and final factors of the rapid economic development and growth of the country.

It was not the United Arab Emirates. Rather, these two factors provided more ground or in other word, platform for development. And finally, it was the globalization of the economy and the successful and principled integration of the UAE that made the rapid growth established and also made the development of this country possible. These two now

has just turned the UAE into a successful country in the economic field.

In other words, by adopting the correct policies and deep understanding of the potential and capacities of the globalization of the economy which lead to the growth and development of the national economy, the UAE has become able to take the path successfully in the economic field. Sustainable production, the increase in oil prices and the implementation of fundamental reforms have been the main pioneers of Saudi economic growth in recent years.

The increase in oil prices and the stability in the production of oil have made significant contributions in speeding up the economic growth of this country. The implementation of fundamental reforms of non-oil growth, however, have also been an important factor in the economic growth of this country in the mid-term. Reducing the share of oil in Saudi economic growth and supporting the non-oil sector is supposed to happen through the service and agricultural sectors.

In this regard, the retail sectors, the construction industry and the service industry are promoting strongly, and the tourism development program in Saudi Arabia has also led to an increase in the construction of hotels in this country. [9] Forecasts also show that construction will continue due to the strong demand for mortgage loans and house purchases. [10] And production of some oil products such as chemicals, plastics, and etc. will continue to grow as a result of the growth of new industries and sectors, namely processing of agricultural products. The financial sector is another area that has grown and diversification is expected to take place due to the digitization of the economy. Moreover, some new projects in this field are underway. These measures, despite being time-consuming, have been accelerated over the past four years.

Therefore, the economic growth and development of the UAE can be considered more affected by globalization. In Saudi Arabia, the phenomenon of globalization has been effective in economic growth. Yet other than that, the use of appropriate economic policies, especially in the field of growth and the increase in non-oil incomes have also been effective on the economic development of this country.

3. Comparative study of the effects of globalization in the UAE and Saudi Arabia from the perspective of political structure

Saudi Arabia's policy towards various regional and extra-regional issues has undergone changes in recent years. It should be determined whether the root of these developments in the political arena was globalization or other factors played a role in their formation. Since the establishment of the government in Saudi Arabia in 1932, which was formed on the basis of religious and political unity, this government is considered as one of the most authoritarian and the most conservative royal governments in the Middle East [11].

The basis of the political system and the structure of Saudi Arabia has been based on political and religious patriarchy, and there has not been any noticeable change in it. Yet what has changed with the passage of time and the phenomenon of globalization in Saudi Arabia is the foreign policy of this country towards some specific regional and global issues. Saudi Arabia's foreign policy is based on being allied with Western powers, supporting Western regimes, and being opposed to the revolutionary and Islamic thinking.

Therefore, the regional developments created by Saudi Arabia have had a significant impact on national and transnational interests and security ^[12]. The most important components of Saudi Arabia's foreign policy after the death of King Abdullah are strengthening regional power, gaining global authority and playing an international role. In this regard, the new Al Saud government has isolated itself from its ideals, especially regarding orientation toward Palestine. This has been done in order to resolve tensions with powerful countries, and Saudi Arabia has made strategic changes in its foreign policy, including weakening Iran's influence in the region ^[13].

In fact, what has happened in the regional and extra-regional policies of Saudi Arabia cannot be considered a change in the political structure, rather, these are reforms that have been created in accordance with the times and in accordance with the global conditions. Globalization has not had a significant impact on the political structure of Saudi Arabia. In the United Arab Emirates, despite the fact that the economic sphere has been significantly affected by the phenomenon of globalization, the political structure and power in this country has been able to maintain its stability and stability despite the extensive global changes ^[14].

An important part of the UAE's foreign policy model is de-escalation with regional countries. In this regard, the reduction of tensions with Iran, the resumption of relations with Syria and the reduction of military interventions in Yemen are the most important examples of the UAE's de-escalation. An important part of the UAE's foreign policy model is de-escalation with regional countries. In this regard, the reduction of tensions with Iran, the resumption of relations with Syria and the reduction of military interventions in Yemen are the most important examples of the UAE's de-escalation.

The most important part of the UAE's foreign policy model is the normalization of the country's relations with Israel. Nevertheless, these changes in the UAE's foreign policy cannot be considered as a result of the change in the political structure of this country.

The important reasons behind the lack of influence on the political structure of the UAE from globalization and other regional and global developments are the maximum non-native population structure, conservatism due to political-economic reasons and the lack of citizen rights, and the functional legitimacy of the UAE government. In the economic and welfare field, having the traditional and religious legitimacy of the government, the significant tendency and desire of the people to use the entertainment and commercial capabilities in this country and the government's strict restrictions and controls on social networks and the Internet. cited.

In fact, from the eye of people of this country, the government of the UAE is an ideal government that is trying to improve their welfare, cultural and economic situation. Therefore, the internal sparks of revolution, protest and rebellion that will ultimately lead to significant changes and transformation in the political structure of this country have not been formed. In fact, this political stability shows that globalization has not created an impact on the political structure of the UAE, and from this point of view, the political structure of the UAE can be considered more stable than Saudi Arabia in the face of globalization.

4. Comparative study of the effects of globalization in the UAE and Saudi Arabia on political culture

Another important area that can be affected by globalization is the political culture of countries. The range of developments in the field of women's issues in the West, along with other manifestations of Western civilization, has gradually been transferred to the countries of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The analysis of the developments shows that the UAE and to a lesser extent Saudi Arabia have experienced significant progress in the field of using women's potential. In a way that nowadays women have more rights and privileges to participate in the society and political arenas. In fact, their presence in society has expanded and grown significantly from a quantitative point of view ^[15].

The political culture of women in these two countries, especially the UAE, has moved from a passive state to a participatory political culture ^[16]. Although these changes and transformations in the closed and traditional society of Saudi Arabia are done slowly and under the pressure and propaganda of the western countries, but under the influence of the phenomenon of globalization and through the access to communication tools on a global scale, these changes are taking place at a faster pace.

In the field of politics, we are witness to the formation of women's participatory political culture. In fact, globalization has helped people in realizing their political rights. In other words, following globalization, global patterns have influenced local patterns and caused these patterns to adapt and coordinate with global changes and developments. This coordination and compatibility have brought positive achievements to the women of these countries. Another dominant culture in Saudi Arabia is the patriarchal culture ^[17], which globalization has been capable of influencing to some extent. Yet, the process of women's political participation in Saudi Arabia is very slow due to the tribal and traditional political culture, belief system and the political system of this country. Globalization has the capacity to change and transform the political culture by influencing the manifestations of political culture, such as obtaining government and political jobs, the right to vote, and etc.

5. Conclusion

Globalization has not had a significant impact on the political structure of Saudi Arabia and the UAE. the most important reasons behind the lack of influence of the political structure of the UAE from globalization and other regional and global developments are the maximum non-native population structure, conservatism due to political-economic reasons and the lack of citizen rights, and the functional legitimacy of the UAE government. In the economic and welfare field, having the traditional and religious legitimacy of the government, having the significant tendency and willingness on the people's part to use the entertainment and commercial capabilities in this country and applying the strict restrictions and controls on social networks and the Internet by the government are main reasons behind the lack of being influenced by modernization. cited. In Saudi Arabia, what has happened in regional and extra-regional policies cannot be considered a change or evolution in the political structure. But in fact,

these are reforms that have been created because of passage of the time. Globalization has a significant impact on Saudi Arabia has not political structure. However, globalization has significantly affected the political culture in these countries, especially in the UAE. some of the most important developments in the field of political culture can be mentioned as the achievements of government are political jobs and the right to vote. Now these changes are taking place at a faster pace under the influence of the phenomenon of globalization and by the access to communication tools on a global scale. In addition, the economic growth and development of the UAE can be considered more affected by globalization and in Saudi Arabia, although the phenomenon of globalization has been effective in economic growth. Other than that, the use of appropriate economic policies, especially in the area of growth and development of non-oil incomes have also been effective on the economic development of this country.

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