



وزارة التعليم العالي والبحث العلمي

جامعة الموصل

كلية الآداب

التنوع القومي والديني (غير العربي) في العراق

١٩٢١-٢٠٠٣ دراسة تاريخية في ضوء أهداف

التنمية المستدامة

ولاء حازم يعقوب العبيدي

ماجستير

التاريخ/التاريخ الحديث

بإشراف

أ.د. هاشم عبد الرزاق صالح الطائي

Abstract

Iraq has been distinguished from other Arab countries in its modern history by a wide ethnic and religious diversity that has formed one of its most prominent civilizational and social characteristics. This diversity has contributed to the building of Iraqi society and the shaping of its historical identity. With the establishment of the modern Iraqi state in 1921, the country entered an important phase characterized by attempts to build a new political entity that aspired to achieve political and social unity within a centralized system. This approach had clear repercussions for the non-Arab ethnic and religious components, as the Iraqi political system, in both its monarchical and republican forms, pursued policies that can be described, at the very least, as uneven toward these groups.

The significance of the topic, “Non-Arab Ethnic and Religious Diversity in Iraq, 1921–2003: A Historical Study,” lies in its being an in-depth scholarly contribution that addresses a historical issue which has often been treated through partial or ideologically driven studies. This has necessitated an objective, scientific investigation based on the historical method and analytical approach, in order to reach a deeper understanding of Iraq’s modern political and social history.

The choice of this topic stems from an attempt to understand the nature of Iraqi society and to highlight the position of its non-Arab ethnic and religious components during the stages of development of the modern Iraqi state, which can be regarded as a unique model of ethnic and religious diversity. Another reason for this choice is the need for an objective study that examines turning points in Iraq’s contemporary history, beginning in 1921, the year that witnessed the birth of the new political entity of Iraq, and ending in 2003, a year that marked a major transformation in the political, social, and economic structures of the state.

Another motivation for selecting this subject is that many previous studies of modern Iraqi history have focused mainly on the political dimension, without delving deeply into the conditions of non-Arab social components or analyzing their relationship with the central authority and their positions on regional and international politics. This has created a research gap that this study seeks to fill.

The study aims to present a historical vision through which the historical role of non-Arab ethnic and religious components in Iraq can be traced, and through which the lessons of the past can be drawn upon to better understand the present, thereby making it possible to anticipate future prospects.

The thesis is divided into three chapters, preceded by an introduction and followed by a conclusion that includes findings and recommendations, which can be regarded as a roadmap for achieving national unity within a centralized state operating under a pluralistic federal political system. The first chapter, entitled “Non-Arab Ethnic and Religious Diversity in Iraq: Formation and Distribution,” consists of three sections: the first discusses the concept of ethnic and religious diversity, the second examines the components and distribution of non-Arab ethnic diversity, and the third addresses the components and distribution of non-Arab religious diversity. The second chapter is devoted to “The Contributions of Non-Arab Ethnic and Religious Components to Political Life in Iraq, 1921–2003,” and is likewise divided into three sections: non-Arab ethnic components and political life, non-Arab religious components and political life, and the positions of non-Arab ethnic and religious components on national issues and events (1921–2003). The third chapter deals with “Non-Arab Ethnic and Religious Components in Regional and International Politics, 1921–2003,” and is divided into three sections: non-Arab ethnic components in regional politics, non-Arab ethnic components in international politics (the Kurds as a case study), and non-Arab religious components in regional and international politics.

The study relies on a wide range of primary and secondary sources, foremost among them historical documents, in addition to documentary and scholarly works. These include, for example, the book *The Yazidis in the Ottoman Documents, 1886–1894* by Dawud al-Khatari (University of Duhok Press, 2010); the PhD dissertation *The Social Conditions of Iraq between the Two World Wars, 1919–1939* by Ahmad Fakkak Ahmad Hamid al-Badrani (College of Education, University of Mosul, 2001); and the MA thesis *The Position of the National Union on the Kurdish Question, 1945–1968* by Mihvan Muhammad Husayn al-Bamarni (College of Arts, University of Mosul, 2006). It also benefits from personal memoirs such as *Memoirs of Fuad Arif* (revised edition, 2005), and the book *The Jewish Minority in Iraq between 1921 and 1952*, vol. 2, by Khildun Naji Ma‘ruf (Arab Encyclopedic House, Baghdad, 1976). Among translated works, the study uses *A Modern History of the Kurds* by David McDowall (Dar al-Farabi, Beirut, 2004), as well as research articles such as “Religious Sects in Iraqi Laws, Part II” by Harith Yusuf Ghunaymah, published in *al-Nashra*, no. 20, Amman, Autumn 2001, in addition to several newspapers, including *al-Taakhi*.

The researcher faced several difficulties, including the length of the period under study and the bias found in some sources dealing with non-Arab ethnic and religious groups in Iraq, particularly official governmental sources, as well as the loss or destruction of many official documents related to this subject for various reasons.

The conclusion presents a set of findings, most notably that non-Arab ethnic and religious components are original, deeply rooted elements that have existed and lived on Iraqi soil, sharing with the Arab majority the concerns and difficulties of life under the country’s changing conditions and events. The conclusion also offers a number of recommendations related to this topic.

University of Mosul
College of Arts
Department of History



**The Non-Arab Ethnic and Religious
Diversity in Iraq, 1921–2003**
**A Historical Study in the Light of the
Sustainable Development Goals**

Walaa Hazem Yaqub Al-Obaidi

Master of Arts
History / Modern History

Supervised By
Professor
Dr. Hashim Abdul-Razzaq Al-Taie

1447 A.H.

2026 A.D.