



## Sectarian struggle in the Middle East and the new Alliances

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**Abstract:** Our Islamic world passes a critical period representing on factional, racial and sectarian struggle especially in the Middle East, which affects the Islamic identification union.

The world passes a new era of civilization formation, and what these a new formation which affects to the Islamic civilization especially in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Lebanon.

The sectarian struggle led to heavy sectarian alliances from Arab Gulf states and Turkey from one side and Iran states and its alliances in the other side. The Sunni and Shia struggle are weaken the World Islamic civilization and it is competitive among other world civilization

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## الصراع الطائفي في الشرق الأوسط والتحالفات الجديدة

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### معلومات البحث :

**الخلاصة :** يمر عالما الإسلامي بفترة حرجة تمثل الصراع بين الفصائل والعنصرية والطائفية خاصة في الشرق الأوسط ، مما يؤثر على اتحاد الهوية الإسلامية.

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يمر العالم بعصر جديد من تكوين الحضارة ، وما هي هذه التركيبة الجديدة التي تؤثر على الحضارة الإسلامية خاصة في سوريا والعراق واليمن ولبنان.

### الكلمات المفتاحية :

- الصراع الطائفي

- اقاليم محددة

- السنة

- الشيعة

- حضارات محددة

أدى الصراع الطائفي إلى تحالفات طائفية ثقيلة من دول الخليج العربي وتركيا من جهة ودول إيران وتحالفاتها في الجانب الآخر. الكفاح السني والشيعة يضعف الحضارة الإسلامية العالمية وهو قادر على المنافسة بين الحضارات العالمية الأخرى.

## Research Questions

1. Did the struggle in the Middle East have weakened the Islamic identification and civilization among other cultural?
2. Did the sectarian struggle in Islamic world have increased the violence and terrorism?

This study classified into two sections:

First section: the factors of emergence the sectarian struggle in the Middle East.

Second section: the New Alliances:

## **First section**

### **The factors of emergence the sectarian struggle In the Middle East**

The emergence of the sectarian struggle in the Middle East begun with US world war against the terrorism and its unjustified interference of states internal affairs. Like what happened in Iraq 2003. The main factors can summarized as below:

#### **First: External interference**

The sovereign doctrine related with state legal feature, its provide international relations system stability. Regardless of its size that every state have equal sovereignty according to united nation's charter<sup>1</sup>. However, the traditional concept of the sovereignty have changed ambiguity<sup>2</sup>.

Although the United Nation charter refused the interference in the internal affairs according to sovereignty doctrine, the humanitarians and millenarian interferences from states to other are the best example of internal affairs. In addition to the new US interference face, first: under the name of mass weapon disarmament, second: US campaign anti-terrorism after 11 September events. All of these interferences occurred under UN legally acceptance<sup>3</sup>, Iraq, Afghanistan Libya are the best example<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Khalil Ismael alhadithy. Mediator of International organized Baghdad University, Baghdad, 1990, p. 148.

<sup>2</sup> Stephen M. Walt, ' International Relations: one world, Many Theories, Foreign Policy, No. 110 (Washington, Spring, 1988), p. 32.

<sup>3</sup> Amira hanashi. The sovereignty doctrine under contemporary international changes, unpublished thesis, Law College, mentor University, Algeria, 2008, p. 89.

<sup>4</sup> Adil hamza , the problem of humanitarian interference in international relations, legal and political science journal, law and political science college, Diyala University, 2011, p. 129.

The legality of US war against the terrorism have a wide controversial argument among scholars and writers to what is called "Pre-emptive war" as a part of US national security, This kind of war is different from preventive war, the first is offensive, immoral and injustice, the second is legally and defensive of national independence <sup>1</sup>.

The consequences of this concept are dismantling of states sovereignty like what happened on Iraq that suffers racial, sectarian struggle and losses of state prestige<sup>2</sup>.

## **Second: Expansion of Territorial interference**

After the dissociation of the Soviet Union and transferred to failure state, the international system has changed from bipolar to unipolar system in the favorite to United States, The big territorial states has expanded spontaneously , the Iranian strategy expanded after US occupation in Iraq 2003 . These changes have developed not on Iraqi internal affairs but also on fundamental identification regime and emergence new territorial players as an international force and emerged a new phase of political geography<sup>3</sup>.

Syria is an example as well as Iraq of Iranian expansion across its boundaries in the Middle East through logistic and material backing to Alasad Syrian regime and in Lebanon and use the Sect paper in order to achieve its expansion goals<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Mohammed Saed alaiash alshahrany. The consequences of globalization to national security, Naef University to security sciences, unpublished master thesis, policy sciences department, 2006, p. 62.

<sup>2</sup> Khari Alden Haseeb, Iraq to where, Arab Future Journal, center Arab Union studies, Beirut, issue 330, Augustus, 2006, p. 10.

<sup>3</sup> Fatima Alsamdi. Iraq in Iranian strategy, development of security presentment and revert of chances, Aljazeera center for studies, 14 July 2014.

<sup>4</sup> A cross the boundaries: the sectarian effects of Syrian crisis in the neighbor countries, international politics journal, al-Ahram center for strategic and political studies.

The Egypt role towards Libya is another example of territorial expansion, when Libya disassociation politically and socially into two government in Barqa and Tripoli, Egypt forcing its security and politically agenda in order to safe its interests.

The same presentment came from Turkey forward Syria open border. The threat came from PKK terrorist activity from Syria against Ankara government inside Turkish state. This problem due to turkey to arraign its arm forced and moved to release this threat from its territory<sup>1</sup>.

### **Third: struggle for territorial dominant**

Every state have its territorial framework depends on its geographical framework and reflects their strategic depth as force power and as weakness points in favorite of other territorial state in case of unbalance power system .

In the Middle East, the big territorial power have their interests, Iran is the best sample of state territorial dominant<sup>2</sup>.

United States encourage Iranian to interferences in Arab internal affairs under American strategic specific visions<sup>3</sup>. Arab states fears this Iranian dominant on their territory, Turkey have their fear from unstable Iraqi state especially from PKK, the former Turkish Abdullah Kull warning

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<sup>1</sup> Turkish choices in front of (Asifa hazim) probably in Syria , Alrawabit for strategic and political studies, 27, April , 2015 on network : [www.rawabetcenter.com/archieve/6490](http://www.rawabetcenter.com/archieve/6490)

<sup>2</sup> Richard Haas. The Middle East, Foreign affairs, vol. 85, No. 6, November-December, 2006,p 147 .

<sup>3</sup> Talel Yosif Abdullah al Edwan. Territorial strategic of Iran and turkey in the Middle east (2002-2013), unpublished master thesis, political science branch, Art and Science college, middle east university, 2014, p . 56.

from dissociation of Iraqi may increase to the role of territorial dominant<sup>1</sup>. As well as Turkish fearing from Syrian situation<sup>2</sup>.

Permanently the sectarian division between Syrian regime and oppositions resulting two projects, first: Arab project, second: Iranian project, each part of them put Syria against other<sup>3</sup>.

Sectarian struggle appears when Saudi Arabia format "Arab Alliances in front of" Alhothy" militant groups in Yemen; another division that "Alhothy" supports from Iranian regime while the Yemeni government support from Saudi Arabia.

The equation in the Middle East came from the big players states, Iran and Saudi Arabia have witness cold war without any direct confrontations, Each of them have its geographical and political weight in the region . Professor "krikori koas" senior researcher at Brookings Institute research " After the sectarian struggle the cold war in the Middle East". The fittest analysis to understanding the extreme and complex policy in the Middle East came from regional players that Iran and Saudi Arabia plays a significant role on it, its cold war for hegemony and to control above the weakness states. It is not militaries war, its cold war, not only between al Riyadh and Tehran but also from external forces. Almost covered Sunni – Shias sectarian<sup>4</sup>.

## Second Section

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<sup>1</sup> Iran, Its neighbor and territorial crisis, Royal institute for international affairs, translate from the international center for future and strategic studies, Cairo, issue 24, year 2, Dec. 2006, p. 15.

<sup>2</sup> Turkish choices in front of (Asifa hazim) probably in Syria, op.cit.

<sup>3</sup> Talel Yosif Abdullah Edwan, op.cit. p 57.

<sup>4</sup> The middle East among external interference and territorial struggle, accessed 28/12/2015 <http://www.gulan-media.com/arabic/print.php?id=428&section=3>.

### **New Alliances format**

The ideological and sectarian struggle expanded to conclude states not from Middle East regional but also from states outside like "Quadruple alliance" which included (Russia, Iran, Iraq, and Syria).

Under the title of "Alawia state" clearly; the Quadruple Alliance aims to more sectarian divisions, leave the chaos of ISIS to destroy the cities. Its long war range in the Middle East whether the Quadruple alliance under Russian leadership or under western alliances under US leadership. The more Dangerous came when these sectarian struggles expanded and move to Iranian and Russian states<sup>1</sup>.

The Quadruple alliance common operations concluded Iraqi army, police, and "Hashed Shaebi" in addition Russian and Iranian experts. They declared formal manifesto that intelligence and security committee among Russia, Iran, and Syria inhabited in Baghdad to defeat the terrorism<sup>2</sup>.

Theses manifesto inflame Kurdish and Sunnis Iraqi forces, in addition to civilian forces like communism and Christian parties. They consider the Quadruple alliance as a sectarian alliances increase the struggle in the region<sup>3</sup>.

Abdul Rahman Alturery (professor in the university of Saud king) said: "the signals of bombardier plane departure from Iranian to hit Syrian goals have more than one political and logistical technique. Its came as a Russian experimental for Iranian military bases and a irport, in order to

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<sup>1</sup> Khaled Khazal . unholy quadruple alliances

<sup>2</sup> Aktham Saif Aldin, Iraqi confession that cooperation with russia, syria, and Iran to defeat ISIS, new Arabian, 27 sept. 2015. Access on <http://www.alaraby.co.uk/politics/2015/9/27/>.

<sup>3</sup> Othman almukhtar. "Quadruple alliance' to defeat ISIS : Russian expanded to Iraq , new Arabian ,28/ sept. 2015 accessed: <http://www.alaraby.co.uk/politics/2015/9/27/>.

confront any threats probably came from their enemies in the present and future<sup>1</sup>.

Infront of (Iran,Iraq, Syria) under Russia leadership, another Sunni alliances begun to formulate under Saudi Arabia leadership which called "Islamic alliance" in three steps mainly<sup>2</sup>. These are:

### **1. Turkish-Qatari alliance.**

The history of bilateral relations between Qatar and Turkey dates back to the 1970s, but the first of the first real rapprochement between the two countries began with the beginning of the popular movements that invaded the Arab region, which later became known as the Arabs spring. In the first step, Turkey and Qatar announced in an unexpected move their support for these revolutions. Turkey's military support for Qatar, the political, symbolic and not military reference at this time, underscores the depth of the strategic alliance between the two countries, which seems to be the most reliable and powerful in the era of volatile alliances in the most important region of the world.

### **2. Format Islamic NATO**

In frame to achieve a equilibrium deterrence against Iranian planning and American-Russian collusion against Arab Gulf region; AL Riyadh seeking to establish military Islamic NATO. This alliance expanded to join Pakistan and other Islamic states as similar to NATO. Saudi Arabia seek to building strategic vision against Russian-Iranian alliance, the role of this alliance based on intelligence cooperation firstly.

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<sup>1</sup> After the hidden threats of Iranian Hamadan military bases, what are Saudi choices to confront Quadruple alliance under Russian leadership? Arab Gulf, 19/8/2016 . accessed :

<http://www.alkhaleejalarabi.com/ar/articles/>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.



### **3. Adopt a new strategy of deterrence**

Before the first military Islamic alliance convening , brigadier-general (Ahmed Aseeri) declared an increasing of Islamic Alliance states number that Saudi Arabian declared to reach from (34-40) states to defeat the terrorism . the military participation of this alliance is voluntary , and the alliance not interference in any state without its request.

#### **Conclusion**

The new regional alliances are like sectarian alliances that different from other alliances, this kind of alliance lead to political struggle at last because of its sect of nature that means more unstable Middle East and imbalance among regional states .