A Study of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Policy toward New Iraq (2003-2015)

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Abstract

In the present study, the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy on post-Saddam Iraq is investigated. With the U.S and its allies attacking Iraq in 2003, Iraqi Baath regime was overthrown and a new Iraq with new policy emerged. With a change in the structure of power and sovereignty of Iraq, the ground for the presentation and penetration of regional actors including Iran was provided in this country and the question is raised "what policy the Islamic Republic of Iran has followed on post-Saddam Iraq and what goal it pursues". Drawing on analytical-descriptive synthetic method, the findings of the present study indicate that Islamic Republic of Iran's policy on post-Saddam is based on collaboration and coalition, in that I.R. Iran has laid an emphasis on consolidation and establishment of the Shia in the political structure of Iraq and the reinforcement of the country's central government, in an effort to bolster its penetration domain and reduce threats caused by Iraq's developments to its homeland security.

Keywords: Foreign policy, Iran, New Iraq.

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1. Problem Statement

Developments in Iraq have brought about security threats and exclusive economic opportunities to neighboring countries including the Islamic Republic of Iran. Thus, I.R. Iran strive to exert an influence over the process of state building and the design of the future in order to reduce threats and benefit from existing opportunities. Iraq has often had a strategic position in the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy. The change in Iraq's political structure has changed this country from a military threat to an opportunity in the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy realm, but in the meantime increased tribal-religious tensions and spread of insecurity in Iraq have aroused Iran's concern. In an effort to reduce threats, the Islamic Republic of Iran stress the reinforcement of the central government and the consolidation of the Shias' position in Iraq's political structure (Eslami Alvaras, 2012: 2-3).

The research method of the article is analytical-descriptive method; generally, review of Iran's policy on Iraq during 2003-2015 is the main subject of this article and an attempt is made to investigate the country's foreign policy toward new Iraq as well as the level of changes and success of the country. Indeed, the focus of the research is placed on one of Iraq's neighbors namely Iran rather than great powers, and the question what policies the country is following in the new era.

2. Research Question and Hypothesis

In this regard, we aim at accounting for the main question "what policy has the Islamic Republic of Iran adopted toward new Iraq by considering the importance and position of Iraq in the country's foreign policy and what goals are they pursuing in Iraq?" in accounting for the question, the hypothesis developed in this papers holds that "the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy approach to post-Saddam Iraq relies on collaboration and coalition, in the sense that the Islamic republic of Iran stress the establishment of the Shia's position in Iraq's political structure and support

the reinforcement of the country's central government in an attempt to reduce threats posed by Iraq's developments to its homeland security".

3. Research Literature
regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy, particularly analysis of the country's foreign policy on new Iraq due to the neighborhood being Iraq with Iran and its impact on Iran's policy , many studies have been carried out and many articles presented. But the authors of several books and articles have been found shortcomings and deficiencies in the investigation. The majority of these books and articles on all aspects of the relations between the parties including security- political, economic, cultural, geopolitical and ... have analysis together. Although this is necessary but in this study, it has been tried only to Iran's political issues and policies in this field.

Including the study of the texts, the book of Iran's foreign policy in the new Iraq was where the new Iraq. Barzegar described and the challenges and opportunities confronting Iran at the reminder. This book is idealistic approach and lack of scenarios and look at other competitor strategies, their weaknesses and most of the issues, regardless of economic relations and less on politics and foreign policy is concerned. Journal that some of geopolitics and foreign policy have also been studied more descriptive and analytical books on geopolitics, Iran and Iraq Ezzati content but most important foreign policy from the perspective of geopolitical analysis offered and other political issues and foreign policy, security, culture and etc did not look deep.

However, each of these texts and resources, have their own advantages, but the authors of this research using descriptive and based at the resources that are past their relations and have tried to analytical approach to foreign policy, Iran's policy in the current situation and future prospects, their experiences.

4. Research structure

This paper consists of four parts: In the first part of a conceptual framework and conceptual investigation of the two words have been foreign policy and politics and has been trying to have a definition of these concepts to achieve operational. In the second part the theories of foreign policy (contains realism, liberalism and constructivism) explained. In the third part, post-Saddam Iraq's conditions are thoroughly discussed. In the four part, the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy on new Iraq is approached. In the end, a conclusion is drawn on the study subject.

5. Research Findings and Analysis

5.1. Conceptual framework

Politics and foreign policy are two key concepts in this paper. Explanation of these two concepts is greatly helpful in understanding and promoting the foregoing matter.

5.1.1. Concept of politics

The term politics entails many concepts and there are many concepts for this in political science terminology. In this part, the lexical concepts of these terms are approached first, and then a number of expert definitions of this term are reviewed, and in the end, the term is defined and analyzed. The term politics literally means appreciation of territory, guardianship and protection, delivering order, ruling people, chairmanship, arbitration, interest, prudence, discipline, foresight, violence, torture, punishment, retribution, justice and so on. However, according to political science terminology, a variety of definitions are presented, a number of them are recounted;

1. Politics is the practice of ruling human society (Jasemi, 1978; 254).

2. Politics is a set of measures taken by the government in order to handle national affairs (Aghabakhshi, 2010: 202).

3. Politics is the science arguing about city (Medina according to Islamic philosopher's tradition like al-Farabi's) and citizenship (civil)

relations(Tabatabai, 2008: 22). In another definition, "politics is a social activity that aims to secure a special political unit by assuring order in battles caused by diversity and conflict of beliefs and interests as well as resorting to force—mostly based on rights—external security, and internal understanding (Farvand, 2005: 213). Politics in a general sense is referred to as any form of strategy, method, and policy for administrating or handling everything, whether it would be personal or social. In particular sense, it refers to matters that concern the government, management, and deal with determining form and purposes and how the state should act; the attempt to maintain or gain power or use state power for different purposes and demands. In classic point of view, politics is involvement in public issues, but in modern point of view, it is an industry whose actors legitimate the system organizing it (Nozari, 2015).

Some political philosophers, scholars and policy definitions also include:
1. In politics Machiavelli's political thought in which a person acts against other people, to establish the relationship between powers and impose their authority to do them, manifested. Therefore, policies should serve as an "art of government" or "Fan seizure of power" be defined (Jhandy, 2004). From the perspective of Machiavelli policies meant to conserve power, all things considered, and by the end justifies the means And order policies as the ultimate cause of freedom and prosperity can be no moral life there, but none of these can not be achieved without order and security(Machiavelli, 1996).
2. Ibn Khaldun studied political science and prosperity of the city man knows it. Civic knowledge and devise policy remedies Yashhr is home to circumstances of what morality requires wisdom to the masses of people into a way that ensures his survival levels of force (Sarvari, 2011).

In short, it can be said that in political terms the term politics is sometimes referred to as a social phenomenon viewed as the subject of "political science" and the pivot and core of research into the science. The

term is sometimes referred to as "science of politics" and a discipline together with other disciplines of the humanities.

5.1.2. Concept of foreign policy

Foreign policy constituted various definitions; Holsti believes that foreign policy deals with state's measures for foreign environment and domestic circumstances influencing the foregoing measures, it includes purposes and values (Shafiee and Zamanian, 2011). In other words, foreign policy is a strategy or a series of actions formerly intended by state decision makers aiming at achieving specific goals within an overall framework and global and international environment (Ghavam, 2010: 231). Another definition of the activities of the government's foreign policy to relations between his country and its separate states command or another command is concerned(Lipset, 2004: 931).

However, the foreign policy of the most complex and the most extensive and most profound issues among all branches of social science that tens and even hundreds of social, cultural, economic, political, historical, and techniques within political units and different levels of the international system in which single or mutual interference(Sariolghalam,1993: 206). Therefore, in the formulation and conduct of foreign policy, factors and variables involved, without doubt, knowledge of quantity, quality and their interactions to understand what is at the heart of the machine and policy system transition of a country is going to be useful. Among these features and character of the nation, structure and content of political, social, culture and ideology, geographical location, threats and the perception of policy-makers and decision-makers about the loss and qualitative factors and variables more important and more fundamental is (Kazemi, 2014: 44).

5.2. Explaining the theories of foreign policy

Analysis of Iran's foreign policy in Iraq and the new theory of international relations and co-operation in the form of conflict can be explained. In this

respect, the issue of how to regulate relations between Iran and Iraq from three perspectives realistic (pessimistic) from the angle of power and security to the Iraqi issues looks; Angle liberal (optimistically) that with respect to the formation of the new conditions, the benefits of cooperation can overcome the conflict of interest and finally the angle of constructivism that considers the role and The importance of values, norms and changing subjective perceptions of the interests in the regulation of relations between the two countries, is analyzed:

5.2.1. Realistic theory

Survival and self-help. The central government is the basis of realism. The most important actors in international politics are national governments. So theoretically realistic, their relations on the basis of facts available and within the framework of its national interests and in doing so try to adjust to raise their security and national interests. From the perspective of realist theory, which believes Iran's pessimistic view of the new political developments have a profound impact on the formation of the new Iraq with nature and had different characteristics. According to this view geographical features, population, ethnic identity and economic and military potential areas of Iraq so that the country will always be a threat to national security interests. The new requirements only appearance Iraq has changed and as before the foundations of power and special features such as Iraq Again as a competitor and a threat to Iran will be discussed. The main argument is that Iran's power and influence in the new Iraq, not only to traditional security threats on the part of the country, But also lead to increased Iranian influence in the Arab world, the region and the international system will be. Overall this view on the basis of mutual confidence, historical records, and its history of war and hostility between the parties has been formed (Baylis and Smith, 2005: 172-174).

5.2.2. Liberal theories

Liberalism as optimistic as well as a historical rival theories and alternative power issues and policy analysis in the global and regional peace and security it is of great importance. The concept of liberal ideas become central to the conflict to cooperate in international relations. In the process, the increasing interdependence between states, bringing a series of norms, rules and international institutions to facilitate cooperation between the government and the democratic process of government and or democratic peace theory in the international system of the most important issues are central to liberalism. The liberal theory of government as the only major player in international politics will not be considered and other actors such as international organizations, multinational corporations, International regulations, non-governmental organizations and also are influential on the world stage.

From this angle, the formation of new political developments in Iraq can underpin peace and cooperation rather than conflict and threat perception of mutual relations between Iran and Iraq. However, as a lasting reality competition fields between the two countries and governments as key players in the regulation of mutual relations are considered, But there are common historical, cultural and religious relations between nations, regional conditions in the areas of democracy and the demands and expectations of the international system, including the role of international organizations and non-governmental, Required fields for the shift from conflict to cooperation and peace between Iran and Iraq (Barzegar, 2006: 25-27).

5.2.3. Constructivism theory

In the theory of constructivism, while the main actors in international politics are still governments that are fighting for the preservation and conservation, It relies on the behavior of governments and central cast is not purely material and based on their perceptions of norms, values And its interests on the one hand and the environment on the other hand is mainly

social aspect, something between subjective and can change over time. The structures influence the behavior of governments and social structures that effect the removal of values and norms and the surroundings are not purely material forces and structures. The cast is mostly mental benefits are defined based on the type of harvest, so natural and not fixed. So constructivism approach, the government what their interests and image of their surroundings and how these perceptions and security has become national policy in the foreign policy arena, they will be considered. Iran and Iraq issues new angle, which is important when the new political developments witnessed the changing perceptions and redefine roles, Values and interests of the new Iraqi government power and political developments in the region. With the formation of the new Iraq, the situation has changed and withdrawals. When the enemy harvest strategic relationship between the two countries does not exist ; can use the potential opportunities in the relations between the two countries caused by the negative mental pushed aside in favor of a positive atmosphere and take advantage of the opportunities created for the benefit of the country (weber, 2005: 63).

5.3. General Circumstances of Post-Saddam Iraq

Persian Gulf region, due to its own Geostrategic position has always historically witnessed the presence of foreign powers as well as huge oil resources in recent decades (Darvishi and Jalilvand, 2010: 167); the scope of presence, Iraq is considered quite an important country in the Middle East region. Iraq territory has long received the attention of local and international powers because of very important fixed and variable geopolitical factors. The geographical position of Iraq is such that the country has essential grounds for playing influential role in the Middle East and world due to possessing various geopolitical factors. After the US invasion of Iraq in March 2003 and occupation of Iraq, the country witnessed extensive and radical change and developments in political, economic, military, and geopolitical dimensions. After the occupation of

Iraq, geopolitical factors in this country have begun to play a part in new course of action, in that they affected the Middle East region and Iraq's neighbors over their new role (Ezzatti, 2005: 149-160).

5.3.1. Political, social, and economic components of post-Saddam Iraq

With a change in Iraq's regime, the Sunni minority, which had been sitting on the throne since 1932, was stripped of leading this country, and the Shiite majority wore the crown. For this reason, the rivalry between Sunnis and Shiites has simply become a determining factor in establishing peace and stability in post-Saddam Iraq (Hadjiyusefi and Sultaninejad, 2007: 227). In general, the collapse of the Baath regime of Saddam Hussein is seen as a turning point in the political process of the Shias, in that they use a dual political-religious identity to their advantage in Iraqi society (Bakhshi, 2011: 7). Among all Shiite leaders, the main and primary identity is Iraqi, yet their sense of nationalism has weakened owing to the repression by Saddam's regime. The second powerful identity of the leaders is their Shiite religion, but the identity has yet to be strong enough to separate them (Phebm, 2006: 15). Given that Iraq has the least cultural capacity for supporting democracy, the country has done away with countless problems and challenges on the path to democratization. Developing constitution, holding elections, admitting party system, federalism, observing the minority's rights and the like can be regarded as democratic achievements of new Iraq. However, on this path there have been cultural obstacles whose elimination takes time. As domestic obstacles and factors in establishing democracy, we can refer to undemocratic political culture, the lack of democratic beliefs, tribal structure, influence of people with traditional and charismatic legitimacy in public mind, acts of violence in dealing with political issues, different and sometimes conflicting interpretations of the Iraqi Constitution. It seems that realization of democracy in Iraq will face countless challenges, because there are no suitable political, social, and cultural grounds for establishing democracy in this society, either among political elites or

common people (Maleki and Derakhshe, 2014: 114-115).

After the Us invasion of Iraq with countless empty promises, not only unpleasant economic situation remaining of Saddam Hussein era has improved, in that today with more than fourteen past the fall of Saddam we are witnessing poverty and widespread unemployment among Iraqi people. In total. It has been fourteen years since the fall of Saddam, but Iraqi economy has been grappling with a lot of structural problems including low level of productivity and production, high percentage of unemployment, etc(Ghaffari Hashjin et al., 2010: 76).

5.3.2. Dimensions of new Iraq's challenges

Since the fall of Saddam regime in March 2003 up to now, Iraq has passed four courses; the first period experienced the establishment of governmental council, the second period the establishment of an interim government, the third period the establishment of a transitional government, and the fourth period the hosting of Iraqi National Assembly during which Iraqi government was chosen for a four-year period. The authorities of the government were outnumbered compared to previous periods, and it is expected that they will proceed with the course of exercising national sovereignty. Accordingly, parallel with greater responsibilities that it takes over, the government will be faced with further challenges from domestic and foreign aspects. Therefore, there are issues that make every sharply divided society which is being democratized by the federal system dismayed. Iraq's particular problems have complicated the situation.

Accordingly, the challenges confronting the new Iraq are as follows;
1. security threats arising from a poor government; 2. Lack of a united identity; 3. Territorial disputes; 4. Regime's vulnerability to foreign intervention; 5. Elites favoring military adventure; 6. Elites arousing group tension in order to achieve power or resign from it; 7. Elites who fear to lose power and decline democratization; 8. Lack of a democratic tradition; 9. Lack of an organized democratic minority (Hadjiyusefi and Sultaninejad,

2007: 161-171).

5.4. Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy in new Iraq

The Islamic Republic sustained loss from the Baathist regime's measures more than other Iraqi's neighbor, so the country is happy with the fall of Saddam. At the same time, the US overthrow of Saddam Hussein has created a country where animosity between Iran and Iraq has been stirred up and the hostility now extends from eastern into western neighborhood of Iran (Khosravi, 2011: 64). Changing Iraq from a security threat to a friend and strategic ally has been the pivot of Iran's approach toward post-Saddam Iraq. In addition to this, other matters such as a friendly relationship with most Iraqi groups, particularly Shiite groups, contribution to the political trend and improvement of Iraq's security circumstances, the attempt to build up economic exchanges, and reconstruction of the country's infrastructures have been much debated in Iran's general strategy for Iraq (Asadi, 2008). The reason for the importance of a new Iraq in the field of Iran's foreign policy has contributed to a series of new variables such as introduction and reinforcement of Shia element in the construction of Iraq's power and sovereignty, the transitional trend of Iraq from a strategic enemy to a friend and regional ally, and hence a balance in Iran's policy toward the region and Arab world and the position of Iraq in Iran's international relations and arrangement for foreign policy with great powers such as America and its effect on Iran's national security and interests. In other words, the type of Iraq's future government and how arrange relation with it affect Iran's foreign policy even beyond bilateral relations at regional and international levels (Barzegar, 2004). In fact, Iran's foreign policy to attach importance to the national interest and in the interests of Islam and the integration of Islamic and Iranian stepped (Darvishi and Fardi Tazehkand, 2008: 120).

Therefore, given that Iraq is a combination of religious Shi'ite majority and the Sunni minority and the demography of the Arab-Kurdish divide, so the Kurds can be in politics after 2003 and the presence of both religion and

ethnicity clearly, the political divisions and cultural trends observed over Iraq. Therefore, to study the culture and mainstream Iraqi politics inevitably researchers have these two criteria (religion and Ethnic Gray) special attention and take them into account in its assessments.

Developments in Iraq, Iran's approaches to numerous forms of realism in view of events in Iraq has raised. Is looking to build a new Iraq and political strategies - Iranian security for the country's development has been one of these approaches. But what position on developments in Iraq should be operational application, acceptance of the new Iraq as a reality, a pragmatic look at the domestic scene and actors in the country's interest. Shia power in Baghdad after Saddam's power structure, determine the status of cross-border contracts and other factors, some of the obstacles in relations between the two countries. So have a look at pragmatic engagement in relation to the situation in Iraq in pursuit of its strategic goals attempted and with regional and international actors in order to increase the national interests of the Iraqi political scene had interaction .

Sunni Arabs in Iraq until the fall of Saddam, has shown an impressive track record and knowledge of Arabic nationalism, ethnicity and interference in the internal affairs of its neighbors have insisted. With the fall of Saddam, and given the history of strong ties between Iran and the Shiites and Kurds, it seems that Iran could balance the strategic alliance between the two groups and create a relative balance with Sunni Arabs in Iraq, the highest level of influence in future Iraq awarded.

Kurds and Shiites perfect complement to each other and each well can cover against possible threats. Iran central area of centralized government with Sunni Arabs, has seen serious injuries. Thus, assuming it is desirable that the Kurds and Shiites in Iraq to remain in power because pluralism is, however, less desire for radicalism in uniform. Kurdish groups in Iraq seem very important, but Lazmndashtn attention to the Kurdish cause to Israel and America will retreat. Therefore, Iran has always tried to maintain a balance

between the Kurds and the Shiites and to consider strengthening the alliance. Remarkably, that should not be neglected in the meantime according to the Iraqi Sunni Arabs because they are hard following the power lost and if under any title they rebelled in a pinch-hit, causing unsafe environment will be Iran.

According to the demography of Iraq in which Kurds have a relatively significant and the context of the country's religious Shiite with about 65 percent are in the majority, easily can these two indicators used in order to penetrate further in Iraq Today and advance its foreign policy in the interests of the region, particularly Iran's advantage. Due to the special position of Shiite clerics in Iraq and Iraqi Kurds moderate due to the enormous ties with Iran, as best as they can provide a means to manipulate. However, in the meantime, discard any figure in Iraqi politics, even radical Sunnis Arabs must be done tactfully and in the meantime should be given to all groups in Iraq and from them to advance the lofty goals of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Sohrabi et al, 2016: 167-196).

5.4.1. Threats and opportunities for state-nation building in Iraq for Islamic Republic of Iran's security

In regard to new Iraq's threats to Iran, we can refer to the following issues; 1. Federalism in Iraq, 2. Ethno-sectarian conflict in Iraq, 3. Presence of foreign actors in Iraq. Generally speaking, in reviewing state-nation building in post-Saddam Iraq for national security of the Islamic Republic of Iran, it can be said that federalism, ethnic-sectarian conflicts, and presence of foreign actors in Iraq are considered three main threats, though we can refer to various threats from political, military, economic, cultural-social aspects; however, all of them are derived from the three threats. The demise of the Baath regime and the establishment of a new political structure in Iraq on the basis of democratic trends and participation of all social groups which have led to the elimination of Iran's highest homeland security in the past few decades have been viewed as the main opportunities for new trend of

nation-state building in Iraq in favor of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In addition to the main political opportunities, we can refer to social-cultural, economic, security-information and regional opportunities; elimination of Baath regime, establishment of democratic political trend and system, expansion of cultural collaborations and bonds, development of economic interactions and bonds, regional opportunities (Asadi, 2012: 346-347). However, Iran's constructive policy toward Iraq should be generally based on continuation of the current pivot of collaboration with Iraq and a rise in opportunity-building capacity through building up bilateral relations in political, economic, cultural and military aspects. Iran can take good steps in making investment in Iraq, because capital return will be much easier for Iran.

However, it seems that Iraq has the capacity to change the power balance in the region to the advantage or disadvantage of actors in the region, because of geopolitical, geostrategic, geo-economic, and geo-cultural grounds. The US occupation of Iraq in 2003, and regime change in this country can be viewed as the most important events that have led to the formation of a new era of interactions and approaches between regional actors, power balance in the Middle East and in general a new picture of the region (Ayati, 2012: 141). Cultural and racial features and customs and historical experiences along with the religious worldview of the greatest Iraqi group allow for the spread of Iran's political influence, as many experts have stated that such a process is normal and natural more than everything. In addition to the matter of Iran's involvement in Iraq's issues, it seems that none of the countries in the region (except Iran) as well as the great powers (America) have no desire for a Shiite government to rise to power in Iraq. As some critical matters such as election draw closer, anti-Shiite and anti-Iranian propaganda on the part of some groups and countries in the region and even the great power the US against the Shia and Iran has gained momentum (Deilamimoazi, 2004: 4). Regarding opportunities that

accrue to Iran with the fall of Saddam regime in security and military areas, we can refer to the overthrown of Saddam which is in turn an achievement and good opportunity for Iran, because Saddam ceased to acquiesce in Algeria 1975 resolution until the last days of the collapse of his reign, and acceptance of United Nations Security Council Resolution 598 didn't imply the establishment of peace in both countries' borders, and with the continuation of the rule of the Baath party in the country, insecurity in Iran's western borders certainly continues to exist. In addition to this, the elimination of the Baath party's security threat, the collapse of an organization opposing the Islamic republic of Iran and dwelling in Iraq for so long and assisting the Baath regime to the disadvantage of Iran, it can be said that some of the members were disarmed and forced to leave Iraq either after the attack of coalition forces or being surrounded by coalition forces(Ahmadzadeh, 2004: 221-222).

The intertwined quality of Iraq's problems with Iran is greater than that of every country. For this reason, any developments in this country has the greatest effect on Iran. During 1975-1979, Iraq was the biggest oil producers in the world by producing 52 percent of the total oil production of the oil-rich countries (Mar, 2001: 374). The power dominance of the Shia in Iraq, which remains to be at good level, can remove distrust and threat climate dominated the relations of both countries as well as providing a capacity for collaboration within common interest framework. Although over the past century factors such as unfitting social and economic situations and the lack of sufficient political participation of Kurdish people have caused the tribe to diverge from central governments in both Iran and Iraq, some similarities in language, culture and geographical vicinity can provide the foundations for suitable opportunities for further collaboration and convergence of Iran's and Iraq's governments if properly managed. At this moment, it seems that the foundations for convergence of both countries have been provided more than ever in the face of Kurdish presence in political arena of Iraq and their

participation in the power and the attention of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the development and prosperity of border areas. Iran's presence in Iraq's economic markets, establishment of border malls, establishment of free trade zones and economic infrastructures in Iran and granting autonomy to the Kurds in Iraq can provide opportunities for further collaboration of both parties (Akraminia, 2009).

6. Findings and Conclusion

In this paper, the new policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Iraq were investigated and explained. Results showed that as a whole, Iraq is one the most important countries and developments occurred in the country after the US invasion in 2003 and the fall of Saddam have taken on great importance particularly at regional level. Among the existing countries, Iran has a special attitude to the developments in this regard. In this research, an attempt was made to analyze the policies of the country in new Iraq by benefitting from an analytical-descriptive approach. The findings of the research suggest that Iran estimated the political process of the country to be positive from the beginning by considering the fact that the Shiite close to them rose to power in Iraq, and the country attempted to build suitable relationships with the new government of the country. In the course of this trend, though more recently, the two countries hold animosity toward each other, but with historical and cultural interests between both countries Iran has attempted to make use of its soft power in this country more effectively in order to support Shiite groups in the course of gaining power by building up collaborations with the new government of Iraq.

7. Acknowledgment

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