

## **Paradiplomacy The Management of Foreign Affairs in Iraq after 2005**

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### **Abstract:**

Laying the foundation stone for building the contemporary Iraqi state after 2003 in difficult and complex circumstances. The issue of defining the final form of the state and regulating the relationship between the central government on one side, and the regions and governorates on the other, has emerged as one of the most important dilemmas that raise fundamental problems in making the country's internal and external policy.

One of the most important problems that characterize political practice in the current Iraqi political system is that the political institutions do not adopt the hierarchy established by the constitution. This is what Iraqi diplomacy suffers from, which is the problem of overlapping competencies and lack of prioritization. It is noted that the Iraqi constitution of 2005 contained a lot of ambiguity in the articles that discuss the distribution of powers between the authorities, which generated a restrictive and specific situation for making an effective foreign policy, and was negatively reflected in diplomatic work abroad.

The constitutional articles that dealt with the distribution of powers to manage foreign relations between the center and the region, have greatly weakened the ability of the central government to face the challenges of building the Iraqi state, and the ability to influence the direction of the policies of the regions according to the national interest, and determine the policies of the regions that impede the development of an effective foreign policy and achieves country interests and gives it an active presence in the international community. These articles were unable to achieve a balance in the relationship between the federal authority and the authority of the region, which led to the emergence of real tensions marring this relationship and affecting the Iraqi diplomatic performance.

The importance of the research lies in demonstrating the extent to which the paradiplomacy is affected by giving the constituent units of the state greater powers in the field of foreign relations management

and decision-making concerning foreign affairs, on the process of foreign policy-making in federal states that have decentralized systems, and on the effectiveness of foreign policy itself. In addition to dropping the foregoing on the Iraqi situation, especially that the Iraqi constitution of 2005 approved decentralization, in both its administrative and political aspects, and defined the competencies and powers of each of the central authority and its affiliated regions, which was directly reflected on the Iraqi external decision-making.

In the context of this research, we will try to verify the validity of the hypothesis that the constitutional articles related to the distribution of the powers of the administration of foreign affairs between the center and the region have generated an imbalance between the authorities, and the continuing conflict in the constitutional powers between the central government and local governments concerning external decision-making and diplomatic representation. It has greatly weakened the ability of the central government to direct the policies of the regions according to the national interest and to determine the policies of the regions that impede the development of an effective foreign policy that achieves the country's interests and gives it an effective presence in the international community.

Therefore, the research raises several questions, the answers to which will be a path to verify the hypothesis and to monitor the most prominent determinants that accompanied the Iraqi political situation after 2003, which had a major role in forming obstacles to the performance of the Iraqi diplomatic work.

1. What are the limits and scope of the powers granted by the 2005 constitution to the central authority and the regions in the field of external decision-making?
2. Was the 2005 constitution able to harmonize the distribution of these powers in a way that prevents a conflict of competencies and powers between the central authority and the regions?
3. What is the impact of the distribution of those powers on Iraqi foreign decision-making after 2005?

**Keywords:** Iraq; Foreign Policy; Regions; Central Governments; Federal States; Paradiplomacy