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Abstract

The trend to change has overrun the Arabian states in the region during last few years, and the rate of its influence varied from one to another.

The Arabian Gulf States delt with the global inclination towards democracy, and political freedom in terms of liberalism in a positive, and flexible manner better than many Arabian States more ancient in being tuch with democratic evolution in its significance.

The member of Arabian Gulf States Cooperation Council witnessed two waves of political reforms during last decade, the first one took place in the nineties decade last centry, and the second started at the end of that decade, and it is still on process. Both waves put political systems of Gulf States on modernization threshold after long time of stagnancy.

The features of the first wave resemble in two aspects in countries never knew before the existance of institutions, and legislations that control political life, and the process of contribution in it.

The first aspect was the establishment of the state consultative courts by assignment in Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain in 1992.

The second aspect was the legislations, and principles issued in Saudi Arabia in 1992, and in Oman in 1996.

The second wave witnessed Qatars initiative in issuing its permanent constitution in April 2003 in conjunction with adopting the mechanism of general election to form the state consultative courts instead of assignment.

The United Arabs Emerates adopted a system combined between assignment, and election , while Oman canceled governmental role in selection, and assignment of the courts members, with enlargement of the base of contribution in political process.

There were reasons behind Gulf States pursue to adopt political reforms since the decade of nineties last centry and they are:

- Economic, and social evolutions in these states during seventies, and eighties decades last century due to petrol revenue increases, which led to emergence of aducated section of society claimed political reforms, and participation in political process.

This section played a role in making a specific change in political awarence among the citizens.

- The variables followed the invation of Kuwait, and the war in 1991 has risen questions about the nature of political systems, and the expected political evolution in Arabian Gulf States after the clarity of weakness, security disclosure, and debility of military power in those states dispite their huge defence expenditures.

These variables inspired people to pay attention to political process, and they looked forward to take share in it, and not to let it quitrent to a particular section of society, practical reality prove its defects in facing crisis.

- The trend of Gulf States to achieve legitimacy through enlargement of base of political partnership and resorting to elections instead of achieving it through fulfillment, because

of the following:

- a. The increase of international pressure demanding democratic change especially after September 9.11th 2001.
- b. The recognition of increasing importance of political reform in Gulf states as an immune method to reduce possibilities of violence like what happened in Bahrain at large scale in 2005.

The present study comprises an introduction, a preliminary section, five chapters, and a conclusion.

The preliminary section is about the concept of political reform. The first chapter deals with the first reform endeavor in Gulf States. The second chapter investigates elements of political reform in Gulf States, the first section studies internal elements, while the second section examine external elements.

The third chapter devoted to constitutional reforms in three sections. In the first one we study the constitutional amendment in Kuwait, and in Bahrain. The second section is devoted to study legislation, and principles issued in Saudi Arabia, and Oman, while the third section examines the permanent constitution in Qatar, and in the United Arabs Emiretes.

The fourth chapter deals with political reform through investigations of elections, and contribution in political process, human rights, civil society, and the right of expression.

The fifth chapter deals with political reform deterrent through studying regulations, and constitutional frame work feebleness with in the members of the Arabian Gulf States cooperation council, besides investigates social, economic, and cultural

elements taking into consideration the future of political reform in these countries.

The conclusion of the thesis includes a summary of the results reached to through the present study.